

The Powys Society

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CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER WEEKEND MEETING: AUGUST 29th to SEPTEMBER 1st 1986

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The annual weekend conference will take place this year at the University of Bath.

Members will be accommodated in the Wessex Residence, which, although it is a high-rise block, has the advantage of being near to the main University buildings, of providing lifts to all floors and a limited number of twin rooms.

A cafeteria service is provided for meals in the Main Refectory in Building 2 West. The University also provides a range of bar facilities within its campus.

Ample car-parking space is provided.

TARIFF (including V.A.T.)

(Twin rooms are charged as for two single rooms.)

Each Bed & Breakfast	£12.50 (3 for weekend)
Each Coffee & Biscuits	.45 (2 for weekend)
Each Lunch	£ 3.60 (2 for weekend)
Each Dinner	£ 3.60 (3 for weekend)

The 1985 conference resulted in some financial loss for the Society, therefore a General Charge (to cover such items as the hire of lecture rooms, tea & coffee ingredients in rooms and the conference expenses of our speakers) of £14.70 will be made for each member attending the conference.

The total cost of the conference will, therefore, be £71.10.

Please complete the booking form at the end of this notice and return it to the Secretary at the above address to arrive not later than July 31st. Please also specify and particular dietary or accommodation needs.

No further notice of this meeting will be sent out and members are advised to bring this notice with them to the conference.

The following maps, provided by the University of Bath, will be of use to members.

HOW TO REACH THE UNIVERSITY:

" The University is situated on a plateau overlooking the city on Claverton Down and is best approached via North Road and Quarry Road. Coming from the North (A46) and East (A4) look for signposts for the A36 (Warminster). North Road is on the right approximately 300 yards after joining the A36 and signposted Claverton Down."

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME:

FRIDAY: 7:00 DINNER
 8:30 Carl-Erik af Geijerstam: 'Encounters and recognitions on reading John Cowper Powys.'

SATURDAY: 7:50 BREAKFAST
 9:15 Jeremy Hooker: 'John Cowper Powys and Thomas Hardy.'
 10:30 COFFEE
 11:00 Frederick Davies: 'Recollections of John Cowper Powys and Phyllis Playter.'
 12:15 LUNCH

Afternoon free or a visit to an exhibition of the paintings of Gertrude Mary Powys at the home of Stephen Powys Marks (see attached sheet).

7:00 DINNER
 8:30 John Bayley and Iris Murdoch: Title to be announced

SUNDAY: 7:50 BREAKFAST
 9:15 T.J.Diffey: 'Not In the Light of Truth:Philosophy and Poetry in Wolf Solent.'
 10:30 COFFEE
 11:00 Robert Blackmore: Title to be announced.
 12:15 LUNCH
 2:00 Oliver Wilkinson: 'Frances and Jack.'
 3:30 AGM, followed by a BOOK SALE.
 7:00 DINNER
 8:30 Charles Lock: 'To Ravage and Redeem: Maiden Castle and the Violence of Pattern.'

MONDAY: 7:50 BREAKFAST
 DEPARTURE.

This programme is subject to alteration.

After lunch on the Saturday, members are invited to attend an exhibition of the paintings of Gertrude M. Powys at the home of Stephen Powys Marks, Hamilton's, Kilmersdon, Nr. Bath.

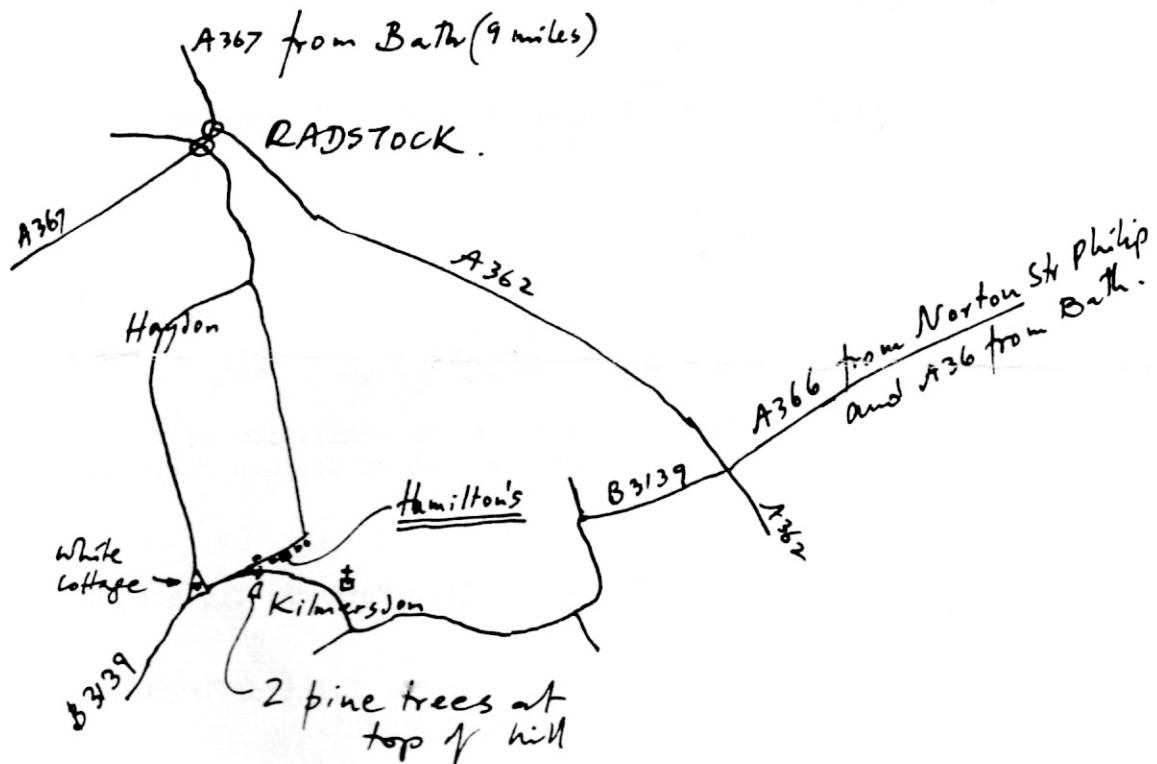
The following map and directions, kindly supplied by Mr Marks, should enable members to reach the exhibition easily.

We would be grateful if those with cars could offer lifts to those without.

DIRECTIONS:

From the University, follow the road for about 3 miles to roundabout on the A367, turn left, follow A367 to Radstock. Take left turn out of second mini-roundabout in centre of Radstock, follow road through Haydon to small white cottage, turn left and left, take left fork at top of hill into Kilmersdon, marked by two large pines. Hamilton's is the second house on the right.

The direct route will take about 20 minutes, the scenic route (recommended, especially on the outward journey) about 25-30 minutes.



AGENDA OF THE AGM:

- 1) Minutes of the 1985 AGM, held at the Normal College, Bangor.
- 2) Matters arising.
- 3) Chairman's report.
- 4) Secretary's report.
- 5) Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts.
- 6) Election of officers.
- 7) Venue for 1987 conference.
- 8) Any other business.

The AGM will be followed by a booksale to raise funds for the Society. Members are encouraged to donate books to the sale and it is hoped that we may even be able to surpass the enormous success of the 1985 sale.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- 1985. Bangor.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous A.G.M and these were unanimously approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary reported that the first meeting following the conference at Exeter had taken place on December 1st 1984, when SUSAN HUXTABLE SELLY gave a long and fascinating paper on John Cowper Powys's novel WOOD AND STONE. The meeting had been advertised as taking place at Liddon House but, owing to a misunderstanding, had been transferred at the last minute to the Women's University Club, for which arrangement we also thank Susan Huxtable Selly.

The second meeting of the year took place at Liddon House on March 23rd 1985. Sadly, this was the very day on which The Times carried its obituary of our late President Prof. G. WILSON KNIGHT, who had died on March 20th. Despite the sadness cast over our meeting by so great a loss, members were fascinated to hear from ROSEMARY MANNING an account of the work of ALYSE GREGORY, which contained several extracts from little-known works. Members also had the opportunity of examining a volume of the journal of Miss Gregory.

The funeral of Prof. Wilson Knight took place some days later at the SPIRITUALIST CHURCH, EXETER. The secretary also reported that the University of Exeter would be holding a memorial celebration of Prof. Wilson Knight at 5:30 on Saturday November 2nd 1985, to be followed by a performance of TWELFTH NIGHT dedicated to his memory. Booking forms were available at the meeting.

The secretary then mentioned the successful inaugural conference of The Powys Society of North America, held at Colgate University from June 7th-9th 1985 and the publication of POWYS NOTES, their newsletter.

The secretary then apologised for the absence of a map from the conference details. Such a map had been provided by the Normal College.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman spoke of the importance to members of the life and work of our late President. He referred to the obituary in The Times and noted the brevity of the references to J.C.P. The Chairman then spoke of his own reading of Prof. Wilson Knight's novel KLINTON TOP and read aloud to members extracts from his final correspondence with Prof. Wilson Knight, extracts which might be taken as a final message of continued hope and striving. The Chairman then referred to Wilson Knight's contribution to AUTHORS TAKE SIDES ON THE FALKLANDS WAR (Cecil Woolf), which repeats a similar message.

The Chairman then spoke of the death of ELIZABETH HARVEY, another very great loss to the society. He recounted her career and her inestimable contribution to the work of the society and the establishment of the reputation of JCP.

The Chairman then referred to the work of The Powys Society Of North America and the success of their inaugural conference.

He went on to speak of the importance of the extensive diaries of JCP and especially of the portrait they provide of PHYLLIS PLAYTER. Unfortunately there are no immediate plans for publication. Mention was also made of the British Council booklet on THE POWYS BROTHERS by R.C. Churchill and members were informed that this was still available. The attention of members was also drawn to THE QUEST FOR MERLIN (Hamish Hamilton) by NIKOLAI TOLSTOY, which refers to JCP and PORBUS. Members were also informed that, in an article entitled "THE SCANDAL OF THE NOBEL PRIZE", published in the NEW YORK TIMES on September 30th 1984, GEORGE STEINER had mentioned the case of John Cowper Powys in relation to this prize.

The Chairman closed his report with a vote of thanks to our speakers, the treasurer, the secretary, Mr Ian Hughes for his initial contact with The Normal College and Belinda Humfrey for the continuing excellence of THE POWYS REVIEW.

The Chairman also informed the meeting of the decision of the committee to invite Dr. Glen Cavaliero to become our new President and of his acceptance of the invitation. It was also mentioned that Prof. Wilson Knight had left a bequest of something in the order of £1000 to the society.

The Chairman then announced that he did not intend to stand for re-election at the next A.G.M.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer circulated copies of a detailed statement of the society's financial position, which indicated that the society's account was £1405.57p in credit.

The Treasurer also reported that three members had died, five had officially resigned and twenty-three had still not paid subscriptions for 1985. There were twenty-one new members.

MATTERS ARISING: FRANCIS FEATHER suggested that the Wilson Knight bequest be used as the basis of a reserve fund, which should aim to equal one year's income for the society. This should be deposited in a building society on a long term withdrawal basis in order to earn the highest possible income. IAN HUGHES suggested that some accounts provided high interest with instant access, provided that a minimum sum was maintained. Mr Feather proposed that the reserve fund should be so established and this was seconded by TIMOTHY HYMAN. The motion was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The present officers were re-elected unanimously and the Vice Chairmanship of Timothy Hyman was re-asserted by the Chairman.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: The precise membership of the committee was questioned. GLEN CAVALIERO said that there was no fixed number of members and that present members, in addition to the elected officers, included: Susan Huxtable Selly, Belinda Humfrey, Cicely Hill, Francis Feather and Jim Dawson. MORINE KRISSDOTTIR was then nominated for membership of the committee by Timothy Hyman. The nomination was seconded by Paul Roberts and unanimously approved by the members. James Turner and Ian Hughes were also nominated, but were unable to accept the nominations.

VENUE OF THE 1986 CONFERENCE: Several possible venues were suggested, including Glastonbury, Dorchester, Weymouth, Bath, Burnham-on-Sea and Millfield School, Street, Somerset. Glastonbury, Bath and Millfield seemed to be most favoured. Susan Rands undertook to investigate the possibility of using Millfield.

BOOK SALE: Following the A.G.M. the Annual Book Sale was conducted by Francis Feather. A very large number of books, including many rare and valuable items, had been donated by members. The sale realised a profit of £520.81p. We extend our thanks to Mr Feather and to all of the members who so kindly donated their books.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:

Associated University Presses
ISBN 08386 32491 Dent.
25/85

The Associated University Presses are to publish THE ECSTATIC WORLD OF JOHN COWPER POWYS by on June 26th. No details as to price are yet available. Copies are available from The Golden Cockerel Press, 25 Sicilian Avenue, London WC1A 2QH (Tel: 01 405 7979). The author H.W. FAWKNER will be visiting England from July 2nd-12th and will be pleased to meet any members of the Society who may wish to contact him via Mrs Susan Manson at the Golden Cockerel Bookshop.

Members will be interested to learn that Sven-Erik Tackmark is at present translating the AUTOBIOGRAPHY of John Cowper Powys into Swedish. When published, this will form the first illustrated edition of the book. Mr Tackmark would be pleased to hear from any member of the Society who would be willing to offer him help and advice on points of difficulty. His address is Asogatan 82, 11624, Stockholm, Sweden.

A.R. POWYS: HOMEWARD JOURNEY 1918, a letter.

This first accurate transcription of ARP's letter to his daughter, Isobel, describing his journey home from prisoner-of-war camp in Germany, has just been published to celebrate her 80th birthday by her son Stephen Powys Marks. It comprises 8 printed pages with flyleaves, sewn in paper-wrapped card covers, 8x5 inches. The edition is limited to 260 copies, of which Nos 1-60, reserved for presentation, are not for sale. Copies are obtainable from Stephen Powys Marks, Hamilton's, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset for £1 each including postage; copies sent abroad will be sent by surface mail unless an additional £1 is sent for airmail.

CHATTO & WINDUS have now confirmed that they intend to publish GOD'S EYES ATWINKLE MR. TASKER'S GODS & UNCLAY in their Hogarth Press paperback series.

SCENES FROM A SOMERSET CHILDHOOD, a new selection of essays by Llewelyn Powys, has been published by The Redcliffe Press in their Somerset Heritage Series. The book is A4 sized and bound in stiff wrappers and is attractively illustrated with new and contemporary photographs. There is an introduction by Paul Roberts. Available from The Redcliffe Press, 49 Park Street, Bristol 1 at £3.75 + 75p for postage.

Forthcoming books:

The diary of John Cowper Powys, 1930, edited with an introduction by Frederick Davies.

Horned Poppies: a collection of previously unpublished poems by John Cowper Powys.

Six Lectures: The texts of six previously unpublished lectures by John Cowper Powys, edited with an introduction by Paul Roberts.

Further details of these books will be available at the conference.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING BOOKING FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE SECRETARY, TO ARRIVE
NO LATER THAN JULY 31st.