

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the University of Bath on August 31st 1986.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and these were unanimously approved.

The Chairman then announced that the Secretary had asked Count Nikolai Tolstoy whether he would speak to the Society and had received a gracious reply; Count Tolstoy will probably speak at the next conference. In view of his most favourable remarks about Porius in his recent fascinating book The Quest For Merlin members were gratified by this but some expressed the fear that on account of Count Tolstoy's later book, The Minister and the Massacres, members might subsequently have difficulty in getting their books published by Macmillan!

Unfortunately the Secretary had to leave the meeting early to return to Sale, as his school term began the following day but the President kindly read his report. At the December meeting at Liddon House Paul Roberts read a paper on The Poetry of John Cowper Powys, and at the May meeting at the same venue Rob Watson read a paper on The Short Stories of T.F. Powys. Both these meetings were poorly attended. In April The American Scholar published a damning and inaccurate review of the reprints by Harper & Row of Wolf Solent and Weymouth Sands. The Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer all wrote letters of protest and one at least is to be published in the next edition of The American Scholar * In June the Society was asked to add weight to the protest against the destruction of Priestlands Cottage in Sherborne, once the home of Littleton Powys; the Treasurer and Secretary duly wrote letters of protest and were most gratified to learn that the Council had decided that the cottage should stand (see The Western Gazette, July 11th 1986).

The London Meeting. So few people attended the last two London meetings that there was much discussion as to whether there should be only one or even none. It was generally felt that at least one should continue and many people wanted two, particularly Belinda Humfrey who felt that London meetings were, if well advertised, a good way of attracting new members. Because of the difficulty of finding enough speakers, especially when the audience may be small, it was decided that the London meetings should be more in the nature of reading and discussion. Robert Carrington volunteered to lead a reading and discussion of Paddock Calls; Isobel Powys Marks suggested that in view of his long experience in the theatre Oliver Wilkinson should be asked to do this, and Robert Carrington said that he would gladly stand down if Oliver Wilkinson agreed to come.

*We were subsequently informed that this had not been done.

The Treasurer circulated copies of the Society's financial position which showed the balance to be considerable. As the Editor incurs personal loss from the publication of The Powys Review a contribution was discussed, then proposed by Patricia Dawson and seconded by Jacqueline Peltier; a majority were in favour. Susan Selly suggested that christmas cards with a Powysian theme would be a good way of advertising; the meeting was much in favour of this and Stephen Marks kindly agreed to look into the possibilities and to advise the Committee.

Terry Diffey proposed the re-election of the Society's officers, and Margaret Eaton seconded the proposal; it was agreed unanimously. The Chairman proposed a special vote of thanks to the Secretary for all his hard work in getting the conference together and during the year.

The venue for the next conference was discussed; Bangor, E. Anglia, Sussex University and Brighton Polytechnic were presented as possibilities. Eastbourne, Chichester, Bournemouth and Weymouth were also suggested.

A vote of heartfelt thanks was proposed to Stephen Marks for arranging such an interesting exhibition of Gertrude Powys's pictures in his lovely house, Hamiltons at Kilmersdon, and to Tordis Marks for providing tea for so many of us.

The book sale was conducted in the traditional manner by Francis Feather and made £189.

We are grateful to Susan Rands for taking these minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE DURING THE CONFERENCE:

<u>GAMEL AND REX</u>	by Kenneth Hopkins.	£2.70
<u>TARZAN OF ATHENS</u>	by John E. Van Domelen (biography of G. Wilson Knight)	£7.00 (from £8.95)
<u>THE TWELVE MONTHS</u>	by Llewelyn Powys (illust. by Robert Gibbings)	£5.55 (from £6.95)
<u>THE ECSTATIC WORLD OF JOHN COWPER POWYS</u>		
	By H.W. Fawcner	£20.65 (from £22.95)
<u>ONE WAY OF LOVE</u>	By Gamel Woolsey	£3.00 (from £3.95)
<u>A FURNACE</u>	by Roy Fisher	£3.95 (from £4.95)
<u>THE KINGFISHER'S WING</u>		
	by Mary Casey	£3.50

Copies of The Kingfisher's Wing have been donated by the publisher in support of The Powys Review. All of the above titles, with the exception of The Twelve Months, are first editions of the works concerned.

It is hoped that other titles may also be offered for sale during the conference.

GREETINGS CARD - MONTACUTE CHURCH

At the last conference the idea of a greetings card was raised, and I undertook to look into the possibilities. As a first venture we have produced a card showing St. Catherine's Church, Montacute, in 1890, from a wood-engraving by Gertrude Mary Powys. The folded cards, $4\frac{1}{8}$ " x $5\frac{7}{8}$ " (standard postcard size), are plain inside so that they can be used for any occasion or as notelets. You might like to know that the cost of producing them has been met out of the profits from the sale of slides of Gertrude Powys's pictures at the conference last summer. Proceeds from the sale of cards will go to the Society.

The cards cost £1.50 for a packet of ten with envelopes (postage 25p extra any quantity), obtainable from Stephen Powys Marks, Hamilton's, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset, or at the Powys Society Conference at the University of East Anglia. Please make your cheque payable to Stephen Marks.
