

THE GISSING NEWSLETTER

“More than most men am I dependent on sympathy to bring out the best that is in me.”
– George Gissing’s *Commonplace Book*

Volume XV, Number 1

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The Gissing Trust Appeal

On 28th December 1978 an appeal was launched in Wakefield to provide £50,000 to further the repair and maintenance of the house where Gissing was born and endow a Gissing Centre there. The appeal from the Chairman of the Trust reads as follows:

Dear Friend,

Today George Gissing (1857-1903) is commemorated in his home town of Wakefield only by a plaque set in the wall of what was once his father’s chemist’s shop, a collection of books in the public library and the name of a road.

Now, on the seventy-fifth anniversary of his death on 28th December 1903, there is an opportunity to establish a permanent memorial to Gissing himself and other members of his family

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by setting up a Centre, open to all those interested in Gissing’s life and writings, in the family house where he was born.

The Georgian building, lying behind the shop itself, is now owned by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. It has recently been listed by the Department of the Environment because of its historic interest and it is included in Wakefield's Upper Westgate Conservation Area.

The Authority has already agreed to spend £14,000 on immediate repairs to the building but, if its future is to be assured and a part of the building designated as a Gissing Centre, much larger sums are needed to complete the reinstatement of the building and to provide an endowment fund.

THE GISSING TRUST has been set up by Wakefield's Civic and Historical Societies and international scholars and others linked by the *Gissing Newsletter*. It has the support of the Wakefield M. D. Council.

The Trust is appealing for £50,000. We ask for your help.

All monies received by the Trustees will be devoted to furthering the establishment of a Gissing Centre at 2-4 Thompson's Yard, Wakefield, the preservation of properties associated with George Gissing, the acquisition, care and display of objects connected with George Gissing and the literary history of Wakefield and the pursuit of research relating to George Gissing and the literary history of Wakefield.

Please send your donations to the Hon. Appeal Treasurer, Mr. Clifford Brook, 1 Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 7DZ, making your cheque/money order payable to the Gissing Trust Appeal Fund.

With gratitude,

Yours sincerely,

F. R. Perraudin

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Chairman

The appeal has among its patrons Sir John Betjeman (who has described Wakefield itself as "distinguished and too little regarded"), David Story (the Wakefield-born novelist and playwright whose work, like Gissing's, has been much influenced by his years in his home town), Angus Wilson (the well-known novelist who has written a number of essays on Gissing, has described Gissing's *New Grub Street* as "one of the most poignant of all 19th century novels" and has drawn parallels between Gissing and Dickens in their sympathy for the outcast) and Gillian Tindall (novelist and author of *The Born Exile*). Other patrons include the Mayor of Wakefield (the present Mayor, Councillor Albert Noble has a keen interest in local history), the Chairman of Wakefield M. D. Planning Committee (Councillor Tom Dando), the Hon. President of Wakefield Civic Society (Miss Kate Taylor), and the Hon. President of Wakefield Historical Society (Mr. Eric Raper). Members of the committee of the Trust include the Wakefield M. D. Archivist, Mr. John Goodchild, the Secretary of Wakefield Historical Society, Mr. Richard Knowles, and Mrs. Heather Lawrence whose father, the late Mr. John Kilburn, was once a pupil at a school run by Gissing's sisters and did much to stimulate local interest in the novelist himself. Chairman of the committee is Mr. F. R. Perraudin, Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside Council for the Environment and a past president of Wakefield Civic Society. Other Committee members are Mr. D. J. Hallam (Wakefield Historical Society) and Miss Margaret Lee, representing the *Gissing Newsletter*.

Gissing scholars from a number of countries also appear among the patrons: Dr. Francesco Badolato of Milan, Professor Pierre Coustillas of Lille, Professor Shigeru Koike of Tokyo, Professor Jacob Korg of Seattle and Professor Arthur Pollard of Hull.

The principal object of the Gissing Trust is to secure the long-term future of the Georgian family-house, 2-4, Thompson's Yard, Wakefield, where Gissing was born on 22nd November 1857.

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Until recently the Gissing connections with the house had been forgotten with the lapse of time. The building had been acquired under a compulsory purchase order by the local authority and was scheduled for demolition. Once research by Mr. Clifford Brook, now secretary of the Gissing Trust, brought the significance of the house to light, the building was listed by the Department of the Environment and the Wakefield M. D. Council, which has strong pro-conservation policies, was swift to respond with a decision to spend £14, 000 on immediate repairs to the house.

Now the Trust seeks the full re-instatement of the house and the designation of a room or rooms within it as a Gissing Centre where Gissing memorabilia may be collected and made available to the public. All monies received by the Trustees will be devoted to furthering the establishing of the centre, preserving properties associated with Gissing, the acquisition of manuscripts, books and other objects connected with Gissing and the literary history of Wakefield and their care and display, and the pursuit of research relating to Gissing and the literary history of Wakefield.

The Gissing Trust has been set up by the Wakefield Civic Society, the Wakefield Historical Society, and the *Gissing Newsletter*.

The Wakefield Civic Society was formed in 1964 to counter what was then a considerable threat to the urban environment. Among its aims are the stimulation of public interest in the beauty, history and character of the area and the preservation, development and improvement of features of public amenity and historical interest. The Society has a strong commitment to the conservation of the town centre much of which is Georgian or Victorian in character. Its most significant achievement has been the reinstatement of the facades of the Georgian terraces which form St. John's Square, a conservation area of outstanding interest.

The Wakefield Historical Society was formed in 1924 to bring together persons in the area interested in local history. It has in the ensuing 54 years flourished, and now encompasses an archaeological group, which has published a number of reports on excavations, and a further group

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actively engaged in publishing monographs on regional history topics. The Society was largely responsible, together with the Wakefield Corporation and Leeds University, for the ten-year excavation of Sandal Castle and has campaigned since its foundation for the preservation of important buildings within the City. Today the Society has a substantial and growing membership that enjoys the regular programme of lectures and a diversity of other activities.

Gissing at the MLA

Jacob Korg

Friday, December 29th 1978 was a notable day in the history of Gissing studies. For the first time, the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association of America devoted one of its sessions to Gissing. The topic was "George Gissing and Women"; the meeting took place at the Hilton Hotel in New York at 4.30 in the afternoon; it was chaired by Jacob Korg, and the panel of speakers consisted of Pierre Coustillas, John Halperin, Coral Lansbury and Robert L. Selig.

Since the sessions, including discussion, are limited to 75 minutes, the time was far too limited for the speakers to give full presentations. But their papers are published as a supplement to this number of the *Newsletter*, and copies of the supplement were distributed to the audience.

The meeting had been given top priority by the Women's Caucus of the MLA. The audience, which numbered between thirty and forty (increasing slightly as the meeting progressed), was a good one for sessions of this kind. It seems clear that the part of Gissing's work connected with women's studies, at least, has acquired some familiarity in academic circles. I think this is mainly due to the success of the Norton edition of *The Odd Women*, which has been adopted in many American university classes in women's studies and English fiction.

The talks offered critical appraisals of the attitude toward women's problems Gissing

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exhibited in *The Odd Women*, and showed that his interest in them is reflected in his other works and in his correspondence. The audience response was excellent. It showed that a knowledge of, and concern with, Gissing's works has extended beyond the limits of a small group of specialists, for several members of the audience were in a position to differ with views presented by the panelists, and to support their arguments effectively. Most of the respondents from the audience seemed anxious to defend Gissing against some of the criticism directed against him by members of the panel.

This historic meeting of Gissing students was extended by a dinner in a restaurant near the Hilton, where the panelists were joined by friends. Those present at the dinner, in addition to the members of the panel, were: Alfred Slotnick, Shirley Slotnick, Cynthia Korg, Wulfhard Heinrichs and Claudia Dreyfus. Robert Selig had suggested that a Gissing dinner ought to include lentils; unfortunately – or otherwise – lentils were not available, but the dinner was, in other respects, a great success.

Alice Ward and the Gissings
(concluded)

R. D. Best.

Although only on the fringe of the Gissing-Alice friendship, I remember her talking to me about him and his work. I formed the impression that they had gone cycling together. These talks took place in 1912, when I was a student in Paris. At that time I was under the spell of H. G. Wells; but my cousin dismissed him. He was a vulgarian, she said. As a rather brash freshman amongst distinguished Gissing scholars, I venture to give my own impressions of Gissing and Wells.

Were they not poles apart?

Wells' whole style and outlook seems to be far more robust, especially as regards the British

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class structure. He had experienced none of the grinding poverty and "one-downmanship" which had wounded poor hypersensitive George. Wells wanted to change class structure but was not neurotic about it. Gissing apparently hated those who were poor and ill-educated. I cannot help comparing Godwin Peak, Uncle Andrew and the Warricombes with Arthur Kipps and Chester Coote, Helen Walsingham and Ann Pornick. During my Paris days I preferred *Les Equilibristes* (*The Wheels of Chance* in translation) to any contemporary French novel I came across.

X

The following are some extracts from Gissing's diaries which refer to Alice:

June 9, 1899: . . . "In evening Miss Ward (Mlle Miss) dined here." . . .

Nov. 29, 1899: . . . "Sent American copies of 'Crown of Life' to Miss Collet and Clodd, and gave one to Miss Ward."

Feb. 14, 1900: . . . "A week ago I finished my novel, 'Among the Prophets', and have now sent it to be typewritten by a sister of Miss Ward at Birmingham." . . . (This was Sarah, referred to above.)

Aug. 2, 1900: . . . "Miss Ward arrived to spend a month here." (at St-Honoré-les-Bains, Nièvre, where Gissing and Gabrielle had rented a house for the summer).

Sept. 5, 1900: "Went with Miss Ward to Autun – Gabrielle not being able to get away on account of Mme de Musset." . . . [They spent the whole day sightseeing there. Alice, as we have seen, had dined with Mme de Musset, who was also a friend of Gabrielle].

Sept. 19, 1900: "We were to have gone with Miss Ward today to the Beuvray. But storm came on in the night, and all day it has been cloudy." [Mont Beuvray is supposed to be the site of Bibracte, where a battle was fought in classical times.]

Sept. 21, 1900: . . . "Miss Ward left us, going back to Paris." . . .

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We find no mention of Miss Ward in 1901. In 1902 Gissing was living at Arcachon and from there moved to the Pays Basque, where he died in December 1903. However, in May 1902 he spent a short time in Paris, where he "Went to see Miss Ward" (on May 25). Then on

July 1, 1902: "Gabrielle's mother going to stay with Miss Ward, rue de la Pompe." [Mme Fleury was to stay with Miss Ward, while Gissing and Gabrielle made the flat, where she was to

live with them at St. Jean-de-Luz, ready).

In *The Letters of George Gissing to Gabrielle Fleury*, Alice is referred to several times:

Oct. 29, 1898. "It is good news from Miss Ward that she has a story accepted for *Cornhill*." [This was "An Actress's Treasures", which appeared in the March 1899 issue.]

Dec. 11, 1898: "Evidently something has happened to prevent Miss Ward from writing about 'The Whirlpool.' But of course we will not trouble about this, we have too many other things to think of. If she writes, I think I shall ask £18. I feel ashamed to ask *quite* as much as the translator feels able to give."

Ca. February 25, 1899. "How curious that Miss Ward guessed who you were going to marry!" [How does this compare with her first meeting with Gissing, mentioned in Section VI, when Gabrielle introduced him as her husband?]

March 28 and 29, 1899: "I have also received a copy of *Literature*. I wonder who has supplied the paper with this information, which is not all quite correct. 'The Whirlpool' and 'The Odd Women' are not yet accepted. I am glad that English people are beginning to know of my success in France. . . . By the bye, did Miss Ward communicate the news of me to *Literature*? It is so very detailed, that it must have come from some acquaintance of yours." [The paragraph alluded to appeared in *Literature*, March 25, 1899.]

April 1, 1899: "I am glad to know that it was Miss Ward who supplied the information to

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Literature. It will do me a great deal of good in England. Thank you, dearest, for thinking of that."

February 20, 1902: "You see Miss Ward sometimes, no doubt. Please remember me kindly to her."

XI

Amongst the papers which came to light after the fire were four hand-written letters to Alice from Gabrielle Fleury. One gives the year, 1906, but not the others. These, however, have been dated by M. Coustillas, who, I understand, is to publish them in another issue of the *Newsletter*. Three of them are in French and one in English. In what follows I shall only give a bare outline of their contents in order to complete the story.

The first, from Ispoure, is dated September 24, 1903, (three months before her husband died) and deals with the address of a publisher, storage of Alice's furniture, and an invitation for a visit.

The second (Nov. 16, 1903) concerns her mother's illness and her own and that of her husband. It also refers to the Lyceum Club. Gabrielle doubted whether she could be an active member and had no suggestions. She was pleased that an article by Alice had been accepted.

The third is about her "odious" brother's translation of *In the Year of Jubilee*. The letter is undated but must have been written in early 1904. She was busy with her husband's grave. The tone of the letter is sad.

The fourth, in English, is dated December 11 and from an allusion one gathers that the year was 1906. It concerns her nervous condition and a clinic at Montpellier where she was receiving treatment. She gives particulars of her husband's works.

Alice's friendship with Gabrielle continued until Alice's death in 1939.

XII

That Alice wasted no time before making more widely known the esteem which was due to her

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friend is clear from her contribution to *The Author* in February 1904. She refers to the deep regret expressed in France by all who knew him and how thoroughly he was appreciated, whereas in England his success had been tardy. This seemed to her absolutely incomprehensible. She goes on to refer to French translations, his thorough knowledge of the French language and a suggestion that he should have written his books in French as well as in English.

The next month, a letter from her to the Editor of the same journal was published. Unconsciously, she suggested, Gissing wrote his own epitaph in the last lines of one of his finest novels (i.e. *Born in Exile*). "Dead, too, in exile, poor fellow!" said Godwin Peak's friend when he heard that the wanderer was buried in a foreign land.

She then refers to the admirable view of the mountains of Spain from his grave at St. Jean-de-Luz. It was then covered with flowers – most of them sent from England. She goes on to suggest that the Society of Authors might initiate and administer a Fund to keep flowers on his grave. In the same number the Secretary of *The Author*, acting with the sanction of the Chairman of the Committee, published the willingness of the Society to accept contributions and to act as agents in carrying out any propositions upon which Mr. Gissing's friends may decide in order to show their appreciation of his work and their love for his memory. (9)

Again, ten years later, assisted by Madame Lardin de Musset, she was still persisting in forwarding the plan she had formed at the time of his death. In a letter to *The Author* she reported that a subscription list had been started for keeping flowers on his grave. (10)

XIII

Alice's contributions to *The Author* (published, like all her other work, under the pseudonym of Alys Hallard) and other activities were being followed by her friend Constance Smedley who was busy launching the Lyceum Club for women writers and artists. She wrote to Alice asking her to

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form a committee for France. Alice at first refused but later went ahead and found to her surprise that a number of distinguished French women were interested. (11)

According to a typed memorandum, which was read to the committee in 1908, she was given full powers to act as she wished. She worked with the minimum of expense and instead of renting an office and engaging a secretary, she received members from all countries at her home on Saturdays. She attended to all the correspondence, writing hundreds of letters and in 1907 had registered two hundred members.

On the suggestion of a French businessman, a company was formed and financed by subscription. It was essential, she felt, that the Paris Lyceum should become a French Lyceum, run

by French women, and not a branch of the London Club. In this policy Alice got full support.

It was organised in sections covering, 1) Fine Arts, 2) Decorative Arts, 3) Literature, 4) Journalism, 5) Music, 6) Science, 7) Sociology and “Oeuvres humanitaires.”

A French press cutting (December 5, 1907) reported the inauguration of the “Hôtel du Lyceum” (Lyceum Club Mansions) and a prospectus (dated in pencil 1907) gives the address as 28 Rue de la Bienfaisance.

In 1912 my cousin would invite me to lectures and concerts at the club which was then in the Rue de Penthièvre. As a young man, I was impressed by the gilded chairs, the classical decoration and the elegant French women.

All in all, Alice Ward’s work in securing for professional women a rightful place in society was noteworthy and deserves more space than would be appropriate in this essay. In some ways the Paris Lyceum Club must have been in advance of its time.

XIV

From the early eighties on, Alice was evidently establishing herself as a professional writer.

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Amongst her papers we find a “Prospectus” for sending to publishers and editors. The original address is Avenue Malakoff. Later this has been crossed through and her Rue Bonaparte address substituted. Why she included the Avenue Malakoff address is not clear. From a reproduction of her professional “card,” shown at the head, one learns that she was an Associate of the London Society of Authors, Editor of *French Journal*, contributor to the *Strand Magazine*, *Anglo-Continental*, *Glasgow Weekly Echo*, *The Million*, *Men and Women* and other papers. Thereafter follows a list of MSS which would be forwarded to Editors on application; e.g. 1) Parisian Chat – Literary, Social, or Political, as required. 2) Whispers from the Bois and Salons. 3) Short Notices of New French Books. 4) Résumés of French Novels. 5) Short sketches of French Men and Women of this Century. 6) Anecdotes of Noted Men and Women. 7) Scraps for Variety Columns – Amusing, Scientific, or Literary.

She goes on to offer a list of fourteen titles of her short stories, including a serial translated into French but not published in England. This is followed by titles of her translations of short stories from French, Spanish, German, Russian, Turkish and Italian. Lastly come stories for children.

Of her translations into English perhaps the most successful were the six novels of Pierre de Coulevain. This writer’s autobiographical novel of her stay in Wimbledon, *The Unknown Isle*, ran into many editions. A review in a London Sunday paper (April 1902) praised her novel of American life *Eve Triumphant*, in Alice’s translation. It suggested that although it “Can scarcely hope to take a place among great books it is none the less a remarkable achievement.” The reviewer compared her to that popular English author W. J. Locke.

These Coulevain books are listed in a separate typescript together with other translations, including *George Sand* by René Doumic, *Bijou* by Gyp, and *Madame Récamier*, by Edouard Herriot. The dates of publication are not given, except in the case of *George Sand*.

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In the same typescript, sixteen titles of "Strand Novelettes" are given, along with twenty titles of short stories published in that magazine.

Her translation of Pierre Villey's book *The World of the Blind* was said to have revived and transformed the psychological study of the blind. Blind from earliest childhood, the author had nevertheless taken his degree at the Sorbonne.

Her folder contains a specimen copy (undated) of a quarterly, *The Literary Link*, which she evidently contemplated publishing. It cost 2/- per copy or, annually 5/6. It only ran into one issue which contained a long article by Pierre Villey on *The World of the Blind* (A Psychological Study). At the end of the issue is a short poem by Curtis Brown entitled *The Young Year*. (12) *The Literary Link* formed part of the (projected) *Owl Library*, which Alice was to edit.

An article (galley proof) entitled "Paris Notes" for *The Author*, contains summaries of a number of French writers killed during the War.

A "Novelette" and a short story are the only examples I can find of her own fictional writing. I am not competent to judge of the style or the contents of these works. They are romances and include much dialogue. They are written in the magazine idiom of the 1900s and seem to be of sound professional standard.

In writing an interesting essay on *The Evolution of Women in France - A Club for French Women*, Alice evidently had the Lyceum in mind. She comments on the rarity of women's clubs in France with the situation in England. French women had recourse to their *salons*. Even so, she found to her amazement that the proposal to form the Lyceum Club in France was welcomed enthusiastically.

XV

Constance Smedley commented on her engaging qualities and large circle of friends. Here, I can only refer to some of them briefly and draw on letters and papers she has left and on what she told us of them. I suppose her closest friend was Mlle Hélène Favre de Coulevain (Pierre de Coulevain,

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1871-1913), referred to above. A number of her books are mentioned in the National Union Catalogue of Pre-1956 imprints. (13) Reading her letters, one gets the impression that she was a woman in affluent circumstances and able to move around and live in expensive Swiss, German and Italian Hotels. She suffered from rheumatism and took cures at Baden and Yverdon. Many of her letters are about publishers, and payments indicate that at one time she was a member of the Lyceum Club, from which she later resigned. She felt that the French women were not capable of running a club and that the Lyceum could only survive in the hands of the English. It was only Alice who had led them.

In July 1910 she wrote from the Hôtel Bellevue, Paris, that she had just made a will and wanted to acknowledge Alice's devotion to her. "When I have crossed the bar you will receive a long deep clasp of the hand." In the event, she bequeathed all, or certain royalties to Alice. She died in August 31, 1913, at Territet, Switzerland. In a letter to one of her sisters, Alice describes the death-bed scene at the Hôtel Beau Séjour, the room being full of flowers and the little tortoise,

Matthew, in evidence. Birds kept coming into the room. According to an obituary in the *Figaro*, Mlle de Coulevain was well-known, the author of many successful novels, written with finesse and taste. On the death of my cousin in 1939, at her request, her own ashes were scattered on her friend's grave at Territet by my daughter Anne.

Amongst Alice's papers are ten letters from her friend Charles Foley. Born in 1861, he was the son of Dr. A. Foley. These letters are written in French, and appear to deal with such matters as paying-guests, visits, friends, publications and so forth. Many of them are undated. One was written in 1897 and one in 1935. There may well be about 100 index cards of his works in the Catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale. He wrote novels, short stories and plays.

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Alice left a typescript describing an interesting discussion with him about Gissing's *Author at Grass*, afterwards published as *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*. Charles Foley liked the idea of this story but assured her that he would have treated it in exactly the opposite way. The author, who had hitherto been poor, comes into a fortune. The changed circumstances "would be more likely to unfit him for work than enable him to do better work." Alice was not altogether convinced, perhaps because Ryecroft no longer works after he has retired to Devon, but she thought it interesting to compare the way in which Foley treated a similar subject in *L'Ecrasement* with Gissing's version.

Her file contains nine letters from a certain C. H. Edwards. All except one show the month and day but not the year. The exception is one dated August 20th, 1908. This, together with two others is from Halberstadt, near Brunswick, in Germany. The letters give the impression of being written by a young man, travelling in Germany, Belgium (Liège) and France. He comments on Germans (whom he doesn't dislike), on bishops (who, he thought, did a lot of harm – "they think they know more about God than the rest of us do and they don't") – hated war and militarism – he would like to have about twenty stories on the market. He did the Harzreise and was not worried about money matters. He sent his regards to Mrs. Gissing, to my parents and to us boys. In some of his letters he addresses my cousin as "Dear Miss Hallard," and in others "My dear A. H."

At some point, while my brother and I were away at school, her friend Madame Léra stayed with my parents in Handsworth, Birmingham. Among other places my father took her to our factory and to Nelson Street Adult Sunday School of which he was President, where a simple service was combined with lessons in reading and writing for working men. Mme Léra must have been impressed for she was reported to have said that Birmingham was the most spiritual town she had ever visited. She wrote under the pen-name of Marc Helys. Amongst her published work, prior to

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1923, were a number of translations and six of her own books, including one in my possession called *Le Secret des Désenchantées, L'Envers d'un Roman* (1928). In it she describes how she impersonated a Turkish woman who figures in one of Pierre Loti's novels, *Les Désenchantées*. Madame Léra-Marc Helys was one of the early members of the Lyceum Club.

The Best family had reason to be grateful to Alice for her introductions. Amongst them was one

to M. Pierre Roché, the pen-name of Fernand Massignon (born 1855) who came as our tutor for one of our summer holidays. His published works include an account of his wrongful imprisonment during the First World War in the Conciergerie (14). I remember him as a friendly and interesting companion for two rather tiresome boys.

Alice also introduced us to Professor Auguste Hollard and his family who were my hosts during my Paris days as a student. He lectured at the Ecole de Chimie. He was a friend of Bergson, and the author of several exegetical works. (15) He had a merry twinkle and a sense of humour. Madame "had" religion, as we say, but was a wonderful hostess during those happy pre-war Paris days. One sometimes wonders whether there was any connection between her devout Protestantism and his excursions into the Higher Criticism. He and I were sometimes invited by Alice to take tea with her at her flat in the Rue Bonaparte. I remember the atmosphere of French ceremony and courtesy he brought to the occasion, laying his hat and gloves at the side of the chair during tea-time.

At 33 by Eva Le Gallienne, the daughter of Richard, the poet, was published in 1934. In this book she describes how, as a young girl, she met Alice Ward with her mother. They lived in the same apartment house in the Rue de Vaugirard. They collaborated on the translation of a very difficult book. "Miss Hallard," she says, "quickly won my respect and affection through her possession of six tortoises, graduated in size, all beautifully and impeccably trained." She goes on

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to describe how these tortoises were taken in a basket each day at noon to the Luxembourg and fed on lettuce leaf. They then enjoyed themselves on the grass in a tandem harness made of ribbon. Eva Le Gallienne made a reputation for herself by her translations, e.g. of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* and *The Master Builder*, and as an actress with her Repertory Theatre in New York. She was apparently still living in the late '40s.

The Lyceum Club brought Alice into touch with many influential French people, some of them titled. Amongst the members of the first committee was the Dowager Duchess of Uzès who became the first President. The Paris club was not, at first, a financial success, but thanks to her efforts "the situation was saved, another house was taken and from that time forth, under the leadership of the President, the Lyceum Club gradually became an indispensable and well-known club in Paris." (16)

The Duchess and Alice became friends and corresponded freely. The Duchess file contains about thirty letters and cards, many undated; they refer to appointments, premises for the Lyceum, shares in the club and its constitution, comments on the War and a suggestion that the Club premises should be used as a hospital, an invitation for a visit to her house at Bonnelles which at one point was being used as an auxiliary hospital, references to her translation of Charles Prince's poem *Over the Top* of which copies are in the file. It seems to relate to the arrival of the American troops. We find also the typescript of a light comedy on the theme of hypnotism being used by a young lady to further her own ends with her parents. The Duchess's stationery carries the Coronet insignia and one letter shows an engraving of the Château d'Uzès. (17) The Duchess was keen on following hounds. Among the collection is a picture post-card of her, mounted, leading the hunt as it moved off. References to bereavements occur, and all the letters and cards are in mourning.

Alice evidently thought a letter from the Duchesse de Rohan about a poetry reading at the

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Lyceum was important enough to keep.

XVI

It was during the 1900s that my mother made her happiest visits to the Rue Bonaparte and the Lyceum Club.

My mother did not like travelling, but once in Paris her spirits rose. She delighted in Alice Ward's company and loved the little flat, where they would laugh and giggle together. They used it as a centre for hilarious shopping expeditions. They would lunch at some *petite boîte* and sometimes drink what they called "little wickeds" (liqueurs, etc.).

Certain French phrases became family catch words. For instance, *même chose*, suggested by an occasion when, in some public place, they asked the way to "The Ladies" and had subsequently enquired how it came about that men appeared to be moving freely out of the door indicated to them. Another was *Champagne tout le temps*, which was my mother's reply when a waiter enquired whether they would like a glass of champagne with the fish to be followed by some red wine as the meal progressed. (18)

XVII

When the First War broke out Alice was in Paris, but as the Germans advanced, according to my brother's diary, she made a surprise visit to Birmingham where she told "great stories of the Tommies in Paris" (September 14th, 1914).

I have always understood that a number of refugees from Northern France or Belgium found their way to Paris and gathered near the Gare du Nord. Amongst them was a little girl, Béatrice Haye. A bond between her and Alice quickly formed itself. She settled in the flat and became a life-long companion of my cousin.

During the War Alice was active in helping refugees, wives and dependents of those who were serving. She held a daily reception, distributing parcels and gifts, and for her services received a bronze medal of French gratitude from the President.

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XVIII

In 1919 her age was 60. She was active for the next ten years but her friends began to die. Pierre de Coulevain had died in 1913 and, as we have seen, bequeathed certain royalties to Alice. But her income, nevertheless, tended to diminish. She had never shown much aptitude for controlling her finances. Her memory was becoming unreliable and, according to Béatrice Haye, she had suffered several small strokes.

During 1937 Béatrice must have had misgivings about her foster-mother. They were having difficulties in making both ends meet and had had to sell some of the furniture. Alice's friend, Mme Favre, wrote to me urging me to bring Alice home. Fortunately I had business in Paris at the time. I went round to her flat and found that there were, indeed, blank spaces which had once been filled

with household goods. At first she said she wanted to come home and wished to return with me, but next day she changed her mind. She was too tired and had many things to do, she said. I was forced, therefore, to return to England without her.

Some time the following year, after another S.O.S. from Béatrice Haye, they arrived at Victoria. I met them and conveyed them to the modest home for elderly people in St. Peter's Rd., Handsworth, which other members of the family had found for her. Béatrice then returned to Paris. During her last year, Alice and I were often together for lunches, visits to relatives and drives in the country. Her mind was unreliable, but she had a way of describing events obliquely. She had been very friendly with my brother Frank, who had been killed in 1917 while flying over the line. On seeing his portrait her face lit up and she said: "Oh, I knew *him!*" She then went on to tell a fanciful tale of his arrest by "those people" and how he had smiled at her as they took him away from some assembly. It was all as if in a dream, the story being partly based on the fact that they had been together at lectures and functions at the Lyceum Club and he had actually been "taken away by those people" (i.e. killed by the Germans).

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During the autumn of 1938 her condition weakened and on January 10th, 1939 she died. As we have seen, her ashes were scattered on the grave of Pierre de Coulevain at Territet by my daughter Anne, in accordance with Alice's wishes.

What summing-up could be more fitting than the following extract from Constance Smedley's letter to me at the time of her death:

Alys Hallard knew everyone in Paris and there was no literary salon where she was not a welcome and honoured guest. She penetrated literary fastnesses where no other English author had gained entrée and was received not only as a brilliant *littérateur* and colleague but as a woman whose charm and esprit assured appreciation in a society where conversation and beauty of speech are the hall mark of success ... I wish a pen picture could be on record of "Une belle Laide," whose perfect taste in every essential, with a charm of manner and diction which carried all before it, brings a thrill of delight whenever one thinks of her."

9 - Alice's Obituary of Gissing appeared in *The Author*, February 1, 1904 ("Paris Notes," p. 118).

The suggestion to open a fund appeared in the next issue, March 1, 1904, p. 158, under "Authorities."

10 - Alice's report appeared on January 1, 1914, p. 104.

11 - See Constance Smedley, *Crusaders* (London, Duckworth, 1929, p. 75).

12 - Was this Curtis Brown, the literary agent?

13 - Pierre de Coulevain was the author of such works as *Au Coeur de la Vie*, *Eve Victorieuse*, *L'Île Inconnue*, *Noblesse Oblige* and *Sur la Branche*. Some recollections of her appear in *La Salière de Cristal* by Maurice Sandoz, Paris, 1952.

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14 - The account of his imprisonment is titled *Deux Semaines dans la Conciergerie: Pendant la Bataille de la Marne*, Paris, Attinger Frères, 1916. My copy is inscribed "Pour Miss Alys Hallard – Vive l'Angleterre! – H. P. Roché, Juillet 15."

15 - Amongst Auguste Hollard's philosophical works were: *L'Apothéose de Jésus* (1921), *La Matière est-elle vivante?* (1910), *Le Problème du Mal* (1916), *L'Homme, collaborateur de la Création* (1916), *Les Origines de la Fête de Noël* (1931), *Le Dieu d'Israël* (1933), *Saint Paul* (1934), and *Marcion et Montant, deux hérétiques*. He was also the author of several works on analytical chemistry by electrolysis.

16 - *Crusaders*, p. 76.

17 - The château d'Uzès, of impressive Renaissance architecture, is situated about sixteen miles northeast of Nîmes.

18 - The quotation is from my book *A Short Life and a Gay One*, a biography of my brother Frank. It is duplicated and copies are available at the Birmingham Reference and Lending Libraries.

Review

London and the Life of Literature in Late Victorian England: The Diary of George Gissing, Novelist. Edited by Pierre Coustillas. The Harvester Press, Hassocks, 1978. 617 pages.

The Diary Gissing kept for fifteen of his most productive years, which is in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, has been a vital source for researchers who were able to consult it or to obtain photocopies of it. It is now published in full, in a massive, scrupulously edited volume with informative notes and an introduction by Pierre Coustillas which constitutes a monumental

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addition to the documentary evidence on Gissing's life.

As Coustillas says in his introduction, the Diary is valuable not only for the access it gives to Gissing himself, but as a source of insight into the problems of authorship in his time. Gissing recorded in it everything connected with his writing. He made notes of the progress he made in completing his books, his negotiations with publishers and agents, the prices he was paid, and the measures he took to adapt himself to changing public tastes. In this respect, the Diary is a real-life

counterpart of *New Grub Street*. But it also reflects Gissing's personal concerns about his family and his household, his travels, his habits of reading and writing, the course of his friendships, and his varying moods and states of mind.

It consists mainly of brief annotations of facts and events. With a few significant exceptions, Gissing did not attempt to record his ideas or deeper feelings in it. It is not the place to look for his true thoughts, undisguised by fiction. It is, rather, a document which adds a multitude of facts to what is known about his life and activities.

Among the major exceptions are his accounts of travel. The entries he made while he was abroad are far longer and far more detailed than those made in England while he was busy at his writing. (Short entries, in fact, are usually a sign that his work is going well.) He made notes of nearly everything he did or saw while he was in Italy and Greece, and a good part of the volume is taken up with observations about his meals, the restaurants, the wines, the weather, oddities of language, the behaviour of the people, walks, views, entertainments and the like. They are the fascinating, unpretentious harvest of an eye and a sensibility attuned to the joy of small discoveries. He enjoys the colors of the fruit hung at the windows in Naples, and the brilliant green of the Venice canals in sunlight. He finds it worthwhile to mention such impressions as the smell of hot turnips at a grocer's in Venice, the red appearance of the Roman Campagna under a sunny sky, the

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amusing skill of a waiter. As a result, we are able to follow him nearly step by step on his travels, and to share his experience of much of the material that went into *By the Ionian Sea*.

There were few lasting relations with other people while Gissing travelled about. He was a solitary wanderer most of the time, who kept his thoughts and his impressions to himself, sharing them only with his Diary. Most of the people mentioned are figures in a frieze of passing street-life, a bootblack with whom he has an exchange, a woman with numerous pins in her hair, German tourists exclaiming at the wonders of Rome. He noted that the Florentine cabdrivers accost prospective customers with a civilized "Vuole?" while the Neapolitan ones employ a more aggressive cry, "Lei! Lei!"

On the whole, Gissing valued this solitude, especially after his unfortunate experience with Plitt, a totally uncongenial companion with whom he shared quarters and expenses for a while. He preferred the company of writers who had covered the ground he was travelling before him, and sometimes engaged in colloquies with them. For example, he is critical of Ruskin, who mentioned only the most expensive hotels in Venice, and who objected to the dirt of the modern Rialto, as if the ancient one would have been cleaner.

When Gissing is at home and working, the Diary becomes a laconic, asyntactic record of weather conditions, pages written, hours worked, prices obtained, letters written and received, books read, people encountered, and, less often, of walks, moods, state of health, and things eaten and drunk. There are many entries as short as "Tuesd. Aug 12. Idleness" or "Frid. Apr. 13. Four pages." Many of these short entries are extremely eloquent when taken in context, such as "No sleep at night. No work to-day. Misery," written after a few days spent in revising earlier work, and a week before "Abandoned work again. . . ."

His acquaintance with Edith Underwood is noted in the barest possible manner, as a series of

meetings, suppers, and so on; not a word is said about his feelings toward her or his intention to marry her until the report that he has spoken to her father. After this marriage, the Diary becomes somewhat more expansive on domestic subjects, and when his first son is born, the observant father records his development in some detail.

Gissing usually wrote something in his Diary, however brief, every day (or went back to fill in days he may have missed), whether or not he had anything to record. He took it with him on his travels, and it penetrated to the classical sites of Athens and the wilds of Squillace in Calabria with him, though he was parted from it when he spent some time at a sanatorium in Suffolk, and when he stayed with Gabrielle's relatives in France. When he sometimes missed a few days, he wrote retrospective entries, chronicling the activities of the recent past.

There is no real break from the first entry of January 1, 1888 until early February of 1897, when the tension of his marriage became too much for him, and he left home for about five months, leaving the Diary behind. But he resumed it on June 1st (after describing what had happened during the unrecorded interim), and continued it, through his second trip to Italy, and the illness in Cotrone mentioned in *By the Ionian Sea* is fully chronicled, day by day. Another break occurs during an illness in February-March, 1899.

His Diary-keeping habits changed after his union with Gabrielle. He made very short entries while they lived in their permanent home on the Rue de Siam, but otherwise the entries become sporadic. They were given up entirely in April 1901, when he went to the sanatorium, but a year later Gissing wrote that he had decided to continue them, saying "I shall be sorry not to have a continuous record of my life." Nevertheless, the continuation of the Diary during its last year, 1902, is irregular.

One of the first substantial entries, and perhaps the most important from both a biographical and literary point of view, is that of March 1, 1888, the account of his visit to the scene of his first wife's death. This event is, of course, well known but it is fascinating to read Gissing's novelistic

account of the pathetic details of her room, and the word in which he expresses his determination to "bear testimony against the accursed social order that brings about things of this kind." It is the most dramatic and emotionally-charged episode in the Diary. Among the few other personal experiences recorded in detail are his meetings with Meredith and Hardy, a wild quarrel with the keeper of a lodging-house, the speech and behaviour of his son, Walter, and an exemplary instance of Edith's bad humor.

Gissing recorded his reading in the Diary, but ordinarily withheld evaluation. It is interesting to see that he read Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle*, Huxley's essays, Grant Allen's study of Darwin, and Frazer's *Golden Bough*, but there are no clues to his reactions to these expressions of the advanced thought of his time. He says nothing about Zola, Meredith, Hardy, and other important contemporaries whose works he bought and read, except to record them. He did, however, express opinions about minor writers. The favorable ones usually exhibit a patronizing attitude toward such

figures as Mrs. Henry Wood and Israel Zangwill. The more frequent derogatory comments consign a book to oblivion with some such term as “twaddle,” “paltry trash” or “poor stuff.”

The publication of the Diary will help to dispel the myth that Gissing was an unfriendly man. After his second marriage he became positively sociable in his habits, joining the parties of writers at Edward Clodd’s home in Aldeburgh, and attending dinners of the Omar Khayyám Club and the Society of Authors. Through these groups he came to know many of the writers of the time, and paid repeated visits to the homes of Meredith, Hardy, Henry Norman and H. G. Wells. He seldom went to private dinner parties, however, probably because he did not feel able to reciprocate.

There is very full information throughout the Diary of Gissing’s earnings from what he wrote, and detailed accounts of the arrangements agents and publishers made for the sale of his work are

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often given. These facts show, ironically, that the publishing revolution he criticized in *New Grub Street* and *In the Year of Jubilee* made it possible for him to become relatively prosperous. When he wrote short stories, which were more accessible to the new reading public, and made use of agents and the Society of Authors to place his work, his income improved, so that he was able to record, in 1895, that he had made £500 during the year.

Expressions of personal feeling are usually limited to a word or two, but these can be very eloquent. The most common mood, predictably, is despondency. “Discouragement,” “depression,” and “uneven spirits” often accompanied his creative efforts, especially when he was single. In writing intended only for his own eyes, he made no effort to be consistent, and his reports about his state of mind can be contradictory. One March 22 was a “most glorious day – if only one could enjoy it.” Yet the next month he could write of “a day of much pleasure,” and of “one of the days of my life to be looked upon with joy.” He was on holiday in Wales at the time, and had spent the day climbing a hill and gathering shells on the seashore. Other good times were his travels, and meetings with such friends as Roberts, Hudson and Wells.

While the editors of the 1927 *Letters to Members of His Family* did not claim to reproduce entries from the Diary in complete form, and A. C. Gissing, in his introduction, acknowledges that the Diary is used mainly to fill in facts about Gissing’s travels and activities that are not mentioned in correspondence, the defensive attitude with which Gissing’s brother and sister approached their task obviously impeded the cause of Gissing biography for a generation or more. Their crimes are exposed, now that the Diary is available. The very first entry from it used in the *Letters*, that of December 29th, 1887, records Gissing’s comment about his current work, but omits a complaint that a publisher has failed to make an expected payment, so that he is forced to send for £10 from his mother to pay his rent. The entry of February 29th, 1888, as it appears in the *Letters*, reads:

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“A telegram waited for me. I caught the 7.45 train ...” What is omitted, incredibly enough, is the contents of the telegram, faithfully written down by Gissing in the Diary: “Mrs. Gissing is dead. Come at once.”

Everything about Nell Gissing was excluded from the *Letters*, as were comments about

Algernon's career as a novelist, allusions to Mrs. Gissing and the sisters in Wakefield, details of daily routine, and many other matters of vital interest. The Diary offers for the first time numerous clues valuable for following Gissing's career, as for example, the entry of April 2, 1888, where he recorded that he had bought a copy of Murray's *Magazine* in which Edith Sichel had published the first periodical study of his work.

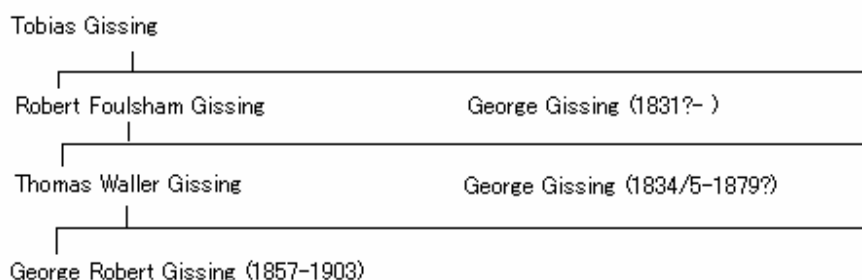
One can only approve of the basic editorial decisions Coustillas was compelled to make in planning the publication of this formidable manuscript. It was wise to publish it in complete form, if only to counteract the doubts and rumors that have been a part of the Gissing tradition since its earliest days. No one will object to such minor departures from the manuscript as the filling-out of abbreviations (clearly indicated), the insertion of dates in brackets, or the italicization of titles, since these promote the readability of the text without compromising its accuracy. The explanatory notes are full of necessary information, much of it highly specialized, and not available elsewhere, and Coustillas has provided a useful "Who's Who" list identifying persons mentioned in the Diary. It is unfortunate that the drawings Gissing occasionally made could not be reproduced, and it seems clear that the pages should have been supplied with "running heads" giving the year of the entries. A less important deficiency concerns the table of contents; it organizes the material into chapters bearing rather meaningless titles which are, fortunately, not used elsewhere.

London and the Life of Literature in Late Victorian England is obviously a major contribution to the documentation of Gissing's life, and will be an essential reference for all serious readers of Gissing's work. — Jacob Korg.

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Three George Gissings

Clifford Brook



For some time I have been aware of another George Gissing as well as the novelist George Robert Gissing but in the last few days I received information from a friend, Harold Hughes, which perplexed me until I was able to satisfy myself that the George Gissing whose name he had found in the Halesworth Parish Baptism Register was a third person with that name.

There are three occasions when T. W. Gissing's name is associated with a George Gissing other than his son:

- In the first codicil to T. W. Gissing's will of 2 December 1862, it says "I now find it advisable to appoint my brothers George Gissing and John Foulsham Gissing . . . trustees along with my said wife and the said William Medley".
- An indenture was registered on 8 January 1874 at Wakefield Registry of Deeds in the names of "George Gissing, Draper of Liverpool, Margaret Gissing" and others by which the two shops in Westgate and the house in Thompson's Yard, bought by T. W. Gissing in 1865, were transferred to J. L. Chaplin.
- The Death Certificate of T. W. Gissing contains the name of "George Gissing of Cleckheaton near Leeds" as the person who registered the death.

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Other references to a person who was obviously the same George Gissing, brother of T. W. Gissing are: -

- April 1871 Census Returns for Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, Parish of St. John's in Volume 4433, page 2, 24.

Whitliffe Lane

G. Gissing Draper, aged 36,	born - Suffolk, Badingham
Rachel Gissing, Wife aged 32	- Essex, Thaxted
Susan Sprint, Visitor, aged 28	- ditto
Ann Starling, Visitor, aged 12	- ditto

(It appears that the enumerator made a mistake when he first entered George's name and so left insufficient space for the full name).

- Kelly's Post Office Directories for Liverpool have the following entry in the years 1876-77:

George Gissing, Draper's Assistant, 9, Heber St., West Derby Rd., Liverpool.

(There are no other references to him in the period 1874-1889)

My friend's information can be seen, from the family tree above, to apply to an uncle of T. W. Gissing though the nephew was older than the uncle.

Halesworth Parish Church Register of Baptisms 1813 to 1864:

- 27 June June 1830 T. W. Gissing son of R. F. Gissing, shoemaker.

- 16 Oct. 1831 George son of Tobias, shoemaker, and Judith Gissing

- 16 Oct. 1831 Charles son of Robert and Jane Gissing.

Pierre Coustillas has information showing that T. W. Gissing's father, Robert Foulsham Gissing, removed from Halesworth, Suffolk to Badingham, Suffolk in or around 1832.

Wakefield, 17 September 1978.

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Notes and News

Alfred Slotnick gave his annual party in honour of Gissing at his home in Brooklyn on December 30th. The date was chosen in preference to Gissing's birthday in order to coincide with the MLA session. American and foreign scholars had an excellent opportunity to see his recent acquisitions – first English and American editions, colonial editions and the impressive number of variants of *New Grub Street* and *Ryecroft* in the Modern Library. He hopes to be in a position to write a bibliographical article on the Modern Library issues before long.

The Harvester Press will be publishing *Denzil Quarrier* (ed. John Halperin) and *The Crown of Life* (ed. Michel Ballard) in February 1979.

Mr. Richard Storry, of St. Antony's College, Oxford wrote to the editor in reply to a query about Ellen Gissing that he met her "certainly well over fifty years ago, when I could not have been more than perhaps eleven or twelve years of age. How did I come to meet her? Well, my mother was born and brought up in Wakefield; and therefore she knew the Gissing family. (My mother, by the way, was born in 1867). She hardly knew George at all, but evidently knew Ellen. Anyway I recall that Ellen Gissing came to our home in Doncaster in the early nineteen-twenties (Doncaster is some 20 miles from Wakefield), and I think she stayed a night. My only recollection is of a cheerful, grey-haired, lady; I remember I liked her, and that she talked in animated fashion with my mother; and I am pretty sure we took her for a drive by car."

Professor Helmut E. Gerber, editor of *English Literature in Transition*, sends the following communication:

"Contributors and Associate Contributors to the massive three-volume George Bernard Shaw project to be published by Northern Illinois University Press in the Annotated Secondary

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Bibliography Series are urgently needed. Vol. 1 (beginnings to 1930) is being compiled and edited

by Peter Wearing (University of Arizona, Tucson), Vol. II (1931-1950) by Elsie B. Adams (San Diego State University), and Vol. III (1951-1978), nearly completed, by Donald C. Haberman (ASU). The Series is under the general editorship of H. E. Gerber (ASU).

Contributors should have a sound knowledge through teaching and/or research of 19th and 20th century British drama. Doctoral candidates are eligible. For details on the G.B.S. Project, please write to H. E. Gerber, Department of English, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (85281)."

Recent Publications

Volumes

Born in Exile, edited by Pierre Coustillas, Hassocks, Sussex: The Harvester Press, 1978, pp. xxi + 521; £7.50 (hardback); £3.50 (paperback). Purple cloth or yellow stiff wrappers. Contains a bibliographical note, an introduction, notes to the text and a bibliography.

John Goode, *George Gissing: Ideology and Fiction*, London: Vision Press, 1978, 205 pp. £5.95; New York: Barnes & Noble/Harper & Row, \$18.50. Discusses all the novels of the 1880s as well as *New Grub Street*, *Born in Exile*, *The Odd Women*, *In the Year of Jubilee*, *The Whirlpool* and *Ryecroft*.

Articles, reviews, etc.

William K. Buckley, "George Gissing's *The Odd Women*," *Recovering Literature*, vol. VI, Spring 1977, pp 27-50. This "journal of contextualist criticism," edited by Gerald J. Butler, Evelyn A.

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Butler, W. K. Buckley and James Plyn, publishes three issues a year. The editors' address is P.O. Box 805, Alpine, Calif. 92001.

Roy Fuller, "My Love Affair," *Adam*, nos. 397-400, 1976-77, p.35. Contains a short anecdote about Gissing.

Francesco Badolato, "Schede," *Ausonia*, XXXIII, nos. 3-4, May-August 1978, pp. 99-100, 102. Reviews of *The Emancipated*, *La Nouvelle Bohème* and *Le Roman anglais au XIXème siècle*.

Douglas Hewitt, "Memorabilia," *Notes and Queries*, August 1978, p. 291. A note on the latest Harvester reprints, *The Whirlpool* and *The Emancipated*.

William Haley, "George Gissing: *The Emancipated*," *Books and Bookmen*, September 1978, p. 62. A Review.

Anthony Curtis, "Gissing's Grief," *Financial Times*, October 5, 1978, p. 33. Review of *The Diary*

of *George Gissing*. This volume was also reviewed by Philip Toynbee in the *Observer* ("In the Lower Depths," October 8, p. 31), by Benny Green in the *Spectator* ("In Grub Street," November 4, p. 21) and by William Haley in *The Times* ("Much Agony, Little Ecstasy," November 23, p. 22).

Peter Keating, "Reviews," *Notes and Queries*, October 1978, pp. 479-80. Review of Michael Collie's *George Gissing: A Biography*.

Elizabeth A. Daniels, "Reviews," *Victorian Studies*, Autumn 1978, pp. 114-15. Review of Lloyd Fernando's "*New Women*" in the *Late Victorian Novel*.

Helmut E. Gerber, "The French Connection," *English Literature in Transition*, vol. XXI, no. 3, p. 145. Vol. XXI, no. 4 also contains some information on Gissing scholarship, pp. 213, 215, 216-17, 271.

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Yukio Otsuka, "Books Abroad," *Eigo Seinen*, December 1, 1978, p. 39. Review of *La Nouvelle Bohème* and *Le Roman anglais au XIXème siècle*.

Anon., "Remembering George Gissing," *Yorkshire Post*, December 18, 1978, p. 2. On the Gissing Trust Appeal, with a portrait of the novelist and a photograph of Thompson's Yard, Wakefield.

Gillian Tindall, "On the Gissing Trail," *New Society*, December 21/28, 1978, pp. 710-12. On the Gissing Trust Appeal, with a portrait of the novelist and a photograph of the birthplace, 60 Westgate.

Keith Nurse, "£50,000 Fund to Preserve Gissing Home," *Daily Telegraph*, December 28, 1978, p. 6.

Anon., "Gissing Trust in Drive to Preserve Birthplace," *Guardian*, December 28, 1978, p. 6.

Anon., "£50,000 Appeal for George Gissing Centre," *The Express* (Wakefield), December 29, 1978, p. 6. With photographs of Gissing, of his parents, of Thompson's Yard, and the native place in Westgate.

Francesco Badolato, "Gissing in Ristampa," *La Tribuna delle Scienze*, December 1978, p. 12. Review of *The Emancipated* and the *Diary*.

Pierre Coustillas, "*New Grub Street*: Esquisse de panorama bibliographique et critique," *Etudes Anglaises*, December 1978, pp. 319-30.

Richard Allen Cave, *A Study of the Novels of George Moore*, Harper & Row/Barnes & Noble, 1978, pp. 111 and 127. Contains a brief comparison between *New Grub Street* and *Vain Fortune*.

Anon., "Incarico al prof. Badolato," *Gazzetta del Sud*, January 16, 1979, p. 4.

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Helen McDonnell *et al.*, *England in Literature*, Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman & Co., 1979.
Contains "Spellbound," with some biographical and critical comment.