

Editorial

Publishing the Powyses has never been an easy business. Recalling the delays, disappointments and difficulties which Theodore, Llewelyn and John Cowper suffered during their lives, I find it astonishing that even now, when even the most sceptical critic is forced to admit their importance, the situation is little changed. Catherine Lieutenant's remarkable translation of John Cowper's *Rabelais* remains unavailable as a result of an interminable dispute with the printers, Theodore's *Fables* has been still further delayed by what its publishers, Rigby and Lewis, refer to as "imperfections in origination" (although it is hoped that the book should be available in time for this year's conference) and, perhaps most infuriating from the point of view of members, Peter Foss's study of Llewelyn Powys has still not been published by the Edwin Mellen Press despite the cheques sent with orders having been cashed in December.

In a recent telephone call I was informed that Peter's book was offered to members of the Society on a "pre-publication" basis and it is only now that sufficient orders have been received that the American branch of the Edwin Mellen Press (who are actually producing the book) have decided to print copies. I am assured that all orders will be delivered by the end of May at the latest, almost six months after payments were made. Members who have not received their copies by this date, or who wish to discuss the matter further, should contact the Edwin Mellen Press on 0570 423356.

Following the collapse of the Bristol Classical Press, my own edition of the *Uncollected Essays of John Cowper Powys* is now also in search of a publisher.

Yet hope and persistence are the mainstays of our Society and members will find much that is positive and much to look forward to in the following pages, including details of the 1992 conference, which promises to live up to the high standards we have come to expect.

Members will also be pleased to learn that the book sale carried on in the last issue of the *Newsletter* resulted in a profit of £800 for the Society.

Paul Roberts

Recent Appearances

Powys Society members who saw *The Spectator* of January 11th 1992 will have been elated to read in the Diary section A. N. Wilson's tribute to John Cowper Powys. Referring to him as "one of the most remarkable writers in English", and stating that he had himself only recently discovered the novels, he hails *Weymouth Sands*, *A Glastonbury Romance*, *Maiden Castle* and, most especially, *Wolf Solent* as "four of the greatest English novels, in their strange way worthy to be compared with Powys's idol and master, Dostoevsky." He describes *The Pleasures of Literature* as a "great fat book of essays absolutely crammed with marvellous insights", and Powys himself as "an untidy, long-winded writer, but ... so much more interesting than most of the literary figures

now idolised.” He rightly deplores the fact that the novels are currently out of print (the Penguin *Wolf Solent* being the honourable exception). This kind of praise will reach a wide and also an influential readership, especially when Wilson cites Iris Murdoch and John Bayley (not to mention the about-to-be-reprinted- and thus-fashionable Angus Wilson) as fellow admirers. Perhaps even today’s accountant-dominated publishers may begin to sit up and take notice.

Two recent anthologies include extracts from John Cowper’s work. Alice Thomas Ellis’s *Wales* (Fontana 1991, £4.99) carries an extract from *Owen Glendower*. I find it puzzling that the editor could not have found something better to represent Powys than a routine piece of narrative that anybody might have written: it is the more vexing when one thinks of the many magnificent evocative passages from *Owen* or *Porius*, or even from *Obstinate Cymric*, that are there for the choosing. However, Powys’s is the only author’s name to be mentioned on the back cover; and since more people will probably see it there than will read this lively anthology for themselves, the opportunity is not wholly lost.

Powys is better served in another anthology, P. J. Kavanagh’s *A Book of Consolations* (Harper/Collins 1992, £16.99). Kavanagh has himself praised John Cowper in the pages of *The Spectator* and elsewhere, and represents him with two extracts from *Autobiography*; while Llewelyn Powys is represented by one from *Glory of Life*. This is a most rewarding and heartening collection, and one far more worth making than most that proliferate nowadays. Kavanagh draws on a wide range of authors, from Plato to Philip Toynbee, Johnson and Yeats being obvious favourites. John Cowper would no doubt be pleased to see so much space devoted to Walt Whitman, whom he and his sister Katie so revered. The book carries a useful set of notes and references so that one can follow up quotations – the mark of any satisfactory anthology.

Glen Cavaliero

The 1992 Powys Society Conference

August 29th to September 1st
The Royal Agricultural College
Cirencester

This year’s conference will again follow the Saturday to Tuesday format already popular with members. It takes as its theme: **The Powys Woman: ‘The Realm Of The Imaginary’**. This fascinating subject has drawn contributions of exciting diversity from well-known and eminent speakers.

The Society held a very successful conference at Cirencester in 1990 and it was unanimously agreed at that AGM that we should return to the Royal Agricultural College in ’92. We will again be accommodated in Bledisloe Court, a comfortable

residential block of prize-winning design, and gathering for dinner and evening lectures in the elegant Bathurst Wing, which has been set aside for our exclusive use.

Members who are not familiar with the college will wish to know that it is situated in lovely countryside with excellent communications by both road and rail.

Themes and speakers change, but the annual book auction is established as a popular feature of every Powys Society Conference and a valuable source of income for the Society. Please bring along any books or other items relating to the Powyses and their circle, which are surplus to your requirements and which need to be appreciated.

The AGM may not be quite such fun but it is the forum for your ideas on the future development of the Society and we look forward to hearing them.

It would be very helpful if those members who are interested in attending the conference would fill out the form on the centre pages. We do not need a definite decision or money until July. However, to save postal costs, we will send further details of the conference only to those members who indicate an interest in attending.

John Batten

Conference Programme

The Powys Woman: 'The Realm of The Imaginary'

Saturday August 29th

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| 5.45 p.m. | Reception | |
| 8.00 p.m. | Harold Fawkner | <i>Woman and the Mineral: A Mineralogical Reading of Maiden Castle</i> |

Sunday August 30th

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|------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9.15 a.m. | Gloria Fromm | <i>Elizabeth Myers</i> |
| 11.00 a.m. | The Annual Book Sale | |
| 2.00 p.m. | Angela Pitt | <i>'Unprecedented Waves and Storms': Katie Powys and the Natural World</i> |
| 3.45 p.m. | Forum | <i>Worlds Not Amenable': The Unpopularity of the Powyses</i> |
| 8.00 p.m. | Iris Murdoch and John Bayley | <i>A Conversation</i> |

Monday August 31st

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|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 9.15 a.m. | Frank Kibblewhite | <i>Allegory, Symbolism, and the Role of Women in the Novels of T. F. Powys</i> |
| 11.00 a.m. | Peter Powys Grey | <i>'Two Silent Voices': Katie and Hamilton</i> |
| | Free Afternoon | (Committee Meeting 2.00 p.m.) |
| 5.00 p.m. | Annual General Meeting | |
| 8.00 p.m. | Oliver Wilkinson | <i>Frances and Jack: A Reading</i> |

Tuesday September 1st

Breakfast and Departure

News from America

Undoubtedly, the publication of the first complete edition of John Cowper Powys's *Porius*, the book he regarded as the crowning achievement of his writing career, is an event of the first importance. As a prelude to its publication in the late spring or early summer of this year, the Fall and Winter 1992 issue of *Powys Notes*, the publication of the Powys Society of North America, is devoted largely to *Porius*.

Wilbur T. Albrecht gives an account of his work as editor of the complete *Porius* and Michael Ballin gives a detailed and useful account of the publication history of the novel. These are followed by selections from the correspondence between Norman Denny, publisher's reader for the Bodley Head, and John Cowper Powys and long extracts from letters written by Powys to Malcolm Elwin, who was instrumental in having the book published by Macdonald. These letters alone, in which Powys attempts to explain both his motivation and methods in writing the novel, make this issue of *Powys Notes* invaluable. Members interested in obtaining copies should contact: Constance Harsh, Department of English, Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y. 13346-1398, U.S.A.

Members may also be interested to learn that the following titles by and about John Cowper Powys are also still available from the Colgate University Press:

<i>Autobiography</i>	\$ 22	<i>Rodmoor</i>	\$ 22
<i>The Brazen Head</i>	17	<i>Selected Poems</i> [1st ed.]	20
<i>A Glastonbury Romance</i>	22	<i>Visions and Revisions</i>	20
<i>Homer and The Aether</i> [1st ed.]	25	<i>Wolf Solent</i>	22
<i>Letters To Louis Wilkinson</i> [1st ed.]	22	<i>Welsh Ambassadors</i> [Louis Marlow]	20

Copies of all six issues of the *Powys Newsletter*, containing much important Powys material, are also still available at \$5 each. Overseas postage rates should be added to all of the above prices. Orders may be sent to: Colgate University Press, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, N.Y. 13346-1398, U.S.A.

Although it is too late to apply for this year, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin (which holds a wealth of Powys material) offers four-week stipends funded by the C. P. Snow and Cline Awards for visitors pursuing post-doctoral or similar research. Awards of \$1000 are available and successful applicants will be expected to deliver a lecture or lead an informal discussion during their four-week stay.

The address for further information is: The Director, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7219, Austin, Texas, 78713-7219, U.S.A.

John Brebner's John Cowper Powys collection is for sale. Professor Brebner wishes to sell the collection, which contains a wealth of original and interesting material, as a

whole and a full catalogue is available from him at: P.O. Box 3285, Station B, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3A 5H1.

Obituaries

Alan Hancox
1920–1992

As a bookseller, Alan Hancox's greatest pleasure was to find the right home for the right book, which always transcended any financial consideration.

Although born in Coventry, where he left school at the age of thirteen, he centred his adult life in Cheltenham and opened his first bookshop in 1949 and soon began to issue a steady stream of catalogues enticingly filled with attractively priced items. In 1966, he moved to his fourth and final premises in Cheltenham's Promenade, always crammed full with exciting, varied and ever-changing stock. A book collector's paradise, it was, however, the tip of the iceberg; the real treasures were invariably buried elsewhere. What proved to be his valedictory catalogue, number 137, appeared in 1987 bursting with 3,458 numbered items ("It could have been three times larger but I had to stop somewhere!") and contained 168 titles by and about the Powys family. His interest in the family was reflected in his loyal membership of the Powys Society, an impressive private collection of inscribed first editions, and a delight that his third wife, Shelagh, was herself a Powys.

Something of a rarity, a bookseller who actually read his books, Alan enjoyed a life-long passion for books and literature in equal measure. The latter found active expression when, as its Organiser from 1979, he transformed the Cheltenham Festival of Literature from a rather low-key event to what Michael Foot described as "the finest of its kind in the world and Alan its presiding genius". Poor health dogged him for years and the 1990 Festival was to be his last. A long interview, conducted by Melvyn Bragg, was preserved on video film and also featured tributes by Margaret Drabble, Seamus Heaney and many others.

Shortly after being awarded the MBE for his services to literature in the New Year's Honours List, Alan Hancox died peacefully at home in Cheltenham on January 29th. A wonderful man, serenely eccentric, his infectious enthusiasms irradiated the lives of all who came into contact with him.

Frank Kibblewhite

Charles Benson Roberts
1896–1992

With the death on January 25th of C. Benson Roberts those who knew him, those who only felt, at a distance, his benevolent and inspiring influence and the Powys Society itself, have lost a valued friend.

Born in Bridgend, South Wales, on January 24th 1896, the youngest of the five children of Robert and Jane Roberts, Benson (as he was known to family and friends)

was called to active service with the Royal Artillery in 1917 and took part in the Battle of Messines Ridge and the Third Battle Of Ypres.

On returning from the war he joined his father's grocery business, an occupation he was to follow until his retirement in 1957, and seven years later, in 1925, married Janie Lewis. No doubt it was inevitable that the pair should meet, for both of their fathers were prominent members of the English Congregational Church, for which Benson also served as secretary for many years. This was very much part of a family tradition of charitable work, which Benson extended with his activities on behalf of the Bridgend Rotary Club, of which he became President.

C. Benson and Janie Roberts were to spend more than sixty years together until Janie's death in 1986 and it was in recognition of their joint friendship that John Cowper Powys dedicated *Mortal Strife* to "Ben and Janie Roberts of Penybont ar Ogwr".

Benson had first met John Cowper, whose work he already admired, in 1938 when he was invited by Gerard Casey to arrange Powys's first lecture in Wales. This was the beginning of a long and warm friendship which was to last throughout the rest of Powys's life and is chronicled in *Letters To C. Benson Roberts*, published by the Village Press, London, in 1975.

Benson Roberts had always enjoyed a passionate devotion to literature and was the author of several unpublished novels and a number of plays. In view of his 'hero-worship' of John Cowper it was not surprising that in 1967 he became one of the founding members of The Powys Society and in 1969 was elected its first Chairman, a post he held until his retirement in 1972. Benson's contribution to both the Society and Powys studies was recognised in 1989, when he was made our first Honorary Member.

Benson's 96th birthday was spent happily with his two sons, Tony and John (a daughter, Nerys, had died tragically early at the age of seven in 1936), and ended with the recitation of what John calls "a long remembered poem from his youth". He was to die the following morning, but how that happy final recitation recalls the passing of his hero, John Cowper Powys, as remembered in *Recollections of The Powys Brothers* by Gerard Casey, who had brought the two together:

"... soon, after singing John Peel in his last day of life, he too was to pass on ..."

Paul Roberts

Forthcoming Publications

Despite the disappointments referred to in our Editorial, Gerald Pollinger, literary agent to the Powys estate, reports a number of exciting new and proposed publications.

The respected French publisher Gallimard is to reprint *Wolf Solent* in their quality paperback series in November, while Phébus have agreed to bring out translations of Llewelyn Powys's *Love and Death* and *Impassioned Clay*, and Remaux have indicated an interest in Philippa Powys's novel *The Blackthorn Winter*.

Bristol's Redcliffe Press have also said that they wish to publish Llewelyn's *Skin for Skin* and are considering Theodore Powys's *Black Bryony*, *Kindness In A Corner* and *The White Paternoster*. Further details will appear in the *Newsletter* as they become available.

The Mandrake Press Ltd. is shortly to bring out *Seven Friends* by Louis Marlow (Wilkinson) in a new edition limited to 750 copies, illustrated with rare photographs and a previously unpublished photograph of the author by Man Ray. Two other important features of this new edition are the texts of Louis Wilkinson's radio broadcasts and a new introduction by Oliver Wilkinson. Members seeking further information should contact the Mandrake Press Ltd., Freepost, Thame, Oxon OX9 3BR.

The Pauper's Press is also to publish a booklet containing two essays by Paul Roberts, *Becoming Mr. Nobody* and *Imperishable Gestures* on the philosophy and poetry of John Cowper Powys, in May. Enquiries should be sent to Colin Stanley, The Pauper's Press, 27 Melbourne Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5DJ.

Members interested in the Llewelyn Powys/Gamel Woolsey relationship will be pleased to learn that Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy's biography of Gerald Brenan, *The Interior Castle*, is to be published by Sinclair-Stevenson on June 29th.

However, the Powys publishing event of the year must surely be the first complete edition of John Cowper's masterpiece *Porius*, edited by Wilbur T. Albrecht, to be published by Colgate University Press (13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, N.Y. 13346-1398, New York U.S.A.) in the late spring or early summer. Once again, further details of this important book will be published in the *Newsletter* as they become available.

'Patching Good Enough'

The loose sheet is an offprint from *Transactions of the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings*, an annual journal edited by Stephen Powys Marks. It comes from a very characteristic piece of writing by A. R. Powys, expressing in very untechnical and clear language a very technical subject.

Letters to Llewelyn from Home

In my collection of family letters are several to Llewelyn Powys from his parents, eleven from each. Those from Charles Francis Powys date between February 1904 and August 1909, and those from his mother, Mary Cowper, between January 1905 and March 1908; the letters are clearly a chance selection from a much greater number which they must have written to him. The period covered includes most of his time at Cambridge; he went up in 1903, and passed his last examinations at the end of 1906.

All the letters are written on a distinctive mottled grey paper folded once to form four pages, all but three letters being 7" by 4½" in size, known as Small Note or Post 8vo; oddly, all those from M. C. P. are watermarked 'Silurian Wove Mottled Grey J S & Co Ltd.', whereas C. F. P.'s are slightly thicker and without watermark. The almost invariable use is as a folded leaflet, so that pages 2 and 3 are inside the folded letter paper, but in one C. F. P. has started on what is normally the back page, i. e. the left page if the sheet

is laid flat: C. F. P. says "I find I have begun at the fashionable end of the paper, & so obliged to write on this page [the normal starting page], instead of the second". It would be interesting to know more about the social significance of starting in one place rather than another!

The contents of the letters is, on the whole, not exceptional or unexpected, but I thought it worth while to transcribe some extracts and one whole letter here. In the first letter, dated January 26th 1908, M. C. P. writes:

I have had a very nice letter from John – he has very excited audiences in New York, composed of Italians, Germans, Socialists, Anarchists & Democrats. I will quote some of his letter "Men gesticulating asking wild questions, disputing with each other shouting, cursing the corruption of the Government and the exploiting of the poor by the rich haranguing howling like revolutionary incendiaries [*sic*] – "Tell me Professor" one would yell "The Greeks & Jews were they ever, if you go far back the same race?" "Professor" another would cry "Is the golden Demeter and the Catholic Madonna the same person?" "I want to let you understand, Professor", another would shout "that we have a perverted plutocracy and the poor are grossly wronged." & so on –

Another letter of June 19th 1906 says "We shall think of you next Tuesday going to Jack's lecture on Oscar Wilde, I should like to hear him - Your Father & I remember Mr. O. Wilde's clever & amusing lecture on Art or Taste, I forget the notice, at Dorchester years ago." Three days later she sends congratulations on passing his examination: "We are all so very glad & rejoice with you", but his father on June 12th has to write "I hope this some-what ambiguous telegram means that you have passed."

In fact, Llewelyn had, as C. F. P. wrote on June 20th, "cleared the General & [you] have now only the Special (History) before you take your B. A." which he did at the end of the year; Malcolm Elwin tells us that Llewelyn 'ploughed' in the summer. C. F. P.'s last reference to the degree is in a letter of December 7th, in which he says "Your telegram arrived this morning – as I was writing a sermon, on the joy of Christ in the heart of the believer – & it filled our hearts with joy", as well it might when failure was a distinct possibility.

A year and a half later (April 6th 1908), C. F. P. writes to Llewelyn, "If you try your hand at writing articles for the T. P.'s paper &c, both Mother & I would like you to be here with us this summer: you would have the School room to work in; and if you are afraid of being an expence to us, I can give you 5£ instead of 10£ a quarter, while you are here; which is the allowance that I give Gertrude and May. The posts from here are better than from Chaldon & you would have your usual food & not be a trouble to any one –"

In the last letter from C. F. P. (August 5th 1909) there is a reference to the "death of my friend Llewelyn at Lucerne" who formerly had the living of Hansannon in South Wales: who was this friend, and was his son named after him?

I would like to finish with the whole of M. C. P.'s last letter in the series, dated March 15th 1908.

Stephen Powys Marks

My dearest Llewelyn,

Many thanks for your letter, you are right about the little flowers one is Veronica the other Chickweed. Your Father says the Coltsfoot does grow about here, but I do not know it well - our daisies are coming out in the grass & Gertrude has found some Celandines, but it is still very cold, & this morning it was snowing when we went to Church. Littleton has given your Father a very good registering Barometer, which is put up on the frame in the kitchen garden. Montacute [the coachman] has not been well for some days and Willy has taken the entire charge of Bobby & the stables, & he does it extremely well – Montacute seems very unwell in various ways – and poor John Dunstone does not get any better with his knee his son says he is not so well today, he has a great deal of pain with it. It is what they call water on the knee & it is very poisonous & bad. To-day is our Ch. Missionary Sunday, & the Missionary from S. India gave a very nice sermon this morning & now he is gone to West Coker, & he comes back here for one meeting on Tuesday. Katie drove him there this afternoon. On the 25th Gertrude is going to London for a week or so to stay with her Aunt Kate. I have had a very interesting long letter from Jack which I will lend you to read if you will kindly return it. It is gratifying to hear that his lectures are appreciated & that he is invited to go again another year, only I trust his health will stand the travelling & reading etc. I feel rather anxious about him, & shall be glad when he is safe back again and also Mr. Wilkinson too. I hope you will have nice Easter holidays & that your plans will come to pass as you wish, for you have earned your holiday. I should like to invite Maurice to spend Easter with us, if Father is willing. We shall see. I should like to read Mr. H. Lyon's prospectus I did not like to do so without yr leave as Gertrude opened it.

Goodbye my dearest Lulu with much love from
Yr Ever aff!^lc Mother
Mary C. Powys

Montacute Garden – “The Rubbish Heap”

The illustration on the back cover is from “The Caddisworm”, a Montacute miscellany maintained by Gertrude Powys around 1897. It contains numerous sketches by her, and verses by several members of the young and growing family at Montacute, sometimes in their own hands, but usually, I think, written by Gertrude. “Verses on the Sad Occasion of the Death of Tippoo Tib” was contributed by John Cowper Powys to the book.

“The Rubbish Heap” is by Marian Powys, one of the “noble three” of the Mabelulu Castle, and is accompanied by one of Gertrude's characteristic little drawings. My mother has identified the hut with the black doorway as the Mabelulu against one of the

long walls enclosing the kitchen garden on the extreme left; on the nearside of the nearest footpath was a high hedge separating the "Mabelulu" garden from the main lawn in front of the house. The gardener is Herbert Rogers, whose nephew's recollections were printed in volume 13 of *The Powys Review*, while the other three figures are the Mabelulu three themselves, Llewelyn, Bertie and Marian.

Stephen Powys Marks

Notices

Robert Carrington sends the following information about forthcoming performances:

'On Friday May 15th 1992, the Pastores Ensemble will be presenting a concert of my music at the Brighton Festival. The title of the concert will be 'From Euripides And Dostoevsky ... To John Cowper Powys'. Posters to this effect will be soon flooding Brighton so that the name of JCP should be well-known by May.

The concert takes place at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Dyke Road, Brighton and will feature works by me based on literary themes. The first half consists of purely instrumental pieces and 'At The Bidding of King Pelias' for clarinet, electronic tape and tuned percussion, with three narrators and dancers.

The second half is entitled 'Homage To John Cowper Powys' and features 'Christie Must Wait' (based on *Wolf Solent*); music from 'The Brazen Head'; 'Whiteness' and 'For Myshkin', a piece based on five scenes from *The Idiot* (JCP's adaptation) for four actors and chamber ensemble. Anyone interested in attending should contact me on 0273 622338.

The next plan is to extend 'Christie Must Wait' into a piece for recorded voice, string orchestra and solo dancer. I also hope to revise and extend all the music to 'The Brazen Head'. It is hoped that recordings of some of these pieces will be available at the 1992 conference for members wishing to listen to them.'

Jane Maskell, a member of the Society, is currently studying bookbinding and has successfully rebound copies of Village Press paperbacks. Jane is keen to hear from members who are interested in having their own books bound. Her address is 123 Engadine Street, London SW18.

Members will be interested to learn that **Charles Lock** is to deliver a public lecture on the Dorset County Museum Hardy Collection, at the museum on May 8th 1992. The lecture will begin a 7.30 and members are most welcome to attend.

Bob Rigby has written to inform us that **Rigby and Lewis** are shortly to publish *The Clear Shadow*, a book of 208 pages by Mary Casey which forms a companion volume to Gerard Casey's *Echoes*. *The Clear Shadow* will be issued in a numbered limited edition of 250 copies at £25. Copies of *Echoes* is still available at £20. Rigby and Lewis are now

distributing the publications of The Warren House Press, and these have now all reverted to their original prices. Rigby and Lewis may be contacted at:

20, Springfield Road, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8AD.

The Powys Society has just published a small illustrated pamphlet entitled *The Powys Family of Montacute* to accompany the Gazebo exhibition at Montacute House. This excellent brief introduction to the family has been written by John Batten and Frank Kibblewhite. Members interested in learning more of this publication, or of Powysian activities in Montacute, should contact John Batten at:

Keeper's Cottage, Montacute, Somerset TA15 6XN.

Joan Stevens has recently published an interesting catalogue of Powys material, including some unique items. Joan may be contacted at:

Roslyn House, High Street, Yoxford, Suffolk IP7 3EP.

News From Sweden

Members will now be familiar with the apparently ceaseless Powysian activities in Sweden; yet every month brings new surprises and further news of exhibitions and publications. Sven Erik Täckmark reports below on the latest developments:

The third Swedish JCP exhibition – previously shown at the university libraries of Uppsala and Gothenburg – was presented on February 9th at the university library of Stockholm, where it will remain until February 27th.

The inauguration in the magnificent building designed by Ralph Erskine, the famous architect, was attended by a large number of people and was followed by an absolutely splendid lecture by that Powysian connoisseur Professor Ingemar Algulin on “John Cowper Powys and Scepticism”, in which he gave a survey of Brother John's very complex writings.

In November the exhibition is to be shown again at the university of Umeå, a thirteen-hour train ride from Stockholm.

Whether this fourth exhibition will be followed by a fifth remains to be seen, for there is still the venerable university library of Lund to persuade (and that is about twenty hours by train from Umeå!). They are somewhat hesitant and I have not yet received any definite answer, but there's no knowing what the upshot will be ...

If Lund should say 'yes' I shall certainly celebrate that 'yes' with a magnum of Veuve Cliquot-Ponsardin!

Sven Erik Täckmark

Powys In Sweden

I was privileged to spend two weeks of November in Sweden as the guest of various Swedish universities, on a lecture-tour occasioned by the exhibition at the Library of

Gothenburg University of Sven Erik Täckmark's collection of Powysiana. The exhibition, previously displayed at Carolina Rediviva, the Library of the University of Uppsala, in the Autumn of 1990, opened at Gothenburg on Friday, November 8th 1991. Sven Erik Täckmark spoke at the opening reception, as did the University Librarian Paul Hallberg. Immediately after the reception, Dr. Harold Fawcner, Senior Lecturer at Gothenburg University, and I together held a seminar on *A Glastonbury Romance*. This event, like the reception, was well-attended and much debate was provoked.

The following week I was in Stockholm and Uppsala, at each of whose universities I delivered a public lecture on John Cowper Powys. It was especially gratifying to meet a student at Uppsala (of commerce, if I remember correctly) whose enormous enthusiasm for JCP had been sparked by the exhibition of last Autumn. Then to the far north of Sweden, for some lectures at Umeå, followed by what JCP's lecture-manager Arnold Shaw would have described as 'a mean jump' – a railway journey of one thousand miles to Lund in the very south of Sweden. The lecture there on Powys was perhaps the best-attended and most warmly received of all, and provided a most encouraging close to an exhilarating and challenging visit.

I should like to express my gratitude to Paul Hallberg for organizing the exhibition at Gothenburg; to fellow-members of the Powys Society, Harold Fawcner and Janina Nordius in Gothenburg, and Carl-Erik and Regina af Geijerstam in Uppsala, for their warm hospitality; to David Jones of Stockholm University who undertook the complex task of coordinating between the various universities; and above all, of course, to Sven Erik Täckmark, whose energy in advancing the Powysian cause is at once inspiring and humbling.

Charles Lock

Studiekamraten

Our last issue of the *Newsletter* contained advance notice of the April 1992 John Cowper Powys issue of the respected Swedish cultural journal *Studiekamraten*. Since then a number of other authors, including Iris Murdoch, John Bayley and Margaret Drabble, have provided contributions which, together with articles by an international array of Powys scholars, will make this an event even larger than the fifty pages of the magazine would suggest.

Copies of *Studiekamraten* (the entire text of which will be in Swedish) may be ordered from Sven Erik Täckmark at a cost of between two and four pounds.

There is also a strong possibility of an English-language edition of this particular issue of the magazine, but this will only be possible if sufficient numbers can be sold, perhaps three to four hundred being the smallest number likely to make translation and reprinting a viable proposition. We would, therefore, urge members to place orders for this edition. This can again be done by contacting Sven Erik Täckmark, whose address is Asogaten 82, 11829 Stockholm, Sweden.

Paul Roberts