

Secretary's Notes

What will we say next?

As an assistant to our Editor I look forward with anticipation to the large packages that arrive twice yearly; the proposed contents of the next *Journal*. The scope and variety of material is great; from serious and erudite academic study, to personal reminiscence and anecdote, and much else in between. And not least of course the varied and always illuminating fugitive pieces of Henry Williamson's own writings.

I believe, and this is I emphasise a purely *personal* view, that this variety of material has proved to be successful in providing the immediate reader — and we might hope, posterity — with everything from the most important literary assessment and criticism of Williamson's work, to individual views of him as a man. Also, and not least among the other contributions, has been the descriptive and visual fruits of research into his London, Norfolk, and to a lesser extent, Bedfordshire, and, above all, Devon periods. Valuable if we have been able to visit these places as guides to the places Williamson wrote about so well, and very valuable too for those who can only visit them via their armchair.

Most of all, however, some early doubts or worries that we could sustain the standard of *content* of the *Journal*, no matter how professional the *presentation* might be, have proved to be unfounded. I think that both our present and past Editors — and how fortunate we have been in them — would agree that a great measure of success has been proved to lie with the many and varied contributions received from those who, self-effacingly, said initially that they could never write well enough for publication through lack of experience. For the future may we hope that more such members will take the plunge — or rather dip the pen — and provide much more excellent material for publication?

Remember, too, that the Letters page is a sounding board for *all* members, especially those who cannot attend meetings, to express their views on any matter.

Finally, do you have anything unusual that might be *Journal* material? A letter (even part perhaps, if personal), a fugitive article or essay written by Henry Williamson for some obscure magazine or paper? Recently I received from that longstanding and active member in South Devon, Valerie Belsey, a photocopy of an entry made by Henry Williamson in the Cranmere Pool (Dartmoor) Visitors' Book for 1926. Dated 31 March 1926, it records a visit made while gathering material for a certain book about an otter; a small but priceless item. (Hopefully, this will be reproduced in a future edition of the *Journal*.)

JH

Members may be interested to have the following information about the artist Powys Evans, whose drawing of HW was at the T.E. Lawrence exhibition.

A well known painter of portraits and figure subjects who lived in London where he was born in 1899. Studied at the Slade and under both Sickert and Gosse. He exhibited frequently at leading London galleries.

Recently the *Sunday Times* had a feature on the writer G.K. Chesterton and I noticed that it was illustrated by a fine drawing by Powys Evans.

Fred Shepherd

A footnote to the TEL exhibition: this was transferred to Japan for a few weeks this spring, and the telegram has only recently been returned to the HW Literary Estate archive; it was accompanied by a gratis copy of the splendid catalogue — in Japanese — and instead of being almost the last item, THE telegram was almost the first, at least by our reading habits!

AW