

Reviews

The Patriot's Progress. Henry Williamson, with lino-cuts by William Kermodé. Published in Cardinal by Sphere Books. 1991. £4.99.

A further edition of this much-published title from a subsidiary of Macdonald & Co. There is a striking black and white cover photograph (from the collection at the Imperial War Museum) of a soldier carrying full pack silhouetted against a turbulent sky, with the words, 'The Classic Novel of The Great War' under the title lettering.

Sphere Books are of course keeping this title firmly on their list. Looking back at the last edition I discover there is no actual date in that beyond the fact that the first Sphere edition was 1978, but we have to hand three different editions under this imprint, i.e. since that date. Arnold Bennett's words are again quoted but disappointingly there is no information about HW himself.

The power of this book needs no explanation to those of you who are already familiar with it. It is as raw with reality as the lino-cuts are stark with savagery. But even if you are not an aficionado of the war books and the war era, I recommend that you do read this. The First World War holds such a large dimension within HW's life that you cannot perceive the total picture unless you accept and come to terms with its underlying influence.

Woody Bay. Harriet Bridle. Merlin Books Ltd (Braunton, Devon). 1991. £4.95.

A celebration of the remote North Devon coastal inlet near Lynton, it contains in Chapter 7 (p. 73) an account of the Lynton and Barnstaple railway and has two long quotations from HW's writing; one the account from *The Children of Shallowford* of the family outing to Lynmouth to celebrate Margy's fifth birthday, and the other the account of Phillip's journey to stay with Aunt Theodora in Lynmouth from *How Dear Is Life*. Apart from that there is scant reference to HW despite a chapter on 'Writings about Woody Bay, Exmoor, and North Devon', and another on 'Local Artists and Arts', which is actually mainly about writings and authors. There is a very interesting central section of photographs, which give a nice period flavour.

Bygone Kent, Vol. Twelve, No. 4, April 1991.

Contains on p. 209 the following article by Fred Shepherd. 'Pretty Garlands and Silver Pens: Visitation Day at Colfe's', which is a nice summary of the School History and this particular ceremony. Fred has, of course, been able to include a mention of HW within this piece but more importantly he informs us that there is to be a future article entitled 'H.W. – a great Kent writer', part of a series which has already featured Dickens and Conrad.

Apart from being interesting in itself, this will make a grand opportunity for publicity for the Society and I hope Fred will be able to work our existence into his contribution. WE SHOULD ALL BE LOOKING FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLISH HW'S NAME IN THIS KIND OF PUBLICATION

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Apologies from the Editor. *Journal* No. 23, p. 25. The caption to the engraving did not really make sense (though no one has commented to me!). Lois Lamplugh sent in copies of two engravings. There was only room to use one of them. The plates for these were made after the proof stage and inadvertently my instructions were obviously unclear. The second half of the caption refers to the unused second engraving (dated 1785) which shows virtually the same aspect but with castle instead of rotunda on the hill.

Further, the two Alvii photographs accompanying Richard Williamson's article (p. 41) should have been dated; a) 1930; b) 1990. Thus demonstrating no difference in the sixty years difference!