A Sort of NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001

THE GRAHAM GREENE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

£1.50
Free to Friends

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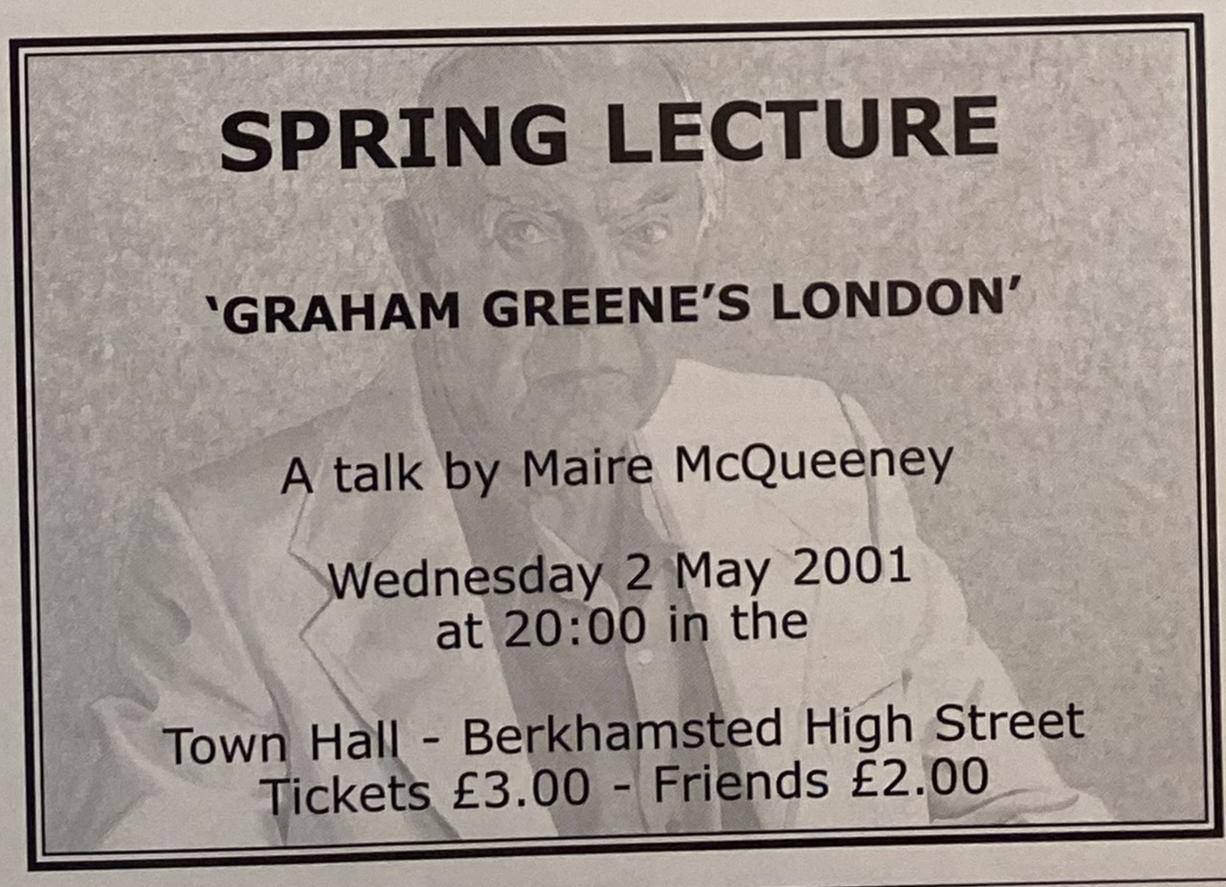
Editorial

Since the last issue we have said goodbye to Y2K and the dark winter months around the turn of the year are often a time of reflection. We shall not become too philosophical, but you will see this issue looks back to the Festival with more photographs, and looks forward to the Spring Event when we shall meet Maire McQueeney again. Many of us remember with pleasure her guided tour of Brighton and her talk at the 1999 Festival. So I have no doubt you will want to make a note of the details below.

You probably all have similar stories to tell, but I was amused to be given on a recent LA holiday a book called "Loving Graham Greene". Friends who knew of my interest could not resist that title and bought the book for me. I have yet to read it - you may hear more when I have.

Yan Christensen



No responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions, or comments made by writers or interviewees. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of The Graham Greene Birthplace Trust

PREVIEWS

We all know what a great traveller Graham Greene was. but our interest in exotic locations should not make us overlook his connections with places closer to home. The Spring Lecture this year will concentrate on London, and Maire McQueeney will talk with her customary flair on Greene's London. Those who joined the Brighton tour during the 1999 Festival will recall being carried along by her knowledge of and enthusiasm for her subject - Greene's Brighton in the case of the photograph below, which shows her and some of her attentive listeners.

as in previous years people will be looking for their favourite places to eat, a couple of meals will be arranged to give us a chance to talk over what we have heard and seen.

Full details are not yet available, but we can reveal a few hints for those that like to come prepared:- There is still time to read *England Made Me, Travels With My Aunt* and maybe even *Travels Without My Aunt.* You might also like to look at *A Shocking Accident* and *Getting to Know the General* and take a glance at the plays.

There will be more about the Festival in the next two issues. For the moment make sure you keep **27 - 30 September 2001** free.





Roger Watkins and Martin Stannard

FESTIVAL 2001

At a recent Trust meeting everyone was astonished to learn how far advanced the plans are for the next Festival, and delighted to see the exciting events that will be on offer.

Those who attend the Spring Lecture will have an advantage when they join the London Tour which starts the festivities.

There will certainly be something for everyone: films - at least two - introduced by knowledgeable speakers. Talks by academics who have taken a particular interest in Greene's novels, and who will discuss them and their background. Once more we shall be privileged to hear from speakers who knew Graham Greene personally and we can in particular look forward to hearing Bernard Diederich who was close to Greene and who will talk about exploits that are less well known.

Rik Gekowski will give a talk about book collecting; that is a fascinating subject, and although it will no doubt be aimed particularly at "greeneophiles" it will certainly be of general interest to bibliophiles, which we all are.

The social element will not be neglected: although

GRAHAM GREENE QUIZ 2001

Mike Hill has very kindly produced another quiz which follows. He comments that it is in a different format and longer than last year. Ominously he also says it is "perhaps a bit harder than last year". Try it and see.The prizes for the three best answers will again be Catherine Rendón prints. Mike Hill will decide which are the best on the basis of the most correct answers regardless of whether every question has been attempted. If you suspect that rule is introduced because no-one could know it all, then you should enter and prove it wrong! Answers in next Newsletter.

All answers by 1 April 2001 to Mike Hill,
The Fairways,
Keighley Road,
Denholme,
Bradford,
BD13 4JT, UK.

QUESTIONS

BEGINNINGS

1. Which novel begins, "Wilson sat on the balcony of the Bedford Hotel with his bald pink knees thrust against the ironwork."?

The Heart of the Matter

2. Which short story begins, "It was February in Antibes."?

Chagrin in three Parts

3. Which play begins with the line: "Off on the wrong foot, arse over tip, and there I was looking up at the stars - I mean Oxford Circus."?

The Complaisant Lover

4. Which novel, in French translation, begins, "On ne sait jamais quand le coup va tomber."?

The Third Man

5. Which novel begins, "Oliver Chant stared through a window of his carriage over the great field of iron acres that lay between him and Trier."?

BERKHAMSTED

6. Where was Graham Greene baptised in November 1904?

The Chapel, Berkhamsted School by Dr Fry the head.

7. Where did Greene and his family go to live in 1910?

School House, Berkhamsted School

8. In which road in Berkhamsted does Maurice Castle live in *The Human Factor*?

King's Road (No 129)

9. What name is given to Berkhamsted in the short story *Doctor Crombie*?

Bamksteed.

10. In which year was the first annual Graham Greene festival held in Berkhamsted?

1998 (30 Sept - 3 Oct)

ABROAD

11. In which country is *The Comedians* set?

Haiti

12. What was the name of Greene's villa in Anacapri?

VILLA PRESAGIO

13. What is the title of Greene's 1939 book about his travels in Mexico?

The Lawless Roads

14. Which Mediterranean town is the main setting of the novella *Loser Takes All*?

Monte Carlo

15. Which Asian country did Greene visit for two months in 1950/1, reporting on the State of Emergency as a correspondent of *Life*?

Malaya (GG says 3 mos in "Ways of Escape p110

NOVELS

16. Which novel has a central character referred to as "D"?

The Confidential Agent

17. Which novel was begun in 1937, completed in 1944 as a story for a film that was never made, but not published until 1985?

The Tenth Man

18. Which novel opens with a communist, Jim Drover, under sentence of death for killing a policeman?

It's a Battlefield

19. Which novel has this epigraph from George Santayana: "Everything in nature is lyrical in its ideal essence; tragic in its fate, and comic in its existence."?

Stamboul Train.

20. Which novel is divided into four books: *The Unhappy Man, The Happy Man, Bits and Pieces* and *The Whole Man*?

The Ministry of Fear

WOMEN

21. What is the first name of the aunt in *Travels With My Aunt?*

Augusta

22. What is the name of Jim Wormold's daughter in *Our Man in Havana*?

Milly

23. In 1948, who joined Greene and V.S. Pritchett in writing *Why Do I Write?*?

Elizabeth Bowen

24. Betweem 1946 and 1953 Greene published four story-books for children: *The Little Train, The Little Fire Engine, The Little Horse Bus* and *The Little Steamroller*. Who was the original illustrator of these books?

Edward Ardizzone

25. What is the name of the elder daughter of Jacques and Yvonne Cloetta, who features in the 1982 pamphlet *J'Accuse*?

MARTINE

FILMS

26. Who directed the 1999 film version of *The End of the Affair*?

Neil Jordan

27. Which 1983 film adaptation starred Michael Caine and Richard Gere?

The Honorary Consul

28. The 1947 film *The Fugitive*, directed by John Ford, was based on which novel?

The Power and the Glory

29. Which film provoked a review in which Greene was attacked as an "author notorious for his utter trash and who, in collaboration with Carol Reed, went wild at the expense of this defenceless city"?

Vienna The Third Man

30. In a film review in 1936, Greene complained that a great British director had "an inadequate sense of reality", saying "His films consist of a series of small 'amusing' melodramatic situations". Who was the director?

Alfred Hitchcock.

LIFE

31. Who was the psychiatrist who treated Greene in 1921?

Kenneth Richmond

32. For which national newspaper did Greene work from 1926 to 1929?

The Times

33. Of which publishing house was Greene managing director from 1945 to 1948?

Eyre & Spottiswoode

34. Which society, with Greene as President, was launched in *The Times* in 1953?

Anglo-Texan Society

35. In which city did Greene attend the ratification of the Panama Treaty in 1977?

Washington D.C.

ESSAYS

36. Who was the subject of the 1966 essay *The Marxist Heretic*?

Fidel Castro

37. In his essay *The Lost Childhood*, Greene says that he became a writer when, at the age of perhaps fourteen, he read a book by Marjorie Bowen. What was the book?

The Vipers of Milan

38. Greene began a brief essay thus: "Roman Catholicism in this country has been a great breeder of eccentrics". Who was the essay about?

ERIC GILL

39. What is the title of Greene's 1938 essay on the topographer Ralph Thoresby?

The Lover of Leeds

40. Which writer,s reputation, according to Greene, "has suffered perhaps more from his early death than from any other cause."?

Robert Louis STEVENSON

MISCELLANY

41. What was the title of Greene's dream diary, published in 1992?

A World of my Own

42. Which biography by Greene was written in the 1930s but unpublished until 1974?

Lord Rochester's Monkey – John Wilmot 2nd Earl

43. Which Greene book is subtitled *The Story of an Involvement*?

Getting to Know the General

44. Who wrote the recent book *Greene on Capri*?

Shirley Hazzard

45. To which Sherlock Holmes story did Greene write an introduction in 1973, saying of it:"It is something of a private quest for me to rediscover [it].... which I read first at the age of ten and have never forgotten."?

A Scandal in Bohemia The Sign of Four

ENDINGS

46. Which novel ends, "Oh," she said with a sigh of unshadowed happiness, "we,re home.",?

A Gun for Sale

47. Which novel ends, "It seemed to him that after all one could exaggerate the value of happiness...."?

The Ministry of Fear

48. Which short story ends, "It seemed to him that he had betrayed that night the only woman he loved."?

The Blue Film

49. Which novel ends, "Everything had gone right with me since he had died, but how I wished there existed someone to whom I could say that I was sorry."?

The Quiet American

50. Which essay ends with this sentence: "How could they tell that for a writer as much as for a priest there is no such thing as success."?

The Songs we at Land



Neil Sinyard and Norman Sherry

REVIEWS

There are no formal reviews in this issue, but the comments below may be of interest.

Tom Dobbyn, one of the trustees, has been reading 'A Divided Life' by Bryan Forbes (ISBN 0 7493 0884, Mandarin, £5.99) and has extracted the following:

Chapter 21 is devoted to Greene and is passionately supportive of GG. Chapter 23 ends with a final sentence: "Graham Greene was the only mentor I ever wanted, and the only one who consistently inspired me to go a yard further than before". Significantly, on page 216 Bryan Forbes says "A year or so before he died he sent me another play, 'A House of Reputation', but despite all my efforts I cound not conjure any enthusiasm from theatrical managements, or indeed the BBC".

Students of Greene will know that he wrote 'Lord Rochester's Monkey' and may be interested to learn that another biography of the Earl of Rochester was recently published. The author is Cephas Goldsworthy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Please use these columns to express views, discuss themes, comment on the news and views of others, or simply to tell us you are there.

'A House of Reputation' certainly pre-dates 1986, as suggested both in the Autumn 2000 edition of the newsletter and on the night of the premiere. R.A. Wobbe's 'Graham Greene: A Bibliography and Guide to Research (1979), lists the play as forming part of the archive of unpublished work held at the Humanities Research Center in Austin, Texas. Sadly, Wobbe notes that no dates are attached to the manuscripts (one with revisions) so we cannot be sure exactly when Greene wrote the play. I greatly enjoyed watching and listening to 'A House of Reputation' but find it frustrating that we were given only a brief glimpse of a quite substantial piece of Greene's writing before it disappears again into the vaults of a distant university.

How about the Trust trying to get the play published as a Centenary project for 2004?

Jon Wise

No doubt the Trust will consider this and other ideas. If you have any suggestions for how to mark the centenary, please write in. ed

MISCELLANY

The Reading Circle

Next year's list has been decided and is available to anyone interested. For Friends in the Berkhamsted area membership is still a possibility; others might want to start their own circle. Information from the Editor.

AUNT MAUD

Michael Day, who used to live in Berkhamsted, has kindly let us use the following 'snapshot' of a bygone age.

In 1935 my family moved to Berkhamsted where we had an introduction to Graham Greene's Aunt Maud. In his autobiography, *A Sort of Life*, Greene makes a number of references to her with obvious affection and he continued to visit her until her death.

Maud was his mother's sister, a spinster and as he says a 'poor relation'. Greene remembered his mother being annoyed at Maud's habit of yawning and sighing at bridge when she had been dragooned into making up a fourth. During the 25 years I knew her she never, to my knowledge,



An old Christmas card lent by Michael Day

played the game so it was clearly not her favourite pastime. She was a habitual yawner; perhaps a useful indicator of her span of interest.

Maud was tall (like all the Greenes), angular and wore glasses. In spite of her relative poverty, she had the air of a *grande dame*, but despite her forbidding mien she was a kindly woman. She suffered in her later years from arthritis and found standing for any length of time painful. This meant that when meeting her in the High Street a degree of judgement was called for, since a cursory greeting was discourteous and an overlong conversation was inconsiderate. A stranger might gain the wrong impression as she had a red nose in cold weather and she gently swayed!



Maud lived in the High Street almost opposite St Peter's. For her this was an ideal location as she was a strong supporter of the Church. She had a seat which she clearly thought was hers by right of long occupation. If a stranger was in it when she arrived, she stood over them emitting large sighs. She usually got her accustomed seat. Her contribution to church funds was to collect used stamp books into which she stuck a collage of coloured cut-outs, usually from old Christmas cards. These miniature scrap books were then sold at fetes and other fund-raising occasions. The photograph shows Maud on the left with my mother at such an event.

Her house was dark but comfortable. There was always a good fire burning as the 'rich' Greenes owned a woodworking factory in Water Lane and she was kept well supplied with offcuts. In front of the fire would be her cat, Peter. She disliked dogs except for pekinese because, as she said, "they are like cats".

She was a great reader unlike her parents; she remembered her father liked Dickens but her mother "could not abide books about people of

that class".
An invitation to tea followed a set pattern. After deciding the date, the next question was always, "Do you like seed cake?". There was only one answer to this as she had never been known to offer anything else. After tea, a sigh would indicate it was time to go.
I was fortunate to exchange reminiscences of Aunt Maud, both with Graham when he came to Berkhamsted, and with his sister (Elisabeth) whom I met when I moved to Sussex.

IN THE PRESS

The Editor cannot keep up with the entire International Press, so please help by sending any press cuttings you would like to see reported. An English précis in case of the more exotic languages would be appreciated.

The Saturday supplement 27 Jan - 2 Feb 2001 of *The Daily Express* featured *The Quiet American* in its column 'The Literary Location'. The article by Minty Clinch took the reader through present-day Ho Chi Minh City and found that the pavement cafe 'The Continental Shelf', where Graham Greene was a regular, is no longer there. But on a 20 minute trishaw ride through teeming streets to Saigon's Chinatown the writer found that "the narrow roads leading down to the canal still suggest skulduggery".

The Sunday Times of 19 November 2000 has an interesting article by the author Julia Llewellyn Smith who travelled widely to research her recent book *Travels Without My Aunt*. She met a number of people who had met Graham Greene and had inpired some of the characters in his novels. In particular she mentions the meeting between Greene and Bogdan Popescu, who was the model for Dr Eduardo Plarr in *The Honorary Consul*; Richard Gere later played the part in the film. The English teacher, Michael Bittlestone, was undoubtedly the inspiration for the honorary consul, and it is amusing to learn that it was a source of some pleasure to him that Michael Caine had played that part in the film.
Other characters from Haiti are mentioned and it seems that on the whole people are pleased when they are recognised in Greene's novels.

NEWS OF FRIENDS

For this column we should like you to tell us about any publications or projects in which you are involved. We shall be glad to tell members of articles etc which you have had published; or print any requests for help with projects.

Rudolf van Dalm received a doctorate from Leiden University (The Netherlands) and has given the Trust a copy of his thesis for its archives. It comprises a structural analysis of *The Honorary Consul*. The thesis is not aimed at the general reader but may be of interest to academics who wish to consider conclusions that can be drawn from such an analysis.

Alexander Kulpok, one of our Friends from abroad, whom some of you will have met at the 1999 Festival, is an established German journalist and Chairman of the Berlin Association of Journalists. He has a particular interest in Graham Greene and his works, and has written a number of articles on the subject for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* from 1994 onwards, the most recent being published last year, in which he mentioned the 1999 Festival and the new filming of *The End of the Affair*. In addition he wrote the text for an ARTE TV programme in 1995, *Der gefährliche Rand der Dinge* and has made a number of radio programmes of a very high standard, including an hour-long feature programme broadcast on Radio Saarland in October 2000, in which the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust and our Festivals were mentioned, and in which Norman Greene and Vivien Greene, among others, feature. We are very grateful to Alexander Kulpok for donating copies of his articles and television and radio programmes to our archives.





Quentin Falk signing books



Cedric Watts and Ken Sherwood



On the Trail



Rudolph van Dalm and David Pearce



Nanette Newman, Brian Forbesand Norman Sherry

Occasional Papers et al

The following are available from the Secretary @ £2.50 (incl postage) for the papers; others as priced.

Bill West's Inaugural Lecture

Graham Greene and the Berkhamsted Connection by John Davison

The Comic Sense of Graham Greene by Neil Sinyard

Darkest Greeneland: Brighton Rock by Cecil Watts

The Berkhamsted GG Trail (25p)

Compact Disc:
The Voice of Graham Greene £10

Video of 1998 (£8) **and 1999** (£10) Festivals

The Awards

The Awards committee has concluded its deliberations and exceptionally it has been decided to grant three awards this year, the first time an award has been made. Each recipient receives £350.
We hope to be able to say more about the work produced as a result and perhaps even publish some of it here; for the moment we congratulate the following:

Mark Bryant, who intends to research cartoons and eventually publish a book of caricatures of or relating to Graham Greene. Mark Bryant has already published work on the subject of cartoons.

The following have both recently left Berkhamsted Collegiate School:-

Lindsey Craig, who is travelling to India to teach in a primary school for six months, intends to write about her experiences there.

Patrick Hennessey, who has recently gone up to Balliol College, Oxford, where he will research the archives for material relating to Graham Greene's time there.

WEB SITE

Do not forget to visit the web site of the Trust which is on **www.grahamgreenebt.org**

We are very grateful to Jenny Thomas for permission to use her original drawings
he Graham Greene Birthplace Trust is a member of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council

Literary Editor: Neil Sinyard
Correspondence to Yan Christensen, 12 Ellesmere Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 2EX, England
Trust Office: Graham Greene Birthplace Trust, Rhenigidale, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted, HP4 2PP
Produced by Daryl Latham at D&A Design and printed by Strongs Printers 01442 878592