

YEAR OF 97

This was another productive year for SBG publications, with five volumes (if we exclude **Guavas The Tinner** - see Newsletter 22) and 14 articles, in 12 different journals and magazines. Both lists cover an amazing variety of subject matter and treatment.

A Study of St. Paul - his character and opinions - might more accurately have been subtitled, 'his character and my opinions', some of which are startlingly heterodox; but the book is a pleasure to read, typographically speaking, with good spacing and clear lettering, and the style, for a serious subject, thoroughly readable.

Bladys of the Stewponey is set in Shropshire in the late 18th century, and as the author explains in his preface, combines the environmentally fascinating cave systems near Kinver on the Worcestershire border with a plot from a German novel he had read 20 years earlier. The Stewponey is the name of the inn situated near the bridge over the Stour and Bladys is the widowed innkeeper's daughter. The book contains a five page appendix 'Burning for Petty Treason' and illustrations by F.H. Townsend (better known for his superb illustrations for several Kipling titles) and B. Munns. The frontispiece is reproduced on the cover of the Methuen paperback version in their series, *The Novelist* (No.103) - undated.

Perpetua: a story of Nimes in AD 213 was first published by Isbister in 12 parts in *The Sunday Magazine* vol.26, but copyrighted by the Churchman Company in the USA, then in volume form, grey/blue cloth and unillustrated. It is a fictionalised account of virgin martyrdoms in the early church. The title and author are singled out for the bound annual.

SBG was commissioned by Methuen to undertake **The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte**, following the success of **The Tragedy of the Caesars**, but decided to limit his endeavours, as with **St. Paul**, to a study of his character and opinions, with the help of some newly accessible papers concerning Napoleon's early life. The result nevertheless is a fairly magnificent tome of 55 chapters on glossy paper, profusely illustrated (the listing takes up nine pages), two substantial appendices, and 51/2 page index.

Learmont Drysdale's operatic version of *Red Spider* may be getting an airing at the Society's Gathering later this year, but copies are very scarce, so there may be a 1997 adaptation on view.

Good Words vol.38 contains articles on 'Sideboards' and 'The Early Christian House at Rome', both illustrated by A. Twidle, with SBG's second daughter Margaret (Daisy) also providing illustrations for the latter. *Chambers Journal* vol.14 contains his two-column article on 'Tallies' - a fascinating and scholarly description of a domestic accounting system.

The remaining items still challenge my own hunting, and so I can do no more than list them: the Report of the Transactions of the Devonshire Association No.29 includes the 4th Report of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee (co-authored by Robert Burnard and others); the *Journal of the Royal Institute of Cornwall* No.13 has 'The

Ethnology of Cornwall'; *Lady's Realm* vol.2 and 3 have 'Can of Whortles' and 'Stephen

Delves'; The Magazine of Art - 'Compton Wynyates'; Temple vol.2 - 'A Christmas Tree'; English Illustrated Magazine vol.18 has 'Colonel Halifax's Ghost Story' (reprinted in **A Book of Ghosts** 1904, and now available in the Ash-Tree Press reissue); 'Dartmoor', in Travel vol.1; and the theme of the year, St. Paul, is dealt with in three further articles: 'Synagogue and St. Paul' (New Century Review vol.1), 'St Paul's Mind and Method' (Expositor 5th series vol.6), and 'St. Paul and Justification' (Anglican vol.1).

DPRS

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