

10 THOMAS PAINE SOCIETY
TENTH ANNIVERSARY 10

Bulletin

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THOMAS PAINE

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Articles suitable for publication in this journal should be sent to the Editor, who also welcomes press cuttings and off-prints of Paine interest.

CONTENTS

The Proclamation of 1792.....	56
Obituaries.....	57
Thomas Paine.....	58
Bonneville vs. Cheetham.....	60
An attack on Thomas Paine.....	63
Ten Years On - The Thomas Paine Society, 1963-1973.....	64

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Page 10

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THE PROCLAMATION OF 1792

On May 21st., 1792, the government of England issued a Proclamation against certain unnamed writings, and individuals. In Parliament Pitt agreed when questioned that the Proclamation was aimed against Thomas Paine and his book, Rights of Man, specifically part two. Quotations from this Proclamation are given in many works, however, there is, as far as we know, no current work that cites the entire text. As this should be of some interest we have decided to reproduce it.

.....

By the King
A Proclamation

George R

Whereas divers wicked seditious Writings have been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, tending to excite Tumult and Disorder by endeavouring to raise groundless Jealousies and Discontents in the Minds of Our faithful and loving Subjects, respecting the Laws, and happy Constitution of Government, Civil and Religious, established in this Kingdom, and endeavouring to vilify and bring into Contempt the wise and wholesome Provisions made at the Time of the glorious Revolution, and since strengthened and confirmed by subsequent Laws, for the Preservation and Security of the Rights and Liberties of Our faithful and loving Subjects: And Whereas divers Writings have also been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, recommending the said wicked and seditious Publications to the attention of Our faithful and loving Subjects: And whereas We have also Reason to believe that Correspondences have been entered into with sundry Persons in Foreign Parts, with a View to forward the criminal and wicked Purposes above mentioned: And whereas the Wealth, Happiness, and Prosperity of this Kingdom do, under Divine Providence, chiefly depend upon a due Submission to the Laws, a just Confidence in the Integrity and Wisdom of Parliament, and a Continuance of that zealous Attachment to the Government and Constitution of the Kingdom, which has ever prevailed in the Minds of the People thereof: And Whereas there is nothing We so earnestly desire, as to secure the Public Peace and Prosperity, and to preserve to all Our loving Subjects the full Enjoyment of their Rights and Liberties, both Religious and Civil: We therefore being resolved, as far as in Us lies, to repress the wicked and seditious Practices aforesaid, and to deter all Persons from following so pernicious an Example, having thought fit, by the advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, solemnly warning all Our loving Subjects, as they tender their own Happiness, and that of their Prosterity, to guard against all such Attempts which aim at the Subversion of all regular Government within this Kingdom, and which are inconsistent with the Peace and Order of Society; and earnestly exhorting them at all Times, and to the utmost of their Power, to avoid and discourage all Proceedings tending to produce Riots and Tumults: And We do strictly charge and command all Our Magistrates in and throughout Our Kingdom of Great Britain, that they do, in their several and respective Stations, take the most immediate and effectual Care to suppress and prevent all Riots and Tumults, and other Disorders which may be attempted to be raised or made by any Person or Persons, which,

on whatever Pretext they may be grounded, are not only contrary to Law, but dangerous to the most important Interests of this Kingdom; And We do further require and command all and every Our Magistrates aforesaid, that they do, from Time to Time, transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, due and full Information of such Persons as shall be found offending as aforesaid, or in any Degree aiding or abetting therein; it being Our Determination, for the Preservation of the Peace and Happiness of Our Faithful and loving Subjects, to carry the Laws vigorously into Execution against such Offenders as aforesaid.

Given at Our Court at the Queen's Houss, the Twenty-first Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, in the Thirty-second Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

Note: Capital letters are as given in the original text. The copy from which the above is taken has the following publication details:-

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Obituaries

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT WE HAVE to announce the deaths of two members, Miss Ella Twynam and Miss O.M.Bartlett.

ELLA TWYNAM

Miss Twynam was a Founder Member of the TPS as well as being, in so far as we know, its oldest member. She died on Thursday, December 21st., aged 94.

Ella Twynam had a long active life and through her friendship with the late Ambrose Barker introduced to the works of Thomas Paine, and she developed a great admiration for him and a large measure of agreement with much of what he had written. In the sitting room of her London home there were two portraits of Paine, and here was also kept her two volume edition of Conway's Life of Paine, a gift to her from Ambrose Barker.

Those who met Miss Twynam will recall her very active mind and remember the fund of information she had about the history of the anarchistic movement in Britain, in which she played an active role and was, when Ambrose Barker edited Freedom, at the very centre of British anarchism.

Miss Twynam was a great book-lover, and she first met Ambrose Barker in a secondhand bookseller's in Islington, London, as she recalls in a moving poem, "Islington Green", published in 1941. Her taste in books tended to be towards poetry and philosophy, with emphasis on Herbert Spenser (she had copies of all his works). Another writer in which she took great interest was the 17th. century freethinker John Tolland, and even late in life she was seeking to obtain copies, particularly first editions, of all his works; she had probably the largest private collection of the rare works of Tolland in private hands in Britain, and was the author of a fine but wrongly neglected monograph on him. It is a great pity that this work is not better known as there is very little currently in print on Tolland.

Continued on page 59.

T H O M A S P A I N E

by F.H.Amphlett Micklewright

The text of the address given at the opening of the Thomas Paine Exhibition at Marx House, London, on September 9th, 1972.

THE THOMAS PAINE EXHIBITION is a tribute to one of the more remarkable characters to arise in the England of the later eighteenth century. Paine's life and work might be defined as that of an outstanding figure within the revolutionary epoch which marked the rise of modern English radicalism. Claims for the rights of man had been heard during the Cromwellian period from the Diggers and the Levellers. Although the Restoration saw their suppression as an active force within contemporary politics, they lived on underground among ex-officers of the New Model Army. As the eighteenth century passed on its way, they were embodied anew in such figures as Dr. Priestley and those who used the events of the American War of Independence to give voice to radical sentiments concerning human rights.

Early radicalism was of a conservative cast. It looked upon the government of the day as taking away an earlier liberty embodied in the British constitution. Church and king mobs saw the altar and the throne as safeguards of liberty. A great constitutional figure such as Horne Tooke thought to find the guarantee of liberty in a past which the government of Pitt was overclouding. The battles of Sir Francis Burdett on behalf of Magna Carta were struggles defined by the events of Runnymede long before as the laying of the foundations of liberty and of the free man.

The American War of Independence became an inspiration to radical protest. Many took the side of the American colonists among whom were some Irish Presbyterians, such as Dr. W. D. Dickson, who were to be supporters of the revolt of 1798. When the great French Revolution burst upon the world, it made its appeal to a radicalism already prepared to receive it. The revolution became a matrix within which the nineteenth century thought was to be shaped. Although unorganised at the outset, radical protests by such leaders as Henry Hunt or William Cobbett owed their inspiration to the new radicalism which had burst upon the world.

Paine's place in these events was essentially that of an interpreter. He had inspired the army of George Washington to renewed effort by his pamphlets and he now wrote the Rights of Man and the Age of Reason as attempts to reach the common man. He succeeded because he put forward democratic criticisms of government and religion in terms which challenged the rule of Pitt and the autocracy of the state church. Paine succeeded because he could write plain homespun Angl-Saxon and interpreted fundamental ideas into language which the common man could understand. As was brought out by Thomas Erskine at his trial, his battle was for free speech and for free publication and his stand marked a new vantage point in his struggle. As a result, he made an impact upon the whole working-class movement. Through his criticisms of the present and his magnificent answer to Burke, he made it look to the future rather an indistinct past. The government persecution of Paine and the subsequent prosecution of his publishers and those who sold his books was due in no small measure to his achievement which caused him to become a hated name among reactionaries.

A steady growth of democratic demands throughout the whole working-class movement owed not a little to Paine both in England and in Scotland. It was out of this background that the political demands of Chartism grew up and Paine was an honoured name to many Chartists. After 1853, the foundation of the Secularist movement by G.J.Holyoake provided yet another circle within which Paine's name was honoured. A celebration of his birthday was a feature at not a few secularist halls throughout the country for many years to come. Among middle-class radicals, Paine's memory was suspect for a time. Some of the old slanders had struck home. Among those who restored his memory and gave him back anew as a great pioneer to the whole radical movement was Dr.Moncure Conway. It would be difficult to overestimate the influence of his biography of Paine upon those who read the sixpenny reprints of the Rationalist Press Association during the early years of this century.

Looking back upon Paine today, his figure appears as a great pioneer of radical democratic thought. It is appropriate that this exhibition should be held at Marx House. Marx and Engels performed their gigantic task by taking these earlier ideas, such as those of Paine, and restating them in terms of a scientific historical analysis of society upon which modern socialism is built.

"...in his Common Sense, published in Philadelphia in December 1776, Thomas Paine, friend of Franklin, who in London had advised him to come to America, boldly called for complete independence. This pamphlet sold by the thousands, and made a tremendous impression on the colonists."

Bernard Jaffe. Men of Science in America. 1944. pp.54.

"Paine's name came to mean to radicals of his day what Keir Hardie's did to the Socialists of generations after his death; and his economic ideas are still the basis of Labour Party legislation. He was the first democrat of the modern world."

Margaret Cole. Makers of the Labour Movement. 1948. pp.22.

Continued from page 57.

Ella Twynam presented the superb Amrose Barker Paine Collection to Thetford Public Library, where in the new library building it occupies five shelves in a special room (see TPS Bulletin. No.1. Vol.3. Spring 1968. pp.7-11). Another less known gift was her presentation to Northampton of Barker's Bradlaugh Collection.

Miss Twynam was a grand old lady, we shall miss her.

MISS O.M.BARTLETT

Miss Bartlett was one of the earliest supporters of the TPS, and while as a retired civil servant she was unable to play an active role in our affairs, she was keenly interested in what we undertook and whenever possible attended our functions.

Societies such as the TPS rely greatly on those quiet people who collectively go to make up what is referred in statistics to as "the membership". These are of the first importance although we hear or see little of them except when we have "a do", however, this does not mean that we tend to forget them, on the contrary without them we are nothing, and when one dies we mourn their passing.

BONNEVILLE vs. CHEETHAM

AMONG THE SLANDERS reflecting on Thomas Paine at the time of his death was a paragraph in James Cheetham's "Life", running as follows:

"Paine brought with him from Paris, and from her husband, in whose house he lived, Margaret Brazier Bonneville, and her three sons, Lewis, Benjamin and Thomas. Thomas has the features, countenance and temper of Paine. Madam Bonneville arrived at Baltimore a few days after her paramour."

As there was no foundation for this accusation except that Mrs. Bonneville came to America the next year after Paine's return, and that Paine befriended her and her children because the Bonneville's had been his friends in Paris, where her husband was in trouble with the government at the time she took refuge abroad, the injured woman brought a suit against Cheetham for libel, and won her case.

Mrs. Bonneville's counsel was William Sampson, whose speech, with an introduction to the trial evidently written at time are of some historical interest and are reprinted here.

THE INTRODUCTION

Of the many causes which have been brought before the tribunal of public justice, perhaps there have been few on the law of libel which have excited more universal interest than the case of Madam Bonneville against James Cheetham of New York. The highly finished speech of Counsellor Sampson, in the aid of a much injured lady, and a stranger, is justly admired as a specimen of bar eloquence, in defense of truth and injured innocence.

The most respectable prints of the union have copied and placed upon their files this admirable composition as a tribute to justice and genius. The printer, in order to preserve it, has been induced to publish it in a neat, durable pamphlet form; and, although some of the warmth and glow of the orator, with which he delivered it, may be lost, every lover of superior talents and every man of taste will read it with delight.

One James Cheetham, a man who had once been editor of a Republican paper in New York, had abandoned his past profession and become the advocate of the British party in America. Amongst other means to serve them he undertook to write a life of Thomas Paine, author of Common Sense, etc. In this biography he introduced the name of Madam Bonneville, a virtuous and respectable lady, the wife of M. Bonneville of Paris. He charged her with prostitution; said Paine was her paramour, and that one of her sons had the features, countenance and temper of Paine. For this atrocious attack on the character of Madam Bonneville, and outrage to her feelings, Mr. Cheetham was indicted for a libel, and on 19th., June, 1810, his trial took place.

The counsel for the libeler took two grounds of defence. 1. That the facts charged were true. 2. That the defendant was an historian, and as such had a right to publish what he had heard and believed, though it reflected on an innocent person.

The first position was, after a contemptible effort to support it, abandoned even by the libeler's counsel. They were ashamed of it themselves. Several ladies of the first distinction, whose daughters had been entrusted to the care of Madam Bonneville, to learn French, testified to her unblemished character.

The counsel for the libeler then had recourse to their last ground, and strenuously maintained the principle they had laid down. They perhaps felt confidence in the court, as it had in an early stage of the trial intimated an opinion favorable to the new and

and extravagant pretension, set by a libeler under the title of an historian. Nor was this confidence misplaced. Mr. Recorder Hoffman directed the jury that if they should be of the opinion that Mr. Cheetham had been informed of what he wrote, and believed it, he was justified, and that though Madam Bonneville was an innocent woman, they were authorised to acquit Mr. Cheetham. He also read a letter from a Mr. Carver as justification of the libeler, though his counsel had not mentioned it.

This monstrous doctrine, which leads to the total prostration of private reputation, if not to the dissolution of civil society, was promptly rejected by the jury, although composed of men of different political sentiments, who returned in a few minutes a verdict of guilty.

The court, however, when the libeler came up next day for sentence, highly commended the book which contained the libelous publication, declared it to serve the cause of religion, and imposed no other punishment than the payment of one hundred and fifty dollars, with a direction that costs be taken out of it.

It is fit to remark lest foreigners who are not acquainted with our political condition should receive erroneous impressions, that Mr. Recorder Hoffman does not belong to what is called the Republican party in America, but has been elevated to office by men in hostility to it, who obtained a temporary ascendancy in the councils of the state.

Mr. Sampson rose, with a full knowledge of the peculiar opinion of the court, and addressed an independent jury in the eloquent speech which follows.

SPEECH OF COUNSELLOR SAMPSON

In every other grief than that which this historian has inflicted on her the innocent find comfort; for innocence is in all other wrongs, against all other strokes of man's injustice or oppression, a sevenfold shield. Not so where a woman's chastity is assailed. Suspicion there is worse than death itself. It is that shame to which the chaste Lucretia, rather than seem consenting, preferred to plunge a dagger in her heart. It is that for which alone the innocent wife of Caesar was repudiated. The man who dares attack it is of all other criminals the greatest. If he is not a traitor, it is for this alone, that he is worse. For many a man has suffered as a traitor whom after ages have revered and honoured. But never was he who set his cloven hoof upon a woman's honor worthy the name of man.

(Here the defendant rose and claimed the protection of the court, not so much with a desire to prevent the range of ingenious council, as to prevent the utterance of personalities, that it would not be thought prudent perhaps to repeat out of court. Whilst the defendant was addressing the court, the counsel calmly advanced, taking a pinch of snuff, modestly observed that what he was doing was in court, and what was to be done out of court was not to be talked of here. Then pointing to the defendant, and casting a significant look upon him he proceeded:)

This unrighteous man has by this very movement of his choler, justified all that I can ever say. If he complains of personalities, he is hardened in every gross abuse; he who lives reviling and reviled; who might construct himself a monument, with no other materials but those records to which he is a party and which he stands enrolled as an offender - if he cannot sit still to hear his accusation but calls for the protection of the court against the counsel whose duty it is to

make his crimes appear; how does she deserve protection whom he has driven to the sad necessity of coming here to vindicate her honour from those personalities which he has lavished on her? Did not his opening counsel say before you that he could make the colour fade upon this lady's cheek, and wish that she might be in court to hear him? Regret that her own son was not here present to testify against her? Was not this monstrous personality? And when it was considered that before this very cause drew near its close, the other counsel of this same defendant rose and told you that "they admitted her character was spotless, and for that reason that no reproach was cast upon it, desire you to acquit their innocent client, who is a mere historian, who never could have malice, who was more ready to rectify his errors, than others to observe him."

But it is well, and I am glad that I was interrupted; for the very evil genius that waits upon his life has here, for once, worked an honest end. For whilst my voice was almost choked with crowding truths, struggling for utterance, and whilst the swell of honest indignation rose even to suffocation, he came forward and pointed my attention to that subject which first deserved rebuke.

I had said that in the catalogue of crimes, none could be found more base than his. Not treason, for the reasons I have given. Not murder, for who murders life murders all sorrow with it; but he has doomed this lady to days of sorrow, and to lingering death. The pirate meets his foe, or seeks his prey, even when death or danger stares him in the face; and when he falls before the sword of justice, some sympathy may mingle with his shame, and men regret that one so brave in manly enterprise, should fall so ignominiously. But here is an attack upon a woman, far from her husband's side, from friends and home, whose infant sons are yet too tender to avenge their mother's wrongs. The forger who counterfeits some instruments to cheat you of your money, for that crime spins out his days in wretched and hard captivity, in infamy and labour; will you compare his crime with that of one who by his fabricated histories, pilfers from helpless woman the only precious jewel which she prizes, her more than life, her all, her spotless honour? That which the robber or the thief purloins, may be retrieved, or may be spared; but not the worth of twenty thousand beings such as this libeler, were he worth twenty thousand times as much as ever he will be - reform how he may - would pay the twenty thousandth part of that which he has taken.

It is argued that everything should be intended in favour of this defendant, who has written so godly a work against the prince of deists and for the holy gospel. I am sorry to hear such arguments advanced. They go almost to burlesque religion itself. He a man of God! He write for the love of God! His book a Godly book! A vile, obscene and filthy compilation, which bears throughout the character of rancorous malice, and tramples upon every Christian charity! Libel an innocent woman, lie and calumniate for the sake of Christianity! If this be the only deed this man has done, I pray to heaven to be more merciful to him than he has been to Mrs. Bonneville, and that for this very work of godliness he be not damned.

If you be Christian jurors, punish him; for be assured of this, that twenty Paines, were twenty such just now upon earth, could not conjointly do more harm to Christianity by their most violent efforts than this man by defending it would do. If any one of wavering faith should hear that the best vindication of God's word was this most libelous and scandalous work, he never would be a Christian from that hour. Not every one that saith, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but least of all he that makes the blessed name of God a cloak for malice and iniquity. He may be like those priests of

whom we read in history, who with holy cross in the one hand, and the bloody sabre in the other commit atrocities at which nature shudders.

There was a monastery where deadly crimes were expiated called La Trappe; when sinners entered it they made a terrible vow of everlasting silence, and from that awful moment never uttered a word, and daily with their nails dug their own graves. When the midnight bell tolled them to prayer, they left their solitary cells, and moved with noiseless step through gloomy cloisters and whispering aisles, with downcast look, turning their rosaries, but never spoke. Such is the penitence, such the everlasting silence that would become the ruthless slanderer of a woman's honour. But he who acts the bully and the bravo, and calls himself the champion of high heaven, what words can paint the horror that he inspires! Let us then leave him.

Witnesses called in the case: Judge Somerville of West Chester Co.; Mr. Purdy of New Rochelle, Rev. Mr. Foster, Mr. Pelton of New Rochelle, Wm. Carver, Mr. Pelton of New York, Dr. Manley, Peter Underhill, Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Dean.

Reprinted from The Truth Seeker. January 20th., 1923.

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AN ATTACK ON THOMAS PAINE

Many works have attacked Paine during his lifetime and after. This extract is taken from one published in 1792; written anonymously, it consisted of a collection of short attacks on leaders of the French Revolution.

Hints, or a Short Account of the Principal Movers of the French Revolution.
London: Printed for J. Egerton. Extract from pp. 53-4.

'No man, it will not be denied, has been more accessory to the enormities, murders, and miseries of wretched France than Thomas Paine. It is, therefore, very consistent with our plan to represent, from the best sources of information, his present circumstances and situation in France. Let it first be remembered, that this man, whose name future generations will have cause to execrate, was driven from England to America, by his crimes; he was again vomited back from America to this country with the contempt and abhorrence of those whom he called his friends; lastly, he was sent as a scourge to France, not daring to await here the consequence of his villainies. In France he has had full and uninterrupted leisure to spit forth all his poison. The fruits, unhappily, we know, but the venom will probably ere long reach himself. Paine was a Brissotine - Brissot was his earliest and dearest friend - the partner of his counsels - his second self. Paine is the only man of this party, whom the vengeance of the Convention has not yet reached. But Paine is aware of the danger of his situation - he has made more than one effort to escape to America - hitherto in vain; and not only in vain, but it has been gently hinted to him, that if he values his life, he must forbear to repeat those efforts. Thus, then, we behold the great hunter caught in his own toils; - the master builder in the midst of the ruins of the edifice, which his own mischievous labours erected. - We need make no further comment.

TEN YEARS ON - THE THOMAS PAINE SOCIETY
1963 - 1973
by R.W.Morrell

HOW TIME FLIES. It seems but yesterday that we met to form the Thomas Paine Society, yet in fact it was all of ten years ago come October.

Until I heard the late Tom Mosley at one of his outdoor Secularist meetings in Nottingham I had never heard of Paine. What stimulated interest in him were some quotations read out by Tom Mosley from the Age of Reason. The quotations so interested me that I bought a copy of the book from Tom, who always had a couple of copies of the Pioneer Press edition with its excellent introduction by Chapman Cohen in his literature case. My purchase started me off on the track of all Paine's works, a search that still goes on.

It was the late Adrian Brunel who first suggested that a Thomas Paine Society should be formed in Britain, unfortunately nothing came of the idea, however, his aim was carried on by his son Christopher Brunel, and it was a letter on Paine by Mr. Brunel in a weekly paper that brought us into contact. The outcome of this were the first steps to bring into being a Thomas Paine Society.

Puplicity for the proposed society was provided for by many national and local papers, and on the strength of the letters received that promised support we arranged a meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London on Sunday, October 6th., 1963, at which the Thomas Paine Society was formally inaugurated.

Within weeks of our foundation we were caught up in the controversy at Thetford over the proposal to erect a statue of Thomas Paine there. At our inaugural meeting the late Joseph Lewis (who was elected a Vice-President) showed us the artist's model of the statue, its first public showing, however, Lewis lived in the United States and I do not think he grasped too clearly the fact that there were in Thetford a small but outspoken group who still hated Paine. These people had some very odd ideas as to Paine's life, they even imagined that he was tried for treason (a common error even among academics). We contributed many letters to the Thetford paper in an effort not only to answer the critics but also to put the record right in so far as the "silent majority" were concerned.

The statue of Thomas Paine was unveiled in Thetford on Sunday, June 7th., 1964, by Joseph Lewis. Members of the new Society came from many parts of the nation to be present at this historic event. It is clear that the very large crowd present was an indication not only of general support for the statue but a clear slap in the face for those locals who urged a boycott of the ceremony. I think that the impression which will remain in the memories best is the sight of Joseph Lewis still speaking in the middle of a downpour with the late Sir Charles Wheeler holding a large umbrella to keep the water off both of them. The rest of the crowd had departed for shelter, although still in hearing range; it is reputed that Lewis cut a five hour speech he had planned to one of about an hour!

Thetford as well as a statue has also acquired the outstanding Thomas Paine Collection formed by the late Ambrose Barker, the gift of our Founder Member Miss Ella Twynam. This collection at one stroke made Thetford a national centre for

Paine studies. At the presentation ceremony a short address was given by Herbert Cutner, another of our Vice-Presidents, who took the opportunity to make a strong attack on the ignorant local critics of Paine. Thetford has also acquired a Rights of Man public house, named correctly after we had pointed out to the owners that Paine's book was called so and did not have the word "The" in its title. The pub was opened by our President, Michael Foot, M.P.

The work of the TPS has been very varied. We have sponsored or jointly sponsored, exhibitions of Paine material in Norwich, Nottingham, London, Lewes and Leicester, to name a few places. We have presented books to libraries, co-operated with scholars working on the life of Paine or the influence of his work. Two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Collins have endowed a lectureship on Paine at the University of East Anglia, and the first lecture was given by a member of the Society, Dr. E.P. Thompson, in 1972. We continually receive requests for speakers while rarely a week goes by without several requests for information on aspects of Paine's life and works. It is interesting to note in this respect that a growing number of such requests come from sixth-formers doing projects on Paine. The Society are hoping soon to establish an annual prize for a school essay on Paine.

When the Society was formed there was a debate on whether we should be strictly an academic body or whether we should seek to be a more "popular" type of organisation. What we have sought is a form of half-way house structure, one that will appeal to both the academic and the non academic, and this has been reflected in our Bulletin, a publication that appears roughly twice per annum.

The work we have done, and what we hope to do, has demonstrated beyond dispute that we filled a need, and those who thought we would not survive more than a year or two have had to eat their words. We can claim to have made some contribution to making Thomas Paine and his works better known as well as better appreciated, however, much remains to be done, as the comments on Paine in the recent Alistair Cook TV series on America and Paul Foster's play "Tom Paine" demonstrate. In respect to the latter it was of some significance that our New Zealand Secretary, W.J. Mond, had a letter putting some corrections printed in the official programme for the New Zealand premier.

The foundations of the Society have now been laid, our main task is now to consolidate and establish a sound structure. The work to be done will be hard but I hope that in ten years time we will once again look back and discover that the impact we have made is even greater than that of our first ten years.

10th. Anniversary of the Thomas Paine Society

D I N N E R

To celebrate its 10th. Anniversary the Society proposes to hold a dinner in London. Any reader interested in attending is invited to contact the Secretary of the TPS., who will send particulars when ready.

Thomas Paine Society, 443, Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB.

