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**MESSAGE OF GREETING FROM
THE FELLOWSHIP PRESIDENT,
JONATHAN G. OUVRY**

If every dog has its day, perhaps every novel has its year and if so this is the year of *Middlemarch*.

I looked forward to the television production with some misgivings, feeling that it would be impossible for the immense depth and scope of the novel to be adequately conveyed in a few hours of viewing. *Adam Bede* had been, I thought, entirely unsuccessful, except on a superficial level as a pretty costumed story. The profundity of *Middlemarch* would not benefit from such treatment. In the end, however, I felt that justice had to a large extent been done, due to the allowance of adequate time, though I could have wished it longer, and in particular to skilful casting, which brought George Eliot's characters to life in a way which must have led many viewers to read the novel, and to find the joy of the many layers of subtle thought and characterization missing from the screen.

One of my friends gave up part of the way through, missing the narrator's comments which she felt were essential for due consideration of the novel, but for most people I am sure that the weekly viewing of *Middlemarch* will have been an important event of 1994.

The Fellowship will have benefited greatly (and the Secretary's workload consequently increased!). I hope that we shall see the result in increased membership and wider appreciation of George Eliot, in all her works.

Jonathan G. Ouvry