

Spike has Gone – 27-02-2002

Spike Milligan died of kidney failure at his home in Sussex February 27 2002, he was 83.

His death was followed by an avalanche of new Milligan publications. In 2002, the year he died, four separate Milligan books were published. Two from Spike Milligan Productions, An omnibus book of five of his “According to” books, *Classic Adventures According to Spike Milligan* and *The Essential Spike Milligan*, a collection of excerpts of his writings. These were joined by *Spike Milligan: His part in our lives* by Maxine Ventham and *Surviving Spike Milligan* by John Antrobus.

The next year, 2003, saw two new biographies published, *Spike Milligan: The Biography* by Humphrey Carpenter and a Norma Farnes’ Milligan biography, *Spike Milligan an Intimate Memoir*. There was also a new updated edition of Pauline Scudamore’s 1985 biography *Spike Milligan*, this new edition called simply *Spike*.

In 2004 Spike Milligan Productions had another collection of his writings this one called, *The Compulsive Spike Milligan*. This was followed 2005 by an omnibus book called *The Completely Essential Spike Milligan* combining *The Essential Milligan* and *The Compulsive Milligan* in one volume. This was produced exclusively for the U.K. retailer Marks and Spencer.

2006 saw another collection of Spike writings, Box 18, from Spike Milligan Productions and a book, *Spike and Co*, which is the story of the Associated London Scripts of which Spike was a founder member. The use of his name would have helped sales along.

The output slowed but Spike Milligan Productions managed a pretty regular output. 2009, *The Magical World of Milligan*, 2010, *Memories of Milligan* by Norma Farnes, 2011, *Spike Milligan’s Meaning of Life*, another collection of his writings. In 2012 Penguin published new editions of his seven war memoirs and 2014 Spike Milligan Productions published another collection of Spike’s letters as, *Spike Milligan Man of Letters*.

Penguin have kept up their support of Milligan with a new edition of *Puckoon* in 2014, a new edition of *Silly Verse for Kids* in 2015, and a new edition of *The Bible According to Spike Milligan* in 2016.