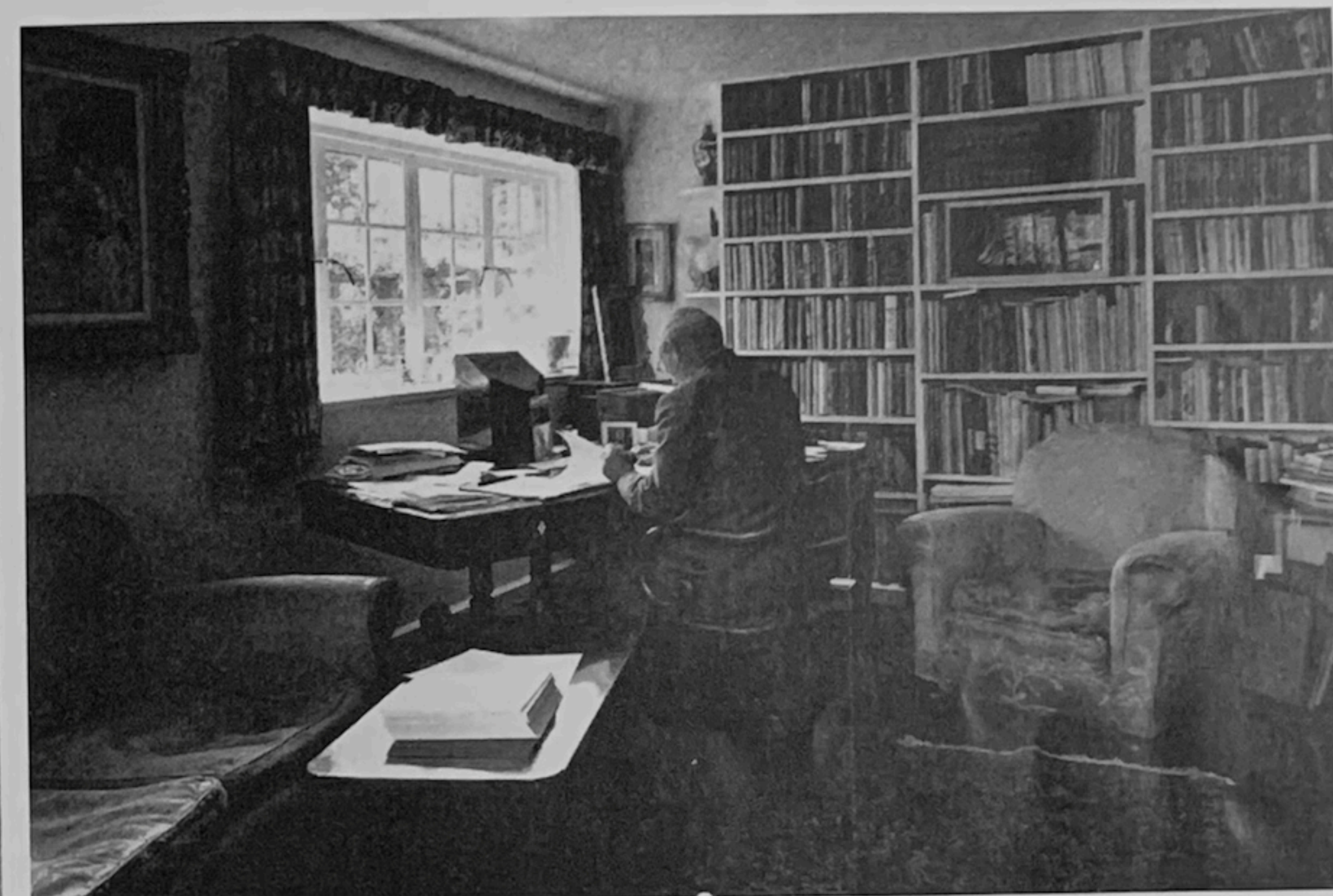




Tea on the terrace for H. E. Bates and his wife, their daughter Ann and her two sons, Stephen and Jeremy. The Granary (right) stands in a village that has remained unspoiled during the last 30 years. The author's study and workroom (below) looks over the garden



Elegant sun-shafted rooms make a civilized background for H. E. Bates working. From left, looking at Granary gate in ornamental garden; 2. Behind the gate, the lounge lounge large a room; 3. Bates's remarkable garden; 4. In impressionist paint on a wall; 5. A bay adds a town touch to a country house; 6. Furnished in traditional style

# HIGH SUMMER OF A WORDSMITH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
MARK GERSON

THE novels of H. E. Bates have a kind of sunny ambience. *The Jacaranda Tree*, *The Daffodil Sky* and *The Nature of Love* confirmed a literary reputation that began some while back—he published his first novel at 20. Many of his books have been filmed; all were profitable, helping him to assemble a valuable collection of post-Impressionists. But high summer really began for H. E. Bates with *The Darling Buds of May*, a novel that was filmed too, as well as being made into a play. Then with the publication last month of his latest volume of short stories *Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal* he has decided to abandon the novel form altogether. At 56 the decision is unlikely to put his career in jeopardy, his earlier short stories are at least as well-known as his longer works and the Uncle Silas series has now achieved a recording on LPs. Mr. Bates has lived in the tiny Kentish village of Little Chart for 30 years. His house is called The Granary. In his study Mr. Bates pursues the restless impulse of the professional writer while the gentle understatement of his garden may enclose the sounds of children playing. Mr. Bates has four children, two sons and two daughters, and four grandchildren.

