



"P. G. Wodehouse has been a pioneer...setting the stage for Lorenz Hart, Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter." David Ewen, American Musical Theater.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT, under our Spouse/Spoussess Policy, wives or husbands (as the case may be) of Members in Good Standing may be enrolled as full voting members at no additional dues charge. The rationale for this seeming generosity is that it increases our membership without appreciably increasing our administrative workload.

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LT. COL. N. T. P. MURPHY, TWS, (whose first name is Norman), contributed "The Untold Story" on page 3. He is the author of In Search of Blandings, privately printed, 1981, and "Outline Guide to Wodehouse's England," Plum Lines, Sept 1983. He has promised to give us an inside view of "What Lord Ickenham Perpetrated that day at The Races," in a future PL story.

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WOW! A group of about fifty Wodehouseans in Nevada City, California, have been meeting for years to do readings of Plum's stories and to share their enthusiasm for, and appreciation of, Sir Pelham. [A highly civilized group.] Doug Stow, president of our San Francisco chapter (and several others in his chapter) called their attention to our Society, and they asked for more information. You may be sure that OM immediately opened overtures to persuade this group to join TWS.

To help defray their expenses and to enlarge their usefulness in the community, they have recorded some of Plum's stories on cassette tape and established a commercial entity (if that's the word I want) to market them: The Joyful Arts Production Association. They are read by James Donald Walters, and read well indeed. OM received two tapes and we'll use them at our Convention. THEY ARE FOR SALE at \$6.95 (U.S.) plus 71¢ for handling/mailing. Order by title: Honeysuckle Cottage, Uncle Fred Flits By, Jeeves and the Song of Songs, The Clicking of Cuthbert, The Smile that Wins, and Archibald and the Masses. Address: Jerry Haslam, Joyful Arts Productions, 14618 Tyler Foote Road, Nevada City, CA 95959

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Thank You, Wodehouse, by J. H. C. Morris, London, 1981, is available at Strand Book Store, 828 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, @ \$2.95. If ordering by mail, add \$2.00 for mailing. Mention Catalogue S-3, p. 30.

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DON'T OVERLOOK PRESIDENT BOB HALL'S LETTER on page 5 nor the form on page 6. Even though you may have previously indicated your intention of attending the Third International Convention of The Wodehouse Society, we'll need this form, with your check or money order (in U. S. dollars) as soon as possible.

IN BLYTHELY IGNORING Plum's accomplishments as a poet, are we not being intellectual snobs in assuming that only those writers who create lofty, ethereal stuff are worthy of being called poets? Is excellent lyric poetry written by non-poets?

OM

The Oldest Member

The Untold Story or The Shameful Secret of Sir Gregory Parsloe, Bart.

The world knows that Sir Gregory Parsloe is not to be trusted because of various incidents in his youth, the publication of which are held over his head by Gally Threepwood. Wodehouse tells us of some of Sir Gregory's peccadilloes but the one we never have explained is the one that would kill forever his chances of being elected a member of Parliament. The story of Sir Gregory and the prawns is one which we shall never hear from Wodehouse's pen but we can have a pretty good guess what it would be.

The guess depends on two things, both of which have fairly solid grounds. In at least three letters, Wodehouse acknowledged that some of the incidents he drew were based on real-life incidents perpetrated by members of the old Pelican Club. These were published in three books by Arthur Binstead, and Wodehouse possessed all three and knew them well. By comparing the two authors, I came across five direct parallels and a dozen resemblances between the 'Wodehousian' characters and the real people Binstead wrote about.

The second factor is less proven but also sound. As Wodehouse got older, even his astonishing memory faltered slightly and certain incidents or names became confused in his mind. Why not? It happens to all of us. In Wodehouse's case it took the form of forgetting names except for the initial letter. If Wodehouse had told us the story, it would have been on the basis that it wasn't prawns that Sir Gregory was embarrassed about, it was p... But let's see.

Binstead recounts the story of a young member entering the Pelican Club one day in the late 1880s and ordering lunch. He is a young man, fat, pompous and very sure of himself. He orders lunch in a lordly way, scanning the menu cursorily and then adds, "Oh, yes...and a bird, of course."

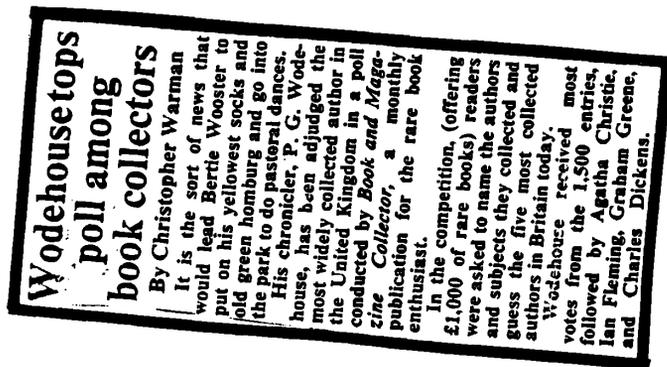
The point of the story is that it is in July, and in England in the 1880s, to ask for a 'bird,' i.e., a game bird, grouse, pheasant in July was an appalling social gaffe. A rough equivalent in 1985 would be to whistle 'The Red Flag' while attending the Presidential Inauguration, or asking a Daughter of the Revolution when her family managed to get their immigration visa.

In any event, Binstead says that the headwaiter concealed his mirth with difficulty and went off to fill the order. The meal was served, the 'bird' was eaten, the bill was offered with a small addition for the 'bird' of ten shillings and the young man left even more satisfied with himself. But the club members afterwards reckoned that the poor club parrot that had been pressed into service was worth at least a fiver!

That was the story Wodehouse had in mind all those years. What a pity that we shall never hear his version.

.....Lt. Col. N. T. P. Murphy, TWS

The Times.
London. July 19, 1985



[THANKS! to Jimmy Heineman, TWS, who sent us this clipping.]

IS P. G. WODEHOUSE THE MOST POPULAR AUTHOR AMONG U.S. AND CANADIAN BOOK COLLECTORS? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

The name and accomplishments of P. G. Wodehouse are being kept before the reading and viewing public much more effectively in the United Kingdom than in these United States.

When asking people if they are familiar with Wodehouse, OM often hears, "Oh, yes. Doesn't she write about dogs? I've seen her on TV." Almost as if a conspiracy existed among major publishers and TV networks (often corporately enmeshed), the works of PGW seem to have been relegated to that category of literature and entertainment not likely to 'turn a fast buck' nor achieve a high rating from TV pollsters.

It is reasonable to hope that our publishers and other purveyors of public entertainment will learn, as their British counterparts have learned, that there is a market for the sort of clean, wholesome humor at which Plum excelled.

One of our objectives (Par. 2, The Constitution of The Wodehouse Society) is to increase the number of Plum's readers. If we are successful, the book collectors will take care of themselves. OM

PRE-CONVENTION NEWS-LETTER

Preparations are now under way for the third biennial meeting of The Wodehouse Society, to be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., on October 19, the Saturday after Plum's 104th birth-day on October 15. We are planning what we hope will be an interesting and profitable day for you, including a slide-show on "Wodehouse's London", a message from Father James Carruth (our member in Zimbabwe), a musical hour, and, after our banquet, a brief presidential allocution on "The Future of Wodehouse Studies". We hope also to have a table for the display and exchange of books.

We are enclosing a registration-form, which we are asking all of those who plan on attending the meeting to fill out and return as soon as possible. The meeting is being arranged by Cornell University's very efficient Conference Services; to defray their expenses, we have to request a nominal registration-fee of five dollars per person. The lunch and dinner will be provided by the Cornell Catering-Services, well known for the high quality of their food. We are arranging for a buffet-luncheon and a served dinner, at a moderate price for each.

We have also arranged for a block of twenty rooms to be held for the nights of October 18 and 19, for members of The Wodehouse Society, at the Sheraton Inn, 1 Sheraton Drive, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (telephone: [607] 257-2000). Please note, however, that you will have to make your own arrangements for over-night accomodation. To take advantage of the provision made with the Sheraton Inn, please write to them directly, stating your requirements and mentioning your membership in The Wodehouse Society.

The Conference-Services have requested us to supply them with an (approximately) accurate and full list of those who are planning to attend the meeting, by a month before the meeting itself (i.e. by September 19), so that they can make the necessary detailed arrangements, prepare name-badges, and so forth. At that time, we shall send out, to all prospective participants, an additional information-sheet, including indication of the building(s) where the meeting will be held, a detailed time-table of the events, and one or more maps to enable you to find your way to and from the Sheraton Inn, the campus, and the environs. When you register after your arrival, you will be given your name-badges and your meal-tickets.

We certainly hope that you will attend the meeting, with the "fringe-benefits" of the beautiful up-state New York scenery and fall colours of the trees in mid-October (the most resplendent time of the year). Please, therefore, do plan to come; fill out the enclosed registration-form; and send it, together with your remittance (cheque or money-order, *in U.S. funds*, made out to **Cornell University**), to me, at my home-address, as given below.

Yours for a successful meeting —

Bob Hall

REGISTRATION-FORM

The Wodehouse Society, October 19, 1985, at Cornell University

Please fill in the following blanks, indicating your name and address; the names of those whom you expect to be accompanying you; the amount due for registration-fees (\$5.00 per person); and the number of reservations you wish for lunch and dinner, with the amount payable for each.

Date: _____, 1985.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Persons accompanying you: _____

Registration-fee, @ \$ 5.00 per person _____

Number of lunch-reservations _____:

Amount, @ \$ 7.00 each _____

Number of dinner-reservations _____.

Amount, @ \$ 15.00 each _____

Total for registration, lunch, and dinner _____

NOTE: To assure proper planning, this Registration Form should reach us by **SEPTEMBER 19TH.**

WODEHOUSE TRIVIA QUIZ

... by Holly Van Wye, TWS

Part Three

(19) Identify the following Drones:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Freddie Widgeon ... | (a) Invariably he comes bounding on-stage with a tennis racket shouting "Hullo, girls!" |
| Freddie Threepwood ... | (b) His soul encounters an unforeseen stymie in the fourth dimension. |
| Barmy Fotheringay-Phipps ... | (c) He studies the mating habits of undersea worms. |
| Pongo Twistleton ... | (d) His girls, if placed end to end, would reach from Piccadilly Circus to Hyde Park Corner. |
| Bingo Little ... | (e) Mentally negligible, as a rule, he is capable of acting shrewdly on occasion (I.e., he has lucid intervals). |
| Boko Fittleworth ... | (f) He bequeaths a fine collection of whodunits to his father's butler. |
| Bertie Wooster ... | (g) His wife describes him as 'half god, half child.' |
| Archie Mulliner ... | (h) His solitary claim to fame: imitating a hen laying an egg. |
| Reggie Havershot ... | (i) He treacherously looped back the last ring over the club swimming pool. |
| Gussie Fink-Nottle ... | (j) He trembles like an aspen at the mere sound of his uncle from the country. |
| Oofy Prosser ... | (k) He lights up Broadway. |
| Catsmeat Firbright ... | (l) Moths nest in his wallet and raise large families there. |
| Tuppy Glossup ... | (m) He marries into the chorus. |
| Ronnie Fish ... | (n) Alias 'Honest Patch Perkins.' |
| Bill Towcester ... | (o) He resembles an intellectual parrot, with patches on the knees. |

Match names and letters,
OF COURSE!

(20) What sundered these once-loving hearts, thereby giving the bird to Love's Young Dream?

- | | |
|---|--|
| Rodney Spelvin &
Jane Packard ----- | (a) One good biff in the eye. |
| Dudley Finch &
Bobbie Wickham ----- | (b) One ham sandwich, selfishly devoured. |
| Bertie Wooster \$
Pauline Stoker ----- | (c) A parrot named Bill. |
| Derek Underhill &
Jill Mariner ----- | (d) A critique of the male love-bird's head. |
| Gussie Fink-Nottle &
G. Butterwick ----- | (e) A sunken bag of clubs. |
| | (f) A tatoo: heart-encircled 'Sue.' |

QUIZ - continued

- D'Arcy Cheesewright & Florence Craye ---- (g) The diagnosis of dementia praecox by Harley Street.
- Tuppy Glossup & Cora Bellinger ---- (h) A dashed painful bullet wound in the fleshy part of the leg.

(21) What reunited these young sundered blighters?

- Stinker Pinker & Stiffy Byng ---- (a) A pair of yellow shoes.
- Mike Cardinal & Terry Cobbold ---- (b) The smile that wins.
- Horace Davenport & Valerie Twistleton ---- (c) A well-aimed tobacco jar.
- Wilfred Mulliner & Angela Purdue ---- (d) A mutilated nose.
- George Bevan & Lady Maud Marsh ---- (e) A woman who looked as if she bred cocker spaniels.
- Roderick Spode & Madeline Bassett ---- (f) A grossly fat man in a restaurant.
- Adrian Mulliner & Millicent Shipton ---- (g) A (pinched) policeman's helmet.
- Jeff Miller & Anne Benedick ---- (h) Mulliner Snow of the Mountains lotion. (Four shillings the medium-sized bottle.)
- (i) A potato in the eye.

I think that you'll all agree that Holly has done a bang-up job...OM

ANSWERS	ANSWERS	ANSWERS	ANSWERS	ANSWERS	ANSWERS
Question 19:	Question 20:	Question 21:	ANSWERS	ANSWERS	ANSWERS
d - f - k	e - h - g	g - d - e	c - b - f	h - a - f	i - b - c
j - g - o	c - b - f	h - a - f	d - a	i - m - n	c - l - a
b - h - e	Read left to right....	Read left to right....	m - n	m - n	m - n

REMEMBER.....

Stop for a moment on October Fifteenth to remember Plum. Leigh Hunt's arguments in favor of observing Shakespeare's birthday apply with equal force to Plum:

"The birthdays of such men ought to be kept, in common gratitude and affection, like those of relatives whom we love....The busiest finds time to eat his dinner, and may pitch one considerate glass of wine down his throat. The poorest may call him to mind, and drink his memory in honest water."

We can all accord him thanks for the treasure of fine humor he bequeathed to us. Wherever you may be on that day, whatever you are doing, remember Plum and thank him in your own way.