

The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

Information Sheet Number 1

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Revision 2

Books by P G Wodehouse

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide an authoritative list of the books written by P G Wodehouse. There is no agreement amongst commentators or *aficionados* as to how many he wrote, for the reasons explained below, and The P G Wodehouse Society (UK) does not express a view on this matter.

Reasons why there can be many legitimate views as to the number of his books include:

- 1 Several books, particularly collections of short stories, which were published in the United States differed from the nearest equivalent collection in the United Kingdom.
- 2 Some books have joint authorship with another person.
- 3 When referring to his output of fiction, it is necessary to exclude autobiographical and similar work, and collections of essays.
- 4 A decision has to be made on whether to include collections of stories first published in book form after Wodehouse's death.
- 5 A decision has to be made on whether to include the unfinished novel *Sunset at Blandings*.
- 6 A decision has to be made on whether to include individual short stories published in book form for individual or promotional reasons.
- 7 Different approaches can be taken to the problems caused by the books making up *Mike*, *The Prince and Betty* and *Psmith, Journalist*.
- 8 The recent discovery of a serialised novelette based on *The Prince and Betty*, and a novelette version of *A Gentleman of Leisure*.

To enable those interested to make their own informed decisions, this information sheet divides P G Wodehouse's books into titles of different descriptions, gives the equivalent American title in brackets where different, and identifies whether the UK or the US edition was published first.

The code followed in all the lists is:

Bold type where the UK printing came first.

Italic type indicates simultaneous publication.

Ordinary type where the US printing came first.

NOVELS PUBLISHED DURING WODEHOUSE'S LIFETIME (69)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1902	1902	The Pothunters	

1903	1903	A Prefect's Uncle	
1904	1923	The Gold Bat	
1905	1922	The Head of Kay's	
1906	1909	Love Among the Chickens	1
1907	1907	The White Feather	
<i>Date</i>			
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
1909		The Swoop	2
1909	1910	Mike	3
1910	1910	Psmith in the City	
1910	1910	A Gentleman of Leisure (The Intrusion of Jimmy)	
	1912	The Prince and Betty (US version)	4
1912		The Prince and Betty (UK version)	4
1913	1914	The Little Nugget	
1915	1915	Something Fresh (Something New)	5
1915	1915	Psmith, Journalist	4
1917	1916	Uneasy Money	
1918	1917	Piccadilly Jim	
1919	1919	A Damsel in Distress	
1920	1919	The Coming of Bill (Their Mutual Child)	
1921	1920	Jill the Reckless (The Little Warrior)	
1922	1922	The Girl on the Boat (Three Men and a Maid)	
1922	1923	The Adventures of Sally (Mostly Sally)	
1923	1924	Leave it to Psmith	
1924	1925	Bill the Conqueror	
1925	1925	Sam the Sudden (Sam in the Suburbs)	
1927	1927	The Small Bachelor	
1928	1928	Money for Nothing	
1929	1929	Summer Lightning (Fish Preferred)	
1931	1931	Big Money	
1931	1931	If I Were You	
1932		Doctor Sally	6
1932	1932	<i>Hot Water</i>	
1933	1933	Heavy Weather	
1934	1934	Thank You, Jeeves	
1934	1934	Right Ho, Jeeves (Brinkley Manor)	
1935	1936	The Luck of the Bodkins	7

1936	1936	Laughing Gas	
1938	1937	Summer Moonshine	
1938	1938	<i>The Code of the Woosters</i>	
1939	1939	Uncle Fred in the Springtime	8
1940	1940	Quick Service	
1946	1942	Money in the Bank	
1947	1946	Joy in the Morning	
1947	1947	Full Moon	
<i>Date</i>			
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
1948	1948	<i>Spring Fever</i>	
1948	1948	Uncle Dynamite	
1949	1949	The Mating Season	
1951	1951	The Old Reliable	
1952	1952	Barmy in Wonderland (Angel Cake)	9
1952	1952	Pigs Have Wings	
1953	1954	Ring for Jeeves (The Return of Jeeves)	
1954	1954	Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit (Bertie Wooster Sees It Through)	
1956	1959	French Leave	
1957	1957	Something Fishy (The Butler Did It)	
1958	1958	Cocktail Time	
1960	1960	Jeeves in the Offing (How Right you Are, Jeeves)	
1961	1961	Ice in the Bedroom (The Ice in the Bedroom)	
1962	1961	Service with a Smile	
1963	1963	Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves	
1964	1964	Frozen Assets (Biffen's Millions)	
1965	1964	Galahad at Blandings (The Brinkmanship of Galahad Threepwood)	
1967	1967	Company for Henry (The Purloined Paperweight)	
1968	1968	Do Butlers Burgle Banks?	
1969	1970	A Pelican at Blandings (No Nudes is Good Nudes)	
1970	1971	The Girl in Blue	
1971	1971	<i>Much Obliged, Jeeves (Jeeves and the Tie That Binds)</i>	
1972	1973	Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin (The Plot that Thickened)	
1973	1974	Bachelors Anonymous	
1974	1975	Aunts Aren't Gentlemen (The Catnappers)	

NOTES

- 1 Revised in a new edition in 1921. The changes, other than the

exclusion of a report of Jeremy Garnet's wedding, were not extensive and do not justify it being regarded as a separate novel.

- 2 Only published in the US posthumously in an anthology, *The Swoop and other Stories*, which appeared in 1979.
- 3 *Mike* was the book publication of two serials from *The Captain*, entitled *Jackson Junior* and *The Lost Lambs*. Each was subsequently published separately in book form in both the UK and the US:
 - Jackson Junior* as *Mike at Wrykyn* (1953)
 - The Lost Lambs* as *Enter Psmith* (1935) and *Mike and Psmith* (1953)
- 4 *The Prince and Betty* and *Psmith, Journalist* can cause a great deal of confusion, particularly as *Psmith, Journalist*, which appeared as a serial in 1909, was not published in book form until 1915. The UK version of *The Prince and Betty* also appeared in serial form, in 1912, in both the UK and the US, though each had different texts, and the US version was serialised later. The US book version combined parts of both books and changed the names of some of the characters so that, for example, Psmith was renamed Smith. Because it appeared before either of the UK books, some commentators have been misled into supposing it was written first. It was not, but it is sufficiently different from the others to be regarded as a separate novel, indispensable to any complete collection.
- 5 *Something New*, the US title, has an added scene of about 20 pages taken straight from the second part of *Mike*. It is probably not sufficiently different to be regarded as a wholly new story but collectors should be aware of its importance. They should also be aware that later (1972) American paperbacks used the UK text.
- 6 *Doctor Sally* only appeared in the US (under the title *The Medicine Girl*) as a constituent part of the short story collection *The Crime Wave at Blandings*.
- 7 *The Luck of the Bodkins* was completely rewritten for serialisation in the US, and the US book followed that text. The original text was used for the UK book and they probably should be regarded as two separate stories, though with substantial similarities.
- 8 *Uncle Fred in the Springtime* appeared first, in emaciated form, in *The Saturday Evening Post* after its editor had requested simplification of the plot and the removal of two characters. The original text was retained for the book.
- 9 This book was adapted from and its second half incorporates much dialogue from *The Butter and Egg Man* by George S Kaufman, to whom Wodehouse paid half his royalties.

NOVELS PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY (4)

Date		Title	Note
UK	US		
1977	1978	<i>Sunset at Blandings</i>	1

1997	The Luck Stone	2
2003	A Prince for Hire	3
2004	The Gem Collector	4

NOTES

- 1 Incomplete at Wodehouse's death. The extant text was published with annotations by Richard Osborne.
- 2 This book appeared in serial form in *Chums* in 1908-1909 but not in book form until 1997.
- 3 This novel was a comprehensive rewrite (in 1931) of the American version of *The Prince and Betty*. It appeared only in an American magazine, in five instalments.
- 4 This is a novelette version of *A Gentleman of Leisure* which appeared first in *Ainslee's magazine* in December 1909. It has never been officially approved for book publication but in 2004 a US publisher produced it in book form as it is in public domain in the USA. It is still fully protected by copyright restrictions in the UK, the rest of Europe and many other countries.

SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS PUBLISHED DURING WODEHOUSE'S LIFETIME (19)

In this section, titles are listed when they represent the first book appearance of the constituent stories. Omnibus collections or anthologies of previously published material are not shown. American editions which differ by more than one story from the UK equivalent are identified by an asterisk.

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1903	1903	Tales of St Austin's	
1914		The Man Upstairs	
1917	1933	The Man with Two Left Feet	*
1919		My Man Jeeves	
1922	1924	The Clicking of Cuthbert (Golf without Tears)	
1924	1925	Ukridge (He Rather Enjoyed It)	
1925	1927	Carry On, Jeeves	
1926	1927	The Heart of a Goof (Divots)	
1927	1928	Meet Mr Mulliner	
1929	1930	Mr Mulliner Speaking	
1930	1930	Very Good, Jeeves	
1933	1933	Mulliner Nights	
1935	1935	Blandings Castle and Elsewhere (Blandings Castle)	
1936	1936	Young Men in Spats	*

1937	1937	Lord Emsworth and Others (Crime Wave at Blandings)	*
1940	1940	Eggs, Beans and Crumpets	*
1950	1951	Nothing Serious	
1959	1959	A Few Quick Ones	
1966	1967	Plum Pie	1

NOTES

- 1 The American version excludes various extracts from *Punch* which appear as links between chapters in the UK edition.

EPISODIC NOVELS PUBLISHED DURING WODEHOUSE'S LIFETIME (2)

The following two books are in reality collections of short stories which were reordered, given new introductions and/or endings, and published in a format resembling a novel.

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>	
1921	1921	Indiscretions of Archie
1923	1923	The Inimitable Jeeves (Jeeves)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS (1)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>	
1904	1904	William Tell Told Again

SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER WODEHOUSE'S DEATH (3)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
	1983	The Uncollected Wodehouse	1
1993		Plum Stones	
1997		Tales of Wrykyn and Elsewhere	

NOTES

- 1 This includes a number examples of early journalism which cannot be described as stories.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL (3)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1953		Performing Flea (with William Townend)	1
1954	1953	Bring on the Girls (with Guy Bolton)	2
1957	1956	Over Seventy (America, I Like You)	3
	1962	Author! Author!	1

NOTES

- 1 *Performing Flea* was partly rewritten, and PGW's notes adding information concerning various letters were added in the American edition.
- 2 Many of the anecdotes in the US edition did not appear in the UK, and vice-versa.
- 3 Both based largely on essays written in the past but the two editions have their differences.

ESSAYS, JOURNALISM and POETRY (3)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1908	1985	Globe By The Way Book (with Herbert Westbrook)	
1932		Louder and Funnier	
1990		The Parrot and Other Poems	1

NOTES

- 1 This includes a number of poems in the series entitled *The Parrot*, which appeared in *The Daily Express* in 1903 and may not have been written by Wodehouse.

ACKNOWLEDGED JOINT AUTHORSHIP: FICTION (2)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1907	1980	Not George Washington (with Herbert Westbrook)	
1991		A Man of Means (with C H Bovill)	

SINGLE SHORT STORIES PUBLISHED DURING WODEHOUSE'S LIFETIME (3)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
	1931	Homeopathic Treatment	1
1933		The Great Sermon Handicap	
	1939	Dudley is Back to Normal	2

NOTES

- 1 Published for publicity purposes by the American magazine *Boy's Life*.
- 2 Published by PGW's regular publisher, Doubleday, for US copyright reasons..

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