

## Section A b A Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse Fiction: Introductory Notes

The Society has received many queries over the years as to whether there existed a chronological list of the short stories of the main series so that they can be read 'in order'.

In response the Society published **A Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse Fiction**, which sought to fulfil this requirement, and this is now incorporated into the pages below.

There may still be anomalies and room for alternative views of the proper order in a small number of cases. For instance, one or two stories were first published in a different order in the UK from that in the USA. And in any event, the first story written may be set later in a major character's life than later published stories. The Ukridge series started with a novel, *Love Among the Chickens*, in which Ukridge was married, and then reverted to short stories in which his wife was never mentioned. Another example is *Jeeves Takes Charge*, when Jeeves starts his employment with Bertie only after three earlier stories had been written, and was not published in book form until nine years later.

Further information concerning the evolution of specific stories, which appeared in six articles in *Wooster Sauce*, follows the main Chronology below.

### Objectives

- a to provide a simple, yet accurate, chronological guide to the first publication of the stories to be found in books of fiction by P G Wodehouse (whether novels or collections of short stories) published during his lifetime; and
- b to identify the order in which these stories were first published, to help members wishing to use that approach to reading some or all of the works.

### Introductory Comment

Because of the sheer volume of Wodehouse's fiction and the range of the magazines in which much of it appeared, the concept of simplicity in presenting a chronology is bound to stretch credulity. Nevertheless, this attempt seeks to provide interested members with information in an appropriate level of detail to meet the stated objectives.

### How to Read the Chronology

The Chronology has been designed with five columns (though only three have headings).

The first is the year of publication for the items that follow.

The second provides a code indicating when the book concerns one of ten selected characters or themes.

BC	Blandings Castle	MM	Mr Mulliner	UF	Uncle Fred
BL	Bingo Little	OM	The Oldest Member	UK	Ukridge
FW	Freddie Widgeon	PS	Psmith		
JW	Jeeves and Wooster	SC	Schools		

The third column, headed 'Published **Novel** [*Collection*]' places in chronological order the date of first publication of all of the P G Wodehouse books of fiction which were published during his lifetime. Please bear in mind that this is NOT necessarily the same as the order in which the works they contained first appeared.

The fourth column, headed 'Published Short Story [**Serial**]' reflects the fact that virtually all the short stories in the published collections, and a considerable majority of the novels, were published in magazine form in the UK and/or the USA before book publication. Sometimes the delay was a year or less; in a handful of cases it exceeded ten years.

The fifth column, headed '*Relevant Collection* [**Novel**]' provides the name of the Short Story Collection in which the published Short Story named in column four appears, or the UK name of the novel under which a serialisation listed in column four appears.

## Example

Suppose you wanted to read the works published in 1926 in chronological order, and you had access to readily available reading copies of all the relevant books. You would note that *Mr Potter Takes a Rest Cure* was the first new work of 1926, and was subsequently published in the book *Blandings Castle and Elsewhere* (often referred to merely as '*Blandings Castle*'). But you would have to move forward to 1935 to discover when *Blandings Castle and Elsewhere* was published. This is an excellent example of the delay in book publication.

Following a similar thought pattern, the next short story is *Keeping In With Vosper*, which from column two you see is an Oldest Member (Golf) story. It appears in the collection *The Heart of a Goof*, which you see from column three was published in book form almost immediately.

The same principles apply to all the others listed for 1926 except *The Small Bachelor*, a novel listed in column four. The first episode of its serialisation was the penultimate new work of the year, and from column five, you can tell that it had the same name when published as a novel in book form. If you look down column three for 1927, you will see that the book was published early in that year.

## Explanation of the Principles Used in Creating the Chronology

The principles set out in this section should be read in conjunction with the note about **Unusual Situations** in the next section.

- 1 Books – whether novels or collections of short stories – are referred to by the UK published name only, since the majority of Society members, for whom the Chronology is being produced, are based in the United Kingdom. However, for convenience, where a novel was first serialised under a different title (in the UK or the USA), both the serial title(s) and the title of the subsequent UK book are listed.
- 2 Collections of short stories published in the UK and USA may have different contents even when given the same title. *With the exception of one story published only in the USA*

*edition of A Few Quick Ones (1959)*, the collection referred to is the UK title, and the short story title in the UK book is used where titles are different in magazines and/or books.

- 3 The order in which titles of short stories appear in the chronology is based on the earlier of:

- 3.1 the date of the first publication of the short story in magazine format, provided it is recognisably the same as the version in a later published book collection; and
- 3.2 the date of publication of a collection of short stories.

For novels, the order is based on the earlier of:

- 3.3 the date of publication of the first instalment of a serialised novel, provided it has not been materially abridged; and
- 3.4 the publication date of the novel in book form.

*In each case*, the relevant date is the earliest known publication date, whether in the UK, USA or elsewhere.

- 4 Only fiction has been included. None of his plays, whether published or not, has been included.
- 5 The Chronology is restricted to fiction published in book form in the UK or USA during Wodehouse's lifetime.
- 6 Omnibuses and anthologies (including anthologies which include works by other authors) have been excluded from the Chronology with two exceptions. Two stories narrated by Mr Mulliner were published in magazines but, in book form, only appeared in *The World of Mr Mulliner* (1972). One short story, *Oofy, Freddie and the Beef Trust*, was first published in *The Best of Wodehouse*, an anthology of Wodehouse stories which was published in the USA in 1949, before being reprinted in a 1958 magazine and in the collection *A Few Quick Ones*.

## Unusual Situations

There are a number of titles of both novels and short stories where the chronological history has been materially confused by the publication of different versions created from the same basic material. The most important are summarised below, and in the relevant entries in the Chronology listing can be found by a numbered asterisk (\*1, etc).

- 1 The books entitled *The Prince and Betty* which were published in the UK and the USA are substantially different novels and treated as such in the Chronology listing. For the avoidance of doubt, although the USA version incorporated a significant part of the plot of the earlier *Psmith Journalist*, that book is also properly regarded as a different novel.
- 2 The novel *A Gentleman of Leisure* was published in 1910. In 1909 a novella entitled *The Gem Collector*, which was obviously used as the inspiration for that novel, had been published in an American journal, but has not been published in book form within our criteria.
- 3 Four stories featuring Jeeves and Bertie Wooster which appeared in the collection *My Man Jeeves* were rewritten to a greater or lesser extent before also being included in the collection *Carry On, Jeeves*, the title of *Leave It To Jeeves* being changed to *The Artistic Career of Corky*. In addition, *Helping Freddie* was rewritten as a Jeeves and Wooster story *Fixing It For Freddie* for inclusion in *Carry On, Jeeves*. All five have been marked with a \*3 in the Chronology listing.
- 4 The novella *The Eighteen Carat Kid* was serialised in a UK magazine in 1913, a few months before the publication of *The Little Nugget*, a full-length novel into which it is incorporated. Since it has not been separately published in book form within our criteria it is not included separately in the Chronology listing.
- 5 A novel entitled *The White Hope* was published in a single edition of an American magazine in 1914. It was then published in book form in 1919 in the UK as *The Coming of*

*Bill*. Since the two texts are almost identical, both appearances have been included in the Chronology listing.

- 6 Two books from the early 1920s, *The Inimitable Jeeves* (\*6a) and *The Indiscretions of Archie* (\*6b), are best described as ‘Episodic Novels’, each having been crafted by Wodehouse from a series of short stories published in magazines. The chronological order of publication of the stories differed from the order in which they appeared in the books, and in some cases small changes were made to the detail of the plot in order to create the ‘feel’ of a novel in the book format. Likewise, the title of the short story is not always the title of the relevant chapter in the book, especially as each story might absorb between one and four chapters. For these two books, therefore, reference has been made in the Chronology not to the individual titles of the magazine short stories but (in *italics*) to the chapter numbers in which they appear in the UK edition of the relevant book. It should be noted in passing that significant revisions were made to the text of one story (*Pearls Means Tears*) before it was incorporated into *The Inimitable Jeeves* but, when it was included in *The Jeeves Omnibus*, it reverted to more or less the original text.
- 7 The printed serialisation of *The Luck of the Bodkins* was significantly shorter than the version originally submitted for publication. The UK book published in 1935 contains the full original text, while the US book of the following year has the shorter magazine text. In the Chronology, only the UK book publication has been included.
- 8 *Laughing Gas* was originally written as a novella and serialised in 1935, but never published as a book in that form. The rewritten and much longer book version published in 1936 is sufficiently different to require the earlier serialised novella to be omitted from the Chronology listing.

- 9 The text of *Uncle Fred in the Springtime* was also significantly shortened from the original draft for US magazine publication, by eliminating two major characters. Both the UK and US books, published in 1939, contains the full original text.
- 10 A highly complicated tale surrounds a 1947 short story, *Joy Bells for Barmy* (published only in an American magazine), its evolution from the 1939 story *Dudley is Back to Normal* (published in a UK magazine), its substantial incorporation into the 1952 novel *Barmy in Wonderland* and its eventual revision into a new story, with the title *The Right Approach*, which was again published in magazines (first in 1958), before inclusion in the 1959 collection *A Few Quick Ones*. In an attempt to keep matters simple, apart from *Barmy in Wonderland*, only the 1958 magazine appearance and the 1959 book collection are included in the Chronology listing.
- 11 The short story *Big Business* was first published in 1952 in magazine form, but was substantially revised for book publication in *A Few Quick Ones* in 1959. Accordingly, the magazine version is not referred to in the Chronology listing.
- 12 Many novels published after the Second World War appeared in substantially abridged form in magazines, often being completed in only one or two issues. These abridged versions are somewhat irrelevant to this Chronology, as the texts are generally inadequate and in many cases the magazine version did not appear until *after* the novel had been published in book form. Consequently these abridged serialisations have been completely excluded from the Chronology.
- 13 The stories listed in the second column were not published in magazines but appeared for the first time in *Nothing Serious* or *Plum Pie*, as the case may be.

## The Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse Fiction

**Note:** In this Chronology, asterisked numbers (\*1) refer to the notes under the heading ‘Unusual Situations’ above.

The titles of **Novels** are printed in a **bold italic font**.

The titles of **serialisations of Novels** are printed in a **bold roman font**.

The titles of Short Stories are printed in a plain roman font.

The titles of Books of Collections of Short Stories are printed in italics and underlined in the first column, and in *italics*, without being underlined, when cited in the last column.

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	<i>Relevant Collection [Novel]</i>
<b>1901</b>			
	SC	The Prize Poem	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	L’Affaire Uncle John	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	Author!	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
<b>1902</b>			
	SC	<b>The Pothunters</b>	<b><i>The Pothunters</i></b>
	SC	The Babe and the Dragon	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	“The Tabby Terror”	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	Bradshaw’s Little Story	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	The Odd Trick	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
	SC	<b><i>The Pothunters</i></b>	
	SC	How Payne Bucked Up	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i> (1903)
<b>1903</b>			
	SC	Harrison’s Slight Error	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i>
	SC	How Pillingshot Scored	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i>
	SC	The Manoeuvres of Charteris	<i>Tales of St Austin's</i>
	SC	<b><i>A Prefect’s Uncle</i></b>	
	SC	<b>The Gold Bat</b>	<b><i>The Gold Bat</i></b> (1904)
	SC	A Shocking Affair	
	SC	<u><i>Tales of St Austin's</i></u>	

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
<b>1904</b>	SC SC <b><i>The Gold Bat</i></b> <b><i>William Tell Told Again</i></b>	<b>The Head of Kay's</b>	<b><i>The Head of Kay's</i></b> (1905)
<b>1905</b>	SC SC <b><i>The Head of Kay's</i></b>	<b>The White Feather</b>	<b><i>The White Feather</i></b> (1907)
<b>1906</b>	UK <b><i>Love Among the Chickens</i></b>		
<b>1907</b>	SC SC <b><i>The White Feather</i></b> <b><i>Not George Washington</i></b>	<b>Jackson Junior</b>	<b><i>Mike</i></b> (first half) (1909)
<b>1908</b>	PS,SC PS	<b>The Lost Lambs</b> <b>The New Fold</b>	<b><i>Mike</i></b> (second half) (1909) <b><i>Psmith in the City</i></b> (1910)
<b>1909</b>	<b><i>The Swoop</i></b> PS <b><i>Mike</i></b>	Out of School <b>Psmith, Journalist *1</b> In Alcalá	<b><i>The Man Upstairs</i></b> (1914) <b><i>Psmith, Journalist</i></b> (1915) <b><i>The Man Upstairs</i></b> (1914)
<b>1910</b>		The Man, The Maid and The Miasma The Good Angel The Man Upstairs	<b><i>The Man Upstairs</i></b> (1914) <b><i>The Man Upstairs</i></b> (1914) <b><i>The Man Upstairs</i></b> (1914)

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
(1910)		Archibald's Benefit Rough-Hew Them How We Will Deep Waters	<i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914)
	<b><i>A Gentleman of Leisure</i> *2</b>		
	PS <b><i>Psmith in the City</i></b>	By Advice of Counsel The Goalkeeper and the Plutocrat	<i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914)
		Ahead of Schedule When Doctors Disagree	<i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914)
1911			
	[JW]	Absent Treatment Three from Dunsterville Helping Freddie Pots O' Money	<i>My Man Jeeves</i> (1919) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>My Man Jeeves</i> *3 (1919) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914)
1912			
	<b><i>The Prince and Betty (US)</i> *1</b> <b><i>The Prince and Betty (UK)</i> *1</b>		
		The Man who Disliked Cats Sir Agravaire Ruth in Exile The Tuppenny Millionaire Rallying Round Old George	<i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>My Man Jeeves</i> (1919)
1913			
	SC <b><i>The Little Nugget</i> *4</b>	Something to Worry About Doing Clarence a Bit of Good	<i>The Man Upstairs</i> (1914) <i>My Man Jeeves</i> (1919)

Published Novel [Collection]

Published Short Story [Serial]

*Relevant Collection [Novel]*

1914

*The Man Upstairs*

**The White Hope \*5**

Crowned Heads  
One Touch of Nature  
A Sea of Troubles

***The Coming of Bill*** (1919)

*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

1915

BC

The Romance of an Ugly Policeman  
Bill the Bloodhound  
The Making of Mac's

*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

**Something New**

Black For Luck  
Wilton's Holiday  
At Geisenheimer's

***Something Fresh***

*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

BC

***Something Fresh***

JW

Extricating Young Gussie

*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

PS

***Psmith, Journalist\*1***

The Mixer 1 – He Meets a Shy Gentleman  
The Mixer 2 – He Moves in Society

*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

**Uneasy Money**

***Uneasy Money*** (1916)

1916

JW

Leave it to Jeeves  
The Man with Two Left Feet

*My Man Jeeves\*3* (1919)  
*The Man with Two Left Feet* (1917)

***Uneasy Money***

JW

The Aunt and the Sluggard

*My Man Jeeves\*3* (1919)

**Piccadilly Jim**

***Piccadilly Jim*** (1917)

JW

Jeeves Takes Charge

*Carry On, Jeeves* (1925)

JW

Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest

*My Man Jeeves\*3* (1919)



	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
1917			
	<b><i>Piccadilly Jim</i></b> <u><i>The Man with Two Left Feet</i></u>		
	JW	Jeeves and the Hard-Boiled Egg	<i>My Man Jeeves</i> *3 (1919)
1918			
	JW	<i>Chapters 9-10</i> *6a	<i>The Inimitable Jeeves</i> (1923)
1919			
	OM	<b>A Damsel in Distress</b> A Woman is Only a Woman	<b><i>A Damsel in Distress</i></b> <i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i> (1922)
	JW	<u><i>My Man Jeeves</i></u> *3 <b><i>The Coming of Bill</i></b> *5 <b><i>A Damsel in Distress</i></b>	
	OM	Ordeal By Golf	<i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i> (1922)
1920			
		<i>Chapters 1-4</i> *6b <i>Chapters 18,20</i> *6b	<b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921) <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921)
		<b>The Little Warrior</b> <i>Chapters 7-8</i> *6b <i>Chapters 9-11</i> *6b	<b><i>Jill the Reckless</i></b> <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921) <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921)
	OM	A Mixed Threesome <i>Chapters 17,19</i> *6b <i>Chapters 21-22</i> *6b <i>Chapters 12-13</i> *6b <i>Chapters 14-15</i> *6b	<i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i> (1922) <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921) <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921) <b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921)
	OM	The Rough Stuff	<b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921) <i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i> (1922)
	<b><i>Jill the Reckless</i></b>	<i>Chapters 23-24</i> *6b	<b><i>Indiscretions of Archie</i></b> (1921)
	OM	Sundered Hearts	<i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i> (1922)

Published Novel [Collection]

Published Short Story [Serial]

*Relevant Collection [Novel]*

1921

***Indiscretions of Archie*** \*6b

OM

OM

OM

OM

OM

JW,BL

*Chapters 5-6* \*6b

*Chapters 25-26* \*6b

**Three Man and a Maid**

The Coming of Gowf

The Salvation of George Mackintosh

The Long Hole

The Clicking of Cuthbert

**The Adventures of Sally**

The Heel of Achilles

*Chapters 1-2* \*6a

***Indiscretions of Archie***

***Indiscretions of Archie***

***The Girl on the Boat*** (1922)

*The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922)

*The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922)

*The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922)

*The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922)

***The Adventures of Sally*** (1922)

*The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

1922

*The Clicking of Cuthbert*

JW,BL

JW

***The Girl on the Boat***

JW

JW,BL

JW,BL

JW,BL

JW

JW,BL

***The Adventures of Sally***

JW

JW,BL

OM

*Chapters 5-6* \*6a

*Chapters 7-8* \*6a

*Chapters 3-4* \*6a

*Chapters 11-12* \*6a

*Chapter 13* \*6a

*Chapter 14* \*6a

Bertie Changes His Mind

*Chapter 15* \*6a

*Chapter 16* \*6a

*Chapters 17-18* \*6a

The Magic Plus Fours

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*Carry On, Jeeves* (1925)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)

*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)

Published Novel [Collection]

Published Short Story [Serial]

*Relevant Collection [Novel]*

**1923**

OM  
BC,PS  
UK  
UK

*The Inimitable Jeeves* \*6a

UK  
UK  
OM  
UK  
UK  
OM  
UK  
BC,PS  
UK  
UK

***Leave It To Psmith***

The Awakening of Rollo Podmarsh  
**Leave It To Psmith**  
Ukridge's Dog College  
Ukridge's Accident Syndicate

The Debut of Battling Billson  
First Aid for Dora  
Chester Forgets Himself  
The Return of Battling Billson  
Ukridge Sees Her Through  
The Heart of a Goof  
No Wedding Bells for Him

The Long Arm of Looney Coote  
The Exit of Battling Billson

*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)  
***Leave It To Psmith***  
*Ukridge* (1924)  
*Ukridge* (1924)

*Ukridge* (1924)  
*Ukridge* (1924)  
*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)  
*Ukridge* (1924)  
*Ukridge* (1924)  
*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)  
*Ukridge* (1924)

*Ukridge* (1924)  
*Ukridge* (1924)

**1924**

UK  
OM  
  
JW  
OM  
BC

*Ukridge*

***Bill the Conqueror***

MM

Ukridge Rounds a Nasty Corner  
Rodney Fails to Qualify  
**Bill the Conqueror**

The Rummy Affair of Old Biffy  
Jane Gets Off the Fairway  
The Custody of the Pumpkin

Something Squishy

*Ukridge*  
*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)  
***Bill the Conqueror***  
  
*Carry On, Jeeves* (1925)  
*The Heart of a Goof* (1926)  
*Blandings Castle & Elsewhere* (1935)

*Mr Mulliner Speaking* (1929)

**1925**

MM  
JW,BL

Honeysuckle Cottage  
Clustering Round Young Bingo

*Meet Mr Mulliner* (1927)  
*Carry On, Jeeves*

	<b>Published Novel [<u>Collection</u>]</b>	<b>Published Short Story [Serial]</b>	<b>Relevant Collection [Novel]</b>
<b>(1925)</b>	MM JW,BL	The Awful Gladness of the Mater Without the Option	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i> (1929) <i>Carry On, Jeeves</i>
	OM OM	<b>Sam in the Suburbs</b> The Purification of Rodney Spelvin High Stakes Fixing it for Freddie	<b><i>Sam the Sudden</i></b> <i>The Heart of a Goof</i> (1926) <i>The Heart of a Goof</i> (1926)
	<u><i>Carry On, Jeeves</i></u> <b><i>Sam the Sudden</i></b>		
	UKR UKR	Buttercup Day A Bit of Luck for Mabel	<i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940) <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940)
<b>1926</b>			
	OM JW	Mr Potter Takes a Rest Cure Keeping in with Vosper The Inferiority Complex of Old Sippy	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935) <i>The Heart of a Goof</i> <i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
	<u><i>The Heart of a Goof</i></u>		
	UK BC MM MM MM	The Level Business Head Lord Emsworth Acts for the Best The Truth About George A Slice of Life Mulliner's Buck-U-Uppo	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937) <i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935) <i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i> (1927) <i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i> (1927) <i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i> (1927)
	JW,BL	<b>The Small Bachelor</b> Jeeves and the Impending Doom	<b><i>The Small Bachelor</i></b> (1927) <i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
<b>1927</b>			
	MM	The Romance of a Bulb-Squeezer	<i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i>
	<b><i>The Small Bachelor</i></b>		
	MM MM, OM	The Story of William Those in Peril on the Tee	<i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i> <i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i> (1929)
	MM BC MM	Came the Dawn Fig-Hoo-o-o-o-ey! The Bishop's Move	<i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i> <i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935) <i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i>

	<b>Published Novel [<u>Collection</u>]</b>	<b>Published Short Story [Serial]</b>	<b>Relevant Collection [Novel]</b>
<b>(1927)</b>	MM <i><u>Meet Mr Mulliner</u></i>	Portrait of a Disciplinarian	<i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i>
	JW	Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
<b>1928</b>			
	UK <b><i>Money for Nothing</i></b>	<b>Money for Nothing</b> Ukridge and the Old Stepper	<b>Money for Nothing</b> <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940)
	MM	The Passing of Ambrose	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i> (1929)
	MM	The Reverent Wooing of Archibald	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i> (1929)
	BC	Company for Gertrude	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	BC	Lord Emsworth and the Girl Friend	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	MM	The Ordeal of Osbert Mulliner	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i> (1929)
<b>1929</b>			
	MM	Unpleasantness at Bludleigh Court	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i>
	MM	The Man Who Gave Up Smoking	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i>
	BC <i><u>Mr Mulliner Speaking</u></i>	<b>Summer Lightning</b>	<b>Summer Lightning</b>
	MM	The Story of Cedric	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i>
	BC <b><i>Summer Lightning</i></b>		
	JW	Jeeves and the Song of Songs	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
	JW	Episode of the Dog McIntosh	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
	JW	The Love That Purifies	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
	JW	The Spot of Art	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i> (1930)
<b>1930</b>			
	JW	Jeeves and the Kid Clementina	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i>
	JW,BL	Jeeves and the Old School Chum	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i>
	JW	Indian Summer of an Uncle	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i>
	JW	The Ordeal of Young Tuppy	<i>Very Good, Jeeves</i>
	MM	Gala Night	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
(1930)	MM <u>Very Good, Jeeves</u>	Best Seller	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
		<b>Big Money</b>	<b>Big Money</b>
1931			
	<b>Big Money</b>	<b>Doctor Sally</b>	<b>Doctor Sally</b>
	UK	Ukridge and the Home from Home	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
	BC	The Go-Getter	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
		<b>If I Were You</b>	<b>If I Were You</b>
	MM	The Knightly Quest of Mervyn	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	FW	Fate	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	<b>If I Were You</b>		
	MM	The Smile That Wins	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	MM	The Voice from the Past	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	MM	Strychnine in the Soup	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
1932			
	MM	The Story of Webster	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	MM	Cats Will Be Cats	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	MM	Open House	<i>Mulliner Nights</i> (1933)
	<b>Doctor Sally</b>		
	<b>Hot Water</b>	<b>Hot Water</b>	<b>Hot Water</b>
	MM	Monkey Business	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
1933			
	<u>Mulliner Nights</u>		
	MM	The Nodder	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	MM	The Juice of an Orange	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	MM	The Rise of Minna Nordstrom	<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	BC	<b>Heavy Weather</b>	<b>Heavy Weather</b>

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
<b>(1933)</b>	MM		
	BC		<i>Blandings Castle and Elsewhere</i> (1935)
	JW	<b>Heavy Weather</b>	
	MM		<b>Thank You, Jeeves</b> (1934)
	JW		<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
<b>1934</b>		The Castaways	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	JW	<b>Thank You, Jeeves</b>	
	FW	The Amazing Hat Mystery	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	JW	The Luck of the Stiffhams	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	MM	<b>Right Ho, Jeeves</b>	<b>Right Ho, Jeeves</b> (1934)
<b>1935</b>		Noblesse Oblige	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	JW	<b>Thank You, Jeeves</b>	
	FW		<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	JW	<b>Right Ho, Jeeves</b>	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	MM		<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
<b>1935</b>	MM	The Code of the Mulliners	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	FW	Trouble Down at Tudsleigh	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	UK	The Come-back of Battling Billson	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
	UF	Uncle Fred Flits By	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
	OM	Farewell to Legs	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
		<b>The Luck of the Bodkins *7</b>	<b>The Luck of the Bodkins</b>
	MM	Archibald and the Masses	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
		Tried in the Furnace	<i>Young Men in Spats</i> (1936)
		<b>The Luck of the Bodkins *7</b>	
<b>1936</b>			
	OM	The Letter of the Law	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
	OM	There's Always Golf	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
	<u><i>Young Men in Spats</i></u>		
MM		Buried Treasure	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
	<b>Laughing Gas *8</b>		

	<b>Published Novel [<u>Collection</u>]</b>	<b>Published Short Story [Serial]</b>	<b>Relevant Collection [Novel]</b>
<b>(1936)</b>	BC FW	The Crime Wave at Blandings The Masked Troubadour	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937) <i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> (1937)
<b>1937</b>	BL  <i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i> BL MM	All's Well with Bingo Romance at Droitgate Spa  Bingo and the Peke Crisis Anselm Gets His Chance <b>Summer Moonshine</b>	<i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940) <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940)  <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940) <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940) <b>Summer Moonshine</b>
<b>1938</b>	JW JW <b><i>The Code of the Woosters</i></b>	<b>The Code of the Woosters</b>	<b><i>The Code of the Woosters</i></b>
<b>1939</b>	BL BC,UF BL FW <b><i>Uncle Fred in the Springtime</i> *9</b>	The Editor Regrets  Sonny Boy Bramley is So Bracing	<i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940)  <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i> (1940) <i>Nothing Serious</i>
<b>1940</b>	OM  <i>Eggs, Beans and Crumpets</i>  BL <b><i>Quick Service</i></b>	Scratch Man  <b>Quick Service</b> The Word in Season	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)  <b><i>Quick Service</i></b> <i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
<b>1941</b>		<b>Money in the Bank</b>	<b><i>Money in the Bank</i></b> (1942)



Published Novel [Collection]

## Published Short Story [Serial]

*Relevant Collection [Novel]*

1942

***Money in the Bank***

1943 to 1945: NO NEW PUBLICATIONS

1946

JW ***Joy in the Morning***

1947

BC ***Full Moon***

1948

UK Success Story  
***Spring Fever****Nothing Serious* (1950)

OM Excelsior

*Nothing Serious* (1950)

OM Tangled Hearts

*Nothing Serious* (1950)UF ***Uncle Dynamite***

1949

OM Rodney Has a Relapse

*Nothing Serious* (1950)JW ***The Mating Season***

FW Oofy, Freddie and the Beef Trust

*A Few Quick Ones* (1959)

1950

BC Birth of a Salesman

*Nothing Serious*

OM Feet of Clay

*Nothing Serious***Phipps to the Rescue*****The Old Reliable*** (1951)BL *Nothing Serious*The Shadow Passes  
How's That, Umpire?  
Up From the Depths

OM

1951

***The Old Reliable***

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
<b>1952</b>			
	<b><i>Barmy in Wonderland</i> *10</b>		
	BC <b><i>Pigs Have Wings</i></b>		
<b>1953</b>			
	JW <b><i>Ring for Jeeves</i></b>		
<b>1954</b>			
	JW <b><i>Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit</i></b>		
<b>1955</b>			
	UK	A Tithe for Charity	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
		<b>French Leave</b>	<b><i>French Leave</i></b> (1956)
<b>1956</b>			
	<b><i>French Leave</i></b>		
	OM	<b>Something Fishy</b>	<b><i>Something Fishy</i></b> (1957)
		Joy Bells for Walter	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
<b>1957</b>			
	<b><i>Something Fishy</i></b>		
<b>1958</b>			
	UF <b><i>Cocktail Time</i></b>		
	JW	Jeeves Makes an Omelette	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
	MM	The Right Approach *10	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
	FW	The Fat of the Land	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i> (1959)
<b>1959</b>			
		Leave It to Algy	<i>A Few Quick Ones</i>
		Unpleasantness at Kozy Kot	(US edition only) – <i>A Few Quick Ones</i>
	<u><i>A Few Quick Ones</i></u> *10 *11	Big Business *11	

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	Relevant Collection [Novel]
<b>1959</b>		<b>How Right You Are, Jeeves</b>	<b><i>Jeeves in the Offing</i></b> (1960)
<b>1960</b>	MM JW <b><i>Jeeves in the Offing</i></b>	From a Detective's Notebook	<i>The World of Mr Mulliner</i> (1972)
<b>1961</b>	FW BC,UF <b><i>Ice in the Bedroom</i></b> <b><i>Service with a Smile</i></b>		
<b>1962</b>	<b>NO NEW PUBLICATIONS</b>		
<b>1963</b>	JW <b><i>Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves</i></b>		
<b>1964</b>	BC <b><i>Frozen Assets</i></b> <b><i>Galahad at Blandings</i></b>		
<b>1965</b>	BL BL OM JW	Bingo Bans the Bomb Stylish Stouts Sleepy Time Jeeves and the Greasy Bird	<i>Plum Pie</i> (1966) <i>Plum Pie</i> (1966) <i>Plum Pie</i> (1966) <i>Plum Pie</i> (1966)
<b>1966</b>	<u><i>Plum Pie</i></u>	Sticky Wicket at Blandings Life with Freddie Ukridge Starts a Bank Account George and Alfred A Good Cigar is a Smoke	
<b>1967</b>	<b><i>Company for Henry</i></b>		

	Published Novel [ <u>Collection</u> ]	Published Short Story [Serial]	<i>Relevant Collection [Novel]</i>
<b>1968</b>			
	<b><i>Do Butlers Burgle Banks?</i></b>		
	MM	Another Christmas Carol	<i>The World of Mr Mulliner</i> (1972)
<b>1969</b>			
	BC <b><i>A Pelican at Blandings</i></b>		
<b>1970</b>			
	<b><i>The Girl in Blue</i></b>		
<b>1971</b>			
	JW <b><i>Much Obliged, Jeeves</i></b>		
<b>1972</b>			
	MM <u><i>The World of Mr Mulliner</i></u> (Omnibus) <b><i>Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin</i></b>		
<b>1973</b>			
	<b><i>Bachelors Anonymous</i></b>		
<b>1974</b>			
	JW <b><i>Aunts Aren't Gentlemen</i></b>		

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## Articles from *Wooster Sauce* providing further details on six aspects of the Chronology of Wodehouse's Fiction Writing

### 1 *Reggie and the Greasy Bird*

The short story *Reggie and the Greasy Bird*, which had appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* on 28 November 1936 was described by Wodehouse in a letter to William Townend of 28 December as being

‘. . . in that shape, rotten. I rewrote it like that because I had at last decided that I would start writing in America under another name, and then the tax matter was settled, and I sent it to the *Post* in that form, though knowing it was not so good.’

‘The tax matter’ to which he refers was a dispute with the US tax authorities of such intensity that the Internal Revenue Service had issued liens to his publishers requiring any payments to Wodehouse to be redirected to the IRS. As was to be proved by a series of court decisions, neither party had interpreted all the relevant disputed tax laws correctly (and Wodehouse came out in rather the better position at the end of the day), but the imposition of this lien had an immediate and drastic impact on his cash flow from United States sources. At the time he was used to receiving approximately \$ 40,000 per serialised novel, and \$ 4,000 per short story.

While the legal arguments were batted to and fro, he considered ways of circumventing the problem, and as he wrote to Townend, had concluded that he should submit stories under a pseudonym, in the hope that he would be able to receive immediate payment. Fortunately this unlikely concept never had to be tested, as the dispute was settled in August 1936.

Freddie Widgeon and other charismatic members of the Drones Club had been featured in a number of short stories, one of which was *The Masked Troubadour*, accepted by the *Strand Magazine* and eventually published in December 1936. Since its characters also included Barmy Fotheringay-Phipps, Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright and other names familiar to Wodehouse readers, there could be no question of submitting the story in that form to the *Saturday Evening Post* for publication under a pseudonym.

So Wodehouse had set about trying to keep the story funny (yet, even though ostensibly written by a first-time writer, so marketable as to be accepted by a hard-bitten US magazine editor), while being unrecognisable as coming from the pen of P G Wodehouse.

Some of his simple basic changes can be tabulated:

<i>Reggie and the Greasy Bird</i>	<i>The Masked Troubadour</i>
Algy Vining	Barmy Fotheringay-Phipps
Bingleton	Bottleton (a village)
Beano Bagshot	Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright
Mavis Jellaby	Dahlia Prenderby
Constance Rackstraw	Dora Pinfold
Junior Rotters Club	Drones Club
Percy (Algy's cousin)	Egbert (Barmy's cousin)
Reggie Mumford	Freddie Widgeon
Lady Rackstraw	Lady Pinfold
3rd Earl of Uppingham	Lord Blicester
a small greasy chap	a seedy individual
Sid Montrose	Waterbury

It is, of course, entirely in readers' hands whether they agree with the judgements of Wodehouse and Townend that in the form published in *Saturday Evening Post* the story was inferior. Certainly readers would have been unfamiliar with the members of the cast in the *SEP* version, which for many would have been a telling difference. But as the story anyway incorporated two themes previously used by Wodehouse, maybe the changes of character were not of critical importance. The use of those themes, though, would hardly be of assistance in his attempt to retain anonymity!

The fact remains, that a decision had to be made as to how to incorporate one or both of these stories into the *Chronology*. Since the *Reggie* version was never included in book form it did not qualify for inclusion – yet could there have been an explanatory note? It is clear from the length of this summary why no note was provided! So you will find *The Masked Troubadour* given its appropriate place in 1936, with a cross-reference to the short story collection *Lord Emsworth and Others*, the book in which it appeared in 1937.

## **2 *Later Development of the Stories in My Man Jeeves***

One of the *Special Situations* mentioned in Information Sheet 9 concerned several of the stories which appeared in *My Man Jeeves*. The purpose of this note is to provide more explanation as to how these stories developed than would have been possible in the space available in the *Chronology*.

Most readers will be aware that of the eight stories in that book, four related the adventures of Reggie Pepper and the other four represented almost the first appearances of Jeeves and Bertie Wooster. Five of the stories were wholly or partially rewritten for inclusion in the later Jeeves and Wooster collection *Carry On, Jeeves* (from which you will realise immediately that this included one of the Reggie Peppers), while two of the other Reggie Peppers were rewritten for other characters at a later date.

### **The four Jeeves and Wooster stories which appeared in both *My Man Jeeves* and *Carry On, Jeeves***

#### ***Leave it to Jeeves***

This was retitled *The Artistic Career of Corky* in *Carry On, Jeeves*. Its introductory pages were completely rewritten, but from then onwards the original text was fairly faithfully retained. Apart from the very last sentence, the only change seems to have been the omission of a line which was so good that Waterstone's made a publicity bookmark of it around 1997, without realising that its source book had not been in print for about sixty years!

The original text read:

I was so darned sorry for poor old Corky that I hadn't the heart to touch my breakfast. *I told Jeeves to drink it himself.*

But the second sentence (italics added) was omitted in *Carry On, Jeeves*. Presumably it was thought desirable to reduce the stress on an image of Bertie as a dissolute man-about-town, but it remains a lovely line.

#### ***Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest***

The original text remained largely untouched, the exception being the addition of a little more detail to the narrative in the early pages, the omission of a sentence or two later on, and the updating of the specific names of the hats which were in fashion.

### *Jeeves and the Hard-Boiled Egg*

Again the original text was largely retained, with just a handful of descriptive phrases or sentences omitted.

### *The Aunt and the Sluggard*

The story was augmented by the addition of rather more descriptive material for the *Carry On, Jeeves* version than had been the case for the previous two stories.

### **The Reggie Pepper story rewritten as a Jeeves and Wooster story for *Carry On, Jeeves* (1925)**

*Helping Freddie* was the original title of the 1911 story which became *Fixing it for Freddie* in the 1925 collection *Carry On, Jeeves*. Freddie Meadowes, rather than Freddie Bullivant, was the lovelorn friend whom Reggie Pepper wanted to help, and the love interest was completed by Angela West rather than Elizabeth Vickers. The revised version, in which it was, of course, Jeeves who coordinated the dénouement rather than Reggie's friend Jimmy Pinkerton, was very much longer, and the quality of the writing shows clearly how quickly Wodehouse's style had evolved during the previous decade.

### **The Reggie Pepper story whose plot was used for a Jeeves and Wooster Story in *A Few Quick Ones* (1959)**

If you read *Doing Clarence a Bit of Good* from *My Man Jeeves* you may realise that the plot is very similar to one which has been used a number of times by Wodehouse over the years. In particular, it was rewritten as the Jeeves and Wooster story *Jeeves Makes an Omelette*, and found its way into *Lilliput* in the UK and *Ellery Queen* in the US (under yet another title, *Jeeves and the Stolen Venus*) before being included in book form in *A Few Quick Ones*. It was also used as the basis of chapters 25 and 26 of *The Indiscretions of Archie*, with yet another cast, and the title *The Wigmore Venus*.

### **The Reggie Pepper story whose plot was used for a stage play in 1913 and rewritten as a Mulliner story for *Plum Pie* in 1966**

*Rallying Round Old George* was the title of the story as it appeared in *Strand Magazine* and in *My Man Jeeves*, but its American magazine title was *Brother Alfred*, and this was adopted as the title of the 1913 play starring Lawrence Grossmith which was presented at the Savoy Theatre in London's West End. The final version of the story, narrated by Mr Mulliner for the 1966 book collection *Plum Pie* and the January 1967 edition of the US *Playboy* magazine was *George and Alfred*.

### **3 *When is a Mulliner Story not a Mulliner Story?***

Another complication faced in constructing *A Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse Fiction* concerned the treatment of stories which were not necessarily narrated by Mr Mulliner in all their published formats, ie magazines and book collections in both the UK and America. Believe it or not, there were eight examples of stories which were only narrated by Mr Mulliner when published in book form in both the UK and the US, another which only became a Mulliner story in the US book version, and two more which were narrated by Mr Mulliner in each format *except* in the American magazine! This note provides details for which the *Chronology* had no space.

Three of the stories were first published even before Mr Mulliner made his first appearance in 1926 in the July issue of the UK *Strand* magazine and the 3 July issue of *Liberty* in America! Two of these were the first adventures of the delightful Bobbie Wickham, whose family relationship to Mr Mulliner was not disclosed until the appearance of the collection *Mr Mulliner Speaking* in 1929, by which time she had also been drawn into the purview of Bertie Wooster in *Jeeves and the Yuletide Spirit*.

And then there were two further post-war stories with a Mulliner variation which had even more complex bibliographical histories.

The following notes summarise very briefly, the changes made in the relevant stories:

***Something Squishy* (Saturday Evening Post 20 December 1924; Strand January 1925)**

The new introduction to the story in *Mr Mulliner Speaking* (1929), in which Mr Mulliner tells his friends at the Anglers' Rest of a visit he had paid to his cousin Lady Wickham, discloses that her major concern was that her daughter Roberta did not get married. This serves to provide a frame for the story, which otherwise is more-or-less unchanged from its earlier magazine version.

***Honeysuckle Cottage* (Saturday Evening Post 24 January 1925; Strand February 1925)**

The narrator of the original version was anonymous, but had heard the tale, like Mr Mulliner, from James Rodman. It was an eerie and stormy night when Rodman asked that narrator if he believed in ghosts, whereas in *Meet Mr Mulliner* (1927), in which it was the last story in the book, Mr Mulliner himself asked the same question of his assembled coterie at the Anglers' Rest. But after the first page or two, both versions merged into one.

***The Awful Gladness of the Mater* (Saturday Evening Post 21 March 1925; Strand May 1925)**

Pausing only to refresh his glass, Mr Mulliner narrated this story in *Mr Mulliner Speaking* immediately after his first tale about Bobbie Wickham. To enable him to do so, Wodehouse only had to amend about a page of text to make the original scene-setting appropriate to the new narrator.

***Those in Peril on the Tee* (Liberty 21 May 1927; Strand June 1927;)**

In its magazine versions, it was a story related by The Oldest Member, and there was no Mulliner relation within three niblick shots. It was included in the collection *Mr Mulliner Speaking* in both the UK and USA.

***The Passing of Ambrose* (Strand July 1928; Cosmopolitan August 1928)**

This story was converted into a Mulliner narrative by the simple expedient of adding '... (said Mr Mulliner) ...' into the text of the first paragraph of narrative! Quite obviously the publishers were anxious to complete the selection of nine stories for *Mr Mulliner Speaking*, and used the most rudimentary adaptation possible to convert another non-Mulliner tale into something usable.

***Best Seller* (Cosmopolitan June 1930; Strand July 1930)**

The magazine version of this story published in America did not have the Mulliner frame which was then used for the *Strand* version – but it was the *Strand* version which found its way into *Mulliner Nights* on each side of the Atlantic. *Cosmopolitan* evidently preferred an Americanised text, so the British Egbert Mulliner was renamed George Gossett, the location of his rest cure was Wissapehawkit Bay rather than Burwash Bay, and the name of Evangeline's publisher was Mainprice and Schwartz in the USA rather than Mainprice and Peabody.

***Quest* (Cosmopolitan April 1931; Strand July 1931), which became *The Knightly Quest of Mervyn* in *Mulliner Nights***

Both magazine versions of this story were told at the Drones Club about Freddie Widgeon, rather than at the Anglers' Rest about Mervyn Mulliner.

***The Rise of Minna Nordstrom* (Strand – April 1933; and as *A Star is Born* in *American March* 1933)**

As with *Best Seller*, the American magazine version ignored the possibilities of Mr Mulliner's narrative style. Admittedly, the Mulliner narrative, which did appear in the



UK's *Strand* magazine version, provided less detail than usual about the involvement of his relations in the plot, as he merely referred to the fact that "I have relatives and connections in Hollywood, as you know, and I learn much of the inner history of the studio world through these channels." He never claimed that Minna Nordstrom, née Vera Prebble, was an actual relation.

***Romance at Droitgate Spa (Saturday Evening Post 20 February 1937; Strand August 1937)***

Not generally regarded as a Mulliner story, this tale of Frederick Fitch-Fitch became one only when Mr Mulliner claimed him as 'a distant connection' for the somewhat individual American collection *The Crime Wave at Blandings*. The meat of the story is the same as in the UK book version (in *Eggs, Beans and Crumpets*) and the two magazine versions.

***Big Business (Colliers 13 December 1952; Lilliput March 1953)***

See the following essay for a full analysis of the changes in this story.

***The Right Approach (Lilliput September 1958; Playboy, January 1959)***

Again, a full analysis of the complicated history of this story will be provided in the fifth essay in this series

#### ***4 A Bigger Business than you Suspected***

There were two post-war stories which became 'Mulliner' narratives late in life of which the first was *Big Business*. This had originally appeared in the American *Colliers* magazine for 13 December 1952, and in the UK's *Lilliput* in March 1953.

The magazine version, which was almost identical in each of the two countries, had been written as a straight story, without the 'Mulliner' frame which it acquired later. As a result, there are significant differences between the magazine versions and the version in the 1959 collections *A Few Quick Ones*, partly in relation to the identity of the cast of characters, and partly due to the way the story is told.

For example the pronunciation of the title of the song *Ol' (or Old) Man River*, sung in triumph by Reggie Watson-Watson in the magazine version, was the subject of a dispute between a Small Bass and a Light Lager at the Anglers' Rest in the book version. This provided Mr Mulliner with the excuse to tell the tale, using Reginald Mulliner, his late brother's son, as the principal character. Still a Reggie, but of a different ilk.

Secondly, Wodehouse was more constrained for space in the magazine version, and did not explain in any detail how Reggie Watson-Watson learned about his inheritance of £20,000, merely starting the story:

When young Reggie Watson-Watson, last of the long line of Watson-Watsons of Lower Smattering on the Wissel, in the county of Worcestershire, inherited twenty thousand pounds from a distant relative in Australia . . .

By the end of the first paragraph, not only did Amanda Biffen, the girl he loved, know about his good fortune, but so did her uncle Jasper, also a Biffen.

By contrast, when the story was told by Mr Mulliner in *A Few Quick Ones*, there is a first page with the usual preliminary conversation between his acolytes at the Anglers' Rest, followed by a page and a half explaining in leisurely style

- a how Reginald Mulliner heard from a firm of solicitors, Watson, Watson, Watson, Watson and Watson, of Lincolns Inn Fields (at least the Watson motif was retained!), that he could hear something to his advantage;

- b how he travelled to London and learned that he had inherited £ 50,000 (note the impact of inflation between 1952 and 1959) from a deceased cousin in the Argentine (even the country changed);
- c how he telephoned Amanda Biffen; and
- d how she spoke to her uncle and guardian Sir Jasper Todd.

Both versions agree that the action is to take place at Lower Smattering-on-the-Wissel, though only the book version hyphenates the name. The choice of location is of interest. Mr Mulliner had previously told of the adventures there of his poet nephew Mordred who (in *The Fiery Wooing of Mordred* in *Young Men in Spats*) had been in love with Annabelle Sprockett-Sprockett, daughter of the impecunious owner of Smattering Hall.

There were the usual range of minor differences of which perhaps only one is worth mentioning. The evil Jasper Biffen had retired to a magnificent neo-Gothic, stockbroker-Tudor-style mansion named Dunrobin, whereas the equally unpleasant Sir Jasper Todd lived in the vast Tudor residence known as Wissel Hall.

And we should not overlook the fact that the story reveals the Christian name of the Rt Hon the Lord Knubble of Knopp, whose name is familiar from offstage mentions in the earlier Mulliner stories: *The Story of Cedric*, *The Smile That Wins* and *Open House*, and the golf story *Feet of Clay*. In *Big Business*, we learn for the first time that his name is Percy.

## 5 *The Right Approach – Eventually*

The short story *The Right Approach* is the second of the post-war stories whose complex history prior to its narration at the Anglers' Rest deserves a separate article of explanation. It was only in the 1959 collection *A Few Quick Ones* that Mr Mulliner was involved, although interestingly, the magazine version in *Lilliput* in September 1958 had Augustus Mulliner as a major character. However, in that version, the story was not narrated by Mr Mulliner himself.

Remarkably, three separate stories – and four magazine presentations in all – come together in *The Right Approach*, that in *Lilliput* being closest to the book version. They can be summarised as follows:

<i>Dudley is Back to Normal</i>	<i>Strand</i>	July 1940
<i>Joy Bells for Barmy</i>	<i>Cosmopolitan</i>	October 1947
<i>The Right Approach</i>	<i>Lilliput</i>	September 1958
<i>The Right Approach</i>	<i>Playboy</i>	January 1959

Perhaps the starting point of any analysis is to take the *Colliers* story, *Joy Bells for Barmy*, and reflect that the major characters in this story are Beatrice, (wife of Wilberforce Gudgeon), Hermione Brimble, Eustace (Barmy) Fotheringay-Phipps, Mervyn Potter, the dog Tulip and Bulstrode.

Barmy Fotheringay-Phipps is a Drone, (who with the alternative Christian name Cyril appeared in a number of short stories such as *Fate* and *Tried in the Furnace* (both in *Young Men in Spats*, 1936), in person or offstage in several novels in the Jeeves & Wooster saga and as the title character in *Barmy in Wonderland*).

Mervyn Potter is also a significant character in the latter novel, and indeed, *Joy Bells For Barmy* is largely incorporated into it as chapters 5 and 6. The dog Tulip has a starring role, and the language in many instances is very similar. In the novel, Barmy is 'Cyril' rather than 'Eustace', and is overcome with desire for Dinty Moore rather than Hermione Brimble.

She in turn is engaged to Mervyn Potter. There is no doubt that the chapters in the novel evolved from this short story.

It is now necessary to go back a further seven years to the *Strand* magazine of July 1940, and introduce into the equation the story *Dudley is Back to Normal*. This story was offered to *Saturday Evening Post* and rejected, and as Colliers were only prepared to offer \$ 750 instead of the more usual \$ 3,000 or so, Wodehouse wrote to his US agent, Paul Reynolds, on 26 June, 1939, saying that he would rather withdraw it:

If Colliers refuse it will you withdraw it from circulation. I may be able to get an idea for rewriting it. Perhaps it would be better as a story told at the Drones Club by the Crumpet. It may be significant that it is the only story I have written in years which is told as a straight story instead of being a yarn by Mr Mulliner or somebody.

*Dudley* had Bobbie Wickham as a key character, and as mentioned in the third essay in this series, her mother had previously been identified as a cousin of Mr Mulliner. *Dudley is Back to Normal* follows on from *The Awful Gladness of the Mater* (another Bobbie Wickham story which had later been converted into a Mulliner narrative) in which Dudley Finch, whilst under the influence (of Bobbie, not the sauce), had visited Skeldings Hall. While there, he had encountered Lady Wickham in circumstances which were not wholly conducive to producing the appropriate feelings of love and tenderness necessary for the development of a Wodehouse beau's romance. The tenderness was more likely to have been felt in his nether regions, he having had to escape from Skeldings using knotted sheets and landing in a lovely soft flowerbed along which at regular intervals were planted large bushes of a hard and spiky nature.

It is of little wonder that Dudley, left mulling over his wounded body and soul, was relieved to be going to Australia with his benefactor, Mr Sampson Broadhurst, away from female Wickhams of all shapes and sizes. But it is on his first visit back to the UK (complete with Australian fiancée Ellabelle) that he once again encountered his former love.

In a dress rehearsal for *Joy Bells For Barmy*, he was introduced to Bobbie's cousin Cuthbert Wickham (who plays the role later taken by Mervyn Potter, and, indeed, Oswald Stoker) and is treed by the dog Tulip. Even the house Balmoral, in Wimbledon Common, was used in both stories.

It is fairly evident that these two stories, neither of which had appeared in book collections, were plagiarised by Wodehouse first for the version of *The Right Approach* which was published in *Lilliput* in 1958, and, after being rewritten yet again, for *Playboy* in 1959. For once, the reason for a rewrite is susceptible to a relatively straightforward explanation. *Playboy's* policy was not to accept any contributions that had previously appeared anywhere in the world, so the *Lilliput* story could not be submitted to it for consideration in its original form.

Many of the changes from *Lilliput* to *Playboy* were in fact cosmetic, as indeed were the further alterations made to convert it from the *Lilliput* version to a traditional Mulliner story on its inclusion in the *A Few Quick Ones* collection.

The *Lilliput* and book versions both starred Augustus Mulliner (taking Barmy's role), Hermione Brimble, Beatrice (now Mrs Willoughby Gudgeon), Oswald Stoker (taking the Mervyn Potter role), Staniforth (equivalent to Bulstrode) and Russell Clutterbuck, the American publisher, the catalyst for the story's plot development. Tulip lost his name, and changed from a "large beige Tanganyika lion dog" to an anonymous dog "not unlike the Hound of the Baskervilles though not covered in phosphorous".

The *Lilliput* version has a neat ending, with Augustus and Hermione going off to find a few frogs which, together with a toad already in their possession, they considered might amuse the butler Staniforth. This scene was omitted from the *Playboy* version. Many of the other

changes in the *Playboy* version were merely in the names of some of the characters. Augustus Brattle replaced Augustus Mulliner in the lead role, and the love of his life became Evangeline Elphinstone-Golightly, whose mother was not named. She did, however, have a nephew Oswald Stoker, playing the same role as in *Lilliput*.

Russell Clutterbuck had retired, to be replaced as Augustus's employer by J Lester Clam of Lester Clam Inc, music publishers. (There is no evidence to suppose he was related to J Chichester Clam of Clam Line Inc fame in *Joy in the Morning*.)

We hope that readers will appreciate that not all these subtleties could have been easily explained in the main text of *A Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse*!

## 6 *The Episodic Novels*

This final essay providing additional explanations to entries in *The Simplified Chronology of P G Wodehouse* concerns his two 'episodic novels' *Indiscretions of Archie* and *The Inimitable Jeeves*. Virtually all the material which they include had previously appeared as self-standing stories in magazines on both sides of the Atlantic. But Wodehouse worked hard to adapt the individual stories as he thought necessary to create books which bore more features of novels than short story collections.

### *Indiscretions of Archie*

This book was made up of eleven short stories, all of which appeared in *Strand* in the UK, but oddly, only ten made the pages of *Cosmopolitan* in the USA. And equally strangely, the run in the *Strand*, from March 1920 to February 1921, did not include the Christmas issue, which instead featured the golf story *Sundered Hearts*.

The recommendation to members would be to read the book, rather than try to find all the individual magazines and piece together the stories in the form Wodehouse finally reached. By doing so, of course, you will not have the illustrations, but the story evolves in a well-constructed manner.

Apart from cosmetic changes to many of the individual episodes (most of which were turned into two chapters in the book) the most important creative aspect of Wodehouse's revision was to thoroughly combine the scenes of two of his original short stories, *Paving the Way for Mabel* and *Archie and the Sausage Chappie*, so that together they became the four chapters 17 to 20 in the book edition.

### *The Inimitable Jeeves*

This book was also made up from eleven short stories, four of which were included in the book in single chapters, while the other seven had two chapters each. This can be exceptionally confusing when trying to follow the history as, for example, the story *Aunt Agatha Takes the Count*, which first appeared in *Strand* in April 1922, was retitled *Aunt Agatha Makes a Bloomer* in *Cosmopolitan* six months later, and divided into two chapters, *Aunt Agatha Speaks Her Mind* and *Pearls Mean Tears* for the purposes of the book.

This particular story, also, was radically rewritten – for the better, in my opinion – for *The Inimitable Jeeves*. In the original magazine version, which was adopted for the 1931 *The Jeeves Omnibus* (and later short story omnibuses in the UK), Bertie went to Roville at Jeeves's suggestion to escape his Aunt's wrath after upsetting Sir Roderick Glossop, and he more-or-less fell in love with Aline Hemmingway at first sight and of his own volition. In that version, Aunt Agatha never met her, let alone promoted her as a suitable wife for Bertie, so when Jeeves retrieved Aunt Agatha's pearls from Aline's, possession their return was not accompanied by any second element of embarrassment on his Aunt's behalf.

Wodehouse hit upon the idea of strengthening the entire plot by having Aunt Agatha summon Bertie to Roville and, while there, to introduce him to Aline Hemmingway as a prospective bride she had found for him. At the end of this revised version, Bertie (through Jeeves's skills) was able to deal Aunt Agatha a double blow, not only by returning his Aunt's pearls but by stressing that it was Aline and her brother who had stolen them.

This change necessitated a revision in the order of appearance of the stories when *The Inimitable Jeeves* was published. *Aunt Agatha Takes the Count* (to give it its original title) was inserted before *Scoring Off Jeeves* and *Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch*, the two stories dealing with Bertie's potential romance with Honoria Glossop, each of which had appeared earlier in the magazines.

There follows a table showing (in the order of the stories as they appear in *The Inimitable Jeeves*):

- a the titles of the equivalent story in *Strand* and *Cosmopolitan* (or *Saturday Evening Post* in the case of) respectively; and
- b the titles and chapter numbers of the stories as they appear in *The Inimitable Jeeves* and *The Jeeves Omnibus*.

It should be noted, however, that chronologically *Jeeves and the Chump Cyril* was the first of these stories to be published (in 1918 – more than three years earlier than any of the others). Otherwise, the only part of *The Inimitable Jeeves* which is out of order, as explained above, is the revised story in chapters 3 and 4, originally *Aunt Agatha Takes the Count*.

<i>The Inimitable Jeeves</i>		<i>The Jeeves Omnibus</i>		<i>UK Magazine</i>	<i>US Magazine</i>
Ch	Title	Ch	Title	<i>Strand</i> Title	<i>Cosmopolitan</i> or [ <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> ] Title
1	<i>Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum</i>	2	<i>Jeeves in the Springtime</i>	<i>Jeeves in the Springtime</i>	<i>Jeeves in the Springtime</i>
2	<i>No Wedding Bells for Bingo</i>				
3	<i>Aunt Agatha Speaks Her Mind</i>	5	<i>Aunt Agatha Takes the Count</i>	<i>Aunt Agatha Takes the Count</i>	<i>Aunt Agatha Makes a Bloomer</i>
4	<i>Pearls Mean Tears</i>				
5	<i>The Pride of the Woosters is Wounded</i>	3	<i>Scoring Off Jeeves</i>	<i>Scoring Off Jeeves</i>	<i>Bertie Gets Even</i>
6	<i>The Hero's Reward</i>				
7	<i>Introducing Claude &amp; Eustace</i>	4	<i>Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch</i>	<i>Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch</i>	<i>Jeeves and the Blighter</i>
8	<i>Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch</i>				
9	<i>A Letter of Introduction</i>	7	<i>Jeeves and the Chump Cyril</i>	<i>Jeeves and the Chump Cyril</i>	<i>[Jeeves and the Chump Cyril]</i>
10	<i>Startling Dressiness of a Lift Attendant</i>				
1	<i>Comrade Bingo</i>	11	<i>Comrade Bingo</i>	<i>Comrade Bingo</i>	<i>Comrade Bingo</i>
2	<i>Bingo has a Bad Goodwood</i>				
3	<i>The Great Sermon Handicap</i>	12	<i>The Great Sermon Handicap</i>	<i>The Great Sermon Handicap</i>	<i>The Great Sermon Handicap</i>
14	<i>The Purity of the Turf</i>	13	<i>The Purity of the Turf</i>	<i>The Purity of the Turf</i>	<i>The Purity of the Turf</i>
15	<i>The Metropolitan Touch</i>	14	<i>The Metropolitan Touch</i>	<i>The Metropolitan Touch</i>	<i>The Metropolitan Touch</i>
16	<i>The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace</i>	15	<i>The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace</i>	<i>The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace</i>	<i>The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace</i>
17	<i>Bingo and the Little Woman</i>	16	<i>Bingo and the Little Woman</i>	<i>Bingo and the Little Woman</i>	<i>Bingo and the Little Woman</i>
18	<i>All's Well</i>				