



# BY THE WAY

Occasional Newsletters from The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

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## Wodehouse's Crooks – Part II

In this part of our review, we record the names of villains who committed a variety of offences. You may be surprised to see the name of Reginald Jeeves, but although one might excuse him from most of his minor transgressions, his use of a Mickey Finn, and his physical assault on a policeman, do at least require a mention.

The third part of this listing will appear in the June 2016 *By The Way*.

### Cooper, Alfred Duff

He, or someone using his name, was given fourteen days at Boshier Street for wading fully clothed into the fountains at Trafalgar Square.

*(The Mating Season)*

### Cootes, Eddie

A slim, young and graceful American with a dark, misleadingly intelligent face, who impersonated Ralston McTodd before acting as Psmith's valet and Aileen Peavey's sidekick. By profession he had been a card-sharp on transatlantic liners, working for three years in smooth harmony with Smooth Lizzie, but his narrow range of experience meant that he was unable to get away with Lady Constance's diamonds.

*(Leave It to Psmith)*

### Detroit Dora

Rather like Chicago Kate, she escaped Mr McGee's attention by not being the person he thought she was.

*(‘Mr McGee's Big Day’, uncollected)*

### Dick the Snatcher

A kidnapper well known to the police.

*(‘The Mixer: Breaking Into Society’,  
in The Man With Two Left Feet)*

### Donahue, ‘Plug’

Had taught Gordon Carlisle how to bust safes.

*(Hot Water)*

### Duplessis

The leader of a mob who operated on the Côte d'Azur in days gone by, one of whose members had been Horace Appleby.

*(Do Butlers Burgle Banks?)*

### Eddie

With Fred and George (*qv*) he was a member of an amateur kidnapping gang in Hollywood, assigned the task of kidnapping Joey Cooley as a publicity stunt.

*(Laughing Gas)*

### Evans, Llewellyn ‘Basher’

A member of the Appleby gang, he was an expert at opening safes and personally colossal in size, being impressively tall and bulging in every muscle.

*(Do Butlers Burgle Banks?)*

### Fauntleroy

A London murderer who killed a woman because she had thick ankles.

*(‘Death at the Excelsior’, uncollected)*

### Ferris

One of the crooks on the trail of the Luck Stone, he was an awful and awfully fat brute, with a deliberate moustache, who lost something of his cool when, after scrabbling his way through a thatched roof of a cottage loft in order to effect a kidnapping, he fell through its rotten planks.

*(The Luck Stone)*

### Finglass, Edward

A tall, thin, unlucky gentleman of fortune with a strong cast in the left eye who, after relieving the New Asiatic Bank, London, EC, of some two million dollars in bearer bonds, died in Buenos Aires before he could raise the cache.

*(Sam the Sudden)*

### Fisher, ‘Smooth’ Sam

A professional kidnapper, and trade rival of Buck MacGinnis, he first sought the ‘Little Nugget’ in New York in 1908, and returned to the chase at Sanstead House school, where he obtained a job as butler to the headmaster.

*(The Little Nugget)*

### Fisher, Bradbury

One of America's most promising tainted millionaires, he had a degree from Sing-Sing as student number 8,097,564.

*(‘High Stakes’ and ‘Keeping in with Vosper’,  
in The Heart of a Goof)*

**Frank**

An American gun-toting individual who joined the Appleby gang for the proposed raid on Bond's Bank. However, he was highly strung, and after taking over Charlie Yost's contract on Mike Bond, he shot Sergeant Potter instead.

*(Do Butlers Burgle Banks?)*

**Fred**

Along with Eddie and George (*qv*), he was part of the gang that was supposed to kidnap Joey Cooley, but after being subjected by Fred to a dose of chloroform, Joey declined to cooperate.

*(Laughing Gas)*

**Gedge, Julia**

She had started life as Julia, the best inside stand with whom Soup Slattery ever worked, but since leaving that partnership, she had married twice: initially to the now deceased Wilmot Brewster, from whom she had inherited many millions, and then to her husband of two years, J Wellington Gedge, who had responded to the shock by losing all his money. She tried to blackmail Senator Opal after receiving a misaddressed letter from him.

*(Hot Water)*

**George**

The gang of which he, together with Eddie and Fred (*qv*), was a member failed in their attempt to kidnap Joey Cooley when George put his gun down and Joey held them up instead.

*(Laughing Gas)*

**Graham, Herbert ('Billy')**

The king of the poachers in the area close to Maiden Eggesford. He was described as lissom, with the height and tonnage of a Fred Astaire, frank, blue eyes, and becoming grey hair. His voice was surprisingly musical, and perhaps it was even more surprising that he sat with the other tenors in the choir.

*(Aunts Aren't Gentlemen)*

**Gunn, Dora and Thomas**

Will be reported under the names Molloy, 'Dolly' and 'Soapy' in the next instalment.

**Hargate, Hon Louis**

A tall, thin, man with little conversation, tight lips, cold eyes, and a penchant, when not actually cheating, for indulging in sharp practice at piquet and billiards.

*(A Gentleman of Leisure)*

**Hemmingway, Rev. 'Soapy Sid'**

A con-man with a benevolent expression, pince-nez and a collar buttoned at the back, who found himself in possession of Aunt Agatha's pearl necklace.

*(The Inimitable Jeeves)*

**Hemmingway, Aline**

The alleged sister of the supposed Curate, she had been selected as Bertie's ideal bride by Aunt Agatha, who did not realise that Aline's fingers were as light as her morals were absent.

*(The Inimitable Jeeves)*

**Hoke, J Bernard**

One of those persons on the fringe of the crooked world of finance who eke out a precarious livelihood. He was essentially crooked, but lacked the self-confidence to carry his actions through to their natural conclusion, so his betrayal of the equally amoral T Paterson Frisby's trust by buying for himself the copper mine, the Dream Come True, did not end happily ever after.

*(Big Money)*

**Jarvis, 'Bat'**

The short, burly gang leader with an indescribable air of toughness owned a pet shop on Groome Street in the New York Bowery. His soft spot for cats put him on the side of the angels in at least one venture.

*(Psmith Journalist)*

**Jasper**

Shoeblossom was content to find that, true to the clue given by his Christian name that he would be evilly-intentioned, the character in a story who bore the name *had* killed an old gentleman in a wood, in order to steal his watch and pawn it.

*(The Gold Bat)*

**Jeeves, Reginald**

Though undoubtedly guilty of committing many criminal acts, ranging from conspiracy to engage in all sorts of illegal acts to committing assault on the person, burglary, and what would today be the crime of insider dealing, few PGW readers would include him in the top ten Wodehouse criminals.

*(Passim)*

**Jellaby, Sir Leopold, OBE**

A retired financier and noted philatelist, the squire of Rising Mattock, Hampshire's guiding principle in life was "Never give a sucker an even break".

*('Anselm Gets His Chance', in Eggs, Beans and Crumpets)*

**Joe the Dip**

A light-fingered colleague of Professor Appleby, whose face was apparently a mere incongruous collection of features carelessly assembled by an inexpert hand from the available store: the nose was designed for a smaller face, the chin jutted out like a cow catcher on a train, and the forehead was flanked by ears standing out at a magnificent angle.

*(Bill the Conqueror)*