



# BY THE WAY

Occasional Newsletters from The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

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## Wodehouse's Crooks – Part IV

### Prosser, Oofy

After being arrested for trying to throttle Soapy Molloy at Barribault's he was fined a mere £10 at Boshier Street Police Court.

*(Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin)*

### Ripley, Ferdinand

Known as 'Ferdie the Fly', this small member of the Appleby Gang was capable of climbing up the side of any house using nothing but his toes, fingers, and personal magnetism.

*(Do Butlers Burgle Banks)*

### Robb, Augustus

A former London safe-breaker who was engaged by Ellery Cobbold to chaperone a friend while he was in London. He reverted to type by claiming to have accidentally swallowed a rare unused Spanish stamp after storing it on his tongue for safekeeping. He couldn't have done so, of course, for its principal value arose from the fact that it still had the original gum, and if that was licked off, the value would have been diminished substantially even if it had not been swallowed.

*(Spring Fever)*

### Roberts

An armed burglar who assaulted a Detective Inspector who shared his surname.

*(The Pothunters)*

### Robinson, Herbert

A young man from Grove Road, Ponders End, who was jailed for stealing a pair of green and yellow check trousers.

*(Jeeves in the Offing)*

### Simmons, 'Horseface'

A man with a broken nose whom Paul Snyder helped to convict on a charge of robbery with violence.

*(‘The Education of Detective Oates’, uncollected)*

### Slattery, 'Soup'

A tough-looking, expert, American safe-blower who later sought to augment his income with stick-up work. Soup disliked breaking into safes in rooms occupied by women in view of the sex's propensity to scream, and

disliked equally being forced by householders on whom he had intruded to sit on windowsills for the night, for he was scared of heights.

*(Hot Water)*

### 'Spike'

A friend of Nutty Boyd who had been sent to jail since Nutty was last in New York

*(Uneasy Money)*

### Spinder

A temporary master at Marleigh, taking Haviland's place. His sense of morality did not qualify him for a responsible position in charge of the young. He was a thief from young and old alike, a liar, and greedy, which together devalued considerably his European reputation as an authority on the byways of Indian life and thought.

*(The Luck Stone)*

### Spink, Mervyn

Butler to the fifth Earl of Shortlands at Beever Castle, he let down the butting fraternity by twice dishonestly seeking to convert other people's property to his own use: a valuable stamp belonging to a member of his employer's family, and a cook belonging to his employer. Neither was he averse to blackmail, a thing no true butler would have even considered.

*(Spring Fever)*

### 'Stuttering Sam'

A 'curate' who walked off with the charitable donations and takings which Ukridge had so conscientiously collected on Buttercup Day for his own use.

*(‘Buttercup Day’ in Eggs, Beans and Crumpets)*

### Todd, Sir Jasper

Amanda Biffen's uncle and guardian, with the characteristic personality flaws of Wodehousean Jaspers. A retired financier, he refreshed his skills by plotting to relieve Reginald Mulliner of his newfound wealth.

*(‘Big Business’ in A Few Quick Ones)*

### Welch, Fanny

A pickpocket of high skill and the love of Freddy Mullett's life. She was a pretty little thing with snapping black eyes, a small face, slim shapely hands, and long,

sensitive fingers.

(*The Small Bachelor*)

**Wisbeach, 'Lord'**

Supposedly one of the Shropshire Wisbeaches, he was actually an imposter who went round with one overt pistol, one concealed one, and an oxyacetylene blowpipe.

(*Piccadilly Jim*)

**Wisdom, Cosmo**

A nephew of Sir Raymond Bastable, he had beady eyes, a little black moustache, an exaggerated sense of his own

importance, and a reputation of being a twister compared to whom corkscrews were straight and spiral staircases were the shortest line between two points.

(*Cocktail Time*)

**Yost, Charlie**

A Chicago gunman, formerly a member of the Appleby Gang, he had lost his position (and his share of the last job's earnings) for carrying a gun.

(*Do Butlers Burgle Banks*)

***Court Appearances of Bertie Wooster and His Friends***

Although many of those included in the table below have escaped being included in the main list, it is perhaps only fair to round off this series with a list of the known court appearances of Bertie Wooster, his friends, and his friends' friends, and note also the occasions on which they compounded their offences by giving a false name.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Story</b>
Bassington-Bassington, Cyril		Bail	'A Letter of Introduction'
Byles, Nannie	Vine St	Bail	'The Shadow Passes'
Chuffnell, Lord	Bow St		<i>Thank You, Jeeves</i>
Fink-Nottle, Gussie as <i>Alfred Duff Cooper</i>	Bosher St	14 days	<i>The Mating Season</i>
Fotheringay-Phipps, Barmy	Vine St		'The Word in Season' (in <i>Punch</i> )
Little, Bingo	Bosher St	£5 fine	'Bingo Bans the Bomb' (in <i>Argosy</i> )
Little, Bingo	Bosher St	Reprimand	'Bingo Bans the Bomb' in <i>Plum Pie</i>
Little, Bingo as <i>Ephraim Gadsby</i>	Bosher St		'The Word in Season' in <i>Punch</i>
Murgatroyd, Mabel	Bosher St	Reprimand	'Bingo Bans the Bomb'
Prosser, Oofy			'Leave It to Algy'
Rockaway, Kirk	Bosher St	14 days	'Stylish Stouts'
Rockaway, Kirk	Bosher St	14 days	'The Great Fat Uncle Contest'
Sipperley, Miss	(On three occasions)		'Without the Option'
Sipperley, Oliver as <i>Leon Trotzky</i>	Bosher St	30 days	'Without the Option'
Tottie	Vine St		<i>Joy in the Morning</i>
Wooster, Bertie	Bosher St	£5 fine	'Without the Option'
Wooster, Bertie	Bosher St	£5 fine	<i>The Code of the Woosters</i>
Wooster, Bertie as <i>Ephraim Gadsby</i>	Vinton St	£10 fine	<i>Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit</i>
Wooster, Bertie as <i>Eustace H Plimsoll</i>			<i>Thank You, Jeeves; Right Ho, Jeeves</i>
Wooster, Claude		Bail	'Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch'
Wooster, Eustace		Bail	'Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch'
Worplesdon, Lord	Vine St		<i>Joy in the Morning</i>

A certain licence has been taken in preparing this list. In particular, known instances of police bail have been included, while the kangaroo court operated at Tofleigh Towers by Sir Watkyn Bassett, which is not recognised, has been ignored; thus, Stiffy Byng, amongst others, has escaped our notice.

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