



BY THE WAY

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Painters and Painting – Part II

Our series of Wodehouse references to Painters and Paintings, both genuine artists and paintings, and fictional ones from the author's imagination, continues with further information about the painters he mentioned.

THE ARTISTS (continued)

Lely, Sir Peter (né Pieter van der Faes, 1618–1680)

A restoration painter whose portrait of the Countess of Marshmoreton was hung in the main hall at Belper Castle.

(A Damsel in Distress)

It was thought that he might have made a good job if he had been asked to paint a portrait of Beatrice Chavender.

(Quick Service)

Lister, Bill

A godson of Galahad Threepwood, he was in love with Prudence Garland and sought to be near her by visiting Blandings Castle under the pseudonym Messmore Breamworthy (see March 2017 issue of *By The Way*) and painting the Empress.

(Full Moon)

Matisse, Henri (1869–1954)

Mr Gish, of Gish Galleries, sold one of his paintings for about six times its real worth.

(Something Fishy)

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475–1564)

An illustrious artist and sculptor who is reputed to have had a tendency to demonstrate artistic temperament, as outlined by Lady Wetherby in describing the excesses of her husband (Algie, Lord Wetherby, the poorest Earl in England):

Just because he's got a studio, he thinks he has a right to be a sort of dopeless dope fiend, going up in the air if you speak to him suddenly and running about the place hitting snakes with teaspoons as if he were Michelangelo.

(Uneasy Money)

Despite his familiar name, it was suggested that he might have had difficulty in selling comic strips.

(Sunset at Blandings)

Muller, 'Paul' (1853–1930)

Either he or Jan Dircks (see March 2017 issue of *By The Way*) apparently made a copy of a Vermeer painting which could be found hanging at Shipley Hall. Both of them were said to be pupils of Van Meegeren, a leading copyist, but we are left wondering whether this Paul Muller was a real person. Peter Paul Muller, who has a similar name, lived from 1853 to 1930, but as he remained an artist of no little reputation or ability, he would not have been in the business of copying the work of others.

(Something Fishy)

Mulliner, Brancepeth

A penniless artist, he was commissioned to paint a portrait of Lord Bromborough. In an attempt to see his subject more clearly, he shaved off the prominent moustache which answered to the name 'Joyeuse', but his problems were exacerbated when, by accident, he erroneously shaved off 'Love in Idleness', the pride and joy of Sir Preston Potter. However, he grabbed the opportunity provided to him by his mistake, discovering the lucrative merits of a cartoon character named Ferdinand the Frog.

('Buried Treasure' from Lord Emsworth and Others)

Mulliner, Ignatius

A well-known portrait painter in Kensington.

*('The Man Who Gave Up Smoking'
from Mr Mulliner Speaking)*

Mulliner, Lancelot Don Juan Henry the Eighth

The son of Edward Mulliner, he had been brought up by his uncle, the Very Rev. Theodore Mulliner. He shocked the clerical relative by taking a studio in Bott Street, Chelsea. The Dean of Bolsover emphasized in a vibrant letter that a career as an artist must inevitably lead sooner or later to the painting of Russian princesses lying on divans in the semi-nude with their arms round tame jaguars.

('The Story of Webster' from Mulliner Nights)

Osbaldistone, Miss

A cubist painter who was described as a manly young woman, she called on Jane Packard for cigarettes or cocaine.

(‘Jane Gets Off the Fairway’
from *The Heart of a Goof*)

Painter, George

An amiable though relatively impecunious artist who met Lord Ickenham in the USA when both were young men.

(*Uncle Dynamite*)

Pendlebury, Gwladys

A Chelsea artist who impressed the susceptible heart of B. Wooster with her driving skills. Aunt Dahlia offered a warning to her nephew:

“Who is she?”

“A Miss Pendlebury. Christian name, Gwladys. She spells it with a ‘w’.”

“With a ‘g’, you mean.”

“With a ‘w’ and a ‘g’.”

“Not ‘Gwladys’?”

“That’s it.”

...

“. . . I can tell you a thing or two. And one of them is that no good can come of association with anything labelled Gwladys or Ysobel or Ethyl or Mabelle or Kathryn. But particularly Gwladys.”

Her portrait of Bertie was the basis for a poster exhibited on advertising sites nationwide, adapted by an artist unknown both to Bertie and to us. Since this was the only suggestion ever made that Bertie Wooster wore a monocle, we may assume that it was merely an example of artistic licence to increase the perceived appeal of the advertised product.

(‘The Spot of Art’ from *Very Good, Jeeves*)

Penway, Robert Dwight

A friend of Kirk Winfield who had been an artist before becoming over-fond of Brevoort café whisky, he agreed to teach Kirk the art of art on a commercial basis.

(*The Coming of Bill*)

Pilcher, Frederick

An eighteen-handicap artist who assessed Agnes Flack’s suitability as a model for a series of the Felix-the-Cat type of stories by goggling at her.

(‘Those in Peril on the Tee’
from *Mr Mulliner Speaking*)

Pim, Lucius

A strong, masterful Chelsea artist with wavy hair, five brothers, and a susceptibility to road accidents. He enjoyed his relaxed period of recuperation from his encounter with Gwladys Pendlebury’s car at the home of Bertie Wooster.

(‘The Spot of Art’ from *Very Good Jeeves*)

Potter, Loretta Ann

A Bohemian painter from Connecticut who married after a whirlwind romance of just three weeks.

(*French Leave*)

Pourbous

An artist locally famous for his likeness of Richard Longsword, which could be found adorning the walls of the drawing-room at Langley End, country seat of the Earls of Droitwich.

(*If I Were You*)

Priaulx, Jean

As a young man in Paris, he had intended to become an artist. His uncle, on whom he was dependent, had felt otherwise.

(‘The Man Who Disliked Cats’
from *The Man Upstairs*)

Quintin, Dante Gabriel

Living at Picasso Lodge, 41 Magnolia Road, St John’s Wood, and bearing the name he was christened with, he could scarcely have been anything but an artist. But his approach to life was far from *laissez-faire*, as he wrote to Mrs Bingo Little about her husband’s night of shame in his water barrel with Mabel Murgatroyd.

(‘The Word in Season’ from *A Few Quick Ones*)

Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio, 1483–1520)

A painter who was likely to have been startled if asked to draw a pavement picture

(‘When Doctors Disagree’ from *The Man Upstairs*)

Renoir, Pierre Auguste (1841–1919)

The Mr Gish of Gish’s Galleries, mentioned in the March 2017 issue of *By The Way*, expected to sell one of Renoir’s works from stock for \$ 100,000.

(*Something Fishy*)

Reynolds, Sir Joshua (1723–1792)

It was suggested that not only might he have enjoyed painting a portrait of Beatrice Chavender, but that he might have made a better job of it than did Joss Weatherby.

(*Quick Service*)