

# The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

Information Sheet Number 1

Revised December 2018

## Books by P G Wodehouse

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide a comprehensive 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.

Please note that the Society's listing does not include titles of books which have appeared since Wodehouse's death for which the Wodehouse Trustees did not give consent for publication. In some cases, this may be because the texts, for example short stories in a new compilation, are now in the public domain in the country of publication so that consent was not sought; in other cases, the publication may be wholly unofficial, in breach of copyright law and not necessarily in a format in which Wodehouse would recognise.

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 in the minutiae of their contents 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 It is not uncommon for reports in the media to double-count his output, eg by misusing the term 'novel' to include short story collections, and accordingly referring to 'more than 90 (or even 100) novels and 300 short stories', when any total number of books approaching 100 will already have to include the collections of short stories.
- 5 A decision has to be made on whether to include collections of stories first published in book form after Wodehouse's death, where previous appearances had only been in magazines.
- 6 A decision has to be made on whether to include the unfinished novel *Sunset at Blandings*.
- 7 A decision has to be made on whether to include individual short stories published in book form for individual or promotional reasons.
- 8 Different approaches can be taken to the problems caused by the books making up *Mike*, *The Prince and Betty* and *Psmith, Journalist*.
- 9 The implications of the discoveries of a serialised novelette based on *The Prince and Betty*, and a novelette version of *A Gentleman of Leisure*.

In each case, the title of the UK edition of the book is given first in the list. The information sheet divides the books into different types, gives the equivalent American title in brackets where it differs, 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	
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		<b>The Prince and Betty (UK version)</b>	4
1913	1914	The Little Nugget	
1915	1915	Something Fresh (Something New)	5
1915	1915	<b>Psmith, Journalist</b>	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	<b>The Adventures of Sally (Mostly Sally)</b>	
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	Hot Water	
1933	1933	Heavy Weather	
1934	1934	Thank You, Jeeves	
1934	1934	Right Ho, Jeeves (Brinkley Manor)	
1935	1936	The Luck of the Bodkins	7

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1936	1936	<b>Laughing Gas</b>	
1938	1937	Summer Moonshine	
<i>1938</i>	<i>1938</i>	<i>The Code of the Woosters</i>	
1939	1939	Uncle Fred in the Springtime	8
1940	1940	<b>Quick Service</b>	
1946	1942	Money in the Bank	
1947	1946	Joy in the Morning	
1947	1947	Full Moon	
<i>1948</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>Spring Fever</i>	
1948	1948	<b>Uncle Dynamite</b>	
1949	1949	<b>The Mating Season</b>	
1951	1951	<b>The Old Reliable</b>	
1952	1952	<b>Barmy in Wonderland (Angel Cake)</b>	9
1952	1952	Pigs Have Wings	
1953	1954	<b>Ring for Jeeves (The Return of Jeeves)</b>	
1954	1954	<b>Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit (Bertie Wooster Sees It Through)</b>	
1956	1959	<b>French Leave</b>	
1957	1957	<b>Something Fishy (The Butler Did It)</b>	
1958	1958	<b>Cocktail Time</b>	
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	<b>A Pelican at Blandings (No Nudes is Good Nudes)</b>	
1970	1971	<b>The Girl in Blue</b>	
<i>1971</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>Much Obliged, Jeeves (Jeeves and the Tie That Binds)</i>	
1972	1973	<b>Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin (The Plot that Thickened)</b>	
1973	1974	<b>Bachelors Anonymous</b>	
1974	1975	<b>Aunts Aren't Gentlemen (The Catnappers)</b>	

## 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 combined 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 versions of *The Prince and Betty* which were first serialised in both the UK and the US bore much greater resemblance to the text of the UK book text than that of the US book. A later serialisation in the US had greater emphasis on the US book text.
- The US book text combined parts of the plots of both *The Prince and Betty* and *Psmith, Journalist* and changed the names of some of the characters so that, for example, Psmith was renamed Smith. Because it was published before either of the two 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 original US title of *Something Fresh*, 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 many later editions (such as the 1972 paperback) used the UK text. They should be wary in particular of the version published in 2000 by Dover Books, which claimed to use the original US book text, but actually used a post-war UK text, omitting the extra scene.
- 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, and its second half incorporates much dialogue, from *The Butter and Egg Man* by George S Kaufman, to whom Wodehouse paid half his royalties.
- 10 The opening chapter of *Frozen Assets* is based on the first act of *Le Monsieur qui a perdu ses clés*, by the French author and playwright Michel Perrin, from whom Wodehouse acquired the necessary rights.

## NOVELS PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY (4)

<i>Date</i>		<i>Title</i>	<i>Note</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>		
1977	1978	Sunset at Blandings	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 first edition consisted of the extant text with annotations by Richard Osborne; later editions had additional annotations.
- 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 and shortened rewrite (in 1931) of the American version of *The Prince and Betty*. It had previously appeared only in the American *Illustrated Love 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.

## 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. Note that a similar approach was taken in preparing the stories included in the 1931 *Jeeves Omnibus* and the 1967 *The World of Jeeves* collections published in the UK.

<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 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.

### 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)

## 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	2
1997		Tales of Wrykyn and Elsewhere	2

### NOTES

- 1 This includes a number of examples of early journalism which cannot be described as stories.
- 2 These represent collections of stories (sometimes involving familiar characters) which had previously only appeared in magazine form.

## 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 with information concerning various letters added, in the American edition, *Author! Author!*
- 2 Many of the anecdotes in the US edition did not appear in the UK, and vice-versa.
- 3 Both editions were based largely on essays written for journals in the past but the two editions have their differences.

## ESSAYS, JOURNALISM and POETRY (4)

<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
2014		What Goes Around Comes Around	2

### 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.
- 2 This is an annotated collection of 100 verses, most of which had not previously appeared in book form

### 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
<b>1933</b>		<b>The Great Sermon Handicap</b>	
	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 protection reasons.

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