

BY THE WAY



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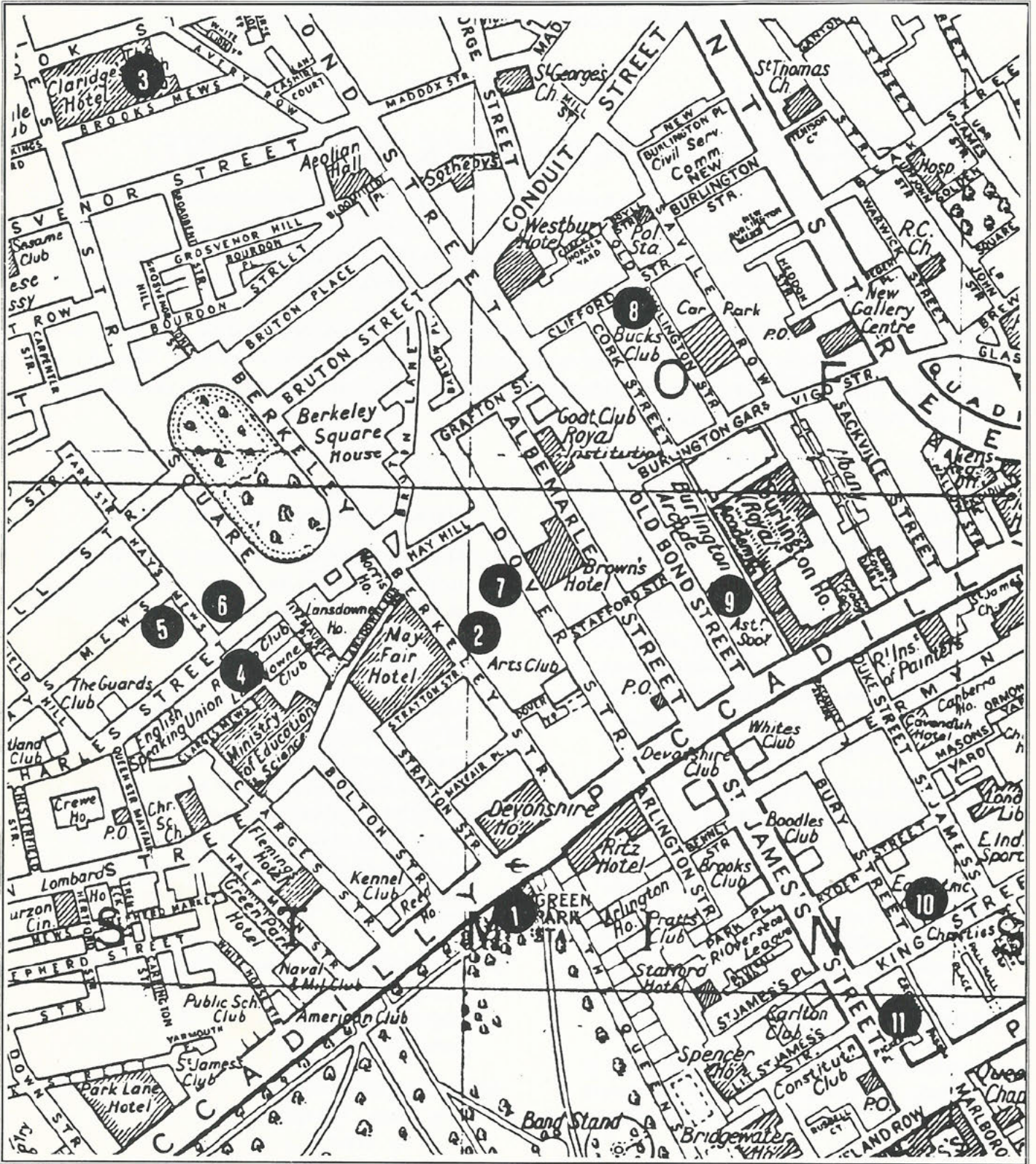
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BERTIE WOOSTER'S WEST END

Norman Murphy has very kindly made available his renowned trail through London's West End for members who wish to see the haunts frequented by Bertie Wooster and his associates. The numbers on the map on the reverse correspond to the descriptions below, and additional explanations can be found by referring to the relevant pages in Norman's book *In Search of Blandings* (Secker and Warburg, 1986).

Bertie Wooster's West End is based on Mayfair, that section of London bounded by Piccadilly on the south, Park Lane to the west, Oxford Street to the north and Regent Street to the east. The attached map covers the south eastern corner of Mayfair so defined, and even invites the intrepid adventurer to set foot further south at the end of the walk.

- 1 Begin your walk at Green Park Underground Station, where Freddie Threepwood met Psmith in the stage version of *Leave it To Psmith*. Take the exit on the north side of Piccadilly to Berkeley Street.
- 2 After twenty years searching, Norman was able to discover that in February 1923, PGW had lived at Ducie Mansions, 15 Berkeley Street. In *Introducing Claude and Eustace*, published in March 1923, Bertie Wooster's flat was in Crichton Mansions, Berkeley Street.
- 3 If you want to admire Barribault's hotel, walk up to Claridge's. To understand the reasons for this identification, see pages 199-200.
- 4 In *The Code of the Woosters*, we learn that Aunt Dahlia's London residence is 47 Charles Street. This address was the home of Ian Hay, with whom PGW wrote plays such as *A Damsel in Distress*, *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep* and *Leave It To Psmith* in the late 1920s. (Page 197)
- 5 Hays Mews, or Halsey Court as we know it in the books, was home to a series of characters: Chimp Twist, Jeff Miller, Jerry Shoesmith and Ma Balsam. (Page 198)
- 6 If Jeeves's club, the Junior Ganymede, has an origin, it is the Running Footman pub. In the 1920s and 1930s, the pub was renowned as being 'the Club' for the servants of the great houses nearby. The Private Bar was restricted to butlers, stewards and valets. Under-butlers and footmen used the Saloon Bar, while hall-boys, grooms and the lower orders were relegated to the Public Bar. And woe betide anyone who sought to enter the wrong bar!
- 7 34 Dover Street was the home of the Bath Club until its destruction in the last war. PGW used its swimming pool and Dover Street location as the secondary source for the Drones Club. (Page 76)
- 8 Buck's Club, the dark, sombre building at 18 Clifford Street is the Drones Club. PGW used its real name in several novels before he realised that he had better disguise it. Founded in 1919 by Herbert Buckmaster, it was THE young man's club in the 1920s and 1930s. Its golfing weekends at Le Touquet were famous, and its barman was called McGarry. (Pages 77-80)
- 9 Although you can no longer buy Old Etonian spats in the Burlington Arcade, it makes an attractive setting as you stroll down to St James's Street.
- 10 In 1921, the Wodehouses had a service flat in King Street. The balcony of the flat is to be seen four storeys above the entrance to Christie's. PGW later gave the address to both Freddie and Galahad Threepwood.
- 11 Although Jno Bodmin, London's finest hatter, will no longer be found in Vigo Street, Lock's of St James's is a worthy successor. Bespoke Hatter to Royalty, Lock's has been here for 250 years.



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