

# BY THE WAY



Occasional Newsletters from The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

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## Wodehouse in the Tauchnitz Editions

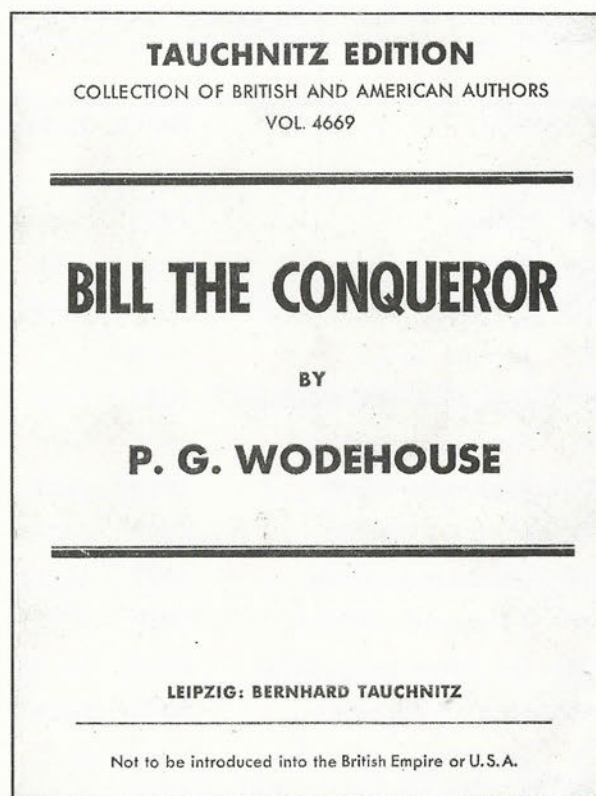
*The inspiration for this edition of By The Way came from Manfred Porsch, a member in Wuppertal, Germany, who wrote to the Editor about the Tauchnitz editions of books by Wodehouse. As books from this publisher are collectable in their own right, it was the work of a moment to recognise a good subject!*

The Bernard Tauchnitz company was based in Leipzig, which before World War II was the centre of the German publishing industry. Tauchnitz himself lived in the nineteenth century, from 1816 to 1895, and his company was responsible for the only authorised collection of British literature in English published outside the UK. His aim was to promote the distribution of English literature on the continent and elsewhere, and incidentally to provide the authors with a fresh source of income.

According to Richard Dalby, whose article in *Book and Magazine Collector* No 32, November 1986, provided some of the background to this piece, Tauchnitz was an honourable man, and although there was no concept of international copyright when he started in business, he determined to obtain the permission of the author in every case, and pay the appropriate fee. This started as an outright sum, to which further increment was added for the most successful books, but he later turned to the royalty system.

The first two British authors to join the Tauchnitz list were Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton (with appropriately, a book entitled *Pelham*), and Charles Dickens, with *The Pickwick Papers*. Sales of Dickens alone in Tauchnitz editions went on to exceed one million. Generally, the texts were complete and unabridged, though Dalby comments that authors would sometimes restore to the Tauchnitz edition paragraphs which had been removed from the domestic publication for fear that they would offend British readers.

Tauchnitz editions were often issued simultaneously with the British first edition, though in some cases the Tauchnitz version came first. From the evidence seen in relation to Wodehouse titles, it is unlikely that any, other than *Money In The Bank*, appeared in Tauchnitz format before being published in the UK. This title was, of course, published in English by Continental Book Co and Zephyr Books of Sweden in



1942, but did not receive British publication until 1946. The page of Wodehouse titles in their 1943 printing of *The Code of the Woosters* (no 5357) shows *Money in The Bank* (5370), to be published later the same year. The Tauchnitz *Money in the Bank* which I have is a reprint in the New Tauchnitz series, started post-war in Hamburg, and is number 16. It carries a dedication to Bert Haskins which does not appear in the US or UK editions.

The 'Tauchnitz Edition' was a 'Series of British and American Authors' published in their original language, ie English, and each carried a copyright restriction, some variation of:

Not to be Introduced into the British Empire

Sales exceeded forty million, and it is understood that the company's extensive and successful use of paper covers was the direct inspiration for Allen

Lane to create Penguin in 1935. Some of their titles can be found in cloth or even leather covers, an option which naturally had an impact on the price charged. In 1900, the paperback volumes cost 1.60 marks (about 1s 7d), the cloth edition 2.20 marks, and the leather-bound 3 marks. In the 1930s a colour code was introduced to denote subject categories: adventure and crime (red); love stories (blue); humour and satire (orange); biography and historical novels (purple); psychological novels (yellow); travel (green); and poetry and dramatic works (grey). This code was used for a frame on the front cover and spine and readers will not be surprised to learn that the relevant Wodehouse titles bear the orange code.

The Tauchnitz series, which exceeds 5,000 titles is collected quite widely, with the result that some

titles are very scarce. It included a total of 41 books by Wodehouse, published from all three locations, with original publishing dates from 1924 to 1954. Many of these had more than one binding, evidenced by advertising supplements of different dates, while others had no advertising supplement at all. The complete list of titles can be found below.

After the war, during which the company's entire stock was destroyed, it tried to rebuild its business activity first in Hamburg, and then in Stuttgart, but it was unsuccessful, the last Wodehouse title appearing in 1954. From the time the first one appeared, more than two out of every hundred new titles published by Tauchnitz were by Wodehouse, and from 1933 to 1938 this increased to about six per cent. The importance of author and publisher to each other should not be underestimated.

No	Title	UK 1st	Tauchnitz				
<b>Published in Leipzig</b>				5170	<i>Thank You, Jeeves</i>	1934	1934
				5184	<i>The Inimitable Jeeves</i>	1923	1935
4651	<i>Ukridge</i>	1924	8/24	5195	<i>The Man with Two Left Feet</i>	1917	1935
4669	<i>Bill the Conqueror</i>	1924	1/25	5206	<i>Money for Nothing</i>	1928	1935
4710	<i>Carry On, Jeeves!</i>	1925	11/25	5218	<i>Mulliner Nights</i>	1933	1935
4714	<i>Sam the Sudden</i>	1925	2/27	5231	<i>The Coming of Bill</i>	1920	1936
4740	<i>Love Among the Chickens</i>	1921	7/26	5249	<i>Blandings Castle</i>	1935	1936
4741	<i>The Heart of a Goof</i>	1926	7/26	5271	<i>Young Men in Spats</i>	1936	1937
4776	<i>Psmith, Journalist</i>	1915	4/27	5280	<i>Laughing Gas</i>	1936	1937
4777	<i>Leave It To Psmith</i>	1923	4/27	5316	<i>Lord Emsworth and Others</i>	1937	1938
4847	<i>The Small Bachelor</i>	1927	11/28	5347	<i>Summer Moonshine</i>	1938	1938
4848	<i>A Damsel in Distress</i>	1919	9/28	5357	<i>The Code of the Woosters</i>	1938	1943
4852	<i>The Adventures of Sally</i>	1922	10/28	5370	<i>Money in the Bank</i>	1946	1943
4874	<i>Meet Mr Mulliner</i>	1927	5/29	<b>Published in Hamburg</b>			
4882	<i>Indiscretions of Archie</i>	1921	5/29	16	<i>Money in the Bank</i>	1946	1949
4885	<i>Piccadilly Jim</i>	1918	6/29	<b>Published in Stuttgart</b>			
4963	<i>Mr Mulliner Speaking</i>	1929	a	107	<i>The Mating Season</i>	1949	1952
4983	<i>Very Good, Jeeves!</i>	1930	6/31	137	<i>Ring For Jeeves</i>	1953	1954
4995	<i>Summer Lightning</i>	1929	1931	The dates given are for the UK first edition, and for known dates of Tauchnitz editions taken from actual copies of the books. A few titles (marked a) do not indicate a date, although their approximate chronology can be found from their reference number. Similarly, where the date is given as month/year, this is the date of the earliest advertising supplement actually seen. It is evident in some cases (eg <i>Sam the Sudden</i> and <i>The Small Bachelor</i> ) that the first binding will have been earlier, but more accurate data will have to await sight of further copies of the books.			
5035	<i>Big Money</i>	1931	a				
5061	<i>Louder and Funnier</i>	1932	1932				
5068	<i>If I Were You</i>	1931	1/33				
5105	<i>Jill the Reckless</i>	1931	6/33				
5106	<i>Hot Water</i>	1932	7/33				
5112	<i>The Girl on the Boat</i>	1922	8/33				
5113	<i>The Clicking of Cuthbert</i>	1922	8/33				
5115	<i>Something Fresh</i>	1915	9/33				
5146	<i>The Little Nugget</i>	1913	5/34				