



BY THE WAY

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Painters and Painting – Part I

Our new series of Wodehouse references for the March *By The Way* concerns *Painters and Paintings*. You will find appearances for both genuine artists and paintings, as well as fictional ones from the author's imagination.

THE ARTISTS

Barbizon School

A group of painters named after the village on the outskirts of Fontainebleau, whose members included Daubigny, Diaz, Jacque, Robichaux, and Rousseau.

(*A Pelican at Blandings*)

Bennison, Jeff (also known as 'Smith')

An ambitious progenitor of comic strips who, like Holbein, Michelangelo and Tintoretto, might well find it difficult to reap untold riches from their sale.

(*Sunset at Blandings*)

Beamish, Victor

A commercial artist who drew the picture of the O-SO-EESI piano-player in the advertisement pages of *Piccadilly* magazine.

(*'Ukridge's Accident Syndicate'* from *Ukridge*)

Beverley, Alan

The subtle artist who painted and sold a work entitled 'Child and Cat'.

(*'The Man Upstairs'* from *The Man Upstairs*)

Biffen, Stanley

A copy he made of a Constable painting could be found hanging at Shipley Hall.

(*Something Fishy*)

Bingley, Lancelot

A rising young artist with a private income and an IQ about equivalent to that of a retarded child of seven. His erstwhile fiancée, Gladys Wetherby, arranged for him to paint her uncle.

(*'A Good Cigar Is a Smoke'* from *Plum Pie*)

Boielle, Paul

A waiter in Bredin's Parisian Café and Restaurant who had an attic studio in which he was engaged on painting a great picture – for which he had yet to find a buyer.

(*'Rough-Hew Them How We Will'*
from *The Man Upstairs*)

Breamworthy, Messmore

Perhaps a name more familiar to readers as the artist painting Empress of Blandings than as the pseudonym of the imposter Bill Lister.

(*Full Moon*)

Cardinal, Joe

A wannabe-painter, biding his time until his trustee had to disgorge his inheritance on his 25th birthday.

(*'Life with Freddie'* from *Plum Pie*)

Claude

The artist hero of a novel of stearine sentimentality by Emily Ann Mackintosh, dealing with his adventures with a pure young English girl.

(*A Damsel in Distress*)

Constable, John (1776–1837)

A copy by Sidney Biffen of one of his paintings could be found at Shipley Hall.

(*Something Fishy*)

Corcoran, Bruce ('Corky')

An impecunious portrait painter and friend of Gussie Mannering-Phipps, who proved for himself that 'there is always a way'. His somewhat disastrous attempt to paint a portrait of his uncle's heir eventually resulted in a new cartoon strip, 'The Adventures of Baby Blobbs', for the comic section of the *Sunday Star*.

(*'Leave It to Jeeves'* from *My Man Jeeves*)

Corot, Jean Baptiste Camille (1796–1875)

A painting from his Italian period was displayed at Claines Hall.

(*Quick Service*)

Daubigny (Charles-François, 1817–1878)

Realistically, a member of the Barbizon School.

(*A Pelican at Blandings*)

de Hooch, Pieter (1629–1984)

Van Meegeren started his career of forgery by copying one of de Hooch's paintings.

(*Something Fishy*)

Diaz (Narcisse Virgilio Diaz de la Peña, 1807–1876)

A member of the Barbizon School.

(*A Pelican at Blandings*)

Dircks, Jan (1610–1652)

According to Mortimer Bayliss in *Something Fishy*, either Dircks or Paul Muller made a copy of a Vermeer painting which could be found hanging at Shipley Hall. Bayliss added that as both of them were pupils of Van Meegeren, nobody was sure whose it was. Mr Bayliss seems to have been swanking to Lord Uffenham, though, since Van Meegeren was not born until 1889, by which time Dircks had been dead for over 200 years.

(*Something Fishy*)

Farringdon, Belinda ('Bunny')

Living in South Kensington, she was the commercial artist fiancée of Johnny Pearce.

(*Cocktail Time*)

Ferguson, Archie

A futurist painter who had studied art in Paris. His 'The Coming of Summer' was 'all dots and splashes, with a great eye staring out of the middle of the mess'. The *Clarion* carried news of its supposed purchase by Mr Bracket on its front page, but in fact, after failing to sell a single canvas in three years, Archie changed tack and developed the Doughnut Family strip cartoon for the *New York Gazette*.

('Concealed Art' from *Strand Magazine*)

Finch, George

An American from East Gilead, Idaho, who used his legacy to finance his achievement of being the worst painter ever to hit New York.

(*The Small Bachelor*)

Ford, Mrs Nesta

An amateur artist whose painting of her son, Ogden, caused Lord Mountry to imitate one 'who turns no more his head, because he knows a frightful fiend doth close behind him tread'.

(*The Little Nugget*)

Fothergill, Edward

Edward's father and, like Sir Matthew Yeardsley, an extremely bad artist, who maintained an inexplicable attachment to his *Venus*, even after presenting it to his son Everard as a wedding present.

('Jeeves Makes an Omelette'
from *A Few Quick Ones*)

Fothergill, Everard

Like Clarence Yeardsley, he was an artist who was inordinately proud of his *Jocund Spring*. Unlike his father and Clarence, though, his work was good enough to be exhibited at the Tate.

('Jeeves Makes an Omelette'
from *A Few Quick Ones*)

Gainsborough, Thomas (1727–1788)

The artist who apparently painted both 'The Girl in Blue' and her sister in green.

(*The Girl in Blue*)

One of his paintings was stolen from a house in Marsham-in-the-Vale.

('Jeeves Makes an Omelette'
from *A Few Quick Ones*)

A copy by Wilfred Robinson of another Gainsborough could be found at Shipley Hall.

(*Something Fishy*)

It was considered that a thief who stole a Gainsborough would not also steal one by Lord Wetherby.

(*Uneasy Money*)

Gibson, Charles Dana (1876–1944)

American artist who created the 'Gibson Girl'.

(*Summer Lightning*)

Gilpin, Archie

An artist working for the Mammoth Publishing Company.

(*Service with a Smile*)

Holbein, Hans, the Younger (c.1497–1543)

An illustrious artist with a familiar name, but one who might have had difficulty getting rich by selling comic strips.

(*Sunset at Blandings*)

Hollister, William Quackenbush

An American who trained as an artist before coming to the UK and staying here, working as an assistant at the Gish Galleries.

(*Something Fishy*)

Jacque (Charles-Emile, 1813–1894)

A member of the Barbizon School.

(*A Pelican at Blandings*)

Landseer, Sir Edwin Henry (1802–1873)

There was speculation that his 'Stag at Bay', if augmented by horn-rimmed spectacles, might have resembled Elmer Chinnery.

(*Summer Moonshine*)