New Society Publication

The Master and The Congressman
by John S. Monagan

Reviewed by Hugh Massingham

On the face of it, the friendship between the novelist Anthony Powell (1905-2000), Old Etonian and self-categorised ‘Old Tory’ and John S Monagan (born 1911), a Democratic Congressman of Irish Catholic background, was an unlikely one. But this charming pamphlet written by “The Congressman” (as Monagan, a devoted fan of the Master, was known by the Powell family) for the Anthony Powell Society gives an instructive and entertaining account of their conversations together during visits made to the home of Anthony and Lady Violet Powell in Somerset. The author certainly succeeds in his aim of ‘imparting to readers the friendliness, charm and hospitality of Violet Powell and the frankness, brilliance and humour of Anthony Powell’. His observations of their personalities and imaginative taste in decoration are rich in telling detail. The Congressman captures the Master’s sympathetic curiosity and ‘disarming intimacy’. There are fascinating insights into Powell’s working methods and discipline (the writing of a novel is compared to building a wall of rocks, ‘stone by stone’); the importance of ‘what the writer hears’ in dialogue; and amusing anecdotes about Cyril Connolly, Ivy Compton-Burnett and the literary world.

Now that so few friends of Anthony and Lady Violet Powell survive, this affectionate study in miniature by a nonagenarian contemporary is especially valuable and welcome. It is being published to coincide with the Second Biennial Conference of the Anthony Powell Society to be held on 7th & 8th April at Balliol College, Oxford (at which The Master’s time was characteristically described to the Congressman as not ‘the absolute wonder of my life’).

The Master and The Congressman will be published by the Society on 7th April 2003 and launched at the Balliol Conference. Copies may be pre-ordered; see the Society Merchandise page.

Great Lakes Group Meeting
by Stephen Pyskoty-Olle

The Great Lakes Group has met twice in Chicago since the last newsletter. Among those who have enjoyed the British fare and Anthony Powell chat at the Red Lion Pub include Eileen Soderstrom, Pam Kane, Jeanne and Joe Reed, Herb Channick, Dick Goerne, Tony & Joanne Edmonds, Tony Bruozas, Ed Underhill, Stephen & Charlene Pyskoty-Olle, Murray Jacobs and Holly Cadmus.

In December, we met to discuss the prevalence of art in the First Movement of the Dance. Plenty of reference materials were provided, thanks to the wondrous World Wide Web. We were able to see how Nick pictured Stringham as Veronese’s Alexander; Jean as a Delacroix’s hookah-smoker and Rubens’s second wife; Gypsy as Goya’s Maja nude and Manet’s Olympia; Lady Huntercombe recalling Gainsborough’s Mrs Siddons; Members’s sitting pose at Sillery’s looking like The Boyhood of Raleigh; and a look at the work of Franz Hals, to whom Nick likens Isbister. Also discussed was whether Powell had more in store for the French children at La Grenadiere: were they perhaps going to become members of the French resistance later in the series?

At our January meeting, the topic was the War Trilogy. We banded about such ideas as Powell’s use of humour (Nick’s purchase of the overcoat for his role in “The War”; the Monty Pythonishness of the “pipe of port” and “Trollope” episodes); how the war in Dance is not a battlefield story but a home front story; whether Pennistone’s assertion that Finn keeps his private life private because he believes it gives him more credibility is a clue to why we learn so little of Nick’s personal life; and how so many of the deaths in the war trilogy were of characters not directly involved in the fighting – and even some who were in the armed forces died not while waging the war but while on leave.

For information on upcoming meetings of the Great Lakes Group, please contact the author, e-mail widmerpool@hotmail.com.

Membership Reminder

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due at the end of March. Those whose subscription expires this year will find a renewal notice enclosed with this Newsletter. A check on subscription rates may be found on the membership form on the back page of this Newsletter.

It would be greatly appreciated if members would renew their subscriptions promptly – it only causes embarrassment and expense if we have to send out reminders.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome and should be sent to:

Newsletter Editor, Stephen Holden, The Anthony Powell Society 76 Ennismore Avenue Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK

Fax: 020 8864 6109
Email: sjholden@hotmail.com
Julian Maclaren-Ross
by Paul Willets

For devotees of Anthony Powell’s work, the bohemian writer Julian Maclaren-Ross (1912-64) is synonymous with the much-loved character of X Trapnel, whose escapades are so lovingly chronicled in Books Do Furnish a Room. Though there are differences between the real life prototype and his fictional counterpart, notably the beard that Trapnel sports in contrast to his scrupulously clean-shaven alter ego, these are outweighed by the undeniable similarities. Such abundant borrowings from reality do not, of course, diminish the stature of Powell’s lustrous, melancholy writing.

The list of overlaps between fact and fiction is certainly extensive. Both Maclaren-Ross and Trapnel are perpetually hard-up London literary men, who have established themselves with volumes of idiosyncratically titled short stories, Camel Ride to the Tomb substituting for The Stuff to Give the Troops. To some extent, both writers are doomed not to fulfil their potential. What’s more, both are hamstrung by their tendency to fall out with publishers. Both are staunch opponents of literary censorship. Both favour a dandified costume. Both have a taste for theatrical accoutrements, encompassing a long, dark overcoat, a flamboyantly patterned tie, sunglasses, and a swordstick. Both squander their time in West End pubs. Both are overwhelming egotists with a penchant for marathon, grinding monologues. Both idolise a certain lugubrious movie star, Trapnel’s admiration for Boris Karloff standing in for Maclaren-Ross’s Sydney Greenstreet fixation. Both have a tendency towards self-dramatisation, embracing often incompatible roles, the suave boulevardier coexisting with the sinister Hollywood heavy. Both are attractive to women. Both drop frequent, tantalising references to their cosmopolitan background. Both are endowed with looks suggestive of Asian antecedents. Both are lapsed Catholics. Both take no overt political stance despite their instinctive liberal-left sympathies. Both are reluctant to disclose their current address. Both flit from hotel to hotel, usually unwelcoming establishments in Paddington or Bloomsbury, non-payment of bills prompting disputes with the management. And both fall victim to a self-immolating passion for a glamorous, well-connected woman.

In Trapnel’s case, the femme fatale is Pamela Widmerpool, whom he meets at a party thrown to celebrate the launch of the literary magazine, Fission. For Maclaren-Ross, the woman in question was none other than George Orwell’s widow Sonia, whom he first encountered in the offices of Cyril Connolly’s Horizon, on which Fission is clearly modelled. Specific incidents can also be traced back to reality. Obvious examples comprise Trapnel’s reluctance to utter his lover’s name, and Pamela’s destruction of his would-be masterpiece, which she dumps into the Regent’s Park Canal.

Even Powell himself, writing in his autobiography, conceded that Trapnel was modelled on Maclaren-Ross, his friendship with whom extended from 1946 through most of the ensuing decade. Despite Powell’s insistence that Trapnel represented an exaggerated version of reality, readers of Fear and Loathing in Fitzrovia, my forthcoming biography of Maclaren-Ross, will discover that the truth was far more bizarre than the fiction it spawned.

Next to Maclaren-Ross, the modern icons of literary bohemia, ranging from Charles Bukowski to Jeffrey Bernard, appear paragons of rectitude and self-restraint. In the course of fifty-two hectic years, he not only earned the admiration of Anthony Powell, Graham Greene, and Evelyn Waugh, but he also endured poverty, homelessness, failed marriages, imprisonment, and even a Scotland Yard man-hunt. The nadir of his turbulent existence was marked by a spell of near-insanity, leading him to become convinced that his personality had been hijacked by the villain from Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Besides all that, he was the victim of long-term alcohol and drug addiction, factors which surely hastened his death.

Had the notoriously litigious Maclaren-Ross lived longer, it is hard to contemplate Anthony Powell risking a potential libel action by drawing so heavily on the facts of his erstwhile friend’s tragi-comic life. It is, moreover, impossible to imagine A Dance to the Music of Time without Trapnel’s enduring and invigorating presence. ***

Fear and Loathing in Fitzrovia: the Bizarre Life of Julian Maclaren-Ross by Paul Willets is due to be released in paperback by Dewi Lewis Publishing on 27 March 2003, priced at £14.99.

### Dates for Your Diary

**Thursday 6th March 2003**
**London Group Meeting**
Drink and Powell chat in a haunt of Julian Maclaren-Ross (model for X Trapnel)
Fitzroy Tavern, 16 Charlotte Street, London, W1
1830 hrs local time
Further details: Keith Marshall
kcmm@ccx.co.uk

**Saturday 8th March 2003**
**Great Lakes Group Meeting**
Discussion of AP’s Non-Dance Novels
Red Lion Pub, Chicago, USA
1300 hrs local time
Further details: Stephen Pyskoty-Olle
widmerpool@hotmail.com

**Saturday 15th March 2003**
**NE USA Group Meeting**
Ides of March Meeting
Silvermine Tavern, Norwalk, CT, USA
1230 hrs local time
Further details: Leatrice Fountain
leatricefountain@aol.com

**Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th April 2003**
**Second Biennial Anthony Powell Conference**
**Anthony Powell and Oxford of the 1920s**
Details elsewhere in this issue

**Saturday 20th September 2003**
**Society AGM**
Provisional date; venue to be decided
Powell Murders
A Challenge for Anthony Powell Society Members

by Dominick Harrod

Anthony Powell is famous for the laconic style of his writing, whether in the novels or in his autobiography To Keep the Ball Rolling. Members are invited to submit their own candidates for the most laconic or laid back passage written by Powell.

My own candidate comes from Chapter 10 of Faces in My Time, the third volume of autobiography (p. 312 in the Penguin edition, 1983). Referring to the Literary Editor of the Spectator, Powell writes: “He was followed on the paper by a much younger literary editor, barely thirty, one of only two or three persons I have known to be murdered”. The phrase, “only two or three persons” must qualify as the height of cool.

Another aspect of the line is, of course, the matter of identifying the victims of murder. The literary editor of the Spectator was James Pope Hennessy, murdered by a lover at his flat in Ladbroke Grove some years later.

A possible second candidate was a neighbour of Powell’s in Somerset, murdered while holidaying in France, named John Calman who certainly moved in the same circles as Powell, as well as coming from the same part of the world. It is very unlikely that Powell would have not known of him and claimed him as a “person I have known to be murdered”.

Can any member identify a candidate for the putative third place?

Meet the Committee
Stephen Holden

Stephen Holden had a nomadic childhood due to his father’s job, moving towns every two or three years. Until he was 16 he lived all over Nigeria, and then in Paris, Lyon and Vienna. He went to boarding school in England, and subsequently the University of Exeter, and the University of California at Davis, where he read American & Commonwealth Arts. After leaving university he eventually moved to London and worked for the Civil Aviation Authority, ordering nuts and bolts for radar scanners and de-icing fluid for runways in the Shetlands. This soon palled and he moved into university administration, working for ‘old’ and ‘new’ universities, and ending up at the London College of Printing. He does a bit of freelance journalism on a ragbag of topics. He is also “etiquette correspondent” for The Chap, a parody of gentlemen’s magazines of the 1920s. He first read Anthony Powell out of the British Council library in Paris when he was 18, and has been re-reading him ever since. He edits the Society’s Newsletter.

From the APLIST
Recent Discussions on the Society’s Email Discussion Group

From Jeanne:
Would anyone be willing to explain to me why it was necessary to kill off Charles [Stringham] and Peter [Templer] – from a literary point of view?

From John Perry:
Among the reasons, certainly Authenticity. Tho’ not like the carnage of the Great War, every circle of military age would have been diminished. And Stringham’s death places Widmerpool in an ambiguous light (construed with widely different interpretations in this group); Peter’s latter-day state of mind relates to Pamela Widmerpool – and also reminds me of Waugh’s remarks on the Deathwish in his WW2 trilogy.

From John Gilks:
Seems to me that rather more is going on. The casualty list is long and not limited to those of military age. I am sure I shall miss a few but the list includes Priscilla and Chips Lovell, Molly Jeavons, George Tolland, Peter Templer, Charles Stringham and Robert Tolland. Erridge is also bumped off but not as a direct consequence of the war. Is Powell using the war to make a deliberate transition in the cast of characters? The war also sees the introduction of, particularly, Pamela but also Odo Stevens who will play non-trivial roles in the post war volumes.

From John Potter:
(As you note) the War did a pretty good job itself of shaking up the cast & producing vacancies. Straightforward reportage on Powell’s part in one sense…

From Keith Marshall:
As John observes, during WW2 many would have lost great swathes of family, friends & acquaintances – others perhaps few. But certainly for those of Powell’s generation and standing what Jenkins experiences would not have been uncommon.

But yes, the cast of hundreds did need to be thinned out a bit for the post-war episodes, otherwise it would have gotten just too confusing.

From John Gould:
Notice how many non-military folks are in this list. Robert and George are the only military deaths in it. Of course we do hear of others, Barnby, eg., and some of the Welsh soldiers too, as well as Stringham and Templer. Stringham & Templer are much more than simply thinning the ranks, though. It strikes me that, all in all, Nick has had an easy war, as far as losing military acquaintances goes. The worst event in the book for him is the Blitz night that takes three family members. Otherwise the sword of Mithras leaves most of his friends standing, except for Stringham & Templer. Their singularity emphasizes their loss. Furthermore, Stringham could have gotten out of going to Singapore; Nick implores him to play his age card. Templer’s death is close to suicide, at least if reports about his reaction to his failure with Pamela are to be believed. He volunteered for the mission, “absolutely set on that job,” says Farebrother.

In other words, both of these deaths are extraordinary. Both men could have avoided their fates, but chose not to –
2003 Conference Update
Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th April 2003
Balliol College, Oxford

We are now on the last lap of the run in to the conference. Bookings are healthy and the pre-conference dinner is heavily oversubscribed.

The one setback has been the sad and untimely death of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead who was to have been our premier speaker. The committee have decided not to seek a replacement for Lord Jenkins – it would be invidious to ask anyone to step into his shoes! In consequence the programme is being slightly rearranged around the five keynote speakers. This also has the serendipitous benefit that it slightly eases what is a very packed programme on the Monday.

Conference places are still available and you will find a booking leaflet enclosed with this Newsletter. We are well on the way to a great event.

Book it, or regret it!

For those unable to attend the conference there will be a conference report in the Summer issue of the Newsletter and the conference proceedings are planned for publication later in the year.

"One passes through the world knowing few, if any, of the important things about even the people with whom one has been from time to time in the closest intimacy."

[Anthony Powell in The Kindly Ones]

Results of the Christmas Haiku Competition
by Stephen Holden

This year’s Christmas prize competition was to write an Anthony Powell-related haiku. For those unfamiliar with Japanese culture, haiku are short poems of seventeen syllables, in groups of five, seven and five.

I received 26 entries in all. They were of such a good standard that I have decided to print them all in the Newsletter. We will also put these haiku on the Society’s web page in due course.

However, the haiku that seemed to me to best capture a moment in Dance was from Terry Empson:

Kippered remnants flare
on the workmen’s brazier
Winter’s dance winds on

Congratulations to Terry, who wins a year’s free membership of the Society.

In no particular order the other entries received were:

A swirl of blue robes,
As Trelawney’s flock runs by:
Vision of Visions.

— John Gould

crayfish in rock pool,
plow, trees and sky on solstice,
stone drinks from cold spring

— Richard Goerne

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Umfraville ageing
rued the uncommitted sins
exacting their toll
— Terry Empson

Fictive Valhalla
Saint Loup eyes Odo Stevens
but does not speak yet
— Terry Empson

Snowing, workmen dance
A kipper’d brazier rite.
Recall of legions.
— Keith Marshall

Loud quarry thumping
Curling autumn bonfire smoke.
Twilight reflections.
— Keith Marshall

Leafy London vale.
Canal softly hides swordstick,
Excalibur like.
— Michael Goldman

Temporary kings
Hearing Secret Harmonies
At Lady Molly’s
— Michael Goldman

Trelawney the cat
Stretches on the author’s lap
He strokes cat and keys
— John Potter

Wrong amount to drink!
Cries Bithel, the tears of shame
Streaming down his face
— John Potter
From the Secretary's Desk

A slightly longer than usual Secretary’s column this month as I am going to try to answer a number of questions which pop up regularly in my postbag.

Can I pay my subscription by Standing Order or Direct Debit?
Unfortunately we cannot offer this facility at this time; the Society is just not large enough to make it worthwhile. However we do keep this under review and hope to be able to offer the facility as the Society grows.

Why can I not order Society merchandise or renew my subscription online using my credit card?
The simple answer is because the bank will not allow us to do this. We are not registered for “internet trading” and to set up and run a secure web shopping facility would be uneconomic given our size, even were our bank to allow us to do so. We are also not allowed to accept credit card payments by email as this too counts as “internet trading” and is especially risky as email is not secure. We can accept credit card payments by mail, by fax and by phone.

Why not distribute the Newsletter electronically? Wouldn’t it save money?
Yes, indeed we could do this, but it is fraught with tricky little problems and overall it may not save money. For a start only about half our members have email, so we would still need a printed version of the Newsletter – and then we would be into ultra-short print runs which would be much less economic. Secondly we have to consider in what format we would distribute the e-Newsletter; I know from both my work and from circulating documents to the committee that whatever format we chose it would be a problem for some members. Thirdly, and maybe most importantly, there is value for money. When setting up the Society we took the view, to which I still subscribe, that if members have a communication from the Society dropping thought their letterbox a number of times a year, then they are more likely to feel, psychologically, they are getting value for their subscription. However each issue of the Newsletter is placed on the website when the following issue is published.

You talk about the members getting value for money, but wouldn’t more Society events help there?
Yes, undoubtedly that would help; and we would love to offer more events. But it all comes down to the number of hours in a day; we are all running the Society in our spare time and fitting it in between our other work and our families. And at times like this, running up to the conference, we are struggling to keep up with the workload. Now if some member out there were to volunteer to be the Society’s Social Secretary and arrange regular events, especially in the UK, it would be a great help! – and if they are also based around London even better. So who is going to volunteer?

Has the Society achieved charitable status yet?
Sadly the answer is no, we haven’t. We are still in discussions with the Charity Commission – or to be more accurate we are still in the process of answering their seemingly interminable questions. Watch this space!
Can I start a Society local group?
Yes. Get in touch with me and I will arrange to contact the members in your area for you.

Where can I get a video of the UK Channel 4 films of Dance?
At the time of writing the films are still available in UK VHS format from Amazon UK, www.amazon.co.uk, and Blackstar, www.blackstar.co.uk for about £20. As far as I know they have never been issued in any other format. If you have internet access, it is also worth watching the auctions on eBay, www.ebay.com; there are often copies for sale on eBay, and sometimes copies which have been converted to American format.

For those without internet access Blackstar may be contacted on: Phone: +44 (0)28 9050 9050, Fax: +44 (0)28 9050 9010.

When will Dance be shown on American TV?
I wish I knew!

Will war with Iraq cause the conference to be cancelled?
Although there are no guarantees in this world, we think it very unlikely the conference will be cancelled. At the time of writing (mid-February) war is far from inevitable, there is no reason for anyone not to travel and there is nothing to suggest any problems may arise in the UK. Indeed given the generally heightened level of security, this is arguably the safest time to be travelling. And surely if we give in to the terrorists in this way, are we not just achieving their aims for them?

New Edition
Green Integer of Los Angeles have recently issued a new paperback edition of Anthony Powell’s novella Oh, How the Wheel Becomes It! At the time of writing it is available from www.amazon.com for $8.76. And remember … if you access Amazon via the logo on the homepage of the AP website, the Society will benefit from a small commission on every book you order. But you have to use this link every time you order for it to keep working!

A Question of Upbringung
Audio Tapes
The Society has been lucky enough to acquire a quantity of the audio cassettes of Simon Callow reading A Question of Upbringung. These tapes are in the same series as the others we are currently offering. They are, of course, new and still in their cellophane packing. The tapes are available at £2.50; see the Society Merchandise page for ordering information.

Society Merchandise
**COMING SOON**
The Master and The Congressman
The 40 page monograph by John Monagan (“The Congressman” of Powell’s Journals) describing his meetings with Anthony Powell. To be published on Monday 7th April and launched at the Conference. £5 each, post free to all members. Order now for early despatch or collect your copy at the conference.

Audio Tapes of Dance. Copies of the following audio tapes of Simon Callow reading (abridged) volumes of Dance:
- A Question of Upbringung **NEW**
- The Kindly Ones
- The Valley of Bones
- The Soldier’s Art
- Boxed set of the ‘Autumn’ trilogy – only 3 left!
Single volumes: £2.50; ‘Autumn’: £8.

Newsletter Back Issues
Back numbers of the Newsletter are now sold out, with the exception of issues 1, 6 & 9 which are still available at 50p each.

Postage. All Society merchandise is post free to UK members. Regrettably we have to ask overseas members to make the following contributions towards airmail postage:

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Hon. Secretary, Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford
Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 8864 4095
Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
**Newsletter Copy Deadlines for 2003**

The deadlines for receipt of articles and advertisements for the *Newsletter* are:

**Issue 11, Summer 2003**
Copy Deadline: Friday 16th May
Publication Date: Friday 6th June

**Issue 12, Autumn 2003**
Copy Deadline: Friday 15th August
Publication Date: Friday 5th September

**Issue 13, Winter 2003**
Copy Deadline: Friday 14th November
Publication Date: Friday 5th December

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**Society Local Groups**

**NE USA Group**
Area Covered: NY & CT area, USA
Organiser: Leatrice Fountain
Email: leatricefountain@aol.com

**Great Lakes Group**
Area Covered: Chicago area, USA
Organiser: Stephen Pyskoty-Olle
Email: widmerpool@hotmail.com

**London Group**
Area Covered: London & SE UK
Organiser: vacant

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**Answers to the Christmas Quiz**

*Set by Mr Blackhead*

1. Marcel Proust abandoned his first novel, begun in 1895, when he broke off his passionate involvement with Reynaldo Hahn, the young composer for whom he was writing it. Finally published in 1952, what was it called?
   **Answer:** Jean Santeuil

2. Of whom did Cyril Connolly once write, “He could not blow his nose without moralising about conditions in the handkerchief industry”?
   **Answer:** George Orwell

3. Who wrote *The Book of Bond; or Every Man His Own 007* under the pseudonym Lt-Col William “Bill” Tanner?
   **Answer:** Kingsley Amis

4. Which American novelist has also written books on the language of clothes, and on children’s literature?
   **Answer:** Alison Lurie

5. Graham Greene did not allow his second and third novels to be republished in his lifetime. What were their titles?
   **Answer:** *The Name of Action* (1930) and *Rumour at Nightfall* (1931)

6. Who claimed, “I am the kind of writer that people think other people are reading”?
   **Answer:** VS Naipaul

7. Who presented his collection of biographical pieces to the Ashmolean Museum in 1693?
   **Answer:** John Aubrey, author of *Brief Lives*

8. In which novel is it declared that “almost all crime is due to the repressed desire for aesthetic expression”?
   **Answer:** *Decline and Fall* by Evelyn Waugh

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9. In *The Anatomy of Melancholy* Robert Burton said that there were “two main plagues ... which have infatuated and besotted myriads of people”. What were they?
   **Answer:** Wine and women

10. “Alas, regardless of their doom
    The little victims play!”
    **Where?**
    **Answer:** Eton College, *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College* by Thomas Gray

11. What literary siblings were lampooned by Noël Coward as the Swiss Family Whittlebores?
    **Answer:** The Sitwells

12. Robert Graves fought in the First World War as a captain in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Which friend and writer held the same rank in the same regiment?
    **Answer:** Siegfried Sassoon

13. Which pseudonym did Cyril Connolly use when *The Unquiet Grave* was first published?
    **Answer:** ‘Palmirus’

14. How did Mikhail Lermontov, author of *A Hero of Our Time*, die?
    **Answer:** He was killed in a duel

15. “A hard time we had of it.
    At the end we preferred to travel all night,
    Sleeping in snatches.”
    Who are these travellers?
    **Answer:** The Magi, *The Journey of the Magi* by TS Eliot

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*John Aubrey*
From the Website
An Occasional Page of Extracts from the Anthony Powell Website

In this issue we give you a couple of entries from The Quotable Powell (a series of quotes by or about Powell on the AP homepage) and a parody of AP. Contributions for The Quotable Powell are always welcome.

“People think because a novel's invented, it isn't true. Exactly the reverse is the case. Because a novel's invented, it is true. Biography and memoirs can never be wholly true, since they can't include every conceivable circumstance of what happened. The novel can do that. The novelist himself lays it down. His decision is binding. The biographer, even at his highest and best, can be only tentative, empirical. The autobiographer, for his part, is imprisoned in his own egotism. He must always be suspect. In contrast with the other two, the novelist is a god, creating his man, making him breathe and walk.”

[Anthony Powell; Hearing Secret Harmonies]

“Another element which certainly does nothing to alleviate the confusion is the fact that they [the characters in Dance] are, or appear to be playing a game of matrimonial or at any rate sexual twos and threes most of the time and while this was no doubt true of the people of that class at the time of which Powell is writing it is not something to which I am accustomed. Most of my friends go through life with the same spouse. I am not here levelling any moral charges at these people, since representatives of the Law and the Church and a number of other eminent people have shown us recently that adultery is of the utmost respectability, if not a sacrament.”

[Stephen Bagnall; Anthony Powell and the Music of Time; Papers of the Manchester Literary Society, vol LXXII, 1961-62, pp 12-23]

AP Society Newsletter #10

The Anthony Powell Society Membership Form

Section A : Member Information

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Subscriptions are due on 01 April annually. If joining after 31 December membership includes following full subscription year.

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Is this membership a gift? Yes / No
If Yes please complete Section B

Section B : Gift Membership Information

Donor’s Name
Address
Postcode/Zip
Country
Email
Where shall we send the membership? ☐ Direct to the recipient ☐ To me to give to the recipient personally

Please indicate any special message you would like sent with this membership.

Section C : Payment Information

Total amount payable £
No. of years x membership rate

☐ I enclose a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank. Please make cheques payable to The Anthony Powell Society.

☐ Please debit my Visa / MasterCard Card No.:
Valid from: Expires:
Name & address of cardholder, if different from above.

I agree to the Society holding the above details on computer.

Signed
Date

Section D : Mailing Information

Please send the completed form and payment to:

Hon. Secretary
The Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue
Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK
Phone: +44 (0)20 8864 4095 Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109

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