Afternoon Men
by Rick Marin

Slowly, but very deliberately, the brooding edifice of seduction, creaking and incongruous, came into being, a vast Heath Robinson mechanism, dually controlled by them and lumbering gloomily down vistas of triteness. With a sort of heavy-fisted dexterity the mutually adapted emotions of each of them became synchronized, until the unavoidable anti-climax was at hand. Later they dined at a restaurant quite near the flat. What a paragraph! From pages 106-7 in my Sun & Moon Classics paperback of Afternoon Men, Anthony Powell’s under-known 1931 comic novel. And uncannily similar in cadence and denouement to the known 1931 comic novel. And uncannily

My Sun & Moon Classics paperback of What a paragraph! From pages 106-7 in my Sun & Moon Classics paperback of Afternoon Men, Anthony Powell’s under-known 1931 comic novel. And uncannily similar in cadence and denouement to the known 1931 comic novel. And uncannily

The epigram, from Jim Fotheringham’s “diabolically indirect” style is also part of what makes it a “guy” book, I think. The attitude is, “Either you get it or you don’t, but I’m not going to explain it.” The impulse is always to undercut anything too heavy. After delivering a magnificent page-plus rant which includes the complaint that “love has come to mean the most boring form of lust,” a member of Atwater’s circle named Fotheringham says, “I suppose I must have sounded rather depressed. You see, I had a rather heavy lunch.” This is a fellow about whom Atwater says, “The aura of journalism’s lower slopes hung around him like a vapour.”

Now, a feminist might accuse Powell of misogyny for remarks like, “I could never be any more than a friend to any fat girl.” Or: “The toast was lying on the table and he picked it up and struck her with it once or twice, but not hard.” Or, more subtly, “And then art. She talked about that for some time. Or, alternatively, literature. Atwater smoked.” This is about Lola, whom Atwater tells: “Men do treat women badly. You must have discovered that by now.” But the women worth having, which is not to say they are had, are smarter than most of
the men, and at least as intriguing. On Susan Nunnery: “She was not tall and she had big eyes that made her seem as if she were all at once amused and surprised and at the same time disappointed.” And: “How impossible it was to think of London without her. And yet he’d only known her about five minutes.”

The Powell man is one who feels deeply, but prefers not to burden the world with those feelings unless he has no choice – as when Susan Nunnery tells him she doesn’t love him back. A keen social observer, he has no time for affectation, pretension or bores, least of all when they are him: “Atwater talked for a short time about beards in history. No one listened.” But he enjoys a few rounds of facetious, idle jabber in the company of like-minded giddy-heads.

“We are wasting our youth.”

“Do you think so?”

Fotheringham said: “Every minute the precious seconds flit by. The hour strikes. Every moment we get a little closer to our appointed doom.”

Doom is defined as gentlemen’s clubs and/or children, though before decade’s end the world would be at war again and Powell’s writing would change in a way that would render unrepeatable such a spare, funny, poignant one-off as *Afternoon Men.*

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Rick Marin’s memoir, *Cad: Confessions of a Toxic Bachelor,* was published by the Ebury Press in June. He lives in New York.

**Membership Renewal**

Members are reminded that subscriptions were due at the end of March. Those whose subscription has now expired will shortly receive a final renewal reminder. This will be the last Newsletter for those who do not renew their membership.

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

Many responses to the members’ survey have suggested we implement standing order or direct debit payment of subscriptions for UK members. We will investigate to see if this is viable for an organisation of our size. Another suggestion is that we allow members to pay for several years’ membership in advance at a discount. The Executive will also look at this to see if it is a viable option, given the on-going commitment which would be placed on the Society.

Watch this space for any announcement.

**Any Human Heart**

_by David Christie_

A recently published novel by William Boyd, *Any Human Heart,* now in Penguin, has a particularly interesting character – narrator in the person of Logan Mountstuart. Logan, or LMS, as he preferred to be known, was born in 1906 into the English middle-upper class, went to a public school called ‘Abbey’ which appears to be the Catholic equivalent of Eton, and here he had two very close friends. On to Oxford and a third, then, as an aspiring novelist, joined the London literary scene of the ‘thirties. LMS insulted Virginia, fended off a homosexual approach by Evelyn, got drunk in Spain with Hemingway during the Civil War, and, not unsurprisingly, married the daughter of an Earl! As you by now expect, he had a strong interest in painting and was very knowledgeable about it.

So far so good but I, and apparently others, have found LMS’s progress through the world of the thirties heavy travelling and the reason, I think, is his self-centred view of the world, his lack of real interest in others, and his tendency to abuse trust – especially in sexual matters.

For those who are a little slow, Boyd tells us that whilst at Oxford Logan was, on one occasion, ‘interrupted by a man called “Powell” and some years later lunched with “Tony Powell, who is working at Duckworth’s”. With the outbreak of war he was recruited to Intelligence by Ian Fleming (yes, that one) and, after a little tooting around Spain, was sent to the Bahamas to observe closely its most prominent citizen and Governor. Refusal to cooperate in a rather shady project meant that he somehow spent the rest of the war in solitary confinement in Switzerland. LMS published a novel and several volumes of *belles–lettres,* ran a gallery in New York for some years then, after one affair too many (she was underage), made a hasty retreat to England and relative poverty. His last years, he died in 1991, were spent in peaceful retirement in France.

His alter ego, Nicholas Jenkins, was a self-effacing man whose personality has often been criticised as being passive, neutral, and uninvolved; a man who is a gossip and who is a “wet”. On the other hand, unlike Mountstuart, he was very interested in other people who, in turn, seemed to like him; he stayed with his Earl’s daughter, and had at least one son, who did not seem to have come to a ‘bad end’. LMS ended his rather empty life *sans* partner, friends, or even country, whereas Nicholas, in *Hearing Secret Harmonies,* is firmly embedded in his society as a respected and productive member.

Mark Facknitz¹, in an unusually perceptive study, saw through the superficial view of Nicholas as nontentity and makes the point that Nicholas is revealed more through what he doesn’t do or say than by what he does. Comparison of the life and times of Logan Mountstuart with that of Nicholas Jenkins should lead us to a reappraisal of what may be one of the most subtly limned characters ever to grace English fiction, despite his penchant for hiding in the metaphorical shrubbery.

Annual General Meeting 2003

PLEASE NOTE
the AGM venue has been changed from that previously announced

Society AGM
Society members only

The 2003 Annual General Meeting of The Anthony Powell Society will be held on Saturday 20 September 2003 commencing at 1430 hrs sharp.

The AGM venue is now:
Fitzroy Tavern
16 Charlotte Street, London W1, UK
in the Downstairs Bar

Tea and coffee will be provided. The bar will also be open for more intoxicating refreshments.

All members should by now have received their official AGM mailing.

Proxy voting papers must be returned to the Hon. Secretary to arrive no later than Monday 15 September.

Members planning to attend the AGM are asked to let the Hon. Secretary know, also by Monday 15 September, in order that we may arrange sufficient refreshments.

And please remember to bring your membership card and voting paper with you – as we are meeting in a publicly accessible venue we will be checking that those attending are members.

The formal business meeting will be followed by …

Anthony Powell, Evelyn Waugh and Oxford
A Celebration of Evelyn Waugh’s Centenary

Non-members welcome

To celebrate Evelyn Waugh’s centenary, and the long-standing friendship between Powell and Waugh, the formal AGM will be followed, at about 1515 hrs, by an informal round-table discussion. This will include revised repeats of some papers from the “Anthony Powell and Evelyn Waugh” workshop on day two of the Oxford Conference:

Patric Dickinson
Richmond Herald, College of Arms, London
Effortless Superiority? Some Social Comparisons between Powell & Waugh

Christine Berberich
English Department, University of Derby
Two Lost Souls: Powell’s Charles Stringham and Waugh’s Sebastian Flyte

Dr Catherine Hoffmann
University of Le Havre, France
Life in Limbo: Jenkins at University

From the Secretary’s Desk

We’re starting the new era of charitable status by ending an era.

As members will have seen from the AGM mailing, two of our officers are standing down at the AGM, both due to the pressures of their work. We are exceptionally lucky in having willing volunteers to fill both openings.

Maggie Noach, our Chairman for the last two years, will be replaced by Patric Dickinson who in one of his other lives is Richmond Herald of Arms and a professional genealogist. He was elected a Vice-President of the Society of Genealogists in 1997 along with Anthony Powell. This, together with Patric’s encyclopaedic knowledge, will be valuable added dimension to the Society.

Ian Young has been Treasurer since the earliest days of the Society. The Treasurer’s quill pen and ledger will be handed on to Kevin Jewell who volunteered from the ranks for active service. Kevin is also the part-time commercial manager for another charity.

On behalf of the whole Society I would like to express our thanks to both Maggie and Ian for their hard work over the last few years. Without them we wouldn’t be where we are today. I greatly look forward to working with both Patric and Kevin.

Members Survey

As promised in the last Newsletter, all the responses to the members’ survey received by 31 July 2003 were entered in a draw for a year’s free membership of the Society.

The draw was conducted at the London Group pub meet on Saturday 2nd August by Patric Dickson, Richmond Herald of Arms and the Society’s Chairman elect.

The first name drawn from Patric’s sun-hat was Prof. Rudolf Bader of Switzerland, author of one of the early critical studies of Dance. Prof. Bader receives a year’s free membership.

Many thanks to all those members and non-members who sent in their questionnaires. We are still analysing the very interesting input and we aim to report back at the AGM and in the next Newsletter.

The Curse of Widmerpool

Barely two months after receiving the first ever Widmerpool Prize, Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has “retired”. Not only that, it appears that the very office of Lord Chancellor (which dates from the 11th century) is to be abolished.

And all because he got a Widmerpool …

Correction

The two illustrations (of Sillery and Uncle Giles) and their captions used in the Summer Newsletter should have been credited to Patrick Williams. Apologies for this oversight.
Powell and Larkin
by Stephen Holden

Anthony Powell first met Philip Larkin through their mutual friend Kingsley Amis in 1958, when they all lunched together at the Ivy in August of that year. Larkin was careful not to seem impressed after the meeting, writing to a friend, “Powell is about Kingsley’s size & very ‘charming’ & funny, at least he never says anything really funny, but he’s full of droll anecdotes & laughs a lot, so one imagines he’s funny. He dresses in country style & has a big red spotted handkerchief to wipe the tears of laughter away with.”

Larkin had long been a fan of Powell’s novels, especially the pre-Dance novels, recommending them to Amis when they were at Oxford in the 1940s. Larkin read A Question of Upbringing when it first came out, remarking to a friend that it was “rather like The Magnet written by Proust.” And when Amis published Lucky Jim in 1953 Larkin was moaning to friends about the favourable reviews it was getting from people like Powell in Punch.

Powell and Larkin appear to have corresponded very little. In April 1985 Larkin wrote thanking Powell for sending him a copy of Cuthbert Bede’s Lucky Jim in August of that year. Larkin was correspondence very little. In April 1985 Larkin wrote thanking Powell for sending him a copy of Cuthbert Bede’s Lucky Jim in August of that year. Larkin was careful not to seem impressed after the meeting, writing to a friend, “Powell is about Kingsley’s size & very ‘charming’ & funny, at least he never says anything really funny, but he’s full of droll anecdotes & laughs a lot, so one imagines he’s funny. He dresses in country style & has a big red spotted handkerchief to wipe the tears of laughter away with.”

Larkin and Powell did meet occasionally, most notably in summer 1976 when Larkin and Monica Jones (his long-term, on-off girlfriend) were touring the West Country. They lunched together at Frome (where they apparently ate more onion sauce at luncheon than any of Powell’s previous guests) and afterwards went back to The Chantry. In his letters recalling the occasion, Larkin moans that Powell only “showed us the estate – but not the house, wch wd have interested me more.” To Robert Conquest he wrote, “I don’t know that I much enjoyed the tour of the estate, but everything else was all right”, adding, “A.P. was just reading the Waugh diaries for the D.Telegraph: he was careful in his review to point out that some ‘Anthony’ engaged in flagellant orgy wasn’t him.”

Two months later he was still moaning about the visit in a letter to Anthony Thwaite: “I hadn’t been to P.’s mansion before: he showed us round the ‘natural’ estate rather than the house, wch I’d have liked to see.”

Larkin also met up with the Powells at a dinner given by Margaret Thatcher to various well-known writers. Larkin, writing to Anthony Thwaite about Tom Stoppard, said, “I met him [Stoppard] at No. Ten, Downing Street. Lady Violet Powell whispered to me, Is that Mick Jagger? And I was able, from the wealth of my infinitely greater savoir vivre, nous, sens d’occasion and what not, to put her wise.”

The two men do not appear to have met after the 10 Downing Street dinner, though Larkin features quite often in Powell’s Journals from 1982 onwards. In July 1983, for instance, he lunches with Andrew Motion (later Larkin’s biographer) and he (Powell) remarks, “Larkin, one of the most selfish men on earth.” And the following year, after the Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, had died in May 1984, Powell met Lord Gowrie (Minister for the Arts from 1983-1985) who asked him for his views on who should succeed Betjeman as Laureate. “I said Philip Larkin should certainly have it in my opinion, notwithstanding certain objections like not being a particularly nice man, reclusiveness, occasional public indiscretions such as saying he did not want it, and living in Hull.” In the event, Larkin refused the Laureateship, and it went to Ted Hughes.

In mid-1985 Larkin was admitted to hospital with an illness in his throat, and died on 2 December 1985 of cancer. A television news channel telephoned Powell up the same day to ask him to comment on Larkin’s death. Powell refused on the grounds he didn’t know Larkin well enough, but used the occasion in his Journals to muse about Larkin’s life and work: “Larkin was obviously extremely intelligent, a good poet, if essentially not on a very extensive scale, tho’ output on the whole is beside the point …” Powell also complains about Larkin’s negative obituaries, saying many concentrate unduly on Larkin’s right-wing attitudes (a prejudice Powell himself would encounter). Yet Powell ends up giving Larkin a fairly negative obituary himself. “There was something of a dyed-in-the-wool provincialism about Larkin that also suggested a kind of resentment of the modern world. He was perhaps not really a very nice chap is one’s final conclusion, but a good if limited poet.”

Two years later Powell re-read Larkin’s works and compared him to Kingsley Amis, mentioning their “possibly shared Zeitgeist … Difference between them is Kingsley’s acceptance (if not actual enjoyment) of life, notwithstanding colossal grumbling … as opposed to Philip’s very real dislike of every personal involvement in living … Both Philip and Kingsley oppressed by crushing preoccupation with Death tho’ in slightly different manner; Kingsley so to speak having another drink to forget about its imminence; Philip welcoming prospect of

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1 Philip Larkin; Selected Letters of Philip Larkin; ed. Anthony Thwaite; Faber and Faber, 1982; p 288
2 Ibid p202
3 Ibid p223
4 Ibid p 739
5 Ibid p 746
6 Ibid p 544
7 Ibid p 546
8 Ibid p 549
9 Ibid p 629
10 Anthony Powell; Journals: 1982-1986; Heinemann, 1995; p 75
11 Ibid p 189
12 Ibid p 189
13 Ibid p 189
getting out early…” 14 The following year Powell re-read Larkin’s novel Jill and also A Girl in Winter, which he claims to be reading for the first time. This is strange as Powell actually gave A Girl in Winter a good review when it first appeared in 1947. 15 Powell was not impressed with either novel, calling Jill “totally uninspired” and concluding, “Larkin had a great ambition to be a novelist but my own feeling is that he had little or no talent for that.” 16

In 1990 Powell re-read the longish review Larkin had written of Books Do Furnish a Room, describing it (accurately) as a “curiously unfriendly piece.” 17 The review, which appeared in the New Statesman in 1971, veers between somewhat grudging praise and fairly scathing criticism. Larkin writes, “Even bearing in mind that the Music of Time novels read better the second time than the first … I found the literary element in this one disappointing.” 18 Larkin says, rather, oddly, “I am, I suppose, a Powell fan” and compares receiving a new Powell novel to AL Mencken receiving some bootleg boot: “it was accepted in the editorial office of the American Mercury that a delivery from the bootlegger should suspend all work until the treasure had been unwrapped fondled, and even tasted.” 19 Yet Larkin then goes on to describe Dance as essentially a failure, saying that, “It’s ironical, in my view, that the main element lacking in The Music of Time should be the sense of time itself – time passing, people getting older, the feeling of lines shortening and choice decreasing”, adding that, “To show life as a dance or a spectacle means concentrating on the dance-like and spectacular aspect of it, and ignoring precisely those factors which are essential if ‘mortality’ is to be portrayed: the drawing of characters in depth, the evocation of suffering.” 20

Larkin describes Powell’s style (or rather what he perceives Powell’s style to be) as a “frigid design” only permissible in a comic novel. He further describes Powell’s “Comic Mandarin” style as suggesting nothing it describes should be taken seriously as “it imparts a glaze to the action.” “The dance is not only a dance, it is performed behind gauze,” 21 he says, seeming to miss the important point that the voice in question is actually the narrative voice of Nicholas Jenkins. Larkin mentions that “A final and fundamental reservation … Is how far we are reading a work of imagination …” saying that “later books suggest that we are simply reading what happens to have happened to Nick Jenkins, with the growing suspicion that something very similar happened to Mr Powell.” 22 He ends his review saying he prefers Powell’s pre-Dance novels, and that “it may be the fate of a mural to lack the concentrated effect of a single canvas.” 23

On re-reading the review Powell quite rightly disparages Larkin’s stated preference for Evelyn Waugh’s depiction of Ritchie-Hooke over Powell’s of General Liddament and Magnus Donners, noting that “This seems to me to show a taste for very coarse texture.” 24

When Larkin’s Selected Letters were published in 1992 Powell notes the various unfriendly remarks Larkin makes about him (“horse-faced dwarf” etc.) but says “I was surprised how little I minded Larkin’s offensive remarks.” 25 Powell adds that, “Latterly his unfriendly comments on myself are all but insane. They are obviously inspired by jealousy.” 26 He agrees with Hilary Spurling’s view of Larkin: “With regard to individuals, Hilary Spurling put her finger on it in her review, saying he hated everyone who showed themselves in the smallest degree in competition with himself, in fact Larkin was not a very nice man. That is the case with many poets.” 27

Relations between writers, whether in private or public, are frequently uneasy and both Larkin and Powell are guilty of a certain touchiness whenever the other is mentioned. Powell, for instance, often makes the rather de haut en bas comment about Larkin being “provincial” and having an “innate sense of inferiority.” 28 Perhaps the last word on the fractious relationship of one writer to another should go to an anecdote told by Larkin when interviewed for the Paris Review interview “You remember Tennyson

Reading an unpublished poem to Jowett [Dean of Balliol]; when he had finished, Jowett said, ‘I shouldn’t publish that if I were you, Tennyson.’ Tennyson replied, ‘If it comes to that, Master, the sherry you gave us at lunch was downright filthy.’” 29

London Group Meetings

The recent meeting of the London Group (more details elsewhere in this issue) agreed to meet regularly at the Anchor, Bankside. These regular meetings will be informal lunchtime pub meets on the first Saturday of March, July and November, between 1230 and 1530 hrs. The dates were chosen to avoid the AGM, public holidays, Easter and the holiday season.

All members and non-members are welcome. No booking needed; just turn up. We’ll try to make ourselves identifiable with a Powell book (or similar) on display. Come along and enjoy a beer, good food, AP Society camaraderie and Powellian chatter.

Whilst not obviously associated with Powell, the Anchor is an historic London riverside inn, from where Samuel Pepys watched the Great Fire of 1666 and which was also frequented by lexicographer Dr Samuel Johnson. It is additionally attractive in having a number of small rooms which, with luck, can be taken over on the day.

Naturally there will from time to time be other meetings in London. These are likely to range from organised visits and lunches to ad hoc pub or bistro meets in honour of visiting members.

24 Journals 1990-1992; p 71
25 Ibid
26 Ibid pp 220-221
27 Ibid
28 Ibid p 91 & p 221
29 Required Writing p 59
London Group Meeting 2nd August 2003

Several Society members met up at the Anchor pub in London on Saturday 2 August. Those present were David Butler, Patric Dickinson, Michael Hodges, Stephen Holden, Keith Marshall, Noreen Marshall, Mark Muldowney, Victor Pettitt and Victor Spouge. It was from this pub that Samuel Pepys is said to have witnessed the Great Fire of London in 1666. He describes the dreadful heat and “fire drops” falling on him whilst in a boat on the river Thames. He sought refuge in “a little alehouse on bankside and there watched the fire grow”.

The gathering didn’t discuss any one particular Powell-related topic but ranged over several. We talked about the different styles of Powell and Evelyn Waugh, and agreed that the latter’s novels often showed a cruel streak of caricature, whereas Powell was, by-and-large, sympathetic to even the most unappealing of his characters. We then moved on to the frequent charge made against Powell (often by those who hadn’t read his books) of being an experiment. In response to a number of suggestions we have, just for this issue, asked our printers to mail the Newsletter direct to members rather than doing the mailing ourselves.

We also touched on a novel-sequence that has often been compared to Dance (whether favourably or unfavourably): Simon Raven’s Alms for Oblivion.

The Society has decided to make this meeting a regular event (see elsewhere in this issue).

Newsletter Mailing

The mailing of this Newsletter is by way of being an experiment. In response to a number of suggestions we have, just for this issue, asked our printers to mail the Newsletter direct to members rather than doing the mailing ourselves.

Obviously this has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are that the Newsletter will get to you a little sooner (or we have more time to prepare it) and there is less work for the Editor and/or Secretary to do organising the mailing. On the down-side however this will cost the Society more money; as well as the additional cost payable to the printers, it will mean that the inclusion of member-specific inserts (e.g. membership renewal notices) will have to be mailed separately.

If this is successful, and if the Executive feels the additional cost is justified, then we may continue direct mailing permanently or occasionally.

Please tell us your views on this mailing (just drop a quick note to the Hon. Sec.) and help us decide the best way forward. Was this direct mailing a success or failure? Is it worth an additional investment?

From the APLIST

Recent Discussions on the Society’s Email Discussion Group

From Nick Birns:

Just rereading A Buyer’s Market today. AP abhorred Freudian, especially vulgar-Freudian, interpretation of his work, and I am not that crazy about this methodology myself, but it just occurred to me – doesn’t the fact that Nick Jenkins has sex with Gypsy just after Deacon’s death indicate that Deacon, however “unconventionally”, was a kind of father-figure to NJ? He had, after all, known NJ’s real father, who is not at all a presence in BM or this part of the series. Didn’t Deacon’s death somehow remove a paternal blocking-figure that releases NJ to, however temporarily and impulsively, pursue Gypsy? I had previously thought of Gypsy as being triangulated with NJ vis-a-vis Widmerpool (I think Paul Delany’s talk at Oxford may well have mentioned this) … but there may be some psychological pertinence to the Deacon speculation here … what do people think?

From Dave Hallett:

I think Nick Birns might be plausibly onto something there, especially given the attention that Nicholas J gives to Mr Deacon’s display of the picture of Walt Whitman, apparently (at least as Nick sees it) to indicate WW as a spiritual father to Deacon. If not Deacon as “father,” then certainly Deacon as representative of the Father’s generation, the ol’ “anxiety of influence,” and similar theories. Nick, in any case, lays the ghost of Deacon through carnal knowledge of Gypsy – at the scene of the ‘crime’ as it were – and this is a major point of emancipation from boyhood (Mr Deacon is referred to several times as a figure permanently associated with boyhood) for the emerging adult Jenkins (who has already re-met and will soon become deeply involved with Jean).

Consider also at the other end of it all, the incredulity expressed by Barnabas Henderson when Nick says he knew “Edgar Deacon”. By now, Deacon’s private identity has been subsumed by that of his signature on canvas, E. Bosworth Deacon, and Henderson is certain that the ageing Nick has confused the painter with some other Deacon chap.

From John Gould:

I’m also struck by Nick Birns’ thoughts on Mr. Deacon as a father-figure. Jenkins is exceedingly deferential to the old painter whenever the two are together, although he is perfectly willing to make fun of him when on the sidelines, observing or contemplating him. This is exactly the way Jenkins behaves with Uncle Giles. Certainly Deacon and Giles both act as moral restraints on Jenkins.

As Nick B. points out, when Deacon dies, Jenkins is free to stuff Gypsy. And when Giles dies, Jenkins is free to read “The Arab Art of Love” alone in the hotel room. So I think Mr. Deacon is more of an uncle-Giles-figure than a father one. Freud would have no use for this observation, I’m afraid.

Jenkins says that Walt Whitman “morally and intellectually speaking, represented the true source of Mr. Deacon’s otherwise ignored paternal origins.” So he does seem to support the father-figure theory for Deacon-Whitman. However my reading of the real source of Mr. Deacon’s admiration of/attraction for Whitman has always lodged in the observation that neither artist had any interest in – as
Dickie Umfraville puts it – “the female form divine.” So it wasn’t filial affinity, exactly; rather the affinity of one kindred (i.e. homoerotic) spirit to another. And this affinity may not be strictly sexual; in KO Mr. Deacon describes his art “in the words of his great hero, Walt Whitman,” as “the rhythmic myths of the Greeks, and the strong legends of the Romans.” Or does that description sound a wee bit sexual?

From Robert Barrett:
Even when one tosses aside all Freudian interpretations, there is still something quite on the mark about what Nick Bims says about Deacon’s death; whenever I read the scene of NJ and Gypsy in the back room of Mr. Deacon’s shop, I feel that the death of Mr. Deacon has somehow freed up NJ. He can now act like grown-up.

From Andrew Clarke:
Are you sure that stuffing Gypsy is the act of a grown-up?

From Peter Kislinger:
One small step for a grown-up but a big one for young Nick. Oh, and I like the uncle figure. Anything about uncles and aunties in Freud?

From Andrew Clarke:
Are you sure that stuffing Gypsy is the act of a grown-up?

From Nick Birns:
They exist in Greek New Comedy and Latin successors such as Terence and Plautus – blocking-figures I mean, not necessarily paternal ones, although blocking figures do tend to be older than the protagonists ... as AP’s techniques are always compared to Greco-Roman
also suggest that NJ has had very little contact with EBD in his formative years – the very occasional visit to his studio in a comparatively inexpensive part of Brighton, a chance and embarrassed encounter in the Louvre during EBD’s involuntary residence abroad, when he was seen to be engaged in examining a of a beautiful youth through a magnifying glass ...

From Keith Marshall:
I’ve been reading the thread(s) about Deacon as father with some interest. Nick Birns has articulated something I had been thinking myself and not quite fully formed. Yes, I think Deacon is a father-figure to NJ, even tho’ he maybe doesn’t realise it.

Or indeed it may be that Deacon is acting as father at first-remove, and NJ is aware of it; there is always the chance that anything NJ does (and which Deacon knows about) will be repeated back to NJ’s parents. I suspect that to a greater or lesser extent we’ve all been there; I know I have.

From my impressions of reading the first three volumes I would favour the former scenario as the more likely. However I’ve not got as far as hunting for quotes to support what is currently little more than a “gut feeling”. And I would have to concede that the second option may also be playing some part.

From Andrew Clarke:
If he doesn’t realise it, how do we know it, given that everything in the book is mediated by NJ’s consciousness? Might I...
**Dates for Your Diary**

**Saturday 20th September 2003**
**Society AGM**
Venue: Fitzroy Tavern
16 Charlotte Street, London, W1
Time: 1430 hrs
Details elsewhere in this issue
**NOTE THE CHANGED VENUE**

**Saturday 1st November 2003**
**London Group Pub Meet**
Venue: The Anchor Bankside
34 Park Street, London, SE1 9EF
Time: 1230 to 1530 hrs
Regular 4-monthly informal meet at this historic riverside hostelry

**Saturday 6th March 2004**
**London Group Pub Meet**
Venue: The Anchor Bankside
34 Park Street, London, SE1 9EF
Time: 1230 to 1530 hrs
Regular 4-monthly informal meet at this historic riverside hostelry

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**Gold & Founder Member Discounts**

We are delighted to announce that from 1st August 2003 Gold and Founder Members of the Society will receive a 10% discount on the advertised cost of all purchases of Society merchandise. Sadly however this cannot be extended to any associated postage costs.

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**Poussin Posters**

Eagle-eyed members will have noticed on the Merchandise page of the last Newsletter that we have a small supply of posters of Nicolas Poussin’s *A Dance to the Music of Time* for sale. These are a half life-size, high quality, colour reproduction of the painting. They are available for £5.75, which includes packaging (in a robust poster tube) and postage for UK members; overseas members will be asked to make the usual small contribution towards the additional postage.

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**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 England
Organiser: Keith Marshall
Email: kcm@cix.co.uk

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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: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
Email: editor@anthonypowell.org.uk

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**Officers & Executive Committee**

**Patron:** John MA Powell

**President:** Hugh Massingberd

**Vice-President:** John S Monagan (USA)

* **Chairman:** Maggie Noach

* **Hon. Secretary:** Dr Keith C Marshall

* **Hon. Treasurer:** Prof. Ian Young (N. Ireland)

* **Committee Members:**
  Dr Nicholas Birns (USA),
  Leatrice Fountain (USA),
  Stephen Holden, Tony Robinson

**Newsletter Editor:** Stephen Holden

**Hon. Archivist:** Noreen Marshall

**PR/Media Adviser:** Julian Allason

**2005 Conference Committee:**
Keith Marshall, Christine Berberich, Sue Frye, Stephen Holden, Noreen Marshall, Tony Robinson

* Members of the Executive Committee who are the Society’s trustees.

All officers are resident in England or Wales unless stated.

Please send all correspondence to:

**Hon. Secretary, Anthony Powell Society**
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford
Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK

Phone: +44 (0)20 8864 4095
Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
Email: secretary@anthonypowell.org.uk

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

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

**Issue 14, Spring 2004**
Copy Deadline: 13 February 2004
Publication Date: 5 March 2004

**Issue 15, Summer 2004**
Copy Deadline: 14 May 2004
Publication Date: 4 June 2004
Society Merchandise

The Master and The Congressman
A 40 page monograph by John Monagan describing his friendship with Anthony Powell. A small treasure for all collectors of Powelliana.
Price: £5 (post free to all members)

Society Postcard **
B&W postcard of Powell with his cat Trelawney. Picture on page 18.
Price: £1.75 for 5 (postage rate B)

Wallace Collection Postcard **
Price: £2 for 5 (postage rate A)

Wallace Collection Poster
The Wallace Collection’s 48.5 x 67.5 cm (half life-size) poster of Poussin’s A Dance to the Music of Time. Picture on page 18.
Price: £2.50 each (postage rate C)

Society Bookmarks **
Price: £1 for 5 (postage rate A)

Eton Conference Proceedings
Limited edition of 250 numbered copies each signed by the Society’s Patron.
Price: £15 (post free to all members)

Oxford Conference Delegates Book **
As given to delegates at the conference.
Price: £1.50 (postage rate C)

Newsletter Back Issues **
The following back numbers of the Newsletter are still available: 1 (reprint), 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
Price: 50p per copy (postage rate B)

Audio Tapes of Dance **
Copies of the following audio tapes of Simon Callow reading (abridged) volumes of Dance:
• A Question of Upbringing
• The Kindly Ones
• The Valley of Bones
• The Soldier’s Art
Price: £2.50 each (postage rate C)

Postage
All Society merchandise is post free to members in the UK. Regrettably we have to ask overseas members to contribute to airmail postage using the following rates:

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<th>Rate</th>
<th>UK</th>
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Non-members will be charged postage & packing at cost.

Discounts
Gold and Founder members of the Society receive a 10% discount on the cost of merchandise (but not on postage charges).

** Please ask about volume discounts on these items.

Ordering
Post, phone or fax your order to the Hon. Secretary. Payment by cheque (UK funds drawn on a UK bank), credit card (Visa or Mastercard) or cash.

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

The Anthony Powell Society
Registered Charity No. 1096873

Member Information
Type of membership (please tick):
☐ Ordinary Member – £20 a year.
☐ Joint Membership – £30 a year. Any two persons at the same address.
☐ Gold Member – £30 minimum a year.
☐ Student Member – £12 a year. Please send a copy of your student card.
☐ Organisation – £100 minimum a year.

Subscriptions are due on 1st April annually. If joining after 31st December membership includes following full subscription year.

Full Name:
Address:
Postcode/Zip:
Country:
Email:
Number of years membership being paid:
1 / 2 / 3 / more (please state):

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 am a UK taxpayer and I want all donations I’ve made since 6th April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.
(Delete if not applicable.)
I agree to the Society holding my information on computer.

Signed:
Date:

Gift Membership Information
If this is a gift membership, please enter the name & address of the recipient:

And please write below any special message for the recipient:

Where shall we send the membership?
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Please send the completed form and payment to:
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76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK
Phone: +44 (0)20 8864 4095
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