Kalamazoo

by James Tucker

In my talk at Balliol College, Oxford, 2003 I mentioned a previous Anthony Powell Society that I'd had some contact with in the 1970s and 80s, but which seemed suddenly to disappear. I wondered whether a few details about it now would interest members of our Anthony Powell Society; and also whether a Newsletter piece might prompt some information about what happened to that earlier body.

It was based in the Department of English at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA and produced an occasional journal called Anthony Powell Communication, which I believe was edited by Nancy Cuthbert of the Department of English. She took over from Professor William Stone of the University of Illinois. I have issues 12-17 and 19. Issue 12 is stamped on the cover, “26 October 1979 90 copies.” Kalamazoo was, of course, made famous in the song, “A B C D E F G H I – I got a girl in Kalamazoo – don’t want to boast, but I know she’s the toast of Kalamazoo.”

I worked for the Sunday Times at this period and told a colleague, Peter Dunn, about the US Society. He wrote a regular arts column and in June 1980 published an item headed: “Kalamazoo Hails Anthony Powell.” It went on: “What would those supremely English characters in Anthony Powell’s 12 volume novel, A Dance to the Music of Time, have made of it? I have it on the authority of James Tucker, author of The Novels of Anthony Powell, that a thriving American fan club for Powell’s work has grown up in the US, with its centre in deepest Michigan – Kalamazoo, no less.”

“‘Fan club is to put it flippantly, perhaps,’ says Tucker. ‘This is in fact a body of American academics who publish a magazine concerned exclusively with Powell’s writing and who are currently pushing his candidature for the Nobel prize.’” Dunn wrote that Issue 13 of (Continued on page 3)
(Continued from page 1)

Anthony Powell Communication “reports in some jubilation that the powerful Modern Language Association will mount a special Powell session at its annual conclave in Houston …” Suggested topics include ‘Powell and practically everybody – Powell’s personal, professional and literary relationships with other people of letters.’"

Dunn telephoned Powell about it and he said: “ ‘Naturally one is pleased … I certainly shouldn’t be able to go to the conference, much as one enjoys going to America. I’ve reached the age where I just use my mornings for work.’”

I had an article in Issue 15 myself, largely devoted to an apology for messing up in the “Who’s Who” chapter of my book an entry about Dicky Umfraville. This slip might be worth a digression. I don’t excuse the error, but I still think something dodgy went on in the way Powell presented the Umfraville material. My article said:

"Something I failed to take account of that correction by Alfred Tolland, Erridge’s uncle, in Books Do Furnish a Room (chapter 2) of his assertion in The Acceptance World (chapter 5) that Dicky Umfraville had been his fag at school. In Books Do Furnish a Room, Tolland says rather sheepishly that his fag was a different Umfraville altogether: RHJ, in fact. (It would appear, though, from The Acceptance World that RHJ was also called Dicky, since Tolland smiles in recognition when Nicholas mentions the first name. Powell is either indulging in some very fancy work; or realised a while after The Acceptance World that Tolland and Dicky Umfraville are not of an age to be school contemporaries, and had Alfred make the correction in Books Do Furnish a Room.) At any rate, I gave RHJ no entry in my “Who’s Who”, perhaps understandably, since he never appears. I did include Tolland’s withdrawal of his claim in the entry on Alfred Tolland himself: ‘Umfraville not his fag,’ that entry ends. More accurately it should have read: ‘Dicky Umfraville not his fag.’ Worse, much worse, in the entry for Dicky Umfraville, I added the initials RHJ. (In other words, I ran two people into one, as Tolland for some reason does in The Acceptance World).

I was able to tell Communication readers that in the British second edition of The Novels of Anthony Powell matters had been righted; and that I hoped Columbia University Press, who brought out the book over there, would follow suit.

Issue 19 of Communication – the latest I have – is dated July 1983. It refers to a draft constitution for the Society which had been printed in Issue 18. Somehow I lack that one. Two people had agreed to stand for office: John Riley, of the University of Lowell, for president, and Bill Stone (William B Stone, as above, but by then of Indiana University). There’s a review by Fred Warner (University of New Mexico) of Powell’s memoirs, To Keep the Ball Rolling, entitled “A Fine Tapestry.” He also contributes a Quiz which opens with the question: “General Conyers dies while (a) playing the cello, (b) stuffing Tuffy, (c) chasing looters during an air raid?”

Professor Arthur Schlesinger Junior (Graduate School and University Centre, City University of New York) says he hesitates to claim he was the original American Powell fan, but “I was certainly an early one. I happened on Venusberg and From a View to a Death in London during the war and became an addict”.

And thereafter silence. I received no more copies of Communication and no replies to letters sent to Nancy Cutbirth at her university and what I took to be her home address in Merrill Street, though until then she had been a dutiful correspondent. My efforts at getting in touch could have been more thorough, I know. I might have picked up the telephone or even made a trip to Kalamazoo, but didn’t. As things stood, and stand, there came a total breakdown in “Communication”, which I regret.

Brief Lives

Alan Watkins’ book Brief Lives is republished by Elliott & Thompson this month. The book is a series of short autobiographies (somewhat in the style of John Aubrey), including an interesting portrait of Powell. It also includes brief lives of, among others, Kingsley Amis, Richard Crossman, Roy Jenkins, AJP Huxley, and stand, there came a total breakdown in “Communication”, which I regret. He also contributes a Quiz which opens with the question: “General Conyers dies while (a) playing the cello, (b) stuffing Tuffy, (c) chasing looters during an air raid?”

On 21 April, 1956, Time and Tide published Maclaren-Ross’ notice of Heaven and Hell by Huxley. In that period, Time and Tide was a well-regarded weekly, owned and managed, it seems at a loss, by the right-wing publicist, Lady Rhondda. Though the paper was ridiculed in one of his late novels by HG Wells as “Wear and Tear”, the standard of commentary presented was far superior to anything regularly

Maclaren-Ross Bends His Mind

by Tom Miller

Renewed interest in the exotic life of Julian Maclaren-Ross (see, for example, Paul Willets on the subject in the Spring 2003 Newsletter) reminded me of an interesting contribution by this able, but disturbed, writer, the original of X Trapnel in the great Powellite cycle.

In the 1950s, an aspiring culture-fan, I collected newspaper cuttings – as a matter of fact, I still do, though nowadays I seem to accumulate more notices of films than of books. A theorist of importance to me at that time was the novelist Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).

Links between Anthony Powell and Huxley are hard to establish: so far as I am aware, the men never met, though Huxley may have been a resident of Southern California when Powell worked there as a scriptwriter before World War II. It is difficult to point to any influence of Huxley on Powell, though Afternoon Men reads slightly like an early Huxleyan “country house” novel; in To Keep the Ball Rolling, Powell admits that, when Huxley’s Antic Hay came out, he was “prostrated by its brilliance”.

On 21 April, 1956, Time and Tide published Maclaren-Ross’ notice of Heaven and Hell by Huxley. In that period, Time and Tide was a well-regarded weekly, owned and managed, it seems at a loss, by the right-wing publicist, Lady Rhondda. Though the paper was ridiculed in one of his late novels by HG Wells as “Wear and Tear”, the standard of commentary presented was far superior to anything regularly

Brief Lives by Alan Watkins; published by Elliott & Thompson (London); ISBN 1904027164; £9.99
Maclaren-Ross was an acute critic whose reputation was well earned – it is not surprising that he was used by Powell in his cycle

Maclaren-Ross was a scourge of Huxley’s love of clichés: he condemned,

“...‘the mind’s antipodes’ – a phrase of which the author is so enamoured that it occurs on almost every page”, and he added that, “The author’s observations are repetitious in the extreme, and his style marred by such uncouth locutions as ‘otherness’, ‘indwelling’, ‘randomness’, ‘Thinghood’, and – worse still – ‘Thing-in-Itselfhood’; some readers, also, may feel that it would be difficult for a theology to have teeth.”

Maclaren-Ross reported that Huxley chilled his blood “… by mention of a ‘very fine electrode’, which, when applied to certain areas of the brain, may ‘elicit a long chain of memories relating to some past experience’, while the patient (under a local anaesthetic) finds himself simultaneously in two times and places …”

The technique that froze the gore of Maclaren-Ross would in 2004 be regarded as old-fashioned, but it is interesting to trace the histories of studies of the brain, and of the popular use of hard drugs.

Huxley is today accused of having tried to induce in himself a mystical experience. Maclaren-Ross, despite grave faults of character, was an acute critic whose reputation was well earned – it is not surprising that he was used by Powell in his cycle.
Farebrother settled the minor score with appropriately minor retaliation by revealing his first name as Lysander and ‘smiled, not displeased at finding this piece of information so unexpected’.

Getting even with Widmerpool took a good deal longer but, when he faced likely disgrace as a result of his Eastern European activities, Farebrother anticipated ‘no minor revenge’. In fact it was felt to be ‘not in the public interest to proceed with the case’, but some damage was done. More positively Farebrother combined with Bertram Akworth (one of the first of Widmerpool’s victims) to get him sacked from the board of a bank. Many years later Widmerpool reflected ‘Farebrother always had it in for me. So did Akworth. It was natural enough’.

What drives Farebrother? Nicholas Birns notes that ‘there is always an element in Farebrother that Nicholas (Jenkins) finds hard to explain’. Farebrother certainly works quite hard at survival and indeed also survived, and apparently enjoyed, marriage to the formidable Geraldine Weedon, who had ‘a wonderful instinct for the right sort of economies’. In short, he is always good at taking care of himself in a quiet way.

In other words he is an effective manager, and admires effective management wherever he comes across it. He refers to Murtlock showing himself ‘perfectly capable of taking charge’ at Stripling’s cremation and said he demonstrated ‘an air of efficiency. That always gets me’.

and although ‘verging on eighty’, he remains ‘extremely up-to-date, not to say brisk’. On the subject of attending funerals and memorial services, he remarks ‘you always meet a lot of people at them you haven’t seen for years, and that often comes in useful later’.

In his introduction to *Invitation to the Dance* AP remarked ‘It is an aspect of novels that has always fascinated me: the prerogative of the reader to make an individual judgement, not necessarily the author’s, on characters and events’. That is my excuse for exercising my individual judgement and agreeing that Sunny Farebrother is one of the most interesting, subtle and amusing characters in *Dance*.

As Nicholas recalls after Farebrother’s final appearance in *Dance*, Peter Templer’s judgement remained a valid one: ‘He’s a downy old bird’.

---

Christmas Limerick Competition

*by Stephen Holden*

This year’s Christmas prize competition was to write an Anthony Powell-related limerick.

I received over a dozen entries in all and they were of such a good standard that I have decided to print them all in the *Newsletter*.

However, the limerick that seemed to me to best capture a Powellian moment (and that faint edge of naughtiness redolent of so many limericks) was this from John Gould:

Pom had an unfortunate bent:
She tried, but she hated each gent.
Sex moved her like lead;
Ah, she’d rather be dead!
So, instead of just coming, she went.

Congratulations to John Gould, who wins a copy of the DVD of the Channel 4 television films of *Dance*.

The other entries were:

---

**From Ed Bock**

*AP, to make perfectly sure*
That his villain would have no allure,
Made Ken fish-eyed and fat
And concerned always that
He’d de-scented from liquid manure.

---

**From Michael Goldman**

The woman who’s called Myra Erdleigh
Was given to acting absurdly.
Poor Uncle Giles
Was caught by her wiles.
And secret harmonies heard she.

There’s a girl called Gypsy Jones
Who’s not in *The Valley of Bones*.
But *A Buyer’s Market* ups the ante.
For here she’s found *in flagrante*,
Seduced by Nick’s Etonian tones.

It’s strange that Mr Deacon,
Always shining like a beacon,
Never appears without ‘Mister’
(Gypsy Jones, had he kissed her?)
Painting as much as ever he can.

‘Tis said of Xavier Trapnel,
Who in war evaded shrapnel,
That he’s based on Maclaren-Ross,
But Powell knows who’s boss:
He certainly makes every gap tell.

All those who stayed at the Ufford
Great boredom undoubtedly suffered.
Giles died at the Bellevue
Which Nick Jenkins well knew
Was seaside twin of the Ufford.

---

**From Philip Ivory**

There was an old fellow named Powell,
A sharply perceptive kind soul.
Through the eyes of dear Nick
He showed how we tick:
He saw life as a dance on the whole.
Centenary Corner

Anthony Powell
Centenary Conference

is to be held on
Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December 2005
at
The Wallace Collection
London, W1

There is not very much to report at this time, mainly due to the Christmas and New Year holiday. Work on the Centenary Conference continues: we are in the process of securing keynote speakers and hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the next Newsletter.

Work is also proceeding slowly on the plans for the Wallace Collection’s Centenary Exhibition. In addition we understand there are plans afoot for a small centenary exhibitions in New York and at Cambridge University Library as well as the possibility of an event at Georgetown University, which of course holds John Monagan’s collection of Powell letters and photographs.

More details in the next Newsletter.

From Katherine Barrett

A dashing young writer named Waring,
Lived a life of adventurous daring.
His stories would ‘maze your eyes,
But they were all plagiarised
So Waring bowed out while seafaring.

There once was a writer named Powell,
Whose name had to rhyme with a mole.
His temper grew foul
If you rhymed it with towel
For his Powell was always a Pole.

A schoolmaster sad and forlorn,
Had his dignity shredded and torn,
He soon came to grief,
When mistook for a thief,
In the case of Braddock and Thorne.

They said, ‘Tony, you’ve written enough,
And the going must really be tough!’
He said, ‘Boys, I am fine,
I have just written nine,
And I’ll scribble three more off the cuff.’

From B Douglas Russell

‘Have you heard of Anthony Powell?’
‘Yeah, that famous top-secret mole.
There was Burgess, MacLean,
And what was that third guy’s name?
Sure, I’ve heard of Anthony Powell.’

Well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

Anthony Powell Society Newsletter #14

Local Group News

Stockholm Meeting

by Malin Siddiqi

The newly formed Stockholm AP network consists of Mats Wiklund, Regina Rehbinder, Hans Johansson and myself, Malin Siddiqi -- comprising an excellent mixture of ages and occupations! After having successfully identified each other, we started off by sharing how we first came in contact with Powell, since he is not a well known writer in Sweden. It turned out that Hans had actually read the Swedish translations of A Question of Upbringing and A Buyer’s Market in the sixties, Mats found a couple of the novels in his father's collection and myself and Regina were seduced by the wonderful titles of the novels. We then proceeded to discuss how to best spread the knowledge of Powell in Sweden and came up with a number of ideas such as a joint meeting with the Proust society, contact the various English societies in Stockholm, get one of the newspapers to write a few lines about us etc. Moreover, our animated discussion provoked the solitary luncher next to us to ask of whom we were speaking with such passion, so perhaps lunch discussions at busy restaurants might be an idea as well ...

Finally, we put together some suggestions for future activities for the Anthony Powell Society for Regina to bring with her to the leap year lunch in London. We all agreed that it was truly great to have met and that we would continue doing so in the future!

London Meeting

by Stephen Holden

A group of Society members met up at the Spaghetti House restaurant in St Martin’s Lane, London on 21 February. Those present were: Patric Dickinson, Michael Hodges, Stephen Holden, Chris Hoskin, Keith & Noreen Marshall, Derek Miles, Prue Raper, Victor Spouge, Elwin Taylor, Col Peter Taylor, David Ure and Stephen Williams. We also welcomed Regina Rehbinder and Daniel Tarschys as a delegation from the newly formed Swedish Group.

As usual the gathering ranged over many Powell-related topics. Regina gave more details of the founding of the Stockholm branch of the Society, and said how grateful Swedish members were at the further reading list that flooded in on the APLIST when Malin Siddiqi requested suggestions.

One group discussed the various pubs, real and imaginary (French-Polishers’ Arms, Hero of Acre, Marquess of Sleaford, Wheelbarrow, Nag’s Head), that appear in Powell’s work, and tried to equate the two. Meanwhile another section of the party were reciting Harry Graham’s Ruthless Rhymes! There was also discussion about possible venues for future London events and for the AGM.

After lunch several members went across the road to the National Portrait Gallery to view the Henry Lamb portrait of Anthony Powell.
**Annual General Meeting**

The Society’s Executive has decided to move the normal date of the Annual General Meeting from mid-September to late-October.

This retiming will allow the Society to save on postage costs by being able to include all the AGM mailings with the scheduled Newsletter mailings, thus saving the cost of a specific AGM mailing to members.

Consequently this year’s AGM will now be on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd October in the London area. Details of the time and venue will be confirmed later. Please add the new date to your diary!

**GF Watts Painting**

Many who attended the Oxford Conference dinner in Keble College last April asked about the huge painting in Keble College Hall (pictured below).

Tony Robinson, who spent his Oxford years at Keble, has done some research and tells us that the painting is *The Story of Boccaccio* by GF Watts. Painted in 1844 it depicts a scene from the *Decameron*. Watts (1817-1904), who became known as the “Victorian Michelangelo”, was briefly, but apparently unhappily, married to the teenage Ellen Terry.

**Henry Lamb Portrait of Anthony Powell**

As many members will know, the Henry Lamb portrait of Anthony Powell was acquired for the nation (ie. the UK) from Lady Violet Powell’s estate in lieu of Inheritance Tax. The portrait is in the care of the National Portrait Gallery in London, of which Anthony Powell was a trustee from 1962 to 1976.

We are pleased to report that the portrait is currently on view in the Poets & Writers display on the first floor of the National Portrait Gallery – along with contemporaneous portraits of Constant Lambert and Dylan Thomas, amongst others.

**Honour for Society Member**

Society member Jonathan Hunt, of the Open University, has been asked by Worcester College, Oxford to give its 2004 Wilkinson lecture. The lecture will be entitled “An Aesthete among the Hearties: Jocelyn Brooke at Worcester, 1927-8”.

The lecture, which will last about an hour, is on Wednesday 10th March in the college’s Lower Library starting at 1700 hrs. The lecture is open to the public and will be followed by drinks.

**Understanding Anthony Powell**

*An announcement from Nick Birns*

To my Powell fan friends! All of you, in one way or another, have kindly expressed interest in my forthcoming monograph *Understanding Anthony Powell*, so it is my pleasure to tell you it is now available for pre-order on amazon.com and amazon.co.uk as well as (in USA and Canada) directly from the publisher, University of South Carolina Press, at 1-800-768-2500. (Of course Quiggin and Craggs were the publishers of choice but certain phrases about an unnamed Balkan country made things a bit touchy ...)

*Understanding Anthony Powell by Nicholas Birns; University of South Carolina Press; ISBN 1570035490*

**Announcement**

The Society sends congratulations to Dr Christine Berberich on her recent engagement.

**Royal Society of Literature**

*Roy Jenkins Memorial Lecture 27th May 2004*

To be given by David Cannadine

*Making History, Writing History: an evening with Roy Jenkins*

“During the second half of the twentieth century, Roy Jenkins was the foremost author-statesman of his time. Why did he become a writer? Why did he write the sort of books he did? And what was the connection between his penmanship and his politics? David Cannadine is Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of British History at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London, and the author of many books on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain. He was a friend and admirer of Lord Jenkins, and has contributed to *Roy Jenkins: A Retrospective*, to be published by the Oxford University Press in the autumn.”

The lecture starts promptly at 1900 hrs in the Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, Courtauld Institute, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2. Members of the public are welcome to attend There is a suggested contribution of £8. Tickets are not issued in advance. More information from the Royal Society of Literature: www.rslit.org or +44 20 7845 4676.
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

Dates for Your Diary

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

**Saturday 3rd July 2004**
**London Group Pub Meet**
Venue: The Anchor Bankside
34 Park Street, London, SE1 9EF
Time: 1230 to 1530hrs
Regular 4-monthly informal meet at this historic riverside hostelry

**Changed Date**
**Saturday 23rd October 2004**
**Society AGM**
Time: afternoon
Venue: London
Details to be confirmed in the next Newsletter

**Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December 2005**
**Anthony Powell Centenary Conference**
Venue: The Wallace Collection
Manchester Square, London, W1
Details to follow

Local Groups

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

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

**Swedish Group**
Area: Sweden
Organiser: Regina Rehbinder
Email: reginarehbinder@hotmail.com

**London Group**
Area: London & SE England
Organiser: Keith Marshall
Email: kcm@cix.co.uk

Please contact the Hon. Secretary if you wish to make contact with a group and don't have email.

Newsletter Copy Deadlines

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

**Issue 16, Autumn 2004**
Copy Deadline: 21 August 2004
Publication Date: 10 September 2004

**Issue 17, Winter 2004**
Copy Deadline: 12 November 2004
Publication Date: 3 December 2004

From the APLIST

**Recent Discussions on the Society's Email Discussion Group**

**From John Gould**
As I was driving down to NYC from Massachusetts, I was listening to a Books on Tape recording of Hearing Secret Harmonies, and I started to revise my feelings about that volume, which I have at times tended quietly to disparage.

In this listening I was reminded how small a part Murtlock "physically" plays in the book. He appears in only two of the seven chapters (the first and the sixth), the remainder of his presence consisting of other characters’ reflections about him.

Murtlock, like his original, Dr Trelawney, makes a tremendous impression

His dialog consists of 66 lines in Chapter One, and many of these are questions, others terse pronouncements (two "Yes" and two "No"). In Chapter Six he has only 16 lines, three of which are "No".

These facts struck me because his presence seems so overwhelming whenever I have thought of the book, and further because so many people (myself included) have complained about him as a character – that he shows Powell's inability to understand the cult movements of the '60s and '70s.

Given his relatively small time on stage, Murtlock, like his original, Dr Trelawney (who also appears physically in only one book), makes a tremendous impression – on Nick, on Widmerpool (obviously), on us readers – with exceeding economy. Murtlock is a menacing, indeed frightening figure; and I now don't think he is unbelievable at all. In fact as I was driving home from New York, I thought of Jim Jones, the leader of the Jonestown cult's mass suicide in 1978, and thought how prescient Powell had been in creating the little horror of Scorp.

I also felt in hearing the secret harmonies this time how carefully Powell has built the novel around the Ariosto myth of Orlando. Over and over again, the threads recall the swans recovering lost reputations from the Lake of Oblivion. One after another, characters – St John Clarke, X Trapnel, Mr Deacon, etc. – are revived. Indeed, the Magnus Donners prize, awarded to biographies, could be considered one of these swans at work.

Anyway, all this commentary hopes to spark some discussion. How do others feel about Hearing Secret Harmonies? Do you suppose because I myself am getting closer to the age of the participants that I'm hearing some secret harmonies of my own?

**From David Christie**
Hearing Secret Harmonies (and indeed the whole last trilogy) has got a lot of stick from some critics over the years, but I have always liked it for two reasons. The first is that I think that in some sense Hearing Secret Harmonies is the 'Book of Nicholas' where this character, who
has often irritated me over our acquaintance, comes into his own as a voice of sanity in a mad world. The second reason is that if the *Dance* can be said to have a 'plot' then it is realised in *Hearing Secret Harmonies* with the Burton quotation in the penultimate paragraph where Nicholas solves, to his satisfaction, the metaphysical problem that has been nagging at him for 3000 pages. As it happens I do not agree with what I see to be his solution, but the fact that he has worked it out to his satisfaction is all that matters I guess.

**From Michael Henle**

What is the metaphysical problem that Nick solves to his own satisfaction in the penultimate paragraph? And what is that solution?

**From David Christie**

I think that one can apply the scientific paradigm to the *Dance* in that Nick proposes an hypothesis, namely that the events of one’s life are predetermined and that man has no choice in its course. The hypothesis is laid out allegorically in the Poussin painting. He now questions this hypothesis and challenges its validity.

**From Michael Henle**

I don’t agree with your ‘scientific hypothesis’ vision of Nick. True hints that at least life is patterned are thrown out throughout the series. But I don’t see this as predestination; simply that life obeys some kind of laws. Equally the series shows happenstance and random circumstance in operation. The whole thing is a delicate balance between the two. I will agree that this lifts consideration of *Dance* to a different philosophical plane!

---

**The Widmerpool Award**

Last year the Society decided to inaugurate an annual Widmerpool Award, for that public figure who most embodies the characteristics of Kenneth Widmerpool. The award takes the form of an engraved “wrong kind of overcoat”, purchased by the Society (at no small expense) from some local flea-market or charity shop.

The 2003 award, announced at the Balliol conference, went to Lord Irvine, the then Lord Chancellor. The nominations referred to his “unabashed exercise of the powers and privileges of his office without care of public opinion”. The award was widely reported in the UK press. Shortly afterwards, not only did Lord Irvine cease to be Lord Chancellor, but also it was announced the very post was to be abolished.

The Anthony Powell Society is formally inviting members to submit nominations for the prestigious 2004 Widmerpool Award. Nominees must be living figures who most embody the characteristics of Kenneth Widmerpool. The award takes the form of an engraved “wrong kind of overcoat”, purchased by the Society (at no small expense) from some local flea-market or charity shop. The nominations should be sent to the Editor of this Newsletter to arrive no later than Thursday 1st April 2004.

Once nominations are in, a cabal or Star Chamber will decide the “winner”. The award will be presented at some suitably Widmerpudlian location.

---

**Answers to the A to Z Christmas Quiz**

*Set by Mr Blackhead*

The answers to the Christmas Quiz, which all concerned writers and writing (real or imagined) mentioned in *A Dance to the Music of Time*.

A. By Apollinaire, one of the few books on Moreland’s shelves.
   *Alcools*

B. A travel book by Mark Members.
   *Baroque Interlude*

C. Proust’s “Balbec”.
   *Cabourg*

D. Erridge’s gauntness recalls this novel character’s looks.
   *Don Quixote*

E. “...banal de tous les vieux garçons” – lines from Baudelaire quoted by Moreland to Stourwater Castle.

F. By GW Henty, one of the few books ever read by Farebrother.
   *For Name and Fame: or, Through the Afghan Passes*

G. Novel borrowed by Quiggin from Jenkins at university.
   *The Green Hat by Michael Arlen*

H. Moreland’s proposed title for an autobiographical work.
   *A Hundred Disagreeable Sexual Experiences*

I. Ada Leintwardine’s first novel.
   *I Stopped at a Chemist*

J. Either this writer or Robert Louis Stevenson told Le Bas his verse was frightfully bad.
   *Henry James*

K. Title of a lecture delivered by Mark Members at the university immediately after World War II.
   *Kleist, Marx, Sartre, the Existentialist Equilibrium*

L. Author of *A Hero of Our Time*.
   *Mikhail Lermontov*

M. Volume of Bernard Shernmaker’s collected articles.
   *Miscellaneous Equities*

N. Jenkins reads *The Castle of Fratta* by this author in *Temporary Kings*.
   *Ippolito Nievo*

O. Trapnel’s copy of this Russian novel is worn to shreds.
   *Oblomov*

P. To Jenkins, Widmerpool resembles this writer without his wig.
   *Samuel Pepys*

Q. Publishers of *Fission*.
   *Quiggin & Craggs*

R. Author of these lines quoted by Moreland: “Chanson de la plus haut tour”.
   *Arthur Rimbaud*

S. Title of the only book Uncle Giles is ever seen reading.
   *Some Things That Matter*

T. Novelist admired by Liddament.
   *Anthony Trollope*

U. Quiggins’ first and only book.
   *Unburnt Boats*

V. Author of the lines that give the title to *Hearing Secret Harmonies*.
   *Thomas Vaughan*

W. Mr Deacon’s spiritual father.
   *Walt Whitman*

X. Trapnel’s first name.
   *Xavier*

Y. Lines from Jonson quoted by Moreland: “Put me to … foxes, milking of he-goats.”
   *Yoking*

Z. Sir Basil …, financier and munitions manufacturer, mentioned in Max Pilgrim’s *Tess of Le Touquet*.
   *Zaharoff*
Letters to the Editor

From Andrew Clarke

During the course of Saturday afternoon I cast financial caution to the winds and spent a whole AUSS$10.00 on a CD of old favourites from Edmund Ross and His Rumba Band, partly to demonstrate my multicultural credentials but also to go back to the days when the Light Programme was worth listening to, although the rumba is something that I have only recently attempted with any degree of success.

And of course this particular petite madeleine brought back other memories of a fifties upbringing: the harp arpeggios, the cultured tones, the sounds of tea being poured, all part of the everyday happenings of a doctor's wife. This particular savonnette was called Mrs Dale's Diary, it was broadcast twice daily, and many was the Confused Elderly Person who thought it was real. The BBC regularly advertised, and presumably sold in vast quantities, a real diary called Mrs Dale's Diary, in which one might find, in addition to the phases of the moon and particulars of Moveable Feasts, the date of Dr and Mrs Dale's wedding anniversary, the birthdays of their children, the day when Mrs Freeman struck Mr Aneurin Bevan with her umbrella while descending from a Green Line Bus, and other incidents of note.

Following this august precedent, why could not the Anthony Powell Society turn an honest penny towards expenses by publishing Mrs Jenkins's Diary? It could have all kinds of interesting events in it, such as the date of Widmerpool's Unfortunate Evening at Sleaford, which would be a good place for me to record my urologist's appointments, for example? There would of course be London Underground maps in the back cover (the 1933 edition of course) plus a wine guide and a plan of Jermyn Street.

And perhaps our Cambrian correspondent could furnish a guide to the pronunciation of Michael Howard's birthplace? Yes, I know The Spectator recently published one, but I don't think it quite cut the mustard.

From Nick Birns

Rereading Stephen Holden's excellent article on Powell and Larkin in the last Newsletter but one – Stephen raises the question of why AP was so critical of Larkin taking the interval-shutter photographs in which he left the group, then returned to be included in the picture. Stephen seems to be puzzled by this, and I can understand that. Was it that Larkin was trying, in a way, to be both photographer and subject – and that Powell saw this as too much of a drive for power or control? I'm thinking a bit of Henchman in The Fisher King. Or was he being like Sir Magnus in the Seven Deadly Sins, trying to stage-manage a tableau?

From James Doyle

The cover of the American paperback edition of William Boyd's Any Human Heart is a copy, in oils, of a photograph of AP circa 1925 which is reproduced in Messengers of Day. Powell stands on a lawn, legs crossed at the ankles, intently studying a newspaper. The credit for the illustration makes no reference to the original photograph.

It is not, to tell the truth, a very accomplished rendering. But I thought that the Hon. Sec. might consider securing the original on behalf of the Society to "sky" in the hallway of the Society's headquarters next to Boyhood of Cyrus or behind the bar in the Jenkins Arms.

Nick Birns replies:
The US Boyd paperback cover is a painting (based on that photograph) by the American artist Duncan Hannah, who attended our recent celebration of Powell's 98th birthday in NYC.

From James Doyle


The following suggestions for books were sent in:

From B Douglas Russell

In Lady Molly by William Clinton

From Andrew Clarke

Casanova's Jewish Restaurant by William Clinton

Temporary King by Gerald Ford

Hearing Secret Harmonics by Richard Nixon

A Question of Upbringing by George W Bush

At Auntie Mamie's by DD Eisenhower

The Valet of Bonzo by Ronald Reagan

and don't forget Richard Nixon's second novel, Bugs Do Furnish A Room

From William Warren

Banking friend, Steve Kelly, suggests that from the Board at Enron should appear Two Sets of Books Do Furnish a Room.

From Tom Miller

I recently read a collection of speeches by Enoch Powell, A Nation Not Afraid. I concluded that Enoch was very nearly a great man, but what I want to know is, did he ever meet Powell?
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 7.
Price: £1.75 for 5 (postage rate B)

Wallace Collection Postcard **
The Wallace Collection’s luxurious postcard of Poussin’s A Dance to the Music of Time. Picture on page 18.
Price: £2.50 each (postage rate C)

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)

Society Bookmarks **
Price: £1 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. Mailed in a poster tube. Picture on page 18.
Price: £5.75 (postage rate D)

Eton Conference Proceedings
Limited edition of 250 numbered copies each signed by the Society’s Patron.
Price: £18 (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, 11, 12 and 13.
Price: 50p per copy (postage rate B)

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

Membership Form

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?
• Direct to the recipient
• To you to give to the recipient personally

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