Inaugural Annual Anthony Powell Lecture
Saturday 17 November
To be given by Tariq Ali
Details page 16

AGM 2007
See centrefold for agenda etc.

Centenary Conference Proceedings
*** Now Available ***
This magnificent 298 page book, which includes over 20 papers from the conference and 32 pages of colour illustrations, is now available from the Hon. Secretary

Price (including postage)
UK Members: £10
Overseas Members: £14

All conference delegates should by now have received their copy

*** Now Available ***
Society Merchandise page 30
ERRATUM page 18

Contents
From the Secretary’s Desk … 2
Powell Auction at Travellers’ Club … 3
A Link Broken: Sir Oliver Millar … 6
A Meeting in Kyoto … 8
News Items … 11 & 13
The Bag o’Nails Revisited … 12
Two Biographies in One … 14
Society Events & Diary Dates … 16
Local Group News … 18
Subscription Information … 20
Literary Anniversaries in 2007 … 21
Cuttings … 22
Letters to the Editor … 24
Powell and Honours … 27
Merchandise & Membership … 30

Powell Birthday Lunch
Sat 1st December; see page 16
From the Secretary’s Desk

By the time you read this the Bath conference (our 4th) will be upon us. It seems only yesterday that we were gathering at The Wallace Collection for the centenary conference; and yet in some ways it seems decades ago – which highlights the relevance of a conversation we had about time at the London Pub Meet in August.

There is a theory that time is not linear; something we all know, at least anecdotally, from our morning ablutions. One day, following your normal routine, you will be ready 15 minutes early. Another day, under apparently identical circumstances, you will be 15 minutes late. What is more mind-boggling is the idea that time may even loop back on itself – and now scientific theory suggests that indeed it might. This would certainly account for the amount of time it has taken to get the centenary conference proceedings to press! Not to mention some of the time-lapses in Dance.

Does this mean time travel is possible? Well maybe; the scientific jury is still divided, although it seems that any “time machine” is unlikely to be able to travel backwards beyond the time of its creation. So sadly it seems we may never solve any of those tantalising historical riddles.

Even more mind-boggling is the cosmological concept that we are in just one of an infinite number of parallel universes in which every conceivable outcome is played out. So in one such universe Britain lost WWII to Hitler, in another to Mussolini and in yet others Dance was never written. What a horrid thought!

The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No. 1096873

The Anthony Powell Society is a charitable literary society devoted to the life and works of the English author Anthony Dymoke Powell, 1905-2000.

Officers & Executive Committee

Patron: John MA Powell
President: Simon Russell Beale
Hon. Vice-Presidents:
  Julian Allason
  Hugh Massingberd
*Chairman: Patric Dickinson
*Hon. Secretary: Dr Keith C Marshall
*Hon. Treasurer: Dr Derek WJ Miles
*Committee Members:
  Dr Christine Berberich
  Dr Nicholas Birns (USA)
  Leatrice Fountain (USA)
  Stephen Holden
  Tony Robinson
  Elwin Taylor

Newsletter & Journal Editor:
Stephen Holden
Hon. Archivist: Noreen Marshall
PR/Media Adviser: Julian Allason

All correspondence should be sent 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

* Members of the Executive Committee who are the Society’s trustees. All trustees are resident in England or Wales unless stated.

Cover photograph © John S Monagan 1984 and reproduced by kind permission.
© The Anthony Powell Society, 2007 and the individual authors named. All rights reserved.
Published by The Anthony Powell Society.
Printed and distributed by Express Printing, Peterborough, UK.
Anthony Powell Auction at The Travellers’ Club

On 5 June 2007 The Travellers’ Club held an auction to raise money for the restoration of the Library floor. John Powell kindly donated 33 volumes, hardback and paperback, in a variety of editions, representing some of the more memorable cover designs. These were copies of Powell’s novels, Journals, and volumes of journalism, each with Powell’s bookplate, from the library at The Chantry.

The auction raised £3610, with a 1983 paperback of A Question of Upbringing (the Mark Boxer cover) fetching £110; a hardback of the Journals 1982-1986 £300; and a first edition of Temporary Kings being the highest earner at £350.

The auction was introduced by the Society’s Honorary Vice-President, Hugh Massingberd.

Introduction to the Powell Book Auction
The Library, The Travellers’ Club, 5 June 2007

By Hugh Massingberd

As a long-time fan, friend, fellow-genealogist and fellow member of The Travellers’ with Anthony Powell – an honorary Vice-President of the Anthony Powell Society, which is also represented here tonight by its Patron, John Powell, Chairman, Patric Dickinson, and Newsletter Editor, Stephen Holden – I have been asked to say a few words of introduction to this very special fundraising event for the restoration of the Club Library.

Obviously the need to restore the Library is absolutely vital and Tony Powell, who so admired this place – describing it in his Journals as “an unusually pretty regency room with pillars and a frieze of the Elgin marbles” – would certainly have been all in favour of anything that can help safeguard its future. As a long-serving member of the Library Committee, and then its Chairman, he did an enormous amount to improve its collections – resisting the recommendations of the Turf-mad Captain Kennedy to stock the shelves exclusively with form guides – and wrote the definitive Report on the Library in 1951. This, of course, was also the year in which he presented to the Club the newly published first volume of his panoramic sequence, A Dance to the Music of Time, which has been rightly hailed by so many good judges (including The Travellers’ own AN Wilson) as one of the greatest works of the 20th century. For me, it is the 20th century.

Not only the twelve volumes of Dance in various editions, but seven other novels, three volumes of Journals, three volumes of criticism, and numerous other fascinating assortments from the author’s own shelves at The Chantry in Somerset – several of them from America, where I often think the standard of book production is rather higher than it is, alas, in this country – are all included in tonight’s auction.

Tony Powell would have had a robust answer to anyone who thought such an auction was slightly “vulgar”. As a member of the Club’s House Committee and also of the General Committee he knew only too well the vital importance of cash to The Travellers. To increase revenue in the 1960s, Powell suggested the
installation of a “fruit machine” (or “one-armed bandit”, as it used to be known in non-PC days) in the lobby of the bar. In the event, a one-armed bandit was experimented with in the Gents – but it did not prove popular with the members.

Like a true artist, Tony Powell was essentially a practical man. As a former publisher himself, he naturally kept a beady eye on the literary marketplace. Although he claimed in his own introduction to George Lilley’s excellent Bibliography that he had “never been greatly interested in what might be called the ironmongery of writing and producing books”, he accepted that “for certain people this is the most enjoyable side of literature”. He wrote:

My father, for instance, a professional soldier, who read little for pleasure, had a mild interest in book collecting (taking chiefly the form of illustrated books, especially the 1890s, like Beardsley and Conder) and he was inclined to buy any editions available of anything he liked, whether he possessed them or not …

That feeling that in some way the book was looked on as more important than the writer or illustrator may in the first instance have given me a kind of distaste for the hobby of bibliography taken too seriously …

At the same time I would not for a moment have attempted to deny the importance of a taste for book collecting, or show objection to bibliography coming out the other end, especially where I myself was concerned.

Indeed, in his memoirs Powell describes how “educative” in his boyhood he found the book catalogues from the eccentric bookseller Christopher Millard, of “The Bungalow” at 8 Abercorn Place, a neighbour of the Powell family in St John’s Wood. Unfortunately young Tony’s association with Millard came to an end when a friend of Powell’s parents pointed out that Millard had been a friend of Oscar Wilde’s.

Tony Powell used to say that book catalogues “remain one of my favourite forms of reading (more calming than wine-lists)”. He had an eagle eye for mistakes in such documents. For instance, in his Journals he comments on a catalogue of modern first editions produced by the American bookseller Horowitz:

This is full of grotesque howlers such as Cyril Connolly meeting Cecil Beaton (Harrow) at Eton; Christabel Aberconway being left her North Audley Street house by ‘Sir Samuel Constable’ (in fact left her by Samuel Courtauld …); Evelyn Waugh described as writing to Cynthia Asquith (née Charteris, married to Bob Asquith), when EW’s letter is in fact to Katharine Asquith (née Horner, married to Raymond Asquith). Among other items Caledonia (Hugh Kingsmill’s copy) [of Powell’s satirical poem about the Scots] at $3,000, the same price as the first edition of Prufrock and A Shropshire Lad, so one can’t grumble.
At Heywood Hill in Curzon Street in 1992, Tony Powell’s wife, Lady Violet, reported that John Saumarez Smith had

sold *Agents and Patients* and *From a View to a Death* (with jackets …) to my American-Chinese fan Mrs Jung for £800, alleging that he gave £700 for them himself.

And in Powell’s memoirs there is a charming “biblio” anecdote.

Towards the end of the 1960s,” he wrote, “in an old established bookshop off Piccadilly, I came across first editions of two early novels of mine. A gratifying price was being asked.

Both were inscribed to AG Lewis, a venerable, Pooterish colleague of Tony’s at Duckworth, the publishers, back in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It turned out that old Lewis, by then long since retired to Streatham and in his late eighties, had always refused to sell these precious volumes but, as the bookseller said, “times were hard for those on fixed pensions, so that in the end he had persuaded the obstinate old fellow to part with them”. Powell added: “I felt very touched”.

Finally, before the auction gets under way, I would just like to say a huge and heartfelt “Thank you” to my dear friend John Powell – first encountered on a prep school cricket pitch exactly fifty years ago and a fellow-member of The Travellers’ since the early 1970s – whose brilliant brainwave this evening was. As the co-Literary Executor and Proprietor of The Chantry and Patron of the Anthony Powell Society, John plays an underrated but highly significant role quite superbly. We are all greatly in his debt for this most generous, imaginative and supremely appropriate gesture.

Later on in the evening, while sitting out with Miss Manasch, I was suddenly made aware of him [Widmerpool] again when he stumbled over her foot … ‘I know who he is!’ she said, when he had apologised and disappeared … ‘He is the Frog Footman. He ought to be in livery. Has he danced with Anne yet?’ ‘Anne Stepney?’ ‘They would be so funny together.’

[Anthony Powell, *A Buyer’s Market*]
A Link Broken

By Robert Rollason

A living link with Anthony Powell was lost in May 2007 with the sad, sudden death of Sir Oliver Millar aged 84. The two were trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, Sir Oliver from 1972 to 1995, Powell from 1962 to 1976. Although not close friends, they found each other sympathetic and tended to share broadly similar views on most art matters. Sir Oliver was Surveyor of the Queen’s Pictures from 1972 to 1988, and altogether devoted more than forty years to the care of the Royal Collection. He was the author of many books and scholarly catalogues and a world authority on Van Dyck.

In a letter to him in 1975 Powell refers to a recent NPG meeting, evidently missed by Sir Oliver, “which wasn’t very exciting”. Perhaps to relieve the longueurs, Sir Oliver sketched his fellow trustees including Powell, as here, along with John Summerson, Lawrence Gowing, Dame Helen Gardner, Lord Cobham and others. Members may recall seeing the Millar sketchbook with these drawings in the Powell Centenary Exhibition at the Wallace Collection.

Sir Oliver was a great Powell fan, and had a knowledge of the books bettered only, I’d guess, by Hilary Spurling’s. His father before him, Gerald Millar, was equally keen. He was a writer himself and a publisher, who worked for a time with AS Frere at Heinemann and was a cousin of Daphne du Maurier. “For him it was an unbearable wait always for the next Dance volume,” his son recalled, and now one of Oliver’s daughters carries on this family tradition of affection for the Powell œuvre.

The letters I have copies of from Powell to Oliver are interesting not least for the little bits of small talk that seem to bring the man back so well. The one from 1975 begins, “I’m delighted the last vol pleased you, and you felt it rounded off the sequence satisfactorily,” and concludes, “Do come and see us if you find yourself in this direction.” I know Oliver regretted never making it to The Chantry in spite of Powell’s invitations.
But between these light comments is a serious argument in the letter by Powell on the, for him, vexed question of which figure in Veronese’s *Children of Darius* is that of Alexander the Great. Members will know – from Powell’s account in *Infants of the Spring* – that he had described Stringham in *A Question of Upbringing* as looking like Alexander, meaning the red figure in the centre of the picture. So he was clearly not going to be pleased by the revisionist school of thought, promulgated in a National Gallery press release of the time, that another of the figures, “the man in the brownish cloak,” was actually Alexander.

Powell puts forward his case in the letter that the new theory is wrong, asks for Sir Oliver’s view and concludes that “the whole of my being revolts against the interpretation by the NG handout.” Powerful stuff, deeply felt, and all in Powell’s terrible typing, the ribbon faint and the text much amended by hand. As far as I remember, Oliver’s answer was rather an anticlimax. He said that he had offered Powell no better than a diplomatic response, not disagreeing with him but believing there were arguments for both the red and the brown.

Sir Oliver died much too soon. He had an amazing mind and memory and much still to offer. He was writing a book on Lely and had just been to Christie’s on 10 May to judge whether a picture was a Lely or not (the answer was yes) when, on his way to the National Gallery with a fellow art historian, he had a fatal heart attack crossing St James’s Square. He died in harness, in his working surroundings, taking all by surprise.

There were many themes on which I ought to have questioned him, especially in relation to Anthony Powell. In the next issue of the *Newsletter*, though, I shall aim to write about how Oliver responded to the imagined Tiepolo of *Temporary Kings*; Powell’s views on the very hot summer of 1976; his comments on the 1965 Constant Lambert television film; and a footnote that Oliver was able to add to the burning questions raised by Julian Allason’s article and Jeff Manley’s letter in the last *Newsletter*.
A Meeting in Kyoto

By John Potter

There is no official Japan branch of the Anthony Powell Society but on 30 June 2007 a very small band of Society members converged on Kyoto for several hours of convivial talking, walking, eating and drinking which inevitably circled around many things Powellian.

I live in the small city of Nabari in Mie Prefecture in the west of Japan, while Koyama Taichi (the family name comes first) is based in Tokyo. His name will already be well known to Society members and to those further afield as the author of the recent book *The Novels of Anthony Powell*. We had met only once before, and then rather briefly, at the centenary conference but have kept in touch intermittently ever since through email. Taichi was visiting his hometown Kyoto along with his wife Tomoko and they had arranged to meet up with Dan McLeod who is in Japan for a while to study Japanese language and culture. Dan retired some years ago from San Diego University. His name may also be familiar to some Powell aficionados as the author of a very early study, *The Art of Anthony Powell*, which was written for his PhD thesis in 1969. I was more than happy to be invited along to this informal get together.

After meeting at Kyoto station the four of us spent a relaxed afternoon visiting the Tofuku-ji temple, primarily to gaze at the fascinating gardens of the Hojo (Abbot’s Hall) which surround it on all four sides and which were designed in 1939 by the landscape sculptor Mirei Shigemori. In this setting the simplicity of Zen Buddhism is expressed in Mirei’s modern abstract constructions. While viewing these, and another garden a short distance away, we discussed all sorts of literary matters and generally put the world to rights. There were also some surprises. Dan McLeod turned out to be that rare thing: an Okinawan music enthusiast, and so we were able to exchange some ideas on this shared interest, discovering that we also have some mutual points of contact in the field of Okinawan studies. Despite the hot and sticky rainy season being in full swing we were blessed with fine weather.

As late afternoon turned into evening we adjourned to a rather fine Japanese eating and drinking establishment recommended by the Koyamas and the four of us got down to the serious business. No, not just eating and drinking, but mulling over many more literary matters. The liberal consumption of beer and sake may have led to some lapses in my memory which will no doubt be corrected by the others in
due course, so my apologies to them if there are any significant omissions or errors in what follows … or indeed if none of it happened at all.

Among the specific Powell topics we discussed was the character of Nicholas Jenkins. It was unanimously agreed that Jenkins, with his generally self-effacing and unobtrusive manner, would fit very well into Japanese society. However, because of his passive stance, the odd occasions when he does show some feelings – even prejudices – are likely to give us a bit of a nasty jolt. His aversion to Bob Duport and to Odo Stevens (Odo perhaps from “odious”, suggested Dan) being examples. The topic of his distaste for Gypsy Jones, despite not minding a sexual encounter with her, and of his rather unfair singling out of Quiggin’s “hard, grating, North Country” voice began to reveal Jenkins in not such a flattering light as first thought. We moved on to discuss some of our favourite characters in Dance, and its lack of credible female characters or deep investigation of women. I suggested that some of Taichi’s criticisms of Dance in his recent book might well meet with staunch opposition from some Society members but he replied ominously that he is ready to defend his position vigorously.

The conversation moved on to other literary matters and to Taichi’s translations of novels by Ian McEwan and PG Wodehouse, and the possible long-term plan for a Japanese translation of Dance. He is keen to see the film of McEwan’s Atonement, not least as sales of his translation in Japan might soar if the film is a success. Talk of translations included the difficulties of rendering Finnegan’s Wake into Japanese, which has in fact already been done, and then it was on to James Joyce (of whom Tomoko is an admirer) and Ireland in general. We moved on to writers of the American South which was heralded by my own lavish praise for Carson McCullers and in particular for two novels that I feel deserve the term “great”: The Heart is a Lonely Hunter and The Member of the Wedding. Both Dan and I had seen the film version of her second novel Reflections in a
Golden Eye when it first came out back in 1967 and we agreed it was a strangely interesting film of a much lesser work. (I think Dan even referred to it as an “interesting bad novel”, but I let that remark pass.) Koyama Taichi has read everything, or so it seems, and perhaps in order to stop me becoming a Carson McCullers bore, he brought up the name of another writer from Georgia he claims to be even better than my beloved Carson. At this point a bout of fisticuffs seemed on the cards at such a sacrilegious statement. The writer in question was Flannery O’Connor. But to my surprise, Dan McLeod agreed with this opinion. As I have never read anything by her I decided it would be much wiser to follow my friends’ advice and fill this gap in my literary education by seeking out some of Flannery O’Connor’s writings. In my ignorance I had previously imagined her to be an Irish man.

There was still time for us to mention the works of DJ Taylor who will, of course, be at the conference this year in Bath. As a fellow native of Norwich I shall be interested to meet him. (I have since discovered that we were both present at Norwich City’s ground on the same day when the six year old Taylor was taken to his first ever football match – I was already a teenager.)

During our meeting in Kyoto we also talked about some Japanese writers such as Mishima Yukio (particularly in relation to Powell), Abe Kobo, and Murakami Haruki. Other authors who made cameo appearances at various points in the evening were Jane Austen, Iris Murdoch, and David Mitchell. After a grand day out I hastened to the station to catch the train back to the wilds of Mie Prefecture, hoping that I can renew our acquaintance again at the University of Bath in September.

More details of Tofuku-ji and photos of the gardens we visited can be viewed at: www.tofukuji.jp/english.html.
Dance Released on DVD in US

The Channel 4 TV films of *A Dance to the Music of Time* are being released by Acorn Media in the USA as a four disc set of DVDs. The DVDs are currently available from Amazon.com at $44.99. Many will, of course, say “And not before time!”

Note that these are Region 1 (US) format discs so will not play on non-US DVD players unless they are “region free”.

Remember that if you are ordering via Amazon then using the links on the Society’s webpage will earn us a small amount of commission – although the Society doesn’t earn a huge amount this way (though we’d like to!) it does earn us enough to keep the website running!

Dance Films on Tiscali

Thanks to Cyp Stephenson for alerting us that the Channel 4 TV films of *Dance* are currently available in the “Video on Demand” section of the Tiscali Cable Network in England.

Simon Russell Beale on Desert Island Discs

Society President Simon Russell Beale was Kirsty Young’s guest on BBC Radio4’s *Desert Island Discs* on 8 July 2007.

As his eight records Simon chose:
1. Bach’s Violin Concerto No. 1 (first movement)
2. Herbert Howells’ *A Spotless Rose*
3. Mahler’s Symphony No. 8
4. Mendelssohn’s Octet in E flat (first movement)
5. Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4 (first movement)
6. Sibelius’s Violin Concerto in D Minor (second movement)
7. Peter Warlock’s *Pieds-en-l’air* (*Capriol Suite*)
8. Ravel’s *Rhapsodie Espagnol* (final movement)

Simon also chose:
As his only record: Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4
Book: Book on Medieval History (Cambridge Press)
Luxury: Daily Araucaria Crossword

Copy Deadlines

The deadlines for receipt of articles and advertisements for forthcoming issues of *Newsletter* and *Secret Harmonies* are:

**Newsletter #29, Winter 2007**
Copy Deadline: 16 November 2007
Publication Date: 7 December 2007

**Newsletter #30, Spring 2008**
Copy Deadline: 8 February 2008
Publication Date: 7 March 2008

**Secret Harmonies #2, 2007**
Copy Deadline: 7 September 2007
Publication Date: 27 October 2007
There was discussion on the APLIST last year about the true location of the ‘Bag of Nails’, the pub or nightspot to which Charles Stringham proposed taking Audrey Maclintick in the course of Mrs Foxe’s party during Casanova’s Chinese Restaurant. Discussion ranged over the possibilities presented by a pub of that name which can still be found on Buckingham Palace Road in Victoria, and by the ‘Bag o’Nails’ (sic) nightclub which was located on Kingly Street in Soho, a haunt which was certainly open for business during the 1930s and achieved some notoriety in the 1960s as a live music venue. The question was also raised as to whether Anthony Powell had had a real-life location in mind at all when writing the scene, or had simply chosen at random a plausible name.

At the time [Newsletter #26] I suggested that there was a good argument for a real-life location, and that a reasonable case could be made for the ‘Bag o’Nails’ in Kingly Street. Kingly Street is located just east of Regent Street, a short walk from Mrs Foxe’s home in Berkeley Square. A short walk, but one which in the context of the scene in Casanova’s Chinese Restaurant nicely juxtaposes posh Mayfair with louche Soho. Moreover, a 1936 report in The Times newspaper (roughly contemporaneous with Mrs Foxe’s party) which described the prosecution of the ‘Bag o’Nails’ proprietress Miss Hoey for licensing offences, seems to confirm that this was a somewhat shady location likely to have been open for drinking well beyond pub opening hours. That appears consistent with the type of place which Stringham would have known, and which would have suited his purpose. I have since uncovered one or two additional references to this place which tend to reinforce its credentials.

In July 1937, the Melody Maker magazine published a full-page profile, complete with photographs, of the ‘Bag o’Nails’ as part of a series called “Going the Rounds of London’s After-Dark Swing Spots”. Opened in around 1930, the place appears to have been in its prime in 1937, notable both as a mecca for jazz musicians and aficionados and as a favoured destination of celebrities and socialites …

… hundreds of well-known musicians have busked on its rostrum. It is to the history of British swing music what Hampton Court is to the history of England … Ask any well-known dance band man if he has ever busked at the Bag and nine times out of ten the answer will be yes.¹

The ‘Bag o’Nails’ was located below ground and accessed via a narrow carpeted passageway and staircase. The visitor encountered first Evans, the longstanding doorman, and then downstairs Miss Hoey the proprietor (happily still in situ in 1937 after her encounter with the beaks of Bow Street Police Court the previous year).

The room is large, much larger than it is broad. At the top is the rostrum, raised about a foot above the dance floor, which is larger than I have yet seen in a nighterie … red, white and blue streamers stretch across the breadth of the room from the ceiling … The Bag is not elaborate but there is atmosphere about it all.²
As well as being renowned for its music credentials, this place and others like it appeared to have exerted a louche attraction for 1930s nightclubbers more concerned with locating a late drink than in the quality of the jazz. One memoirist recalled that

There were nightclubs like the Coconut Grove, the Bag of Nails, the Kit Kat to name but a few, all much the same with a nice sort of snoozy, low-lit atmosphere …

… where one could get a drink deep into the night owing to the ingenious methods used by the proprietors to circumvent the licensing laws. Kicking out time appeared to be around the three or four o’clock mark, after which “quite often we used to stop off at a coffee stall at Hyde Park Corner”. As pointed out by Ellen Jordan on the APLIST last year, the ‘Bag o’Nails’ also appears as a passing reference in Barbara Comyn’s novel set in that time called A Touch of Mistletoe.

And so although it is not possible to be sure, it does seem plausible that, in selecting the ‘Bag of Nails’ as Stringham’s destination of choice, Anthony Powell not only chose a real-life location but chose this one in Kingly Street, whose character was well-suited to Stringham’s lifestyle at the time; was perfectly located in relation to Berkeley Square; and by virtue of its evident contemporary notoriety would have been recognised and appreciated even in the 1960s by readers of Casanova’s Chinese Restaurant who were familiar with the London social life of the 1930s.

1 Melody Maker 17 July 1937, “Going the Rounds of London’s After-Dark Swing Spots” by Andy Gray
2 Melody Maker, ibid.
3 Attributed to a Major Bridgland in Bright Lights, Big City by Gavin Weightman (Collins and Brown 1992)
4 Weightman, ibid.

Thoughts for Discussion

1. Who, if anyone, was Powell’s model for Roddy Cutts?

2. Powell seems to be fairly disparaging about Hendon. What did he have against Hendon, and why?

3. What was Gypsy Jones’s real name? Surely she wasn’t christened Gypsy; or was she?

4. Was Douglas Bing the model for Max Pilgrim?

If anyone can shed light on any of these questions, the Editor would like to hear from them.

Lady Mary Clive

From our Court Correspondent

The Society sends congratulations to Lady Mary Clive, Violet Powell’s last surviving sibling, on reaching her 100th birthday on 23 August. A small family party to mark the event was held on what was a glorious summer’s day in Herefordshire. Lady Mary’s memory for distant events remains crystal clear and she was on very good form at the party.

In the 11 August issue of The Spectator, Lady Mary Clive is interviewed by Harry Mount, Powell’s (and Lady Mary’s) grandnephew.

Perhaps, in a parallel universe, one of the Tolland sisters is celebrating her centenary as well.
Many Dance enthusiasts are, like Powell himself, habitués of second hand bookshops and will know all the best establishments and have an intimate knowledge of the specialist shelves. They also know the foibles and enthusiasms of proprietors and understand that all the best shops are in places other than Charing Cross Road. Many too, will enjoy the thrill of finding tucked into the pages of old books, odd cuttings, tickets and annotations which always add to the charms of the volumes themselves.

Once in a beautifully bound 1803 set of Edmund Burke’s essays I found an invitation to tea at No. 7 Campden Hill Square dated 1904. I was just ninety-four years too late! In the same set was a cutting from The Spectator dated 1898 reporting the dedication of a memorial plaque to Burke in Beaconsfield Church marking the centenary of his death. As it happened, I found it in 1998 so it seemed appropriate to seek it out on the two-hundredth anniversary too. Needless to say on that occasion I was the only celebrant so I was unable to make a speech as Lord Rosebery had done a century before! But the link over the centuries was almost tangible.

However, the most intriguing example of found treasure of this kind was in a six-volume set of Boswell’s Life of Johnson, edited by Augustine Birrell and dated 1912 that I bought in Henley, because in an odd way it turned out to be a double biography. Each of the six volumes was carefully signed by the purchaser, one William Watkin Davies and dated 23 September 1913. But then I found that at the end of each book the reader had made a note of when he finished reading it, which he did regularly over more than seven decades. Thus he finished Vol. 1 two days after the purchase and had read the whole set within a month.

He records ten such readings over seven decades and I was able quickly to plot a whole lifetime of fascination with Johnson because Mr Watkin Davies read the whole set again in 1924, presumably the World War having interrupted; then again in 1937 and 1943 and each decade until 1972. In the 1960s he reads it three times, perhaps having retired by then? Every annotation is made in the same slightly crabbed hand, in pencil and the end paper of each volume has a list of the best quotes and stories that Boswell records.
So many intriguing questions arise: who and what was Mr Watkin Davies? Was he a teacher or a don? Did he write about the good Doctor? A bookish investigation suggests some solutions – but only some. There was indeed a William Watkin Davies born in 1895 who died in 1973. His papers and diaries are lodged in the Welsh national library and he is said to have been a barrister, historian and political scientist. If he was our man he bought the books (or was given them) on his eighteenth birthday and he died within a few months of finishing the whole set for the tenth time in September 1972, at the age of seventy-eight. Only once did he take more than about a month to complete the set when, in 1937 he took over nine months.

Whoever he was, at least we can be sure he did not get to know as much about Dr Johnson as Anthony Powell, that dedicated tracer of ancestry, who is the only person ever to discover that genealogically Johnson was linked to both Lord Chesterfield and Disraeli and, perhaps also to Aleister Crowley, (Miscellaneous Verdicts), which would bring him not a million miles away from Dr Trelawney, for whom of course, the essence of the all is the godhead of the true; a sentiment for which Johnson would have had a short riposte.

There is one further question: Is there anyone out there who is painstakingly recording in each of the 12 volumes of Dance, the occasions on which they have read the complete set – and if so, will they manage ten readings before they expire?

Life becomes more and more like an examination where you have to guess the questions as well as the answers. I’d long decided there were no answers. I’m beginning to suspect there aren’t any questions either, none at least of any consequence, even the old perennial, whether or not to stay alive.

[Anthony Powell, Books Do Furnish a Room]
Anthony Powell Annual Lecture
Tariq Ali: ‘Come Dancing: Some reflections on the work of Anthony Powell’
The Wallace Collection
Manchester Square, London, W1
Saturday 17 November 2007
1830 hrs
Following the success of The Wallace Collection’s recent Anthony Powell Centenary Exhibition and our own Centenary Conference, we are delighted to announce the inauguration, in collaboration with The Wallace, of an annual lecture which will explore facets of Powell, his work and his influence.

The 2007 lecture will be given by Tariq Ali. Novelist, historian and political campaigner, Tariq Ali has been a lively presence on the Left for over forty years. He will speak about his admiration for Anthony Powell’s work and its influence on his own novels, which include a historical sequence about Islam.

Tickets, £10 (to include a glass of wine after the lecture), may be booked by contacting The Wallace on 020 9563 9551 or email bookings@wallacecollection.org. Please say that you are a Society member.

Following the lecture The Wallace’s restaurant will be available for those wishing to dine; tables may be booked by calling 020 7563 9505.

Powell Birthday Lunch
Saturday 1 December
Strada
4 St Paul’s Churchyard, London
EC4
1215 for 1230 hrs
As is now tradition we are going to an Italian restaurant for this year’s Powell Birthday Lunch.

Strada is opposite the west front of St Paul’s Cathedral, location of the WWII Thanksgiving Service in The Military Philosophers.

We have agreed a set menu with Strada: antipasto, a choice of main courses (including vegetarian) and puddings, plus the usual coffee, etc. To simplify matters guests will pay us for what they order and we will settle the bill centrally.

If you want to be there please contact the Hon. Secretary (address on page 2) so we can ensure we have a large enough table; we would also appreciate knowing in advance if you have special dietary requirements. Non-members will be welcome.

This year we should have a double celebration as 1 December is also the Powells’ 73rd wedding anniversary. So why not join us for the usual convivial time: good food, good wine and good conversation?
Local Groups

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

New England Group
Area: New England, USA
Contact: Leatrice Fountain
Email: leatrice.fountain@gmail.com

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

Swedish Group
Area: Sweden & Finland
Contact: Regina Rehbinder
Email: reginarehbinder@hotmail.com

Please contact the Hon. Secretary if you wish to make contact with a group and don’t have email. If you wish to start a local group the Hon. Secretary can advise on the number of members in your area.

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

Newsletter Editor, Stephen Holden,
Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue
Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK
Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
Email: editor@anthonypowell.org

---

Saturday 8 September 2007
Fourth Biennial Conference
University of Bath

Sunday 9 September 2007
Conference Associated Events
Bath & The Chantry

Saturday 27 October 2007
Annual General Meeting
The Lamb Public House,
Lamb’s Conduit Street, London WC1
1400 hrs
Followed at 1500 hrs by a
Talk from Patric Dickinson
See coloured centrefold for details

Saturday 10 November 2007
London Group Pub Meet
The Audley, Mount Street, London, W1
Time: 1230 to 1530 hrs
Regular quarterly meeting. Good beer, good food, good company, good conversation in a Victorian pub AP would have known. Members & non-members welcome; further details from Hon. Sec.

Saturday 17 November 2007
Inaugural Anthony Powell Lecture given by Tariq Ali
The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square, London, W1
See page 16 for details.

Saturday 1 December 2007
London Group Powell Birthday Lunch
Strada, 4 St Paul’s Churchyard
London EC4
Time: 1215 for 1230 hrs
Details, page 16.
Local Group News

East Coast USA Group’s June Luncheon

By Ed Bock

It was hi-jinks at high tide at high noon at Leatrice Fountain’s annual Greenwich lagoon luncheon meeting of the East Coast USA Group on 30 June.

The highlight was a read-through of John Gould’s draft script for a possible film, Best Friends, about Constant Lambert and Anthony Powell. John read the continuity and shooting directions while the others read the big parts of Lambert, Powell, Lambert’s successive wives and loves, Heseltine, Lady Violet, and Reitlinger. Everyone took turns at the smaller parts, too.

The most sought after small part, Anna May Wong, went to Eileen Kaufman, who declaimed it to perfection. At one point, Jonathan Kooperstein was pressed into understudy service for the part of Florence while Joan Williams, who flew down from Toronto, read the part of Lambert. Tension mounted when Leatrice read John’s exciting lines for Margot Fonteyn. Nick Birns read most of Anthony Powell’s part with aplomb. Our correspondent, hampered by cataracts, did unnamed bit parts – like “Rich Old Man” opposite Anna May Wong – and, as “Chorus”, sang, often on pitch, the opening lines: By the Rio Grande / They dance no saraband …

Faute de mieux, author-director Gould tactfully alleged himself satisfied with this first rough reading. As the wine and tide ebbed, exposing the mud flats of reality, discussion turned to how the performances, and the draft itself, might be improved. Also discussed were ideas for recruiting younger members from the east coast, possibly by holding meetings in mid-town Manhattan.

Centenary Conference Proceedings

ERRATUM

Somehow, sometime, the Gremlins got into the production process of the Centenary Conference Proceedings and they mangled the title of Marcel Proust’s magnum opus throughout the volume but especially in John Roe’s paper (pages 61-69). The title of Proust’s work should, of course, correctly be A la recherche du temps perdu.

As publisher, the buck stops with me and I take full responsibility for this inexcusable error howsoever it arose. Personally, and on behalf of the Society, I extend sincere apologies to Dr John Roe and to the other authors affected and regret any embarrassment we have caused.

Anthony Powell would very definitely not have been amused.

Keith Marshall, Hon. Secretary

Toronto Group

Joan Williams reports that members in the Toronto area of Canada are forming a local group. Anyone who is interested and not already in touch with Joan may make contact with the group through the Hon. Secretary.
Local Group News

London Pub Meet, 11 August 2007

By Noreen Marshall

A record number of us met in the Audley, on a hot sunny day which was an extremely welcome (and short-lived) change from the recent monsoon season. As the sunshine had produced a better than average crop of tourists, many of us had had a more congested journey than usual, and the cyclists present were at a clear advantage.

Over the traditional fish and chips and similar delicacies, the conversations ranged around some distinct themes. High on the list, of course, were Society events, notably the recent very enjoyable day trip to the villages of Widmerpool and neighbouring Wysall in Nottinghamshire (together with an enthralling visit to the Nottinghamshire Archives), and the content of the forthcoming 2007 Conference in Bath. Oh, and hot-off-the-press, there were the 2005 Conference Proceedings, of which the Hon. Secretary had brought along some copies.

It was a day of slightly strange conversations, including the sheer unpredictability of life: the nature of time and quantum physics (see “From the Secretary’s Desk” on page 2); wills and legacies, particularly their refusal or denial; Jury service, which a number of us had done; and the Kobe earthquake of 17 January 1995, which John Potter (making a guest appearance from Japan) witnessed.

As so often at these meets, the convolutions of families and family history were discussed, including foreign ancestry and upward and downward social mobility. What could have happened to Widmerpool and Pamela to make them the way they were as adults? For example, although Widmerpool is not actually bullied at school, he is excluded, which can be worse. Could Pamela have been abused in some way?

Another strand concerned the arts: Derek Hawes had brought his copy of Boswell’s Life of Johnson, intriguingly annotated by a previous owner (see article on page 14). We also talked of lack of funding for the arts in the UK; Japanese culture, and in particular the music of Okinawa; reading AP in book groups, and the collecting and availability of various Powell titles. Sentiment and hoarding also came up – books can be somewhat unexpected vehicles for the first category (especially when they contain cards, letters or inscriptions) but don’t count when assessing the second, of course.

We also touched on the correct usage of ‘which’ versus ‘that’; AP’s interest in the occult; the 2012 Olympics and the iniquity of not staging them at the Crystal Palace; the old-time near-pagan inhabitants of the English Fens; the difference between erotica and pornography; forgiveness; and the current issue of The Spectator.

Subscriptions

Subscription Changes – Reminder

In undertaking a periodic review of Society finances and subscriptions the trustees have concluded that it is time to make some adjustments. While an increase in subscriptions is not needed at this time (indeed some members will see a reduction) we need to compensate for the increasing cost of overseas postage. The trustees have therefore agreed the following changes to the membership and subscription structure:

- The Gold and Founder membership grades are withdrawn from 1 April 2008. Current Gold members will revert to being Individual members. Existing Founder members will retain their status but pay the Individual rate.
- To compensate for the above, those few Gold and Founder members who have already pre-paid subscriptions to 2009 and 2010 will have their membership extended by one year, and those paid up beyond 2010 will have their renewal date extended by two years.
- In order to more equitably distribute the escalating cost of overseas postage it has been decided to introduce an annual £5 supplement payable by all non-UK members. This represents around 65% of the additional postage costs incurred mailing the Newsletter and journal overseas as compared with the UK while recognising overseas members have less ready access to Society events. We hope that this will not deter our overseas members.
- These changes took effect on 1 June 2007 for new members and come into force on 1 January 2008 for existing membership renewals.
- It is anticipated that all subscription rates will need to rise by around 10% from 2009, but this will be reviewed again during 2008.

Subscription Renewal

Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st April annually and renewal notices are sent out during March to those members whose subscription is about to expire.

To keep down costs and subscription rates please renew promptly.

The “5 years for the price of 4” membership offer is to continue indefinitely, subject to annual review by the trustees.

Subscriptions can be paid by Standing Order (UK members only) and recurring credit card transactions for which forms are included with your reminder notice. Payment may also be made in UK funds by cheque, Visa, Mastercard or online using PayPal.

Members who are UK taxpayers are asked to GiftAid their subscription. This enables the Society to reclaim basic rate income tax already paid on the subscription; currently this is worth 28p for every £1 paid to the Society.

Any member whose subscription is not renewed by the end of September will be removed from the membership register.
Literary Anniversaries in 2007

The Revenger’s Tragedy – which used to be attributed to Cyril Tourneur or Thomas Middleton – was published in 1607, as were West-ward Hoe by Thomas Dekker and John Webster and Volpone by Ben Jonson. Middleton’s Women Beware Women was published 50 years later in 1657.

Henry Fielding and Charles Wesley were born in 1707. William Blake followed in 1757. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in 1807, a year which also saw the publication of Lamb’s Tales From Shakespeare.

Notable publications of 1857 include RM Ballantyne’s The Coral Island, George Borrow’s Romany Rye, Thomas Hughes’ Tom Brown’s Schooldays, Herman Melville’s The Confidence-Man, Anthony Trollope’s Barchester Towers and Charles Baudelaire’s Les Fleurs du Mal. George Gissing and Joseph Conrad were also born in this year.

1907 literary births include WH Auden, Daphne du Maurier, Alberto Moravia, Astrid Lindgren (who wrote the Pippi Longstocking books for children), and Louis MacNeice. Joris-Karl Huysmans died that year.

Conrad’s The Secret Agent was published in 1907, as were EM Forster’s The Longest Journey, John Millington Synge’s The Playboy of the Western World, Beatrix Potter’s The Tale of Tom Kitten and a very early PG Wodehouse novel, Not George Washington.

On 26 June 1907 Mark Twain received an honorary doctorate of law degree from Oxford University. In 1907 the Nobel Prize for Literature went to Rudyard Kipling

in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author.

From The Daily Telegraph (5 July 2007), a political sketch by Andrew Gimson, on Gordon Brown’s performance at Prime Minister’s question time:

“More surprisingly, Mr Brown was not authoritative. He arrived in the chamber with the message that there must be a ‘bipartisan’ approach to the terrorist threat, and repeated it so often that it began to sound as if he was asking to be spared the dangers of debate. Instead of authority, he spread a feeling of unease that was worthy of Widmerpool.”

In The Scotsman (17 March 2007) Ian Rankin lists chronologically ten of the books that influenced him:

“No 7. A Dance to the Music of Time by Anthony Powell. I was given the first three of the twelve novels by a friend of mine, started reading the first one and hated it. It’s elitist, class-ridden, an English upper-class comedy of manners written by a snob. But the writing was so fine that I kept going with it and now I’m a huge fan. It’s beautifully written, beautifully structured. When I was starting to think of Rebus being a series, I decided he was going to live in real time, because that’s how Anthony Powell showed the world. Powell also showed me how you can bring characters back in from previous books and do that economically. Reading it is like a great creative writing masterclass. I re-read it every couple of years.”

From Philip Hensher in The Independent newspaper (13 April 2007). His column “Great books and stupid readers” was based on a new survey about books that people don’t finish.

“Sometimes, your failure to finish a book feels like a premature and unfair judgement on it. I gave up on A Dance to the Music of Time about the eighth volume once, and then, a few years later, went back and persevered; I was very glad I did, since the last three books are absolutely stunning. Sometimes, you just have to confess yourself defeated by a book – I’ve never got to the end of Nabokov’s Ada or Robert Musil’s The Man Without Qualities, and never met anyone who has. It doesn’t mean, however, that they aren’t great books.”

From The Church Times, week ending 04 August 2007:

HIPPISLEY-COX. The Revd Dr Stephen Hippisley-Cox, Associate Priest of St Paul’s, Wilford Hill, to be Priest-in-Charge of Willoughby-on-the-Wolds with Wysall and Widmerpool (Southwell & Nottingham).
From *The Daily Telegraph* (15 July 2007) by Mark Reason, from an article about the golfer, Colin Montgomerie:

“One of Monty’s many fascinating qualities is this huge, twisted structure of his ego. In Anthony Powell’s novel *A Dance to the Music of Time* there is a character called Widmerpool, one of the great grotesques of literature – and there is undoubtedly something Widmerpool-ish about Monty.

“Powell wrote: ‘The illusion that egoists will be pleased, or flattered, by interest taken in their habits persists throughout life; whereas, in fact, persons like Widmerpool, in complete subjection to the ego, are, by the nature of that infirmity, prevented from supposing that the minds of others could possibly be occupied by any subject far different from the egoists’ own affairs.’

“That is pure Monty, who splendidly asked his manager if the two hours allotted for the media on Wednesday would be sufficient. Every July he seems to find a new way to burst through the press room door, even though Monty’s previous record at the Open should leave him out in the cold.”

*The Stage* (8 August 2007) mentions plans to make a new radio version of *Dance*:

“Independent producer Fiction Factory, is also adapting Anthony Powell’s *A Dance to the Music of Time* for Radio 4. The books have been adapted by Michael Butt and will be serialised into six one-hour episodes, directed by John Taylor for transmission next year. The pair previously worked together on the serialisation of Marcel Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time*, also for Radio 4, which was nominated for a Sony award. Taylor said: ‘This serialisation has a very English upper class feel to it which I think is interesting. It works slightly against the grain of most of what we normally hear.’

Casting for *A Dance to the Music of Time* has not yet been decided, but Taylor said he was looking for ‘young but newly established actors’ who are ‘not so recognised they have been used a lot’.”

From *The Daily Telegraph* (17 August 2008) Clive James interviewing himself at the Edinburgh International Books Festival:

“Did we know, he asked, that by decree, no rank below Major could wear make-up in the Romanian army during the war – a gem first divulged to him, incidentally, by Anthony Powell.”
**Letters to the Editor**

**‘Awfully chic to be killed’**

*From Hugh Massingberd*

In the second footnote to his excellent paper ‘Awfully chic to be killed’ (*Proceedings of the Anthony Powell Centenary Conference*, p. 38), Colin Donald remarks that the saying ‘My dear, the noise! And the people!’ has been ‘ascribed to Wilfred Thesiger, referring to the Battle of the Somme’. Although Sir Wilfred (a fellow member of the Travellers’ Club with Anthony Powell, incidentally) was a bachelor, this sort of campery wasn’t at all his style; moreover, he was only six at the time of the Somme. In fact, the Thesiger to whom this quote is usually attributed is Sir Wilfred’s cousin, Ernest (1879-1961), a legendarily effete and waspish actor (look out for him in television repeats of *The Man in the White Suit*, *The Winslow Boy*, etc.) who served briefly during the First World War in Queen Victoria’s Rifles and had a passion, shared with Queen Mary, for *petit-point*.

**Powellian Inconsistency? – A Response**

*From John Powell*

In answer to the letter to the editor from AC Morrison (*Newsletter #27*) which queries two statements made by Mr Deacon, these are for the record both in *A Buyer’s Market*. Mr Deacon refers to Montmartre (p. 247; page references to the Arrow 3-in-1 edition) and to Montparnasse (p. 324). Mr Morrison suggests that Montmartre would be a more appropriate reference in both cases.

The *Oxford Companion to French Literature* describes the two districts in Paris as follows:

- **Montmartre**, a district in the north of Paris, a centre of artistic and literary cabarets …

- **Montparnasse**, a district of Paris on the south (left) bank which to some extent corresponds to Montmartre in the north as a centre for artists and for cabaret …

Mr Morrison draws attention to p. 605 of *The Acceptance World*: “… occult phenomena, at least by its absence, was proving itself a bore …” The corrected file copy (1955) has the following alteration: “… occult phenomena, if only by determined absence, was proving itself a bore; and that perhaps …”

On p. 681 of *The Acceptance World*, Mr Morrison refers to “… other people’s behaviour were unimportant to me.” The original file copy (1955) has “… other people’s behaviour seemed unimportant to me.” As indeed does the University of Chicago 4 volume set (1995).

On p. 402 *Casanova’s Chinese Restaurant* there seems to be nothing wrong with the statement in a conversation, “I don’t want never to act again” provided the emphasis is placed on “never” by the reader.
Widmerpoule

From Andrew Clarke

I do hope we can avoid the approximately 950th Widmerpool discussion wherein we all get to identify Big W with the politicians/media personalities whom we personally cannot stand. It was bad enough when only males were considered, but now that it’s females as well, the mind anticipates a surfeit of bogglement.

Powell made Big W into a representative of a particular psychological type: not a particularly pleasant type, but one that a surprising number of people found useful.

A Widmerpoule should thus be required to have (inter alia):

- attended a major public school to the despair of her housemistress
- worn a slightly odd gymslip for a term
- been hit with an overripe banana by the Captain of Hockey
- intercepted a note sent to a junior girl by a senior girl and future Cabinet minister, proposing a blissful lesbian encounter
- suffered contortions of the bottom at the prospect of a caning from the Deputy Headmistress
- attended a pension in France and successfully reconciled two leather-clad female shotputters from Eastern Europe
- occasionally thrown a netball into a hoop somewhere in Barnes
- been a spare woman (in desperation) for society hostesses with a surfeit of men
- been engaged to the late George Melly, but to have been unable to perform during a prenuptial bedding
- risen from the position of WAAF warrant officer to Steno-Secretary to the War Council while carrying on treasonable relations with various Eastern European communists
- become Vice Chancellor of an ex-polytechnic university through outrageous manipulation of that institution’s equity program, while driving her own female subordinates to suicide, nervous breakdown etc.
- married Alice Cooper
- been created Baroness Widmerpoule of Old Dalby
- joined a coven in Sunningdale
- choked on her own vomit while performing “Me and Bobbie McGee” naked at the Glastonbury Festival.
George Washington Lambert

From Ellen Jordan
I have just come back from a trip to Canberra to look at the two exhibitions of paintings by George Washington Lambert. The retrospective at the Australian National Art Gallery has pulled together a range of paintings of Lambert’s family, and one can trace Constant’s development from a pudgy little toddler with dress tucked up to “blue coat” schoolboy in rolled yellow stockings. The picture of family life that the earlier ones present is very much that of a “free” bohemian upbringing, bare feet, sandals, rides on horses (Lambert had grown up on an Australian sheep station), visits to the sea. My feeling is that the children are very lovingly painted.

Having checked Powell on George Washington Lambert, I feel that Powell is probably less than fair when he says Lambert “took small interest in his family”. His war work as an artist recording the Australian experience in Palestine and at Gallipoli kept him away from London for lengthy periods well into the 1920s, sketching in the former Australian battlefields and returning to Australia to check on military details. Nevertheless, the details of where the works were produced suggest he returned to London regularly. It is also recorded that his elder son Maurice, the sculptor, worked for a period as an assistant in his London studio.

George Washington Lambert himself emerges from these exhibitions as a really fine and compelling painter, and as an interesting and articulate person. There is an interesting group of self-portraits painted over the years where he emphasises humorously his own dandyism, but what also emerges from these two exhibitions is his strong dedication from 1917 to his job as Australian war artist and his rich evocation of the soldier’s accoutrements, knapsacks, water bottles, boots etc. He produced some impressive bronzes for use as war memorials where this detail is particularly striking.

George Washington Lambert, Anzac from Gaba Tepe (1919). The promontory of Gaba Tepe was occupied by Turkish forces during the Battle of Gallipoli. Anzac Cove lies between the two small headlands at the left of the painting.

George Washington Lambert, A Sergeant of the Light Horse in Palestine (1920).
**Powell and Honours**

*by Stephen Holden*

In a *Journals* entry for 13 November 1987 Powell remarks upon getting an OHMS letter in the post and first thinking it’s about his Income Tax. It turns out to be from Mrs Thatcher asking if he’d agree to be recommended to the Queen for the Companion of Honour (CH). Powell notes:

> Replied I should like to very much. Questions of artists receiving decorations complex one. If Government never gives artists medals, authorities and country are denounced as philistine; if artists accept them, they are censured for truckling to officiadmom, ‘just for a riband to stick in his coat’. Stendhal said artists required every public recognition they could get, need orders, decorations, etc, more than anyone else to keep them going. Proust delighted when he received equivalent of MBE.

Powell goes on to say that, when thirty years previously (when Anthony Eden was Prime Minister) he was offered the CBE, he was “astonished, accepted, pleased among other things because a decoration round the neck seems to complete the turn-out when wearing a white tie with miniatures.” He then adds that Evelyn Waugh wrote to congratulate him while at the same time writing to other people saying he was surprised Powell had accepted a CBE, a “degrading” decoration.

In the 1970s the then Prime Minister Edward Heath put Powell forward for a knighthood, which he refused as being “rather an awful thing to be” and “certainly undesirable for a writer”, speaking with approval of Kipling’s turning one down. He adds:

> Somerset Maugham … wrote of himself and a knighthood (one does not know if he was actually offered one) that he did not relish the idea of the butler announcing: ‘Mr Thomas Hardy, Mr Rudyard Kipling, Mr Joseph Conrad, etc – Sir William Somerset Maugham.’ One would heartily agree, not to mention difficulty as things are in getting V[iolet Powell] called ‘Lady Violet’ rather than ‘Lady Powell’.

Powell was invested with the CH by the Queen in February 1988, a full account of which can be found in the *Journals*.

*NB.* Powell is in good company when one sees other writers who have declined knighthoods. Apart from those already mentioned (Conrad, Hardy, Kipling), Alan Bennett, Michael Frayn, John Galsworthy, Aldous Huxley, CS Lewis, Harold Pinter, and WB Yeats have all turned down a “K”.

(The Indian writer Rabindranath Tagore was knighted in 1915, but returned his knighthood in 1919 to protest the Amritsar massacre.)
The Order of the Companions of Honour was founded by King George V in June 1917, as a reward for outstanding achievements in the arts, literature, music, science, politics, industry or religion.

The order consists of the Sovereign, plus no more than 65 Companions of Honour, with a quota of 45 members for the United Kingdom, and 20 for other Commonwealth countries. Additionally, foreigners may be added as “honorary members” (there are currently three: Lee Kuan Yew, Amartya Sen and Bernard Haitink). The order confers no knighthood or other status, but recipients of this one-class order are entitled to use the letters “CH” after their name.

The insignia of the Order consists of an oval medallion with an oak tree, a shield with the royal arms hanging from one branch, and on the left a mounted knight in armour. The badge’s clear blue border bears the motto IN ACTION FAITHFUL AND IN HONOUR CLEAR in gold letters, and the oval is surmounted by an imperial crown. Men wear the badge on a ribbon (red with golden border threads) around their necks, and women on a bow at the left shoulder.

Among the current 65 members politicians include Denis Healey, David Owen, Lord Carrington, Douglas Hurd, Michael Heseltine, John Major, and Chris Patten. The arts and sciences are represented (among others) by Frederick Sanger, Eric Hobsbawm, Lucian Freud, Stephen Hawking, Janet Baker, David Attenborough, David Hockney, Bridget Riley, Doris Lessing, Harrison Birtwistle, Paul Scofield, Harold Pinter, Howard Hodgkin and Judi Dench.
“There is a freshman named Quiggin who said he would take a dish of tea with me this afternoon. He comes from a modest home and is, I think, a little sensitive about it: so I hope you will be especially understanding about it. He is at one of the small colleges – I cannot for the moment remember which – and has collected unto himself sundry scholarships and exhibitions, which is, I think you will all agree, much to his credit.” While this may not tell us a great deal about Quiggin, the almost insufferable snobbery and condescension, masquerading as kindliness and consideration, which it displays tells us a great deal about Sillery, as it would indeed about Anthony Powell if we were only sure whether he stood with us looking at Sillery or with Sillery sneering at Quiggin, although I feel that the former is the more reasonable presumption, for he seems to be a kindly man as well as perceptive.

Society Merchandise

*** NEW *** NEW *** NEW *** NEW ***

Centenary Conference Proceedings
Collected papers from the 2005 centenary conference at The Wallace Collection, London. See also page 1.
UK Price: £10 Overseas Price: £14

Secret Harmonies: Journal of the Anthony Powell Society, Issue 1
86pp of Powell-related articles.
UK Price: £4 Overseas Price: £5

Centenary Newsletter
Bumper 120-page celebratory Centenary Newsletter (issue 21; December 2005).
UK Price: £6 Overseas Price: £7

Oxford Conference Proceedings
Collected papers from the 2003 conference at Balliol College, Oxford.
UK Price: £8 Overseas Price: £9

Eton Conference Proceedings
Papers from the 2001 conference; limited edition of 250 numbered copies signed by the Society’s Patron.
UK Price: £9 Overseas Price: £10

Writing about Anthony Powell
The talks given at the 2004 AGM by George Lilley, Michael Barber and Nick Birns; introduced by Christine Berberich.
UK Price: £4 Overseas Price: £5

The Master and The Congressman
A 40 page monograph by John Monagan describing his meetings with Powell.
UK Price: £4 Overseas Price: £5

Wallace Collection Poussin 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, page 15.
UK Price: £6 Overseas Price: £7.50

Society Bookmarks; pack of 10.
UK Price: £1 Overseas Price: £1.50

BBC Radio Dramatisation of Dance
Originally broadcast on BBC Radio 4 between 1979-82. 26 one-hour episodes. For copyright reasons, available to Society members only.

Single CD of 26 MP3 files. Price: £11 (£3 + minimum £8 Donation)
26 Audio CDs. Price: £70 (£26 + minimum £44 Donation)
(CD prices apply to both UK & overseas)

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
UK price: £3 each Overseas Price: £4 each

Fitzrovia: London’s Bohemia
Written by Michael Bakewell and published in the National Portrait Gallery “Character Sketches” series this small volume contains snapshot biographies of Fitzrovian characters including Powell and many of his friends.
UK price: £4.50 Overseas Price: £7

Society Postcard
UK Price: £2 Overseas Price: £3

Wallace Collection Poussin Postcard
UK Price: £2 Overseas Price: £3

Newsletter Back Numbers
Back numbers of Newsletter issues 6, 8 to 20 and 22 to 27 are still available.
UK price: £1 each Overseas Price: £2 each
Society Merchandise

Pricing Notes. The prices shown are the Society members’ prices and are inclusive of postage and packing.

Please note the different UK and overseas prices which reflect the additional cost of overseas postage.

Non-members will be charged the overseas price shown plus postage & packing at cost.

Ordering. Send your order 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

Payment may be by cheque (UK funds drawn on a UK bank), Visa, Mastercard or online using PayPal to secretary@anthonypowell.org.

Anthony Powell Society Merchandise Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>P&amp;P</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

☐ 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: Security Code:

Name & Address of Cardholder & for Delivery

Name:
Address:
Town:
County / State:
Postcode / Zip:
Country:
Date: Signed:
# Membership Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Information</th>
<th>Payment Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of membership</strong> (please tick):</td>
<td><strong>Total amount payable:</strong> £ ______ (No. of years x membership rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Ordinary Member – £20 a year.</td>
<td>Overseas members please remember to add £5 pa postage supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Joint Membership – £30 a year. Any two persons at the same address.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Student Member – £12 a year. Please send a copy of your student card.</td>
<td>I enclose a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank. Please make cheques payable to The Anthony Powell Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Non-UK residents please add £5 pa supplement towards overseas postage</td>
<td>☐ Please debit my Visa / MasterCard *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Buy 5 years membership for the price of 4 (any grade)</td>
<td>Card No.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership for organisations also available; please ask. Subscriptions are due on 1 April annually. If joining on or after 1 January, membership includes following full subscription year.</td>
<td>Expires:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Name:</strong></td>
<td>Security Code:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td>(Please give name &amp; address of cardholder if different from the above.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postcode/Zip:</strong></td>
<td>I authorize you, until further notice, to charge my Visa / MasterCard* account for the sum of £_______ on, or immediately after 1 April each year. I will advise you in writing immediately the card becomes lost or stolen, if I close the account or I wish to cancel this authority.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country:</strong></td>
<td>I am a UK taxpayer and I want all donations I’ve made since 6 April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td>* Delete if not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of years membership being paid:</strong> 1 / 2 / 3 / 5 years for price of 4</td>
<td>By completing this form I agree to the Society holding my information on computer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas members please remember to add £5 pa postage supplement</strong></td>
<td>Signed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gift Membership</strong></td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If this is a gift membership please attach the name &amp; address of the recipient plus any special message on a separate sheet of paper. Where shall we send the membership?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Direct to the recipient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ To you to give to the recipient personally</td>
<td>Please send the completed form and payment to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hon. Secretary, Anthony Powell Society</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>