A Hero of Our Club – Anthony Powell at The Travellers 1930-2000: Part Two

The edited text of a talk delivered at The Travellers Club, 04 March 2002

by Hugh Massingham

[Part One of this talk was published in the Autumn 2002 Newsletter]

Inevitably, after marrying Lady Violet Pakenham in 1934 and setting up home in Bloomsbury, Anthony Powell came to The Travellers less often than before – and then they had a spell in California. But Violet Powell, unlike some Travellers’ wives, had a warm affection for the club and they frequently entertained here after the war.

When I saw Violet for the last time, she told me a Travellers’ tale. During the war, Marshall of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Portal, Chief of the Air Staff, used to lunch at The Travellers most days. He would sit on his own, lost in quiet contemplation, and the form – as Anthony Powell observed – was for his fellow-members to give the great man a wide berth so as not to disturb his chain of thought upon which much of the course of the war depended. But one lunchtime, at the height, or depth, of the Blitz, a backwoodsman lumbered across to the Marshall’s solitary table.

“Ah, Portal, there you are! I hear the Royal Flying Corps have been doin’ frightfully well. Keep up the good work!”

After the war, The Travellers’ Library regarded by many, including John Betjeman and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother as their favourite interior in London – was in a dispiriting state. The then Chairman of the Library Committee, Roger Pocklington Senhouse, a publisher and quondam fancy of Lynton Strachey – who once addressed an envelope to him as follows:

“Deliver this to SENHOUSE, Roger
I prithee postman debonair
He is the handsome upstairs lodger
At No. 14 Brunswick Square”

-- seems to have been a rather sleepy figure. One of the Library Committee, Captain Kennedy appears to have been a dedicated follower of the Turf and pressed for the scarce Library funds to be applied to buying form-guides and Who’s Who in Racing. Then, in November 1946, Harold Nicolson, Alan Pryce-Jones, LE Jones (author of that evocative trilogy, A Victorian Bayhood, Edwardian Youth and Georgian Afternoon) and a certain “AD Powell” were brought in “to ginger things up”, as Powell would have put it.

The minutes show a distinctive astringency. The presentation of a book called I Chose Freedom, for instance, was “met with scant enthusiasm, tempered with scepticism”.

Powell and Pryce-Jones, both working on the TLS, were deputed to send in a fortnightly list of suitable books for the club’s circulating library. And while Captain Kennedy banged on about the vital need for a History of Newmarket, Powell was recommending works by Proust, Osbert Lancaster, Lloyd’s History of Wales and The Dictionary of English Place Names (which was to furnish the novelist with such surnames as Widmerpool, Leintwardine and Brent).

Put in charge of “Foreign Literature” for the Library, Powell came up with the following essentials: Apuleius, Aristophanes, Herodotus, Homer, Lucretius, Marcus Aurelius, Propertius, Augustine’s Confessions, Machiavelli’s The Prince, Castiglione’s The Courtier, Aksakov, Montaigne and The Oxford Books of French, German and Italian Verse. Powell also came across an autographed copy of Stendhal’s book on Italian Painting on the shelves in this room – and suggested it might be “put in a closed case.”

After all his hard work in improving the Library, Powell was a natural choice as Chairman of the Library Committee from June 1949 onwards. In the autumn of 1951 he presented a first edition copy of A Question of Uprooting to the club (he had earlier presented some of his pre-war novels, as well as John Aubrey and His Friends in 1949) and this coincided with his defining Chairman’s Report on The Library of The Travellers Club. Although anonymous, this is recognisably the work of the Master.

As Chairman of the Library Committee, Anthony Powell also served on the General Committee of the club and in 1963 he joined the House Committee. Members’ complaints about “the coldness of the vegetables” (Powell suggested hotplates); the inadequacy of the toast under the Roast Grouse; and of how Roast Beef and Lamb were “frequently overcooked” kept the Committee on their toes. Other perennial topics were the use of the Library for entertaining – something Powell always stoutly resisted – and the advance of “lady guests” into male enclaves, even into this very room (“strongly against”, minced Powell) and, of course, chronic shortage of cash. To increase revenue, Powell suggested the installation of a fruit-machine (“one-armed bandit”) in the lobby of the bar and a sweeptake. In the event, with the Secretary, Robin McDouall’s support, a
one-armed bandit was experimented with in the Gents – for a three-month trial, but it did not prove popular with the members.

Charging members for a second cup of coffee after lunch and dinner was one of Anthony Powell’s bugbears and he succeeded in having this custom changed – so that coffee ad lib, after the first cup, is now the rule – thanks to the Sage of the Chantry. As a cat lover – his portrait in the club, presented in 2001 by Lady Violet, shows him with his beloved Trelawney on his shoulder – Powell was also a champion of the beleaguered Club Cat, a plumpish animal of unreliable aspect who some members wanted removed on account of her tendency to rip the leather furniture while sharpening her claws. Her unruly appearance prompted one wag to write in the Suggestions Book: “The Mat Sat on the Cat”.

Dogs were more JR Ackerley’s line – he was introduced to Tony Powell in the 1950s and Powell, as he recorded in his Journals, “didn’t take to him. He said, ‘Ah, yes – you wrote – what was it? – No, don’t tell me – novel about an artist’. This seemed the most patent one-upmanship bearing out what one had heard of him as power-maniac when Literary Editor of The Listener.”

The Travellers was frequently the mise en scène of a Powellian anecdote. One evening after Osbert Sitwell had witnessed Anthony Powell’s Will – describing himself as “Poet and Justice of the Peace” – he related the story of how news came to the Duke of Cambridge, the Victorian C-in-C and a member of The Travellers, that an outbreak of VD had taken place at Sandhurst. He set off for the RMC at once, carrying a rolled umbrella. Once the cadets were assembled, he thundered:

“I hear you boys have been putting your private parts where I wouldn’t put this umbrella”.

The other witness to Powell’s Will, executed at The Travellers, was Alick Dru, Evelyn Waugh’s brother-in-law, portrayed as David Pennistone in Dance. It was through Dru that Monsignor Gilbey got to know the Powells – and it was the Monsignor who introduced me to my great Hero, Anthony Powell, here in 1970, soon after my election to The Travellers. We had previously corresponded about genealogy – his principal passion – but the dinner generously arranged by Alfred was the first time I met him in the flesh. I describe the evening in my book Daydream Believer: Confessions of a Hero-Worshipper.

Happy we were to meet many more times over his remaining years in the club and in the 1980s he was a valued contributor of obituaries to the page I edited at The Daily Telegraph – including one of Adrian Daintrey,

“whose passing will bring a tear to the eye of more than one lady of quality and black bus conductress”.

In his Journals Powell noted how his old friend had worn (into the club)

“a large flat cap shaped like a muffin which he said had been made specially for him by a female friend”.

History doesn’t relate whether he kept it on in the Coffee Room.

Of one Powell celebration at The Travellers he noted in his Journals,

“Luncheon at The Travellers was not too bad [a Powellian compliment, incidentally] fruits de mer, medaillons de veau, épinsards à la crème, patisserie, club hock, the last perfectly drinkable for such an occasion. The meal took place in the Library, an unusually pretty Regency room with pillars and a frieze of the Elgin marbles”.

As the 1980s wore on, visits to London became less frequent. They were mainly concerned with dental appointments; indeed his nephew, Ferdie Mount, quipped that one of the Journal volumes might have been called The Sussman Years in honour of Tony’s dentist. I remember Tony being fascinated, over one club lunch, by the fact that my own dentist was an hereditary peer.

As Violet recorded in the introduction to the last volume of the Journals:

“Like the pussycat in the nursery rhyme, Powell’s last trip to London was to visit the Queen”

when he was invested as Companion of Honour in 1988. But he continued to keep in touch with The Travellers to the end.

It was fitting that after Anthony Powell’s Memorial Service in the Grosvenor Chapel in May 2000, Lady Violet should have held a lunch in the Library of The Travellers for family and friends. The menu included Tony’s favourite savoury – Devils on Horseback – described in Robin McDouall’s Clubland Cooking as

“A great favourite with Edwardian hostesses and my friend and favourite novelist, Anthony Powell. Prunes, instead of Oysters, wrapped in Bacon. The only merit I can see in them is that they do not much harm to a red wine.”

Anthony Powell was an adornment of The Travellers and did the club “some service” (to adapt one of his favourite quotations from Othello). He was indeed a true “Hero of our Club”. And he understood club life, just as he understood life in general.

What he wrote about the Somerset Club in Boston – with its

“insipissated and enveloping club atmosphere... Ancient armchairs and sofas underpropped one or two equally antiquated members, ossified into states of Emersonian catalepsy in which shadow and sunlight were not only the same, but had long freed them from shame or fame. It was comforting to see so splendid a haunt from the past surviving intact into a widely disintegrating world”

could equally well have been written about The Travellers.

And he understood too, the vital importance to the clubman of comforting,
nursery fare. To return to that lunch Widmerpool gave Jenkins at his club – while Widmerpool is prosing on about world affairs (and suggesting that Goering be given the Garter) – the narrator slyly observes …

“an enormously fat old fellow who was opening his luncheon with dressed crab and half a bottle of hock… [Later] The fat man had moved on to steak-and-kidney pudding, leeks and mashed potato, with a green salad… [Later still, Widmerpool still boring on] The fat man was now enjoying the first taste of some apple pie liberally covered with cream and brown sugar…”.


## Christmas Prize Competition

Demonstrate your skill as a poet and win a year’s free membership of the Society

All you have to do is to write the best Anthony Powell-related haiku

For those unfamiliar with Japanese culture, haiku are short poems of seventeen syllables, in groups of five, seven and five. For example:

| Haiku by Ursula Meyerbeer |
|_________________________|
| Green cat eyes see what to do |
| Matilda decides |

Send your entry, with your name and address, to:

**Christmas Competition**
The Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford
Middlesbrough, UB6 0JW, UK
Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
Email: comp@anthonypowell.org.uk

to arrive no later than 31 January 2003

The winner will be the entry that most amuses the Newsletter Editor, and will be announced in the Spring 2003 Newsletter

**Competition Conditions**

The Editor’s decision is final and binding. Entry is open to Anthony Powell Society members and non-members. No purchase necessary. Entries must be original and the work of the person submitting them. Maximum five entries per person. No cash alternative. No correspondence will be entered into. The Anthony Powell Society reserves the right to publish the entries.

Example haiku © copyright Joan Williams

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## US East Coast Group

_by Leatrice Fountain and Joan Williams_

Our third Anthony Powell Society gathering at Silvermine Tavern this afternoon found Nick Birns, Joan Williams, Ed Bock, Jonathan Kooperstein, John Gould, William Warren and Leatrice Fountain engaged in literary investigation. Nick posed some interesting questions about Stringham and his relationships. We also discussed whether, at the end, Stringham was happy about the course his life had taken. John Gould said he found Tuffy Weedon to be an unpleasant and unlikable person. Widmerpool entered our conversation with questions of why he wanted Stringham sent away. No firm answers on any of the above. Other contributions invited. William Warren has offered to arrange our December 20th meeting (close to Powell’s birthday) at the Century Club in New York City for a seasonal celebration. We hope members will be there to read excerpts from their papers being offered for the general assembly at Oxford in 2003. It was also decided that our group should be represented by champagne flutes, sherry glasses, and thin cups of Chinese tea.* And now, Andrew, Joan and I are lifting our sherry glasses in a toast to you, our own musical agent provocateur. Salut!

* Editor’s note: The allusion is to this email Andrew Clarke sent to the APList:

> “I have written to British Telecom to suggest a sort of Guide Michelin or Baedeker system for their telephone directories: next to each entry there would be from one to five little symbols, representing either champagne flutes or beer mugs as appropriate. The two might not be mutually exclusive however. I think the Jeavones of South Kensington might well be indicated by three of the one and two of the other.”

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## Great Lakes Group Meeting

_by Stephen Pyskoty-Olle_

September saw the third meeting of the Great Lakes group of the Anthony Powell Society at the Red Lion Pub in Chicago.

Attending – and consuming many British delicacies and drinks – were Stephen Pyskoty-Olle, Tony and Joanne Edmonds, Eileen Soderstrom, Murray Jacobs, Dick Goeme, and Tony Bruozas.

Interesting topics included whether Widmerpool and Gypsy knew each other in the biblical sense; how Nick seemed to not be attuned to music as he was to art and literature; the fact that no one has heard any Constant Lambert music (Lambert being Powell’s inspiration for Moreland); Carolo’s many amours; the pleasure to be had reading in pubs; the multitude of painting references throughout the Dance; and Powell’s literary tolerance of homosexuals, and its unsualness for the times.

Please e-mail widmerpool@hotmail.com for information on future meetings.
Powell Manuscripts at Eton College Library

by Stephen Holden

After the AGM on 14 September 2002 those attending were shown round the Eton College Library by Michael Meredith and Nick Baker. The tour focused on Eton’s collection of Powelliana, some owned by the College, much of it kindly on loan from the Powell family.

Michael Meredith began by telling us that the manuscripts before us were, properly speaking, “typescripts”. On display were some half-dozen or so typescripts, including drafts of Afternoon Men, What’s Become of Waring, and certain volumes of Dance. Also displayed were one of Powell’s typewriters (a portable model), first editions, various foreign editions of his novels (including the first US edition of From a View to a Death, the title changed to Mr Zouch: Superman), manuscripts and photographs relating to Brian Howard (see below), and a group photograph (apparently found by chance at a car-boot sale and donated to the College) showing Powell revisiting Eton in the 1920s for an old boys match against the then Goodhart’s house football team.

Michael Meredith explained that Powell appeared to have typed three complete drafts of each novel, meticulously revising the text each time, the third draft being submitted to the publishers. Then, when the uncorrected proofs returned from the publishers, these too were corrected and amended by Powell. Indeed, Powell was reluctant to cease revising even once the book was published. Apparently when

Casanova’s Chinese Restaurant appeared in hardcover a doctor told Powell that Dr Brandreth’s medical talk in the novel was incorrect. Powell made sure this inaccuracy was corrected by the time the novel appeared in paperback.

Powell recycled the paper he used for the first and second drafts, typing journalism and other writings on the back.

The drafts of Afternoon Men and What’s Become of Waring both showed that Powell had changed the names of several characters before publication. The Waring character, for instance, was originally to be called Stokes, and hence the novel was to have been called What’s Become of Stokes.

Michael Meredith (aided by Nick Baker reading aloud each draft) showed us how Powell had gone through several detailed revisions of his description of Brian Howard in Infants of the Spring. What began as a curt, rather cutting portrait of Howard emerged, after careful polishing, as the measured, witty two paragraphs that appear in the published memoirs.

After the talk we were given the opportunity to examine the typescripts and exhibits ourselves, and also to peruse Eton’s exhibition The Kings and Queens of England which was in honour of Her Majesty’s Golden Jubilee.

The Society is very grateful to Michael Meredith and Nick Baker for organising this fascinating display and talk.

Meet the Committee:
Nicholas Birns

Nicholas Birns is Lecturer in English at New School University in New York City (located near the fictional site of Quentin Shuckerly’s demise in Hearing Secret Harmonies). He received his BA from Columbia University in 1988 and his PhD from New York University in 1992. He has published over twenty scholarly articles and has also written for general-interest periodicals such as The New York Times Book Review and National Forum. He serves in a number of positions on US academic committees and editorial boards, and has also lectured abroad in Australia and Sweden. His book Understanding Anthony Powell is under contract from University of South Carolina Press.

Venice
by Julian Allason

The following appeared in the October issue of Entrée, the US publication devoted to travel:-

“Why, we wondered, were the group of literary types wandering around Venice’s venerable Europa & Regina Hotel with their heads in the air? The surprising answer was that the building was once the home of the great 18th century painter Giambattista Tiepolo and the literati were members of the Anthony Powell Society in search of the Tiepolo ceiling under which some of the most surprising scenes of A Dance to the Music of Time are set. Surprising scenes are something of a specialty of this luxury hotel with arguably the best view – and lowest prices for a five star property – in Venice. For the comfortable guest rooms look out onto Santa Maria della Salute and the entrance to the Grand Canal, with its busy traffic of gondolas and vaporetto. . . .”

Hugh Whitmore wins Emmy

At the 54th Annual Emmy Awards in September 2002 Hugh Whitmore won the Emmy for “Outstanding Writing for a Miniseries, Movie or a Dramatic Special” for HBO’s The Gathering Storm. The film deals with Winston Churchill in the years before World War II, where he found himself on the fringes of British politics: a lone voice in crying out in the wilderness as he warned his country and the world of a Nazi threat. Albert Finney starred as Winston Churchill.

Hugh Whitmore adapted A Dance to the Music of Time for Channel 4 television, a series that introduced many viewers (and Society members) to Powell’s work.

Solutions for Crossword No. 7

Across: 2 Odo; 3 Orn; 5 Arch; 6 Secret; 10 Cadwallader; 13 Bob; 15 Jones; 16 Warmminster; 19 Stonehurst; 21 Le Bas; 22 Quarry; 23 Norah; 24 Budd; 26 Eton

Down: 1 Books; 2 Orchard; 4 Nicholas; 5 Art; 7 Evadne; 8 Tar; 9 Suzette; 11 Ada; 12Alias; 13 Babs; 14 Bum; 16 Weedon; 17 Tolland; 18 Robert; 20 Rosalie; 25 Um; 27 Ted
From the APLIST
Recent Discussions on the Society’s
Email Discussion Group

From James Doyle:
I like Templar very much despite – or perhaps because – of the fact that I have a number of unanswered questions about him. For example, what do the list members think about:

1. Mr Templar. Why is he an old devil? Or if he isn’t, why does Sunny Farebrother say he is? In my tin-eared American way, I’d read Mr Templar’s background as rising middle-class: perhaps the Widmerpool of his generation, and assumed that the chateau in which Templar was raised was not an aristocratic one.

2. Templar’s way of life. Templar’s relentlessly middle-brow way of life struck me when I first read Dance as a) a renunciation of Stringham, Nick, et al’s social milieu and ambitions that is individual because in its almost absolute surface banality it is practically the only way in the British context he could renounce one set of social constraints without signing on to another. Templar seems to me to want to cut himself off from social life altogether. He may be more of a rebel than he seems, misguided – as Andrew points out, perhaps fatally misguided. Still, I like him. He seems to me to be pretty consistent about sticking to his point, and paying the price if it comes to that.

3. His death. Of course, though, as Powell observed of Orwell, most people in rebellion are half in love with what they are in rebellion against, which brings me to the subject of Templar’s death. I can’t believe it was all on account of Pamela. Nick and Duport agree that it was not that simple. So, what was it? Were there strains of Henty in it after all?

From Andrew Clarke:
[re Mr Templar’s background] In the accents of New Jersey I’d say he’s risen already. Despite coming a cropper over steel (or was it cement?) he’s made his money, and enjoys pretty well the same status a successful businessman would enjoy in the US. Maybe a little lower in the American pecking order than long-established Boston bankers, but not far from it. Certainly further up than Updike’s Rabbit – or, for that matter, Mr Widmerpool Senior.

I worry about this comparison. Mr Templar quite possibly comes from a long-established family of “city gents” and is quite at home in that particular world. He may well have been born into money. His abrupt manner is still more gentlemanly than that of a Jimmy Stripling or a Bob Duport, I think.

[re Templar’s chateau] Solid, comfortable, extensive “grounds”, tennis courts – probably these days a swimming-pool, probably of Edwardian construction (VII not I), atmosphere of port and cigars and even in the twenties a considerable number of domestic servants. No pretensions to connoisseurship: the Isbister portrait says it all. But it’s certainly not Nancy Mitford’s Hampton.

[re Templar’s death] I suppose he had the opportunity do something really heroic. Childe Roland’s horn sounded for him as it had done for Stringham. In both cases, arguably an escape from cynicism, hopelessness and inertia. Pamela was probably a contributing factor: her jibes about his fading virility kicked away the persona of the Sunningdale Lothario, and forced him to see reality, I’d say. Human existence ultimately demands more than bridge, whisky and other people’s wives.

From Andrew Clarke:
Socially Widmerpool’s chief problem is that home is a flat in Victoria, and not a country house, and that means that he cannot invite friends home for the holidays, nor, because they know that he cannot reciprocate, will his contemporaries invite him.

From Julian Allason:
I am not at all sure that reciprocity is expected. The pre-war diaries (Channon et al), and Beaton’s new post-war unexpurgated, make it clear that it was not a requirement at that period – as long as you were prepared to sing for your supper. The problem was, I think, Ken’s lack of singing voice rather than stately home.

Books for Sale
Various Anthony Powell and Other Miscellaneous Volumes

Private Sale at Competitive Prices

For full list contact: Keith Marshall
Phone: 020 8864 4095
Fax: 020 8864 6109
Email: kcm@cix.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary
Saturday 07 December 2002
London Local Group Lunch
Celebrate for AP’s Birthday & Wedding Anniversary
Wallace Collection, London W2 1245 hrs
Further details from Maggie Noach maggienenach@hotmail.com

Saturday 07 December 2002
Great Lakes Group Meeting
Art in the First Movement of Dance
Red Lion Pub, Chicago, USA 1300 hrs local time
Further details from Stephen Pyskoty-Olles widmerpool@hotmail.com

Friday 20 December 2002
NE USA Group Meeting
Discussion: Pamela Fliton
The Century Club, New York, USA 1200 hrs local time
Further details from William Warren wwarren@idewyballentine.com

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

Saturday 20 September 2003
Society AGM
Provisional date; venue to be decided
2003 Conference Update

Monday 07 & Tuesday 08 April 2003
Balliol College, Oxford

Conference Programme. Work on the conference is progressing extremely well: the submitted papers have all been reviewed and a draft programme constructed. In outline the programme consists of 6 keynote speakers and 12 delegate papers on day 1 and two workshops on day 2. The delegate fees are expected to be comparable to those for the Eton conference and all the elements of the conference will be separately bookable.

The keynote speakers are: Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Tom Wallace (Powell’s American publisher), DJ Taylor, James Tucker, Allan Massie and Alan Judd. The submitted papers cover a wide range of topics from Poussin’s painting A Dance to the Music of Time to the occult in Dance.

Plans are also being made for an informal reception on the Monday evening (possibly including a small auction of AP items) and a dinner on the evening preceding the conference.

Bookings. At the time of writing not all the costs are confirmed and not all authors have been informed. The programme, delegate fees and booking information will be available early in the New Year and will be mailed to all members and friends of the Society.

Provisional bookings for the conference are still being accepted; please contact the Hon. Secretary. Day 1 will be strictly limited to a maximum of 100 delegates; there will also be limits on numbers for the workshops and the dinner.

A Message from Nick Baker, Eton College Library …

At the Eton conference Nick Baker promised to send a member a photocopy of a letter from Anthony Powell to Bernard Bergonzzi. Unfortunately Nick has mislaid the member’s name and address. If you are that member and get in touch with Nick (write to him at College Library, Eton College, Windsor, Berks, SL4 6DJ, UK) he will be pleased to fulfil his promise.

Ohio Local Group

Member Jack McClatchey of Cleveland, Ohio has offered to start a Local Group of Society members in the Ohio area if there is sufficient interest. Any member who would like to join a group based around Cleveland can contact Jack on +1-216-566-5704 or by email at john.mcclatchey@thompsononline.com.

From the Secretary’s Desk

At this time of year our thoughts – well my thoughts, anyway – turn to the seasons.

Not so much because one is reviewing the entertainments provided by the year which is drawing to a close – in the way in which our hero has Nick Jenkins review past events in Hearing Secret Harmonies.

No, in my case it is more a question of Winter imposing itself upon life with the chill of Autumn fogs, the evocative smell of wood smoke – so redolent of those closing pages of Dance – the sparkling, fairy-light gaiety of Christmas and the hoped-for delights of beautiful alpine mornings and of watching fresh snow fall.

This latter always reminds me of one of my favourite passages from Dance: the opening paragraphs of A Question of Upbringing which I consider one of the most evocative passages in the whole of English literature …

The men at work at the corner of the street had made a kind of camp for themselves, where, marked out by tripods hung with red hurricane-lamps, an abyss in the road led down to a network of subterranean drain-pipes. Gathered round the bucket of coke that burned in front of the shelter, several figures were swinging arms against bodies and rubbing hands together with large, pantomimic gestures: like comedians giving formal expression to the concept of extreme cold. One of them, a spare fellow in blue overalls, taller than the rest, with a jocular demeanour and long, pointed nose like that of a Shakespearian clown, suddenly stepped forward, and, as if performing a rite, cast some substance – apparently the remains of two kippers, loosely wrapped in newspaper – on the bright coals of the fire, causing flames to leap fiercely upward, smoke curling about in eddies of the north-east wind. As the dark flames floated above the houses, snow began to fall gently from a dull sky, each flake giving a small hiss as it reached the bucket. The flames died down again; and the men, as if required observances were for the moment at an end, all turned away from the fire, lowering themselves laboriously into the pit, or withdrawing to the shadows of their tarpaulin shelter. The grey, undecided flakes continued to come down, though not heavily, while a harsh odour, bitter and gaseous, penetrated the air. The day was drawing in.

For some reason, the sight of snow descending on fire always makes me think of the ancient world …

It remains only for me to wish all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year … Oh, and not too much dog-kennel cleaning!

The Chantry, photographed by the Hon. Secretary, 15 September 2001.
Society Merchandise

Postcards
Choice of two cards (illustrated below):
• B&W card of AP with his cat Trelawney
• The Wallace Collection’s colour postcard of the Poussin painting A Dance to the Music of Time

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Eton Conference 2001 Proceedings
Limited edition of 250 numbered copies each signed by the Society’s Patron, John Powell. £15 each, post free to all members.

Eton Conference Delegates Book
A very few copies of the book given to delegates on the day are available at the reduced price of £1 each.

Newsletter Back Issues
Small numbers of back issues of the Newsletter are available at 50p each. All issues are available except Issue 2.

Audio Tapes of Dance. The Society has acquired a limited number of copies of the following audio tapes of Simon Callow reading (abridged) volumes of Dance:
• The Kindly Ones
• The Valley of Bones
• The Soldier’s Art
Boxed set of the ‘Autumn’ trilogy – just a very few left!
Single volumes: £2.50 each (RRP £8.99).
‘Autumn’ trilogy: £8 (RRP £25).

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

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Non-members will be charged p&p at cost.

Ordering. Please post, phone or fax your order to the Hon. Secretary at the address below. Payment may be made by cheque (UK funds drawn on a UK bank) or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).

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Leatrice Fountain (USA)
Stephen Holden
Tony Robinson
Members *
Conference Christine Berberich
Organising Sue Frye
Committee
Stephen Holden
Noreen Marshall
Tony Robinson

* Members of the Executive Committee. All officers are resident in England or Wales unless stated.

Please send all correspondence to:
Hon. Secretary
The Anthony Powell Society
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Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK

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

Newsletter Copy Deadlines for 2003

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

Issue 10, Spring 2003
Copy Deadline: Friday 14 February
Publication Date: Friday 07 March

Issue 11, Summer 2003
Copy Deadline: Friday 15 June
Publication Date: Friday 05 September

Issue 12, Autumn 2003
Copy Deadline: Friday 15 August
Publication Date: Friday 05 December

Local Groups

NE USA Local Group
Area: New York & CT area of USA
Organiser: Leatrice Fountain
Email: leatricefountain@aol.com

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

London Local Group
Area: London & SE England
Organiser: vacant
The Anthony Powell Society
Membership Form

Section A : Member Information
Type of membership (please check):
☐ Ordinary Member – £20 a year.
☐ Joint Membership – £30 a year. Any two people at the same address.
☐ Gold Member – £30 minimum a year.
☐ Student Member – £12 a year. Please send evidence the recipient is a full-time student.
☐ Organisation – £100 minimum a year.
Subscriptions are due on 01 April annually. If joining after 31 December membership includes following full subscription year.

Member’s Name
Address
Postcode/Zip
Country
Email
Number of years membership being paid: 1 / 2 / 3
Is this membership a gift? Yes / No If Yes please complete Section B

Section C : Payment Information
Total amount payable
£ No. of years x membership rate
☐ I enclose a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank. Please make cheques payable to The Anthony Powell Society.
☐ Please debit my Visa / MasterCard Card No.: Valid from:
Expire:
Name & address of cardholder, if different from above.

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

Section D : Mailing Information
Please send the completed form and payment to:

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

Section B : Gift Membership Information
Donor’s Name
Address
Postcode/Zip
Country
Email
Where shall we send the membership?
☐ Direct to the recipient
☐ To me to give to the recipient personally
Please indicate any special message you would like sent with this membership.

Section E : Payment Information

Christmas Quiz
Set by Mr Blackhead

All the questions and/or answers have a Powellian connection, however temuous.

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

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

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

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

5. Graham Greene did not allow his second and third novels to be republished in his lifetime. What were their titles?

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

7. Who presented his collection of biographical pieces to the Ashmolean Museum in 1693?

8. In which novel is it declared that “almost all crime is due to the repressed desire for aesthetic expression”?

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

10. “Alas, regardless of their doom, The little victims play!” Where?

11. What literary siblings were lampooned by Noël Coward as the Swiss Family Whittlebot?

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

13. Which pseudonym did Cyril Connolly use when The Unquiet Grave was first published?

14. How did Mikhail Lermontov, author of A Hero of Our Time, die?

15. “A hard time we had of it. At the end we preferred to travel all night, Sleeping in snatches.” Who are these travellers?

The answers will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.