

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## NOTABLE BODY SHAPES

### LADY MALVERN

*Lady Malvern was a hearty, happy, healthy, overpowering sort of dashed female, not so very tall but making up for it by measuring about six feet from the O. P. to the Prompt side. She fitted into my biggest armchair as if it had been built round her by someone who knew they were wearing armchairs tight about the hips that season.*

Prompt and O. P. are theatre terms for the two sides of the stage. O. P. is short for Opposite Prompt.

(Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest, 1919)

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### SIR HERCULE FOLIOT-FOLJAMBE

Bingo Little met Kirk Rockaway. He was one of the fattest men that ever broke a try-your-weight machine. He looked as if he had been eating nothing but starchy foods since early boyhood. Bingo regretted Kirk wasn't his uncle and qualified to enter the Fat Uncle Sweep at the Drones.

However, Bingo's Aunt Myrtle had just married Sir Foliot-Foljambe and he was consequently qualified to enter the Fat Uncles Sweep. Bingo hadn't met him yet when he for the first time saw a photograph of him. 'He was looking, spell-bound, at the photograph of a man so vast, so like a captive balloon, that Kirk Rockaway seemed merely pleasantly plump in comparison. A woman, he felt, even one as globular as his Aunt Myrtle, would have been well advised before linking her lot with his to consult her legal adviser to make sure she was not committing bigamy.

(Stylish Stouts, 1950)

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### HORACE PENDLEBURY-DAVENPORT

... there entered a young man of great height but lacking the width of shoulder and ruggedness of limb which make height impressive. Nature, stretching Horace Davenport out, had forgotten to stretch him sideways, and one could have pictured Euclid, had they met, nudging a friend and saying, 'Don't look now, but this chap coming along illustrates exactly what I was

telling you about a straight line having length without breadth.'

Polly Pott tried to teach Horace to dance. Pongo Twistleton's reaction: *The trouble was, he reflected, that Horace was so tall. A chap of that length didn't really get on to what his feet were doing till some minutes after it had happened. What you wanted, of course, was to slice him in half and have two Horaces.*

Horace was a nephew to the Duke of Dunstable who was worried for him: *'I've always been uneasy about Horace's mental condition, ever since he had measles as a boy and suddenly shot up to the height of about eight foot six. It stands to reason a chap's brain can't be all that way from his heart and still function normally. Look at the distance the blood's got to travel.'*

(Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

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### PLAYWRIGHTS

*Successful playwrights as a class are slender. Vertically there may be quite a lot, though not more than their admirers desire, of Terence Rattigan and, in a greater degree, of Ian Hay, but you can hardly see them sideways.*

(Spring Fever, 1945)

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### LORD UFFENHAM

*In shape, he resembled a pear, reasonably narrow at the top but getting wider and wider all the way down and culminating in a pair of boots of the outsize or violin-case type. Above these great, spreading steppes of body there was poised a large and egglike head, the bald dome of which rose like some proud mountain peak from a foothill fringe of straggling hair.*

(Money in the Bank, 1942)

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### LORD EMSWORTH

*He perceived Lord Emsworth at his side, drooping like a tired lily. Except when he had something to prop himself against, there was always a suggestion of the drooping floweret about the master of Blandings Castle. He seemed to work on a hinge somewhere in the small of his back, and people searching for something nice to say of him sometimes described him as having a scholarly stoop. Lord Ickenham had become accustomed to this bonelessness and no longer expected his friend to give any evidence of possessing spinal vertebrae.*

(Service with a Smile, 1962)

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### HORACE PROSSER

*A distant cousin to Oofy Prosser. It was a photograph of an elderly man in a bathing suit; an elderly man who, a glance was enough to tell, had been overdoing it on the starchy foods since early childhood; an elderly man so rotund, so obese, so bulging in every direction that Shakespeare, had he beheld him, would have muttered to himself 'Upon what meat doth this our Horace feed that he is grown so great?' ...*

*It was at the conclusion of one of these promenades, he added, that he had asked her to be his wife, and she had replied that the only obstacle standing in the way of the suggested merger was his adipose deposit. She refused, she said, to walk up the aisle with a human hippopotamus. ... The whimsical way she put it was that a woman who married a man my size ran a serious risk of being arrested for bigamy.*

(The Fat of the Land, 1959)

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### SERGEANT VOULES

*This Voules was a bird built rather on the lines of the Albert Hall, round in the middle and not much above. He always looked to me as if Nature had really intended to make two police sergeants and had forgotten to split them up.*

(Thank You, Jeeves, 1935)

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