

* Ye Olde Plum News *

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BERTRAM WOOSTER LEAVES ENGLAND

NEW YORK

Aunt Agatha commanded Bertie to go to New York in order to prevent his cousin, Gussie Mannering-Phipps, from disgrace by marrying a vaudeville actress. "Jeeves," I said, "we start for America on Saturday." "Very good, sir," he said, "which suit will you wear?"

"New York is a large city conveniently situated on the edge of America, so that you can step off the liner right on to it without an effort.... I'm bound to say New York's a most sprightly place to be exiled in." Bertie fails his mission and has to stay for a while in New York out of reach for Aunt Agatha. (Extricating Young Gussie, 1915) Some of Bertie's experiences during the visit are recorded:

- Bertie's friend "Corky" Corcoran wanted to become a portrait painter but instead found a career as a drawer of a series of comics. (The Artistic Career of Corky, 1916).

- Bertie's friend "Rocky" Todd wanted to live a quiet life in the countryside as a poet, but had problems with the allowance from his aunt. (The Aunt and the Sluggard, 1916)

- A friend of Aunt Agatha parked her son, Lord Pershore, with Bertie as responsible caretaker. (Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest, 1916)

- Bertie's friend "Bicky" Bickersteth got help to keep the allowance from his uncle, the Duke of Chiswick. (Jeeves and the Hardboiled Egg, 1917)

- Aunt Agatha ordered him to host Cyril Bassington-Bassington and stop him from entering the theater stage. (Jeeves and the Chump Cyril, 1918)

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### NEW YORK, second time

Bertie was engaged to Honoria Glossop, to the joy of Aunt Agatha. Honoria's father, Sir Roderick Glossop visited Bertie in his apartment in London and became convinced that Bertie is a lunatic. He broke the alliance. Aunt Agatha was furious with Bertie, who had to escape. "What do you advise, Jeeves?" "I think a trip abroad might prove enjoyable, sir." "I shook my head. 'She'd come after me.' 'Not if you went far enough afield, sir. There are excellent boats leaving every Wednesday and Saturday for New York.' 'Jeeves,' I said, 'you are right, as always. Book the tickets.' ... I like the place, and was having quite a ripe time there." (Sir Roderick comes to lunch, 1922. In the first version of this story, in Strand, he instead goes to Roville-sur-mer in France, but this is changed in all later versions.)

"About three months before, noting a certain liveliness in my Aunt Agatha, I had deemed it prudent to pop cross to New York for a space to give her time to blow over.... And about half-way through my first week there ... I made the acquaintance of Pauline Stoker." They got engaged, but Pauline's father, J. Washburn Stoker, broke the engagement on advice from sir Roderick Glossop. (Thank You, Jeeves, Ch 1, 1934)

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ROVILLE-SUR-MER, FRANCE

"Roville is a fairly nifty spot where a chappie without encumbrances in the shape of Aunt Agatha might spend a somewhat genial week or so. It is like all these french places, mainly sand and Hotels and Casinos." Bertie had obviously already visited some other French resorts we don't know of. (Aunt Agatha takes the Count, 1922. In the Strand version of the story Bertie flees to Roville instead of his second visit in New York. In The Inimitable Jeeves and all other versions it was Aunt Agatha who invited/ commanded Bertie to come her in Roville, where she had found a suitable girl for him to marry.)

Roville-sur-mer is a fictional resort in Picardie.

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### PARIS

"I was putting in a week or two in Paris at the moment, and there's something about Paris that always makes me feel fairly full of *espièglerie* and *jolie de vivre*." Evidently this was not Bertie's first visit in Paris. (The rummy Affair of Old Biffy, 1924)

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MONTE CARLO, MONACO

Bertie needed to get away from Aunt Agatha and "Bobbie" Wickham. "I think the best plan, sir, would be for you to leave England, which is not pleasant at this time of the year, for a little while. I would not take the liberty of dictating your movements, sir, but, as you already have accommodation engaged on the Blue Train for Monte Carlo for the day after tomorrow----" (Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit, 1927) There is only one event recorded from this trip: Some time later Bertie tells us about Gussie Fink-Nottle "His expression was almost identical with that which I had once surprised on the face of a fish, whose name I cannot recall, in the royal aquarium at Monaco." (The Code of the Woosters, Ch 4, 1938)

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### PARIS, again

A Mr Pim and his family had invaded Bertie's home in London and made it impossible for Bertie to live there. "I, personally, Jeeves," I said, opening the front door and pausing on the threshold, "am off to Paris. I will wire you the address." Bertie stayed for about three weeks. "I spent the time pottering pretty perturbedly about Paris and environs. It is a city I am fairly fond of, but I was glad to be able to return to old home." (Jeeves and the Spot of Art, 1929)

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MEDITERRANIAN CRUISE

When Bertie came home from Paris he was met by advertising posters for Slingsby's Superb Soups all over London, all with a big coloured portrait of him.

"Jeeves, flight is the only resource." "Yes, sir." "Back to Paris, what?... 'If I might make a suggestion, sir, why not adhere to your original intention of cruising in Mrs. Travers yacht in The Mediterranean? On the yacht you would be free from the annoyance of these advertising displays.'" (Jeeves and the Spot of Art, 1929)

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### CANNES /ANTIBES, FRENCH RIVIERA

"So there you have the layout - Aunt Dahlia, Cousin Angela and self off to Cannes round about the beginning of June. We stayed in Cannes about two months, and except for the fact that Aunt Dahlia lost her shirt at baccarat and Angela nearly got inhaled by a shark while aquaplaning, a pleasant time was had by all." Angela's friend Madeline Bassett visited them for some time. (Right Ho, Jeeves, Ch 1 1934) "I was standing on the Eden Rock at Antibes last month, idly watching the bathers disport themselves in the water." Probably this was an excursion from the nearby town Cannes. (Right Ho, Jeeves, Ch 13, 1934)

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ROUND-THE-WORLD CRUISE

"Jeeves was having me to get on a Round-The-World Cruise, and I would have none of it. 'Jeeves,' I said, 'this nuisance must now cease.' 'Travel is highly educational, sir.' 'I can't do with any more education.'"

From the supersecret club-book of the Junior Ganymede Club Jeeves had provided Bertie with a weapon against Spode. He only needed to tell him: "I know all about Eulalie" to change the dictatorial pest into an obedient servant. Bertie had seen the effect on Spode of these words and was dying to know why. Who is Eulalie? Bertie bargained with Jeeves and offered that they would go on the Round-The-World Cruise. Jeeves wavers and reveals the secret. "Well, it was worth it, Jeeves. I couldn't have slept wondering about it. Perhaps that cruise won't be so very foul, after all?"

We have no information about Bertie's experiences during the tour, but as Jeeves wanted to go and already had procured tickets, we can be sure they were on board, when the ship left England. (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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### NEW YORK, third visit

After his involvement in the rummy affairs with the rivalling race-horse breeders Colonel Briscoe and Major Plank, and not least as the result of an unfortunate affection for Bertie by a stable cat, Bertie once more fled, again to New York. We have no information about his experiences there this time. (Aunts Aren't Gentlemen, Ch 20, 1974)

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