

* Ye Olde Plum News *

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WODEHOUSE AND CHRISTMAS

YULE-TIDE SPIRIT

Jeeves: "Does one desire the Yule-tide spirit, sir?" Bertie: "Certainly one does. I am all for it." Bertie got what he wanted. "It being Christmas Eve, there was, as I had foreseen, a good deal of revelry and what not. First, the village choir surged round and sang carols outside the front door, and then somebody suggested a dance." (*Jeeves and the Yule-tide Spirit, 1927*)



CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Plum's own notion of Christmas Spirit was not so much peace-and-good-will as high-spirited mischief and practical jokes. Asked about details of the Christmas customs at his school Plum told: "We each invented a custom for the benefit of our correspondent. My own, if I remember rightly, was a vivid account of the annual snowball fight between Masters and Sixth Form, a fine piece of descriptive writing." (*Under the Flail, Public School Magazine dec 1901*)



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

"Though, as a matter of fact, I haven't anything much against Christmas Day itself. The time to keep cool is about a week before, when you realize that you can't postpone the buying of presents another day." (*Letter to Denis Mackail Dec 23 1945*)



MISCHIEF, PRACTICAL JOKES

Inspired by Bobbie Wickham, Bertie and Tuppy Glossop during the Christmas night punctured each other's hot-water bottles. Both, however, visited the wrong room and the suffering person was Sir Roderick Glossop who was absolutely furious. On Christmas morning Jeeves woke Bertie up with tea on a tray. "Merry Christmas, sir!" "You think so, do you?" (*Jeeves and the Yule-tide Spirit, 1927*)



CHRISTMAS ATMOSPHERE

"Only another nine days and it will be over, but of course there will be another one next year, so how can you beat the game? I don't know if it is a sign of old age, but I find I hate Christmas more every year." (*Letter to Denis Mackail Dec 17 1955*)



CHRISTMAS DECORATION

"Jack the cat has got a red ribbon round his neck today. Looks an awful ass." (*Letter to Leonora, Dec 23 1923.*)



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

"I love the old carols of Yuletide. One hears them all too little nowadays. How full they were of the spirit of optimism and consolation. That one about "Christmas Comes But Once a Year!" ... That is my favorite, I think. (*Vanity Fair, 1915, Christmas Presents*)



CHRISTMAS GIFT TO LEONORA

"Ethel and I were discussing what to give her (Leonora) for Christmas. Ethel had a cocktail and suggested two hundred and fifty dollars. Then she had another cocktail and raised it to five hundred. Finally, after a liqueur brandy, she said sentimentally that one was only young once and so on, with the result that Snorky got a check for one thousand bones. I suppose she has spent it by now." (*Letter to Denis Mackail, Dec 28 1930*)



CHRISTMAS IN EXILE

Plum in Paris: "We did very well at Christmas, managing to buy two chickens and a turkey and our ex-lodger of the Low Woods 1939 days, who is in the fish business, sent us a large box of fish." (*Letter to Bill Townend Dec 23 dec 1945*)



ANOTHER CHRISTMAS DINNER

Egbert Mulliner was invited to his Aunt for a traditional Christmas Dinner. He had been offered partnership in a business and he hoped her to finance his venture so he must not disappoint her by not eating. But Dr. Potter had just told him that his heart would kill him if he consumed more rich food. (Cf. Dunstables Aunt Horatia, who died of apoplexy during Christmas dinner.) He was fortunately saved when his Aunt told him that she had become a vegetarian. (*Another Christmas Carol, Playboy 1970*)



A PASSING TRIAL

"We are off to Norfolk for Christmas." Their host Charles L'Estrange. "is a weird bird, but he has the most wonderful house." "P.S. Merry Christmas and all that. Though I'm always glad when it's over, aren't you?" (*Letter to Bill Townend Dec 22 1924*)



WODEHOUSE AND BOLTON

... it is almost certainly on Christmas Eve 1914 that Bolton and Wodehouse first met, beginning that lifelong friendship that was to last sixty years and to embrace working together on over twenty musicals, four plays, two film scripts and a book plus many unproduced and unpublished works. (*Barry Phelps*)



WHITE CHRISTMAS

The novel 'Bill the Conqueror' has been sold to Sat. Eve. Post for \$20000 and to Strand for £1250.

"So it looks like a white Christmas, what?" Plum thanks Leonora "awfully" for handkerchiefs as Christmas gifts.

"Peace on thy head!"

"Two pieces on yours!" (*Letter to Leonora, Dec 25 1923*)



MERRY CHRISTMAS
ALL WODEHOUSE FANS!