

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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*The Birthday of Frans Prembert. Hip, Hip, Hooray!!!!*

## MOUSTACHES, A QUESTION OF TASTE

### THE DUKE OF DUNSTABLE

*He was an opinionated, arbitrary, autocratic man with an unpleasant loud voice, bulging eyes and a walrus moustache which he was always blowing at and causing to leap like a rocketing pheasant. (A Pelican at Blandings, 1969)*

*The fact that he had heard Horace Davenport speak of his uncle Alaric as a bald-headed old coot with a walrus moustache had enabled him to identify the newcomer without difficulty. Few coots could have had less hair than this man, and any walrus would have been proud to possess the moustache at which he was puffing. ... The Duke puffed at his moustache approvingly, so that it flew before him like a banner. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)*

*The Duke's moustache was rising and falling like seaweed on an ebb tide. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)*

*The Duke sat up. This time he did not neglect to puff at his moustache. It floated up like a waterfall going the wrong way. (Service with a Smile, 1961)*

*The Duke shot back in his chair, and his moustache, foaming upwards as if a gale had struck it, broke like a wave on the stern and rockbound coast of the Dunstable nose. A lesser moustache, under the impact of that quick, agonized explosion of breath, would have worked loose at the roots. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)*

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### MR BERTRAM WOOSTER

*I saw, as I had foreseen would happen, that his (Jeeves') gaze was riveted on the upper slopes of my mouth. ... 'Is there a smut on my nose?' ... 'No sir. It is on the upper lip. A dark stain like mulligatawny soup.' (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)*

*'Shortly before you (Stilton Cheesewright) arrived, Jeeves was subjecting the growth to some destructive criticism, and it shook me a little. What do you think of it, by the way?' 'I think it's ghastly.' 'Ghastly?' 'Revoluting.' (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)*

*Florence Craye: 'Bertie!' she yipped, shaking from stem to stern. 'The moustache! It's lovely! Why have you kept this from us all these years? It's wonderful! It gives you such a dashing look.' (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)*

*Of course, Bertie surrendered to Jeeves, and eventually the moustache fell for the razor.*

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### MR PERCY PILBEAM

*He was a small, weedy, heavily pimpled young man with eyes set too close together, whose flannel suit looked like a Neapolitan ice and whose upper lip was disfigured by a wispy and revolting moustache. (Something Fishy, 1957)*

*The door of the library opened and a head inserted itself. It was a small, brilliantined head, the eyes beneath the narrow forehead furtive, the moustache blow the perky nose a nasty little moustache. (Heavy Weather, 1933)*

*Reluctantly, he gave the problem up; and, producing a pocket mirror, began with the aid of a pen nib to curl his small and revolting moustache. (Summer Lightning, 1929)*

*Lady Constance shuddered. The visit of the person to whom he alluded had not passed from her memory. Sometimes she thought it never would. Occasionally in the late afternoon, when the vitality is low and one tends to fall a prey to strange morbid fancies, she had the illusion that she was still seeing that waxed moustache of his. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)*

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### MONSIEUR ANATOLE

*This wizard of the cooking-stove is a tubby little man with a moustache of the outsize or soup-strainer type, and you can generally take a line through it as to state his emotions. When all is well, it turns up at the ends like a sergeant-major's. When the soul is bruised, it droops. It was drooping now. (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)*

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### MR CHIMP TWIST

*He (Hugo Carmody) switched on the light and found himself standing face to face with a small, weedy man beneath whose snub nose there nestled a waxed moustache. ... 'I know,' said Hugo, having reflected. 'It's your moustache.' 'My moustache?' 'Or whatever it is that's broken out on your upper lip. I dislike it intensely.' (Money for nothing, 1928)*

*Mrs. Grayce Llewellyn wanted to hire Chimp. 'It'll mean shaving off your moustache.' 'I understand that, madam,' said Chimp, concealing the pang he felt and trying to give the impression of an artist eager to make any sacrifice for his art. (Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin, 1972)*

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### HERR ADOLF HITLER

*The situation in Germany had come up for discussion in the bar parlour of the Angler's Rest, and it was generally agreed that Hitler was standing at the crossroads and would be compelled to do something definite. His present policy, said a Whisky and Splash, was mere shilly-shallying. 'He'll have to let it grow or shave it off,' said the Whisky and Splash. 'He can't go on sitting on the fence like this. Either a man has a moustache or he has not. There can be no middle course.' (Buried Treasure, 1937)*

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### ANONYMOUS POLICEMAN

*'It's not so much a question of wanting to sock a cop. It's more that I feel my pride demands it. Do you know the cop on the corner with the ginger moustache?' ... 'Have you reflected that this policeman may have a wife and children?' 'He has a ginger moustache.' (Frozen Assets, 1964)*

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### SIR HERBERT BASSINGER

*Peering through the golden mists which float about a lover, he (Berry Conway) perceived a rubicund little man of middle ages with a walrus moustache and two chins. The moustache was twitching, and both chins waggled in an unpleasant and hostile manner. ... The walrus moustache quivered like a corn-field in the evening breeze. (Big Money, 1931)*

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### LORD WORPLESDON

*If an old buster has a bristling moustache, a solid, lucrative business and the manners of a bear aroused while hibernating, you do not probe into his past ... (Joy in the Morning, 1946)*

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### LORD ICKENHAM

*Frederick Altamont Cornwallis Twistleton, fifth Earl of Ickenham, was a tall, slim, distinguished-looking man with a jaunty moustache and an alert and enterprising eye. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)*

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