

Ye Olde Plum News

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OBJECTS PAWNED

SUIT

Mr. Garnet, an old friend of Ukridge, said about him: *He took four pounds of his salary in advance, - he was in the habit of doing this... He bought a hat for three-and-sixpence, and got the suits and the boots on instalment system, paying a small sum in advance, as earnest of more to come. He then pawned one suit to pay for the first few instalments, and finally departed, to be known no more.* (Love Among the Chickens, 1906)

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COLLIER OF PEARLS

Bertie's aunt, Dahlia Travers had bought an expensive serial for her magazine Milady's Boudoir and told Bertie that her husband Tom denied to contribute. *"Tom didn't contribute a penny." "Then how ---?" "I'll tell you how. I pawned my pearl necklace." ... "Pawned it?" I said. "Pawned it." "Hocked it, you mean? Popped it? Put it up the spout?" "That's right... So I slipped up to London, took the necklace to Aspinall's, told them to make a replica, and then went along to the pawn-broker's."... "What happens when Uncle Tom finds out? "That's exactly the trouble." (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)*

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FALSE TEETH

Gally was writing his Reminiscences. *What year was it there was that terrible row between young Gregory Parsloe and Lord Burper, when Parsloe stole the old chap's false teeth, and pawned them at a shop in Edgware Road?* (Summer Lightning,)

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DIAMOND CUFF LINKS

In his bedroom at home there was a set of diamond cuff links, a present from Mrs. Bingo on his last birthday, worth, he estimated, five pounds of any pawn-broker's money. Bingo Little managed to handle the affair undetected by Mrs. Bingo and also returned the cuff links in time. (The Shadow Passes, 1950)

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BANJO

"Gentlemen," said Ukridge, "it would seem that the company requires more capital. How about it, old horses? Let's get together in a frank, business-like cards-on-the-table spirit, and see what can be done. I can raise ten bob." "What!" cried the entire assembled company, amazed. "How?" "I'll pawn a banjo." "You haven't got a banjo." "No, but George Tupper has, and I know where he keeps it." (Ukridge's Accident Syndicate, 1923).

Wodehouse based his character Ukridge on his friend in real life, Herbert Westbrook. Plum once wanted to learn to play the banjo and bought an instrument. The project ended when Westbrook pawned it and lost the ticket. (Phelps: P.G. Wodehouse, Man and Myth, Murphy: The P.G. Wodehouse Miscellany, and others)

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GOLD PENCIL

William Paradene "Bill" West asked his friend Judson Coker: *"Where did you get the money to pay for the stamps?" "I pawned a gold pencil." "You haven't got a gold pencil." "You had," said Judson.* (Bill the Conqueror, 1924)

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BROOCHES

Felicia "Flick" Sheridan was very moved by a begging-letter from a Mrs. Pawle. On her way to deliver the money she met Bill West who revealed that the letter really was written by Judson Coker. *"Well, I wish I had known that before," she said. "I pawned my brooch to get money for this Mrs. Pawle." Judson was not at home and was very disappointed by Bill's treason. He regarded himself as the righteous owner of the money.* (Bill the Conqueror, 1924)

Ukridge mused for a while. "I suppose the thing really started," he said, "when I pawned her brooch---" "You pawned your aunt's brooch?" "Yes." Ukridge, as always in need of capital, did this while his aunt was away, but fortunately he could recover the brooch before she came home. (The Level Business Head, 1926)

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MINIATURE PAINTING

She told me about that. She bought it for five shillings at a pawn shop and had intended to give it to you as a little token of her gratitude for your hospitality. (The Girl in Blue, 1970)

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CLOCK

Ukridge told Corky: *"It was absolutely imperative that I should give the girl a few flowers and chocolates from time to time, and this runs into money. So, seeing a rather juicy clock doing nothing on the mantelpiece of the spare bedroom, (in aunt Julia's home) I sneaked it off under my coat and put it up the spout at the local pawnbroker's." This time Ukridge was thrown out from his aunt's home.* (A bit of Luck for Mabel, 1925)

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WATCH

To get Mr. Jas Waterbury off Bertie Wooster's neck Jeeves told him that Bertie that was broke: *"I think it was Mr. Wooster's intention to visit his pawn-broker, sir." "What?" "He mentioned something to me about doing so. He said he hoped to raise, as he expressed it, a few pounds on his watch." "You're kidding! What's he wants to pop his watch for?" "His means are extremely straightened." Jeeves was a convincing liar, and Mr. Waterbury pulled back.* (Jeeves and the Greasy Bird, 1966)

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POSSESSIONS OF A PICK-POCKET

At the entrance to the Tube he stopped. To leave the locality he must have money. He felt in his pockets. Slowly, one by one, he pulled forth his little valuables. His knife ... his revolver ... the magistrate's gold watch ... He inspected them sadly. They must all go. He went into a pawnbroker's shop at the corner of the street. A few moments later, with money in his pockets, he dived into the Tube. (Misunderstood, 1910)

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