

Ye Olde Plum News

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EGGS

ANONYMOUS DRONES

Plum called some anonymous Drones Eggs (and others Beans, Crumpets or Piefaces). I have not noticed common traits for Eggs, compared to the other types. Plum never used these epithets for well-known Drones like Bertie Wooster, Bingo Little or Freddie Widgeon. (Eggs, Beans and Crumpets, 1940, Young Men in Spats, 1936)

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### HARD-BOILED

The Duke of Chiswick was what Americans call a hard boiled egg. (Jeeves and the Hard-Boiled Egg, 1917)

"What did you tell me about Mr. Steptoe?" "He's rather a difficult man." "Tough, eh?" "Very tough!" "I understand. One of these twenty-minute eggs. That's quite all right. To one who has been in the entourage of J.B. Duff all other eggs seem ludicrously soft-boiled." (Quick Service, 1940)

"Yes? You hesitate, Jeeves. Mr. Runkle is what?" "The expression I am trying to find eludes me, sir... You have employed it of Mr. Spode or, as I should say, Lord Sidcup and, in the days before your association with him in its present cordiality, of Mr. Glossop's uncle, Sir Roderick. It is on the tip of my tongue." "A stinker?" "No, he said, not a stinker. "A tough baby?" "No." "A twenty minute egg?" "That was it, sir. Mr. Runkle is a twenty minute egg." (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

Pongo Twistleton said about Lady Constance Keeble: But my informants were right. She is the sort of woman who makes you feel that, no matter how suave her manner for the nonce, she is at heart a twenty-minute egg and may start functioning at any moment. (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

Old Worplesdon had the worst temper in the county. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916) I have, I think, made it sufficiently clear that few harder eggs ever stepped out of the saucepan than this Percival, Lord Worplesdon. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

Bertie about "Gussie" Fink-Nottle: It just showed, I was saying to myself, what a vege-

tarian diet can do to a chap, changing him in a flash from a soft boiled egg to a hard boiled egg. (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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AMMUNITION

The Duke of Dunstable visited Blandings and Pongo Twistleton told: *There appears to be a member of the gardening staff of Blandings Castle who has a partiality for the "Bonny, Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond", and he whistles and sings it outside the Duke's window, with the result that the latter has for some time been lying in wait for him with a basket of eggs.* Rupert Baxter, unaware of the danger, was singing this song in the garden. The duke, diving into a cup-board like a performing seal, emerged with laden hands and started saying it with eggs... (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

Well, when I tell you that in a few short hours Russel Clutterbuck got self and guest thrown out of three grillrooms and a milk bar, you will appreciate what I mean. Rightly or wrongly, he feels that electric fans are placed there to have eggs thrown at them, and he saw to it that before we started making the rounds he was well supplied with these. He kept showing me how a baseball pitcher winds up and propels the ball, Speed and control, he told me, are what you have to have. (The Right Approach, 1958)

"Has he (Harold "Ginger" Winship) a past?" "I wouldn't call it that. Pure routine, I'd describe it as. In the days before he fell under Florence's spell he was rather apt to get slung out of restaurants for throwing eggs at the electric fan. (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

"You speak lightly, Jeeves, but I've known some dark work to take place in school treat tea tents." "It is odd that you should say that, sir, for it was while partaking of tea that a lad threw a hard-boiled egg at Sir Watkyn." "And hit him?" "On the left cheek-bone, sir. It was most unfortunate." I could not subscribe to this. (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

Lady Wetherby had problems with her pet monkey. Her butler: "The hape is seated on the kitchensink, m'lady, throwing newlaid eggs at

the scullerymaid, and cook desired me to step up and ask for instructions. (Uneasy Money, 1917)

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### LOOK

Algernon Aubrey Little was the baby son of Bingo Little but he had the look of a Chicago Gangster. *The only thing that prevented a father's love from faltering was the fact that there was in his possession a photograph of himself at the same age, in which he, too, looked like a homicidal fried egg.* (Sonny Boy, 1939)

Freddie Rooke gazed coldly at the breakfast table. Through a gleaming eyeglass he inspected the revolting object which Barker, his faithful man, had placed on a plate before him. "Barker!" His voice had a ring of pain. "Sir?" "What's this?" "Poached egg, sir." Freddie averted his eyes with a silent shudder. "It looks just like an old aunt of mine," he said. "Remove it!" (Jill the Reckless, 1921)

"Isn't he a darling!" she said, addressing to the oldest member. The Sage cast a meditative eye upon the infant. Except to the eye of love, it looked like a skinned poached egg. (The Rough Stuff, 1920)

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FOOD

"These eggs, Jeeves," I said. "Very good. Very tasty." "Yes, sir?" "Laid, no doubt, by contented hens." (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

Lord Worplesdon was Florence Craye's father. He was the old buster who, a few years later, came down to breakfast one morning, lifted the first cover he saw, said "Eggs! Eggs! Eggs! Damn all eggs!" in an overwrought sort of voice, and instantly legged it for France, never to return to the bosom of his family. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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