



**THE OLD BANK HOUSE,
Hamish Hamilton, 1949
(Penny Aldred)**

- p.12** You can give me beef and ale: This sounds like a quotation. A response through the website suggests *The European Magazine*, and *London Review*, Volume 44: ‘But let me, von pauvre Frenchman, Always vith John Bull regale; Let me eat de Englifh roaft beef; Let me drink de Burton ale’.
- p.13** Pagan in a Pecksniffian sense: Mr Pecksniff is a character in Dickens’s *Martin Chuzzlewit*
- p.20** Caldecott: Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886) illustrated a series of nursery rhyme books, still reproduced today.
- p.21:** Borioboola Gha: Dickens, *Bleak House*
- p.23 Palafox: José de Palafox y Melzi defended Saragossa against Napoleon in the Peninsular Wars, and was the subject of a sonnet by Wordsworth. Gustavo Palafox was a tennis player who represented Mexico in the Davis Cup in 1948. He may well also have played at Wimbledon, though I have been unable to verify this. Since the novel must have been written in 1948, AT may well be referring to him, though she does have at least one other Wordsworth reference in OBH. Maybe she means both – but why use the name for a plant?
- p.24** Borealis means of the north wind, Septentrionalis means of the north.
- p.25 Brugglesmith: Miss Sowerby explains the “relusion” to Mr Adams as Kipling. It is the title of a short story of an amusing midnight adventure in the streets of London with a drunken man, who gives Brugglesmith as his address, interpreted by a policeman as ‘Brook Green, Hammersmith’.
- p.26** Briareus: One of the sons of Uranus and Gaea, giants who had 100 arms and 50 heads.
- p.27** Reverend Enoch Arden: Name comes from Tennyson’s poem.
- p.35** Joseph Vance: William de Morgan’s first novel, his masterpiece, written when he was 70 (the de Morgans were family friends of the Mackails).
- p.36** Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway: AT and Lance took this train and walked back to Coniston over the Wrynose and Hardknott passes when they were staying with Nanny Kirkbride (*Six Pembroke Gardens*, p.24)
- p.41** All the charm of all the Muses: Tennyson, *To Virgil*.
- p.48:** The New Look: much talked-about change in fashion introduced by Dior. A reaction against wartime austerity, with nipped-in waists, exaggerated hips and full, much longer skirts.
- p.52** Double Summer Time: brought in from 1941 to 1947 – an extra hour on to British Summer Time, making two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.
- p.65** Pillicock: King Lear, Act III, scene 4.
- p.69** rere-tea: A rere-supper is a meal following on to a normal supper, usually very late at night.
- p.70** The Hobyahs: from a very nasty fairy tale. Horrid marauding imps who marauded by night. Little dog Turpie barked to warn the family, but the father saw nothing, and each night cut off more bits of Turpie until he was dead. The next night the Hobyahs came, destroyed the house, killed the farmer and his wife, and carried off their little girl, who was saved the next day by a neighbour’s dog, who ate all the Hobyahs.

- p.79** Mutual or common: much discussion used to take place over this, and the fact that Dickens was incorrect in his usage for *Our Mutual Friend*.
- P.81** Mary Carter: Is she a character in Trollope? And is Mrs Grantly related to Everard Carter?
p.83: Mr Miacca, Drumikin and Lambikin: English Fairy Tales. Like the Hobyahs, all traceable on the internet.
- p.90** Too, too Mary Rose: J M Barrie's play of that name – a rather fey ghost story, written in 1920, about a girl who disappears and reappears unaware that time has passed.
- P.91** Cortes in Darien: Keats *On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer*.
Hobo Gobo and the Fairy Joybell. This is probably meant to refer to Enid Blyton's stories such as the Wishing Chair and the Faraway Tree.
p.95 Hermione Rivers is generally thought to be Anne Bridge, whose publishers were Chatto & Windus, but I can't think of any connection with Bungay & Hobb, except that many books are printed in the town of Bungay, in Suffolk.
Horace Walpole printed his own *Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors* in 1758 at Strawberry Hill.
p.97 (&274) Laocöon: he was a priest of Apollo whose two sons were attacked by two enormous serpents. He was squeezed to death trying to defend them. There is a famous statue depicting this in the Vatican, dating from 2nd century BC.
- p.101** *If Turnips were Watches*: from an old rhyme. 'If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. If turnips were watches, I'd wear one by my side.'
Christian when he beheld the Celestial City..... Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.
Nunc Dimittis: Bible, Luke 2: 29-32 – Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. In the Book of Common Prayer, to be sung at Evensong in the Anglican Church
p.102 Strakey: Doris is confusing John Strachey, Minister of Food in the Labour Government of 1948, with Jack Strachey, who wrote the song *These Foolish Things* in 1931. AT also mentions the song in *Enter Sir Robert* 140 (it's included in Joan Evans and Valerie Ramsden's musical tape).
- p.103** Massacre of the Innocents. Slaughter of all male children of Bethlehem by order of Herod the Great (*Matt.* ii. 16)
The Last of England. Painting by Ford Madox Brown, 1857 (in the City Art Gallery, Birmingham)
The Last Day in the Old Home. Painting by Robert Braithwaite Martineau, 1862 (in the Tate Gallery)
- p.106** Queen of Sheba (1 Kings x, 1-10) and Jezebel (2 Kings ix, 30). Biblical temptresses.
p.108 The dreadful word fiancée: AT evidently thought this was a genteelism. In *Love at all ages* Miss Merriman wonders "if she ought to remove herself and her affianced till things grew quieter". Is this what one is supposed to say?
- p.109** A degree in Classics is called Greats at Oxford and the Classical Tripos at Cambridge.
- p.110** Gampishness: Mrs Gamp in Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*.
- p.113** My child Grild.....you to Walp. After much fruitless search on my part, Sue J has found what she describes as a lesser-known (deservedly) Grimm tale something on the lines of 'This is the House that Jack Built', which ends: "My man Do-as-well-as-you-can, your man Do-as-well-as-you-can; my cradle Hippodadle, your cradle Hippodadle: my child Grild, your child Grild; my husband Cham, your husband Cham; I to Walpe, you to Walpe; so, so together we go."
- p.120** Janissary's walk: Janissaries were special troops recruited from Christian subjects of the Ottoman Empire to serve the Sultan. They had their own distinctive marching step, to the rhythm of the words "Gracious God is good, God is compassionate".
p.124 Florence Dombey and little Paul, from Dickens, *Dombey & Son*; Esther, Peepy, etc: from Dickens, *Bleak House*
- p.135** Rooshians, Turks and Prooshians: Gilbert & Sullivan, *HMS Pinafore*.
"I hate foreigners and black men begin at Calais": In 1945, in a Commons debate about the Burmese, George Wigg said "The Rt Hon Member for Woodford (Churchill) thinks that the wogs begin at Calais". Thanks to Andrew E for this.
p.142 Hastings Pond. Many thanks again to Andrew E for tracing this film star to Arthur Lake (1905-1987) a handsome six-footer who played leading men in the thirties and forties – he may have some connection with Marion Davies, as he is buried in her mausoleum on Santa Monica Blvd. Similarly, Andrew thinks Glamora Tudor is Gloria Stuart, born 1910, in more

- than forty films in the thirties, and came into prominence again in 1997 when she played Old Rose in *Titanic*.
- p.154** “Between the clasp of his hand and hers...” from *The Poppy, to Monica*, by Francis Thompson. No longer in the Oxford Book of English Verse, but it was in the 1919 edition. “But you, who love nor know at all The diverse chambers in Love’s guest-hall, Where some rise early, few sit long: In how differing accents hear the throng His great Pentecostal tongue; Who know not love from amity, Nor my reported self from me; A fair fit gift is this, meseems, You give — this withering flower of dreams.” And so on and so on: just the sort of poem to appeal to a romantic teenager.
- p.155** The moth’s kiss: *In a Gondola*, by Robert Browning. Though why Grace wouldn’t have known it as it is also in the Oxford Book of English Verse, I don’t know. Possibly because it might be thought to be more explicitly erotic?
- p.157** All would be gas and gaiters: from Dickens’s *Nicholas Nickleby*
p. 158 Catullus, translated by Hilary Grant. Don’t understand this, because in *The Brandons* Hilary is writing a book about the French poet Jehan le Capet. Is she confusing him with another lovesick young man, but I’m not sure which – not Richard Tebben and Mrs Dean, because Richard writes his own poetry.
- p.160** *Lemon on Running Powers* EJH Lemon was CME of the Great Northern Railway and chaired the Railway Companies Association from 1939. He wrote much about railways. Both Lance and Graham were railway enthusiasts, so AT would have heard much talk about this sort of thing.
- p. 163** The Garter: the highest order of knighthood that can be bestowed.
- p.169** Sloppy’s when attending Mr Wegg: Dickens’s *Our Mutual Friend*.
- p.170** Calling a sofa a couch and the drawing-room the lounge is reminiscent of Nancy Mitford’s rules for U and non-U in her 1955 essay *The English Aristocracy*, later included with contributions by others in *Noblesse Oblige*.
- p.171** “I love my mill, it is to me, Like parent, child and wife”. Second verse of the old song *The Miller of Dee*.
- p.173** Cutbush & Sepal: There was a rose breeder called Cutbush in the 1920s.
- p.181** “tu Marcellus eris”: from Virgil’s *Aeneid* “alas, pitiable boy — if only you might break your cruel fate! — you are to be Marcellus. Give me lilies in armfuls.”
- p.183** The Bullingdon: an exclusive club for wealthy Oxford undergraduates.
- p.187** Morland: George Morland, 1763-1804. English painter who specialised in rustic scenes.
- p.189** “There’s a great text in Galatians” Browning, *Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister*.
- p.190** lounging and suffering: “You don’t look spruce like you did, Brer Tarrypin,” sez Brer Fox, sezee. “Lounjun ‘roun’ en suffer’n,” sez Brer Tarrypin, sezee.’ Joel Chandler Harris, *Brer Rabbit, Uncle Remus*, ch.12
- p.191** The Cat and the Mouse: *The Cat and the Mouse in Partnership*, by the Brothers Grimm. *Titty-mouse and Tatty-mouse*: Another gruesome old English story. Arthur Ransome fans may know that this was the story which gave Mavis Altounyan, the original for Titty, her nickname.
- p.192** The Massacre of St Bartholomew: 24 August, 1572, when the extermination of French Protestants began in Paris.
- p.202** The Plumpudding Flea: Edward Lear, *The History of the Seven Families of the Lake Pipple-Popple*.
- p.204** James and Horace Smith when masquerading.... These two brothers wrote novels in imitation of Sir Walter Scott.
- p.214** Girtin: English romantic painter, 1775-1802. One of the founders of English watercolour painting.
- p.214** the land of lost content: Housman “A Shropshire Lad” xl
 glad confident morning: Browning “The Lost Leader”
- p.215** Highland Cattle at Bay: Descriptive of a genre of Victorian painting. Landseer’s painting is of The Stag at Bay – many others of the period feature Highland cattle.
- p.216** Mr. Smallweed: a character in Dickens’ “Bleak House”
- p.217** An exposition of sleep: “I have an exposition of sleep come upon me” Bottom, in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.
 As the mariner cast by Poseidon’s wrath....: This mock-Homeric passage embraces both Poseidon, god of the sea, and Io, one of Jupiter’s conquests who was changed into a beautiful heifer.
- p.220** On his sleeve for daws to peck at: Iago in *Othello*.

- Dr Mesmer: An Austrian physician who popularised hypnotism in the 18th century.
- p.221 Have we no cheers? I think this must be a play on “cheers” and “chairs” in one of Pinero’s plays, but I can’t trace it.
- p.221 Treue Schwesterliebe (Faithful Sisterlove): from Schiller’s “Ritter Toggenburg.”
- p.222 Out upon it, I have loved, one whole year together Sir John Suckling, “The Constant Lover”:
Out upon it, I have loved
Three whole days together
- p.222 “This close-compassioned, inarticulate hour”. From *Silent Noon*, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. (See also JC 283)
- p.232 Rejected Addresses: a book of parodies by James and Horace Smith, 1812
Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin William Gifford 1799
- p.223 I am a rogue and vagabond and the Theatre is my master. This looks like a quotation but I can’t trace it. Rogues and vagabonds: a term used since 1572 to denote beggars and vagrants. See ESR 172, WDIM 115,
- p.224 Burnt Njal: From an Icelandic saga, a favourite with the Mackail and Thirkell children. Oddly enough this one is not from the William Morris’s translation but Sir George Dasent’s *Njala*.
- p.226 Thomas Gray was buried in Stoke Poges, and the *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* is identified with it. It is written in *a b a b* form, not couplets.
- p.228 The Transit of Venus: This is an astronomical phenomenon, a form of eclipse, but surely AT is referring to a painting. There is a painting of *The Passing of Venus* by Burne-Jones in the Junior Common Room of Exeter College, Oxford, showing Venus sitting on what looks like a coffin-shaped flying saucer supported by wings, which would fit the bill nicely. Another version appears to have been one of the late Sir Paul Getty’s favourite paintings, which he kept in his London home.
- p.230 Mazzini: a 19th century Italian patriot active in the liberation of Italy.
- p.231 “And in the course of one revolving moon...”: from Dryden’s *Absalom and Achitophel*.
- p.241 Cerberus: three-headed dog which guarded the entrance to hell.
- p.243 Muttoned into the infinite: Paul Verlaine, *Sagesse* – “L’*échelonnement des haies moutonne à l’infinie.*” Difficult to translate without sounding silly, but the nearest I can get is “hedges drawn up in ranks like flocks of clouds stretching away into infinity.”
- p.244 Nandy: A Mr Nandy appears in Dickens’s *Little Dorrit*. (See also JC 56, 231)
- p.245 Northfield: Should be Northbridge.
- p.246 Quickset Combination: Any significance in this?
- p.269 I rather fear my fate too much : James Graham, Marquis of Montrose
He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
That puts it not unto the touch
To win or lose it all.
- p.276 the decent obscenity of a learned language: Edward Gibbon “Autobiography”
all licentious passage are left in the decent obscurity of a learned language.
- p.270 SPQR: Senatus Populusque Romanus (Senate and People of Rome): This was used as an emblem by the Roman army on their battle standards
- p.274 Sighed as a father and obeyed as a friend: “I sighed as a lover, I obeyed as a son.” Edward Gibbon, *Autobiography*.
- p.276 *Annals of the Parish*: Novel by Galt, published 1821, chronicling the lives of villagers in Dalmeny, Ayrshire, from 1760-1810.
- p.279 Croke Hoskiss: Any ideas on which Hollywood star is meant?
- p.280 Polly, Lucy, Macheath: Characters in Gay’s *The Beggar’s Opera*, 1728.
- p.280 both dear charmers: again Gay “The Beggars Opera”
How happy could I be with either,
Were t’other dear charmer away!
- p.282 Morgan ap Kerrig country: Mrs Woodcourt used to tell Esther Summerson tales of Morgan ap Kerrig in *Bleak House*. (see also WDIM 83)
Miss Best. This should of course be Miss Bent!
- p.283 Tough meat and grey gravy: I can’t find this anywhere.
Forty feeding like one: “The cattle are grazing, Their heads never raising, There are forty feeding like one.” Wordsworth, *Written in March*.
- p.285 We could an if we would: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
- p.290 I like the hussy: Can’t find this but it appears to be Dickens.

- p.291** be a kitten and cry Mew: Shakespeare, *Henry IV pt I*
 Suovetaurilia: The Romans had a form of sacrifice involving a pig (sus), a sheep (ovis) and a bull (taurus).
- p.291** one who follows the Gleam : Tennyson “Merlin and the Gleam”
- p.293** Whirled round in earth’s diurnal course: “Rolled round in earth’s diurnal course, with rocks, and stones, and trees.” Wordsworth, *A Slumber did my Spirit Seal*.
- p.294** The Great San Philip: Tennyson, *The Revenge, a Ballad of the Fleet*.
 Moving as Etna may have moved when Enceladus turned: Enceladus another of the giant sons of Uranus and Gaea who conspired against Jupiter, who hurled a thunderbolt at him. He was buried under a piece of land which became Sicily. Every time he turns Mount Etna erupts.
- p.295** Charles Fanshawe reading Virgil to the Australians: Could this be based on Dr. Mackail’s lectures to Australian universities in 1923?
- p.299** Lucina: Roman goddess of childbirth
- p.300** St Grantly Chrysostom: St John Chrysostom (golden-mouthed) was so-called because of his eloquence.
 The abomination of desolation: *Matthew 24: 15-20*, foretelling the coming of the Antichrist and the end of the world.
 Fishpools of Hebron: Either the Pool of Hebron, *2 Samuel 4:12*, or the fishpools of Heshbon *Song of Solomon 7:4*. If you look these up you will see why Canon Bostock’s meaning was unclear.
- p.301** Blind mouths: *That scarce themselves know how to hold/A sheep-hook, or have learned aught else the least/That to the faithful herdsman’s art belongs.* Milton, *Lycidas*
 The grasshopper is a burden: *Ecclesiastes xi.6*.
 Bread of affliction *I Kings 22:27*,
 Bread of idleness *Proverbs 31:27*.
- p.302** Ingans: onions (Scottish dialect)
- p.303** Ride your ways, Laird of Rushwater: “Ride your ways, Ellangowan”, said by Meg Merrilies the gypsy in Sir Walter Scott’s *Guy Mannering*. Interesting that AT brings in the Ellangowans as relations of Christopher Hornby.
- p.305** As if one had swallowed an alarm clock: cf. the crocodile in *Peter Pan*.
- p.308** Man’s ingratitude: Shakespeare, *As You Like It*. (Blow, blow, thou winter wind)
- p.310** and again and again and again: John and Robert are completing a limerick:
 There was a young lady of Spain
 Who was horribly sick in a train,
 Not once but again
 And again and again
 And again and again and again.
- p.312** Only the actions of the just, Smell sweet and blossom in their dust: James Shirley (1596-1666), *Death the Leveller*.
- p.315** When her ladyship took up enamelling: In Lady Mary Elcho’s sitting-room at Stanway there is an enamel commemorating the deaths of her sons in WWI, which may or may not have been by Ernestine Mills, the suffragette artist. Highly likely that Lady Mary, who was the original for Lady Emily, did take up enamelling herself.
- p.315** a thousand years are like an evening gone: Isaac Watts “Psalm xc”
 A thousand ages in Thy sight
 Are like an evening gone
- p. 317** Drowned in a butt of Malmsey: George, Duke of Clarence, son of Richard Duke of York, was sweet wine).
- p.321** How Mamma painted pictures in all the corners of the nursery so that if she was put in a corner for being naughty she would not feel dull: See AT’s description of Burne-Jones doing this for her at North End House in *Three Houses*.
- p.325** ettling: (Scots) intending
- p.332** Emperor’s Gate or Observatory Gardens. Streets in Kensington, built of red brick similar to the Albert Hall. Victorian architecture had not yet come into fashion again when this was written in 1948.
- p.333** *Expertae crede* means believe one who has tried it.
 I have forgot my Latin, as Miss Harriette Wilson once wrote. AT wrote *The Fortunes of Harriette*, the life of the courtesan Harriette Wilson, in 1932.
- p.334** triumph of hope over experience: Dr. Johnson

- p.336** A laggard in love and a dastard in war: Sir Walter Scott, *Young Lochinvar*
- p.337** St Aella's Home for Stiff-necked Clergy: Is this in Trollope? Aella was a Saxon swineherd who refused to drive pigs in Lent, was slain by the monastery bailiff and canonized.
- p.338** Were Your Public Activities Really Necessary: there was a poster in wartime with the slogan Is Your Journey Really Necessary.
- p.339** The Wolf has gone to Devonsheer: An old children's playground game. The players stand in a row at one end of the lawn while the shepherdess stands at the other. Half-way between the wolf must be concealed behind a bush. The shepherdess then calls out: "Sheep, sheep, come home!" One of the sheep replies: "I'm afraid of the wolf!" The shepherdess then says: "The wolf has gone to Devonshire and won't be home for seven years; sheep, sheep, come home!" The sheep then singly try to reach the shepherdess without being caught by the wolf. And so the game continues till all the players have either been caught by the wolf or reached the shepherdess safely.
- p.342** Bold-faced jig: from an old rhyme *Cock Robin and Jenny Wren*. The last verse reads: Robin he was angry, And hopped upon a twig, Saying "Out upon you, fie upon you, Bold faced jig!"
- p.345** King Lear's hysterica passio: Hysterica passio, down, thou climbing sorrow, Thy element's below. *King Lear, Act ii, Sc 4*. hysteria which causes choking, shortness of breath, thought to rise up from the stomach or womb; "hysterica passio" is the Latin medical term.
- p.348** Yin, twa, three: Old Scottish nursery rhyme.
- p.351** Ravenshoe: Novel by Henry Kingsley, younger brother of Charles.
- pp 353, 354** Mother Goose: see AT Society booklet, Christmas 2003. AT wrote *Mother Goose, a Literary Review*, for the London Mercury in May 1932.
- p.355** the oak under which Anne Page met Master Fenton and Falstaff: Shakespeare, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.
- p.355** monstrous regiment: John Knox "The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women" Pamphlet 1558
- p.358** Horatius: *Lays of Ancient Rome*, by Lord Macaulay. It begins "Lars Porsena of Clusium, By the nine gods he swore", and is a very long poem which precocious little prep-school boys tended to know by heart.
- p.358** Romany Rye Sequel to *Lavengro*, by George Borrow. It means "gipsy gentleman".
- p.358** I am more an antique Roman than a Dane: "Hamlet" Act V sc.ii
- p.359** Come here, Charlotte, and I'll kiss yer!: Dickens, *Oliver Twist* Chapter XXVII See also DA 262.
- p.360** Mr. And Mrs. John Browdie with the bridesmaid Miss Fanny Squeers: Characters from Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*.
- p.365** Sir Tunbelly Clumsy: a character in Vanbrugh's *The Relapse* and Sheridan's *A Trip to Scarborough*.
- p.367** Cold Comfort Farm: a novel by AT's friend Stella Gibbons. A parody of Mary Webb's Shropshire novels such as *Precious Bane*.
- p.375** Sparrowhill Camp. Larkhill, is or was in real life an army training camp on Salisbury Plain.
- p.379** his thoughts no tongue, nor any unproportioned thought his act: *Hamlet* Act I sc. iii
- p.386** Ghost Stories of an Antiquary: by M R James
Les Mohicans de Paris: The first French novelist who presented a police officer favorably was Alexandre Dumas: when he wrote *Les Mohicans de Paris* in 1854/55. This book introduced Police detective Monsieur Jackal, who was remarkable for his introduction into the language the phrase "Cherchez la femme!"
- p.387** the opera Salome: by Richard Strauss

There are references *passim* to characters in or connected with Trollope's Barsetshire. I will leave this to someone else to pursue.