



HIGH RISING, 1933

Hamish Hamilton, 1949 edition

(Penny Aldred and Hilary Temple, 2007)

Page No		Original Quotation or Comment	Source	Also found in
11	Wesendonck	Like Humperdinck, a name bound to cause mirth in the English, hence his nickname 'Donkey'. AT would have known about Richard Wagner's obsession with Mathilde Wesendonck and perhaps thought that the name was better suited to a silent schoolboy than a figure of romance.		
12, 131	Bill Birkett	in later novels Bill Birkett becomes and remains Henry.		
12	The time and the place ... came together	Never the time and the place and the loved one together	<i>Never the time and the place,</i> Robert Browning	
13	Just look at the maze in the house	Lord Castlewood is drunk and is trying to say "did you ever see such maids in the house".	William Makepeace Thackeray, <i>Henry Esmond</i> , Chapter 8	

14	Eton suit/collar	black school uniform (later adopted as 'best' suits for schoolboys in general) consisting of tight short collarless 3-buttoned jacket (a 'bum-freezer') worn with waistcoat, white shirt and huge stiff collar: so not very appropriate for a messy child like Tony.		
16	Apollyon	This foul fiend 'straddled quite over the whole breadth of the way' in the Valley of Humiliation. Also Happy Returns p.169.	John Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>	HyRets 169
	enlisted at sixteen	This would have been in WWI, of course		
26	her real public, made flesh in Anne	parody of: "And the Word was made flesh"	John ch.1 v.14.	
29	Prop of her declining years	'Thus, then, my lov'd Euryalus appears!/Thus looks the prop of my declining years/...And could'st thou leave me, cruel, thus alone?'	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Bk 4	
30	Determination of words to the mouth	here 'determination' means moving in a fixed direction; Robert Louis Stevenson uses the expression 'determination of blood to the head'.		
	GWR and LMS	The Great Western and the London, Midland and Scottish were both railway companies.		
33	neither to hold nor to bind:	a traditional saying, used by Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Quiller-Couch and Rudyard Kipling among others.		
35	Mrs T???	Is this a slip - surely it should be Mrs M? Perhaps Lance called his mother Mrs T. She certainly signed herself thus in her letters to her secretary Margaret Bird. Just to confuse matters, in some editions it appears as Mrs M,		
36	Bethel I'll raise	'Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise'.	a little-sung verse from the hymn Nearer my God to thee by Sarah F. Adams.	
37	till death her did part	Stoker is perhaps trying to make the event sound more solemn; 'till death us do part' is from the Book of Common Prayer marriage service.	Book of Common Prayer	
38	There's many a slip between does and did	again Stoker is inventing, the proverb being 'there's many a slip/Twixt cup and lip'.		
40	mordaunt tongue			
41-42	Soon after ..met him at dinner	Is this how AT got in touch with Hamish Hamilton?		

52	Long in prison pent	'a wretched wearish elf,/With hollow eyes and rawbone cheeks forspent,/As if he had been long in prison pent'.	Sir Walter Scott's <i>Kenilworth</i> , ch.10	
53	Harrington Portable Typewriter	[Harrington Portable Typewriter [which seems to have a stand! - HT] [My late uncle's portable, certainly pre-war, has a stand - PA] The name, better known as a make of baby's nappy, [or Harrington Gardens, South Kensington? - PA] is reminiscent of Remington.		
	Bertillon fan	Alphonse Bertillon, 1853-1914: Frenchman who developed a system of identifying criminals by their measurements, which presumably included fingerprints.		
55	adumbration	a favourite word of AT's. Means "shadow"		
56	planchette	a board that writes messages under spirit guidance		
	getting my half guinea	A half guinea was ten shillings and sixpence. Trollope's Dr Thorne charged 7/6, but Dr Fillgrave's usual fee was a guinea (one pound one shilling). Presumably Dr Ford is using a figure of speech, as fees must have increased by the 1930s?		
58	rushlights	the cheapest form of candle, made of a rush dipped in tallow.		
58	George Knox	Generally thought to be modelled on E V Lucas (1868-1938), for some time assistant editor of <i>Punch</i> , and friend of Angela Thirkell		
59	de Valera ... the Free State	What is now the Irish Reppublic was at that time called the Irish Free State (1922-37). Eamonn de Valera, 1882-1975,president of Sinn Fein (1917) and of the Dail (1918-22), formed the nationalist Fianna Fail party in 1927, later becoming prime minister and president of the Irish Republic		
	Wardour Street ways	This London street used to be full of antique shops, hence the expression is used of a pseudo-archaic style of writing or (here) furnishing.		CC237
60	Edward VI ...Mary and Elizabeth	Mary I, Elizabeth I and Edward VI were all children of Henry VIII		
60	Read your Malory	Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i> , telling stories from the legend of King Arthur, was finished in 1470.		

61	The more I see of uncles, the better I like aunts:	parody of 'the more I see of people, the better I like my dog',	variously attributed to Madame de Staël, Frederick the Great and Blaise Pascal.	
	Sisters and brothers have I none...	Sisters and brothers have I none But this man's father is my father's son	Old puzzle. The answer is "my son".	ESR 215
63	a race inhuman, set apart, flourishing in wickedness, doomed to eternal fires	See also 73 below	allusions rather than quotations, apparently.	
64	making himself a motley to the view:	'Alas! 'tis true I have gone here and there,/And made myself a motley to the view,/Gored mine own thoughts, sold cheap what is most dear'.	Shakespeare <i>Sonnet 110</i> :	MH.114, PBO 81, JC 266, WDIM 100, LAA 166.
68	Dr Ford was a ... middle-aged man	Dr Ford finally married Sylvia Gould in <i>Threescore and Ten</i> , almost forty years later, by which time he must have been rather old!		
69	Oxford Movement	otherwise known as Tractarianism, a High Church Anglican movement begun about 1833 by John Henry Newman and others, ending when Newman became a convert to Roman Catholicism. Closely associated with the Gothic revival in church architecture.		
71	The stationmaster at Stoke Dry	does Stoke Dry figure in later overtly Barsetshire novels?		
73	a touch of Jewish blood	Such a reference nowadays would be considered offensively anti-Semitic. However, AT was writing in 1933, or more probably 1932, before the rise of Hitler, not now.		
	the uses of advertisement	Sweet are the uses of adversity.'	(Shakespeare, <i>As you like it</i> , Act 2 sc.1)	
75, 154, 213 and others	heavenly fool	Oh, heav'nly fool, thy most kiss-worthy face Anger invests with such a lovely grace...'	Sir Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophel and Stella</i> , <i>Sonnet LXXIII</i>	

	Princess Elizabeth or Titley Court	These really were steam locomotives on the GWR: Titley Court, built in 1913, outside steam pipes fitted 1932 , and Princess Elizabeth, built 1914, outside steam pipes fitted 1931. No doubt Lance kept AT informed about such matters, but maybe she didn't listen properly, because both locomotives are 4:6:0.		
78	Last rose of summer	The second verse of the poem contains the lines: 'Thus kindly I scatter Thy leaves o'er the bed Where thy mates of the garden Lie scentless and dead.' the hairpins scattered like the roseleaves, one assumes.	Thomas Moore (1779-1852)'s popular song from <i>Irish Melodies</i> , 'Tis the Last Rose of Summer'.	
81	banshee			
82	incubus	In mediaeval times a demon which was supposed to have sexual intercourse with a woman during sleep, draining her of energy in order to sustain itself, but quite commonly used at this time to denote a nightmare or demanding person. The male equivalent is a succubus.		
89	Lady Stoke was away	Lord Stoke is a bachelor in later books! And he is a baron, not an earl.		
90	Consequences	a parlour game where each person writes down part of a story, folds it over and passes it on to be continued by the next person, and so on.		
94	ungodly afternoon	not only was it Christmas Day, but a Sunday as well - at this time some people might still have thought playing cards on this day shocking.		
94	Lien	The right to retain possession of another's property pending the discharge of a debt		
99	Let us now praise famous men		<i>Ecclesiasticus</i> ch.44 v.1	
	Sceptred pall	'Sometime let gorgeous Tragedy In sceptred pall come sweeping by' – i.e. mourning robes of rich fabric.	Milton, <i>Il Penseroso</i>	
100	Mrs Crummles	Wife of the manager of a travelling theatre company in Dickens's <i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>		ESR 98 'Dead as old Crummles'
101	Edward's obsequies shall be deferred	This sounds like a Shakespeare reference, possibly <i>Hamlet</i> ?		

	Stale, flat and unprofitable	How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of this world	Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , I, ii, 129	
	<i>Arrière pensée</i>	hidden meaning, ulterior motive		
106	all the brothers of his father's house	'I am all the daughters of my father's house,/And all the brothers too'.	Shakespeare, <i>As You Like It</i> , 2, iv (Rosalind)	
108	loose your witchlocks make a garland of your hair	Keats? Browning?		
112	Blue Ribbon Army	The temperance movement		
	Bump Suppers	Celebratory dinner held if an eight (crew) achieve a bump (catching up with the boat in front and "bumping" it) in various rowing events held at Oxford or Cambridge		
114	Miss Skiffins	considered 'a good sort of fellow' who showed high regard for Mr Wemmick's Aged Parent and later married Mr Wemmick.	Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i>	LAR 340, JC 149
115	Tom Fool	Thomas Skelton was the Fool or Jester of Muncaster Castle, Cumbria, in the 16th century		
116	That will clear your mind of cant	Dr Johnson was quoted by Boswell as saying, 'My dear friend, clear your mind of cant. You may <i>talk</i> as other people do: you may say to a man, 'Sir, I am your very humble servant.' You are <i>not</i> his very humble servant...don't <i>think</i> foolishly'.		
106	The solitary-hearted	title of a poem by Hartley Coleridge that appeared in the first <i>Oxford book of English verse</i> about a woman who 'hath felt the touch of sorrow,/No love hath she, no understanding friend'		
123	assisting in the Gallic sense	"assister à" in French means "to be present at"		numerous refs
137	Totley Tunnel	Angela and George Thirkell lived at Totley while George worked for an engineering firm in Sheffield in the first months of their marriage, in 1919		
	Ankerbausten	literally "anchor building chest" - a memory of the Mackails' nursery?		
139	Who frightened Cock Robin? I, said the Laura, with my feminine aura	parody of 'Who killed Cock Robin? I, said the sparrow, with my bow and arrow' etc.	Old rhyme	
	Dotheboys Hall	Infamous school kept by Wackford Squeers	Dickens, <i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>	
	One and indivisible	allusion to the United States Pledge of Allegiance: 'One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all'.		

141	Old Style	The Gregorian calendar supplanted the Old Style (Julian) calendar at different times in different countries - not until 1752 in England, when 2 September was followed by 14 September.		
143	'nor demons under the sea	possibly a reference to Edgar Allan Poe's poem <i>Annabel Lee</i> ('nor demons down under the sea').		
	Leeks come before the swallow comes	parody of 'daffodils./That come before the swallow dares, and take/The winds of March with beauty':	Shakespeare, <i>The Winter's Tale</i> Act 4 sc.3.	
	denial, worse than whoever's it was in Dante	The hottest part of Hell was reserved for those who maintained neutrality in times of peril - is this it?	Dante's <i>Inferno</i>	PE 140
143	special cup of Gargantuan size	Gargantua: Rabelais's giant. AT often mentions a man having a special large cup reserved for his use, and the William Morris Gallery at Walthamstow exhibits an enormous coffee cup which was reserved for Morris on his weekly visits to the Burne-Joneses.	<i>Gargantua and Pantagruel</i> , Rabelais (1495-1553)	
	those unfortunates who walk the streets of London ...cacophonous hootings	In 1928 a group of 400 unemployed Welsh miners marched to London, singing as they went. They met Paul Robeson who was appearing in "Showboat". During the Depression years no doubt there were many such groups on the streets of London.		
147	Vernon Whitford	A character from <i>The Egoist</i> , a sensitive and intelligent observer of the other characters including the egoist Willoughby. He marries Clara Middleton, the 'dainty rogue in porcelain' (one of AT's favourite references, with 'my Egeria' and is said to be drawn from Leslie Stephen, father of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell.	George Meredith, <i>The Egoist</i> , 1879	
	That horrible Milton that people have on book-markers	A good book is the precious life blood of a master spirit'. Used as the motto for Dent's Everyman Library series.	John Milton, <i>Areopagitica</i> , 1644	
151	I mayn't have bells on my toes, but I have a ring on my finger:	Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross To see a fine lady ride on a white horse. Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes She shall have music wherever she goes.'	nursery rhyme	
154	Parsifal	Parsifal, the Holy Fool, wanders in search of the Holy Grail in the prelude to Act III of Wagner's opera. He wears a white tunic over his armour, emblazoned with a dove.	Richard Wagner, <i>Parsifal</i> , 1882	

157	primrose paths	'the primrose path of dalliance'	<i>Hamlet</i> , Act 1 sc.3.	
	It's always like Heine every spring	Most likely "Im wunderschönen Monat Mai", one of Heine's poems set to music by Schumann. Translation: In the lovely month of May When all the buds were bursting, Then within my heart Love broke forth. In the lovely month of May, When all the birds were singing, Then I confessed to her My longing and desire.	Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), Robert Schumann, <i>Dichterliebe</i> , 1840	
	centurio dixit me meliorem esse quam ultimus terminus.	Tony is translating colloquial English into Latin, and Adrian is confused because he is taking "I am better than last term" literally rather than "than I was last term". Terminus of course means "end", not "term".		
158	γOODβTE	Goodbye (there is no letter y in Greek)		
159	The Testament of Beauty	Long, not to say tedious, philosophical poem by Robert Bridges (1844-1930).		
	She will refuse, till the conversion of the Jews	'And you should, if you please, refuse Till the conversion of the Jews. My vegetable love should grow Vaster than empires, and more slow.'	Andrew Marvell, (1621-78) <i>To his coy mistress</i>	
	Sonnets from the Portuguese	Elizabeth Barrett Browning's successful 1870 volume of poems.		
160	She came to curse and remained to dance	And fools who came to scoff remained to pray	Oliver Goldsmith (1730-1774), <i>The Deserted Village</i>	
163	Drowned his speaking with shrieking and squeaking.	the rats '...even spoiled the women's chats By drowning their speaking With shrieking and squeaking In fifty different sharps and flats'.	Robert Browning, <i>The pied piper of Hamelin</i>	

	Fairweather, AL	The Fairweather brothers, who are at the school and later marry Rose and Geraldine Birkett, are Geoffrey and John, not AL		
164	Best tradition of the fancy			
166	Trooper George in Bleak House	a noble soul who is wrongly imprisoned.	Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i>	
168	St John on Patmos	St John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelation while exiled to the Isle of Patmos, where he underwent apocalyptic visions.		
169	... wrote to Rose and Gwendolen	They are of course Rose and Geraldine in later books		
171	The Park The Row	Rotten Row in Hyde Park is where fashionable people went to ride and to see and be seen		
177	Would have suckled fools	Iago's comment to Desdemona on a deserving woman, that she would only be fit 'To suckle fools and chronicle small beer'.	Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> Act 2 sc.1:	LAR139
178	Conforming to English usage	As the verb "to be" takes the nominative she should of course have said "it won't be I".		
189	walking up and down like a grampus	unlikely, since a grampus is a kind of dolphin better known for puffing and blowing.		
191	Flaming Sword:	placed at the east of the Garden of Eden into protect the tree of life.	<i>Genesis</i> 3.24	LAR 293
192	Distemper	A highly infectious and often fatal disease of dogs		
193	As pants the hart	As pants the hart for cooling streams When heated in the chase So longs my soul for Thee, O God And Thy refreshing Grace.	hymn, metrical version of Psalm 42, by Tate and Brady, 1696	
	the iron has entered into my soul:	in the Bible this happened to Joseph when in the stocks after being sold into slavery	<i>Psalm</i> 105	
	like the pard	Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard	Shakespeare, <i>As You Like It</i> , 2, vii	
194	a John Roe or Richard Doe	made-up names used in law-courts in the USA for plaintiff and accused.		
195	Petrarch and another Laura	the Italian poet Petrarch (1304-74) addressed love poems to Laura		
196	lazar-house	a hospital where people with infectious diseases, particularly leprosy, were incarcerated		
197	ichor	another word for bile, but often erroneously used in fantasy fiction to mean blood, especially that of vampires.		

	foul and stagnant fen	Foul and stagnant fen. Sounds like an allusion: possibly Wordsworth: 'Milton! Thou should'st be living at this hour England hath need of thee: she is a fen Of stagnant waters'.	William Wordsworth, <i>England, 1802</i> , ii	
198	go down to posterity on the hem of her robe:	said by Sir Joshua Reynolds when signing his portrait of the actress Mrs Siddons as The Tragic Muse on the garment in question.		
199	Zeus dethrones Chronos:	Zeus, god of the weather, defeated his father Cronus (which in AT's spelling suggests 'Time') in the battle against the Titans.		
199	Ragnarok swallows up the Gods	in Norse myth the last battle, in which men and gods are defeated by monsters.		
	seven cities have been built where once Troy Town stood	"Now corn grows where once Troy stood" Heinrich Schliemann had to dig down through the remains of seven cities before he reached the one he believe to be the original Troy; Morris wrote a history of Troy and Burne-Jones painted the Fall of Troy. Lance says in his memoirs that the Mackails had a model of Troy Town at 6 Pembroke Gardens, made for B-J by W A S Benson, who also made the crown for King Cophetua	Ovid, <i>Epistles</i> , letter from Penelope to Ulysses, wondering when he is coming home.	
207	Slippered ease	'When you have sailed the seven seas And looped the ends of earth, You'll long at last for slippered ease Beside a bonny hearth.'	<i>The summing up</i> by Robert Service (1874-1958), (Strongly influenced by Kipling)	
210	downwards fall into a grovelling swine	any who drank from the enchantress Circe's cup 'lost his upright shape, and downward fell...	John Milton, <i>Comus</i> , (1634)	
210	An elocution competition between bitterns	The bittern is a member of the heron family renowned for its booming foghorn-like call		
211	Never had host such a guest ...after the manner of Sir Richard Whittington	Sir Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, entertained Henry V and his Queen to a lavish dinner, culminating in his burning all the bonds for money owed to him by the King. On the King exclaiming "Surely, never had King such a subject", Whittington replied "Surely, sire, never had subject such a king."		
	dègringolade	rapid deterioration, downfall		

212	curled like an Assyrian bull	'That jewelled mass of millinery, That oiled and curled Assyrian bull'. He may have borrowed this from classical literature. winged human-headed bulls with formal crimped hairstyles (?wigs) guarded the entrance to Assyrian palaces	Alfred Lord Tennyson, <i>Maud</i> , (1865)	
213	if all the trumpets had sounded	Mr Valiant-for-Truth 'passed over, and the trumpets sounded for him on the other side'.	John Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> ,(1678)	
214- 219	King Lear references: Gloucester's eyes, Cordelia, Reagan, the King of France		Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i>	PBO33, OBH65, 345, CQ194, 201, 250, 257.
217	the good Stoker had left food out	They've already had dinner and left the play early!		
	To one it is ten years of years	The woman has been dead ten years but to her lover it is ten years of years.	Dante Gabriel Rossetti, <i>The Blessed Damozel</i> , (1847)	
220	Dream Children	Dream-Children, A Revery	Charles Lamb, <i>Essays of Elia</i> , (1820)	
226	bed was a refuge from circling harms	Sounds like a quotation?		
230	Like Medusa on a heavy washing-day	in Greek myth Medusa had writhing snakes for hair, so heavy work in a steamy atmosphere would presumably make them more writhe-some.		
233	but what avails the scepter'd race	'Ah, what avails the sceptred race! Ah, what the form divine! When every virtue, every grace,/Rose Aylmer, all were thine.'	Walter Savage Landor (1775- 1864), <i>Rose Aylmer</i>	Also satirically of Rose Birkett in SH
237	Cuckoo, jug-jug	Spring, the sweet Spring, is the year's pleasant king, Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring, Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing - Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!"	Thomas Nashe,(1567- 1601) <i>Spring</i>	
238	the woodspurge was busy having a cup of three		Dante Gabriel Rossetti, <i>The Woodspurge</i> , 1856)	

241	As good a deed as drink	An 'twere not as good a deed as drink to turn true man and leave these rogues	Shakespeare, <i>Henry IV</i> Pt I, II,ii, also	WDIM 63
242	There was I, waiting at the church	Old music hall song: "There was I, waiting at the church, Waiting at the church, waiting at the church, When I found he'd left me in the lurch, Lor, how it did upset me!"	Sung by Marie Lloyd, early 20th C.	
245	The difficultieswhich must have beset the common hangman when publicly burning a book.	From an essay by Max Beerbohm where he describes the troubles he had getting rid of a book (by a well-known woman novelist) which he had found unreadable.	Max Beerbohm, <i>The Crime</i> , (1920)	LAA 188
251	acharné	relentless, unremitting		
255	démarches	approaches		
256	célibataire	bachelor		
259	First get rid of your hare, Mr Knox	"first catch your hare"	A famous, perhaps apocryphal line attributed to Mrs Beeton's cookery book: The instruction was "first case your hare", ie skin it.	
261	James	James: is his Christian name ever used again in the novels?		
262	strophe and antistrophe			
263	Oath of Hypocrites	Hippocratic Oath, taken by doctors		
266	Caliban's <i>Guide to Letters</i>	Book of essays by Hilaire Belloc.	Caliban is the monster in Shakespear's <i>The Tempest</i>	DA 291
270	"Nothing, darling, only darling, darling"	Cartoon in which sappy lovers Edwin and Angelina sit on a park bench near an old gentleman. Their exchange: 'Darling!' 'Yes, darling?' etc is followed by the comment: Old gentleman feels quite sick	<i>Punch</i> magazine	

260	Madame Poirot	In return Laura calls George Knox Dr Watson. Had AT been reading Christie and Conan Doyle while writing this, which could loosely be described as a detective novel?		
269	The Arunta tribe	Aboriginal tribe once occupying central Australia -I have found a description of their revolting customs but am not going to include it here. AT must have known of these from her time in Australia.		
287	plural of sui generis	My Latin consultant tells me that for "of their own kind" it doesn't make any difference whether you are talking about one thing or many.		
293	Moloch	A divinity worshipped by the idolatrous Israelites, also known as "the abomination of the children of Ammon"	I Kings 11,7	
295	Any way understood of you	The rationale for the translation of the Book of Common Prayer, variant of actual form 'understanded of the people'		LAR 148
296	fool enough to sit smiling on a monument	"Like Patience on a monument/Smiling at grief"	Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , II,iv	
	Much Hadham	Together with Little Hadham, real villages in Hertfordshire		
300	The Salisbury curve where the accident happened	The double reverse curve of the track was the site of a famous accident to a boat-train		