



THE BRANDONS (1939)

(Hilary Temple)

	The Brandons - pagination is KNOFF edition (1998 Penguin edition in italics)	Original Quotation or Comment	Source	Also found in
4, 8	Mr Brandon an uninterested husband	Like Mrs Morland's, who was 'nul'.		HR
8, 11	death with kindly care	No sign of the origin of this but I sense that 'death' is AT's addition		NR 18
10, 12	A posthumous child?'	Miss Brandon thinks (or affects to think) that Mrs Brandon is wearing white because she is pregnant. Black was presumably regarded in an earlier era as unfortunate for the baby		
15, 16	Personal Service	*Enjoyed by the Church - or the WI/Mothers' Union?		

23, 24	cassock and biretta	Suspect, because Mr Miller might seem to be Going Over to Rome		
23, 23	in a spirit of vain repetition	Use not vain repetitions, as the heathens do.'	Matthew 6:7	
26, 25	Eights Week	Inter-collegiate boat races for Oxford University students		
26, 25	laying hold with her hands	The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces'	Proverbs 30:28	ESR 40
30, 28	twenty minutes past one	As we know from elsewhere in AT, 1.30 is the correct hour for lunch in properly-organised households		
31, 29	Nightmare Abbey	Novel by Thomas Love Peacock 1818		
31, 29	looking-glass	Upper-class ("U") expression for mirror: though whether someone of Delia's age and character would use this of a handbag mirror at this date is perhaps debatable.		
33, 30	succumbed...to the heat and ante-lunch exhaustion	Makes Mrs Brandon sound like a model for Mrs Dean: they certainly exhibit similar levels of placid inactivity		
33, 30	R.A.s . . . hung on the line	Royal Academician, ie an artist who had been elected to the Royal Academy of Arts (London) - like EB-J. There were only about 40 at any one time and their work was by right hung at eye-level at the Summer Exhibition whose walls were crowded from floor to ceiling		
33, 30	Lincrusta	Heavily-embossed linoleum wall-covering, practically impossible to remove		
33, 30	Knight Templar	Religious order of knighthood founded in France in 12th century		
35, 31	read for the bar	more usually Bar, ie study to be a barrister		
35, 31	Descente de lit	Getting out of bed		
35, 32	Zizi Pavois	Zizi is a slightly mischievous nickname (the most famous holder is dancer Zizi Jeanmaire) which nowadays is childish word for penis. Pavois is a bulwark (as in Le Grand Pavois at La Rochelle)		
35, 32	Menschen ohne Knochen	Men Without Bones, presumably not the horror movie it sounds, otherwise it would appeal to Delia		
35, 32	Garstin Hermon	One of those 'two surname' names like Nelson Eddy or Clark Gable		
39, 35	First prep school holidays	Francis would have been 8.		

41, 36	Caligula..Elizabeth Fry	The Roman emperor Caligula, noted for his self-indulgent and tyrannical behaviour, nicely contrasted with Elizabeth Fry, the 19th c. Quaker prison reformer		
39	White elephant	a possession which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is out of proportion to its usefulness. The term derives from the story that the kings of Siam were accustomed to make a present of one of these animals to courtiers who had rendered themselves obnoxious, in order to ruin the recipient by the cost of its maintenance.		
47, 41	never had a goddess been more apparent	Et vera incessu patuit dea	Virgil, Aeneid book 1	also p.248 *
47, 41	Oh, Mrs Brandon	I am sometimes moved to cry out, "Oh, Miss Shepherd!" in a transport of love	David's schoolboy crush on a schoolgirl in Dickens, David Copperfield ch.18	
52, 45	Bountiful Jehovah!	O joy! O rapture! O bountiful Jehovah!"	Mr Toad on seeing his first motor car, Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows	
56, 48	pastoral charge	*Pastoral charge normally means the responsibility of the parish priest, but here it is clearly the bishop's letter. Was this common usage in the Church of England?.		
63 54	arrows of very respectful desire	Bring me my arrows of desire' is sometimes considered an incongruous line for members of the Women's Institute to sing at their annual meeting	William Blake's poem 'Jerusalem', made into a hymn by Hubert Parry	

63, 54	Vicar's Churchwarden	2 churchwardens (laity) are elected for each parish to manage practical matters associated with the church: the other is People's Churchwarden		
66, 56	better to marry than to be burnt	"It is better to marry than to burn" means to burn with passion,(not burn in hell, or be cremated) Hence the young men's giggles - H Bell	1 Corinthians 7:9	
68, 57	leaning its breast against a thorn	The bird forlorn/That singeth with her breast against a thorn	Thomas Hood poem 'The Plea of the Midsummer Fairies'	
68, 57	mantilla	Adopted by AT - before or after her creation of this attractive image of an older woman? (well, there's a photograph of her wearing one on board HMS Hood in Melbourne in 1924 which we recently discovered! PA)		
69, 58	Render unto Caesar	"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's"	St Matthew 22:21	
61	Mensa	Mensa, mensa, mensam, = "table") usually one of the first Latin words small children had to learn.		
74, 63	Prisoner of Zenda	Novel by Anthony Hope 1894		
64	with extensive view	"Let observation with extensive view,/Survey mankind, from China to Peru;"	opening lines of <i>The vanity of Human Wishes</i> , by Samuel Johnson	
65	Catullus (Gaius Valerius Catullus, 84-54 BC, Latin poet)	"He seems to me to be equal to a god,/he, if it is permissible, seems to surpass the gods,/who sitting opposite again and again/watches and hears you."	translation of the opening lines of Catullus 51	
87, 72	Non ragioniam di lor	Don't let's argue about it		
88, 73	Betty, ackcherly	presumably the first appearance of Mrs Turner of Northbridge's niece, next encountered in CBI		
89, 74	Mi piace tanto	I am so delighted		
89, 74	flicks	The pictures' - ie cinema		

90, 74	Woolworth	High street chainstore selling wide variety of things at modest prices, now, alas, extinct. Appears as Sheepshanks in AT		
91, 75	glass made out of milk	Nearly correct! Casein from skim milk was mixed with formaldehyde to make a glass-smooth plastic but the technology moved on to materials like Perspex		
91, 75	Like Mrs Herbert Pocket's servants	No, it was Mr and Mrs Matthew Pocket, Herbert's parents. Their servants ate, drank and entertained but 'allowed a very liberal table to Mr and Mrs Pocket'.	Dickens, Great Expectations, ch. 23	
92, 76	Somerset and they make honey	Most likely Downside Abbey, near Bath, famous for its neo-Gothic architecture though built late 19th and early 20th centuries: they certainly sell honey		
92, 76	Ingoldsby Legends	These tales include a good many churchmen, though not a huge number of monks, the most famous being the Cardinal Lord Archbishop of Reims who cursed the jackdaw	by Thomas Ingoldsby, pseudonym of R. H. Barham (1788-1845)	
92, 76	a thing rather like a monastery...phalanx/phalanstere/phalangist	One of the definitions of phalanx (p.91) is a group of people living in a community free of external regulation. Charles Fourier (1772-1837) was a French socialist. The Falangists were the Spanish fascist party founded by Primo de Rivera 1933		
92, 76	Spanish Government	We are in 1938 when the Spanish Civil War was nearing its end despite the efforts of the International Brigade and the Soviet Union		
93, 77	Congress of Vienna	Conference of European powers 1814-15 that tried to sort out Europe after the fall of Napoleon		
93, 77	morbidezza	Not what it sounds like, but softness		
94, 77	fuoco	fire		
94, 77	ma! una donna prepotente!	My goodness, a domineering woman!		

96, 79	Io t'amo, o pio bove	Io says 'I love you, o wonderful [literally pious] bull!'	Poem by Giosue Carducci (1835-1907), a version of the myth of Juno turning her handmaid Io into a heifer because Jupiter had his eye on her (and promptly turned himself into a bull)	
96, 79	A little learning is a dangerous thing	Often misquoted as "a little knowledge...", hence Francis's self-righteous comment	Pope, Essay on Criticism l.215	
97, 80	Jehan le Capet/Eugene Duval	In the absence of any obvious parallels, these are probably names that AT found resonantly French. The Capets were the royal dynasty that ruled France (or rather the Ile de France as the present nation did not exist then) for most of the Middle Ages beginning in 987; Eugene Duval was a painter but this does not seem significant in the context		
98, 81	Belphégor	An all-seeing demon sent by Lucifer to see if married happiness was possible on Earth (it wasn't). He suggests inventions to people to make them rich and greedy and his preferred offering is excrement		
98, 81	Mimi la Salope,	salope = slut.		
	Jehanne de Valois	odd in view of the above, as there was a queen of France of this name in the 15th C who was a saint. Clearly not the same person.		
98, 81	Potin	means noise, fuss or gossip in French		

98, 181	sixpence to which he was rather attached	A delightful little silver-coloured coin which many people were sorry to see disappear with decimalisation in 1971	See also below p. 171	AT's characters feel strongly about coins. Francis Brandon says 'I have got one shilling, but I rather like them' (CC319). Clarissa Graham 'put a half-crown that I was very fond of into Mrs Scatcherd's collecting box.' (PBO 80)
99, 82	showing off on his bicycle		Demon in the House	
100, 82	C.I.D. Officers	Criminal Investigation Department, ie detectives who have first served as uniformed police officers		
102, 84	if I need anything doing in town, like flowers being ordered for someone's funeral...	Did AT ever do this? Perhaps she had little need to.		
103, 85	la virgule vaut bien la particule	The comma is as important as the "de" in aristocratic titles'		
104, 85	Mallarmé	French Symbolist poet (1842-98), L'après-midi d'un faune set to music by Debussy		
104, 86	coulisses	wings (theatre stage)		
104, 86	Taglioni	Maria Taglioni (1804-44) was an Italian ballerina famous for her performance as La Sylphide		

105, 86	Sadler's Wells	London theatre known for its ballet and opera productions from 1931, therefore much less prestigious than the longer-established Covent Garden		
106, 87	Cardinal Newman	John Henry Newman (1801-90), theologian, born into Calvinist family but converted to Roman Catholicism 1845		
107, 88	annuity	ie he had invested his money in a fund to pay him an income for his life only		
109, 90	Calabrian exclamation of annoyance	We can only guess at this! "Bastardo!" might fit the case?		
110, 90	downfall of Metternich	Prince Metternich of Austria was a key figure at the Congress of Vienna and his conservatism helped lead to the upheavals of 1848		
113, 98	Donne	John Donne (1572?-1631) joked that when he married against his in-laws' wishes it was a case of "John Donne, Anne Donne, undone": though this is no clue to the pronunciation, it is usually rendered "Dun" nowadays		
114, 94	Shelley: "One word is...profane it."	One word is too often profaned/For me to profane it,/One feeling too falsely disdain'd/For thee to disdain it.'	Shelley poem To -	below p. * also PE116
116, 94	piccolo giro	a little stroll		
116, 94	parroco	parish priest		
117, 95	George Herbert, Vaughan, Crashaw	All Metaphysical poets like Donne:		
119, 96	Drummond of Hawthornden	Scottish poet who recorded in his diary in 1619 his conversations with the English poet Ben Jonson		
120, 97	Miss Delia had cut a comic face on the underside of the marrow	She does it again p.353, carving 'Hilary', although you would think by now she would know better		
124, 101	Don Bradman	1908-2001. The first Australian cricketer to be knighted, one of the greatest batsmen in cricketing history		
127, 103	I'm all of a muddle when I cuddle...Cash Campo and his Symposium Boys	Considering there were real-life 1930s bands like Bud Freeman and His Summa Cum Laude Orchestra and Carroll Gibbons and His Boy Friends, AT's group sounds very convincing	*Any bands that sound like this?	PBO 166
129, 105	every day's most quiet needs	every day's most quiet needs/By sun and candlelight'	Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Sonnets from the Portuguese	

			no XLIII	
129, 105	eyeless in Gaza in the mill with slaves	Should be 'at the mill with slaves'	Milton, Samson Agonistes l.40	
130, 105	Robert le Diable	Robert duke of Normandy is son of disciple of Satan (le diable). Exiled for his offences he falls in love. At this point Meyerbeer's opera Robert le Diable (1831) begins. It made Meyerbeer's name so naturally Mrs Brandon would know of it - and Hilary probably despise it.	Giacomo Meyerbeer (1791-1864)	
132, 107	Hernani	Play by Victor Hugo 1830, famous partly for Hugo's filling the auditorium with allies to prevent the play from being closed down by the censor on its opening night as had happened to him previously		
132, 107	Sirène, fange, boue, immondices, ordure	Siren [or mermaid], mire, mud, rubbish, filth		
132, 108	How nice you look when you listen			
134, 108	jointure	provision for a wife after the death of her husband		
140, 113	To the Listener	The Listener was a weekly magazine (1929-1991) that printed radio talks, reviewed new books and previewed musical and literary radio items		
141, 114	kindly death could ease his pains	*? "easeful death"	Keats, Ode to a Nightingale?	
146, 118	Ghosts	Play by Ibsen about inherited disease and guilt which would naturally cheer anyone up		
147, 119	Gustave Doré	19thC French artist, illustrator, engraver and sculptor, known for his illustrations to the Bible, Dante's Inferno, Don Quixote, and a series of drawings of the London poor		
158, 127	simply say "Ha-ha."	see 257 (204) below		

165, 133	baited and badgered	Which I meantsay,' cried Joe, 'that if you come into my place bull-baiting and badgering me, come out!'	Joe Gargery's righteous indignation in Dickens' Great Expectations	
171, 137	new threepennies	A rather thick, 12-sided brass-coloured threepenny bit replaced a little silver-coloured threepence half the weight of a sixpence.		
176, 141	commis voyageur	commercial traveller		
179, 143	Bona Dea	The 'good goddess' in Ancient Rome, responsible for chastity and fecundity: men were barred from her mysteries and her true name		
147	carbon copy which is quite legible in parts	Like the curate's egg in <i>Punch</i> , "quite good iin parts" - HB		
184, 148	Proie sanglante d'une fière et male rage, Dieu châtré des chrétiens, je crache a ton visage	No wonder this did not go down well: "Bleeding prey of an arrogant male fury, Castrated Christian god, I spit in your face".		
185, 148	Villon	Francois Villon's poem 'Ballade des dames du temps jadis' contains the lines 'Where is that learned Heloise for whom Abelard was castrated and became a monk?'		
192, 154	Shelley: "One word is...profane it."	See above p.114		
198, 158	brevet rank	A brevet was a warrant authorising an officer to assume temporarily a higher rank, but without receiving the extra pay. Presumably the ladies involved were wives of higher-ranking officers.		
206, 164	gilded popinjay	Title of song by Edwin Greene 1909 (possibly sung by James McInnes?)- though may have been a common expression well before then		
206, 164	graves and worms and epitaphs	"Let's talk of graves, of worms and epitaphs"	Shakespeare, Richard II, 3:2	
206, 165	women often fled where they woud most fain pursue	sounds like a quotation, but I can't find one that fits??		
207, 166	Oh, Mrs Brandon	See above p 47		

208, 166	discomferture, discomfiture	misprint in Penguin, should read discomfiture both times, as in Knopf		
210, 168	Mr Root and Mr Crow	Racine and Corneille		
210, 168	Naso and Locusta	Naso means nose, Locusta means locust		
211, 168	Dr Johnson's mutton	"ill-fed, ill-killed, ill-kept and ill-drest" of a roast served at an inn 3rd June 1784	Boswell, Life of Johnson, p. 535	
219, 175	twenty guineas	20 pounds 20 shillings, ie 21 pounds: £3 would have bought a very respectable dress at this period	American hymn	
228, 181	Who'll be chief mourner	I, said the dove, I'll mourn for my love, I'll be chief mourner	Who killed Cock Robin? [traditional]	
229, 183	I am hiding in thee	"Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in thee"		
232, 184	meet often and merrily	sounds like Shakespeare??		
242, 192	ancien régime	political and social system of France before the French Revolution		
245, 195	Belle Dame Sans Merci	ie The beautiful lady with no mercy	Title of poem by Keats	
248, 197	a goddess made manifest	see above p.47		
256,203	Mr Swiveller and Miss Brass	AT seems to have enjoyed the relationship between these two, although they are not very attractive: Dick Swiveller is a pleasant but weak law clerk and Sally Brass is so bossy she could well be a partner in the same firm. They developed a matey relationship.	Dickens, The Old Curiosity Shop	
256, 203	G. F. S.	Girls' Friendly Society, church organisation founded 1875 for girls and young women to undertake social and service activities, still going strong		In NR??
257, 204	Ha-ha	Sounds triumphant enough for 'He saith among the trumpets, Ha, Ha and he smelleth the battle afar off.'	Job 39:24	CBI 304

258, 205	I go, I go, see how I go	I go, I go, look how I go.'	Puck in Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream 3:2	
259, 206	Honeysuckle and the Bee	With the immortal lines 'You are my honey, honeysuckle, I am the bee': though sung by Ellaline Terriss.	Sentimental song from show Bluebell in Fairyland (1901), words by A.H.Fitz, music by W.H.Penn	
261, 207	Lohengrin	He is the Knight of the Swan who arrives in a boat drawn by a swan to rescue a damsel	Wagner opera of the same name 1848	
261, 207	Farewell my Bluebell	1904, used in the film "The Jolson Story"	Possibly Spanish-American War song	
262, 208	holding no form of creed but contemplating all	The poet's soul says 'I sit like God holding no...all', though characterised as female not a gentleman	Tennyson, The Palace of Art	LAR 326
263, 209	Les Centaures et les Lapithes	The Lapithes were a Thessalonian tribe who defeated the drunken centaurs		
263, 209	wanton in Mrs Brandon's smiles	wanton wiles Wreathed smiles	Milton's l'Allegro	
263, 209	Conquistador	Spanish and Portuguese soldiers and adventurers who conquered the Americas in the 15th-17th centuries		
265, 210	whoever it was who gave his lady his falcon for dinner	Count Federigo degli Alberighi to the Lady Giovanna in	Alfred Lord Tennyson's play The Falcon	
266, 211	scales fell from his eyes	And straightway there fell from his [Saul's] eyes as it were scales and he received his sight.'	Acts 9:18 on the conversion of St Paul	

268, 213	O. T. C.	Officers' Training Corps encouraging military training in public schools and universities to give young men a head-start in the army.		
268, 213	coronation of the summer before	ie George VI's in 1937		
273, 217	no nonsense about her	An AT favourite: Mrs Merdle's son Edmund Sparkler uses this as a form of praise	Dickens, Little Dorrit	JC 47, MB 196, LAR 159, DA 98, 218, CQ 89, 179
275, 218	My brother's keeper	"Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain, when God asks him where is Abel	Genesis IV: 9	
276, 220	De mortuis, of course	de mortuis nil nisi bonum = speak only good of the dead		
276, 220	quis custodiet	quis custodiet ipsos custodes = who will guard the guards	Juvenal	
277, 220	Che piacere! / eccomi!	What a pleasure / Here I am!		
280, 222	Up, Miss Morris, and at them!	"Up, Guards, and at them!"	Duke of Wellington, quoted in a letter from an officer in the Guards 1815, though denied by the Duke	
281, 223	Queensberry rules	The Marquess of Queensberry's rules are for boxing (first used 1892)		
285, 226	I'd have stuck a pin into a stick and jabbed him	This plain wand, with an eighth of an inch of pin, was indeed a sceptre when he put it in my hands. Thereafter Modestine was my slave.'	R.L. Stevenson, Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes	
286, 226	Brother Elderberry	The only trace I have of this is 'Brother Elderberry, why are thy features suffused?' Elderberry is a dog.	The dog and the fleas by Frederic Scrimshaw, US 1893	

286, 226	Influence of the Poverello	The Poverello Society is a lay group whose members share the vision of St Francis		
287, 227	If hate killed men, Brother Lawrence, /God's blood would not mine kill you?			Also BL and NR
287, 228	a book about animals in Italy by a clergyman	*Must be a real book, but what?		
288, 229	Les mains qui donnent'	Hands that give - presumably money!		
290, 230	Miss Grey, a nice girl but a little peculiar	She was distinctly strange in HR but evidently a naval man would be the making of her		
301, 239	swift-footed rumour	Sounds like a Homeric epithet		
301, 239	sees the gates of heaven beyond the tormentors' swords	*Sounds like a quotation?		
303, 240	the Panel	List of medical practitioners available to patients under National Health Service arrangements of 1913		
305, 242	sono rimasta stupefatta	I am left astounded		
307, 244	Do bear your body more seeming	bear your body more seeming, Audrey'	Touchstone to his love in Shakespeare, As You Like It, 5:4	LAR 76, LAAA 71
309, 245	whiff and wind of Lydia's progress	"with the whiff and wind of his fell sword"	Hamlet, 2:2	

309, 245	there is an end of an old song	Now there is the end of an auld sang'	Lord Seafield, a keen supporter of the Union, on the termination 1707 of the Kingdom of Scotland	*Does Mr McFadyen say this anywhere?
310, 246	Original Gipsy Lee	This was Urania Boswell, born Lee in 1851, a skilled fortune-teller in the first quarter of the 20th century		
318, 251	Le Chat Savant	The Scholar Cat - *A real club?		
318, 252	Thirteenth after Trinity	If they were using 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the lesson would have been 2 Kings 22, the story of Naaman's leprosy, but if the 1928 Revised prayer book, Galatians 3:16, about giving the law to Abraham and his seed. However, the next Sunday, the Fourteenth, has Galatians 5:16, about the lusts of the flesh, which seems much more likely to have flustered Sir Edmund		
319, 252	mustn't muzzle the ox	Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn': ie give people leeway to reward themselves when they are doing a job.	Deuteronomy 12:4	
329, 261	Zenana missions	Anglican mission to women founded 1880: 'zenana' means 'the place of the women'. Addressed mainly women whose access to broader society was restricted in some way, eg China, Islamic states		
350, 276	Addio!	Goodbye		
350, 277	Hypatia	Alexandrian intellectual, martyred AD 415.	See useful entry in Cynthia Snowden's <i>Going to Bassetshire</i>	
351, 278	Avanti!	Go on!		

354, 280	By just exchange, one for the other given	My true love hath my heart and I have his/By just exchange, one for another given./I hold his dear and mine he cannot miss/There never was a better bargain driven	Sir Philip Sidney, 'Arcadia', usually quoted as separate poem 'The Bargain'	
357, 283	One word is too often profaned	see above p.114		