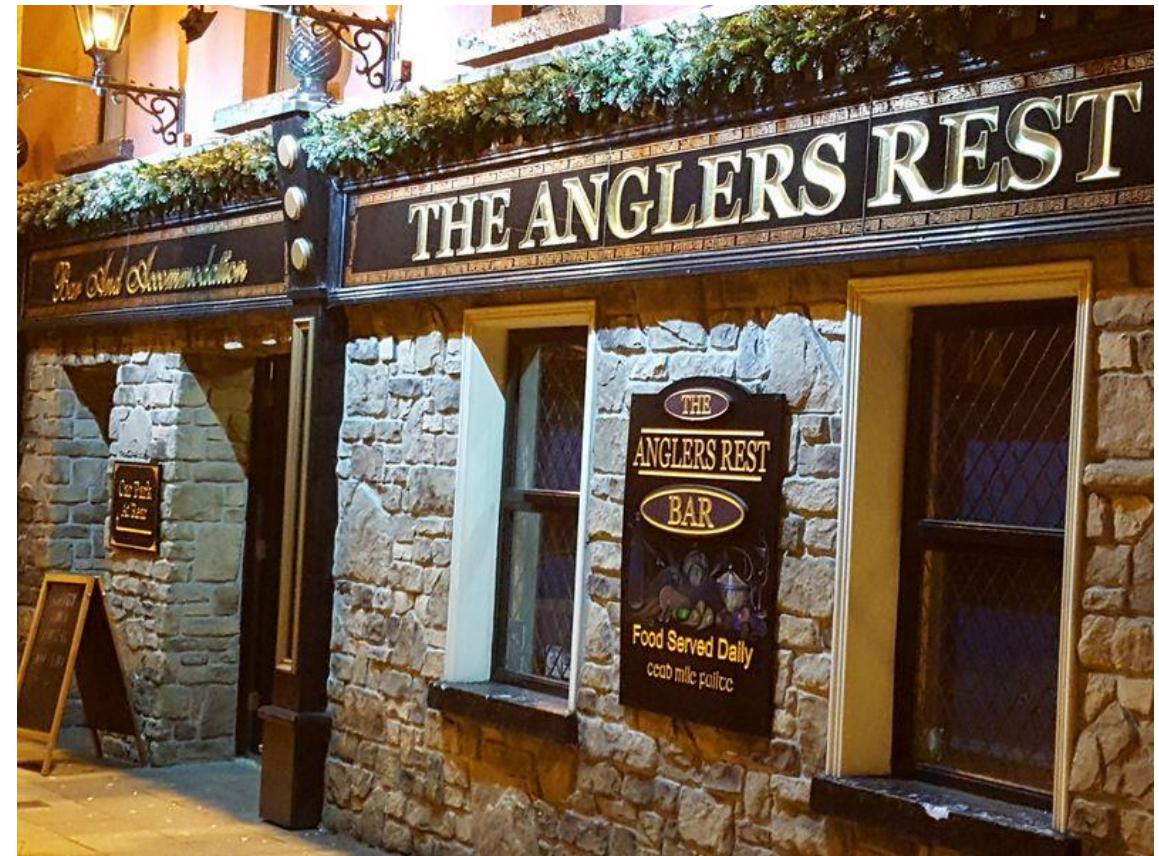


Mister Mulliner of de verhalen van een visser



Waar gaat het om?

- 41 Mullinerverhalen
- 43 rechtstreekse verwanten van Mr. Mulliner
- Een korfvol aangetrouwde familieleden

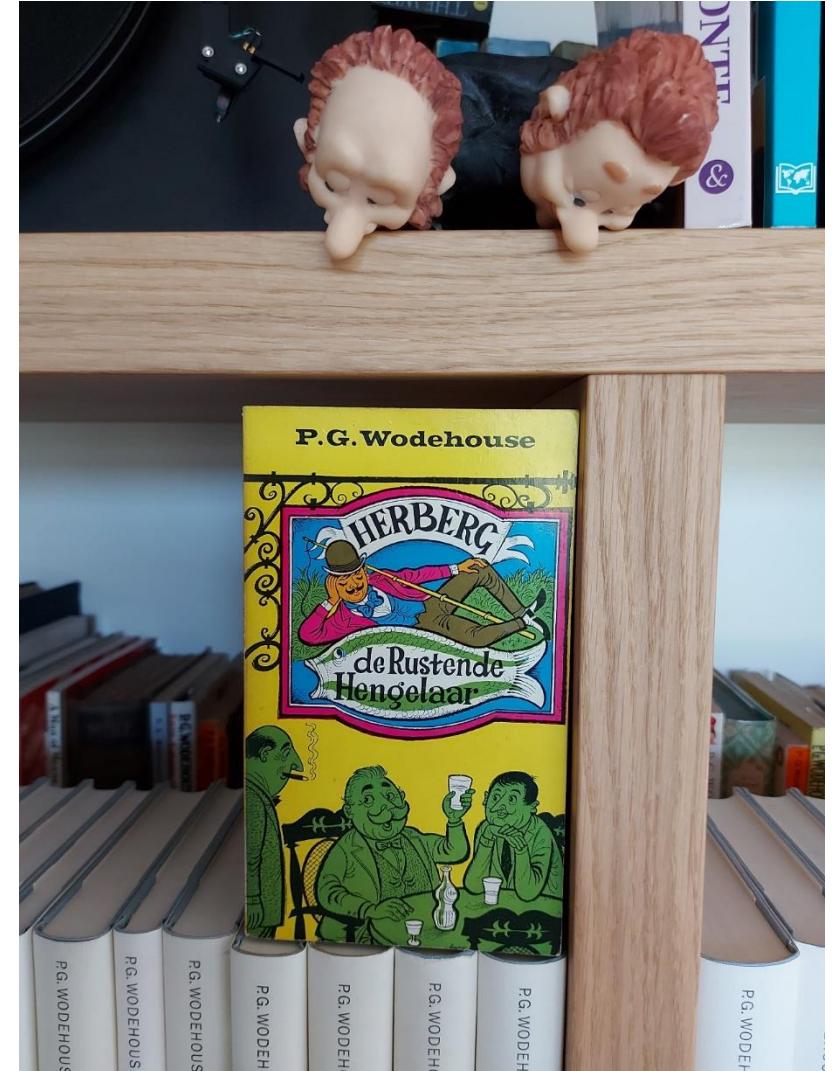
“You don’t analyse such sunlit perfection, you just bask in its warmth and splendour”



Het Ontstaan

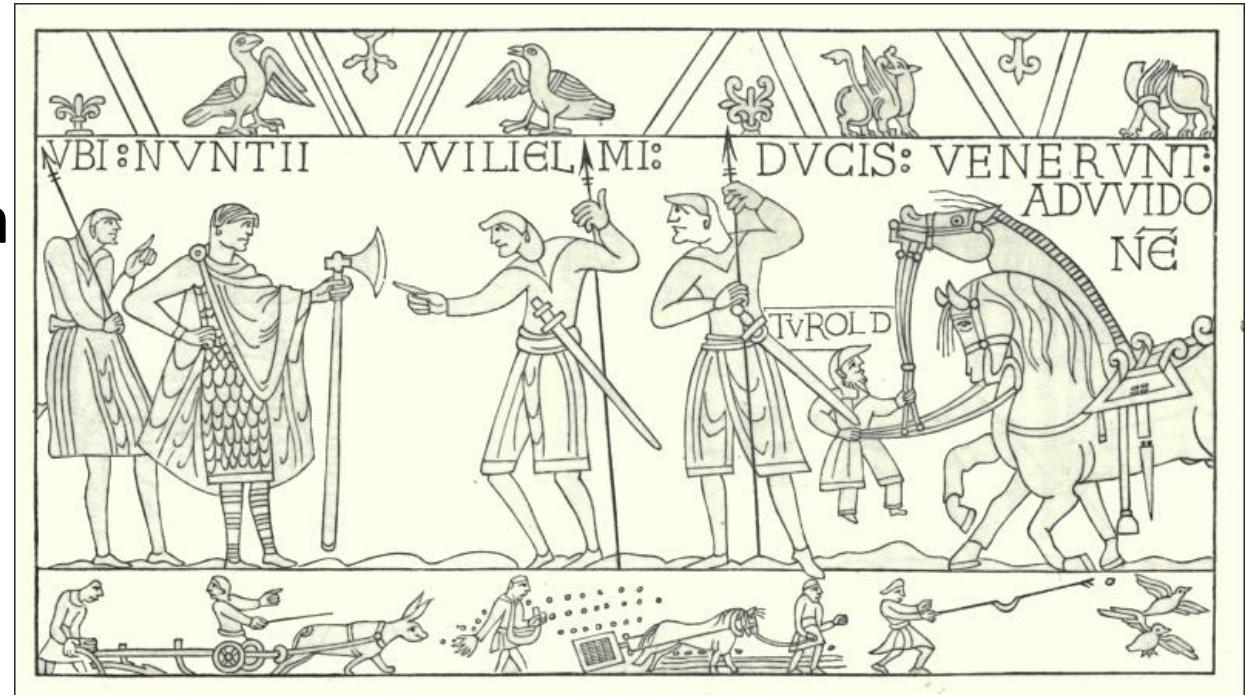
- Mr. Mulliner: nooit de hoofdrol in kortverhaal of roman (uitz. "Alfred and George" Plum Pie 1966)
- Morse en Witse >< Mr. Mulliner?
- Endeavour en Werenfried >< ???????
- Voor het eerst sprake van de Mulliners in 1066: "The Peerage of England, Scotland and Ireland or the Ancient and Present State of Nobility":

William de Molines



William de Molines (1066)

- Hij vocht in 1066 aan de zijde van Willem de Veroveraar
- Hij was de 18^{de} in rij wat belangrijkheid betreft
- Zijn zoon, Adam de Molines, huwde met Annota, enige dochter en erfgename van Benedict Gernet, **Lord of Speke** (spreek uit als “speak”)
- Het “spreken” heeft Mr. Mulliner als afstammeling van de Sieur de Moulinières dus van geen vreemden...



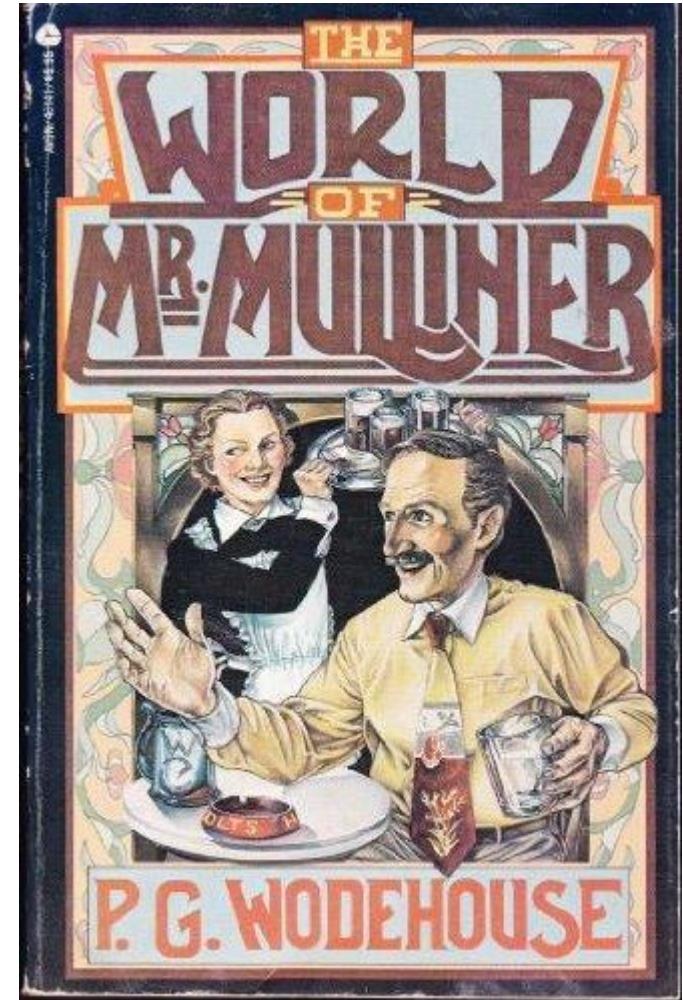
Mr. Mulliner als verteller

- Vergelijkbaar met “The Oldest Member” (27 kortverhalen over golf)
- 1926: eerste Mulliner-boek:
“Meet Mr. Mulliner” (“Getapte Verhalen”)
- 1926: Psmith-saga was verleden tijd,
Blandings-saga was nog niet uitgewerkt,
(enkel “Something Fresh” 1915 en in
“Leave It To Psmith” 1923)



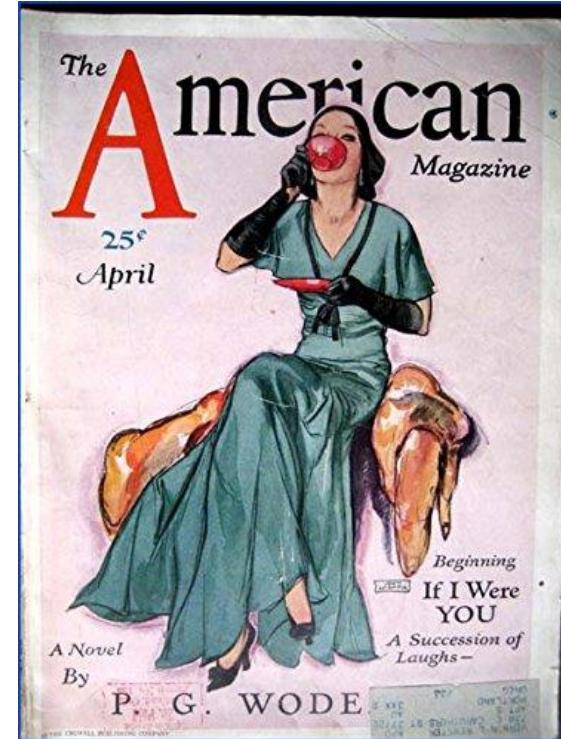
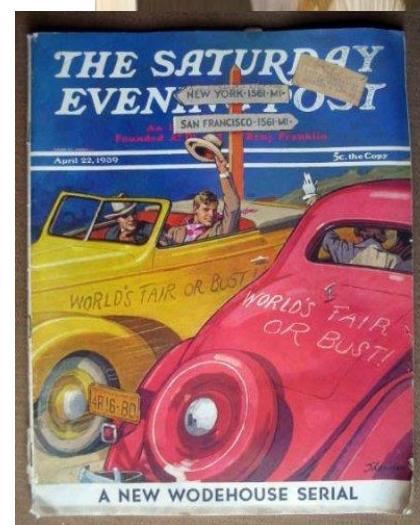
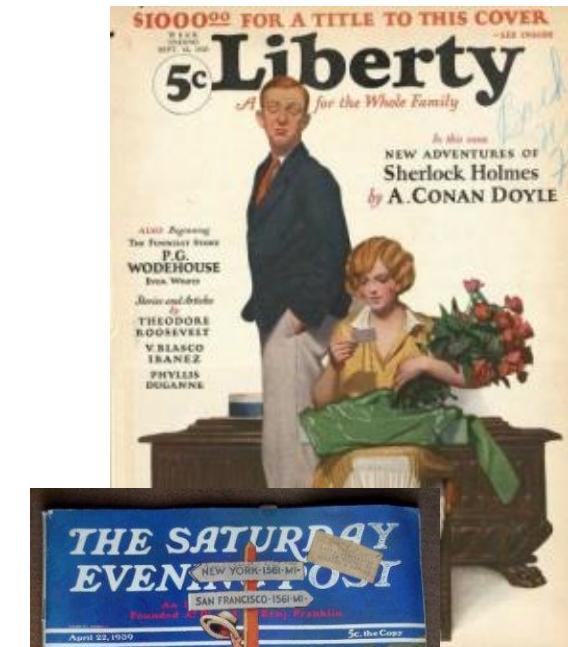
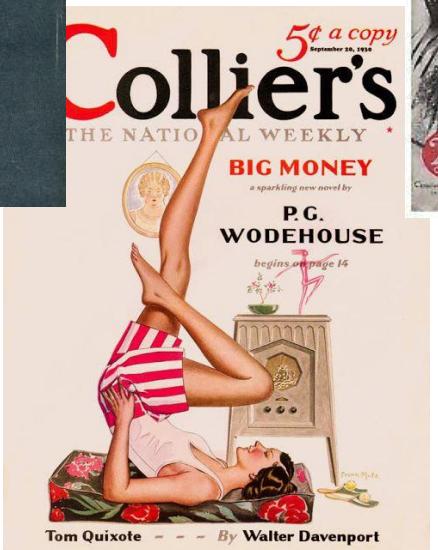
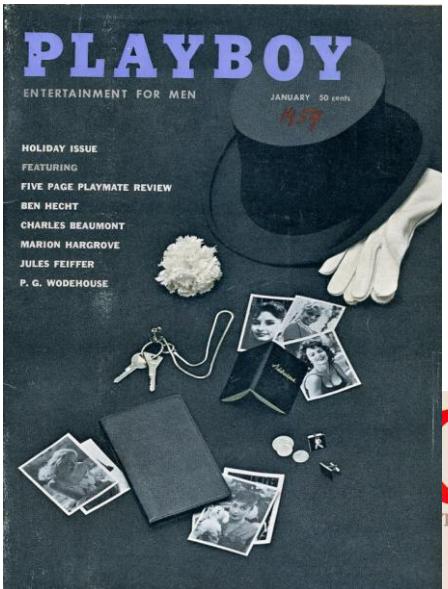
Wodehouse over Mulliner

- In “The World of Mr. Mulliner” (1972) 622 blz.
Alle kortverhalen gebundeld
- Wodehouse schreef het voorwoord:
 - Hij wou wel eens wat anders dan steeds maar weer die fel gesmaakte Jeeves en Wooster-verhalen
 - Hij vindt zelf dat deze kortverhalen tot de vermakelijkste behoren die hij ooit heeft geschreven



Wodehouse en de tijdschriften

- 1925-1936: beste werk van P.G. Wodehouse
- 1926-1937: 37 van de 41 Mulliner kortverhalen



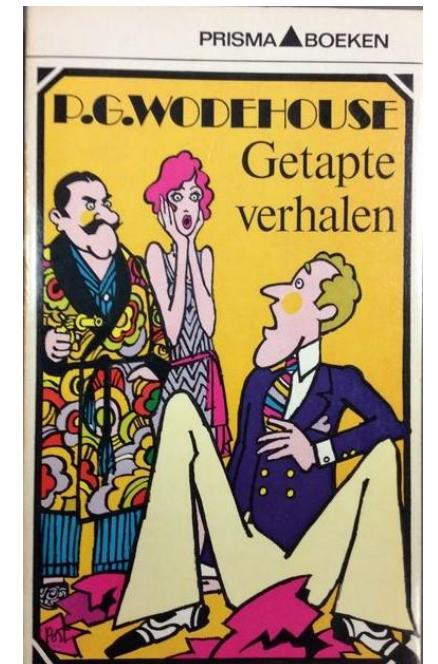
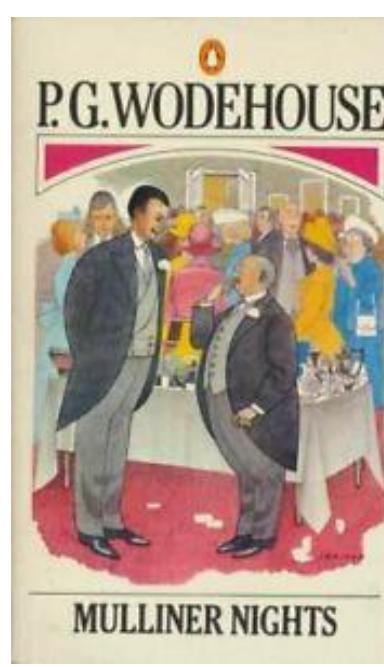
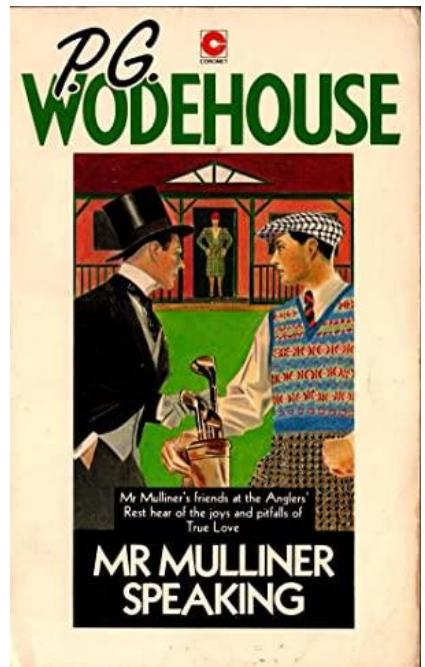
Mulliner zonder Moeite

*“It was like finding money in the street...
the stuff came pouring out as if
somebody had turned a tap. I am, as a
rule, a thousand words-at-a-sitting man,
but with Mulliner it was more like half a
story before lunch.”*

P.G.WODEHOUSE

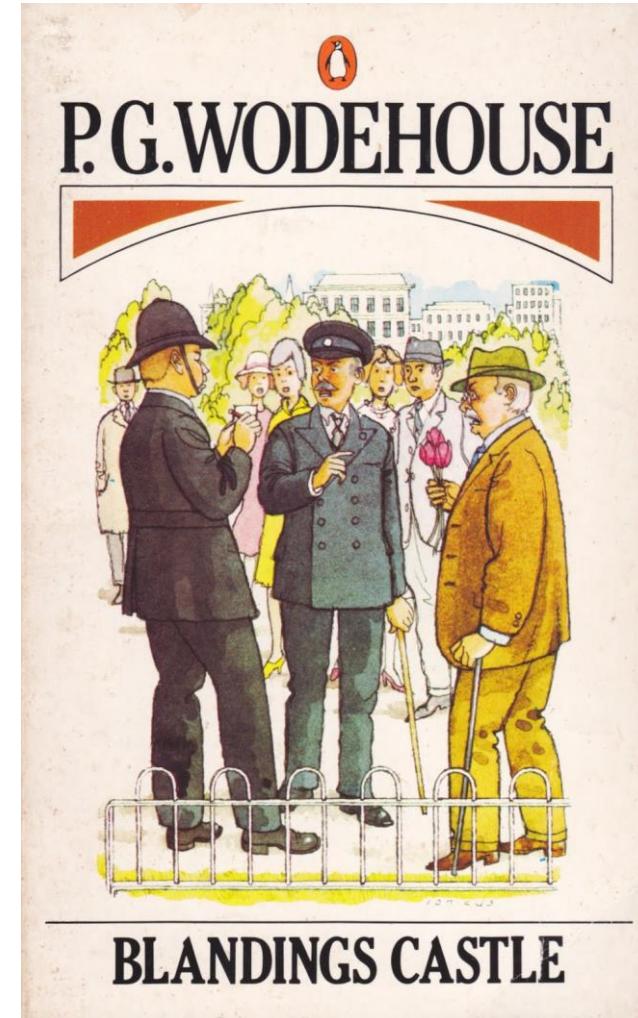


MEET MR MULLINER



14 andere Mulliner kortverhalen

- Blandings Castle (1935) (5)
- Young Men in Spats (1936) (3)
- Lord Emsworth and Others (1937) (1)
- Eggs, Beans and Crumpets (1940) (1)
- A Few Quick Ones (1959) (2)
- Plum Pie (1966) (1)
- The World of Mr. Mulliner (1972) (1)
- + “Shock Dogs” Punch (14/2/1940)



Eerste cover Mr. Mulliner

- Wodehouse in “Yours Plum” (verzamelde brieven van Wodehouse door Frances Donaldson). Stuk uit een brief van 1945 aan William Townend:

“I sometimes wish I were one of those dignified birds whose books come out in grey wrappers with the title and author’s name on them and nothing else. God may have forgiven Herbert Jenkins for the jacket of “Meet Mr. Mulliner”, but I never shall.”



WODEHOUSE PLAYHOUSE

THE TRUTH ABOUT GEORGE
AND OTHER SHORT STORIES

Het Concept

- Eerste kortverhaal: “The Truth About George”
- Eerste dertig regels: het hele opzet wordt duidelijk:
 1. Verhaal begint in de ik- of de wij-vorm.
 2. Mr. Mulliner mengt zich en neemt verhaal over.
 3. Dat verhaal wordt nog straffer dan het oorspronkelijke.
 4. Hij is zelf een visser, dus men is geneigd zijn verhalen met een korrel zout te nemen.
 5. Uiterlijk en handelingen wijzen op betrouwbaarheid.
 6. Aan het eind: terugkeer naar gelagkamer om verhaal af te ronden (soms ook niet...)

De stamgasten van de Angler's Rest

Namen worden nooit vernoemd, stamgasten worden vereenzelvigd met de drankjes die ze gewoonlijk drinken.

Mr. Mulliner: Hot Scotch and Lemmon.
(Whisky Grog)

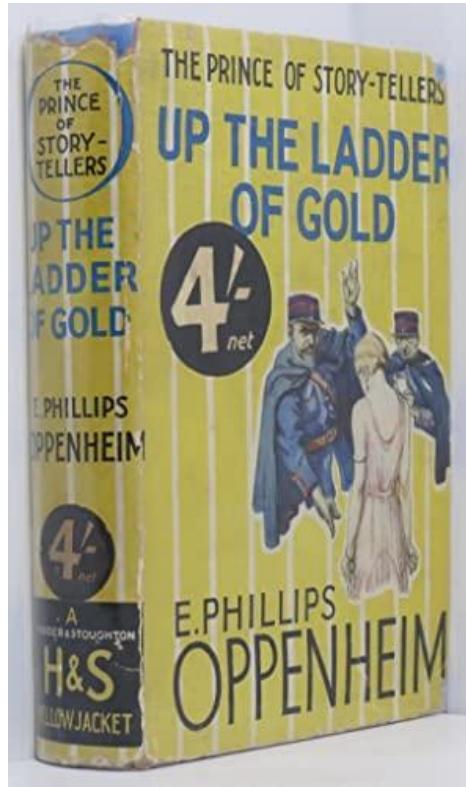
Trouwste gasten: Small Bass, Rum and Milk,
Whisky and Splash (meer dan 5 kortverhalen)

Andere gewaardeerde drinkebroers: Draught
Stout, Gin and Tonic, Lemon Sour, Mild and
Bitter, Light Lager, Pint of Bitter, Scotch on the Rocks, Sherry and Bitters,
Stout and Mild, Whisky Sour.



Oppenheim (1866-1946) en Wodehouse

- “To My Friend ‘PLUM’ WODEHOUSE who tells me, what I can scarcely believe, that he enjoys my stories as much as I do his”



Oppenheim en Wodehouse

I believe that it was in the Sporting Club at Monte Carlo that he first evolved that amusing and very convenient way of alluding to a little company gathered round the bar of a public-house when the characters have not been introduced and names are at a discount. He leaned over one evening and asked me:

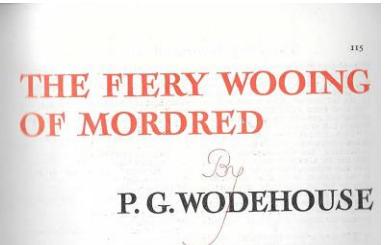
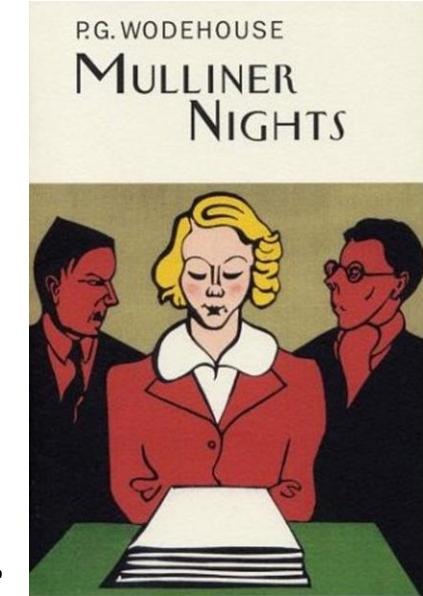
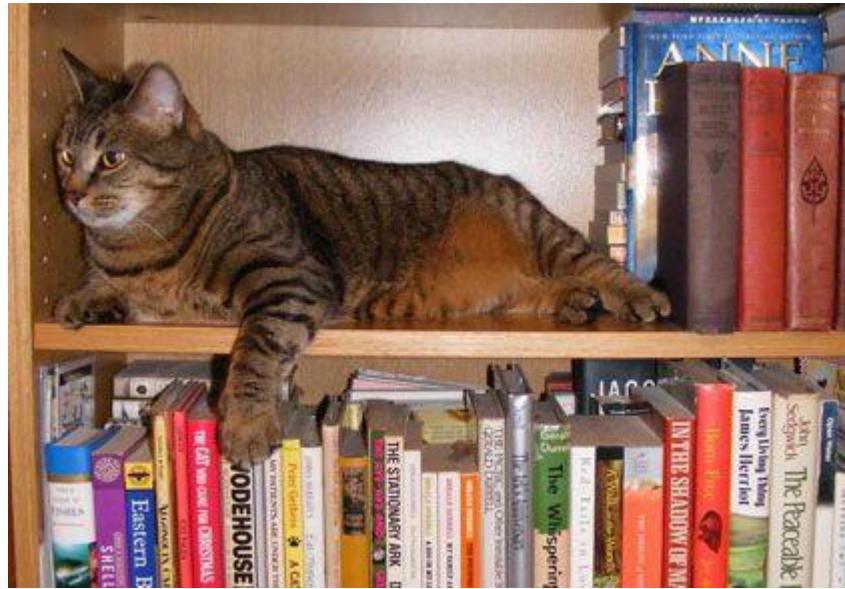
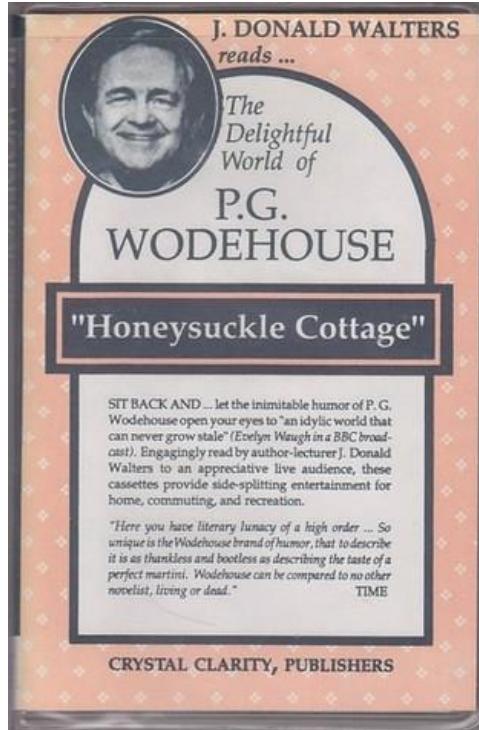
"Who is that long, sandy Gin and Tonic on the corner stool?"

A month or so later, in the first of a series of new stories, I noticed with a chuckle that the mixed company in a public-house were all alluded to as "a whisky and soda" or "a brisk-looking gin and tonic" or "a pint of bitter" or "a weary-looking sherry."

**-THE POOL OF MEMORY (1941) autobiografie Edward Phillips
Oppenheim-**

kortverhaal><roman

- Technisch gezien is er een groot verschil.
- KV: plot is eenvoudig, geen nevenplots, weinig uitdiepingen.
- KV: situatiehumor: humor zit in de plot zelf.
- Zwakke plot moet gered worden door humor in de schrijfstijl.



"Who?" gasped Miss Postlewaite.
"The Whisky and Splash apologized.
"A nephew of mine," Mordred Mulliner, she said.
"Mordred," murmured Miss Postlewaite pensively. A young man with small eyes, delicately chiseled features and excellent teeth. "I mean that these features are so good to me that the name of even started which I am about to describe."

"What?" queried Miss Postlewaite.
"But if he had had no teeth he would never have gone to the dentist's that day, and if he had not gone to the dentist's he would never have met his wife."

"Annabelle whom?"

"Who?" corrected Miss Postlewaite.
"I should like to know what the Whisky and Splash, Sprocket-Sprocket, only just now, told me. Sprocket-Sprocket of Smattering Hall, Worcester. Impudent little Sprocket-Sprocket never failed to visit his dentist every six months, and on one such visit he was told that his teeth had not seated himself in the empty waiting-room and was turning the pages of a three-

ILLUSTRATED BY GILBERT WILKINSON

The Knightly Quest of Mervyn

“Tell me, Clarice, he said, ‘why is it that you spurn a fellow’s suit? I can’t for the life of me see why you won’t consent to marry a chap. It isn’t as if I hadn’t asked you often enough. Playing fast and loose with a good man’s love is the way I look at it.’”

And he gazed at her in a way that was partly melting and partly suggestive of the dominant male. And Clarice Mallaby gave one of those light, inkling laughs and replied:

“Well, if you really want to know, you’re such an ass.”

Mervyn could make nothing of this. “An ass? How do you mean an ass? Do you mean a silly ass?”

The Knightly Quest of Mervyn

“I mean a goof”, said the girl. “A gump. A poop. A nitwit and a returned empty. Your name came up the other day in the course of conversation at home, and mother said you were a vapid and irreflective guffin, totally lacking in character and purpose.”

“Oh?” said Mervyn. “She did, did she?”

“She did. Ans while it isn’t often that I think along the same lines as mother, there – for once – I consider her to have hit the bull’s eye, rung the bell, and to be entitled to a cigar or coconut, according to choice. It seemed to me what they call the mot juste.”

Mulliner's Buck-U-Uppo

MEET
MR MULLINER

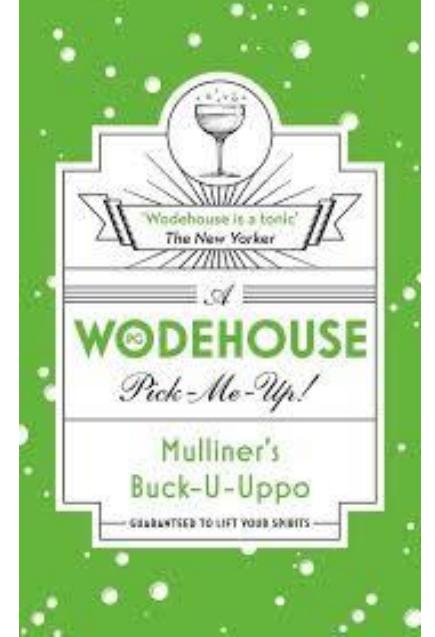
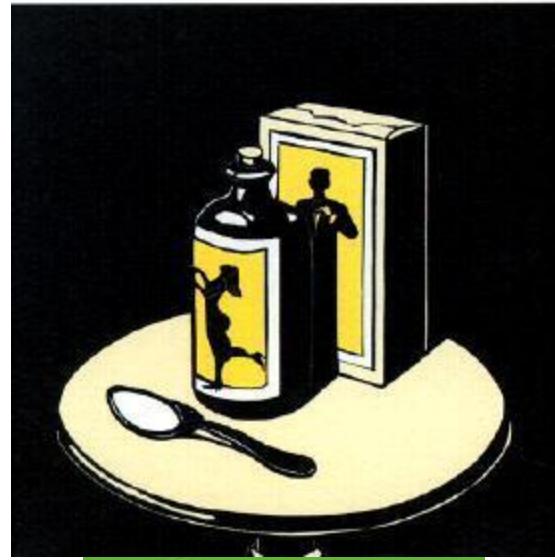
Combinatie van sterke plot en komisch taalgebruik: “Mulliner’s Buck-U-Uppo” uit “Meet Mr. Mulliner”).

He was still singing when Mrs. Wardle entered with a dish.

‘What’s this?’ demanded Augustine, eyeing it dangerously.

‘A nice fried egg, sir.’

‘And what, pray, do you mean by nice? It may be an amiable egg. It may be a civil, well-meaning egg. But if you think it is fit for human consumption, adjust that impression. Go back to your kitchen, woman; select another; and remember this time that you are a cook, not an incinerating machine. Between an egg that is fried and an egg that is cremated there is a wide and substantial difference. The difference, if you wish to retain me as a lodger in these far too expensive rooms, you will endeavour to appreciate.’

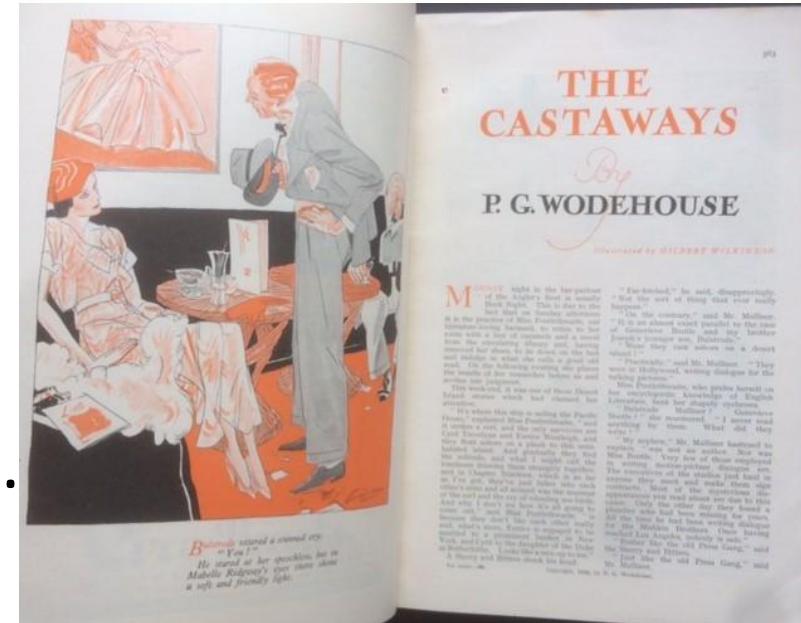


De Mulliner Stamboom

- Mr. Mulliner heeft twee broers:
 1. WILFRED: uitvinder van Buck-U-Up tonicum, Raven Gypsy Face Cream, Snow of the Mountains Lotion.
 2. JOSEPH: treedt enkel op in “The Castaways”. Hij is de vader van Bulstrode Mulliner die naar California trekt om als scriptschrijver te gaan werken voor de legendarische Perfecto-Zizzbaum Motion Picture Corporation.



P.G. WODEHOUSE
More Mr. Mulliner



De Mulliner Stamboom

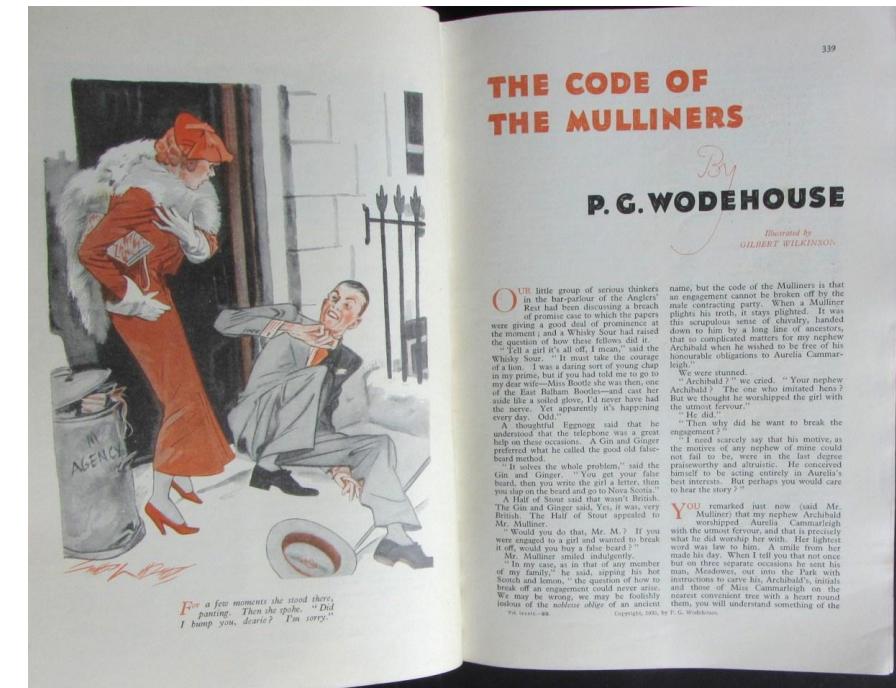
De Mullinerstruik telt nog:

1. 14 “cousins” (kind van een oom of een tante)
2. 20 “nephews – nieces” (kind van een broer of een zus)
3. 1 oom
4. Een aantal niet gedefinieerde familieleden

Ter zijde: de settings zijn zeer verschillend. Zowel idyllische Engelse ‘cottage-decor’ als de Amerikaanse showachtergrond. De uitgever bracht immers tegelijkertijd zijn boeken uit in Amerika en in Engeland.

Archibald Mulliner

- Speelt de hoofdrol in drie Mulliner verhalen samen met zijn geliefde Aurelia Cammerleigh:
 - The Reverend Wooing of Archibald
 - Archibald and the Masses
 - The Code of the Mulliners
- Is lid van de Drones Club.
- Maakt zo de verbinding met de Jeeves en Wooster verhalen.



THE CODE OF
THE MULLINERS

By
P.G. WODEHOUSE

Illustrated by
GILBERT WILKINSON

(O) THE little group of serious thinkers in the barbershop of the Anglers' Rest had been discussing a breach of promise case to which a police sergeant had given a very preposterous attitude at the moment; and a Whisky Sour had raised the question of whether it was all right to tell a girl it's all off, I mean."

"Whisky Sour. Was a dangerous sort of young chap in my prime, but if you had told me to go to

the East Baham Boudoir—and cast her

aside like a soiled glove, I'd never have

thought twice about it."

A Half of Stout said that wasn't being

fair to the girl.

"Would you do that, Mr. J?" If you

wouldn't buy a face, would you break it off, would you buy a face board?"

Mr. Mulliner smiled indulgently.

"I'm not a member of my family," he said sipping his hor-

seum, "but I'm a member of mine."

He did not break off an engagement could never arise,

which may be wrong, we will say,

taking of the whole subject of an ancient

law."

You remarked just now (said Mr.

Mulliner) that your nephew Archibald

works in the office of the Anglers'

Rest. What does he do there?

He does nothing," she said with a smile.

It was the first time she had ever

smiled at him.

With the utmost fervor, and that is precisely

what she means when she says her first word was law to him. A smile from her

mother is the best thing in the world.

When I tell you that not once

in three years has she ever

been outside the Park with

anyone else, and those of Miss Cammerleigh

and myself, you will understand something of the

whole situation."

Copyright, 1926, by P.G. Wodehouse.

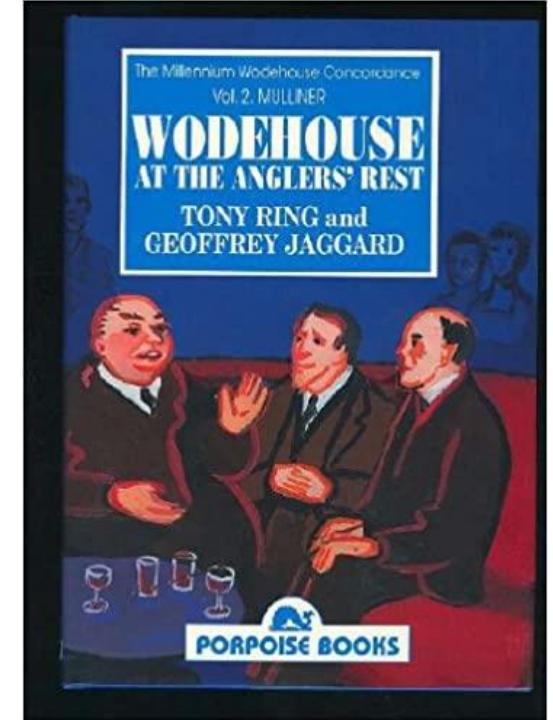
Archibald Mulliner

Tony Ring:

"Admittedly one of the less gifted Mulliners.

Even at the Drones Club, where the average intellect is not high, it was often said of Archibald that, had his brain been constructed of silk, he would have been hard put to it to find sufficient material to make a canary a pair of cami-knickers.

And then he falls in love with Aurelia Cammerleigh, who lives with a potty aunt who believes Bacon wrote Shakespeare."



Archibald Mulliner

Tony Ring:

“He suffered once from the emotion of shame when he was send out into Bond Street by his valet Meadowes at the height of the season with odd spats on, and once from an attack of intellectual curiosity. He had one unique and supreme skill: the art of imitating a chicken laying an egg.”

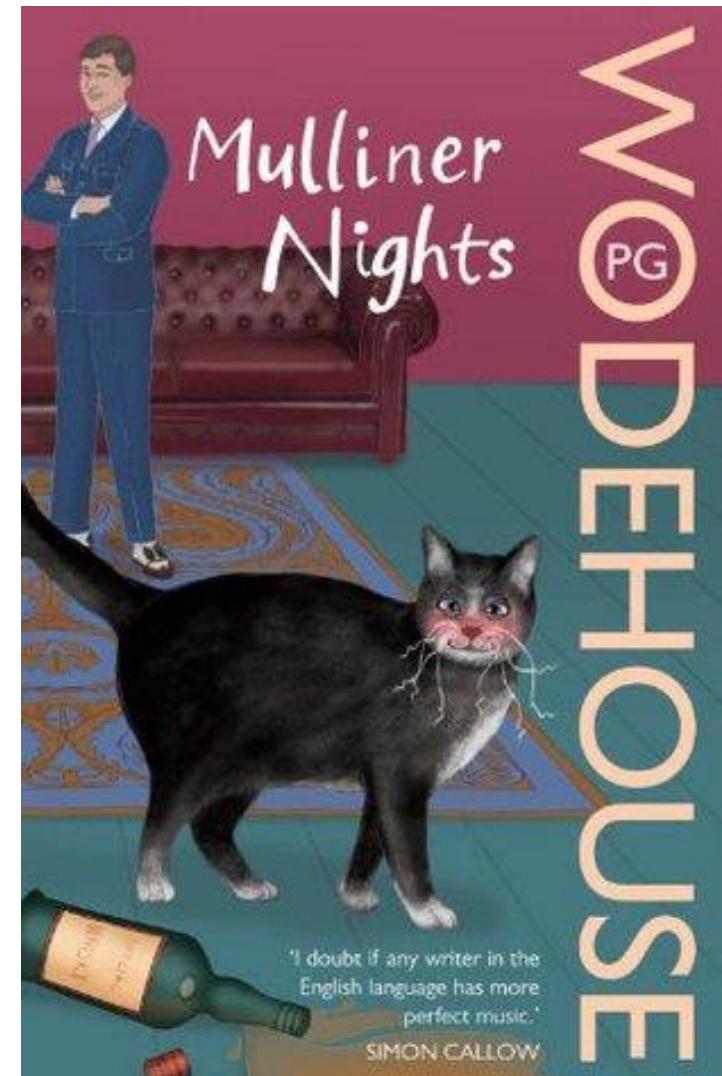
P.G. WODEHOUSE

MR MULLINER
SPEAKING



Lancelot Mulliner

- Don Juan Henry the Eight Lancelot Mulliner.
- 25-jarige zoon van Mr. Mulliner's overleden 'cousin' Edward.
- Godvruchtig grootgebracht door the Very Rev Theodore Mulliner, de Dean of Bolsover.
- Portrettschilder in Bott Street in Chelsea.
- Verliefd op Gladys Bingley, dichteres van de 'free verse' ("*playing tennis without a net*")
- Gewijde kat Webster ("*Bott Street, where Webster's battle-cry was a familiar as the yodel of the morning milkman*") in twee kortverhalen: "The Bisshop's Cat" en "Cats Will Be Cats".



Roberta “Bobbie” Wickham

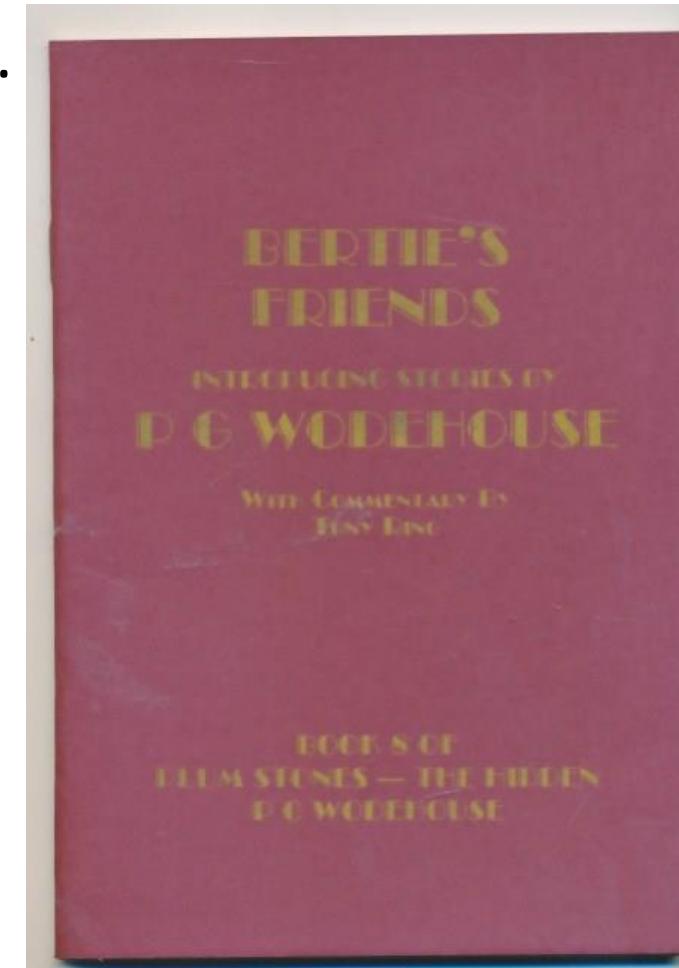
- Achternichtje van Mr. Mulliner (dochter van nicht Lady Wickham).



- Drie Mullinerverhalen:
 1. “Something Squishy”
 2. “The Awful Gladness of the Mater”
 3. “The Passing of Ambrose”

Roberta “Bobbie” Wickham

- Belangrijk randpersonage in de verhalen van Wodehouse.
- Zij is katalysator tussen verschillende familie- en vriendschapsbanden.
- Overschreed de grens van verschillende clusters van personages.
- Nooit hoofdpersonage in een ‘eigen’ roman.
 (“Fungy Fips” – Barmy Fotheringay Phipps kreeg die wel)
- Deus ex Machina: ze gaf de plot vaak een plotse en verrassende wending.
- “Dudley is Back to Normal” (1939) enkel in ‘Plum Stones’.



Mulliner Quotes

- “*Intoxicated? The word did not express it by a mile. He was oiled, boiled, fried, plastered, whiffled, sozzled, and blotto.*”

(from Meet Mr. Mulliner)

- De zes stadia van “katers” of “hangovers”
 1. The Atomic
 2. The Broken Compass
 3. The Cement Mixer
 4. The Comet
 5. The Gremlin Boogie
 6. The Sewing Machine

(from Plum Pie – “George and Alfred”)

Mulliner Quotes

- “Iedereen heeft wel een afkeer voor een of ander huisdier. Zo verafschuwt de ene slakken en de ander kakkerlakken. Egbert Mulliner verfoeide vrouwelijke romanschrijvers.”

(Mulliner Nights – “Best Seller”)

- “The brains of members of the Press departments of motion-picture studios resemble soup at a cheap restaurant. It is wiser not to stir them”

(Blandings Castle and Elsewhere – “Monkey Business”)

- “Do you believe in ghosts?” asked Mr. Mulliner abruptly.
“Well,” I replied, “I don’t like them, if that’s what you mean. I was once butted by one as a child.”
“Ghosts. Not goats.”

(Meet Mr. Mulliner – “Honeysuckle Cottage”)

Mulliner Quotes

- “*The fascination of shooting as a sport depends almost wholly on whether you are at the wright or wrong end of the gun.*”

(Mr. Mulliner Speaking – “Unpleasantness at Bludleigh Court”)

In dit kortverhaal staat ook het zeer bekend gedicht van Charlotte Mulliner “Good Gnus”.

- “*This is a pretty state of affairs, my daughter helping the foe of the family to fly...*”

“*Flee, father,*” corrected the girl, faintly.

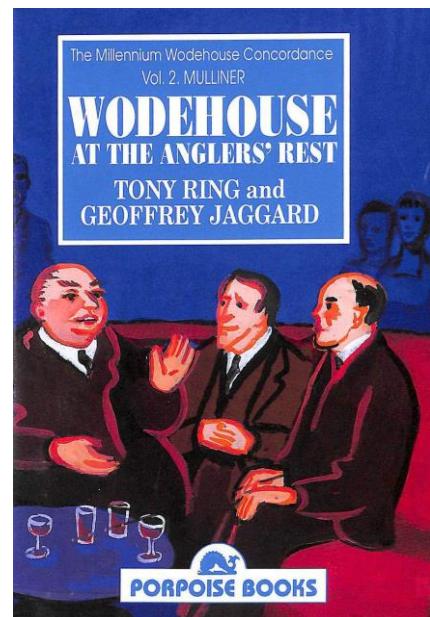
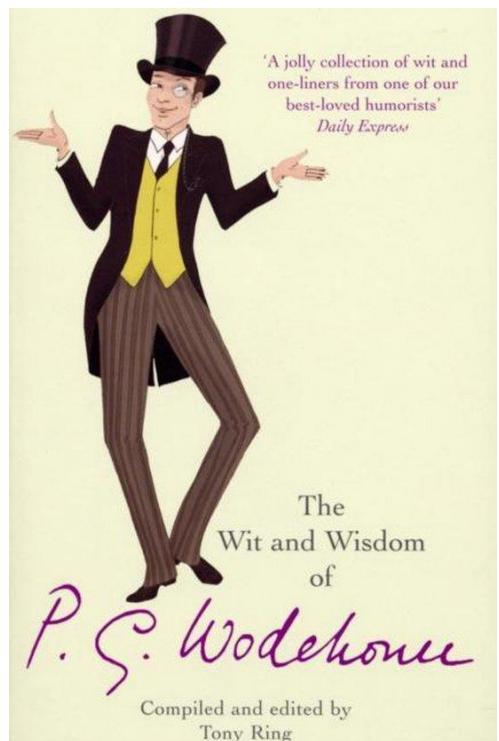
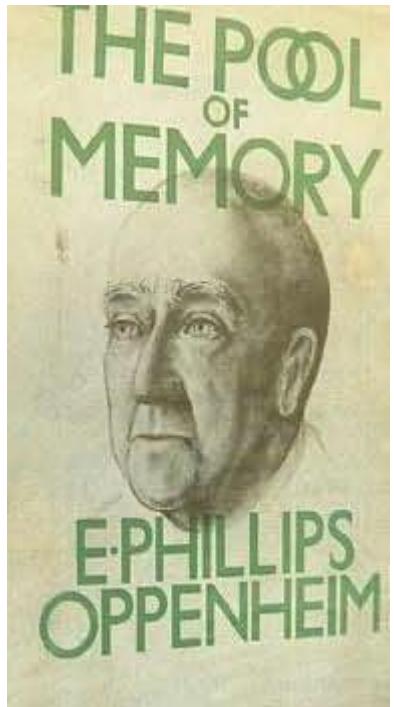
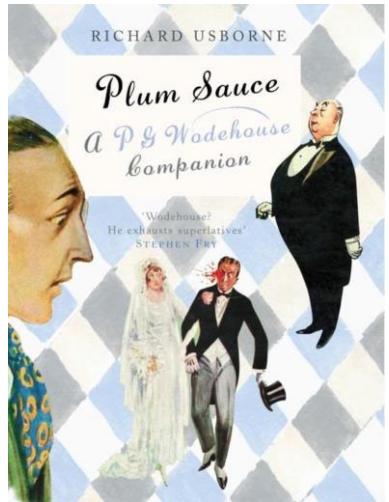
“*Flea or fly – this is no time for arguing about insects.*”

(Meet Mr. Mulliner – “The Romance of a Bulb-Squeezer”)

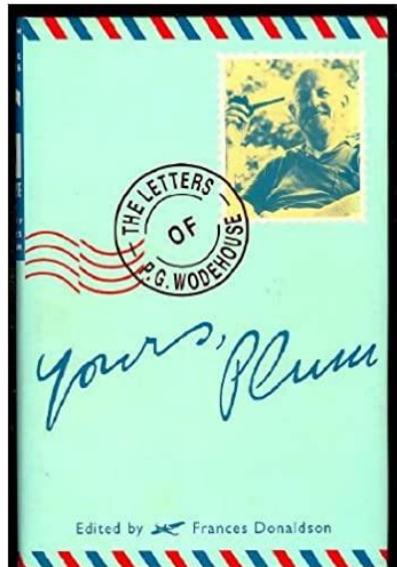
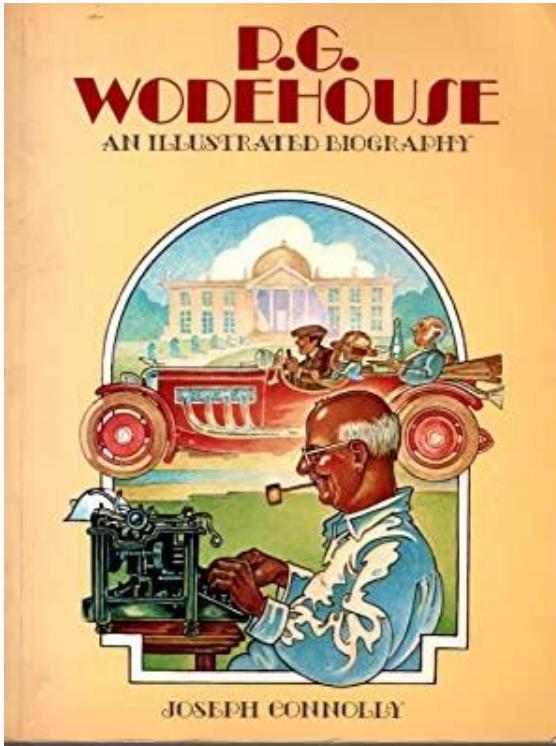
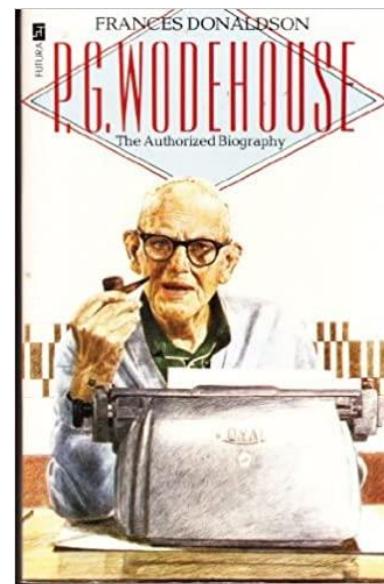
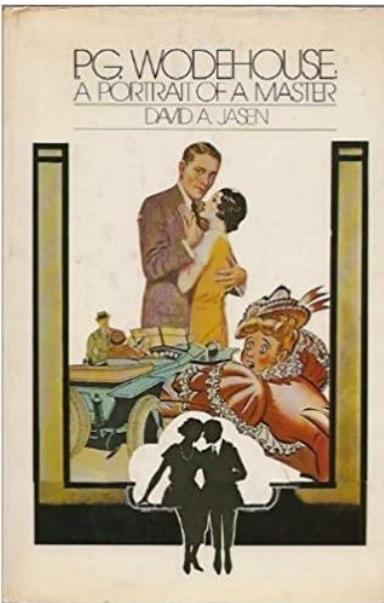
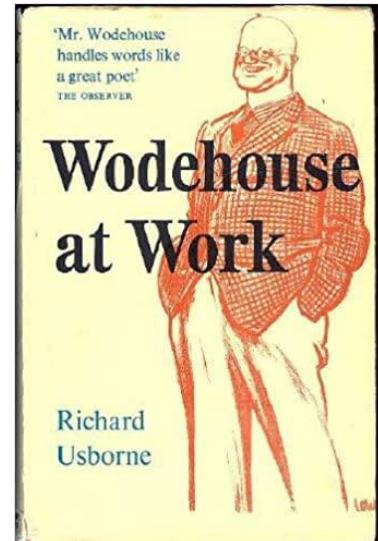
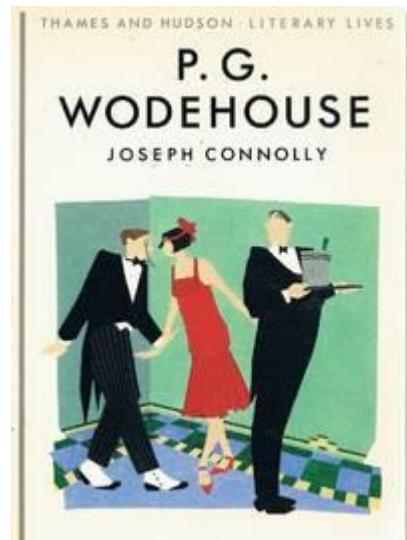
Besluit

- Wat is het beste Mulliner kortverhaal?
- Compilatie “My Funniest Story”: Wodehouse koos zelf voor Honeysuckle Cottage (1925: toen nog geen Mulliner frame)
- Compilatie “The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose”: Wodehouse koos voor “From a Detective’s Notebook.”
- Compilatie “Best of Wodehouse”: “Strychnine in the Soup” als beste Mullinerverhaal.
- “What Ho!”: alle leden van de verschillende Wodehouse clubs mochten stemmen: uit de Mullinersaga ex-aequo: “Mulliner’s Buck-Uppo” en “The Rise of Minna Nordstrom”.

"Twilight had fallen on the little garden of the Angler's Rest, and the air was fragrant with the sweet smell of jasmine and tobacco plant. Stars were peeping out. Blackbirds sang drowsily in the shrubbery... It was, in short, as a customer who had looked in for a gin and tonic rather happily put it, a nice evening."



Bronnen



Bronnen



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