

WHAT DID IT MEAN? 1954

7. **Great Jumping Jehoshophat:** favourite expression of Jo March in *Little Women*. Jehoshophat was King of Judah from 872 BC. No mention in the Bible of him jumping.
doesn't know B from a bull's foot: an expression meaning to be ignorant or illiterate – possibly because the letter B looks a bit like a bull's foot.
Kamerad: = Comrade. Used by the Germans in World War I. Equivalent in English is “I surrender”. Often used in the novels though I think its use had largely died out by WWII.
Assist in the French sense: again, often used by AT. “Assister” in French = “to be present at”.
Audit Ale: An audit ale is a special brew originally served at English colleges when examination results were announced following oral examinations (and also by landlords when rents were due), in order to soften the occasional hard feelings that such occasions fostered
The English might merit a plaudit
For inventing the ale they call audit.
This beer was ingested
When students were tested;
Both winners and losers would laud it.
(Tim Alborn, OEDILF, The Omnificent English Dictionary In Limerick
www.oedilf.com.)
8. **Washington's, Corbett's, Holman's:** George Washington, Holman Hunt, perhaps, but why? What connects them to fertiliser?
Gampish: Mrs Gamp in Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit* was a midwife, given to making such calculations.
9. **Parish Councils lay down with Town Councils:** *Isaiah* 11.6. .. nor were the Mothers' Unions unheard: I think this is just Biblical phraseology rather than an actual allusion.
Mystery play: Mediaeval plays performed by members of a guild or mystery on a sacred theme.
10. **The grasshopper is a burden:** *Ecclesiastes xi.6*. (See also OBH 301, DD 51)
11. **Porter Sidus:** Sidus = star. Walden Concord: Henry Thoreau's *Walden, or Life in the Woods*, was written while he was living at Walden Pond, near Concord, Mass.
Ride and Tie principle: Two travellers with one horse between them proceed by one riding ahead, tying the horse up and walking on, while the other takes his turn on the horse when he has reached it.
14. **The Cat that walked by himself:** from Kipling's *Just So Stories*.
A thousand ages were but a morning wasted: “A thousand ages in thy sight are but a morning gone” Isaac Watts's hymn *O God Our Help in Ages Past*.
16. **Sic itur ad astra:** “Thus shall you go to the stars”, Virgil's *Aeneid* Book IX, l.641
18. **Cardinal error ... something to do with a hinge:** Lat. *Cardo*= hinge. Originally the adjective *cardinalis* meant “pertaining to a hinge”, hence “that on which something turns or depends”, thus “principal or chief”.
19. **Like the waters at Lodore:** From *The Waters of Lodore* by Robert Southey. His children ask him how do the waters come down at Lodore (one of the sights of the Lake District) and he answers with several verses, ending:
- “And rushing and flushing and brushing and gushing,
And flapping and rapping and clapping and slapping,
And curling and whirling and purling and twirling,
And thumping and plumping and bumping and jumping,
And dashing and flashing and splashing and clashing;
And so never ending, but always descending,
Sounds and motions for ever and ever are blending,
All at once and all o'er, with a mighty uproar, -
And this way the water comes down at Lodore”.
21. **Serbonian bog:** A quagmire in Egypt in which armies were said to have been swallowed up. See Milton's *Paradise Lost* Bk II 592-594.
22. **Peculiar church:** with its legs in the air: St John's, Smith Square, known as “Queen Anne's Footstool”. Now deconsecrated and used for concerts.
Marshal's baton: Napoleon considered that every soldier carried a marshal's baton in his knapsack, meaning that all were potential leaders.
23. **Pelicanish way:** the female pelican was said to nourish its young with its own blood.
Dodder, a well-known Law Lord: Does anyone have any ideas as to whom she is referring here?
26. **Glamora Tudor:** Andrew E suggests (see OBH, 142) this refers to Gloria Stuart, born 1910, in more than forty films in the '30s, who came to prominence again in 1997 when she played Old Rose in *Titanic*.
Ptarn, Paythan: Mr Holden means a Pathan, a member of the Pashto-speaking people of Afghanistan, NW Pakistan and elsewhere. According to my dictionary his first attempt at pronunciation was nearer the mark.
27. **Licentious soldiery:** “Your governor stimulates a rapacious and licentious soldiery to the personal search of women, lest these unhappy creatures should avail themselves of the protection of their sex to secure any supply for their necessities.”
Burke, Edmund: *Speech on Fox's East India Bill*, 1 Dec. 1783. [Of Warren Hastings in India] [RB]

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- 27 **Benedictus, benedicat** : (may the Blessed One give a blessing) short form of grace before a meal in common use at colleges and schools. Grace after the meal is "Benedicto, benedicatur" (Let a blessing be given by the Blessed One).
- 30 **A.R.P.**: Air Raid Precautions
- 31, 266 **Egeria**: Roman goddess of fountains and childbirth, wife of Numia Pompilius, the second king of Rome. They used to meet in a sacred grove where she taught him wise legislation and forms of public worship .
32. **Past the plunge of plummet**: From A E Houseman's *A Shropshire Lad*, XIV. "There pass the careless people' Ah, past the plunge of plummet,/In seas I cannot sound,/My heart and soul and senses,/World without end, are drowned.
And so to bed.... From the Diary of Samuel Pepys, 1633-1703
38. **The Titfield Thunderbolt**: Very popular Ealing Comedy film of 1953, starring John Gregson, Naunton Wayne, Stanley Holloway, Godfrey Tearle, George Relph, et al.
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. See OBH p.160 and elsewhere.
39. **Military service**: From 1949, on reaching the age of 18 men were expected to do National Service for 18 months, extended to 2 years at the time of the Korean War. This only ended in 1960.
41. **You Can't Take It With You**: Frank Capra film of 1938 starring Jean Arthur, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart, Ann Miller.
A Legend of Something or Other: *Gold Hair a Legend of Pornic*, by Robert Browning.
- 43 **All the party became silent (as Virgil has put it...)**: Jove speaks to the other gods in Virgil's *Aeneid* Book X:

Then thus to both replied th'imperial god,
Who shakes heav'n's axles with his awful nod.
(When he begins, the silent senate stand
With rev'rence, list'ning to the dread command:
The clouds dispel; the winds their breath restrain;
And the hush'd waves lie flatted on the main.)
- 44,46. **Sent for me to stay at the Towers: Who had come to the Towers on approval**: see *Pomfret Towers*
46. **A night Of memories and of sighs**. *Rose Aylmer*, by Walter Savage Landor.
Giles's knickers: Nobody at this date would have called a boy's short trousers anything but shorts – AT is harking back to her youth when boys wore knickerbockers.
- 52 **The sea-coast of Bohemia**: the setting for a scene in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*, though of course Bohemia doesn't have a sea-coast. Is this "situation" that the Mertons, of a suitable social station to mix with the Pomfrets, are friendly with people on the stage - Bohemians?
- 53 **Sarah Siddons**: Mrs Sarah Siddons (1755-1831), probably the one great tragedy queen that Britain ever produced.
- 56 **Mr Nandy**: No doubt related to Mr Nandy in Dickens's *Little Dorrit*. (see 231 below AND OBH 244)
Newgate frill: a beard which surrounds the cheeks and jaw – where the hangman's rope went on those about to be hanged in Newgate gaol.
- 58.. **Spittin' over the rail on board of the Crocodile**: Kipling, *Barrack Room Ballads*
61. **Proper pennies... with her back hair like an elephant**: The "bun penny" was minted from 1860-1894, introduced when bronze replaced copper coins.
62. **He remembered that summer and his own part in making it a difficult one for Lydia ...** *Peace Breaks Out*
- 63 **As good a deed as drink**: I'll starve ere I'll rob a foot further. An 'twere not as good a deed as drink, to turn true man and to leave these rogues, I am the veriest varlet that ever chewed with a tooth.
Shakespeare: *1 Henry IV*, II.ii.23 [Falstaff] [RB]
64. **Shelter from the stormy blast**: Oh God, our help iin ages past. Isaac Watts., 1719.
- 65 **People keeping women's bodies in a cupboard for months....** The notorious John Christie had been hanged in 1953 after murdering eight women and hiding the bodies in his house at 10 Rillington Place, Notting Hill.
- 71 **Miss Pemberton's brow was sad**:

But the Consul's brow was sad,
And the Consul's speech was low,
And darkly looked he at the wall,
And darkly at the foe.
"Their van will be upon us
Before the bridge goes down;
And if they once may win the bridge,
What hope to save the town?"

Macaulay, Thomas Babington: *The Lays of Ancient Rome* (1842), *Horatius*, 26 [RB]

Had this day lighted a fire ...: Latimer's words to Ridley at their martyrdom, "We shall this day light a candle, in England, as shall never be put out."
- 73 **Saxon and Norman and Dane are we**:

Sea-Kings' daughter from over the sea,
Alexandra!

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- Saxon and Norman and Dane are we,
But all of us Danes in our welcome of thee,
 Alexandra!
- Tennyson, Alfred: *A Welcome* (1863) [RB] Princess Alexandra of Denmark married Queen Victoria's eldest son, later Edward VII, in 1863)
75. **appearing at the door like Retribution:** "Punishment comes limping. Retribution comes slowly, but surely". *Pede poena claudo*, Horace, *Maxims*
76. **... he smelt a rat in the arras:** generally assumed to be from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, but "I smell a rat" comes from Samuel Butler, *Hudibras*, whereas Hamlet (III. iv.2) says "How now! A rat? Dead, for a ducat, dead!" and stabs Polonius, who is hiding behind the arras. (Arras = a wall hanging)
77. **Miss Languish** Lydia Languish is the heroine of Sheridan's *The Rivals*, 1775.
78. **a-hollering and a-bellering:** 'What are you a hollaring and a bellaring for here, young man?' says she. (The fat landlady) from Thackeray's *The Rose and the Ring*, Chapter XIV. Thanks to RB for this. +ESR 133
- All was gas and gaiters:** "She is come at last – at last- and all is gas and gaiters" says the gentleman in small-clothes in chapter 49 of *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens.
- Reculer pour mieux sauter:** to draw back in order to make a better jump – to give way a little in order to take up a stronger position.
79. **Romney:** George Romney, 1734-1802, portrait painter. He did many portraits of Nelson's Lady Hamilton. See also 82.
82. **Divers et ondoyant:** "Certes, c'est un subject merueilleusement vain, divers et ondoyant, que l'homme" - "Truly man is a vain, diverse and undulating character". Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*, Book 1, chapter 1, (1580)
- Lady Hamilton attitude:** Lady Hamilton was famous for her "Attitudes", performances where she posed as figures in classical mythology, but previously, when she was mistress to Sir Charles Greville, he introduced her to George Romney, who painted her many times, often as personifications of allegorical, religious or mythical subjects.
83. **Crumlinwallinwer – Mewlinwillinwodd:** Parodies of Welsh by Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, Chapter 30, where Mrs Woodcourt recites Welsh poetry to Esther Summerson. See also OBH 282
85. **the bat between the birds and the animals:** from *Aesop's Fables*. In the war between the birds and the beasts the bat always fought on the winning side, so he was banished from both and had to hide in dark places by day and fly alone by night.
88. **Kamarad:** see 1.
91. **sub-deb:** a girl who had not yet "come out", ie been presented at Court, which still happened in those days.
93. **One of those set in authority:** "Let us pray for the King and all who are set in authority under him", from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
94. **Juno-like wrath and indignation:** Juno, the wife of Jupiter, and queen of heaven, was depicted as a war goddess. Her wrath was one of the reasons for Aeneas's difficulties in his voyage from Troy to Italy in the Aeneid.
- Brassishine, Brassiglow, Brassglitter:** Brasso, Glitto – anything else? Was ther something called Shinio, or am I imagining it?
95. **Sheepskins:** Woolworths
... give her thoughts a tongue:
 Give thy thoughts no tongue,
 Nor any unproportioned thought his act.
 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* I.iii.59 [Polonius to Laertes]
96. **She isn't exactly out.... :** see 91, although in 1953, even though presentation at Court still took place, people didn't talk about being "out".
Galop: This was a 19th century dance. Here again, in 1953 it would have been most unlikely, though Angela might have danced it in her youth.
97. **Gone like Alexander:**
 O, saw ye bonnie Lesley,
 As she gaed o'er the border?
 She's gane like Alexander
 To spread her conquests further,
 To see her is to love her,
 And love her but forever,
 For Nature made her what she is,
 And ne'er made sic anither.
 Burns, Robert: *Bonnie Lesley* (1792) [RB]
98. **"A heel-tap, a heel-tap, I never could bear it," said Jessica emptying a thimbleful of sherry down her throat.**
The glee in Peacock, T.L.: *Headlong Hall* (1816), ch.V: The Dinner [RB] heel-tap: A small amount remaining in a drinking vessel after most of it has been drunk.
Poem about someone having such delicate skin that one could see her throat glowing when the wine went down ???? (could it be Browning?)
Gold-beaters' skin: membrane used to separate two sheets of gold that are being beaten into gold leaf.
100. **motley to the view:** Shakespeare, *Sonnet CX*.

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- 101 **rogue and vagabond:** see 115 below
One glance of that eye so bright and black:
For each glance of the eye so bright and black.
Though I keep with heart's endeavour,--
Your voice, when you wish the snowdrops back,
Though it stay in my soul for ever!—
The Lost Mistress, Robert Browning
- 105 **A world too wide for my shrunk shanks:**
“His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shanks” Jacques’s “All the World’s a Stage” speech from Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, II,vii
- 106 **Pythonic:** relating to Pythia, the priestess who delivered oracles at Delphi
- 107 **While they were all thus a merry-making:**
“But while they were all a merry-making/A cat and her kittens came tumbling in”
A Frog he Would a Wooing Go (Nursery Rhyme)
- 108 **Belted earlThe rank was but the guinea stamp:**
“The rank is but the guinea’s stamp;
The man’s the gowd for a’ that!...
A prince can mak a belted knight”
Robert Burns, *For a’ that and a’ that*.
“Belted” refers to the belt and spurs given to knights at their investiture.
- 110 **Visiting cards:** see 300 below.
- 111 **Not only in her step Was the goddess now truly manifest:**
See Jutland Cottage, p. 258:
*Dixit, et avertens rosea cervice refulsit,
Ambrosiaequae comae divinum vertice odorem
Spiravere, pedes vestis defluxit ad imos,
Et vera incessu patuit dea.*
(She said no more and as she turned away there was a bright glimpse of the rosy glow of her neck, and from her ambrosial head of hair a heavenly fragrance wafted; her dress flowed down right to her feet, and in her walk it showed, she was in truth a goddess.) Virgil: *Aeneid*, i.402
- unpack our heart with words....**
Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave,
That I, the son of a dear father murder’d,
Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,
Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with words,
And fall a-cursing, like a very drab,
A scullion!
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, ii.[619] [RB]
- He overlooked the solecism:** At Eton a term is called a half. See p.206.
- Tragedy, comedy and all the rest of that speech:**
“The best actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, tragical-comical-historical-pastoral, scene individable, or poem unlimited.”
Polonius, in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, Act II,ii.
- 112 **groundlings:** Audience in the cheapest part of the theatre (standing on bare ground in front of the stage) in Shakespeare’s time.
Peri ... Paradise: *Paradise and the Peri* is one of a series of oriental tales in verse in Thomas Moore’s *Lalla Rookh*, 1817.
- “**Twill be some dozen or sixteen lines which I would set down for you**”: Hamlet and the First Player in Act II, ii again.
- 115 **Tertium Quid:** A third party which shall be nameless.
Let the Bright Cherubim: Let the Bright Seraphim, aria from Handel’s oratio *Samson*
Rogues and vagabonds: a term used since 1572 to denote beggars and vagrants.
- 116 **Mr Frank Churchill, with a second, slightly but correctly taken:** Jane Austen, *Emma*, Volume 2, Chapter 8.
Up guards, and at ‘em: allegedly said by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo.
- 117 **Nay come, let’s go together:** Two Shakespeare sources – *Hamlet*, 1, v, and *Cymbeline*, 1, iii
- 119 **Jenny kissed me:**
Say I’m weary, say I’m sad
Say that health and wealth have missed me
Say whatever else, but add
Jenny kissed me.
Leigh Hunt, *Jenny Kissed Me*
- 124-5 **After the water party?** I think there is an anomaly here.
- 126 **Morlandesque:** George Morland (1763-1804) specialised in rustic genre scenes and animals. He led a profligate life and died of drink.

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- 127 **Andrew Fairservice:** from Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*, described as a sanctimonious, self-important, cowardly rascal, one of Scott's great characters.
- 128 **the Mede and Persian code of the nursery:** unalterable laws. "according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not." *Daniel*, vi.8.
- 131 **Maze-in-the-house:** from *Henry Esmond*, Chapter 8, by William Makepeace Thackeray. Lord Castlewood is drunk and is trying to say "did you ever see such maids in the house". Also HR13 Saturday? See 124-5
- 132 **have me up before the beak:** Beak is slang for magistrate.
- 136 **Silver cup, won three years running:** see *Growing Up*
- 141 **ante-chapel:** the partially enclosed western part of a chapel, leading to the chapel proper.
- 143 **Minor ... like the cigarettes:** De Reszke Minors cigarettes were advertised with the slogan "Mine's a Minor".
- 144 **A happy father made:** Younger than she are happy mothers made. Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, Act I, scene ii
Gone, alas, like our youth, too soon: "Oh, for one of those hours of gladness, gone, alas, like our youth, too soon", *The Kerry Dance*, Irish folksong.
- 145 **noise was unconfined:**
On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing Hours with flying feet.
Byron, Lord: *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1816), c.III.st.22 [RB]
- 146 **Great actress ... used to have her words pinned up on the stage:** Ellen Terry
- 148 **So the silence was, So was the hush:** "Ah, so the quiet was! So was the hush!" *Bacchanalia, or The New Age*, by Matthew Arnold.
- 150 **Félibristes:** Members of Félibrige, a movement begun in 1854 by a group of French writers and others for the restoration of Provençal as a living language.
Amitié par amour ... : part of the tradition of courtly love followed by the troubadours in the south of France in the early 12th century.
Guibert le Biau: presumably biau = beau in modern French
- 153 **AFS trousers:** The Auxiliary Fire Service was formed in 1938 and mobilised on 1 September 1939. In 1941 it merged with regular fire services to form the National Fire Service.
- 154 **Luke & Huxleys:** Marks & Spencer (Luke/ and Mark, evangelists). Huxley/Spencer: I am indebted to Hilary T for explaining to me that Spencer and Huxley were both involved with Darwin in the great 19th century debate on evolution.
His old wounds bled...anew: And makes my old wounds bleed anew
Waller, Edmund: *The Self Banished* (1645) [RB]
- 155 **Puss in the Ring:** a traditional children's game, though I can only find rules for Puss in the Corner, which doesn't involve sitting on the floor.
- 156 **KCMG:** Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George – at one time an honour for British subjects serving abroad or in British overseas possessions, but now largely awarded to members of the Diplomatic and Foreign service and for administrative service in the Commonwealth.
- 160 **Nothing I couldn't repeat on the housetops:** "What ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." *Matthew* 10:27
- 162, 175 **British-Needler's Society:** Presumably something on the lines of pyramidology, but relating to Cleopatra's needle, the ancient Egyptian obelisk brought from Alexandria to the Thames Embankment.
- 163 **Paladin:** one of the twelve peers who accompanied Charlemagne, not one of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table. Presumably we are all meant to know that this is historically inaccurate, and that she is also confusing both with the Crusaders, who wore tunics with a red cross, and were many hundreds of years later.
- 165 **Langue d'Oc and Langue d'Oil:** The former is the old Provençal language, spoken south of the River Loire, the latter the forerunner of modern French, spoken to the north. "Yes" was "oc" in Provençal, and "oil" (later oui) in the north.
- 166 **a most interesting book:** presumably Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time* (truth is the daughter of time).
Victor Yugo: Victor Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Miss Dunsford's French pronunciation leaves much to be desired.
Quilp: A hideous dwarf in Charles Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop*.
- 169 **The Auld Folk at Hame:** "of the absent ane they're telling, the auld folk by the fire", *My Ain Folk*, Scottish ballad. Or does she mean the Negro spiritual, *The Old Folks at Home*.
- 170 **Poole Carey/Pole Caroo:** Pole Carew is not pronounced as it is spelt. It is one of those names like Menzies, Cholmondeley and Marjoribanks! Even more confusing, the present President of the Royal Horticultural Society appears to be called Carew Pole, though his ancestors were Pole Carew.
Dulce ridentem, dulce loquentem, Lalagen: *Dulce ridentem Lalagen amabo, Dulce loquentem*. Still shall I love Lalage and her sweet laughter, Lalage and her sweet prattle. Horace, *Odes*, xxii.1
Summer is a-coming in: Sumer is icumen in, llude sing cucu. Mediaeval ballad, sung as a round or played on the recorder by most of us in our schooldays.
- 172 **The hour has come and the man! :** The hour is come, but not the man
Scott, Sir Walter: *The Heart of Midlothian* (1818) ch.4, heading. [RB]
Fight, gentlemen of England! Fight, bold yeomen!

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- Draw, archers, draw your arrows to the head!
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood!"
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves!
Shakespeare: *Richard III*, V.iii.338 (Richard) [RB]
- 174 **Beefine, Oxone, Gravylene:** Bovril, Oxo, and Gravylene is probably Bisto.
- 176 **Puy des Stryges, Pays du Grand Gargou:** Strygia has something to do with vampires, and gargouiller = to gurgle. I'm sure there is some very amusing joke here.
Nomen et praeterea nihil: A name with nothing attached to it.
- 177 **Vinitono:** Wincarnis is or was a "tonic wine". It used to be called Liebig's Meat Extract, and was thought to be medicinal and suitable for teetotallers (though it wasn't non-alcoholic).
- 179 **Locum tenens:** "holder of the place" = someone acting temporarily for, eg, a doctor or a clergyman.
His bosom's lord sitting sadly in his throne: "My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne/And all this day an unaccustom'd spirit/Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts." Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Act V, scene i.
- 182 **Much ado about nothing, and full of sound and a certain amount of fury signifying nothing:** Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, of course, and "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing", *Macbeth*, Act 5, v.
Cleopatra's Needle: see 175 above.
King Charles's Head: an obsession, from Mr Dick in Dickens's *David Copperfield*, who couldn't say or write anything without King Charles's Head coming into it.
- 183 **Bishop at the Battle of Hastings:** The Bayeux tapestry is supposed to have been commissioned by Bishop Odo, William the Conqueror's half-brother, to commemorate the Norman victory.
- 184 **At least an interdict:** an ecclesiastical punishment in the Roman Catholic Church, restricting participation in or performance of certain sacraments and services. One step down from excommunication.
- 186 **a thane or someone, like Ivanhoe:** Thanes were hereditary landholders ranking below earls. Ivanhoe, in the novel of that name by Sir Walter Scott, was of noble Saxon birth.
Cassiopeia: mother of Andromeda and wife of the King of Ethiopia. She was sent to the heavens as a punishment for boasting of her beauty, as a constellation which takes the form of a woman sitting in a chair and holding up both arms in supplication.
A believer in the starry heavens and man's moral law: Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily they are reflected on: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.
Kant, Immanuel: *The Critique of Practical Reason*, conclusion [These words are engraved on his grave – RB]
- 189 **As the goose, Was a goose:** In Johnny Crow's garden. Children's book of that name by L Leslie Brooke, 1903
- 191 **Black's = White's** (founded 1693)
Westminster Hall: The oldest part of the Palace of Westminster, built by William Rufus in 1097, and where the forerunner of Parliament sat.
- 192 **Pre-Raphaelite discomfort; sofas apparently hewn from solid blocks of wood ...:** see AT's description of the furniture at her grandfather's house in *Three Houses*.
- 194 **The silence grows:** Verse XXXII of the 53 verses of Robert Browning's *By the Fire-Side*.
- 198 **Brock's benefit:** A fireworks display held every Thursday night from 1865 until 1935 at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham by Brock's, the fireworks manufacturer.
Albany: A block of bachelors' chambers in Piccadilly.
The Second Mrs Tanqueray: a play, 1893, by Sir Arthur Wing Pinero.
Beechwood = Broadwood
- 199 **Casterbridge:** *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, by Thomas Hardy, 1886
- 201 **Alles Wahn = all illusion.** Wagner was influenced by the philosophers Kant and Schopenhauer, and this has something to do with the latter. I think "that old bore" may be Parsifal.
The quickness of the 'and deceives the heye: This can be found in Chapter 2 of *Whose Body* by Dorothy L Sayers, 1923, but I think she too may be quoting, possibly from a music-hall song?
Altogether, Boys, and a long pull and a strong pull: Dickens's *David Copperfield*, Chapter 30, but it looks as if it is a quotation from a sea-shanty.
- 202 **Lord Burleigh's nod:** Lord Burleigh is supposed to be too full of state affairs to utter a word; he shakes his head and Puff explains what he means. Sheridan, RB: *The Critic* (1779), III.i. [RB]
- 203 **Margaret:** formerly Margaret Tebben – the story of her engagement to Laurence Dean is in *August Folly*.
- 206 **Haff, harf:** see 111 above.
- 209 **Tell the truth and shame the devil:** "tell truth and shame the devil," Shakespeare *Henry IV Pt I*, Act 3.i.
Pinching things from Kipling:
Nearer he tottered and nearer, with paws like hands that pray
From brow to jaw that steel-shod paw, it ripped my face away! Kipling, Rudyard: *The Truce of the Bear* (1898), st.8,13,15 [Kipling's answer to the proposal for European disarmament – RB]
Progress of Poesy: an ode by Thomas Gray
Mow-Mow: The Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya took place in 1953.
- 210 **Thou art too tall for my possessing:** "Farewell! Thou art too dear for my possessing" Shakespeare, *Sonnet* 87.

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- 211 **The Ghost Goes West:** Film, 1935, directed by René Clair, with Robert Donat, Elsa Lanchester, etc. etc. An American businessman dismantles a Scottish castle and ships it to America together with its resident ghost.
- 213 **Gotha Almanac:** Almanach de Gotha, a directory of European nobility published in French since 1763
- 214 **Infang and outfang:** the right of the lord of the manor to hang his own or someone else's man if caught committing a crime within his jurisdiction. (See CC 214)
Cedric the Saxon's thralls: Scott, Sir Walter: *Ivanhoe* (1820) [RB]
Custom of the country: Title of a 17th C play by Fletcher and Massinger, later used by Edith Wharton for the title of a novel in 1913.
Louts from the city who had tried to spoil the skating....: see *The Headmistress*.
- 217 **must not sin his mercies:** The phrase "to sin one's mercies – to be ungrateful for one's blessings or good fortune – is found in 19th C literature (beginning with Scott's *Redgauntlet* (1824) and was familiar to Fowler (1926) and Gowers (1965) but now seems largely to have dropped out of use. [RB]
ceaseless round of unrelenting toil: sounds like Gray's *Elegy*, but it isn't.
The fault is probably in ourselves, not in our stars: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings." Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, I, ii.
- 219, **China ribbon bookmarkers:** presumably a special type of ribbon used in bookbinding. I have searched sites for bookbinding suppliers but have only found Italian cotton ribbon.
- 219-220**The Monument:** A column of Portland stone, 202 ft high, near London Bridge, designed by Sir Christopher Wren to commemorate the Great Fire of London of 1666.
Cleopatra's needle: see 175, 182.
- 226 **Professor Tristram, who goes hunting in churches to find frescoes that aren't there:** any ideas as to who this might be?
Lovely baroque ante-chapel...: baroque OK, Victorian Gothic definitely not, in 1953. AT would probably be horrified at the way tastes have changed and at the subjects of some of our AT Society Outings.
- 227 **some of the old notepaper:** writing paper, surely! (see U and Non-U, Nancy Mitford, etc, etc)
- 226 **Roger Hickson:** Is he a character in Trollope?
Patronage, by Maria Edgeworth, 1814
- 231 **Old Nandy:** there is a character in Dickens's *Little Dorrit* called John Edward Nandy.
- 237 **Many a poacher he'd restored To his friends and his relations:** "Many a burglar I've restored To his friends and his relations" W S Gilbert, *Trial by Jury*
- 238 **A slight Scene of Domestic Life:** I thought this referred to George Eliot, *Scenes of Clerical Life*, 1858, but it could be *Scenes of Domestic Life*, Chapter 7 of *Bureaucracy*, by Honoré de Balzac.
- 241 **Anubis:** The jackal-headed Egyptian god – why?
- 244 **Left undone one single thing ...:** We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. The General Confession, *Book of Common Prayer*.
- 245 **Captive of her bow and spear:**
[From LPWC]:
While this allusion has links to II Kings 6:22, "Whom thou has taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow", the more direct link is to Sir Walter Scott's (1771-1832) *Ivanhoe* (1819), Ch. 24, where Sir Brian de Bois-Gilbert responds to a rebuke from Rebecca: "The eyes of the Templar flashed fire at this reproof – 'Hearken,' he said, 'Rebecca; I have hitherto spoken mildly to thee, but now my language shall be that of a conqueror. Thou art the captive of my bow and spear, subject to my will by the laws of all nations; nor will I abate an inch of my right, or abstain from taking by violence what thou refusest to entreaty or necessity'
Lohengrin: One of Wagner's heroes. Son of Parsifal – he appears in a boat drawn by a swan.
Saddle of real mutton: Meat was still rationed at this date – no wonder no one liked to enquire into its provenance.
Dhoidreagh O'Seianmhe: This certainly doesn't translate into Bert Hobson – more likely Derek (or Deirdre/?) Johnson.
- 246 **Ich bin sehr leicht beleidigt:** I am very easily offended.
The Only Way: A stage adaptation in 1906 of Dickens's *The Tale of Two Cities*. But Lady Pomfret is probably thinking of the film, directed by Herbert Wilcox in 1926, starring Sir John Martin Harvey and Frederick Cooper.
- 247 **Separators of Companions and Terminators of Delight:** In the *Arabian Nights* this is death – in other Arabic literature it is Allah.
Mrs Joram turned everything she did in the needlework line to favour and to prettiness:
Thought and affliction, passion, hell itself,
She turns to favour and to prettiness.
Shakespeare: *Hamlet*, IV.v.[187] [Laertes, of Ophelia] [RB]
- 250 **Red Tape and Sealing Wax Department:** Popularly supposed to be invented by Dickens, but it's Thackeray, see *The Bedford-Row Conspiracy* and *The Book of Snobs*.
- 251 **mèche:** forelock
de gustibus et coloribus non disputandum: one should not argue over matters of taste and colour.
- 254 **Morland:** see 126 above.
- 255 **dinner party here before the war:** see *Cheerfulness Breaks In*
- 257 **The words of a Shropshire lad:**
"Look not in my eyes, for fear

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They mirror true the sight I see”
A E Housman, *A Shropshire Lad*, XV

I know where I'm going:

“I know where I'm going,
I know who's going with me
The Lord knows who I'll love
But the de'il knows who I'll marry” Traditional Scottish song.

There is always Friendliness: sounds like a 19th century novel?

Amitié carrée: literally ‘friendship squared’ – can't trace the origin.

258 **If ever I become a mourning widow:** Is this a reference to something in particular? There is a variety of geranium called Mourning Widow, but of a much later date than this.

262 **Entering into the Sere:** “my way of life Is fall'n into the sere, the yellow leaf: Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, V, 20
Bolton sheeting: cheap cotton from Bolton in Lancashire, presumably sold for making sheets. Bolton sheeting is mentioned in H G Wells *The History of Mr Polly*, and black Bolton sheeting was used for blackout material in WWII.

265 **half-quarter day:** mid-way between the quarter days, ie in February, May, August and November, sometimes said to be Candlemas, May Day, Lammass and All Hallows.

266 **Egeria:** see 31.

267 **Does truth sound bitter, As one at first believes?:** *The Lost Mistress*, Robert Browning.

271 **She could an if she would:** “We could an if we would”, Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, I, v.

274 **Time Recaptured:** Proust's, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* can be translated as this.

Band of rather elderly brothers: “We few, we happy few, we band of brothers”, Shakespeare, *Henry V*, iv, ii

276 **Clergyman before the war, somewhere in East Anglia:** The Reverend Harold Davidson, Rector of Stiffkey, in Norfolk.

High Tide on the Coast of Lincoln: Jean Ingelow's poem *High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire*, 1895.

Statuary by the serpentine: The Elfin Oak in Kensington Gardens, a 900-year-old tree stump carved and painted in 1930 with gnomes and small animals, now a listed building.

276-7 **quite dreadful play by the late M Maeterlinck ...** There are no Dead: Maeterlinck's *The Blue Bird* (1906) is about seeking for happiness, and as I remember from Noel Streatfeild's *Ballet Shoes*, contains the line “There are no dead”.

Grim Tyrant Mors: “Hell's Grim Tyrant, Mors”, is from a translation of the *Hymns of Aurelius Prudentius* by Martin R Pope, 1905. Was Pope a friend of Professor Mackail, and could Aurelius Prudentius have anything to do with the Analects of Procrastinator?

Joined the majority: as well as being a euphemism for having died, this can also mean that someone has been made a major in the army. But as AT says, becoming a general is not referred to as generality.

278 **felo de se:** Anglo-Latin for suicide

Bardell v Pickwick: Chapter 35 of Dickens's *Pickwick Papers* relates the trial of Mr Pickwick, in which the chemist tries to get out of being a juror because he has nobody to run his shop except an apprentice who is going to get all the drugs muddled up.

Pity the ignorance of such a one and despise her: Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*, Chapter 15. Fanny Squeers writes an untruthful and illiterate letter to Nicholas's wicked uncle Ralph, finishing with the PS “I pity his ignorance and despise him”.

279 **St Boscobel's Home:** Boscobel doesn't appear on any list of saints, though he sounds plausible.

284 **triumph of hope over not only experience but plain hard fact:**

The triumph of hope over experience [Of a man who remarried immediately after the death of a wife with whom he had been very unhappy.]

Johnson, Samuel: *Boswell, Life of Johnson* 1770 [RB]

293 **Gaily the Troubadour:** title of a popular song of the 1820s by Thomas Haynes Bailey. Bear in mind that “gay” didn't have its present connotations either in the 1820s or in the 1950s.

Vidame des Egouts: My French dictionary helpfully translates Vidame as *vidame*, but another source informs me that vidames appointed bishops, and that a vidame is to a bishop what a viscount is to a count. Hope that helps! An égout is a drain or sewer. In any case the Vidame des Egouts sounds thoroughly unpleasant.

296 **slow to chide and swift to bless:** from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, “Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven”, words by Henry Francis Lyte, tune by John Goss.

“iron-sleet of arrowy shower”: Thomas Gray's poem *The Fatal Sisters* is based on a Norse song to be found in *Burnt Njal*, a favourite of the Mackail and Thirkell children.

Iceland...Old Uncle Tom Fastnet and all: A combination of the radio weather forecast and Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, and Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all from the song *Widdicombe Fair*.

Bulldog breed: Britons, from a music-hall song, *Sons of the Sea, All British born*, by Arthur Reece.

The progress of Jean Baptiste Cavalletto through Bleeding Heart Yard: Charles Dickens, *Little Dorrit*, Chapter 25 – and it's John Baptist Cavalletto, known as Mr Baptist.

299 **Rest in the Lord:** Oh! Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him/And he shall give thee thy heart's desires. Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

300 **I've got the copperplate of my cards:** She means visiting cards. It would have been very unlikely that these would have been used in 1953 unless she was very much higher on the social scale.

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- 302 **time galloped withal:** Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, III, ii
- 303 **Nothing common was or mean:** –
“He nothing common did or mean
Upon that memorable scene
But with his keener eye
The axe's edge did try.”
Andrew Marvell, *Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland*, l.57
Somewhat unsuitable in the circumstances, as it describes the execution of Charles I.
- Mistress of the Robes:** The Duchess of Devonshire
- A Queen from the far Pacific:** Queen Salote of Tonga
- Our Great Prime Minister:** Winston Churchill
- 305 **Bishop Hatto:** the archbishop of Mainz who during a famine in 970 assembled a number of poor people in a barn and burnt them to death to save food for the rich. He was punished by being eaten to death by rats. Robert Southey, *God's Judgement on a Wicked Bishop*.
- Rolling/roving eye:** I think this must be a reference to Thomas Moore's *Irish Melodies*:
“My Lesbia hath a beaming eye,
But no one knows for whom it beameth;
Right and left its arrows fly;
But what they aim at no one dreameth.”
- 307 **The dreamer Merlin and his prophecies ... :** Shakespeare's *Henry IV Pt I*, i.
- Slime draught:** Charles Dickens, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Chapter 25. Mrs Prig, the day nurse, hands over to Mrs Gamp, the night nurse, and says that the patient took his last slime draught at seven.
- 311 **Slightly but correctly taken:** See 116 above.
- Descant, (a word of whose meaning we are still not quite sure):** Collins dictionary has: a decorative counterpoint added above a basic melody.
- 312 **Tales of Hoffman:** At the end of Act III the courtesan's lover arrives on the scene to find her escaping with another admirer. I think there may also be some business with camellias.
- 314 **Funeral March of a Marionette:** by Charles Gounod – soon after this to become known as the signature tune of “Alfred Hitchcock Presents”.
- 315 **Most high and disposedly:** said by the Scottish Ambassador about Queen Elizabeth I's dancing.
- Atterleer:** he means *atelier*.
- Quite in a fine frenzy as Shakespeare says:**
“The poet's eye, I a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven.”
Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, V, i.
- If those lips could only speak:**
“If those lips could only speak,
If those eyes could only see
If those beautiful golden tresses
Were there in reality.
If you'd only take my hand
As you did when you took my name,
But it's only a beautiful picture
In a beautiful golden frame.”
I think it's an old music hall song, but about this time it was being sung by Ronnie Ronalde and others.
- 317 **The Honeysuckle and the Bee:** another old music hall song, Albert H Fitz, 1901.
- The Magelonelieder:** song cycle by Brahms, op.33, from poetry by Tiecke.
- Homeward took his solitary way:** A combination of Milton and Gray: Adam and Eve “Through Eden took their solitary way” in Milton's *Paradise Lost* Bk.xii. (the end of the poem), and “The ploughman homeward plods his weary way” Gray, Thomas: *Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard* (1742-50), l. 320.
- 320 **Wild surmise:** from Keats, John, *Sonnets* (1816) On First Looking into Chapman's Homer.
England did win the Ashes in 1953, winning 4 Test Matches against Australia's 1.