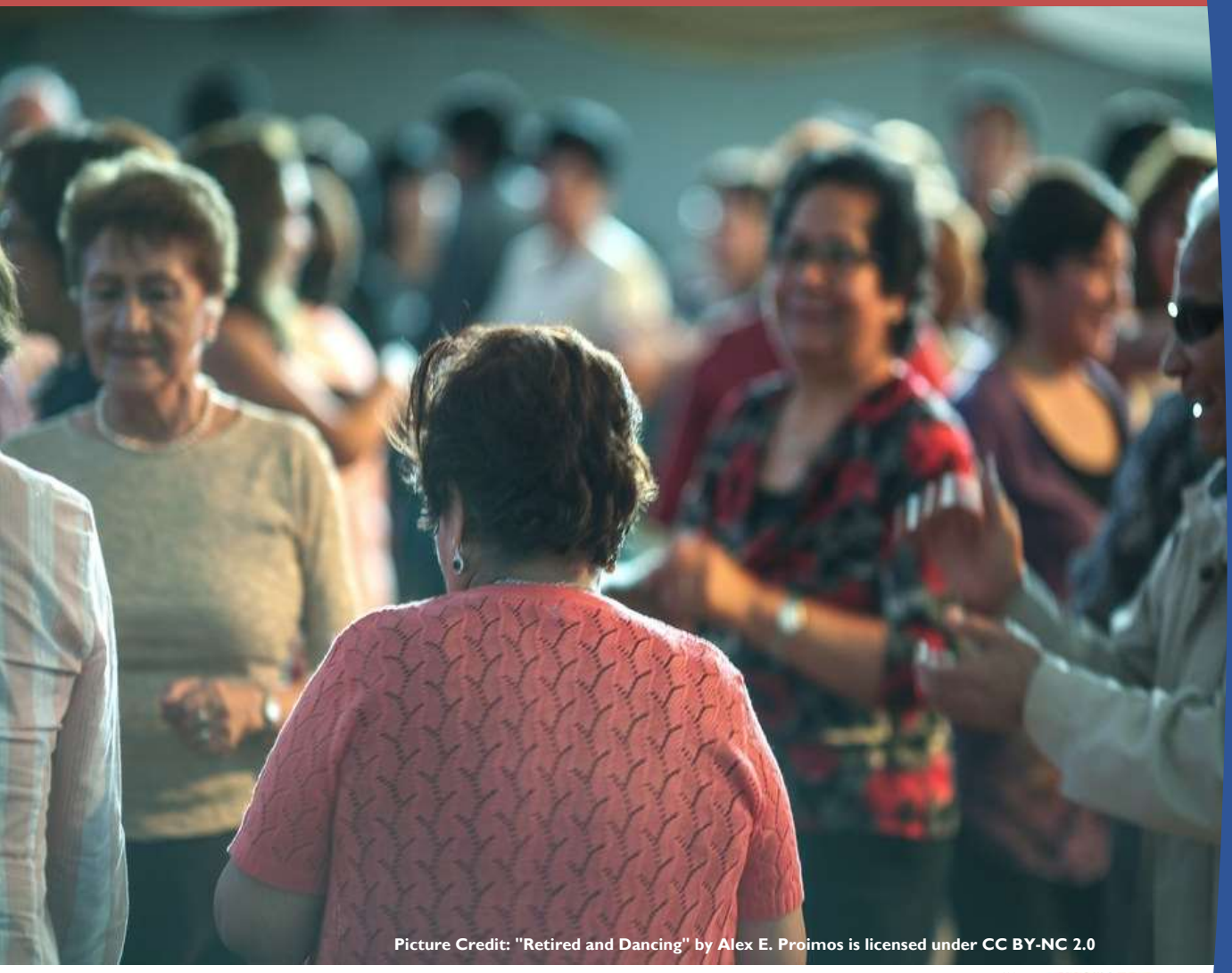
Nil *Desperandum*

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club

ISSUE 29 August 2022 Never Alone



Picture Credit: "Retired and Dancing" by Alex E. Proimos is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

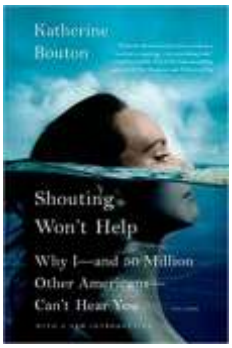
Index:

Continued:

Nil *Desperandum*

ISSUE 29 *August 2022* *Never Alone*

Shouting Won't Help



This selection is from a book with that title (pages 31-35), published by Sarah Crichton Books, Copyright 2013 © by Katherine Bouton (author).

In most cases, when our hearing is impaired, it is because of damage to ear hair. Although that damage becomes evident when we are older, it often relates to damage incurred when we are young:

"By far the most common [condition that destroys hearing is] exposure to either long-term moderately loud noise or sudden very loud noise. ... What actually happens in the inner ear when it is exposed to ... loud noise?

"The inner ear is home to the cochlea, a bony spiral cavity about the size of a pea, which turns on itself two and a half times and looks like a snail shell ('cochlea' comes from the Latin term for 'snail'). Sound waves, or vibrations, enter the cochlea (having been given a boost by the middle ear's three interconnected bones, including the stapes, the smallest bone in the body). As this happens, fluid in the cochlea sets in motion the thousands of hair cells located in the organ of Corti, deep in the inner ear.

"The hair cells in the organ of Corti are organized into four rows. The three outer rows of cells pick up the movement and change it into a mechanical impulse, which amplifies the signal – now traveling through the cochlear bath and thus dulled, as sound would be if you were underwater. The inner hair cells, in a single row, each respond to a particular frequency. They are activated to release a neurotransmitter to the auditory nerve fibers, which also number in the thousands and also each respond to a different frequency. The neurons transmit the sound via the auditory nerve to the brain, ultimately reaching the auditory cortex, which translates the sound into something that we recognize as speech or birdsong or a car passing on the road. The translation that occurs in the auditory cortex allows us to distinguish between similar speech sounds like 'ah' and 'eh,' 'b' and 'p,' 'ch' and 'sh.' How the cortex does this is beyond the scope of this book. Suffice it to say that you hear with your brain. The auditory system merely transmits the signals. But if the signals can't get to the brain, then the brain can't do its job.

"In a lot of deafness, the first things you lose are the outer hair cells. The inner hair cells may be undamaged, but because you've lost the mechanical response of the outer cells, the cochlea is not as sensitive, not as fine-tuned in its response. The result is that some neurons respond to more frequencies than they should, sending a muddled signal to the brain. The primary damage is to speech recognition. 'Bet' sounds like 'pet,' 'church' sounds like 'shirts.' Brad May, of Johns Hopkins, calls this 'brain deafness.' ...

"[This] type of hearing loss [is] often referred to as nerve damage but [it is] not, technically, since [it doesn't] affect the acoustic nerve, only the hair cells that communicate with it. ...

"A person with mild to moderate hearing loss can still hear in a quiet room or other favorable environment. But when too many frequencies are destroyed, he or she may not understand speech, even under the best of conditions. The muddled transmissions also make it difficult for the auditory system to filter unwanted noise: the din and clatter of a restaurant, the engine of a bus, the hum of a fan or air conditioner. Intrusive noise may be simply two or three people talking at once, creating a background sound of indistinguishable voices, or it may be a large, resonant room echoing sound off the walls. ... Since hearing aids aren't as good as the human ear at screening out unwanted noise, using them can be frustrating, especially in noisy environments.

"Assuming my hair cells are damaged, they probably look flattened, like a field of wheat after a hailstorm. ... Each cell in those four rows of cells (the single inner row, which communicates with the brain, and three outer rows) is topped by a tiny standing hair, or stereocilium. The hair cells, [audiologist Sharon Kujawa] said, are 'connected to each other with fine little filaments, so that when sound comes in and they bend, it allows currents to flow through.' This movement triggers the release of the neurotransmitter substances. After intense noise exposure, the hair cells lie flat. If the noise is not too loud, they eventually right themselves. The threshold shift is temporary.

"But Kujawa and [M. Charles] Liberman have found that even though the threshold reverts to normal, permanent damage may have occurred. ... [They] found that the damage occurs not in the hair cells themselves, which may recover, but in the spiral ganglion cells (SGCs – the cells in the cochlear neurons). The hair cells communicate with SGCs in the process of passing information to the brain.

"Although hearing is restored, the damage is done almost instantaneously. ... Even though we think of this kind of hearing loss as related to ageing, the truth is that ears are most vulnerable to noise damage when they're young. ... Teenagers – with their ubiquitous iPods and MP3 players, not to mention noise exposure from video games, loud stadiums, and rock concerts – are experiencing these loud noises at an especially vulnerable age. Another vulnerable population, new-born infants, might suffer damage from continuous noise in a neonatal ICU or from a white noise machines parents sometimes use to help fussy infants sleep."

Book Reviews

- https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/03/books/review/shouting-wont-help-by-katherine-bouton.html
- https://www.bookbrowse.com/bb_briefs/detail/index.cfm/ezine_preview_number/8071/shouting-wont-help
- https://bookpage.com/reviews/7774-katherine-bouton-say-it-again-thats-my-bad-ear-diet-health#.YKpFp6hKiIl
- https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2013/02/18/book-review-shouting-won-help-why-and-million-other-americans-can-hear-you-katherine-bouton/dnamJtriY3ExTEblhODqFL/story.html

About the Author of *Shouting Won't Help***

Katherine Bouton is a former senior editor at *The New York Times*, where she worked for the magazine, the *Book Review*, and the daily Books section. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and many other magazines and reviews. She is currently a regular reviewer and contributor to *Science Times*. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (here).

* Description above derived from Amazon.co.uk

Comment from Martin Pollins

Delanceyplace is a FREE brief daily email with an excerpt or quote they view as interesting or noteworthy, offered with commentary to provide context. There is no theme, except that most excerpts will come from a non-fiction work, mainly works of history, and they hope will have a more universal relevance than simply the subject of the book from which they came. And there is not necessarily an endorsement, and in some cases an excerpt may be particularly controversial, and Delanceyplace may disagree with some or all of it, but nevertheless deem it worth noting.

Eclectic excerpts delivered to your email every day

Delanceyplace.com

Russell's Teapot

Russell's Teapot is an analogy postulated by the philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872–1970), to illustrate, the philosophic burden of proof lies upon a person making *unfalsifiable claims*, rather than shifting the burden of disproof to others. Russell specifically applied his analogy in the context of religion. In a commissioned but never published article* Russell wrote in 1952:

"Many orthodox people speak as though it were the business of sceptics to disprove received dogmas rather than of dogmatists to prove them. This is, of course, a mistake. If I were to suggest that between the Earth and Mars, there is a china teapot revolving about the sun in an elliptical orbit, nobody would be able to disprove my assertion provided I were careful to add that the teapot is too small to be revealed even by our most powerful telescopes. But if I were to go on to say that, since my assertion cannot be disproved, it is intolerable presumption on the part of human reason to doubt it, I should rightly be thought to be talking nonsense. If, however, the existence of such a teapot were affirmed in ancient books, taught as the sacred truth every Sunday, and instilled into the minds of children at school, hesitation to believe in its existence would become a mark of eccentricity and entitle the doubter to the attentions of the psychiatrist in an enlightened age or of the Inquisitor in an earlier time."

* Source: http://russellsteapot.net/

Picture Credit: "Russel's cosmic teapot has a posse" by psd is licensed under CC BY 2.0

How is Art Nouveau different to Art Deco?

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://gallerease.com/en/magazine/articles/the-difference-between-art-nouveau-art-deco__6ae04a6d3cbf
- https://www.riseart.com/guide/2379/art-deco-vs-art-nouveau
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Nouveau
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Deco
- https://creativemarket.com/blog/art-deco-design-style-examples
- https://www.britannica.com/art/Art-Nouveau
- http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art/art-deco.htm
- http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art/art-nouveau.htm
- https://www.thoughtco.com/art-nouveau-architecture-and-design-177450

Introduction

Two of the defining art movements of the 20th century are Art Deco and Art Nouveau. The difference between them is confusing, yet they influence all elements of visual culture - from fine art and design to architecture and graphic arts. The two movements mark entirely different directions in the development of modern art. However, both styles are unified in their reflection of the times in which they appeared and the span of their influence.

Whereas Art Nouveau is the more organic style and celebrates elegant curves and long lines, Art Deco consists of sharp angles and geometrical shapes and tends to be more polished. What largely sets these two design movements apart is really down to aesthetics. The organic and flowing forms that define Art Nouveau were a clear response to the artist's desire to break free from rigid classical and hierarchical structures, whereas the bolder and streamlined designs of Art Deco reflected the glamour of the industrial revolution.

Art Nouveau

Picture Credit: "Sarah Bernhardt's first Art Nouveau poster created by a then struggling Czech artist in Paris Alphonse Maria Mucha - 3" by antefixus21 is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

It's hard to say exactly when Art Nouveau was established because there were several similar art movements taking place all over Europe at the time, but probably in the late 19th century. Art Nouveau designs were applied to a wide range of disciplines, from graphic arts to furniture, interior decoration, architecture and the fine arts.

Just before World War I, Art Nouveau had started to decline, making way for a more modern form: Art Deco. The description "*Art Nouveau*" is said to have stemmed from the name of the Parisian art gallery, called "La Maison de l'Art Nouveau", owned by the avant-garde art-collector Siegfried Bing (1838-1905). *

* Source: http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art/art-nouveau.htm

The Characteristics of Art Nouveau

- Uses elegant curves, arches and long lines.
- More organic style than Art Deco.
- Inspired by organic and geometric forms.
- Has elegant and flowing designs with a distinct emphasis on contours, filled in with muted tones.
- Asymmetrical shapes.
- Curved glass.
- Mosaics.
- Stained glass.
- Japanese motifs.
- Typical decorative elements include leaf and tendril motifs, intertwined organic forms, mostly curvaceous in shape.
- Different terms were used to describe this decorative style; in the US, it was called *the Tiffany Style*. In the UK, it was called the *Glasgow Style*.

Art Nouveau sought a new graphic design language, as far away as possible from the historical and classical models employed by the art academies. Today, Art Nouveau is seen to have paved the way for the modernistic art and design styles of the 20th century, and many monuments of its style are also listed as UNESCO World Heritage.

Arts & Crafts

The origins of Art Nouveau are unclear, but most art historians agree that its roots lay in the English Arts & Crafts movement, championed by designer William Morris, architect Augustus Pugin, and writer John Ruskin. The Arts and Crafts movement was an international trend in the decorative and fine arts that developed earliest and most fully in the British Isles and subsequently spread across the British Empire and to the rest of Europe and America, where it flourished between about 1880 and 1920 and is the root of the Modern Style, the British expression of which was later called the Art Nouveau movement, which it strongly influenced. In Scotland, it is associated with key figures such as Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Art Deco

Picture Credit: "Napier. Art Deco city of New Zealand. The National Tobacco Company building erected in 1932 after the 1931 earthquake. Rose details around the arched entrance." by denisbin is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0

After thirty years of Art Nouveau's reign, its attraction began to die down as other artistic movements arose. By 1920, Art Deco emerged, stemming from the *International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts* in Paris in 1925, although it wasn't called *'Art Deco'* until later in the 1960s. It marked a change, but Art Deco still held on to some of the key elements of the Art Nouveau movement. Art Deco combined creative dexterity with a celebration of technological progress. It was also influenced by Egyptian, Aztec and Central American art that was being discovered by the western world throughout the 20th century.

Picture Credit: [Cropped] "The Chrysler Building" by ruifo is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

With an emphasis on vertical lines, zigzagged patterns and rectilinear shapes, Art Deco is decorative in its attention to balance and its appearance was inspired by developments in technology. Art Deco designs are symmetrical and streamlined and made machine-made objects more aesthetically appealing (New York's Chrysler Building is an Art Deco icon). The use of curved forms and bold colours was also very typical. Art Deco was also highly influenced by the contemporary artists of that period, especially by the abstract shapes and forms of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

Glass enjoyed an important status throughout the Art Deco era, it became a staple of the luxury industry. For example, René Lalique's work is especially symbolic of this period.

Picture Credit: "René Lalique (et la maison Baguès)" by LucEdouard is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Characteristics of Art Deco

- Heavy geometric influences.
- Triangular shapes.
- Zigzags.
- Trapezoidal shapes.
- Straight and smooth lines with an emphasis on vertical lines.
- Loud, vibrant, and even kitschy colours (which might otherwise be seen to be in poor taste because of an excessive garishness or sentimentality).
- Streamlined and sleek forms.
- Sunburst or sunrise motifs.

FOOTNOTE: In 1931, New Zealand's deadliest earthquake devastated the city of Napier, but within two years, it was largely rebuilt. The devastation presented a unique opportunity: the wholesale replacement of the city centre. A seemingly impossible task to rebuild the city in the midst of the Great Depression, but through artistry and enterprise, Napier became home to the highest concentration of art deco buildings in the world. I visited the City in 2010 – well worth a visit.

Prisoners in the Hundred Years' War

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/prisoners-war-hundred-years-war-podcast-captive-agincourt-battle/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Years%27_War
- https://reviews.history.ac.uk/review/1465
- https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/prisoners-of-war-in-the-hundred-years-war/7D466A5A7A1DC3E985EFC89165BBDABE
- https://erenow.net/postclassical/thehundredyearswarapeopleshistory/14.php

Picture Credit: "Plantagenet" by C.K.H. is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0

Introduction

What was it like if you were taken captive during a medieval battle, such as the Hundred Year's War, and what would have happened to you afterwards?

Medieval historian Rémy Ambühl, from the University of Southampton, studied this subject – and was interviewed for the *HistoryExtra* podcast on how the capturing (and ransoming) of prisoners of war was a feature of the 116-year-long conflict. During the episode (which appeared online at: https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/medieval-prisoners-war-podcast-pow/), he explained how a ransom culture developed with laws and practices that were designed to protect the economic interests of the captor rather than the wellbeing of the captive. There were also some rules around how you could take or allow yourself to be taken captive during a battle.

The Hundred Years' War

The Hundred Years' War (which actually lasted from 1337 to 1453) was a series of conflicts in Western Europe waged between the House of Plantagenet and its cadet House of Lancaster, the rulers of the Kingdom of England, and the House of Valois over the right to rule the Kingdom of France. It was one of the most notable conflicts of the Middle Ages, in which five generations of kings from two rival dynasties fought for the throne of the largest kingdom in Western Europe.

The war marked both the height of chivalry and its subsequent decline and the development of stronger national identities in both countries. Although each side drew many allies into the war, in the end, the House of Valois (French kings) retained the French throne, and the English and French monarchies remained separate.

Prisoners in the Hundred Years' War

*Prisoners of War in the Hundred Years War: Ransom Culture in the Late Middle Ages**, details the practicalities and ethos of ransoming (of prisoners), and provides a new perspective on not only prisoners of war but the wider considerations of economics, chivalry, social bonds and sovereignty. In his 2013 review (here) of the book, Dr David Green of Harlaxton College describes how the English and the French dealt with prisoners, paraphrased as follows:

- *"Because of the changing nature of the battlefield, the Plantagenets established clear rules by which they could acquire prisoners of note/public standing. Set out in indentures, these also might specify the proportions of a ransom which a soldier could be required to pass on to his commander. It became usual practice over the course of the war for a third of the value of a captive to be given to the captor's superior and a third of that (i.e. a ninth) to be passed to the Crown (unless one's superior was the king who in that case received a third). In return for reasonable compensation, English monarchs also had direct rights to the most important enemy commanders. From the late 14th century, English royal ordinances were also issued before campaigns to clarify expectations concerning military conduct.*
- *"The terms by which Valois kings could purchase English soldiers, and their allies were, by comparison, rather vague, although tradition appears to suggest that the Crown could purchase any prisoner for a sum up to 10,000 fo (franc d'or)."*

Ransoming

From early in the Middle Ages, paying a ransom was an important principle of warfare. After a battle, prisoners expected to be able to buy their freedom, but it could be a costly business.

Prisoners usually remained in captivity until their relatives could gather the ransom. Occasionally they were freed temporarily to raise the ransom payment themselves.

This system worked well for everybody involved. Those who took captives were given a chance to profit from being merciful. Knights could fight knowing that if they lost, they would not be killed out of hand. They could expect to be treated reasonably well while they were in captivity.

Certain types of troops, such as archers, were considered exempt from any rules of war. Towns and castles which resisted during a siege but were then captured were denied mercy. And there were times when the lenient treatment of prisoners was deliberately withheld often to ensure one's forces were not distracted by hunting for ransoms.

Source: https://www.warhistoryonline.com/medieval/happened-prisoners-war-medieval-england.html

* The book was written by Rémy Ambühl and published by Cambridge University Press in 2013.

Opsimaths

You've heard about Opsimaths, haven't you? Just in case you haven't (I didn't until I looked it up), I'll try to explain:

Meaning

An *opsimath* is a person who begins, or continues, to study or learn late in life. The word is derived from the Greek words *opsé* (meaning 'late') and *manthánō* (meaning 'learn').

It's popular

Opsimathy was once frowned upon, used as a put-down with implications of laziness, and considered less effective by educators than early learning. The emergence of "opsimath clubs" shows that opsimathy has shed much of this negative connotation.

Notable Opsimaths

Notable opsimaths include 19th century army officer and Orientalist *Sir Henry Rawlinson*, (Vivian Stanshall's fictitious character), *Grandma Moses* (who began painting (see below) at the age of 78 and is often cited as an example of an individual who successfully began a career in the arts at an advanced age), mathematician *Paul Erdős* (who published papers until his death at age 83), *Rabbi Akiva* (according to the Talmud, he began studying at age 40), and Roman soldier *Cato the Elder* (the senator and historian who learned Greek at the age of 80 and who was the first to write history in Latin with his *Origines*, a now lost work on the History of Rome.

Picture Credit: "Grandma Moses: Sugaring off (1945)" by Bosc d'Anjou is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

FOOTNOTE: The painting shown above by Grandma Moses was sold for $1.2 million in 2006.

Grandma Moses

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandma_Moses
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/Grandma-Moses
- http://www.artnet.com/artists/grandma-moses/
- https://nmwa.org/art/artists/grandma-moses-anna-mary-robertson-moses/
- https://www.illustrationhistory.org/artists/grandma-moses

Picture Credit: Public Domain. Created: 1st January 1953. New York World-Telegram and the Sun staff photographer: Roger Higgins. - Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c15888

Background
Anna Mary Robertson Moses (7th September 1860 – 13th December 1961), known by her nickname ***Grandma Moses***, was an American folk artist. She began painting in earnest at the age of 78 when arthritis rendered her unable to embroider. Her friends suggested she should try painting pastoral scenes instead.

She worked with whatever materials were readily available. Her first paintings were created by using house paint and leftover canvas or fireboard. She had little concern for perspective and proportion as a self-taught artist. She tended to paint happy scenes of childhood memories of life in New York and farm life in Virginia, purposely omitting telephone poles, tractors, and other elements of the effects of industrialisation.

Her paintings accumulated quickly, and she did not know what to do with them. She sent some to the local country fair, as well as her canned fruits and jams. She won a prize for her fruit and jams but not her paintings – at least at the beginning. Today, her works are included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Bennington Museum in Vermont.

The Road to Success *
In April 1938, Louis J. Caldor, a New York engineer and art collector, discovered Moses's paintings on display at W.D. Thomas Pharmacy and immediately recognised her talent. Caldor purchased all the paintings Moses had finished.

When he met Grandma Moses, Caldor said he would make her famous. He took all the paintings he purchased from her to New York City and set off to begin exhibiting her work professionally.

Caldor went to museums and galleries and found that even the people who admired her work lost interest because of the artist's age. Dealers felt they would never earn a profit from their initial investment, and Moses did not seem worth the effort. Candor continued to persist, and in 1939, collector Sidney Janis selected three paintings to be on private viewing at the Museum of Modern Art (see below). The exhibition made no impact at first.

In 1940, Caldor stopped at Galerie St. Etienne (see below), founded by Otto Kallir, who was interested in the work of self-taught painters.
* Source: https://www.illustrationhistory.org/artists/grandma-moses

The Museum of Modern Art Exhibition **
Three of the works from Caldor's initial 1938 purchase were included in the "*Contemporary Unknown American Painters*" exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. This led to a solo exhibition at the Galerie St. Etienne in New York in 1940 and over 100 more shows in the following decades. Grandma Moses produced around 2,000 paintings before her death at age 101.
** Source: http://www.artnet.com/artists/grandma-moses/

The Nickname
She acquired the nickname "Grandma Moses" from a reviewer at the New York Herald Tribune. Her paintings became immensely popular and were appreciated for their nostalgic charm. She exhibited her work internationally into her 90s and painted until a few months before her death in 1961.

The Opsimath
Grandma Moses is often cited as a good example of someone who successfully began a career in the arts at an advanced age: an *opsimath*. She is known for her pastoral landscape paintings, which have been shown and sold worldwide and have been marketed on greeting cards and other merchandise. Moses' paintings are displayed in the collections of many museums. *Sugaring Off* was sold for US$1.2 million in 2006.

Grandma Moses appeared on magazine covers, television, and in a documentary about her life. She wrote an autobiography (*My Life's History*), won numerous awards, and was awarded two honorary doctoral degrees.

Galerie St. Etienne
The Galerie St. Etienne mounted Grandma Moses's first solo exhibition in 1940 and represented her for the remainder of her life. Since the artist died in 1961, they have represented her estate. If you go to https://www.gseart.com/artist/anna-mary-robertson-grandma-moses/exhibitions, you can see examples of her work.

Otto Kallir, the founder of Galerie St. Etienne

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Kallir
- https://www.theartnewspaper.com/archive/the-saviour-of-degenerate-art
- https://archives.cjh.org/repositories/5/resources/16108

Otto Kallir (born as Otto Nirenstein in 1894, in Vienna, Austria) was an Austrian American art historian, author, publisher and gallerist. As a boy, he followed the Wright Brothers' experiments in distant North Carolina, convinced that aviation would one day revolutionise human travel.

He attended the Academic High School in Vienna from 1904 to 1912 and, after serving in the Austrian Army during World War I, studied at the Vienna Technical Institute from 1919 to 1920, during which time he began a career in publishing and developed an early interest in art and design. He founded the publishing house Neue Graphik in 1919. From 1921 to 1923 he was head of the art department at the Rikola publishing house in Vienna.

Among his most important publications is a portfolio containing the first works (six etchings and two lithographs) of the Austrian, *Egon Schiele* - a major figurative painter of the early 20th century.

After the Nazis annexed Austria in March 1938, Kallir – a Jew - faced persecution. He, his wife and their two children initially settled in Lucerne, Switzerland, but because he was unable to obtain a work permit, he travelled to Paris. It was there he founded the *Galerie St. Etienne*, named after Vienna's central landmark, the *Cathedral of St. Stephen*. France would not admit the rest of the Kallir family and, in 1939, they all emigrated to the United States, taking with them a significant portion of Kallir's inventory. Kallir established the *New York Galerie St. Etienne*, where he introduced Austrian and German expressionist art to the United States.

In 1940, he was approached by Louis J. Caldor a New York engineer and art collector, about an elderly artist, *Anna Mary Robertson Moses* (Grandma Moses). Kallir is credited with launching the late-life career of Grandma Moses. He also pioneered the restitution of Nazi-looted art to Holocaust victims.

Upon Kallir's death in 1978, the Galerie St. Etienne was taken over by long-time associate, Hildegard Bachert, and his grand-daughter, Jane Kallir. It continues under their directorship.

Nil *Desperandum*

ISSUE 29 *August 2022* *Never Alone*

The Master Architect

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/people/surrey-greats-william-henry-crossland-7288812
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Crossland
- https://www.huddersfieldcivicsociety.org.uk/news/new-biography-rescues-huddersfield-architect-from-obscurity

Picture Credit: "Founders' Building, Royal Holloway, University of London" by Xuyinglong* is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Holloway Sanatorium at Virginia Water (now Virginia Park) and the Royal Holloway College in Egham (now Founder's Building, Royal Holloway, University of London) were inspirations of the rich entrepreneur and philanthropist Thomas Holloway, and two of the most spectacular buildings of the end of the 19th century paid for by a £600,000 gift. The Sanatorium opened in 1885 and the College in 1886. They made the architect, W.H. Crossland, famous and, for a few years, he enjoyed celebrity status - it was generally recognised that, in the design of the college, Crossland came as near as any architect to creating a truly Victorian style of architecture.
Source: https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/people/surrey-greats-william-henry-crossland-7288812

William Henry Crossland, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) was born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, in 1835. He was known professionally as W.H. Crossland. His architectural works included the design of three buildings that are now Grade I listed – Rochdale Town Hall, Holloway Sanatorium and Royal Holloway College.

Crossland enrolled at Huddersfield College, where he excelled in writing and drawing. In the early 1850s, Crossland became a pupil of George Gilbert Scott at his architectural practice in London. In 1867, he developed his own architectural practice, with offices in Halifax and Leeds, before moving to London and then, in 1879, opening an office in Egham, Surrey. More than 25 of the buildings designed by Crossland are listed by Historic England. Crossland's three most important commissions, all now Grade I listed, were:

- *Rochdale Town Hall:* built in 1866–71 and still in use as a municipal building in Rochdale, where it functions as the ceremonial headquarters of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. Historic England says it is *"widely recognised as being one of the finest municipal buildings in the country"*.
- *Holloway Sanatorium at Virginia Water, Surrey:* Built in 1875, this was a project commissioned by the entrepreneur and philanthropist Thomas Holloway. Historic England describes it as "*the most elaborate and impressive Victorian lunatic asylum in England because it was the most lavish to be built for private patients... The quality of the external design and the decoration of the principal spaces is exceptional*". It is the only example of a Sanatorium listed as Grade I. It has now been converted to luxury homes in the gated Virginia Park.
- *Royal Holloway College, Egham, Surrey:* built 1879–87. A short distance away from the Sanatorium, it was also commissioned by Thomas Holloway. Now known as Founder's Building, it is the main building of a major college of the University of London; its cafe/bar is named "Crosslands". Crossland's main floor plan for the college is on display in The Royal Holloway College Picture Gallery.

Crossland was responsible for some of Huddersfield's finest town centre architecture: The Estate Buildings, Byram Buildings, Kirkgate Buildings and Somerset Buildings. Among the churches he designed were St Thomas, Bradley, Christ Church, Moldgreen, St James, Flockton, St Andrew, Leeds Road, and St John, Birkby.

The Holloway Sanatorium and Royal Holloway College were inspired by the Cloth Hall of Ypres in Belgium and the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley, France, respectively and are considered by some to be among the most remarkable buildings in the south of England.

The last entry in the RIBA's records for Crossland was in 1894–95. There is no record of him undertaking any work after 1900, when he ceased to be the architectural adviser to Royal Holloway. He died in London in 1908.

Book Review

W.H. Crossland: An Architectural Biography, by Sheila Binns, was published by the Lutterworth Press (see here) in 2020. The book is available online at Amazon (here) and a review* is provided below.
* See: https://www.amazon.co.uk/W-H-Crossland-Sheila-Binns/dp/0718895487

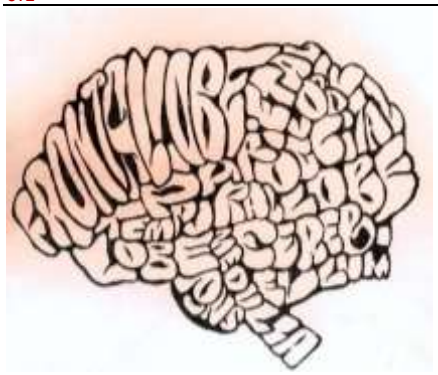
"The creative genius behind Founder's Building at Royal Holloway, University of London, arguably the most glorious building in England of the end of the nineteenth century, is widely respected, and its architectural style is regarded as archetypally 'Victorian'. Yet its architect, William Henry Crossland, is little known, despite a substantial catalogue of buildings, most of which remain standing today.

"Bringing Crossland out of the shadows, this biography explores this mysterious and elusive figure in depth for the first time. Recently digitised documents and long-hidden archival material have thrown a powerful light on Crossland, which, together with the author's first-hand knowledge of his buildings, offer the reader an unprecedented appreciation and understanding of the man, his life and work, as well as his personal and artistic influences. "

W.H. Crossland fills a gap in nineteenth-century architectural knowledge, but it is also the touching story of an ambitious and talented man who is long overdue to be recognised as one of the 'greats' among nineteenth-century architects. This book is intended for architects, architectural historians and anyone who is interested in the built environment, nineteenth-century history and intriguing personal stories."

The experts were wrong – our memory is better than they thought

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://www.britannica.com/science/memory-psychology
- https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/our-memory-is-even-better-than-experts-thought/
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0956797620954812



Picture Credit: "Brain Vocab Sketch" by labguest is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Britannica.com defines memory as: '*the encoding, storage, and retrieval in the human mind of past experiences*'.

The fact that experiences influence subsequent behaviour is evidenced by the simple activity called remembering. Memory is both a result of and an influence on *perception, attention,* and *learning. Remembering* happens after attention to an event followed by the representation of that event, or a replay of it, in our brain. Repeated attention, or *practice*, results in a *cumulative* effect on memory which enables activities such as an accomplished performance on a musical instrument, the recitation of a poem, and reading and understanding words on a page. Learning could not occur without the function of memory.

How accurate is memory?

Generally, people assume that their memories faithfully represent past events, but the prevailing view in research is that memories are error-prone and constructive. Even so, little is known about the frequency of errors, particularly in memories for naturalistic experiences*.
* Naturalistic experiences are those initiated spontaneously by children as they go about their daily activities.

Despite the standard glitches, our memory can retain far more than either experts or we expect. Recent research appears to validate this: for example, read here, here and here.

Conclusions about the reliability of memory vary tremendously. Some studies conclude that memory is extremely accurate, whereas others conclude that it is not only faulty but utterly unreliable.

Footnote: the study of human memory is considered part of the disciplines of cognitive psychology and neuroscience, and the interdisciplinary link between the two, which is known as cognitive neuroscience.

The Wine-Buff's Guide

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://www.dictionary.com/e/s/wine-terms/
- https://www.vinology.com/wine-terms/
- https://www.winemag.com/glossary/
- https://winefolly.com/wine-glossary/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_wine_terms
- https://www.jancisrobinson.com/learn/vocabulary
- https://www.dummies.com/food-drink/drinks/wine/wine-for-dummies-cheat-sheet/
- https://amuseewine.com/2014/11/04/wine-lingo-cheat-sheet/
- https://wine.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Wine_Terminology

Introduction

Let's set the scene. Did you know there are more than 10,000 varieties of wine grapes around the world? Of those, the most popular and common grapes are: Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot. With the seemingly endless number of grape types and wineries in far-off places and this country too, it can feel like a mountain to climb to understand the world of wine, which has its own vocabulary that wine-buffs use that can easily confuse outsiders.

Glossary of Wine Terms

Perhaps a good place to start is to have a handy vocabulary (or glossary) of wine terms:
- A-Z Glossary of terms - download from here.
- Wikipedia glossary - click here.
- Wine Society - Vintage Chart, here.

Master Lesson from Dictionary.com

https://www.dictionary.com/e/s/wine-terms/

Without partaking of the pleasures of the amber nectar and whether you are an *oenophile* or not, you can be a *connoisseur* of fine wine terms. Knowing your *varietal* from your *vintage* and your *tannins* from your *terroir* can be a useful way to impress friends and business associates who simply love to chat about wine.

Whilst it takes a lot of studying to become an expert, there are some essential wine words to know in your next conversation about wine – perhaps at your next dinner party.

Vintage

The year shown on the front of a wine bottle is the *vintage*, telling you it's a wine from a particular year's harvest or crop. In-the-know wine experts often look for certain *vintages* if the year had exceptional weather for grape growing in a certain region, but it's important to note that a good *vintage* in one place may not necessarily be the same as a good *vintage* from somewhere else.

Varietal

In winemaking, a *varietal* wine is one that's made entirely from a single variety of grapes. It's the opposite of a blended wine, and you'll often see the grape variety listed on the bottle. You might enjoy a varietal cabernet sauvignon, for example, more than a Bordeaux wine that's made by blending cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, and other grape varieties.

Terroir

Of all the wine words out there, one that pops up most frequently is *terroir*. Literally speaking, *Terroir* is French for soil or land. The first thing you should know is how to pronounce it: [ter-wahr]. The second thing is that it is a word with a wide meaning. In wine, *terroir* means the environmental conditions in which the grapes are grown that contribute to their flavour and aroma. It refers to soil and general average climate, though *terroir* is also influenced by landscaping (which way the vines face, for example) and the elevation.

Tannin

Say you've just taken a sip of red wine, and your mouth is hit with a bitter taste. Part of what you're picking up are the wine's *tannins* which are naturally occurring compounds called *polyphenols* that can dye leather, clarify wine and beer, and add colour to black tea. With grapes, *tannins* come from the skin, seeds, and stems. A *tannic* wine is often described as bitter or astringent (meaning it contracts the body tissues or canals). That may sound bad, but *tannins* act as a balance to the sweet and acidic characteristics of wine.

Bouquet or Nose

Though you may describe a wine by saying that it smells like cherry, oak, or vanilla, wine aficionados say it's the wine's *bouquet* or *nose* – they don't say *smell*. Some rieslings have a bouquet of honey, pear, and apricot, while you might pick up peppery notes in the *nose* of a zinfandel.

Sommelier

The person serving you wine in a fine dining restaurant or wine bar is not a bartender or general waiter, they're called a *sommelier*, pronounced [suhm-*uhl*-*yey*]. It's a position that's not completely different (*sommeliers* work with alcohol like bartenders and wait on tables like a waiter), but it's a more specific designation. A *sommelier* is a waiter who is in charge of wines, which often encompasses wine buying for the business as well as helping a guest pick a wine to drink and serving it to them.

Red, Pink, White, and Orange

Wine drinkers are usually confronted with two options when selecting a wine: red or white. Red wine is always made from grapes that have a dark skin colour that ranges from blue like *cabernet sauvignon* to a deep purple, almost black colour like pinot noir. It is called red wine instead of bluish-purple wine because the pigments in the grapes come off as red when vinified. White wine is often made with grapes that have a light greenish colour skin, like chardonnay or gruner veltliner.

Many popular Champagnes are sparkling white wines, but they're in part made with dark-skin grapes like *pinot noir* and *pinot meunier*. The final wine is white, not red, as the wine takes its colour from the skins, and Champagne is made by separating the juice from the skins.

In between white and red, there's rosé, of which there are many types. One method (called *Saignée*, which means to "bleed out") is to take out some of the red wine from a fermenting tank before it picks up too much colour. The other way to make rosé is to let the wine sit on the grape skins for a very short time until they pick up some of the pigments but not as much as a deep red wine.

If red and white are the equivalent of black and white, then orange is the grey area. Orange wine is made with white wine grapes, but it has extended contact with the grape skins, seeds, and stems. This turns what would be a white wine into an orangish wine and adds a noticeable amount of tannins.

Champagne

To be *Champagne*, a wine must follow a strict set of production guidelines and come only from the *Champagne* region of France. Only *Champagne* is made with pinot noir, pinot meunier, and chardonnay that is grown in a designated area and using the *Champagne* method of adding bubbles to a bottle. These special guidelines are also part of the reason true *Champagne* can be so pricey.

Corked

Corks are the most common type of wine bottle closures and come from the bark of cork trees. The negative aspect of a wine that is *corked* is that a *corked* wine is one that has cork taint - which is when natural fungi interacts with cleaning chemicals and spoils a wine.

Sulfites

Sulfites are compounds that are naturally produced during fermentation, and minimal amounts are sometimes used as an added preservative in food and wine. Some people who avoid wine say it's because the *sulfites* give them a headache or make them feel ill. In some cases, people have a *sulfite* allergy - it is rare, and the level of naturally occurring *sulfites* (as well as added *sulfites*) is low in wine. In fact, dried fruit has much more *sulfites* than wine. Red wine typically has the least *sulfites*, while sweet wines usually have the most.

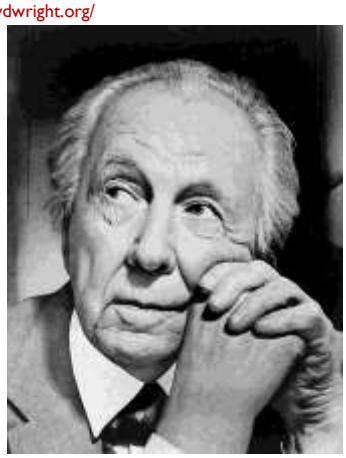
Natural, Biodynamic, and Organic

Nowadays, there are more options to choose from than red, white, rosé, and orange wine. You can choose an *organic, natural*, or *biodynamic* wine. Of these, *natural* wine is more ambiguous and lacks a standard working definition. In general, a *natural* wine is one that is made with as little human intervention as possible. The wines are *naturally* fermented, for example, and winemakers avoid filtering and additives or preservatives.

Who was Frank Lloyd Wright?

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lloyd_Wright
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lloyd_Wright
- https://www.architecturaldigest.com/frank-lloyd-wright
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/Frank-Lloyd-Wright
- https://www.biography.com/artist/frank-lloyd-wright
- https://franklloydwright.org/



Picture Credit: New York World-Telegram and the Sun staff photographer: Al Ravenna, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons (Attribution) https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/30/Frank_Lloyd_Wright_portrait.jpg (File URL)

Introduction

The *Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy* website introduces the great architect in this way:

'Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) has been called "simply the greatest artist [America] has ever produced in any field of the visual or musical arts." Born just two years after the end of the American Civil War, he was witness to the extraordinary changes that swept the world from the 19th century horse and carriage to the 20th century rocket ship. During a career that spanned seven decades, he took full advantage of the opportunities presented by the unprecedented scientific and technological advances of his time without losing the 19th century spiritual and romantic values with which he had grown up.'

Source: https://savewright.org/who-we-are/about-frank-lloyd-wright/

Early life and the start of his career

Frank Lloyd Wright (born Frank Lincoln Wright), 1867, died in 1959) was an American architect, designer, writer, and educator. He attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1885 as a special student, but as architectural instruction was unavailable, he took engineering courses. He left Madison early in 1887 for Chicago, where he found employment with *J.L. Silsbee*, doing architectural detailing. Silsbee inspired Wright to achieve a mastery of ductile line and telling accent. In time, Wright found (what he regarded as) more rewarding work in the important architectural firm of *Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan.*

A creative career spanning 70 years

In a creative career spanning 70 years, Wright designed more than 1,000 structures - designing in harmony with humanity and the environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture*. This philosophy was exemplified in *Fallingwater* (1935), which has been called "*the best all-time work of American architecture*".

* Organic Architecture to Frank Lloyd Wright was a philosophy of architecture which aimed to promote harmony between human habitation and the natural world. This is achieved through design approaches that aim to be sympathetic and well-integrated with a site, so buildings, furnishings, and surroundings become part of a unified, interrelated composition. Source: Wikipedia.

Wright played a key role in the architectural movements of the twentieth century, influencing architects worldwide through his works and hundreds of apprentices in his Taliesin Fellowship. From the carport to the L-shaped workstation, Wright pioneered enduring conventions in a career that followed few traditions.

Fallingwater was the house built partly over a waterfall in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, located in the Laurel Highlands of the Allegheny Mountains. The house was designed as a weekend home for the owner of Kaufmann's Department Store.

The Prairie School movement

Wright was the pioneer of what came to be called the Prairie School** movement of architecture and also developed the concept of the *Usonian* home in *Broadacre City*, his vision for urban planning in the United States***. He also designed original and innovative offices, churches, schools, skyscrapers, hotels, museums, and other commercial projects. Wright-designed interior elements (including leaded glass windows, floors, furniture and even tableware) were integrated into these structures.

** Prairie School is a late 19th and early 20th century architectural style, most common in the Midwestern United States. The style is usually marked by horizontal lines, flat or hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves, windows grouped in horizontal bands, integration with the landscape, solid construction, craftsmanship, and discipline in the use of ornament. The Prairie School was an attempt at developing an indigenous North American style of architecture in symphony with the ideals and design aesthetics of the *Arts and Crafts Movement*, with which it shared an embrace of handcrafting and craftsman guilds as an antidote to the dehumanising effects of mass production.

*** "*Usonian Homes*" are typically small, single-story dwellings without a garage or much storage. They are often L-shaped to fit around a garden terrace on unusual and inexpensive sites and are characterised by native materials; flat roofs and large cantilevered overhangs for passive solar heating and natural cooling; natural lighting with clerestory windows; and radiant-floor heating. Another distinctive feature is that they typically have little exposure to the front/'public' side, while the rear/'private' sides are completely open to the outside. The word *Carport* was coined by Wright to describe an overhang for sheltering a parked vehicle. *Broadacre City* was an urban or suburban development concept proposed by Frank Lloyd Wright throughout most of his lifetime. He presented the idea in his book The Disappearing City in 1932. Source: Wikipedia

Writer and Lecturer

Wright wrote several books and numerous articles and was a popular lecturer in the United States and Europe. He was recognised in 1991 by the American Institute of Architects as "the greatest American architect of all time".****

In 2019, a selection of his work became a listed World Heritage Site as *The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.*

**** See BusinessWeek – here.

Private Life

He opened his own successful Chicago practice in 1893 and established a studio in his Oak Park, Illinois home in 1898. Wright's personal life made headlines: in 1909, leaving his first wife, Catherine Tobin, for Mamah Cheney; in 1914, the murders at his Taliesin estate by a staff member; his tempestuous marriage with second wife Miriam Noel in 1923; and his relationship with Olgivanna Lazović, to whom he was married in 1928.

Wright's Legacy

Throughout his long and prolific career, Frank Lloyd Wright brought American architecture to the forefront. His visionary creations were strongly influenced by the natural world, and he emphasised craftsmanship while embracing technology's ability to make design accessible to everyone. Wright was also highly involved with the interiors of his buildings, creating furnishings and other custom elements such as stained-glass windows to enhance the overall design. His most iconic structures, such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum*** in New York and Fallingwater in Pennsylvania, are now designated as historic landmarks and attract visitors from around the world.

*** The Guggenheim Museum (1939) is arguably the most important building of Frank Lloyd Wright's late career. A monument to modernism, the unique architecture of the space, with its spiral ramp riding to a domed skylight, continues to thrill visitors and provide a unique forum for the presentation of contemporary art. It is widely seen as Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece.

Picture Credit: "Guggenheim Museum in New York City - April 2016" by BridgetEileen is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Picture Credit: "Fallingwater" by orangejack is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Spies, from Ancient Times to the early 20th Century

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.historynet.com/espionage-in-ancient-rome.htm
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24749166
- https://nationalinterest.org/feature/spying-through-ages-44107
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_espionage

Picture Credit: "Sir Francis Walsingham, spymaster, father-in-law of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex" by lisby1 is marked with CC PDM 1.0

Ancient Times

Espionage can be traced back to ancient times. A few examples are:

- Chinese strategist *Sun Tzu* wrote in *"The Art of War"* around 500 BC: *"Enlightened rulers and good generals who are able to obtain intelligent agents as spies are certain for great achievements."*
- In the Old Testament, *Joshua* - the leader of the Israelite tribes after the death of Moses - sent two spies into Jericho before he conquered Canaan.
- Around 300 BC, during the Etruscan wars, Roman consul *Q. Fabius Maximus* sent his brother disguised as an Etruscan peasant into the Ciminian forest to win over the local Umbrians to the Roman cause. The brother was both fluent in Etruscan and a master of disguise. The mission was a resounding success, and Rome was able to bring Umbrian tribes into an alliance.
- In the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church was more powerful than most governments, with a powerful surveillance network to match.
- Egyptian hieroglyphs reveal the existence of court spies, as do papyri that describe ancient Egypt's extensive military and slave trade operations. Early Egyptian Pharos used agents of espionage to identify disloyal subjects and to locate tribes that could be conquered and enslaved.
- *Chanakya* (also called *Kautilya*) wrote his Arthashastra in India in the 4th century BC. It was a *'Textbook of Statecraft and Political Economy'* that provides a detailed account of intelligence collection, processing, consumption, and covert operations, as indispensable means for maintaining and expanding the security and power of the state.
- A significant milestone in espionage was establishing an effective intelligence service under King David IV of Georgia at the beginning of the 12th century or possibly even earlier. Called *mstovaris*, these organised spies performed crucial tasks, like uncovering feudal conspiracies, conducting counter-intelligence against enemy spies, and infiltrating key locations, e.g. castles, fortresses and palaces.

The First Secret Service

The start of modern espionage and the use of spying methods can arguably be attributed to *Sir Francis Walsingham*. As principal secretary to Queen Elizabeth I, he was driven by Protestant zeal to counter Catholicism. *Walsingham* created a secret service in 1569 that uncovered and stopped several plots against his queen.

He built a network of spies in France, Scotland, Italy, and as far as Turkey and more. He used *Antony Standen* to pass information from Europe and his reports on the activities of the Spanish Armada made him a key figure in the Elizabethan era. Walsingham's staff included *Thomas Phelippes,* the cryptographer, an expert in deciphering letters and forgery, and *Arthur Gregory*, who was skilled at breaking and repairing seals without detection.

* Source: National Archives (here)

Spying in the Modern Era

The 18th century saw a dramatic expansion of espionage activities. It was a time of war: 90% of the time, two or more major powers were at war. Armies grew much larger, and foreign ministries all grew in size and complexity. National budgets expanded to pay for these expansions, and room was found for intelligence departments with full-time staff, and well-paid spies and agents. The militaries became more bureaucratised and sent out military attachés - they were very bright, personable middle-ranking officers stationed in foreign embassies. In each capital, the diplomats evaluated and reported on the strength, capabilities, and war plans of the armies and navies.

France under *King Louis XIV* (1643–1715) had many enemies and few friends - and he tried to keep track of them through a well-organised intelligence system based in major cities all over Europe. France and England pioneered a system whereby foreign correspondence was opened and deciphered, then forwarded to the recipient.

To deal with the almost continuous wars with France, London set up an elaborate system to gather intelligence on France and other powers. Since the British had deciphered the code system of most states, it relied heavily on intercepted mail and dispatches.

Industrial espionage was rife. In 1719 Britain made it illegal to entice skilled workers to emigrate. From around 1740 to 1770, the French systematically hired British and French spies to obtain industrial and military technology and had some success deciphering English technology regarding plate-glass and the hardware and steel industry.

During the American Revolution, 1775–1783, American General *George Washington* developed a successful espionage system to detect British locations and plans. Britain, almost always at war with France (1793–1815), built a wide network of agents and funded local elements trying to overthrow governments hostile to Britain. In 1794, Britain appointed *William Wickham* as Superintendent of Aliens in charge of espionage and the new secret service. He strengthened the British intelligence system by emphasising the centrality of the intelligence cycle – query, collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination – and the need for an all-source centre of intelligence. Meanwhile, *Napoleon* made heavy use of agents, especially regarding Russia, and he perpetuated the concept of propaganda.

Modern espionage tactics and dedicated government intelligence agencies were developed in the late 19th century. A key background to this development was the Great Game, a period denoting the strategic rivalry and conflict between the British Empire and the Russian Empire throughout Central Asia. To counter Russian ambitions in the region and the potential threat it posed to the British position in India, a system of surveillance, intelligence and counter-intelligence was built up in the Indian Civil Service**.

** The existence of this shadowy conflict was popularised in Rudyard Kipling's famous spy book, Kim, where he portrayed the Great Game (a phrase he popularised) as espionage and intelligence conflict that *"never ceases, day or night."*

An early source of military intelligence was the diplomatic system of military attachés (an officer attached to the diplomatic service operating through the embassy in a foreign country), which became widespread in Europe after the Crimean War. Although officially restricted to a role of transmitting openly-received information, they were soon being used to clandestinely gather confidential information and, in some cases, even to recruit spies and operate *de facto* spy rings.

Shaken by the revolutionary years 1848–1849, the Austrian Empire founded the Evidenzbureau in 1850 as the first permanent military intelligence service.

During the Crimean War of 1854, the Topographical & Statistic Department (T&SD) was established within the British War Office as an embryonic military intelligence organisation. It was reorganised as the Intelligence Branch of the War Office in 1873 with the mission to "*collect and classify all possible information relating to the strength, organisation etc. of foreign armies... to keep themselves acquainted with the progress made by foreign countries in military art and science...*"

The French Ministry of War authorised the creation of the Deuxième Bureau in June 1871, a service charged with performing "*research on enemy plans and operations.*" This was followed a year later by the creation of a military counter-espionage service. It was this latter service that was discredited through its actions over the notorious *Dreyfus Affair*, where a Jewish French officer was falsely accused of handing over military secrets to the Germans.

In Germany, Field Marshal *Helmuth von Moltke* established a military intelligence unit, Abteilung (Section) IIIb, to the German General Staff in 1889, which steadily expanded its operations into France and Russia. Shortly afterwards, the Italian Ufficio Informazioni del Comando Supremo was put on a permanent footing in 1900. In 1900, the Imperial German Navy established the Nachrichten-Abteilung, which was devoted to gathering intelligence on Britain. The navies of Italy, Russia and Austria-Hungary set up similar services as well. After Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–05, Russian military intelligence was reorganised under the 7th Section of the 2nd Executive Board of the great imperial headquarters.

Source: Wikipedia, here.

Much happened in the espionage world after 1900 – it will be the subject of another paper later.

'Be yourself: everyone else is already taken.'

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/oscar-wilde-triumph-tragedy-exile/
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/wilde_oscar.shtml
- https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/oscar-wilde
- https://www.biography.com/writer/oscar-wilde
- https://www.cmgww.com/historic/wilde/career/
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oscar-Wilde
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Wilde

The words in the title were written by Oscar Wilde - one of the world's best-known playwrights and authors. He became famous in Victorian England for his acclaimed literary works as well as his brilliant wit, flamboyant style and infamous imprisonment for homosexuality. A blog posted on National Archives* explored an important collection of records relating to the trials and Oscar Wilde's eventual imprisonment.

* Source: The National Archives' website, subject to Crown copyright protection and licensed for use under the Open Government Licence. See here.

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 16th October 1854. He was an Anglo-Irish novelist, playwright, poet and critic, and a celebrity in late 19th century London. He graduated from Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was awarded the Newdigate prize for his poem, *"Ravenna"*, and a First Class in both his "Mods" and "Greats" by his examiners. He was deeply impressed by the teachings of the English writers John Ruskin and Walter Pater on the central importance of art in life. He moved to London to pursue a literary career, lecturing as a poet, and was an art critic. In no time, he established himself in social and artistic circles with his wit and flamboyance.

A first volume of his poetry was published in 1881 but as well as composing verse, he contributed to publications such as the *'Pall Mall Gazette'*, wrote fairy stories and published a novel *'The Picture of Dorian Gray'* (1891). His greatest talent was for writing plays, and he produced a string of popular comedies, including *'Lady Windermere's Fan'* (1892), *'An Ideal Husband'* (1895) and *'The Importance of Being Earnest'* (1895). **

** Source: BBC History, here. Copyright acknowledged.

Wilde's only book, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* gives a particularly 1890s perspective on the timeless theme of sin and punishment. It was first published in an American magazine in 1890 to a storm of critical protest. He expanded the story and published it in book form the following year. The book was widely panned as immoral by Victorian literary critics.

Success

In 1895, Oscar Wilde had two successful plays in the West End: *'The Importance of being Earnest'* had opened at the St James's Theatre on 14th February. And *'An Ideal Husband'* was enjoying a successful run at the Haymarket Theatre. A brilliant career with fame and success beckoned, but within a few short months, he would be disgraced, imprisoned and bankrupted. Dark times were on the horizon, and just four and a half years later, Wilde was dead.

Married (1884) with two sons, Wilde had begun an affair in 1891 with Lord Alfred Douglas, the son of the Marquis of Queensberry.

Dark Times, Exile and finally, Death***

On 18th February 1895, Queensbury left his calling card at the Albemarle Club, endorsed *'For Oscar Wilde posing Somdomite'*. Wilde did not receive the message until the 28th February. He then made the fateful decision to prosecute Lord Queensbury for libel. Wilde lost the case and was arrested. The jury at his first was unable to reach a verdict, and a retrial went ahead from 22nd to 25th May, when Wilde was convicted at the Central Criminal Court of gross indecency and sentenced to two years' hard labour (the maximum sentence allowed), which was considered excessive for a man of his class at that time.

Sent first to Pentonville, Wilde was kept in solitary confinement, and the food and conditions affected his health. He was moved to Wandsworth in July 1895 and had the ignominy of having to attend the Bankruptcy Court on 24th September and again on 12th November. In the meantime, his health completely broke down, and he suffered a serious fall in his cell. His right ear drum was ruptured in the fall, an injury that later contributed to his death. Wilde was then moved again from Wandsworth to Reading on 21st November. Whilst in Reading Gaol, he petitioned the Home Secretary (2nd July 1896). There was no reply to the petition and no mitigation of his sentence, but the Prison Commissioners did authorise more books and allowed him additional writing materials.

While in prison in 1897, he wrote *'De Profundis'* his letter to Lord Alfred Douglas. Wilde asked the governor to send it to Douglas, and Major Nelson wrote to the Prison Commissioners, but the request was refused. Nelson kept the manuscript and gave it to Wilde on his release.

Wilde sent two further unsuccessful petitions in November 1896 and April 1897. In the third petition, he asked for his release date to be brought forward by just four days to 15th May to avoid unwanted attention. Although not agreed to, arrangements were made to move him from Reading back to Pentonville on 18th May, and he was released in the early hours on 19th May 1897. After a brief morning reunion with friends, he left for Newhaven that afternoon and caught the night boat to Dieppe. He was never to see England or Ireland again. In Berneval-le-Grande (in the Normandy region of France), he began working on *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* – his last work. It was a long poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life. In August, he had a reunion in Rouen with Douglas, and they went to live in Naples, but by the end of December, their relationship was over. Wilde spent the next two years wandering around Europe with sojourns in Switzerland, the south of France and Rome. However, he returned time and time again to Paris. He spent his last years impoverished and in exile. He took the name "Sebastian Melmoth", after *Saint Sebastian* and the titular character of *Melmoth the Wanderer* (a Gothic novel by Charles Maturin, Wilde's great-uncle). Wilde's recurrent ear infection worsened, and he died from cerebral meningitis in the Hotel d'Alsace on 30th November 1900.

As Michael Taylor wrote in '*Oscar Wilde: Trial and Punishment, 1895-1897*':

'Any student of late-nineteenth-century culture is amazed to see how quickly the rich cultural diversity of the 1890s evaporates, and it seems likely that Wilde's downfall played a major part in this process.'

*** Text from National Archives, Crown Copyright, here.

Posthumous Pardon

In 2017, Wilde was among an estimated 50,000 men who were pardoned for homosexual acts that were no longer considered offences under the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

Selected Wilde Quotations

- *"I think that God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability."*
- *"The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast."*
- *"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."*
- *"The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never any use to oneself."*
- *"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."*
- *"What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."*
- *"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."*
- *"When I was young, I thought that money was the most important thing in life; now that I am old, I know it is."*
- *"There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it."*
- *"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."*
- *"Education is admirable, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught."*
- *"Work is the curse of the drinking classes."*
- *"Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination."*
- *"All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his."*
- *"Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months."*
- *"There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about."*

The most kissed lips (or face) in history: The Origin of Resusci Anne

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.medelita.com/blog/from-suicide-to-cpr-the-origin-of-resusci-anne/
- https://www.sciencealert.com/how-dead-girl-paris-ended-up-most-kissed-lips-in-history-l-inconnue-de-la-seine-resusci-anne-cpr-annie-death-mask
- https://www.livescience.com/cpr-doll-resusci-annie-face.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resusci_Anne
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cardiopulmonary_resuscitation

Picture Credit: "Case 8" by LibraryatNight is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Resusci Annie has the most-kissed lips (or face) in history. It has been estimated that she has helped to save more than 2.5 million lives, although she lost her own.

Here's her story:

L'Inconnue de la Seine ('the unknown woman of the Seine')

The story of *Resusci Annie* began in the late 1880s when the body of an unknown young woman was pulled out of the River Seine at the *Quai du Louvre* in Paris. Nobody knows who she was nor her name. Equally mysterious is her age and background. There were no marks or signs of violence on the body and no apparent cause for the death, and for this reason, it was concluded that she had committed suicide.

By the appearance of her face and the firmness of her skin, it is estimated that the young girl was only around 16 years of age at the time of her death. The story goes that she was taken to the Paris mortuary after her discovery, where the examining pathologist was so mesmerised by her beauty that he was compelled to make a death mask of her face, as was the custom in those days when the identity of the deceased could not be established. Though anonymous, the dead girl was by no means forgotten.

Rediscovering the Girl from the River Seine

Generations later, the Girl from the River Seine would be rediscovered when Åsmund S. Laerdal began the development of a realistic and effective training aid to teach mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He believed that if such a manikin were made, it should be life-sized and extremely realistic in appearance, so students would be better motivated to learn this lifesaving procedure. Moved by the story of the girl so tragically taken by early death, he fashioned her mask for the face of his new resuscitation training manikin, *Resusci Annie*, or *Resusci Anne*, as Laerdal refers to the doll on its website.

The doll, made of soft plastic, had a collapsible chest so that students could practice chest compressions and open lips to practice mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Serendipity

Laerdal was founded in 1940 by Åsmund S. Laerdal as a children's publishing and toy company. During the years as a toy developer, Laerdal learned about a synthetic plastic material, now known as PVC, that was suited for the casting of toys and dolls. The use of soft plastics revolutionised the toy industry, and by 1960, more than 100 million toy cars, under the brand "Tomte" had been sold in 100 countries. The Laerdal Anne doll was named *"Toy of the Year"* and became a bestseller throughout Europe.

Due to his experience with soft plastics, The Norwegian Civil Defense called on Laerdal to design natural-looking imitation wounds for military training.

In 1958, Åsmund Laerdal was approached by Norwegian anaesthesiologist Dr Bjorn Lind after learning from Dr Peter Safar about the need for a lifelike manikin to train the new concept of mouth-to-mouth ventilation. Together, Åsmund Laerdal, Dr Lind and Dr Peter Safar developed the world's first patient simulator, *Resusci Annie*, which was introduced in 1960.

Laerdal – the Company

Laerdal resuscitation training manikins have been developed to train both healthcare providers and the general population in the lifesaving skill of Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Laerdal works with global partners such as the British Heart Foundation on their Nation of Lifesavers project to train school children to perform CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use. From September 2020, first aid and CPR were added to the primary and secondary school curriculum in England.

In Popular Culture

The chorus refrain, "*Annie, are you OK?*" in Michael Jackson's *Smooth Criminal* was inspired by *Resusci Annie*. Trainees learn to say, "*Annie, are you OK?*" while practising resuscitation on the dummy.

History of cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Burhan-ud-din Kermani, a physician in 15th century Iran, was first to describe "*Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation*" (CPR), in ancient Persia, as a combination of "*strong movements and massive chest expansion*" (for induction and support of breathing) and "*compression of the left side of the chest*" (equivalent of cardiac compression) Chest compression for syncope* in medieval Persia.

* Syncope is the temporary loss of consciousness caused by a fall in blood pressure.

In August 1767, a group of wealthy and civic-minded citizens in Amsterdam gathered to form the *Society for the Recovery of Drowned Persons.* It was the world's first organised effort to respond to sudden death.

The Society's techniques involved a range of methods to resuscitate the human body. The members of the society recommended the following:

1. ***warming the victim;***
2. ***removing swallowed or aspirated water by positioning the victim's head at a lower position than the feet;***
3. ***applying manual pressure to the abdomen;***
4. ***releasing air into the victim's mouth, either using a bellows or with a mouth-to-mouth method;***
5. ***tickling the victim's throat;***
6. ***'stimulating' the victim by means such as rectal and oral fumigation with tobacco smoke. Bellows were used to drive tobacco smoke, a known irritant, into the intestine through the anus, as this was thought to be enough of a stimulant to engender a response in the "almost" dead;***
7. ***bloodletting.***

The Royal Humane Society is a British charity which promotes lifesaving intervention. It was founded in England in 1774 as the *Society for the Recovery of Persons Apparently Drowned* to render first aid in cases of near drowning.

CPR is an emergency procedure performed to manually preserve intact brain function by maintaining adequate perfusion of tissue until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest. CPR is a fundamental component of first aid that is now practised across the world and is an effective method of keeping a victim of cardiac arrest alive long enough for definitive treatment to be delivered, usually through defibrillation and administration of intravenous drugs such as *epinephrine* and *amiodarone*.

Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cardiopulmonary_resuscitation

Victorian Sports

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://www.victorians.co.uk/victorian-sports
- http://www.avictorian.com/pastimes.html
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/sport_01.shtml
- https://victorianerasports.weebly.com/
- http://victorian-era.org/victorian-sports.html
- https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/general/sport-and-the-press-during-the-victorian-era/
- https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/past-pleasures/
- http://www.avictorian.com/pastimes.html

PICTURE ATTRIBUTION: George Beldam, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons: URL: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/WG_Grace_c1902.jpg

William Gilbert Grace (1848 – 1915) was the English amateur cricketer who was important in the development of the sport and is widely considered one of its greatest players. He played first-class cricket for a record-equalling 44 seasons, during which he captained England, Gloucestershire, the Gentlemen, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), and the United South of England Eleven (USEE) and several other teams. He was right-handed as both batsman and bowler, Grace dominated the sport during his career.

Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20th June 1837 until her death on 22nd January 1901, and the Victorian age/era spans that period. Then, as before, those minded to do so participated in many of the sports that are still played today. Some of the most popular sports in the Victorian period were cricket, golf, football, rugby and tennis, but comparatively new ones came to the fore, too - such as ice-skating, figure skating, curling, tobogganing and bandy (something between ice hockey and field hockey).

During Queen Victoria's reign, big changes took place in the way people spent their leisure time. Blood sports like bear baiting and cockfighting were banned. With the growth of the railways, people began to travel more and visiting the seaside became a popular pastime. But the railways (from around 1840) also allowed local sporting teams to travel, and so sports like cricket, football and rugby began to be organised with agreed rules and national competitions, such as the FA Cup. Lawn Tennis was invented in the 1830s, and a new sight on the streets of Victorian Britain was the bicycle, in its various designs.

Source: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/past-pleasures/

A sporting culture already existed before Victoria became Queen, but it was during the final three decades of the 19th century that sport underwent what has been described as a *'sporting revolution'*.

What had been largely recreation pastimes organised on an informal basis with few written rules was transformed into a hugely popular, mass spectator entertainment industry that was national (and at times international) on a geographical scale. Sport became codified, commercialised and institutionalised with a significant increase in the number of sports clubs, competitions, governing bodies and spectators attending events. A key component of this 'sporting revolution' was the role played by papers and journals. Sport and the press were mutually beneficial, and the two became inextricably linked as the Victorian period progressed, with both experiencing a significant expansion in their scale, scope and influence.

Source: https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/general/sport-and-the-press-during-the-victorian-era/

In public schools, cricket, rugby, soccer and competitive athletic track event took off in the Victorian age. They were also popular outside of schools. Fishing and mountaineering also became popular during this time.

The 33-volume B*adminton Library of Sports and Pastimes* was a sporting and publishing project conceived by Longmans Green & Co. and edited by Henry Somerset, 8th Duke of Beaufort. Between 1885 and 1902, it developed into a series of sporting books which aimed to cover all major sports and pastimes comprehensively. The Badminton Library was originally published in 28 volumes between 1885 and 1896. To these was later added *Rowing* & *Punting* (1898), (superseding *Boating* (1888)). New volumes for *Athletics* (1898) and *Football* (1899) replaced the original *Athletics and Football* (1887). In 1902, an entirely new volume, *Motors and Motor-Driving*, covered a new sport, and lastly, there was a new edition of *Cricket* in 1920.

The original volume on *Cricket* (1888) had sixteen chapters on topics such as 'Batting', 'Bowling', 'Fielding', and 'Umpires'. It defined the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) as "*The Parliament of Cricket*" and describes the sport as "*Our National Game*". Allan Gibson Steel wrote the chapter on bowling.

The volume on *Cycling* (1887), by Viscount Bury, notes that riding the tricycle and bicycle, whether by women or by men, "*is by far the most recent of all sports in the Badminton Library of Sports and Pastimes. There is none which has developed more rapidly in the last few years.*" It considers that "*England may be looked upon as the Home of Cycling*" and quotes Thomas Huxley's words to the Royal Society: "*Since the time of Achilles, no improvement had added anything to the speed or strength attainable by the unassisted powers of man*", commenting that a bicyclist had recently raced 146 miles in only ten hours.

Another volume, *Skating* (1892), deals first with 'Origins and Development', 'Figure skating', and 'Recreation and Racing', noting that Holland was "the Skater's Paradise" and giving a list of racing records since the 1820s, then continues with chapters on *Curling*, *Tobogganing*, *Ice-Sailing* and *Bandy*.

The full list of sports covered in the B*adminton Library of Sports and Pastimes* by volume is:

1. Hunting (1885)
2. Fishing: Salmon & Trout (1885)
3. Fishing: Pike & Coarse Fish (1885)
4. Racing & Steeple-Chasing (1886)
5. Shooting: Field & Covert (1886)
6. Shooting: Moor & Marsh (1886)
7. Cycling (1887)
8. Athletics & Football (1887)
9. Boating (1888)
10. Cricket (1888, by Allan Gibson Steel)
11. Driving (1889)
12. Fencing, Boxing & Wrestling (1889)
13. Golf (1890)
14. Tennis, Lawn Tennis, Rackets & Fives (1890)
15. Riding & Polo (1891)
16. Mountaineering (1892)
17. Coursing & Falconry (1892)
18. Skating & Figure Skating (1892)
19. Swimming (1893)
20. Big Game Shooting I (1894)
21. Big Game Shooting II (1894)
22. Yachting I (1894)
23. Yachting II (1894)
24. Archery (1894)
25. Sea Fishing (1895)
26. Dancing (1895)
27. Billiards (1896)
28. The Poetry of Sport (1896)
29. Motors & Motor-Driving (1902)
30. Rowing & Punting (1898)
31. Athletics (1898)
32. Football (1899)
33. Cricket (1920)

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badminton_Library

Picture Credit: "A Game of Croquet" by Cape May MAC is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Life in Victorian Times

Sources and Further Reading:

- http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/life.htm
- https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/victorian/daily-life/
- https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/life-victorian-era
- https://www.grin.com/document/11739
- https://sites.udel.edu/britlitwiki/social-life-in-victorian-england/
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Daily-Victorian-England-Sally-Mitchell/dp/0313350345
- https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/victorians-life-happy-was-it-bad-slums-dirt-crime/

Life in the Victorian era was exciting because of all the new inventions and the growth of the British Empire. But times were tough if you were short of money as even young children had to work to contribute to the finances of poor households.

But things gradually improved so that by the end of the Victorian era at the dawn of the 20th century, new laws improved working conditions for workers in factories and mines. Young children had to go to school (which was free) rather than working, but woe betides any intransigence from school rules – Victorian teachers were very strict, and many were cruel too.

These words sum up the time perfectly:
"At the beginning of the Victorian period, people relied on the foods that were in season and available locally or those which had been pickled or preserved.
"Later, when the railways were built, many new and fresh foods came to the towns and cities. The invention of the steam ship and transport refrigeration meant that meat, fish and fruit could be imported from overseas quite cheaply.
"There were no fridges and freezers in the homes to keep food for a long time, so meals were limited by the available local food supply or food which had been pickled or preserved.
"People did not buy their food in a supermarket - instead, they went to several small shops, all selling different types of food. Grocers' shops sold dried goods such as tea, coffee, sugar and rice; butchers' shops sold meat; and dairy shops sold milk, cream, eggs, butter and cheese.
"Basic foods were: beef, mutton, pork, bacon, cheese, eggs, bread, potatoes, rice, oatmeal, milk, vegetables in season, flour, sugar, treacle, jam and tea."
Source:
http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/life.htm

It sounds like an interesting time – and worthy of further investigation. This is what I found:

The expansion of the middle classes, in both numbers and wealth, caused a huge demand for goods and services, especially as the pound sterling was strong and labour was cheap. The so-called middle-class could now show off their affluence in a way that only aristocrats and the rest of upper-class society could do in the previous century. The new demand in middle-class households for servants meant that as

Print. Chromolithograph, 'The British Nave', Plate 3 (Proof) of a set of four large prints commemorating the opening of the Great Exhibition of 1851, [after paintings by Joseph Nash].
Picture Credit: "'The British Nave' at the Great Exhibition of 1851 (print)" is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Queen Victoria's reign ended, nearly a third of women in Britain were in service.

Yet it was not all milk and honey. The early 19th century still had terrible working and living conditions. The dark shadow of the workhouse loomed ominously over the unemployed and destitute. Towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign, things were looking up – most Britons were enjoying cheaper foods and other imports from overseas. The more prosperous of working-class people were able to live in houses that were connected to fresh, clean water, drains and even gas.

With almost everyone having more spare leisure time on their hands, it meant that theatres, music halls, libraries, museums, and art galleries were popping up everywhere to entertain and educate Victorians.

The coming of the railways, seemingly crisscrossing every part of Britain, made the seaside at places like Blackpool and Brighton more accessible to everyone. New sports were always emerging, and the old ones benefitted from new and consistent rules and regulations.

In the middle part of the 19th century, England was the leading industrial country in the world. The period of supremacy had begun. Yet, England lost its supremacy in the final years of Queen Victoria's reign.

During the 19th century, the population mushroomed from 8.9 million in 1801 to 17.2 million in 1851, then rose to around 26 million people just 30 years later. Before the Victorian era, most people *'lived in the countryside, foods and messages were transported by horses, people cooked over an open fireplace, little more than half of the population could read and write, children had to work hard and long in coal mines, and factories and the political and legal power was in the hands of those who held the property; that was, in fact, a small minority'*. In the reign of Victoria, many things changed: a shift to city living, subway trains, the railways, electric streetlights in London, telegraph messages, steamships, busy transatlantic trade, compulsory education, improved legal and political status of women and much more.
Source: https://www.grin.com/document/11739

Although the Victorian era was a peaceful* and prosperous time, there were still issues within the social structure. The social classes of this time included the Upper class, Middle class, Lower class and perhaps even an Under class.
* except the two major wars of the period: the Crimean War of 1854–6 and the Indian Mutiny of 1857–9.

The Upper Class were perhaps the most fortunate since they didn't have to do manual labour: instead, many were landowners, and they hired lower class workers to work for them or made investments to create a profit. During the Victorian era, there was an early baby boom, which led to an increase in population, but also major industrialisation. Even so, some children were forced to become railway workers due to the advent of the railways in the mid-1800s.

Well, there you have it. It was an interesting time, wasn't it? It's a pity that Queen Victoria didn't seem very happy with how things worked out for her after losing her husband at such an early age.

Victorian Cooking

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-essex-45360643
- https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/victorian-recipes/
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-37654373
- https://soyummy.com/victorian-weird-foods/
- http://www.thecooksguide.com/articles/victorian-kitchen.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_cuisine

After Queen Victoria took the throne in 1837, politics, religion, and family life were reformed during her 63-year reign. And as the times changed, so did the food that was put on plates. Although progress was made within society, the class system was still firmly in place, and those classes were reflected in Victorian food.

As Nene Adams on ListVerse wrote in 2012 (here), the Victorians didn't just carve off steaks and chops from cows, pigs, sheep, etc., and dump what was left of the carcasses into a sausage grinder. Embracing the whole animal from snout to tail, they enjoyed offal and other bits that normally go into hot dogs. Brains, tripe, tongue, head, feet, tail, ears… you name it; a Victorian cook knew what to do with it.

Cooking as an Art

There were two seemingly conflicting ideas about the role of women in Victorian society: the "New Women" who clamoured for greater participation in public life seemed at odds with the traditional ideal of femininity, the "Angel of the House", that limited women's role in society to matters concerning the household.

Despite the restrictiveness of traditional conceptions of femininity, not all women welcomed the "New Women" philosophies, as some saw the pursuit of political causes as vulgar and preferred to pave other paths for women to seek their own goals.

Perhaps Elizabeth Pennell* summed this up when she wrote: "*Why clamour for the suffrage, why labour for the redemption of brutal man, why wear, with noisy advertisement, ribbons white or blue, when three times a day there is a work of art, easily within her reach, to be created?*" Guiding women writers like Pennell was a belief that women ought not to abandon their traditional role in the kitchen. She strove to recast the domestic cult of femininity, duly elevating cooking from the drudgery of bodily labour as a creative pursuit worthy of genius, admiration, and respect: "*The ambitious will trust to her kitchen to win her reputation; the poet will offer lyrics and pastorals with every course; the painter will present in every dish a lovely scheme of colour.*"

* Elizabeth Robins Pennell (1855 –1936) was an American writer who made her home in London for most of her adult life.

Factors that encouraged innovation in cooking were improvement in kitchen safety, availability of ingredients, and the influence of the female aesthetic. With the new, positive view that *"cooking was a high art practised by geniuses"*, middle- and upper-class Victorian women began to express their culinary creativity for the first time, much as male artists had always been able to do.

Hosting fancy dinner parties was a new way to elevate social class in Victorian England artistically. Instead of cooks and servants, middle- and upper-class women began to make complicated dishes to impress family members and guests. This ultimately transformed the once-mundane task of cooking and eating into artful experiences. With this trend, meals split into multiple courses.

Cooking at home

Many Victorian meals were served at home as a family. Middle- and upper-class breakfasts typically consisted of porridge, eggs, fish, and bacon. They were eaten together as a family. Sunday lunches included meat, potatoes, vegetables, and gravy. Family meals became common events that linked the comforts of home with this newly recognised art form.

Perspectives

Victorian cuisine did not appeal to everyone. Victorian England became known throughout Europe for its bland and unappetising food. British chefs like Mrs A. B. Marshall** encouraged boiling and mutating food until it no longer tasted or resembled its original form. Many housewives started cooking in this fashion since it was the only 'safe' way to encounter food. By contrast, Elizabeth Pennell was an evocative figure who promoted originality by encouraging women to become creative in the kitchen and by stating that *"cooking is the ultimate form of art."*

** Agnes Bertha Marshall (1855 –1905) was an English culinary entrepreneur. She became a leading cookery writer in the Victorian period and was dubbed the *"Queen of Ices"* for her works on ice cream and other frozen desserts.

Weird or Unusual Victorian Food

The SoYummy website (here) provides information about Victorian food, some of which you may not be aware – including a few you wouldn't touch with a bargepole. Remember that the Victorian era was a time when most people didn't brush their teeth:

- ***Marrow toast*** was supposedly a favourite of Queen Victoria, according to her former cook Charles Francatelli, who included the recipe in his 1861 book, The Cook's Guide and Housekeeper's & Butler's Assistant.
- ***Broxy*** - Broxy was an umbrella term for any meat the butcher had for sale that had dropped dead from disease. Sheep, which at the time were incredibly susceptible to communicable diseases like tetanus, salmonella, and ringworm, were most often sold as broxy meats.
- ***Jellied Eels*** - Working-class Londoners of the Victorian era snacked on jellied eels, which started in street carts in the East End.
- ***Kedgeree*** – Apparently, the Victorians loved kedgeree for breakfast. It was on the menu on Titanic and most other Ocean Liners of the era.
- ***Brown Windsor Soup*** was everyone's favourite dish during the Victorian era in England. Royalty, middle and lower classes alike slurped this soup down in gay abundance. According to The Foods of England Project, Brown Windsor Soup was known as *"the very soup reputed to have built the British Empire."*
- ***Boiled Calf's Head*** - The Book of Household Management from 1861, edited by Isabella Beeton, details how one would prepare a boiled calf's head. It sounds awful – ugh!
- ***Sheep's Trotter*** - Victorians also loved a good sheep trotter (aka boiled sheep's foot). They were popular among the lower classes because they were an affordable alternative to meat.
- ***Pickled Oysters*** – The Victorians liked to pickle oysters to have a source of protein that would last them a few days, weeks, or even months.
- ***Saloop*** or ***Rice Milk***– Saloop was the preferred morning or evening hot drink of many working-class Victorians. It was made with sassafras bark flour and flavoured with milk and sugar. Victorians also commonly drank a hot cup of rice milk - basically, a watered-down rice pudding made by boiling rice in skimmed milk.
- ***Flour Soup*** - the Victorians ate something called flour soup, made from water, butter, flour, salt, and caraway seeds boiled and mixed until smooth.

A Victorian cook's 1880s recipes

Mrs Avis Crocombe was head cook at Audley End House in Essex in the 1880s. Her recipe book was later found, and English Heritage has brought her creations back to life with an historical interpreter - the video recreations of recipes by Mrs Crocombe have been watched more than 12 million times online. Click here to watch.

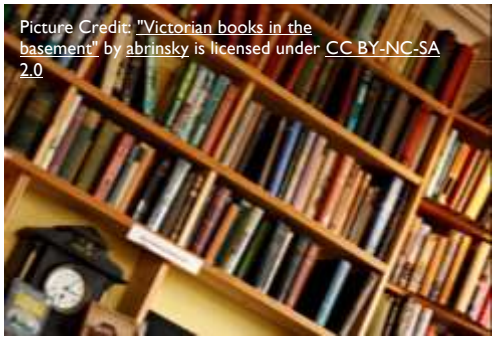
Now also available as a cookery book, which you can buy from here, *The Victorian Way* video series provides an interesting gastronomic connection between the past and present of our nation's food tastes. From cucumber ice cream and Christmas cake, to turkey and pigeon pie, discover what life was like in Victorian England and treat yourself to a delicious taste of the past.

What did the Victorians read?

Sources and Further Reading:
- https://interestingliterature.com/2014/07/10-classic-victorian-novels-everyone-should-read/
- https://fiveminutehistory.com/the-art-of-reading-in-the-victorian-era/
- https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/victorian-readers
- https://sites.udel.edu/britlitwiki/the-victorians/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_literature
- https://victorianweb.org/gender/reading.html
- https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-childrens-books-Victorians
- https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/catalogue-of-books-from-mudies-circulating-library

The list of the ten classic Victorian novels everyone should read because they stand as classics of the period when Queen Victoria was on the throne, is provided by *Interesting Literature* (here). If you haven't the time or inclination to go online, here are the novels:

- Anthony Trollope, *The Warden* (1855). This was Trollope's first real success, although when he wrote it, he was already the author of a handful of novels.
- Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (1855). Although it had been the hugely successful *Mary Barton* (1848) that kick-started Gaskell's literary career and brought her to the world's attention, and her contemporaries, *North and South* is often seen as her masterpiece.
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847). This novel is about Jane Eyre's relationship with Mr Rochester, whose first wife, Bertha, has been concealed in a room in his house.
- Anne Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848). An under-appreciated Brontë novel, this book was Anne's second (and last) and was disowned by her sister, Charlotte, who thought it a mistake to publish it.
- Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* (1868). Often called the first detective novel in English (by T. S. Eliot, among others), it was, in fact, not the first of its genre but is an unusual and atypical detective novel in many ways.
- William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (1848). This novel, which is now the only one by Thackeray which is still widely read, took its name from the fair in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847). Emily Brontë's novel is told through a multi-layered narrative back to the time when Heathcliff, a waif from Liverpool, was brought to live at Wuthering Heights by Catherine Linton's father. The destructive and all-consuming love story between Heathcliff and Cathy forms the main part of the novel.
- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891). Probably, Thomas Hardy's tragic masterpiece.
- Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (1853). This book is often chosen as the 'best' Dickens novel. Dickens offers a biting and hilarious satire on the farcical nature of the British legal system in the ongoing *Jarndyce v*



Picture Credit: "Victorian books in the basement" by abrinsky is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Many say that Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812 – 1870) was the greatest author of the Victorian era. His many volumes include such works as *A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, Bleak House, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations,* and *Our Mutual Friend*. English writing from the Victorian era reflected the major transformation in most aspects of English life, such as significant scientific, economic, and technological advances to changes in class structures and the role of religion in society.

During the Victorian era, authors from the UK wrote novels that challenged class systems, drew greater attention to the deplorable living conditions of the working class, gave us some of the earliest works of feminist literature, and invented many of the tropes used and reused in modern literature. *
* Source: Flovorwire, here.

Towards the latter part of Queen Victoria's reign, the ubiquitous availability of gas and electric lighting meant that reading after dark didn't have to be by candlelight or messy oil lamps. Novels became a pleasurable pursuit with the freedom to read anywhere and at any time. Victorians became great readers of novels, and the number of books available for them to read (without Amazon or Waterstones existing) increased enormously during Queen Victoria's reign. Reading also benefited from wider schooling and increased literacy rates.

Novels were often serialised in monthly or even weekly parts. It meant they were more easily accessible and widely shared through many outlets. Weekly or monthly segments often ended in suspense on a "cliff-hanger" to keep readers hooked (or hanging on), eager to buy and read the next instalment. They might have advertisements at either end: many of Dickens's novels were first published in this form, as was George Eliot's *Middlemarch*.

Perhaps the best-known serialised novels were the "Penny Dreadfuls" (see picture, right). Costing just one old penny, they focused on the exploits of detectives, criminals, or supernatural entities.

Until the early 1890s, books were most often published in three volumes. As a new novel was priced at around 31s 6d in old money (£138 in today's money), they were almost always borrowed from what were called *circulating libraries*.

Some libraries were locally-owned businesses, but the best known was *Mudie's Circulating Library* (founded in 1842), which sent boxes of books all over the country to its subscribers. Other borrowing facilities were found at railway station bookstalls, which also sold reading matter for rail journeys. **
** Source: British Library, here.

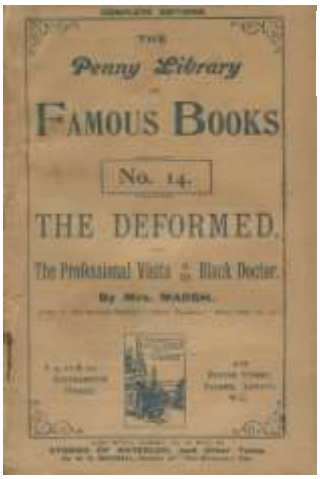
Mudie's Circulating Library***

Catering for the aspirational and self-improvement market was George Mudie (1818–1890). In 1842, he charged students at the University of London an annual subscription to borrow books. Proving successful, he expanded, founding *Mudie's Lending Library* and *Mudie's Subscription Library* to enable members of the public to do the same. Over the ensuing years, Mudie expanded into other cities such as York, Birmingham and Manchester, and it carried on into the early 1900s when, with the advent of free public libraries, it made paid-for book-borrowing unattractive.
*** Source: British Library, here.

Books for Victorian Children

A selection (perhaps for your grandchildren?) from the 60 favourite books for children from the Victorian period (1837-1901) listed by Goodreads (here) are:

- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter.
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland / Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll.
- *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum.
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson.
- *The Jungle Books* by Rudyard Kipling.
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell.
- *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales by Jacob* Grimm.
- *Little Red Riding Hood* by Trina Schart Hyman.
- *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott.
- *The Complete Fairy Tales* by Hans Christian Andersen.
- *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain.
- *The Light Princess* by George MacDonald.
- *Jo's Boys* by Louisa May Alcott.
- *The Complete Fairy* Tales by Oscar Wilde.
- *A Book of Nonsense* by Edward Lear.
- *At the Back of the North Wind* by George MacDonald.
- *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Robert Browning.



Example of a Penny Dreadful

Picture Credit: "uclalsc_sadleir36433no14_001" by jonathanhgrossman is marked with CC PDM 1.0

The George Washington you may not know

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://potus-geeks.livejournal.com/700626.html
- https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/03/the-alleged-amorous-affairs-of-washington/
- http://mdmasons.org/about-md-masons/famous-masons/george-washington/ • https://aw22.org/
- https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/10-things-you-really-ought-to-know-about-george-washington
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Washington
- https://www.biography.com/us-president/george-washington
- https://www.bostonteapartyship.com/george-washington-facts
- https://www.history.com/news/george-washington-little-known-facts
- https://www.insider.com/george-washington-facts-2019-2
- https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/56532/25-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-george-washington
- https://www.britannica.com/story/did-george-washington-really-say-i-cant-tell-a-lie

Picture Credit: "George Washington Statue (Philadelphia, Masonic Temple)" by @CarShowShooter is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The life and times of George Washington

The Brittanica.com website (here) provides an interesting biographical summary of the life and times of George Washington. The full article is here.

George Washington was born in 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He died in 1799 at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Washington was the American Revolutionary commander-in-chief (1775–83) and the first president of the US for two terms from 1789 to 1797. In 1752, he inherited his brother's estate at Mount Vernon, including 18 slaves, although he disapproved of slavery.

In 1775, he was elected to command the Continental Army, and in the ensuing American Revolution, he proved a brilliant commander and leader. He was a delegate to and presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention (1787) and helped secure ratification of the Constitution in Virginia.

In his second term as President, he followed a middle course between the political factions that later became the Federalist Party and the Democratic Party.

Washington declined to serve a third term (thereby setting a 144-year precedent) and retired in 1797 after delivering his *"Farewell Address."* Known as the *"father of his country,"* he is universally regarded as one of the greatest figures in US history.

Washington's childhood

Little is known about Washington's childhood, which perhaps is why biographers manufactured fables to fill in the gap. Among these are the stories where Washington threw a silver dollar across the Potomac River and, after chopping down his father's prize cherry tree, confessed to the crime truthfully.

From age seven to 15, Washington was home-schooled and studied with the local church sexton and later by a schoolmaster in practical mathematics, geography, Latin and the English classics. Washington did not attend college and is the only major founding father without a college education.

He left school at 15 because his family could not afford his college education, so he was self-taught in many fields.

Washington could trace his family's presence in North America to his great-grandfather, John Washington, who emigrated from England to Virginia.

The family held some distinction in England and was granted land by Henry VIII, although much of the family's wealth in England was lost under the Puritan government of Oliver Cromwell.

Source: https://www.biography.com/us-president/george-washington

Was Washington ever unfaithful?

The answer is probably NO. All through his adult public life, George Washington was free of substantive sexual accusations except for fake suggestions of impropriety from the British. Washington was very aware of his image and character model and always tried to live above reproach. In 1758, when George and Martha Martha Dandridge Custis (his future wife, recently widowed, and at the time the richest woman in Virginia) were formally engaged but not yet married, Washington began with the following statement:

"I profess myself a votary of love. I acknowledge that a lady is in the case, and further I confess that this lady is known to you. Misconstrue not my meaning; doubt it not nor expose it. The world has no business to know the object of my love declared in this manner to you when I want to conceal it. One thing above all things in this world I wish to know, and only one person of your acquaintance can solve me that."

Source: Various, including https://potus-geeks.livejournal.com/700626.html

From the context of the 1758 letter, it soon becomes clear that the lady about whom Washington is referring is Mrs Sally Fairfax, the wife of his close friend George William Fairfax. In 1775, the British attempted (not for the first time) to discredit George Washington with a forged letter revealing his affair with a woman called Kate *"the washerwoman's daughter."* This was false wartime propaganda, and there is no convincing evidence that he was ever unfaithful to Martha after their marriage.

In 1877, 119 years after it was written, the letter that George Washington had written to Mrs Sally Fairfax was discovered - and it was printed on the front page of the *New York Herald*.

Knowing more about George Washington

The *George Washington Mount Vernon* website (here) and the *Boston Tea-party website* (here) list several things you might want to know about Washington:

- He was fearless in battle: For example, at the Battle of Princeton (January 1777), he rode forward on his white charger as he led his soldiers in a successful counter-attack against the British.
- Washington ruined his teeth using them to crack walnut shells. His false teeth were not made from wood, but were created using a combination of gold, ivory, carved animal bone and human teeth purchased from his African American slaves. His teeth may have been false, but his hair was real: it looked white because he powdered it.
- Only George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are featured on both a US coin and bill currently in circulation.
- Washington was more deeply involved in intelligence operations than any American general-in-chief until Dwight Eisenhower during WW II.
- Washington owned more than 50,000 acres and was a keen supporter of westward expansion.
- Washington loved parties and the company of women. There are many accounts of his dancing late into the night at various balls, etc. He loved theatre and attended plays of all sorts throughout his life.
- Washington was unanimously chosen to preside over the Constitutional Convention, a job that took four months.
- Washington's leadership during the Revolution and Constitutional Convention, unimpeachable character, and his demonstrated willingness not to abuse power, made him the ideal presidential candidate – little wonder then that he was the US President - twice.
- Washington established himself as an innovative farmer: For example, he switched from tobacco to wheat as his main cash crop in the 1760s.
- Washington is the only slave-owning president who freed all of his slaves. Yet, it seems as if he had a contradictory attitude toward slavery - one of the great mysteries of his life and legacy.
- Fearing being buried alive (which he believed others in history had been), Washington's last orders were that his body should not be buried for three days after his death, just to be on the safe side.

Continued >>

>> Continued

George Washington quotes

- ***"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace."***
- ***"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."***
- ***"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth."***
- ***"Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."***
- ***"Mankind, when left to themselves, are unfit for their own government."***
- ***"Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."***
- ***"When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen."***
- ***"Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pain to bring it to light."***
- ***"It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company."***
- ***"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder."***

Washington, the Freemason

Washington joined Freemasonry in the Masonic Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia (Lodge No. 4). He was 20 years old when he received the first degree of an Entered Apprentice on 4th November 1752.
He became a Master Mason the following year.

All the way through his very public life, Washington remained active within the Fraternity of Freemasonry. In 1788, he was elected to serve as the first Master of the Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia (Lodge No. 22).

Deification of Washington

The Apotheosis of Washington (the glorification of America's first president) is the fresco (see above) visible through the dome's oculus in the rotunda ceiling of the United States Capitol Building in Washington DC.

The fresco is suspended 180 feet above the rotunda floor and covers an area of 4,664 square feet. It depicts George Washington sitting amongst the heavens in an exalted manner (as befits the widely-held affection of him), or in literary terms, ascending and becoming a god (apotheosis).

Washington, the first U.S. president and commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War against Great Britain, is allegorically represented, surrounded by figures from classical mythology. Washington, draped in purple as worn by generals of the ancient Roman Republic during their triumphs, with a rainbow arch at his feet, is flanked by the goddess Victoria (draped in green, using a horn) to his left and the goddess of Liberty to his right.

Liberty wears a red liberty cap, symbolising emancipation, from a Roman tradition where slaves being manumitted* would be given a felt cap. She holds a fasces** in her right hand and an open book in the other, towards which Washington gestures with his right hand.

Greek-Italian artist Constantino Brumidi painted the fresco in 1865.

* Manumitted: from Manumission or enfranchisement is the act of freeing slaves by their owners.
** Fasces: from the Latin word fascis, meaning "bundle".

Last Words

After Washington died, a law was passed to make him the highest-ranking U.S. officer of all time: *General of the Armies of the United States.* Nobody can nor will ever outrank him.

Washington's eulogy was delivered by *Major General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee,* who immortalised these words:

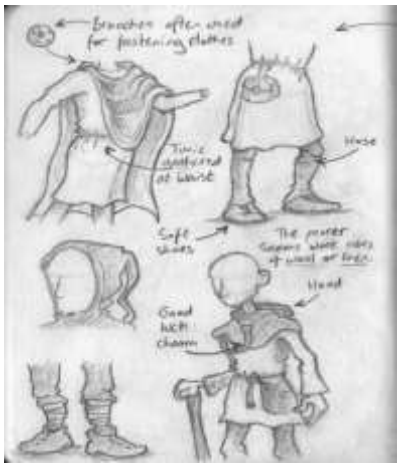
"To the memory of the man, first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

That farewell address is one of the most famous speeches in American history.

The Anglo Saxons and the History of Britain

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Anglo-Saxons-History-Beginnings-England/dp/1786330997
- https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3865/anglo-saxons-a-brief-history
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Anglo-Saxon_England
- https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/oms/anglo-saxon-migrations
- https://www.bl.uk/anglo-saxons/articles/who-were-the-anglo-saxons
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/saxons.shtml



Picture Credit: "Anglo Saxon Clothing - thumbnail" by Cladgeman is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Romans left, and new people arrived

Britain ceased to be part of the Roman Empire in the 5th century and became a group of small warring territories, from which eventually developed the medieval kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Wales. This process involved population movements around the Irish and North Sea coastal regions, of which the largest was that of the Anglo-Saxons from northern Germany and southern Scandinavia into eastern England. They came to Britain in ships across the North Sea from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands after the last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410 AD. The Romans left our shores because they were needed back home to defend the crumbling centre of their Empire. Britain was considered a far-flung outpost of little value.

The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain can be dated from around 410AD until the Norman conquest in 1066, a period that used to be known as the *Dark Ages*, mainly because written sources for the early years of the Saxon invasion are scarce. Most historians now prefer the terms '*early middle-ages*' or '*early medieval period*'. Whatever it may be called, it was a time of war, of the breaking up of Roman Britannia into several separate kingdoms, religious conversion and, after the 790s, continual battles against a new set of invaders: the Vikings.
Source:
https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3865/anglo-saxons-a-brief-history

The influence of climate change

Climate change influenced the movement of the Anglo-Saxon invaders to Britain: in the centuries after 400 AD, Europe's average temperature was 1°C warmer than today, and warmer summers melted polar ice and caused flooding in what is now Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

People from these areas began looking for places less likely to flood. With the Roman legions gone, Britain was a defenceless and irresistible prospect - separate kingdoms emerged:

- **Kent**, settled by the Jutes. Ethelbert of Kent was the first Anglo-Saxon king to be converted to Christianity by St Augustine around 595 AD.
- **Mercia**, whose best-known ruler, Offa, built Offa's Dyke along the border between Wales and England. This large kingdom stretched over the Midlands.
- **Northumbria**, where the monk Bede (c. 670-735) lived and wrote his Ecclesiastical History of Britain.
- **East Anglia** made up of Angles: the North Folk (living in modern Norfolk) and the South Folk (living in Suffolk).
- **Essex** (East Saxons). Here the famous Battle of Maldon was fought against the Vikings in 991.
- **Sussex**: the South Saxons settled here.
- **Wessex** (West Saxons), later the kingdom of King Alfred, the only English king ever to have been called 'the Great', and his equally impressive grandson, Athelstan, the first who could truly call himself 'King of the English'.

By 850 AD, the kingdoms above had been consolidated into three large Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, and Wessex. The Anglo-Saxons had become Christians.
Source:
https://www.history.org.uk/membership/info/primary

Bede, the monk from Northumbria

You have to look to *Bede* (also known *as Saint Bede*, *The Venerable Bede*, and *Bede the Venerable*), an English Benedictine monk writing some centuries later, to fill in some of the gaps. He was at the monastery of St. Peter and its companion monastery of St. Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria of the Angles.

Bede was born on lands belonging to the twin monastery of *Monkwearmouth-Jarrow* in present-day Tyne and Wear. He was sent to Monkwearmouth at the age of seven and later joined Abbot Ceolfrith at Jarrow. Bede travelled to several abbeys and other monasteries across the British Isles. He said the Anglo-Saxons were from some of the most powerful and warlike tribes around at the time and who settled in Great Britain in the post-Roman period. *Bede* gave a name to three of these tribes: the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes.

An explanation of the tribes, using the modern names for the countries they came from*, is:

- The ***Saxons*** came from what is now Lower Saxony, in northern Germany
- The ***Angles*** were from Angeln, (Danish: Angel; Latin: Anglia, which also means in direct translation from Latin: England), now a peninsula in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.
- The **Jutes** were from Jutland, now Denmark.

* There was another group called the *Frisians*, a West Germanic ethnic group indigenous to the coastal regions of the Netherlands and north-western Germany.

The tribes founded several kingdoms of the Heptarchy** in Anglo-Saxon England, and their name is the root of the name *England*.

** The Heptarchy is a collective name applied to the seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England from the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain in the 5th century until the 8th century consolidation into the four kingdoms of Mercia, Northumbria, Wessex, and East Anglia.

The Celtic areas of Britain regarded the Saxons as enemies and foreigners on their borders: their name became *Sassenachs* to the Scottish and *Saesneg* to the Welsh***.
*** Source:
https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3865/anglo-saxons-a-brief-history

According to Bede, the *Angles* settled in East Anglia, the *Saxons* in southern England, and the *Jutes* in Kent and the Isle of Wight. Bede is well known as an author, teacher and scholar, and his most famous work called the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (in around 731) gained him the title "*The Father of English History*". The term for English people (Latin: *gens Anglorum*; Anglo-Saxon: *Angelcynn*) was in use by then to distinguish Germanic groups in Britain from those on the continent (Old Saxony in Northern Germany). The term 'Anglo-Saxon' came into use in the 8th century (probably by *Paul the Deacon*) to distinguish English Saxons from continental Saxons (Ealdseaxan, 'old' Saxons).

Bede's work tells the story of the conversion of the English people to Christianity. Bede's account is the chief source of information about English history from the arrival of St Augustine in Kent in 597 until 731****. But Bede begins his history much earlier, with Julius Caesar's invasion of England in 55 BCE. Bede acknowledged several other sources in compiling his own account.
**** Source: British Library at: https://www.bl.uk/anglo-saxons/articles/who-were-the-anglo-saxons

The truth about Anglo-Saxon migration

There has been much debate about how many Anglo-Saxons arrived and how many of the native Britons survived their invasion. It is recommended that you read about this on the *OurMigrationStory**** website, here: for example:

> ***"... in some regions like Norfolk, there may have been many incomers who arrived early in the fifth century, but in other regions, migrants arrived later and in much smaller numbers. Some of the incomers were successful war bands who met little organised resistance in the parts of Britain closest to their homelands; elsewhere, the local population remained, but its leadership either eventually adopted the Anglo-Saxon language and customs or was replaced, leading in turn to the anglicisation of their people."***

*** Source: Dr Catherine Hills, Senior Fellow, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

The Anglo Saxons replaced the stone buildings the Romans had built, with their own wooden ones, and spoke their own language. That language gave rise to the English spoken today.

The Anglo-Saxons also brought their own religious beliefs, but the arrival of Saint Augustine in 597 converted most of the country to Christianity.

The Wolstonbury Hill Story

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/sussex-news/gallery/wolstonbury-hill-eerie-south-downs-5406738
- http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=671.0
- http://www.wolstonbury.com/downloads/FoW-FINAL-181109-6ppDL-v2-6.pdf
- https://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=565
- https://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/6387/wolstonbury.html
- https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=399066&resourceID=19191
- https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/saddlescombe-farm-and-newtimber-hill/features/wolstonbury-hill
- https://csweb.bournemouth.ac.uk/wolstonbury/wol_summary.html

Picture Credit: "Iron Age earthworks, Wolstonbury Hill" by Simon Carey is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Just watch your back

There is something very eerie about Wolstonbury Hill. At first glance, it's like any other beautiful hill on the South Downs near Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks or Ditchling. But every time you visit this hidden gem, you might feel a little uneasy - and perhaps even slightly fearful. This hill has a mysterious history and there has been talk of witchcraft, skeletons being dug up hundreds of years ago and possible ceremonies. In 1765, during the course of flint digging at Wolstonbury Hill, several human skeletons were unearthed - of Saxon origin.

Yes, maybe it's a little vague and possible an historical myth - but if true, could they have left a dark, haunting aura to this hill? After all, the hill has a history that dates back thousands of years. There has been pottery found made by the Romans, and there is evidence that Iron Age farmers grazed animals on its summit.

Wolstonbury Hill is one of the best locations in Sussex for orchids. And strange humplike ant nests also cover the hill. It is unique and well worth the steep climb to the summit for the views alone. Very few hills on the South Downs offer such a rich, ancient history and diverse selection of natural wonders.

Personal Recollections

The South Downs around Mid-Sussex provided the ideal training grounds for battle-ready troops and their tanks and other heavy equipment before World War II. After the war, despite a huge clean-up operation, sadly, at least one unexploded bomb was not recovered: on the late afternoon of 15th March 1953, a 13-year boy from Hassocks was killed by an explosive device, probably from the wartime military practising on the South Downs. The shell would have remained unseen and unexploded for years to come but for the curiosity of a threesome of Hassocks boys just a few years after the war - Micky Streeton was with his friend John Easton and John's younger brother, Peter.

Micky had found a 2-inch mortar bomb near Wellcombe Rifle Range on Wolstonbury Hill, and he tested it first by throwing it at a tree and then by smashing it against a post. It was alive and exploded on impact with the post, killing the poor boy immediately. It later emerged that when he was younger, Mickey had contracted some form of polio and had been wheelchair-bound for a while but recovered - only for this tragic accident to happen.

The boys had been playing at Welcome Bottom, on Wolstonbury Hill, Michael Worthington-Williams, the motoring historian, prolific author, and journalist - now in his eighties and living in Wales - was there on that fateful day, playing a game with his and my School-chum, Chris Shafer.

The explosion left Micky Streeton dead, John Easton lost an eye, but his brother Peter survived unscathed except for the trauma of the occasion.

Where is it, and who owns it?

Wolstonbury Hill is located near the A23 London to Brighton Road with the villages of Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint to the north and Brighton and the coastal strip to the south. It is part of the new South Downs National Park. Wolstonbury Hill is a very special place for many different reasons – for example, there is evidence of occupation by Bronze Age farmers over 4,000 years ago, and with 58 acres of SSSI land (*Site of Special Scientific Interest*), footpaths, bridleways, and access land combine to provide spectacular views and the chalk grassland habitat supports a rich diversity of flowers.

If you can manage a walk up the Hill (not easy, I am told), it will take you through beech woodland at the base across open grassland at the top. Upon reaching the summit, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the weald, the sea and the downs, including Newtimber Hill and the Devil's Dyke. Today, Wolstonbury Hill is largely owned by the National Trust who manage it alongside the other landowners. Part of the Hill is a Scheduled Monument*.

* In the UK, a scheduled monument is a nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.

Description

Rising to a maximum height of 206 metres (676 ft), Wolstonbury projects into the Weald from the main ridge of the South Downs, giving views of both the Downs and the Weald. Views across the Weald to the north are panoramic; to the east are the Clayton Windmills (Jack and Jill) with Ditchling Beacon beyond. Hollingbury is prominent to the southeast. Looking west, you can see Newtimber Hill, West Hill, with Devils Dyke just beyond, and further out, Chanctonbury Ring is visible.

Wolstonbury Hillfort

The *Historic England Research Records* (here) describe Wolstonbury Hillfort:

'A Late Bronze Age Ram's Hill type enclosure situated on a clay-with-flints capped, chalk hill which forms part of the Sussex Downs. The north-south aligned, roughly oval enclosure is defined by a ditch up to 5 metres wide and circa 1.2 metres deep, which bounds a central area of 2.2 hectares. Part excavation in 1929 and 1995 and a 1993 survey have shown the ditch to be flat-bottomed and interrupted in places by narrow causeways, interpreted as original features.

'A bank of dump construction surrounds the ditch, measuring up to 5 metres wide and up to 1.5 metres high, and the ditch is flanked on its south-western side by a slight internal bank up to 0.2 metres high. The earthworks have been disturbed in places by late 18th century-early 19th century flint diggings, mainly excavated by the inmates of Hurstpierpoint workhouse.

'Two gaps at the north and south-east of the boundary earthworks have been interpreted as original entrances. The later flint diggings have also disturbed much of the interior of the enclosure, although surveys have indicated roughly north-south aligned curving banks measuring 2-4 metres wide and up to 0.5 metres high. These are interpreted as lynchets resulting from the subsequent cultivation of the interior during the Early Iron Age. Antiquarian sources indicate that the monument may have been used as a cemetery during the later Anglo-Saxon period...'

Picture Credit: "Wolstonbury Hill Trig Point" by Janine Forbes is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Ascension Day and Hurstpierpoint College

Every year, on Ascension Day, the staff and pupils from Hurstpierpoint College (founded by Nathaniel Woodard as a High Church College) climbed Wolstonbury Hill (Danny) to participate in a celebration of Holy Communion commemorating the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. The idea of the annual climb was taken from an Oxford college when Hurstpierpoint College was young - to give the new school a feeling of tradition.

Three of my sons (two of whom were members of the College choir) dressed in their school uniforms, sang hymns of praise on the Hill and were rewarded with a commemorative coin (called *'Lowe's dough'* – so-named after Dr Edward Clarke Lowe, the first headmaster) to mark the occasion.

The school was established in 1849 as St John's Middle School, based in Shoreham. Dr Lowe stayed at Hurstpierpoint for 22 years until 1872. Thanks to the local benefactors - the Campion family from Danny Park family - on 21st June 1853, it moved to its present site.

Hurstpierpoint College boasts the oldest Shakespeare society in existence, older even than that of the Royal Shakespeare Company which was not formed until 1875. It has performed a Shakespeare play every year since 1854.

The Secrets of Danny House, Hurstpierpoint

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/news/environment/new-book-reveals-history-danny-house-2336086
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danny_House
- http://www.dannyhouse.org.uk/history.html
- https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/sussex-news/danny-house-enormous-hurstpierpoint-mansion-5416659
- https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/danny-park
- http://www.dannyhouse.org.uk/index.html

Picture Credit: "File: Danny House Hurstpierpoint.jpg" by Estherbertram is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

Where is it?

Danny House is a Grade I listed Elizabethan red brick mansion near Hurstpierpoint in West Sussex. It lies at the northern foot of Wolstonbury Hill and is arguably one of the finest stately houses in Sussex, with 56 bedrooms and 28 apartments. The present house was built 1593–95 by *George Goring*, on the site of an older house. It is set in eight acres of gardens at the foot of the South Downs within an historic parkland of some 400 acres, which was granted by royal charter in the year 1333.

History

There is an outline of a Bronze Age enclosure above Danny House on the top of nearby Wolstonbury Hill. On the west side of Wolstonbury, there is a large artificial plateau thought to be the site of an Iron Age camp. The *Sussex Greensand Way* Roman Road passed through the site of Danny Park in an east-west direction, making an alignment change on the hill to the north of the house. The road survives as a terrace on the shoulder of the hill, a hollow way leading down the hill and a raised strip leading to the stream.

The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded that '*Robert holds Herst of William*', (meaning *Robert de Pierpoint*) held the land from *William de Warenne* - a son-in-law of William the Conqueror.

The house in its present form dates from the early 16th century but was reconstructed and enlarged by *George Goring* in 1593, after he had purchased the estate in 1582. The house was designed in the shape of the letter E to represent the Queen (Elizabeth I of England) and represents a magnificent example of Elizabethan architecture.

The current house has two main fronts, the east 16th century, the south early Georgian. The brick-built east frontage is monumental, the south front stately, the whole building a prominent element in views from the downs. It has three storeys.

The approach to Danny House winds gently through the park and across the substantial fishpond, which is shown on the *Robert Whitpaine* estate map of 1666.

Near the house, the drive splits into three, to serve the outbuildings and stables, the main house and Little Danny, the farmhouse.

After four generations of ownership by the Goring family, Danny was sold to *Peter Courthope* in 1650. In 1652, Danny Great Park was 54 hectares (135 acres) with arable land and meadow amounting to about 170 hectares (420 acres).

In 1702, *Barbara Courthope* married *Henry Campion*, a Kentish landowner. In 1725 they made Danny their home, and soon undertook extensive alterations, including the re-fronting of the south side of the house, as is confirmed by the date 1728 and their initials on the leaden water pipes. Several generations of the Campions followed. If my memory serves me correctly, a *Campion* was District Commissioner in my scouting days.

The naming of Danny

No one is absolutely sure how the name 'Danny' came about – it may be a corruption of the Saxon word *Danehithe*, meaning "valley and haven". The site has been used since early Iron Age men came down the steep sides of their camp on the top of Wolstonbury Hill in search of game and fresh water.

An alternative explanation (see page 4 of the pdf here) is that the component, *'dan'*, probably derives from *denn*, meaning '*a woodland pasture, especially a swine pasture*'.

The world's earliest cricket ground

Cricket is recorded in the diaries of *Thomas Marchant* as having been played at Sand Field, Danny Park in 1717, making it the earliest identifiable cricket ground in the world. In July 2017, the tri-centenary of the occasion was celebrated by a match played between Danny House and the local Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club.

Wartime Use

During World War I, Danny House was rented for four months to the then Prime Minister *David Lloyd George*. Regular meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet were held in the Great Hall where, on 13th October 1918, terms of the armistice to be offered to Germany at the end of the Great War were decided, and authority was given to US President *Woodrow Wilson* to negotiate the armistice.

One of Britain's best-kept secrets of World War II was the creation of the Home Guard Auxiliary Units, which used the status of the Home Guard as a subterfuge for their real activities. The Hurstpierpoint Patrol had six members and had an underground hideout in a small wood to the north of Wolstonbury Hill. Part of the patrol's training included mock attacks on Danny House.

Soon after the Great War, Danny House became a school known as Montpelier College and then Wolstonbury College, which had been transferred from Brighton but closed in 1956.

Retirement Home

Although the Campion family were no longer living in the house, the estate continued in the ownership of the Campions until the 1980s, when the estate was broken up and the various land holdings, houses and farms were sold to tenants or into private hands. The house was then bought by Mutual Households Association (later, the Country Houses Association (CHA)). After CHA went into liquidation in 2003, the house was purchased by a private purchaser (*Richard Burrows*) in 2004. In 2007, Danny House celebrated 50 years as a retirement home.

Danny Park and the Danny Woods

The parkland still contains large, noble oak trees of varying ages and growth patterns and is used today for various recreational activities. Until the 1970s, ancient elms formed an avenue north of house, but they succumbed to Dutch elm disease.

The best ancient trees are in Sandy Field, which was part of the original park, including the tree known as 'Danny Old One'. There was a colony of beewolves (also known as bee-hunters or bee-killer wasps) in the field mining the sandy soil, although the numbers appear to have decreased.

There are several ancient woods, including *Stalkers, Randolph's Copse* and *Foxhole Shaw,* with many ancient woodland flower species, including butterfly orchid, early purple orchid, wild garlic and guelder rose. Woodland butterflies such as white admiral and silver-washed fritillary can also be found there.

Old Wood, next to Danny House, has been damaged by the heavy planting of non-local species, including horse chestnut, large-leaved lime and common lime.

Danny House – now a Retirement Home

Sussex Life published a story (here) about Danny House in July 2012, with the title: *Retire in Style at Danny House*. Here is an excerpt:

'Sussex's Elizabethan treasure, Grade I-listed Danny House, could be your stress-free new home in retirement. The apartments vary in size and aspect, each as individual as the people living in them. The apartments are rented on a monthly basis and are furnished by the residents. The monthly charge is all-inclusive, providing maintenance, three quality meals a day, electricity, heating, insurance, water, council tax, cleaning, transport for shopping and the medical centre, trips to the theatre and cultural visits, 24-hour emergency support, use of the communal stately rooms and extensive gardens and grounds etc. There are no additional service charges. There are nine members of staff to serve the 25 or so residents. Residents' guests are welcome and can stay in the guest apartment.'

Family Connection

My wife's maternal great grandfather worked in the garden at Danny House and his daughter Doreen Mary Alice (my wife's mother) was born in a cottage on the Danny estate.

Recommended Reading

A must-read is *"Danny House: A Sussex Mansion through Seven Centuries"*, written by Colin and Judith Brent. It is freely available online as a pdf file from here.

The Burma Campaign

Sources and Further Reading:
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma_campaign
• https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-forgotten-army-west-african-troops-in-burma-1945/
• http://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival/in-focus-burmas-forgotten-army • https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/forgotten-allies • https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/forgotten-allies
• https://burmastarmemorial.org/history
• https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vj-day-70-the-second-world-war-in-burma
• https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/war-in-the-pacific/war-against-japan • https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pacific-War
• https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/britains-war-in-the-far-east-during-the-second-world-war
• https://www.britannica.com/biography/Orde-Charles-Wingate
• http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/burma_campaign_01.shtml
• https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/william-slim
• http://www.rothwell.force9.co.uk/burmaweb/index.htm
• https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-forgotten-army-west-african-troops-in-burma-1945/
• https://www.iwm.org.uk/film-festival/in-focus-burmas-forgotten-army

Introduction

United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt described it as '*a date which will live in infamy*' — 7th December 1941, the day when the Japanese bombed the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. It was the opening salvo in the Pacific War. A day later, New Zealand, the United States and Britain declared war on Japan. The conflict ended nearly four years later, on 15th August 1945, a week after dropping two atomic bombs on Japanese cities.

Japanese intentions were not limited to aggression against the United States. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft arrived over Singapore, where the British had a base. At the same time, Japanese troops moved south down the Malayan peninsula. The Japanese forces had Singapore under siege by the end of January 1942, and it fell on 15th February 1942. This was the greatest military defeat for the British in 150 years. Over 130,000 troops surrendered. Four days later, the first bombing raids on Darwin, Australia, occurred.

The Battle of the Coral Sea (7th to 8th May 1942) and Battle of Midway (3rd to 6th June 1942) between the Japanese and United States navies left the United States with superior numbers of essential aircraft carriers. Japan had lost the initiative. Once the tide had turned in favour of the United States and its allies, American troops began 'island hopping' through the central Pacific, taking one island after another. Japanese naval power was destroyed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines in October 1944, and invasions of Okinawa and Iwo Jima followed.
Source: https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/war-in-the-pacific/war-against-japan

British Empire forces peaked at about 1 million land and air forces - drawn primarily from British India, with British Army forces (equivalent to eight regular infantry divisions and six tank regiments),100,000 East and West African colonial troops and smaller numbers of land and air forces from several other Dominions and Colonies. The campaign had a number of notable features:

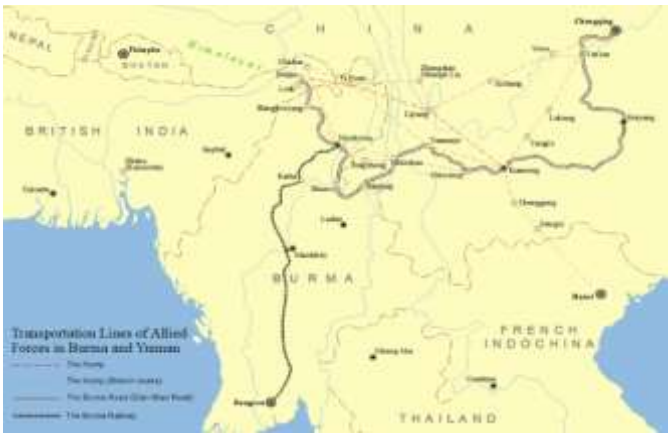
- The geographical characteristics of the region meant that weather, disease, and terrain had a major effect on operations.
- The lack of transport infrastructure emphasised military engineering and air transport to move and supply troops and evacuate the wounded.
- The campaign was also politically complex, with the British, the United States and the Chinese all having different strategic priorities.

It was also the only land campaign by the Western Allies in the Pacific Theatre, which proceeded continuously from the start of hostilities to the end of the war. This was due to its geographical location. By extending from South-East Asia to India, its area included some lands which the British lost at the outset of the war but also included areas of India where the Japanese advance was eventually stopped.

The region's climate is dominated by the seasonal monsoon rains, which allowed effective campaigning for only a little over half of each year. This, plus other factors such as famine and disorder in British India and the priority given by the Allies to the defeat of Nazi Germany, prolonged the campaign and divided it into four phases:

- the Japanese invasion, which led to the expulsion of British, Indian and Chinese forces in 1942.
- failed attempts by the Allies to mount offensives into Burma, from late 1942 to early 1944.
- the 1944 Japanese invasion of India ultimately failed following Imphal and Kohima's battles.
- the successful Allied offensive, which liberated Burma from late-1944 to mid-1945.

The campaign was also strongly affected by the politically charged revolution by the Japanese both during the initial invasion and the establishment of the State of Burma, in which the Provisional Government of Free India, with its Indian National Army, was headquartered. The dominating Japanese attitude led to local hopes for real independence to fade, and the war-time established Burma National Army revolted in 1945.



Japan's perceived enemies

Since 1907, when Japanese military planners first defined hypothetical enemies, they included Russia, the United States, and France. From the geostrategic standpoint, the Army would have the major role in a war against Russia, the Navy in one against the United States. Except for a few occasional revisions, the gist of this war plan remained nearly unchanged until 1936, when France was removed from the list of hypothetical enemies - but China and Great Britain were added. Until 1941, however, the basic assumption was that Japan would be fighting only a single enemy, not two or three enemies simultaneously.
Source: Britannica.com, here.

Invasion of Burma

Japan's invasion of Burma prompted many from Burma's Indian, Anglo-Indian, and British communities to flee to the safety of India. By June 1942, the Japanese had driven British, Indian, and Chinese forces out of Burma. In February 1943, 3,000 British and Nepalese Gurkha troops mounted a long-distance raid behind Japanese lines. These troops, known as 'Chindits', were commanded by the deeply eccentric Brigadier Orde Wingate*.

After the surrender of Singapore, thousands of Allied servicemen became prisoners of the Japanese. They were subjected to a brutal regime of violence, callous neglect and forced labour. From 1942 prisoners were forced to build the Burma-Thailand railway, known as the 'Death Railway' for its high mortality rate, among prisoners of war and civilian forced labourers.

In spring 1944, Japan launched an invasion of India. It aimed to capture Imphal, a garrison town in the Indian border province of Manipur, and so prevent a British return to Burma. To isolate Imphal from a large supply base at Dimapur, Japanese troops attacked the small village of Kohima, which became the scene of ferocious fighting.

In 1943, the Fourteenth Army was formed in India, under the command of Field Marshal William Slim**. He inherited a disastrous situation which, with pragmatic skill and quiet charisma, he turned to ultimate victory. His task was to retake Burma from the Japanese. Slim's leadership combined effective defensive tactics with imaginative and daring offensives. He was immensely popular with the Indian, Gurkha and British troops under his command.
Source: Imperial war Museum, here.
* See: Britannica.com here.
** See: National Army Museum, here.

Continued >>>

<<< Continued

Burma was a phenomenal victory in the most difficult of circumstances – it was as much a victory over climate and geography as the enemy. It was a victory won through the courage and endurance of troops drawn from right across the British Commonwealth, and the superb generalship of Slim. While history has often referred to the Burma campaign as the "forgotten war", it is clear there is an enormous amount worthy of remembrance.

Reasons for the invasion of Burma

There were two reasons for the Japanese invasion of Burma:

- First, the Japanese knew it would serve them well if they cut overland access to China from Burma via the famed Burma Road. Along this road, a steady stream of military aid was being transported from Rangoon, over the mountains of the 'Hump' and into Nationalist China, but if this supply route were closed, the Japanese could deprive Chiang Kai Shek's Kuomintang (Nationalist Chinese) armies of their life-blood, permitting the Japanese to conquer all of China.
- Furthermore, possession of Burma would place the Japanese at the gate of India, where they believed general insurrection against the British Raj would be ignited once Japanese troops had established themselves in Assam, within reach of Calcutta. To this end, they cultivated the services of the dissident Bengali politician Chandra Bose, who recruited thousands of Indian troops captured in Singapore into his Indian National Army - to fight the British.

Source: BBC History, here.

The 'Forgotten Army'***

They have been called the 'Forgotten Army' – the British Fourteenth Army who, in 1944 and 1945, fought a brutal and gruelling war in the jungles of Burma (now Myanmar) but who largely went uncelebrated in Britain. This was partly because, even in 1945, the Ministry of Information found that only around half the population had a basic grasp of the situation of the war in Asia.

The Fourteenth Army's contribution to the defeat of the Japanese war machine has received some recognition after counting Captain Sir Tom Moore as one its veterans (he served in the 146th Regiment Royal Armoured Corps). But the Fourteenth Army is also noteworthy for its truly international make up and size: drawn from every corner of the Commonwealth.

There were many Indian and Australian units in the Army but also soldiers from three African divisions: the 81st and 82nd West African Divisions, and the 11th (East Africa) Division.

Japanese forces had captured Burma in 1942, causing the British administration to flee to India. A new government had been installed in Burma that was sympathetic to the Japanese.

Japanese forces and their allies had fended off Allied offensives in 1943, and at the beginning of 1944, they decided that attack was the best form of defence and launched a disastrous attack towards India. In the 1944-45 campaigning season the British and their Commonwealth, American and Chinese allies were determined to recapture Burma.

As the rains ceased in late 1944, the offensive began. XV Corps, which included the 2nd West African Brigade, was involved in the invasion of the coastal Arakan region (now Rakhine State). From December 1944, the 2nd Brigade, part of the 82nd West African Division, was engaged in fighting across the coastal Arakan region, heading towards the area around *Taungup* (Toungup).

War diaries, held by The National Archives (WO 172/9572), provide an idea of the ever-present danger of enemy attack in the region's dense terrain, where the fronts of the brigade and its adversaries from the Japanese 54th Division were close together and shifting. The diaries show how the supply and communication lines of the brigade were continuously strained and under threat. Also clear is how the remote location of the unit made getting enough rations and medical attention for the troops tricky – the diary often indicates that the Japanese troops made efforts to disrupt food supply drops by Allied plans (which was how much of the Fourteenth Army received its supplies).

What is striking about the brigade's diary, and that of one of its units, the 3rd Gold Coast Regiment (WO 172/9625), is how often the ambush took the form of near point-blank ambush and descended into hand-to-hand combat.

The attempted Japanese invasion of India in 1944 was launched on unrealistic premises as after the Singapore debacle and the loss of Burma in 1942, the British were bound to defend India at all costs.

A successful invasion by Japanese Imperial forces would have been disastrous. The defence operations at Kohima and Imphal in 1944 have since taken on huge symbolic value as the turning of the tide in British fortunes in the war in the East.

After the war ended, a combination of the pre-war agitation among the Bamar population for independence and the economic ruin of Burma during the four years campaign, made it impossible for the former regime to be resumed. Within three years, both Burma and India were independent.

American goals in Burma had been to aid the Nationalist Chinese regime. Apart from the "Hump" airlift, these bore no fruit until nearly the war's end. These efforts have also been criticised as fruitless because of the self-interest and corruption of Chiang Kai-Shek's regime.

*** Excerpted from National Archives. Crown Copyright acknowledged.

Documentary: Burma's Forgotten Army

Luke Radcliff's documentary Burma's Forgotten Army uses archive material and interviews with Burmese soldiers to shed light on the little-known but significant contribution of Burmese hill tribes of the Second World War. Read all about it on the Imperial War Museum website here.

'When you go home...'

The Kohima epitaph

Excerpted from the 10/11/17 posting at https://www.gchq.gov.uk/information/when-you-go-home by *James Bruce, Researcher, GCHQ*

Kohima is a hill town on the India-Myanmar border that, between April and June 1944, saw some of the most bitter fighting in the Far East campaign, as British, Indian and Gurkha units, sustained by supplies dropped by the RAF, met and defeated a Japanese offensive. The 2nd Division's war memorial in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Kohima bears the epitaph that has become synonymous with the battle:

When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today

Although now commonly called the *'Kohima epitaph'*, these words were not written to commemorate Kohima but were composed at the end of the First World War by a Cambridge classicist turned wartime codebreaker - John Maxwell Edmonds.

Edmonds was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire in 1875. Recurrent bouts of polio delayed his graduation from Cambridge until 1898, after which he spent some years as a schoolmaster before returning to Cambridge as a lecturer in classics in 1908. He would spend the rest of his life teaching and researching at Cambridge, apart from what his Times obituary coyly described as *'absence in connection with military intelligence during 1918-1919'*.

Watch your 'Ps & Qs' (Pills and Questions)

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://dailycaring.com/14-questions-to-ask-doctors-when-starting-new-medications-for-seniors/
- https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patient-information/pharmacy/questions-about-your-medicines.pdf
- https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/what-to-ask-your-doctor/
- https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/waltham-forest/documents/advice-guides/medication-faq.pdf

"This prescription doesn't cure anything, but it has fewer side effects than other drugs."

New Medications

Here's some good advice for older adults who take multiple medications often need advice. Asking questions ensures that when a new medicine is needed, it will be taken correctly, and no serious health problems will arise. The pressure on medics is increasing all the time. Not all doctors have the time to check that a new medication won't negatively interact with your current medications. If that happens, nobody should be afraid to insist that the doctor checks to ensure there are no conflicts. It means checking against your prescription medicine, over-the-counter medicine, vitamins, and any other supplements you are currently taking.

I have listed several questions that the NHS and others have put together. You may be able to come up with some extra ones yourself. A pharmacist can provide extra help and explain how to deal with negative medication side effects. Probably the 'expert' when it comes to side effects and interactions is the pharmacist - they also have more time to answer questions.

Yes, it may seem over the top to ask all these questions, especially if the doctor does not seem concerned or does not seem to have the time - perhaps even resenting that you have the gall to ask questions at all. But, starting a new medication is a serious matter, and maybe too often, doctors do not always consider medications that another doctor, specialist or a hospital has prescribed – until a serious negative side effect causes harm. Some people, as listed below, ought to have review meetings with their GP at least annually:

- *Are you over 75?*
- *Are you regularly taking prescription medicines?*
- *Are you taking medicine for a long-term illness (like asthma, arthritis, diabetes or epilepsy)?*
- *Are you taking hospital-prescribed medicines, or have you come out of the hospital lately?*
- *Have there been major changes to your medicines recently?*

Medication questions

1. *What is the name of the medicine, and why should it be taken?*
2. *What medical condition does this medicine treat?*
3. *Are there alternative medicines (or why has this particular medicine been chosen)?*
4. *What if I stop taking it or take a lower dose?*
5. *What common side effects are there in taking the new medication. If there are any that would signal an emergency, what should I do if I experience dangerous side effects?*
6. *How many times a day should the medication be taken? At what time(s) should it be taken? For example, if the bottle says take "4 times a day," does that mean four times in 24 hours or four times during the daytime?*
7. *How often should the medicine be taken (as needed or on a set schedule)?*
8. *How much of the medicine should be taken each time (dosage)?*
9. *Should the medication be dissolved in water before being taken?*
10. *What does "as needed" mean?*
11. *Should the medicine be taken with food or not?*
12. *Is there anything that should not be eaten or drunk when taking this medicine?*
13. *What should you do if you feel better and don't want to finish the entire amount of medication prescribed?*
14. *How long will it take for the new medicine to work?*
15. *How will I know if it's working?*
16. *Will this medicine cause problems with other medicines, vitamins, or supplements that are currently being taken? Should any current medications be stopped or adjusted?*
17. *Do I need any tests while taking a new medication, how often should I be tested, and what do the test results mean?*
18. *Is it safe to drive while taking this medication?*
19. *When should this medicine be stopped?*
20. *If a medication dose is missed, what should be done?*
21. *What side effects should I expect? What should I do if there is a problem?*
22. *Will a refill be needed? How is that arranged? For example, sometimes opioids need a new prescription every time a refill is required.*
23. *On each doctor visit, ask if all current medications are still needed or if any should be discontinued.*
24. *How should the medication be stored – in the fridge or in a medicine cupboard? (Proper medication storage helps ensure your medication is as safe and effective as possible. Heat, air, light and moisture can affect your medicine, so it's important to follow your pharmacist's recommendations).*
25. *Are there risks associated with taking the new medication and do the benefits outweigh the risks?*
26. *All too often, people are unaware of the interactions caused by so-called complementary medications (such as St John Wort) with Warfarin, Digoxin and antidepressants. Ask your GP.*
27. *As falls are a constant worry for old people, do any of the medications prescribed increase that risk?*

Taking your medication as directed is critical to your health and safety. Some medications may make you sleepy, so it is best to take them at night. Other medicines can cause an upset stomach (frequent and unexpected trips to the loo), and some medications must be taken before eating. Sometimes, a missed dose is not serious - but in other cases missing a dose can be dangerous as well as reducing its effectiveness. Some side effects are rare, and some are common. Some may be a minor inconvenience, but others can be dangerous. For example, Warfarin (a medication frequently used to treat blood clots) can cause bleeding in the gums after brushing your teeth. This is a low-risk side effect. But as a blood thinner, Warfarin can also cause side effects that need immediate medical attention. Today, Warfarin is not prescribed anywhere near as much as it was in the past. Rivaroxaban and similar are felt to be safer (less prone to cause bleeds) and require less testing of levels. However, they can still cause bleeding of gums etc., which requires swift medical advice if it occurs.

Don't rely on your memory alone to keep track of everything your doctor shares with you. Make notes on paper or your SmartPhone - or ask if your doctor is comfortable with you recording the session to review later.

Tests, such as blood tests or scans

Checklist of questions to ask at your appointment

- *What are the tests for?*
- *How and when will I get the results?*
- *Who do I contact if I do not get the results?*

Treatment

- *Are there other ways to treat my condition?*
- *What do you recommend?*
- *What side effects or risks are there?*
- *How long will I need treatment for?*
- *How will I know if the treatment is working?*
- *How effective is this treatment?*
- *What will happen if I do not have any treatment?*
- *Is there anything I should stop or avoid doing?*
- *Is there anything I can do to help myself?*

What next

- *What happens next?*
- *Do I need to come back and see you? If so, when?*
- *Who do I contact if things get worse?*
- *Do you have any written information?*
- *Where can I go for more information?*
- *Is there a support group or any other source of help?*

During your appointment

- *Don't be afraid to ask if you do not understand. For example: "Can you say that again? I still do not understand."*
- *If you do not understand any words, ask for them to be written down and explained.*
- *Write things down or ask a family member or friend to take notes.*

More information

Easyhealth has developed easy-read leaflets that will help make your doctor's appointment easier for you. You can download or listen to the information on their website. Many charities have also developed condition-specific questionnaires that you can use as a starting point for your conversation with a specialist. For example, look at the questions from the British Heart Foundation or Macmillan cancer support. Also, read NHS advice on meeting the specialist before having an operation. As already mentioned, a pharmacist can also help you answer questions about medicines you have been prescribed. Read NHS advice about making sense of your medicines.

The most important thing to say is this: Do not stop taking medications without speaking to your doctor or specialist first.

Caution: No content on Nil *Desperandum* is advice and should never be used as a substitute for direct medical advice from your doctor or other qualified clinician.

Acting and Frequency Hopping

Sources and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedy_Lamarr
- https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedy_Lamarr
- https://zeitgeistfilms.com/film/bombshellthehedylamarrstory
- https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.biography.com/.amp/actor/hedy-lamarr
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hedy-Lamarr
- https://www.famousscientists.org/hedy-lamarr/
- https://www.thewonderwomenproject.org/pages/biography-of-hedy-lamarr
- https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/hedy-lamarr-6139.php

Take a long, hard look at the woman above and take a guess - what do you think she invented?

Hedy Kiesler Markey* of Los Angeles, and George Antheil of Manhattan Beach, were granted a patent for a *Secret Communication System*, on 11th August 1942, number 2292387. Just nine months previously, the Japanese had attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, causing mayhem - and brought them into World War II.

* This was Hedy Lamarr's married name at the time.

Hedy, the Scientist

Lamarr's contribution was in using the idea of frequency hopping, while Antheil devised a means of synchronising the rapidly changing radio frequencies envisioned by Lamarr, using a mechanism similar to piano player rolls to synchronise the changes between 88 frequencies - also the standard number of keys in a piano. Actually, the technology was not an entirely new concept and had similarities to the frequency hopping in the 1900 and 1903 patents granted to Nikola Tesla. A similar patent for a "secrecy communications system" was granted in 1920, with additional patents granted in 1939 and 1940 to two German engineers.

Frequency-hopping spread spectrum

Frequency-hopping spread spectrum is a method of transmitting radio signals by rapidly changing the carrier frequency among many distinct frequencies occupying a large spectral band. The changes are controlled by a code known to both transmitter and receiver.

Hedy, the Actress

Hedy was born in Vienna to Jewish parents in 1914 (birth name Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler). Apart from being exceptionally beautiful, she became an actress, inventor and film producer. She starred in 30 films over a 28-year career in Europe and the US and co-invented an early version of frequency hopping spread spectrum communication, originally intended for torpedo guidance.

She was only 17 when she first appeared in a film called "Geld Auf Der Strase" (*Money On The Road*). Her career in entertainment made a strong presence in the Czechoslovakian and German productions of that time.

In her brief early film career, she appeared in Austrian, German, and Czechoslovakian films, including the controversial *Ecstasy* (1933).

In 1937, she fled from her husband, a wealthy Austrian ammunition manufacturer, secretly moving to Paris and then on to London. She met Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) studio, on a ship from London to New York. He offered her a Hollywood movie contract, where he began promoting her as "*the world's most beautiful woman*".

Often referred to as one of the most gorgeous and exotic of Hollywood's leading ladies, she became a top film star in MGM's "Golden Age" through her performance in *Algiers* (1938), her first American film. She starred opposite Clark Gable in *Boom Town* and *Comrade X* (both 1940) and James Stewart in *Come Live with Me* and *Ziegfeld Girl* (both 1941). Her other MGM films include *Lady of the Tropics* (1939), *H.M. Pulham, Esq.* (1941), as well as *Crossroads* and *White Cargo* (both 1942); she was also contractually 'borrowed' by Warner Bros. for *The Conspirators*, and by RKO for *Experiment Perilous* (both 1944).

Dismayed by being typecast, Lamarr co-founded a new production studio and starred in its films: *The Strange Woman* (1946) and *Dishonored Lady* (1947). Probably her best-known role was playing Delilah in Cecil B. DeMille's *Samson and Delilah* alongside Victor Mature (1949) – it was a massive commercial success becoming the highest-grossing picture of 1950 and winning two Academy Awards.

She also acted on television before the release of her final film, *The Female Animal* (1958). She was honoured with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star in 1960.

Hedy, the Shoplifter

Biography.com notes that Hedy Lamarr was arrested twice for shoplifting, once in 1966 and once in 1991, but neither arrest resulted in a conviction.

Documentary

But it is her technical mind that is her greatest legacy, according to a documentary on her life called *'Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story.'* The film chronicles the patent that Lamarr filed for frequency-hopping technology in 1941 that became a precursor to the secure wi-fi, GPS and Bluetooth now used by billions of people around the world.

You can watch a trailer of the documentary here.

Hedy's Quotations

"The brains of people are more interesting than the looks, I think."

"Any girl can be glamorous. All you have to do is stand still and look stupid."

"I've met the most interesting people while flying or on a boat. These methods of travel seem to attract the kind of people I want to be with."

"I advise everybody not to save: spend your money. Most people save all their lives and leave it to somebody else. Money is to be enjoyed."

"I can excuse everything but boredom. Boring people don't have to stay that way."

"Every girl would like to marry a rich husband. I did twice. But what divides girls into two groups is this question - do you first think of money and then love, or vice versa?"

"All creative people want to do the unexpected."

One-Liners

From Tommy Cooper

- 'One birthday, my father bought me a bat. When I went to play with it, it flew away.'
- Phone answering machine message: "if you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..."
- I said, "It's serious, doctor, I've broken my arm in 20 places." He said, 'Well, stop going to those places.'
- 'I've used saccharine for ages, and my doctor told me I had artificial diabetes.'
- 'I had a brass band at our wedding... I put it on my wife's finger.'
- The minute I got off the plane in New York, 15,000 people started crowding around me. If you don't believe me, just ask Marlon Brando. He was standing right next to me.'
- 'You've heard of the lone ranger? I'm his brother, hydrangea!'
- 'I slept like a log last night. I woke up in the fireplace.'
- 'A friend of mine said you want to go to Margate, it's good for rheumatism. I went... and I got it.'
- 'She was so beautiful, when I took her home in a taxi, I could hardly keep my eyes on the meter'.
- 'My wife does her own decorating, but she overdoes it. The other day I opened the fridge and there was a lampshade on the lightbulb.'
- 'I'll never forget when I was playing the Palladium. I drew a line a mile long... but the manager made me go out and erase it.'
- 'I backed a horse today - 20 to 1. It came in at 20 past 4.'
- 'My wife always serves me food that melts in the mouth... but how many ice cubes can one man swallow?'
- 'The meals she cooks put colour in your face - purple'
- 'My wife just phoned me. She said, "I've got water in the carburettor." I said, "Where's the car?'" She said, 'In the river."'
- 'I said, "Doctor, doctor, there's something wrong with my foot what should I do?" He said, "Limp"'
- 'I'm recovering from a cold. I'm so full of penicillin that, if I sneeze, I'll cure someone.'
- 'My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.'

8 Important Facts to Remember as You Grow Older:

- Death is the Number One killer in the world.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 1960s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Don't worry about old age, it doesn't last long.

How to Speak to Women:

DANGEROUS	SAFER	SAFEST	ULTRA SAFE
What's for dinner?	Can I help you with dinner?	Where would you like to go for dinner?	I'll pour you some wine.
Are you wearing that?	You look really good in brown!	WOW! Look at you!	I'll pour you some wine.
What are you so worked up about?	Could we be over-reacting?	Here's my wallet with my credit cards.	I'll pour you some wine.
Should you be eating that?	There are a lot of apples left.	How about some chocolate with that?	I'll pour you some wine.
What did you DO all day?	I hope you didn't over-do it today	I've always loved you in that bathrobe!	I'll pour you some wine.

Other One-Liners

- "I like a woman with a head on her shoulders. I hate necks." – ***Steve Martin***
- "I have a lot of growing up to do. I realised that the other day inside my fort." – ***Zach Galifianakis***
- "I used to work at McDonald's making minimum wage. You know what that means when someone pays you minimum wage? You know what your boss was trying to say? 'Hey, if I could pay you less, I would, but it's against the law.'" – ***Chris Rock***
- "Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." – ***Benny Hill***
- "I met a Dutch girl with inflatable shoes last week, phoned her up to arrange a date, but unfortunately, she'd popped her clogs." – ***Peter Kay***
- "My girlfriend is absolutely beautiful. Body like a Greek statue – completely pale, no arms." – ***Phil Wang***
- "Trump's nothing like Hitler. There's no way he could write a book." – ***Frankie Boyle***
- "Most of my life is spent avoiding conflict. I hardly ever visit Syria." – ***Alex Horne***
- "You know you're working class when your TV is bigger than your bookcase." – ***Rob Beckett***
- "Apparently, smoking cannabis can affect your short-term memory. Well, if that's true, what do you think smoking cannabis does?" – ***Mickey P Kerr***
- "I used to go out with a giraffe. Used to take it to the pictures and that. You'd always get some bloke complaining that he couldn't see the screen. It's a giraffe, mate. What do you expect? 'Well, he can take his hat off for a start!'" – ***Paul Merton***
- "Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm a schizophrenic, and so am I." – ***Billy Connolly***
- "My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that." – ***Stewart Francis***
- "I was in my car driving back from work. A police officer pulled me over and knocked on my window. I said, 'One minute I'm on the phone.'" – ***Alan Carr***
- "I doubt there's a heaven; I think the people from hell have probably bought it for a timeshare." – ***Victoria Wood***
- "Conjunctivitis.com – now that's a site for sore eyes" – ***Tim Vine***
- "I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it." – ***Ken Dodd***
- "A man walks into a chemist's and says, 'Can I have a bar of soap, please?' The chemist says, 'Do you want it scented?' And the man says, 'No, I'll take it with me now.'" – ***Ronnie Barker***

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com