

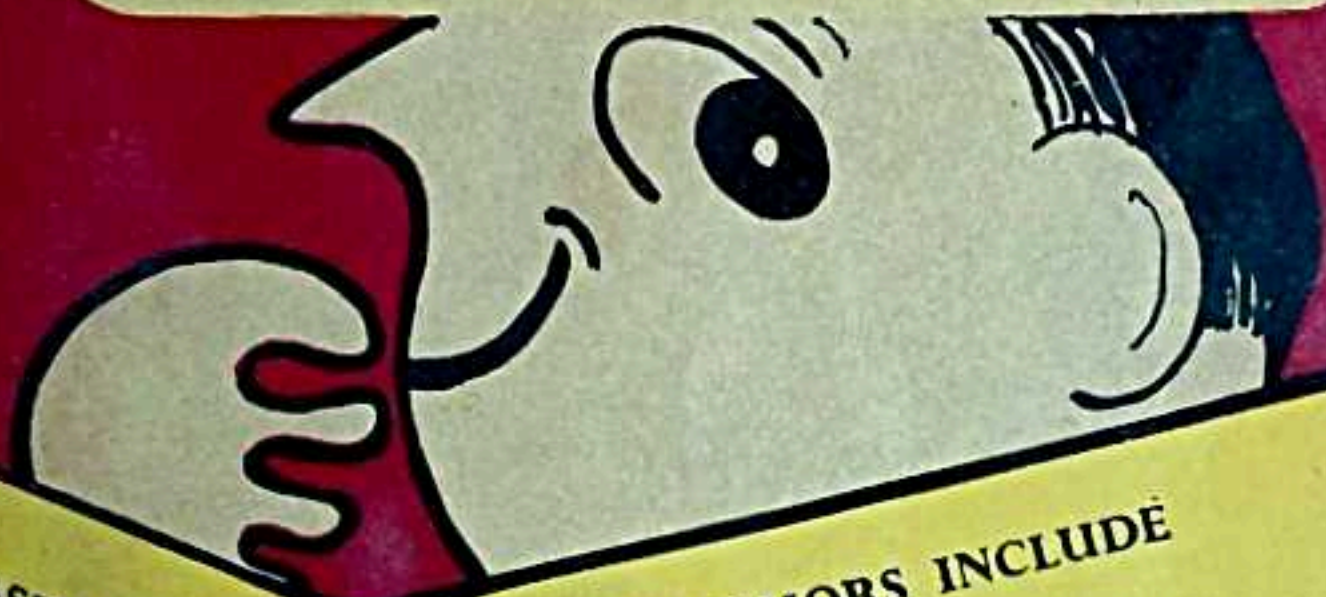
PAN-Books



A Book of
WIT AND HUMOUR

(THE PHOENIX BOOK OF WIT AND HUMOUR)

Chosen and presented by Michael Barsley



ARTISTS INCLUDE

Pont

Emett

Ronald Searle

Nicolas Bentley

Osbert Lancaster

AUTHORS INCLUDE

A. P. Herbert

Evelyn Waugh

Nathaniel Gubbins

A. A. Milne

Eric Linklater

A. G. Macdonell

Stephen Potter

Beachcomber

Stella Gibbons

Timothy Shy

John Betjeman

Illustrated GREAT PAN volume

A BOOK OF
WIT AND HUMOUR
(THE PHOENIX BOOK OF WIT AND HUMOUR)

Chosen and Presented by
MICHAEL BARSLEY



PAN BOOKS LTD: LONDON

A BOOK OF WIT AND HUMOUR

*For a description of this book and
some information about the author, see
back of cover*

'It's all British, and at the end of it
we can look the Americans in the
face.'

—HILTON BROWN in a B.B.C.
broadcast

'Mr. Barsley's specimens include
almost every modern British
humorist of note.'

—*Manchester Evening News*

'Truly representative of modern
English humour.'

—JOHN BETJEMAN



CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| INTRODUCTION by Michael Barsley | 8 |
| EVELYN WAUGH | |
| <i>Adam and Colonel Blount*</i> | 12 |
| A. A. MILNE | |
| <i>Climbing Napes Needle*</i> | 21 |
| A. P. HERBERT | |
| <i>Rumpelheimer v. Haddock</i> | 28 |
| JOHN BETJEMAN | |
| <i>Pot Pourri from a Surrey Garden</i> | 34 |
| <i>Myfanwy</i> | 36 |
| <i>Hymn</i> | 37 |
| OSBERT LANCASTER | |
| <i>Baroque</i> | 39 |
| IVOR BROWN | |
| <i>Master Sanguine at School*</i> | 43 |
| W. C. SELLAR AND R. J. YEATMAN | |
| <i>History of England : Test Papers*</i> | 50 |
| A. G. MACDONELL | |
| <i>The Cricket Match*</i> | 57 |
| HERBERT FARJEON | |
| <i>When Bolonsky danced Belushka</i> | 76 |
| ERIC LINKLATER | |
| <i>Mr Pumpenstempel's Orchestra*</i> | 81 |
| STELLA GIBBONS | |
| <i>Amos and the Quivering Brethren*</i> | 93 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| T. THOMPSON <i>The Party</i> | 104 |
| TIMOTHY SHY (D. B. Wyndham Lewis) <i>Gschzszslc!*</i> | 109 |
| ARTHUR MARSHALL <i>Schoolgirls' Stories</i> | 115 |
| RONALD SEARLE <i>Hurrah for St Trinian's (Four Drawings)</i> | 121 |
| STEVIE SMITH <i>The Lion of Hull</i> | 126 |
| CARYL BRAHMS AND S. J. SIMON <i>Shakespeare*</i> | 131 |
| NICOLAS BENTLEY <i>The Mystery of Napoleon's Hat</i> | 141 |
| SAGITTARIUS <i>The Diehard's Farewell</i> | 147 |
| <i>Nerves</i> | 148 |
| <i>No Confirmation</i> | 149 |
| <i>The Passionate Profiteer to His Love</i> | 150 |
| G. W. STONIER <i>Shaving Through the Blitz</i> | 152 |
| MICHAEL BARSLEY <i>Colonel Bogus in Wartime</i> | 161 |
| C. A. LEJEUNE <i>Toujours Lamour</i> | 172 |
| H. F. ELLIS <i>For Men in Aprons</i> | 177 |

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| ALLAN M. LAING <i>Other Men's Voices*</i> | 182 |
| DANE CHANDOS <i>Abbie at the Zoo</i> | 187 |
| BEACHCOMBER (J. B. Morton) <i>Geraldine Brazier, Belle of the Southern Command</i> | 200 |
| ANGELA MILNE <i>Jam</i> | 211 |
| MAURICE RICHARDSON <i>Ten Rounds with Grandfather Clock</i> | 216 |
| MARGHANITA LASKI <i>Cheap Clothes for Fat Old Women</i> | 224 |
| NATHANIEL GUBBINS <i>The Enslavement of Man</i> | 228 |
| PATRICK CAMPBELL <i>Tooking for a Lowel</i> | 238 |
| STEPHEN POTTER <i>The Etiquette of Fouling*</i> | 243 |
| <i>And drawings by EMETT, 10; ANTON, 79; and PONT, 185</i> | |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 251 |

* These titles have been provided by the editor.

A Modern Classic of Quiet Humour

SIR HAROLD NICOLSON'S

Some People

A brilliantly successful experiment in an unusual form of autobiography. Ostensibly a series of portraits in prose, the book accompanies the author from school and Oxford along his early career as a diplomat in the golden age of three decades ago; but while he appears as the narrator of each episode and introduces many well-known people by name, other figures are largely fictional. The settings range from England and France to Turkey and the Middle East. The subjects of the nine character-studies include Miss Plimsoll, the governess who tried to inspire an ambassador's family with her own devotion to the British Navy, and Arketall, the tipsy, bowler-hatted valet who accompanied Lord Curzon to an international conference at Lausanne. Three of the stories have been adapted and broadcast by the B.B.C. The Hon. Sir Harold Nicolson, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., lived as a child in the various foreign capitals to which his father, the first Lord Carnock, was accredited as Ambassador. He entered the Foreign Office, served in many posts abroad, and later became a journalist and a Member of Parliament. He is widely known as a broadcaster and public speaker and as a regular reviewer of the *Observer*. He has written many books, among which is the official biography of King George V. (2/-)

An Invitation to You!

If you are not already on our mailing list please send us your name and address. We will then post to you *PAN RECORD*, our magazine and descriptive list of all available PAN Books, which is issued three times a year.

PAN BOOKS LTD., 8 HEADFORT PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1

About this book



A BOOK OF WIT AND HUMOUR is a personal anthology of British humour of the last twenty years compiled by a humorist whose own work in this field is on a high level. The selection includes essays, lyrics, stories, poems and drawings. There are nearly forty contributors, among them Evelyn Waugh, A. A. Milne, Sir A. P. Herbert, Eric Linklater, John Betjeman, and Stella Gibbons. A. G. Macdonell's famous "Cricket Match" is here. Here, too, is Nat Gubbins on the twin curses of dogs and women; sustained lunacy by Beachcomber and Timothy Shy; four examples of Ronald Searle's awful schoolgirls, and Arthur Marshall's glorious review of schoolgirl's stories; Brahms and Simon suggesting that Shakespeare polished up Bacon's essays; Stephen Potter on the etiquette of fouling in a gentlemanly way; H. F. Ellis advising on the messy art of cleaning the porridge basin; poems by Sagittarius, a film review by C. A. Lejeune, a piece of surrealist fantasy by Maurice Richardson, drawings by Emmett, Pont, and Anton. Michael Barsley includes one of his own "Colonel Bogus" episodes, and writes a "profile" on each contributor.

The son of a Canon of the Cathedral, Michael Barsley was born and educated in Liverpool, the home of many famous humorists including Tommy Handley and Arthur Askey. He edited an undergraduate magazine at Oxford, entered advertising and learnt to sell his own drawings though he had never learnt to draw (the well-known Barsley "poached-egg" eye adorns the cover of this book). He is the author of a dozen books on humour and has been bold enough to lecture to Continental audiences on the British sense of humour. For ten years he has been a BBC radio and television producer and reporter, and is now editor of TV's magazine programme "Panorama".

PAN Books Ltd

8 HEADFORT PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1