



THE WIT IN QUESTION  
**P.G. WODEHOUSE**

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER AND FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

Master of English prose and the greatest comic author of the 20c, Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, 'Plum' to his family and friends, sustained a seventy year career that produced 70 novels, more than 300 short stories, plays, poems, over 200 song lyrics, and at least 800 pieces of journalism. His humorous, often hilarious articles were published in more than 80 magazines, including contributions to *Punch* over a period of sixty years. A celebrated lyricist, he collaborated with Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Ivor Novello, and Cole Porter on many Broadway and West End hit musicals; he is acknowledged to be one of the founders of the modern stage-musical. His short story, *The Great Sermon Handicap*, was the subject of a linguistic experiment in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the late Jimmy Heineman commissioned translations in a total of 59 languages, ancient and modern, including Old Norse, Chaucerian English, Latin, Pidgin English and Ancient Hebrew; the results were published in six volumes. Wodehouse was a compulsive writer and wrote relentlessly from the first time he picked up a pencil. Though much of his life was spent in exile, in France and the US, his main canvas remained that of pre- and post-World War I English upper class society with reflections of his prominent Norfolk ancestry, his 'accidental' birth in Hong Kong, his upbringing by various formidable aunts, and his education as a young child at various boarding schools including Dulwich College.

MEET 10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild  
ENDS 3:30 pm at the Art Workers' Guild  
COST £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine