

discovery that there was in England at this time a greyhound called Wagga Wagga. The dog was the subject of an article in the *Illustrated London News* which Rimbaud may well have read.¹ Now that the record has been set straight, it remains only to say that Bird's conjecture, with its additional reference to Berrigerry, is perhaps the most plausible suggestion so far advanced, though of course there is nothing to prevent us from concluding that Rimbaud came across the Aboriginal place-name more than once during his stay in England.

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¹ Charles Chadwick, 'The Dating of Rimbaud's Word Lists', *French Studies*, xxiii (1969), 35-37. The Wagga wagga berry, Chadwick surmises, may possibly belong to the same paradigm as *dogberry*. (Underwood misrepresents Chadwick in limiting his suggestion to the Shakespearean *Dogberry*.) The suggestion is ingenious but it may strike some as far-fetched. Other still less likely possibilities are aired by Underwood.

WALTER PATER TO THOMAS ESCOTT: A NEW LETTER

IN Thomas Escott's papers in the British Museum¹ there is one letter from Walter Pater which is not collected in Evans' (1970) edition of Pater's Letters. Though Evans makes no mention of Escott the latter needs little introduction to nineteenth-century specialists. Thomas Hay Sweet Escott (1845-1924, *DNB*) was Deputy Professor of Classical Literature at King's College, Strand from 1866-1873, leading article writer for the *Standard* from 1866 and editor of the *Fortnightly Review* (1882-1886). In the 1870s and 1880s he was reputed to be the best paid journalist in London, but in the middle 1880s his health broke down and, though he continued to publish reminiscences, he virtually retired from public life.² The tone of the letter reveals that Pater and Escott were evidently on friendly terms and it is surprising that this is the only letter that seems to have survived.

I have followed Evans's excellent format in presenting the letter giving MS location and a

¹ B.M. Add. 5874-58801.

² For his obituary and further information see *The Times*, 17 June 1924, 18, col. 5.

description of the writing paper. The letter appears by kind permission of the British Library.

To T. H. S. Escott, 8 April [1880?]³

MS: B.M. Add 58789 f. 70

Paper: white folded, watermarked Baskerville, vellum wove, Colophon.

22 Bradmore Road, /Oxford
April 8th.

Dear Escott,

I daresay you will be surprised to hear that I am so little in London that your letter of Jan. 15, has only just reached me. I called on you at the Thatched House Club⁴ just before leaving town to congratulate you on the success of your recent work,⁵ and was in London again for last Sunday, when it recurred to me to ask for letters at my club,⁶ as it is not the custom there to forward them, and I then received your very kind invitation. I shall be in town again in the course of the summer, and hope then to see you. Should you be visiting Oxford, it will give me great pleasure to see you. Come and dine with me, either at the address above, where I spend a great part of the vacation with my sisters, or at my old rooms in Brasenose - Only send me a line beforehand, and believe me

Very truly yours

W. H. Pater.

PETER VERNON

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³ As Evans notes (*Letters*, pp. xliii-xliv) the dating of Pater's letters presents peculiar difficulties, but both from the address and internal evidence 1880 seems the most probable.

⁴ St James Street. For Escott's comments on this club see his *Club Makers and Club Members* (1914), 141, 281-5.

⁵ Possibly the publication of *England: Its People, Polity and Pursuits* (London, 1879).

⁶ The New (later Savile) Club, Spring Gardens, to which Pater was elected in 1869. See *Pater Letters*, 5n.

ON AN ALLUSION TO PINDAR IN WALTER PATER'S *PLATO AND PLATONISM*

'Τὰ τερπνὰ ἐν Ἑλλάδι (to use Pindar's phrase) all the delightful things in Hellas'.¹

Pater is notoriously inexplicit in his citations

¹ *Plato and Platonism*, 'Library Edition' (London, 1910), 267.

of the texts from which he quotes; this sometimes leads to misattributions. For example, Helen H. Law, in an article² offering a general defense of his Greek scholarship,³ admits the existence of various inexactnesses in Pater, including occasions when he 'adds a Greek phrase not found in the passage quoted'.⁴ She adduces, along with two Platonic examples, an instance where 'Pater rounds out Pindar's phrase "the delightful things" by adding "in Hellas"'.⁵ She cites as the Pindaric source *Olympian* 14.5:

σὺν γὰρ ὕμιν τὰ τερπνὰ καὶ
τὰ γλυκῆ ἀνεταί πάντα βροτοῖς.

But Pater more likely has in mind *Pythian* 10.19:

τῶν δ' ἐν Ἑλλάδι τερπνῶν
λαχόντες οὐκ ὀλίγαν δόσιν

He has made the necessary change in case and altered the word order, but he has not added anything to the Greek. However, given his English rendering 'all the delightful things in Hellas', it may be that Pater has confused or conflated the two passages.

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² 'Pater's Use of Greek Quotations', *Modern Language Notes*, lviii (1943), 575-85.

³ In particular, against the criticisms of Samuel C. Chew, 'Pater's Quotations', *Nation*, xcix (1914), 404 f.

⁴ Law, *op. cit.*, 576.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 576-7.

OSCAR WILDE: AN UNSIGNED BOOK REVIEW

BETWEEN 1885 and 1890 Oscar Wilde wrote many anonymous book reviews for the *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Woman's World*, and the *Dramatic Review*. Although Robert Ross intended that *Reviews*, volume XIII of *The Complete Works of Oscar Wilde* (London, 1908), should contain all the identifiable reviews by Wilde, it does not. One of the additions should probably be 'A Batch of Books', *Pall Mall Gazette*, vol. 48 (26 July 1888), 3. 'Stuart Mason' (C. S. Millard) does not include it in the original edition of his

Bibliography of Oscar Wilde (London, 1914). However, he had second thoughts about it later and amended his own copy of the bibliography, but too late for Ross to make use of the information in preparing the collected edition of Wilde's works.¹

The evidence is compelling that Millard was correct in adding 'A Batch of Books' to Wilde's canon. Robert Harborough Sherard (1861-1943), the author of *The American Marquis* (1888), the last book reviewed in Wilde's article, tells us in *The Real Oscar Wilde* (1917) that Wilde, while reviewing one of Sherard's novels, had made a joke also about his first volume of poems, *Whispers* (1884), which Sherard had dedicated to Wilde:

When noticing a book of mine, in one of his paragraphs in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, he mentioned that the author had 'come through "early poems", a three-volume novel, and other complaints common to his time of life'. Perhaps he thought I deserved a little punishment for associating his name with such very poor verse.²

Sherard was in an excellent position to know that Wilde was the culprit. Sherard not only wrote for the *Pall Mall Gazette* at the same time as Wilde, but was also a close friend. It was when Wilde stayed in Paris in February to early May, 1883, that he met Sherard, who had just begun his writing career in Paris. Sherard wrote his first novel, *A Bartered Honour* (1883) - the 'three decker' of the review - in Paris, and it was published after Sherard moved in with Wilde at Charles St. in London in August of the same year. At this time also, Sherard was seeing *Whispers* through the press and dedi-

¹ The reprint of Millard's bibliography by Bertram Rota in 1967 was an unrevised reprint of the 1914 edition. See criticism of this reprint by Owen Dudley Edwards, 'Bibliography of Oscar Wilde,' *Book Collector*, xvi, No. 4 (Winter 1967), 530-4. However, Millard amended one copy of the bibliography before he died, inserting corrections and additions in the margins and on interleaved sheets. He added the entry for 'A Batch of Books' on p. 155 and numbered it 206a. This unique amended copy of the *Bibliography of Oscar Wilde* is at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles.

² Robert H. Sherard, *The Real Oscar Wilde* (1917), 53. Sherard must have discovered Wilde's connection with the review after 1906, or perhaps had forgotten it when he prepared his bibliography for *The Life of Oscar Wilde* (1906).