

Acute Enemies: A packet of biographical questions
December 23rd, 2016
By Mike Bentley

1. One of the first private owners of this object was the calico printer Claudius du Puy. George Rolleston pronounced a version of this object, then named for the Ashmolean Museum, a fake. This object was the center attraction of a museum dedicated to its one-time owner operated by the Hughes brothers on Old Bond Street. This object was often brought along as a conversation piece to breakfast parties by Josiah Wilkinson, earning Wilkinson the ire of Thomas Carlyle. In the 1960s, this object was re-buried in a chapel at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. This object was posthumously removed two years after its owner died and placed on a large (*) spike on the top of Westminster Hall alongside similar ones belonging to John Bradshaw and Henry Ireton. For 10 points, name this object that presumably screamed out in the Puritan form of jubilation after winning the Battle of Naseby.

ANSWER: Oliver Cromwell's head [or Oliver Cromwell's skull; prompt on Oliver Cromwell's corpse]

2. A book inspired by this man is laid out like a five-disc boxset and includes a poem which ends, "To the Batetcetera / Robin!" This person is the primary subject of Kevin Young's *To Repel Ghosts*. He had a cameo role alongside Fab Five Freddy and Lee Quinones in Blondie's music video for "Rapture". In a film role, Yardbirds manager Giorgio Gomelsky evicts him from his apartment. This man starred in *Downton 81*. Jay-Z once bragged that he has a yellow (*) work by this man "in my kitchen corner go 'head, lean on that shit Blue, you own it." He once attended an LA gala with his girlfriend, a not-yet-famous Madonna. He was played by Jeffrey Wright in a biopic directed by Julian Schnabel; that biopic cast David Bowie as this person's mentor / rival Andy Warhol. For 10 points, name this street artist and member of SAMO.

ANSWER: Jean-Michel Basquiat

3. Henry Crabb Robinson complained about this man's "womanly weakness" because he repeatedly visited the grave of Catherine, the Down's syndrome-afflicted daughter of a writer he admired. This man is cited by the OED as introducing the words "subconscious" and "pathologically" into English. Frances Wilson's recent biography *Guilty Thing* is about this man. At 16, this fanboy fled school and moved to the Lake District to meet his idol, (*) William Wordsworth. This man's best known work was written to avoid a stint in debtor's prison in rooms owned by the murdered editor of *The London Magazine*, John Scott. He was haunted by the disappearance of Ann, a young streetwalker he met in London. A toothache he suffered while at Oxford started him on one habit. For 10 points, name this author of *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*.

ANSWER: Thomas De Quincey

4. This politician had an early job staking out clients for real-estate developer Armando Codina. He'd later work for a building materials company called InnoVida. The Chinese firm HNA has contributed a large percentage to his namesake \$127 million private equities fund. This man once worked in Venezuela for the Texas Commerce Bank. This man ran the un-ironically named (*) FEE or Foundation for Excellence in Education. After establishing the Liberty City Charter School, he unveiled his A+ Plan for schools on the campaign trail in 1998. This man met his wife on a foreign-exchange visit to Mexico in high school. He lost one election for governor in a close race against Lawton Chiles. His supporters blew over \$100 million on his Super PAC, Right to Rise. For 10 points, name this younger brother of the 43rd president.

ANSWER: Jeb Bush [or John Ellis Bush, Sr.]

5. By the end of a tour of the Middle East, this 25-year-old claimed that he was under the spell of Osiris, although his companions thought it was just sunstroke. That incident was dramatized in Steve Hennessy's play about him titled *The Demon Box*. This man's best known work inspired a song that describes an "Atterdemalion and the junketer" that appeared on the album *Queen II*. One of his doctors, Charles Hood, ended up buying 33 of his works. He once designed the Christmas decorations for (*) Bedlam Hospital. In the 1850s, he produced a series to illustrate the passions whose entries include *Agony--Raving Madness*. After stabbing his chemist father to death in Kent, this man fled to France with the plan of assassinating

Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria. For 10 points, name this mad British artist of *The Fairy Feller's Master-Stroke*.

ANSWER: Richard **Dadd**

6. This thinker gave the nicknames of "Qui Qui, Emperor of China" and "The Hottentot" to his daughters. Jonathan Sperber argued that this man is "more a figure of the past than a prophet of the present" in his biography focusing on his "Nineteenth-Century Life", a sentiment echoed by biographer Gareth Stedman Jones. His sloppy handwriting allegedly kept him from obtaining a job as a railway clerk. His faith "was of that boundless, absolute kind" according to (*) Isaiah Berlin, who wrote a biography of "His Life and Environment". His ideas were posthumously spread to a Russian audience by Georgi Plekhanov. In one text, this thinker asserted that "Philosophers have hitherto only *interpreted* the world in various ways; the point is to *change* it." The title of his magnum opus was borrowed for a surprise 2014 economic best-seller by Thomas Piketty. For 10 points, name this author of the *Communist Manifesto*.

ANSWER: Karl **Marx**

7. This genealogy enthusiast ruefully blamed "some bastard from Danzig" for spoiling his gene pool and denying him membership in the Holland Society. Despite growing up in non-tropical Reading, Pennsylvania, he had to repeat a year of high school after contracting malaria. He broke two bones in his fist after punching Ernest Hemingway at a 1936 party, but pretended he had fallen down the stairs. His father disapproved of his marriage to Elsie Kachel, the possible model for the pre-1946 dime. Robert Frost once told him, "The trouble with you ... is that you write about bric-a-brac". The critic R. P. Blackmur once counted 19 obscure words such as (*) "pannicles" and "rapey" that appeared in this man's writing. He made the secretary in his Hartford office type of some of his poems. For 10 points, name this insurance executive and author of "The Emperor of Ice Cream".

ANSWER: Wallace **Stevens**

8. Chronicle Books hired 20-something Seattle resident Emily Zach to research and collect the art of this person for a recently published coffee-table book. In 2013, the Morgan Library put on an exhibition of her "Picture Letters", private correspondences where she worked out illustrations for the characters she made famous. After purchasing Hill Top Farm in the Lake District, this person became an accomplished breeder of Herdwick sheep. This watercolorist was not allowed to personally present the paper she wrote at age 26 on (*) mushrooms to the misogynistic Linnean Society. Her best known creation originated from a story told to the children of her final governess, Annie Moore. She created characters such as Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail. For 10 points, name this author of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

ANSWER: Beatrix **Potter** [or Beatrix **Heelis**]

9. This man likes to tell reporters a completely bogus story that Steven Spielberg has offered him nearly a million dollars for the film rights to his life. According to his memoir, he grew up in Sinoe County, ate only chalk, and was able to fly through the sky. This man was the first to appear before TV cameras at a 2003 Truth and Reconciliation hearing in his country, earning sympathy for describing his April 6th, 1996 conversion to Christianity. This man and his followers sometimes wore (*) nothing by shoes and charms since he was supposedly "immune to bullets". He wrote *The Redemption of an African Warlord*. For 10 points, name this Liberian warlord who led the Naked Base Commandos.

ANSWER: General **Butt Naked** [or Joshua Milton **Blahyi**]

10. This author was haunted by the death of his twin brother Theodore at birth. Before her lobotomy, this man's sister Charlotte was appointed a Yale Young Poet by W. H. Auden. This man's father kept getting fired for writing contrarian editorials, a problem he remedied by becoming a part-owner of the *Wisconsin State Journal*. His father then sold his stake to become the US consul general in Hong Kong. This man was the primary example of Dwight Macdonald's "Midcult". The third-act of his best known play was allegedly written after he had an affair in Zurich with Samuel Steward. Ruth Gordon

starred in a successful re-working of one of his plays called *The (*) Matchmaker*, which itself was adapted into the massive hit *Hello, Dolly!* For 10 points, name this author of *Our Town*.
ANSWER: Thornton **Wilder** [or Thornton Niven **Wilder**]

11. This man decided to switch his focus from literature to anthropology after a dream where a half man, half fox placed its bloody paw on his shitty student essay on Samuel Johnson. This man's estate denied copyright permission to biographer Jonathan Bate. Bate describes this man bragging about how he slept naked, but did not have sex with the soup kitchen volunteer he described in his poem "Fidelity". This man used the initials "A, B and C" to denote his three mistresses, Assia Wevill, Brenda Hedden and Carol Orchard. Robin Morgan's 1972 "Arraignment" accused him of murder, as did Sonic Youth in "J'Accuse [this man]". His (*) salmon-expert son Nicholas committed suicide in 2009. This friend of Prince Charles met his first wife at a launch party for the *Saint Botolph's Review*. One of his best-selling collections was the supposedly tell-all *Birthday Letters*. For 10 points, name this husband of Sylvia Plath.
ANSWER: Ted **Hughes** [or Edward James **Hughes**]

12. This 2666 fan described her time living in the Chelsea Hotel as being in "a doll's house in the Twilight Zone". In a memoir, this woman recounted tearing up watching *Master and Commander* on a flight to Tokyo because it reminded her of her husband who died in 1994. In different memoirs she recounted making a pilgrimage to Arthur Rimbaud and Jean Genet's graves. In a 2015 travel memoir, she recounted a recovery from illness where she slept in Diego Rivera's bed. Writing for the *Times*, Tom Carson called this author's writings "on [her lover] (*) Robert Mapplethorpe ... like Molly Pitcher on Paul Revere". For 10 points, name this author of *M Train* and *Just Kids*, an artist whose only Top 20 hit was "Because the Night" and who recorded the album *Horses*.
ANSWER: Patti **Smith** [or Patricia Lee **Smith**]

13. Ferdinando Camon received a letter posted the day of this event. Edith Bruck described this action as the "howl of freedom". David Mendel hypothesized that this event was a side effect of low blood pressure from medication, owing to the unusual choice of a narrow elevator shaft. This action seemingly did not square with a chapter on Jean Amery in a book by the man at the center of it. Renzo, the son of the man at the center of this action, told the public to "read the conclusion of *The (*) Truce* and you will understand". This event took place on April 11, 1987 in Turin in the building where the person at the center of this event had been born 67 years earlier. In response to this action, Elie Wiesel claimed that its subject "died at Auschwitz forty years later". For 10 points, name this event where the author of *If This Is a Man* maybe killed himself.
ANSWER: Primo **Levi's suicide** [or Primo **Levi's death**]

14. This man's *Who's Who* entry listed his "Recreations" as "nepotism". Perhaps with this in mind, his great-great-niece Jean Findlay wrote a 2015 biography of him. While serving in France in World War I, he wrote verses such as, "We're feasting on chocolate, game pie, currant bun, / To a faint German-band obbligato gun". This anti-Mussolini spy was introduced to a possible lover, Wilfred Owen, at Robert Graves' wedding, and claimed he got esophageal cancer due to "too much fellatio". Terence (*) Kilmartin completed a project he died in the middle of finishing. This man privately referred to one of the books that he was working on as *Cissies on the Plain* and got into a row with the author over not using the word "To". People such as D. J. Enright changed the Shakespeare-derived title of his best known project. For 10 points, name this first man to translate Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* into English.
ANSWER: C. K. Scott **Moncrieff** [or Charles Kenneth Scott **Moncrieff**]

15. This man got student Henry W. Haynes to help him organize his best known project. It was once common knowledge for Harvard students to "ask" this man advice, owing to the book store he operated in Harvard Square. In the introduction to his best known work, this man declared that his purpose was "to show, to some extent, the obligation our language owes to various authors". He became an employee of Little, Brown and Company, the publisher which released the fourth edition of his best known book. The first edition of his eponymous book began with a section on (*) Holy Scriptures and included entries such as "He that

is not with me is against me" and "For now we see through a glass, darkly". For 10 points, name this publisher of a namesake book of quotations.

ANSWER: John Bartlett

16. Young men in 1850s era Cleveland went wild for an actress with this surname who had the play *Our Maggie* written for her. An untitled painting by an Abstract Expressionist with this surname sold for \$11.9 million in 2014, making it the most expensive painting ever sold at auction by a female artist. A one-time Senate Majority Leader with this surname who took Edmund Muskie's vacated seat helped negotiate the (*) Good Friday Agreement as Bill Clinton's Special Adviser to Northern Ireland. A mountain with this name was named for the surveyor who fell to his death determining that it is the highest in the eastern United States. A musician with this surname was the first to record the song "Woodstock" and made her debut with the album *Songs to a Seagull*. For 10 points, give this common surname of a man who was commissioned by Bud Selig to investigate the use of steroids in baseball in his namesake report.

ANSWER: Mitchell

17. Alex Lippard, David Lee and Ron Passaro came up with a musical about this person after watching a TV-doc about her where she was played by Suzanne Pleshette. Eric Schneiderman recently launched an investigation into the hundred million dollar fee demanded by the executor of this woman's estate. This friend of Imelda Marcos left some \$12 million to a trust benefitting her Maltese dog named (*) Trouble. Donald Trump bragged that he once poured red wine into a coat this woman owned and claimed that she operated a "high-rise slum". In one advertisement, she claimed that the Palace Hotel was "the only Palace in the world where" a monarch stands guard. This woman served eighteen months in prison for funneling company money to improve a Connecticut mansion; during the trial, she allegedly said, "We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes." For 10 points, name this "Queen of Mean".

ANSWER: Leona Helmsley [or Leona Mindy Roberts Helmsley; or Lena Mindy Rosenthal]

18. With her older sister, this author described an experiment where pigs that were frequently curry-combed gained more weight on less food, arguing that the same principles could cut your grocery bill. She advocated installing a reservoir of running water in the attic in *The American Woman's Home*. A museum in Mandarin, Florida honors the life of this *Hearth and Home* editor, whose book *Palmetto Leaves* did much to boost Florida tourism. One can visit three different houses dedicated to this woman in Cincinnati, Brunswick and (*) Hartford. Books such as *Ellen, or the Fanatic's Daughter* and one about Aunt Phillis were published in response to her best known book. Her best known book sparked a craze for newborn girls being named Eva. For 10 points, name this "little woman who wrote the book that started this great war".

ANSWER: Harriet Beecher Stowe [or Harriett Elisabeth Beecher Stowe]

19. Breanne Fahs combed through sources such as *Holy Titclamps* to write about the "defiant life" of the woman best known for performing this action. An actress named Viva was on the phone with the target of this event, and Mario Amaya was wounded during it. The person who carried out this event had once had a small part in *I, a Man* and tried to get the play *Up Your Ass* produced. Mary Harron cast Stephen Dorff as Candy Darling in a film titled for this event. The person who carried out this action declared "there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government ... and (*) eliminate the male sex" in a manifesto. It took place two days before RFK's assassination. This action was carried out by the author of the *SCUM Manifesto*, Valerie Solanas. It resulted in tighter security at The Factory. For 10 points, name this event where a Pop artist was almost killed.

ANSWER: the attempted assassination of Andy Warhol [or the shooting of Andy Warhol]

20. This woman appeared in a *Sports Illustrated* article titled for "The Bums and the Legendary Red Men" describing her support for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and she once appeared on the cover of *Esquire* with Jimmy Durante and Joe Louis. A baseball signed by Mickey Mantle is present in her living room, which is on view at the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia. This teacher of Jim Thorpe wrote the liner notes for Muhammad

Ali's spoken-word album, *I Am the Greatest*. This woman came up with unused ideas like "Mongoose" and "Turtletop" after being hired by (*) Ford to name the car eventually named the Edsel. Her mother Mary lived with her all her life and provided phrases like "beyond all this fiddle" and "a perfect contempt for it" in one of her best known poems. For 10 points, name this author of "Poetry" and "The Fish".

ANSWER: Marianne **Moore** [or Marianne Craig **Moore**]