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* Titles provided by the editor

AWARENESS

- 1 Discuss the type of business that you might be able to set up in another European country. What kinds of products or services could you offer?

COMPREHENSION

- 2 Why has the French official come to Paul West's café?
- 3 What is it about the French official's appearance that Paul West finds particularly striking?
- 4 Why does the French official think that "sandwich" (l. 58) is a French word?

ANALYSIS

- 5 Analyse the interaction between Paul West and the French official. Look at the following points:
 - a) how they address each other;
 - b) who asks questions and how the questions are expressed;
 - c) how the questions are answered;
 - d) how the two men express their French and English identities and respond to the identity of the other;
 - e) show how the confrontation develops into a row.
- 6 What, seen from Paul West's point of view, is particularly French about the French official?
- 7 What, by implication, is particularly English about Paul West?
- 8 What role does the incorrect pronunciation of English words play in the text?

OPINION

- 9 Write a dialogue between Paul West and the French official in which the two men do not have a row and part on friendly terms.
- 10 Write a polemical essay in which you either a) defend the right of speakers of French and German to use English words and phrases whenever they wish or b) make a case for protecting French and German from the use of English words and phrases. Use your essays as the basis for a class discussion on the use of English words and phrases in French and German.

INTERNET PROJECT

- 11 Look up the French websites concerned with the protection of French and write a short description of French government language policies.



'Ici on parle Anglais' ... 'Ici on se rit de votre français.' ('We speak English here' ... 'We laugh at your French here'.)

"After Blenheim"

Rather than celebrate a great English victory over the French, the Battle of Blenheim, Robert Southey chose to write what is considered to be the first anti-war poem. The battle, fought on 13 August 1704 and known in Germany as the Battle of Höchstädt, was a turning point in the War of the Spanish Succession. The combatants were troops from Austria, England and the United Provinces, commanded by the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy, who fought against troops from France and Bavaria under Count Camille de Tallard and Maximilian II Emanuel, the Elector of Bavaria. The name Blenheim is the anglicised version of Blindheim, in Bavaria. – From: *The Faber Book of Political Verse* ed. by Tom Paulin (London: Faber and Faber, 1986), pp. 224–6.

1

1 It was on a summer evening,
 Old Kaspar's work was done,
 And he before his cottage door
 Was sitting in the sun,
 5 And by him sported on the green
 His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

2

She saw her brother Peterkin
 Roll something large and round,
 Which he beside the rivulet
 10 In playing there had found;
 He came to ask what he had found,
 That was so large, and smooth, and round.

3

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,
 Who stood expectant by;
 15 And then the old man shook his head
 And with a natural sigh,
 'Tis some poor fellow's skull', said he,
 'Who fell in the great victory.

4

'I find them in the garden,
 20 For there's many here about;
 And often when I go to plough,
 The ploughshare turns them out!
 For many thousand men', said he,
 'Were slain in that great victory.'

5

25 'Now tell us what 't was all about,'
 Young Peterkin, he cries;
 And little Wilhelmine looks up
 With wonder-waiting eyes;
 'Now tell us all about the war,
 30 And what they fought each other for.'



John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough

6

'It was the English', Kaspar cried,
 Who put the French to rout;
 But what they fought each other for,
 I could not well make out;
 But everybody said', quoth he,
 'That 't was a famous victory.

35

7

'My father lived at Blenheim then,
 Yon little stream hard by;
 They burnt his dwelling to the ground,
 And he was forced to fly;
 40 So with his wife and child he fled,
 Nor had he where to rest his head.

40

Janus Britain*

Like many European countries Britain has two faces, one pointing towards Europe and one away from it. In this extract from his book *Free World* Timothy Garton Ash shows that, in fact, Britain has four faces, all pointing in different directions. Britain's complex position in the modern world is made clear by a walk down the high street of a London suburb. – Timothy Garton Ash, *Free World* (London: Penguin Books, 2005), pp. 15–18.

1 If you take the Number 74 red double-decker bus from
Baker Street you will eventually cross the River
Thames at Putney. On the south bank of the river, im-
mediately to your left as you come across Putney
5 Bridge, you will spy a church, half-hidden among the
trees. Most of your fellow passengers – their faces set
in the tired, closed mask of the London commuter –
will not spare it a glance. Yet in this Church of St Mary
the Virgin, on 29 October 1647, one Thomas Rainsbor-
10 ough spoke words that have resounded through the
modern history of the West.

At the height of the English Civil War, England's
revolutionary army was debating who should have the
vote in elections to the Westminster parliament. Rad-
15 ical 'Levellers' among
the officers and
regimental delegates
were locked in fierce
dispute with Oliver
20 Cromwell. Accord-
ing to notes made at
the time, Colonel
Rainsborough said:

For really I think
25 that the poorest he
that is in England
hath a life to live, as
the greatest he; and
therefore truly, sir, I
30 think it's very clear,
that every man that
is to live under a
government ought first by his own consent to put him-
self under that government; and I do think that the
35 poorest man in England is not at all bound in a strict
sense to that government that he hath not had a voice to
put himself under.

The poorest she still did not get a look in, but this
was nevertheless a revolutionary statement of the claim
40 for government by consent and equal political rights
for all citizens. Here in Putney, in 1647, a plainspoken
English gentleman demanded and described the es-
sence of what we mean today when we say 'democracy'.
His claim echoed around the old world – and into the
45 new. Thomas Rainsborough's sister married John

Winthrop, the Puritan governor of Massachusetts Bay
Colony who declared that New England should be 'as a
City upon a Hill'. His younger brother settled in
Boston. There are six towns called Putney in the
50 United States.

[...] Leaving the church and turning left up Putney
High Street, this is what you will see: Hot Wok
Express, Il Peperone pizzeria, Enoteca (an Italian
restaurant), the Odeon cinema (probably showing an
55 American movie), Sydney (an Australian bar-restau-
rant), La Mancha (a Spanish tapas bar and restaurant),
Superdrug, McDonald's and right next to it the coffee
place Costa, Caff, Nero [...], Starbucks, United Colors
of Benetton, Prêt à Manger, Burger King, Rogiero's

café, the Piccolo Bar 60
– and that's only up to
the railway station.

In between are the
old sturdy British
families: Thomas 65
Cook's travel agency,
Millets, British
Home Stores, the
Abbey National
building society 70
turned bank, Boots
the chemist, Thorn-
ton's chocolate shop,
the Halifax, W. H.
Smith's. Halfway 75
down the high street
there is a pub called

Ye Olde Spotted Horse, which features, amidst its
faux-Elizabethan white-and-black half-timbering, a
80 large and rather handsome nineteenth-century model
of a black-and-white dray horse. But the British horse,
unlike the leopard, can change his spots. For inside this
Victorian pub, blackboards above the bar now offer
'Wines of the Day: Merlot – Chile, Pinot Noir – NZ,
Rioja – Spain, Shiraz Cabernet – Australia, Côtes du
85 Rhône – France'. The menu promises 'Linguine with
Ham and Goat's Cheese Sauce' and 'Creme de Menthe
Ice Cream Bombes'. A Young's Brewery poster on the
wall promotes not beer but wine, with this incentive:
'Win a Trip to Spain!' 90



Modern shops in Putney
High Street



The Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Putney

You may say this is just the superficial, brand-and-chain Americanization and Europeanization that we now encounter everywhere in the developed world; what has been called the Euro-American shopping mall. But the internationalism of Putney goes a lot deeper. Quite a few of the apartments in the riverside block that looms behind the church are rented by city firms for their foreign staff: 'A lot of Yanks,' says Reverend Fraser [of St Mary's Church]. The French community can be met in St Simon's Church in Hazlewell Road, and there was until recently a French bookshop in Lower Richmond Road. Nearby, there's the headquarters of Voluntary Services Overseas, which in 2002 sent some 1,600 British volunteers to work in forty-three developing countries. In Upper Richmond Road you can call on Longview Solutions, a software company promising to provide you with 'a single source of financial truth'. Its other offices are in Toronto, Philadelphia, Chicago, Dallas, San Jose, Atlanta and Madrid.

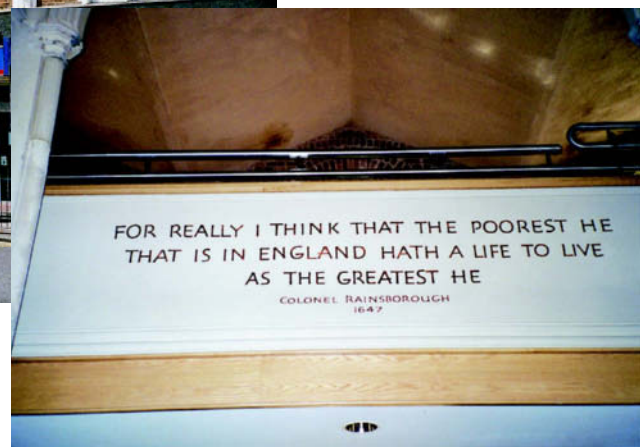
Everywhere there are what a local estate agent snootily calls 'the Antipodeans'. Australians and New Zealanders – 'thousands of them' cries the estate agent, with a mixture of personal disgust and professional delight – pack into rented accommodation and cram the Sydney bar. No worries. The district of Southfields,

a maze of small streets, is now a little South Africa. The local MP quotes an estimate that as many as 20,000 South Africans live there. People from the rest of the Commonwealth – that noble republican moniker of the Cromwellian revolution, now incongruously applied to Her Britannic Majesty's former Empire – from Pakistan, India, Africa and the Caribbean, are not yet so numerous as in neighbouring parts of London. Putney can nevertheless already boast a Sikh temple, an African Families Association, and, in Gressenhall Road, the world headquarters of the Ahmadis, a dissident Muslim sect originating in the Punjab and claiming millions of adherents in seventy countries. Finally, and resented by many local people, who believe they are taking scarce council housing, jobs and benefits, there are the asylum-seekers from every unhappy corner of the world.

What you glimpse here, in Putney, are the many faces of Britain at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Janus, the Roman god of doorways, passages and bridges, had two faces, usually depicted on the front and back of his head, pointing in opposite directions. Janus Britain has four. The back and front faces can be labelled 'Island' and 'World'; the face on the left says 'Europe' and that on the right 'America'. No wonder Britain's head aches.



Old vs. new: a pub and a building society on Putney High Street



Thomas Rainsborough's historic demand for democracy and equal rights at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Putney