

## If Ties Could Talk no 1

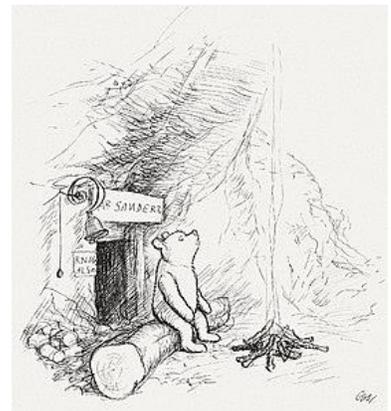
Autobiographical reflections on my tie collection. From left to right.



1. City of Saint Louis tie. Street map with flag of the city and a view of the city with the Arch and the Mississippi River and the downtown including the Old Courthouse. Occasionally worn when out of town to a meeting or even to demonstrate my home town from beginning in 1983.

I always said, I never planned on living in Saint Louis but came here because of hunger. That means, because of a job and a means of earning a living. The map has no particular association with where we lived except that whenever visitors came to town we would take them to visit "The Arch", formally called, "The Gateway to the West Memorial Arch". This usually required a ride on the gondola cars to the top. Aleda always refused to do so.

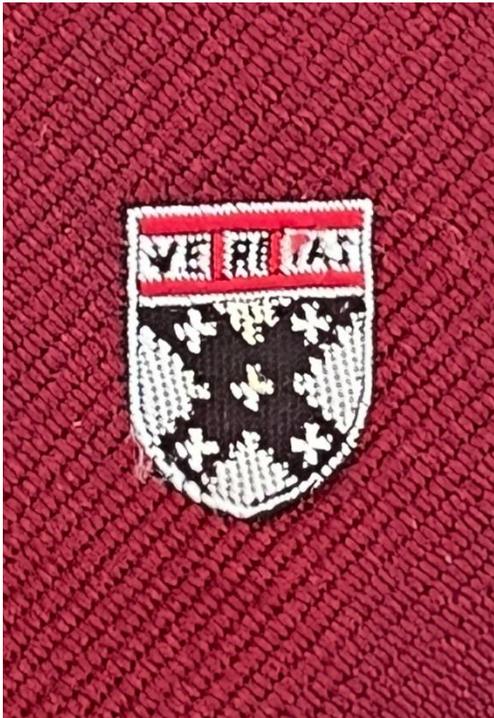
2. Winnie the Pooh Valentine's Day tie. One of several ties for that occasion. Worn only a few times on that particular occasion. Given to me by my loving and devoted wife. I never had a mania for Pooh although did have a copy of A.A. Milne's book "Winnie the Pooh" from a very early age, likely given to me by Miss Rosalie. In the illustration from page 3 of said book you will observe that "Pooh lived under the name of Mr. Sanders", (note the typographical license) which I sometimes quote. I also have a copy of "The House at Pooh Corner". The former was most likely read to me by my mother in a pre-literate phase of my life. Said book still resides in my library.



3. This tie was purchased in a hotel gift shop in Arusha, Tanzania during our safari visit to Africa with Pat and Barbara Fillette in 2004. Arusha sits at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. I wanted to have a keepsake of our adventure and looked in various shops there for a memento. However, this purchase was a little disingenuous because of the following: when one goes “on safari” in Africa the goal is to see “the Big Five”, that is five animals characteristic of an African Safari: lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and African buffalo. While we did see four of them we did not see any rhinoceroses. They were too rare although we came close when at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The guide thought he spotted one through he glasses but it had vanished into the bush by the time we got there.



4. Blue and white “homespun” wool tie. Aleda gave me this tie as a souvenir gift from when she went to England with Carol Foley to visit Carol’s family, in 1975. I had graduated from Temple grad School of Education with an M.Ed. in 1970 (see below for the next chapter of my education). The tie has a simple pattern and was woven in England. Since we did not visit England until many years later it was perhaps chosen by her because of its rather primitive or rustic quality and light blue color, which always has my affection. This latter is because at one time some young woman said to me “Dr. Littlefield, you always look nice in blue”. However, the light blue color is also the assigned color of the academic discipline of Education (see below on academic colors). So perhaps that was her intent.



5. The Harvard Crimson tie. I used to take my dress shirts to be laundered in a small cleaners in Sumner, Washington, while on the way to work at Auburn General Hospital. This was to avoid Aleda having to iron my shirts. One day while picking up or dropping off a bundle of shirts I noticed they had a display of ties for sale, presumably unclaimed from a prior customer, I noted the design of the shield on a crimson background. Crimson is the color of Harvard University and the shield with the word “Veritas” – that is, “Truth”, which is also the motto of Harvard. The tie was for sale for about 3 dollars. I thought, “Wow! I can get a Harvard tie and with it the association of a Harvard education but on the cheap”. There is, however, one wrinkle to this, though not the shirts. There are variations of the design of the shields for the different schools of Harvard and the one I have is from the Business School. I never met anyone who recognized the color and shield and said to me, “Oh, you went to Harvard”. I would have to correct them and say that I came by this tie at the dry cleaners.
6. Cherry and White striped tie on green background. This was given to me by my mentor from Temple, Dr. Leon Malmud. That is another story. But to explain the symbology of the colors. Temple’s colors are cherry and white. The green represents the study of medicine. Each of the academic disciplines has its own assigned color. For example, Arts and Letters is white, law is purple, education is light blue, science is golden yellow, music is pink, etc. The color and design

are somewhat unique and I can find no other examples on the Web. Much like the previous anecdote, no one has ever come up to me and said, “Oh, you’re a Temple Med graduate (Class of ’76).