## Aloysius

## Aloysius is one of the world's most famous bears.

He arrived unexpectedly
in a parcel at the Chelsea flat of Peter Bull,
the actor and arctophile, in the early
1970s. Miss Euphemia Ladd, from
Saco, Maine,
had seen Peter
Bull on Johnny
Carson's TV
show, inviting teddy
bear anecdotes for his

forthcoming publication, The Teddy Bear Book. She had just closed her dry goods store, where her childhood toy had sat on a shelf, entertaining customers for many years. Concerned for her bear's future welfare, she thought Peter Bull would be his perfect guardian.

A few years later Derek Granger was looking for a bear to play Aloysius in the Granada TV series of Brideshead Revisited he was soon to produce. He knew of Peter Bull's collection and was elated to find, amongst so many, the 'large and rumpled bear' he was fervently seeking.

The scenes of Aloysius with Sebastian Flyte, played by Anthony Andrews, have been seen by millions around the world and remain amongst the most memorable in television history.

After filming Aloysius was taken on several promotional trips, including to Venice. He also flew in Concorde to New York with Anthony Andrews. On arrival the stewardess announced that 'Aloysius and the other passengers may now disembark'. In New York, Peter Bull and Aloysius were taken to lunch at The Four Seasons, where the waiter asked if 'Mr Aloysius would like a drink

before lunch?' Aloysius said he would, and then Peter Bull went to the cloakroom. He returned to find Aloysius 'drinking a vodka Martini through a straw, watched with intense interest by the Beautiful People, including Widow Onassis.'

During the film's promotion, poor Aloysius was not always handled genteelly. Indeed gusto resulted in some damage, prompting Anthony Andrews's wife Georgina (nee Simpson) to give him a Daks Simpson scarf to cover his many patched repairs.

After Peter Bull died in 1984 Aloysius went to the Stratford-upon-Avon Teddy Bear Museum, where he was displayed until 1989, when he departed for Los Angeles and Rosemary and Paul Volpp's legendary teddy bear collection in Buena Park. There he stayed until a house move caused the Volpps to part with many of their bears. Wanting Aloysius to return to the country, where he had earned his fame, they contacted Ian Pout of Teddy Bears of Witney, who, in January 1996, travelled to California and returned with the bear he had been yearning for years.

