

Centenary Celebrations

Wystan Hugh Auden, b. York, February 21, 1907; d. Vienna, 1973;
Edith Smith, b. Warrington, February 21, 1907; d. Warrington, 1997.

Did the horoscopes that day read all the same,
I wonder? Did the stars look down bemused
upon this strange convergence of the twain,
two souls with nothing in common, never joined
in the history of the world, except by me?

Last week of August 1931,
I asked, do you recall it? 'Yes I do,
Stanley, that's when your dad and me got wed.'
'The week the Labour Cabinet resigned',
wrote Auden in *The Orators*. 'Your dad
was in Vienna at the end of the War.
It was in that film, what's it called, *The Third Man*.'

What would Mother have thought? Who knows. Plain to see
astrology expired in their conjunction.

STAN SMITH