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DIGEST ANNUAL  
Christmas 1953



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Richards



Beule Brook



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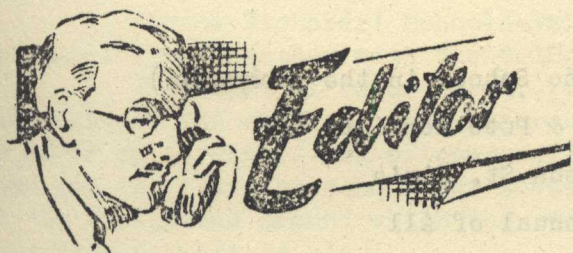
**MANDEVILLE PUBLICATIONS**  
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The  
 COLLECTORS' DIGEST ANNUAL  
 CHRISTMAS ~ 1953

SEVENTH YEAR

SEVENTH YEAR

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F O R E W O R D

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Twelve months or so ago, I was going about with a very worried look thinking to myself "will there be an 'Annual' next year?". There was reason for my concern as most of you learned. However, it was a case of the darkest hour before the dawn; and here is the Annual once again. In contrast to my pessimism of a year ago, as I watched it nearing completion my spirits rose, for I was fully convinced that, thanks to our new publishers, it is, in appearance at anyrate, the finest of all the seven.

I honestly believe, too, that where the articles are concerned the verdict will be that it maintains the reputation gained by its predecessors. Once more the old contributors have worked loyally and we welcome one or two new ones.

Quite a number of you will be seeing the Annual for the first time, for new friends keep joining our ranks. I shall particularly welcome your comments.

I am not brooding about next year's, for already plans are being made. Happy thought.

In conclusion, to all at home and overseas, the old, old wish - "A Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year".

Yours very sincerely,

HERBERT LECKENBY.



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The sketch facing page 24 is the work of Mervyn Lewis, Folkestone.

# CEDAR CREEK

## The School in the Backwoods

By LEONARD PACKMAN

Some months ago whilst lying in bed recovering from a spell of influenza, I passed the time away by thinking of the many papers I read as a boy. The old green Boys' Friend was one of them and, on recalling to mind the various stories in that paper, I naturally thought of Cedar Creek - 'The School in the Backwoods' as it was called.

"Frank Richards' Schooldays" by Martin Clifford; so ran the print in my mind's eye, together with the delightful illustrations accompanying it.

I thought of Cedar Creek.... Thompson.... Kamloops.... Fraser City.... I thought of the stories, many humorous, a few rather sad, but all very loveable to me in my boyhood. And of course, I thought of the characters; not only the boys and girls at the school but those outside as well, for they all formed part of the background around which the stories were written, each and every one having a particular part to play.

The more I thought, the more I dwelt upon it, until the realisation came to me that - unless I was very much mistaken - surprisingly little had been written about Cedar Creek in the various magazines devoted to Juvenilia, although it was considered by many Hamiltonians to be one of the author's best creations.

To my mind this is rather strange. That the stories were a success cannot be denied, for they enjoyed a long run in the Boys' Friend. As for their popularity, the proof lies in the indisputable fact that the Amalgamated Press found them, commercially, sufficiently an asset to warrant many of the stories being reprinted in the Boys' Friend (4d) Library (1st series), the Popular, the Gem (at the back of that paper) and the Greyfriars Holiday Annual, the span of years covering well over two decades.

I feel sure that many of you will agree with me, that such delightful work is deserving of a better fate than that of comparative obscurity; and if this is so, surely the place for recognition is the C. D. Annual, throughout the seven of which all the other major works of Charles Hamilton have been recorded.

Having got so far, it remains to be decided as to the way in which it shall be done.

Most fortunately (and happily!), time and age do not exist where Mr. Hamilton's Peter Pannish characters and creations are concerned, so that I invite all those who would like to take the opportunity of renewing acquaintance with our 'Backwoods' friends to join me in a short visit to Vancouver B.C.

Our time will be very limited, but we will endeavour to cover as much ground and see as many faces as possible.

What do you say? Not a bad idea? Right! We are on our way . . . . .

. . . . . Well, here we are in Thompson. As you may remember, Thompson, the nearest point to Cedar Creek, lies in a valley - - and it is just as we had imagined it to be. The roar of the water from the nearby Falls is somewhat awe-

inspiring, but certainly far more pleasing than that of heavy traffic, which is the only kind of roar many of us ever hear!

We do not anticipate any difficulty in finding our way around, for Thompson is almost as familiar to us as is our home town . . . .

Where shall we start? Well, we need a few things, so I suggest we make for Gunten's stores . . . .

Here we are, and here is Old Man Gunten himself - as surly as ever, no doubt. Yes, just as I thought, he hasn't altered a bit; for Mr. Gunten, a Swiss, is quite a 'big bug' in Thompson, being the main Storekeeper and Postmaster too. His son, Kern, is at Cedar Creek School. Maybe we shall see him later on . . . .

Well, you are not a very likeable sort of man, Mr. Gunten, but you do at least conform to the mental picture we had of you, so we are glad to have met you, none the more for that. And now we must be on our way . . . . Wait a moment, who is that man coming towards us? Why, it's the sheriff - Sheriff Henderson, uncle of Tom and Molly Lawrence who are also at Cedar Creek School. A good man is the sheriff, for he keeps his eye on the bad men of the town. He looks as though he is on the warpath, so let's follow him and see where he goes. Ah! I rather guessed as much! He's making for the 'Red Dog' saloon. This should be good! But just a second. Look at that old Apache Indian outside the saloon. Surely there is something familiar about him? Why, yes, it's dear old 'Injun Dick', still hopefully waiting for someone to slip him a 'quarter' for his beloved 'firewater'. Good old Injun Dick, may your shadow never grow less!

Now we are in the saloon and, having given the barman our orders, we see that Sheriff Henderson is laying down the law to a bunch of scruffy-looking individuals. I don't seem to recognise any of them, although there is something about them that strikes a chord. Let's get a bit closer. Ah! of course, I should have known - we should all have known. It's none other than that 'nap hand' of villians, 'Poker Pete', 'four Kings', 'Euchre Dick', 'Black Rube' and 'Dave Dunn'. The sheriff's words don't seem to be making much impression, but these are wily old birds and know just how far to go without overdoing it. However, as there may be a spot of trouble, I think we had better finish our refreshment and be going - quick!

Where shall we go from here? Well, how about looking up old Mr. Penrose - if he is still around? Come on, we'll see. This is the way . . . Hop Chung's Chinese Laundry - - McNab's Dance Hall and yes, this is it, 'The Thompson Press', owned and published by Mr. Penrose. He used to do quite a bit of business with Frank Richards the Schoolboy Author, at one time or another, didn't he? And yes, through the window we can see old Penrose himself, still as busy as ever, bless him!

Well, we have a lot to see yet, and quite a bit of ground to cover - and time is passing all too quickly. So we must be moving along again.

I know we would all very much like to take a ride to Kamloops, and also cross the Fraser river for a look around Fraser City.

Fraser City! How the name conjures up the details of that memorable sleigh ride across the frozen river one Christmas Eve . . . Frank Richards, Bob Lawless and Vere Beauclere being chased by a pack of hungry, howling wolves and holding them back by throwing out their fur rug to keep them off . . . the cracking of the ice as they sped over it on the return journey . . . all this to buy a doll for a very sick child - and what a worthy cause!

Alas, I'm afraid it would take too long, so we must - very reluctantly - make our way to Cedar Creek . . .

And Cedar Creek it is! Now, I know we are all anxious to see the School, but I think we have time to visit just two other places first. One of them is quite near at hand, so just follow me . . . There you are! That's the Lawless Ranch, or rather, the Ranch-house. The ranch itself is quite a size, you know. Look! Do you see those two big men talking together on the step? Recognise them? Yes, you are quite correct, they are Rancher Lawless himself and his foreman, Billy Cook. My! my! - we certainly have been lucky so far! And now for a peep at the other place I have in mind. It's right at the other end of the trail, so we shall have to get going.

Here we are. What did you say, "It's only a shack"? Of course it's a shack. Surely you haven't forgotten? Quite correct, it's Vere Beauclerc's home. It's not much of a place, but it means everything to Vere, you know. Let's take a peep through the window and see if anyone is there. Yes, there he is; it's Vere's father, Lascelles Beauclerc, the 'Remittance Man'. He doesn't look very happy; but then, he never was . . . Poor weak-willed man, so easily led astray. The number of times Vere has saved him from himself! Come. Let us leave him to his thoughts . . .

And now for the school . . . No! No! - that's not the school. Yes, of course it's a school - Hillcrest School! I suppose you have forgotten Cedar Creek's rivals, Dicky Bird & Co.? Maybe we shall have time to look around it before we go back. Come on, we are nearly there now.

Ah, here we are at last! There's the stockade - and surely that's 'Black Sally', the schoolkeeper and cook, waddling towards the schoolroom entrance. Now, we mus'n't disturb them while they are having lessons, so we shall have to be content to peep through the windows and see who we can spot. Yes, I do really believe they are all there, every one of them - if my memory doesn't fail me. Let's run over the names as they sit there . . . Frank Richards, Bob Lawless and Vere Beauclerc (the 'three inseparables') are side by side, as one would expect. Then comes Tom and Molly Lawrence; and next to Molly sits Milly Brown (a nice, quiet, unobstrusive type of girl), followed by Kate Dawson and her brother Dick. And now, as was also expected, we find Kern Gunten and Keller (both Swiss - and 'bad eggs') and Eban Hacke (another of Gunten's cronies, but not all bad). Harold Hopkins, the Cockney schoolboy, is the next in our line of vision, followed by Yen Chin (a very untruthful and not particularly likeable sort of boy, possessing none of the loveable characteristics of his counterpart, Wun Lung, at Greyfriars School; although, to be quite fair and give him his due, he has on occasion shown great pluck).

Last but not least, and trying to make his fat little figure as inconspicuous as possible, is Chunky Todgers. At this very moment Chunky is surreptitiously pushing maple sugar into his small but capacious mouth . . . But wait a moment, who are those three people sitting at the table and in conference? Of course, it's Mr. Slimmy, Mr. Shepherd (the 'Gentle Shepherd') and - Miss Ethel Meadows, the Headmistress. A very fine woman is Miss Meadows, as I am sure you will all agree, for she possesses all those characteristics that only Charles Hamilton can portray . . . kindly disposition, strict and severe when the occasion demands, but always scrupulously fair, and what is more, utterly fearless. All these characteristics have, from time to time, shown themselves in many of the stories; but the nicest thing about her is that she looks so sweet and young. I guess she must have wheedled some of that Elixir of Youth from her creator! Furthermore, I rather feel that Martin Clifford has a particular liking for her, otherwise he would not have given her one of his favourite Christian names.

How the sight of each and every one of these faces brings back memories of the delightful stories which featured them . . . It would take a complete C.D. Annual to enumerate all the thrilling adventures, humorous escapades and suchlike, in which the majority of these loveable characters have been featured throughout the original long run of the stories . . . And so, although I hate to say it, I am afraid we shall have to leave them and make our way back - it's quite a journey you know.

Alas, time passes all too quickly, and all we have been able to do is to catch just a brief glimpse of all these dear friends of our youth. However, even a glimpse is better than nothing at all. We have at least succeeded in paying them a visit, to show that they are not forgotten.

But stay a minute. We really must see who that tall, fine-looking man is, entering the school. I rather imagine he has come to see Miss Meadows and have a little chat. Yes, my hunch was right, for it is none other than Sergeant Laselle of the North-West Mounted Police. I have another hunch that he is rather fond of Miss Meadows . . .

And now I am afraid it is goodbye to happy Cedar Creek and dear old Thompson Valley. Maybe, one day, another of the 'Brotherhood of Happy Hours' will have more to say about you. Meanwhile, if by any chance any old friend has been overlooked, please forgive me, for I, and no one else, will be the one to blame.

THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

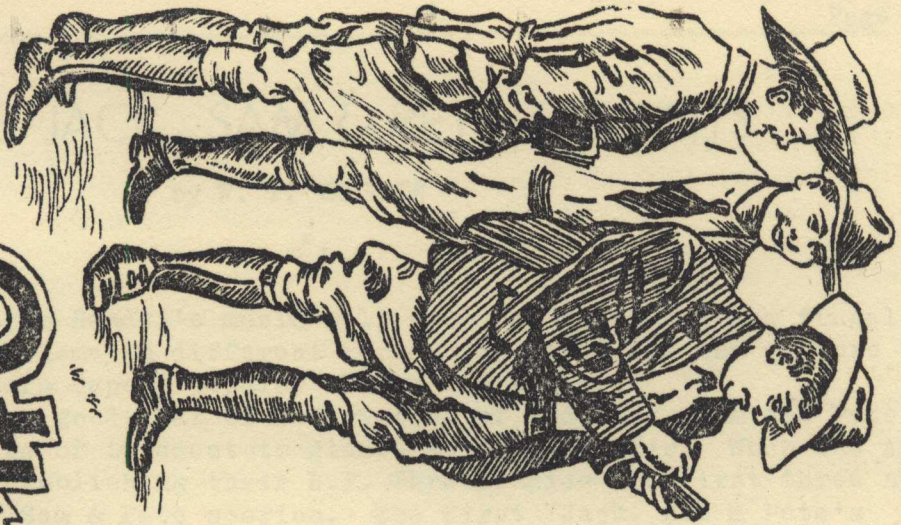
Note: In last year's C.D. Annual we gave a list of the long and short complete stories by Charles Hamilton and E.S. Brooks, which had appeared in the Greyfriars Holiday Annual, but unfortunately, through lack of space, we were unable to give them all. During the year we have had several requests for completion so here are those which were omitted, years 1934 - 1941.

For compiling this year's, thanks are due to John R. Shaw.

- |       |             |  |
|-------|-------------|--|
| 1934: | Greyfriars. | A Schoolboy's Honour<br>(Reprint of Magnet No. 303 - The Scapegoat)                  |
|       | Greyfriars. | Bunter the Truthful  |
|       | Greyfriars. | Just Like Coker  |
|       | Greyfriars. | Pon's Little Mistake   |
|       | Greyfriars. | Skinner's Shady Scheme   |
|       | Rockwood.   | Presence of Mind   |
|       | Rockwood    | What Happened at the Boat House  |
|       | St. Jim's.  | Spoofed<br>(Reprint of Gem No. 799 - Trimble's Auction)                              |
|       |             | * * * * *  |
| 1935: | Greyfriars. | Billy Bunter's Booby-Trap  |
|       | Greyfriars. | Frank Richards versus Greyfriars   |
|       | Greyfriars. | The Footprint in the Sand<br>(Reprint of Magnet No. 992 - The Footprint in the Sand) |
|       | Rockwood.   | The Boy Who Wouldn't Budge   |
|       | St. Jim's.  | Baggy Trimble's Brainwave  |
|       | St. Jim's.  | Getting Over Gussy   |
|       | St. Jim's.  | The Stony Seven<br>(Reprint of Gem No. 751 - Raising the Wind).                      |

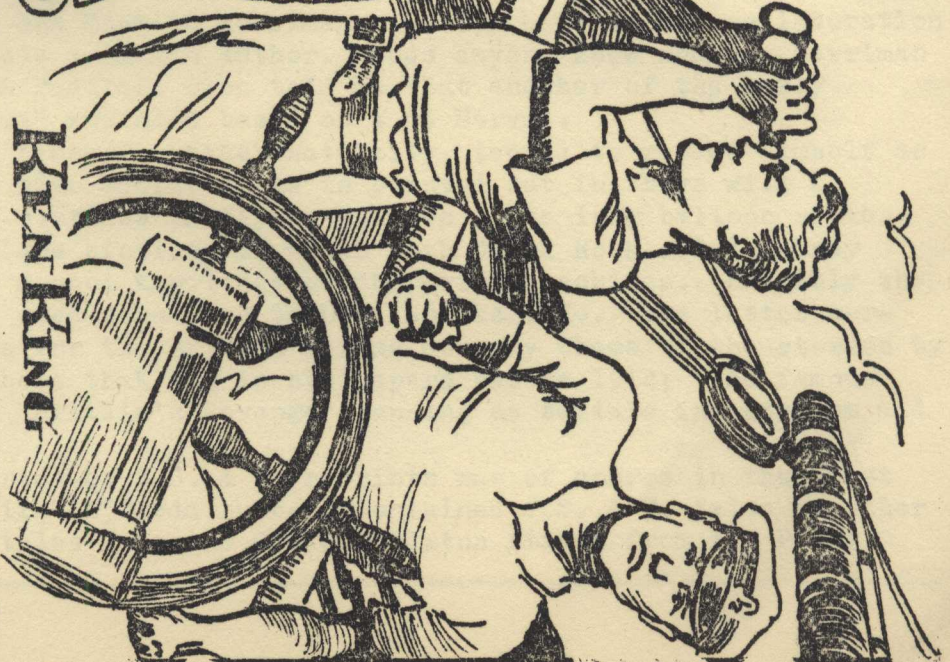
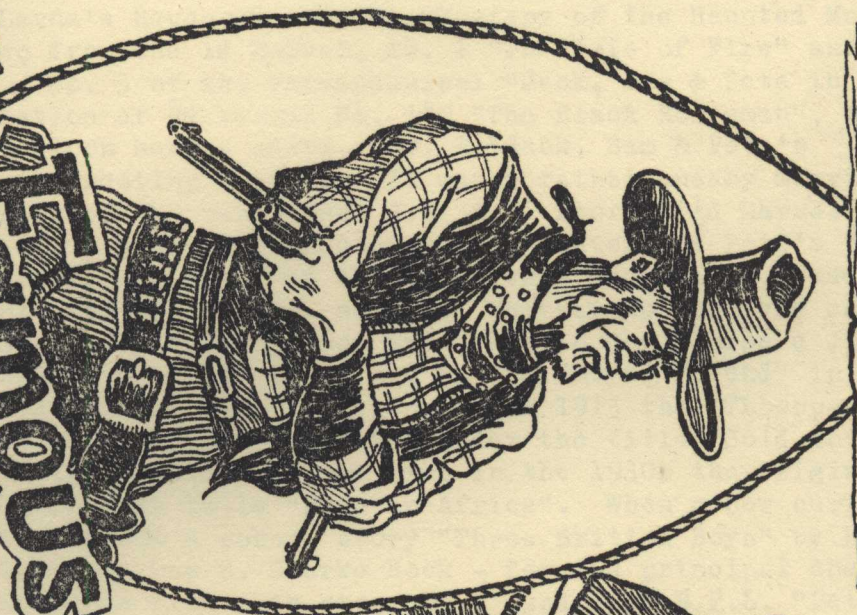


CEDAR  
CREEK  
BOYS



# Other Famous Hamilton Characters!

BILL SAMPSON



HANKING

Robert Whiter  
— Part 15, 1953 —

# SOME JACK, SAM & PETE REPRINTS

by W. T. THURBON

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Listeners to Handel's music will know how often and how frugally he repeats the same theme in different works. So, too, did the editors and writers of boys papers repeat popular themes and series.

There was a good deal of re-printing of the Jack, Sam and Pete stories and it may be of interest to glance at some of this. When the Amalgamated Press began publishing their B.F. Threepennies the first three numbers were all Jack, Sam & Pete stories. The first "Jack, Sam & Pete's Adventures in Africa" was composed of the last two J.S. & P. stories from the 1<sup>st</sup> Marvel, Nos. 532 "Larna's Revenge" and 533 "Mystery of the Haunted Mountain" and the first two from the 1d Marvel, No. 1 "The Isle of Fire" and No. 3 "The Phantom Chief". No. 3 of the Threepennies: "Jack, Sam & Pete in South America" was an elaboration of 1<sup>st</sup> Marvel No. 389 "The Black Horseman", with some themes from the Balloon series added. No. 2 "Jack, Sam & Pete's Treasure Hunt" has an interesting history. It was a rather uneasy marriage of an abbreviated version of the very first J.S. & P. story, (1<sup>st</sup> Marvel 385) "The Eagle of Death", and a quite unconnected but long story of Pete's family being rescued from slavery. In No. 7 of the 1d Marvels the Editor asked his readers for their opinion of a J.S. & P. serial. Whether he received any replies, and if so what they were, I do not know, but in due course a J.S. & P. serial on the 'sold into slavery' theme ran in the "Boys' Friend" in 1905, and this was now used to complete the Threepenny. In 1913 the 'Threepenny', minus the Treasure Hunt portion, was reprinted under the title "Sold into Slavery", being No. 217 of the B.F.L. Some time in the 1930s the original version was reprinted under the title "Pete in Africa". When a new serial did appear in the Marvel it was a school story "Three British Boys" by Maurice Merriman. I suspect Merriman was S. Clarke Hook - for the principal character and many of the incidents from this story were used in a B.F.L. "Pete's Schooldays" by S.C.H. and Maurice Merriman. It may have been a collaboration - but the style suggests a single author. Does anyone know whether Merriman was Clarke Hook? John Medcraft once told me that another of the early B.F.L.'s "Pete in Canada" was also based on a 1<sup>st</sup> Marvel.

Clarke Hook himself, rather naturally, tended to repeat himself as he got older. He was also addicted, as is pointed out in "Boys will be Boys", to putting the comrades in flying stories - the long balloon series, and in 1908 the aeroplane stories, in which both Clark Hook and J. Abney Cummings shewed quite a good knowledge of the Wright machines. Possibly the flying theme may have owed something to Lord Northcliffe. The latter certainly was responsible for the Britain versus Germany theme of the stories by John Tregellis and others that ran in his papers before 1914; the famous "Britain Invaded" and "Britain's Revenge" running as serials in both Gem and Marvel.

The main series of J.S. & P. reprints was of course in the first Penny Popular. The first 250 odd numbers contained J.S. & P. tales together with early St. Jim's tales from the Gem and Sexton Blakes from the Penny

Pictorial and the Union Jack; these being supplanted later by the early Greyfriars tales.

24 Jack, Sam & Pete tales appeared in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Marvel; they did not appear regularly in the 1d Marvel until No. 21. There are no J.S. & P. tales in 1d Marvel Nos. 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 20. J.A. Cummings began illustrating Jack, Sam and Pete from about No. 30, though he did the cover for No. 9. The first 30 Popular stories were from early 1d Marvels, though the numerical order of these was not strictly followed. Then followed some 20 tales from the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Marvels, after which the 1d series was resumed. Cummings drew fresh illustrations for the tales to which he had not originally supplied the pictures. In general these were great improvements on the work of the earlier artists. In the later stories Cummings's original drawings were re-used, though of course both the size and number per story were reduced.

In many cases the titles of the stories were changed. Reprints included the following:-

<u>Popular</u>	was	<u>Marvel</u> (1d series)
1. Volcano Island	1.	Isle of Fire
2. Phantom Chief	3.	Phantom Chief
3. Wraith of Dismal Swamp	7.	Wraith of Dismal Swamp
4. The Outcast	6.	The Outcast
6. The Whale Hunters	14.	In Frozen Seas
7. The Dwarf's Secret	18.	The Dwarf's Secret
8. By the Czar's Command	17.	For Life and Honour
9. Buried City	9.	Comrades True
10. The Child Stealer	21.	The Spectral Foe
11. Ranch Raiders	23.	The Mystic River
12. Rifled Bank	24.	Rifled Bank
13. Tracked Down	25.	Tracked Down
14. Spectre of the Tower	26.	Spectre of the Tower
16. South Sea Smugglers	27.	South Sea Smugglers
19. Diamond Robbers	31.	Thro' Fire and Tempest
28. The Dead City	37.	The Dead City
29. Stolen Gold	38.	In Forest Depths
30. The Isle of Mystery	39.	The Isle of Mystery

From Popular 31 onwards some twenty titles were taken from the Halfpenny Marvel:

<u>Popular</u>		<u>Marvel</u> ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d series)
31. Eagle of Death	385.	Eagle of Death
32. Jack, Sam & Pete's Compact	387.	The Death Sentence
33. The Black Horseman	389.	The Black Horseman
34. Russian Outlaw	422.	Russian Outlaw
35. Bedouin Chief's Revenge	426.	Arab Chief's Revenge
36. Phantom Raiders	428.	Phantom Raiders
37. Hunters of Red Fort	430.	Red Chief's Vow
38. Pool of Peril	432.	Lake of Death
39. title not known but probably	434.	Under False Colours
40. The Secret of the Palace	436.	Secret of Haunted Palace
41. Baja the Spy	439.	Rebel's Revenge
42. Hermit of the Ice	443.	Hermit of the Ice

43. Deathless Horseman	444. Deathless Horseman
44. Man of Mystery	418. Man of Mystery
45. Lost in the Catacombs	424. Lost in the Catacombs
46. On Equal Terms	477. In Haunted Realms
47. Pete's Proof	491. Witness from the Grave
48. Larna's Revenge	532. Larna's Revenge
49. The Haunted Mountain	533. Mystery of the Haunted Mountain
50. A Leap for Life	392. A Leap for Life

I have not been able to trace whether the remaining four stories from the 1d series were reprinted. P.P. 51 "Pete's Resolve" was probably "Marvel" (1d series) No. 40 "Pete's Peril". P.P. 53 was certainly Marvel 42 "The Medicine Man".

The series then continued from the 1d Marvels:

<u>Popular</u>	was	<u>Marvel</u>
55. The Black King		44. Pete and the King
56. The Rival Presidents		45. Rival Presidents
57. Marching Orders		46. The Trackers
58. Lynch Law		47. The Cake Walk
63. Friends All		48. J. S. & P's Merry Xmas.

The bulk of the Marvel stories from the first 260 1d numbers were thus reprinted, including the first and second "tour of Britain" series, the "Jake Silas and Partridge" tales and the "Steam Man" series, ending with "down on their luck" series. e.g.

Popular 88	was	Marvel 82	"Pete in Cornwall"
100	"	95	"Pete in Lancashire"
101	"	96	"Pete in Kent"
165	"A Secret Mission"	was	Marvel No. 167
199	"Defied & Defeated"	was	Marvel 220 "The Forest Spy".

One of the best series in the Marvel was the famous "Steam Man" stories. Of the 21 originals 16 were reprinted in the Populars as follows:-

<u>Popular</u>	<u>Marvel</u>
206. Pete's Steam Man	231. Pete's Steam Man
207. The Defeat of Algy	232. J. S. & P. & their Steam Man
208. The Spectre of the Forest	237. The Haunted Forest
209. Pete's Great Flight	238. Pete and The Inventor
210. The Peril of the Sea	239. In the Depth of the Ocean
211. The Caravanners	240. Across the Sahara
212. Pete's Poultry Farm	241. Perils of the Plain
213. The Steam Man's Victory	243. Steam Man's Adventures in Africa
214. Blinker's Ghost	244. The Steam Man's Capture
215. Birds of a Feather	245. Mystery of the Desert
216. The Secret of the Heron	246. The Mysterious Cargo
217. The Missing Steam Man	247. Theft of Pete's Steam Man
218. The Savage's Vengeance	248. Pursued by Forest Fire
219. A Quest of Peril	249. The Captain's Sacrifice
220. Bowling Out the Boaster	250. Hearn the Hunter
221. Down on their Luck	251. J.S. & P. Return to England

The last J.S. & P. tales in the "Popular" were from the "down on their luck" series which followed the Comrades return to England to find themselves robbed of their fortune; e.g. "Popular" 222 "With Pick and Lamp" was Marvel 253 "Pete in the Mines".

It is probably true to say that the "Popular" reprints covered the cream of the Jack, Sam & Pete stories. The reprint of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d series was particularly successful and timely. These stories were powerful, if crude, and the note of grimness which rings through them is in striking contrast to the excessive comedy that pervaded the later stories. It is always I think a surprise for anyone who has only known the J.S. & P. of 1912 to 1922 to meet these tales for the first times. Here we find three well-balanced characters, of equal though contrasting value - very different from the knockabout farce of Pete and Algy. It would seem that the earlier Marvel catered for at least a semi-adult audience, unlike the later issues which aimed at the schoolboy reader. The reprints from the earlier 1d stories, at least in the first 30 "Populars", seemed also to gain from the compression necessary. There is an added tautness, strength and directness in the "Popular" "Phantom Chief", "Wraith of Dismal Swamp" and "Rifled Bank".

In the earlier Populars the work of abbreviation was varried out carefully and well. Later on it was performed very mechanically, with the result that the stories became "wooden", losing all the lightness and sparkle of the originals.

As an example of the early adaptations: "Penny Popular" No. 2 "Marvel" No. 3 "The Phantom Chief".

The original story occupied pages 17 to 28 inclusive of the Marvel. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  pages with 4 illustrations and a pictorial heading. The Popular reprint occupies pages 13 to 20 inclusive - 8 pages with 2 illustrations. The first "cut" in the original tale when reprinted is made in chapter 1, where an incident of a fight with a wolf pack is deleted. This occupied about a page and is only incidental to the main story. Another similar omission is made in chapter 3, jokes played on each other by Sam and Pete. Some incidental cutting of a sentence or so here and there also takes place, and a further gain in space is made by the omission of two illustrations and the heading. The cuts are neatly and skilfully done. The result is a very readable story in which the omissions would never be suspected by anyone who had not read the original.

The same standard is maintained in all the early reprints. Marvel No. 7, Popular No. 3 "The Wraith of Dismal Swamp". This is shortened from 11 pages (17 - 27 inclusive) to 8 pages (13 - 20 inclusive). Again in Marvel No. 9; "Comrades True" reprinted as Popular No. 9 "Buried City" where the comrades travelling in Yucatan come across a tribe of Indians who take refuge in a buried city from their Mexican oppressors. The Marvel story occupies pages 1 to 14. The Popular reprint pages 13 to 20. The cutting is skilfully done by reducing the part played by a Mexican Colonel, a very full one in the original, to a few sentences.

Cumming's illustrations to these stories are generally a great improvement on the work of the illustrator of the Marvel story. Cummings seems generally to have chosen for his pictures the same subjects chosen by the Marvel Illustrators and he is infinitely superior. In No. 9, however, there is an incident in which Pete kills a jaguar. This has appealed both to Cummings and to the illustrator of the original story. Both have done full

justice to the subject and both make a fine action picture of Pete. But Cummings has somehow caught the swinging line of Pete's jacket as he strikes down the animal, and imparted to the picture a sense of vigorous action that has remained in my memory since first I saw his drawing nearly forty years ago.

Examples of the later adaptation are the steam man reprints and No. 199 Popular, "Defied and Defeated", Marvel 220 "The Forest Spy". In the Marvel story a mysterious young man turns out to be not only the Spy who gives information to the patriot leader, but also his fiancee in disguise. She is rescued by Pete from capture and torture. All this is omitted from the Popular reprint. The story is shortened by taking out the central 8 pages reducing a 17 page original by this cut plus some other omissions to a 6 page Popular story. Such drastic cutting cannot avoid leaving traces of the scissors.

This was much to be regretted as the stories in the 220s of the Marvel and immediately thereafter were among the best Clarke Hook wrote. Personally, I think this was his heyday. It was, however, probably unavoidable, since this was 1916 and the paper shortage was making itself felt. Furthermore, many of the Marvel stories of this period were full length ones, as Tom Sayers had not yet appeared to share pride of place with the three comrades.

The final exclusion of Jack, Sam and Pete from the Popular was therefore inevitable. Without sufficient space to make a workmanlike job of the abbreviations it was natural that readers should find the results unattractive. Since this was also the peak period of the school story, which had already supplanted Sexton Blake, the conversion of the Popular to an all School Story Paper was the only thing to be expected, and it came. But the early reprints were in their own ways little gems of adaptation and to those who did not know the originals a source of great enjoyment; and they are still for Jack, Sam & Pete fans real "collectors' pieces".

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Editor's note: Mr. Thurbon is quite correct in his surmise (page 7) that Clarke Hook and Maurice Merriman were one and the same.

THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL (cont'd from page 6)

1936: Greyfriars. Billy Bunter's Bust-Up  
(Reprint of Magnet No. 148 - Bunter's Bust-Up)  
Greyfriars. Billy Bunter's Master-stroke  
Greyfriars. Loder's Luck  
Greyfriars. The Dunce of Greyfriars  
Rookwood. Melting Mr. Manders  
St. Jim's. Perfect Harmony  
St. Jim's. The Phantom Voices  
St. Jim's. The Spoofer  
(Reprint of Gem No. 765 - Tricky Trimble)  
St. Frank's. Handforth's Windfall

\* \* \* \* \*

cont'd page 20.

GREYFRIARS VERSUS ST JIM'S

By HERBERT LECKENBY

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Let me say at once that the debate which follows never really took place in any one place at any one time. It is more of a summing up of the opinions I have heard expressed when in the company of those who are devoted to the Gem or the Magnet and, not infrequently, both.

In the words of the novelist, the names I have given the debates are not intended to apply to any particular individual. Some of you may say, "that sounds a bit like me". Matter of fact I hope some of you will, for it will show I've got my notes right. Anyway, I don't suppose anyone will want to sue me for libel.

I have tried to make it as much like a real debate as possible. If someone appears to wonder from the subject a little, well even the experts like Ralph Wightman, A.S. Street & Co., do that sometimes. So to it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman: Well, fellow readers of the Gem and Magnet I have heard some chairmen declare they are just going to say a few words and then go on to talk until there's been little time for the real speaker of the evening. Well I can assure you my words are going to be few. The question before the meeting is "Which Did you Prefer - the Stories of Greyfriars or those of St. Jim's?". You can say what you like so long as you don't lose your tempers. Don't be too long-winded so that as many as possible can have a turn. Now, who will lead off? Michael? I can see you're anxious to catch my eye. Off you go.

Michael (smiling): Yes, I'll set the ball rolling and I can express my views in a few words. I'm all for the Magnet. I am firmly of the opinion that it had the best stories and that the character drawing in them was superior to that in the Gem. Harry Wharton for instance. He had his faults, at times he was stubborn and unreasonable, but that's just what made him human and life-like. Tom Merry was a fine leader but just a little too good to be true. Then take Bunter. I daresay he's going to be the subject of great controversy, but you can't get away from the fact that his name has passed into the English language, it is as much a household word as Falstaff or the Fat Boy in Pickwick. Seeing that until a year or two ago Bunter lived entirely in the pages of a comparatively humble boys' weekly, there is surely something significant in his remarkable rise to fame. The Gem had Trimble, but surely no one will suggest he was any more than a blurred carbon copy.

And what about the scholarship boys? Mark Linley and Tom Redwing were real, but those at St. Jim's somehow not so convincing.

Vernon Smith! There was another enigmatical character for you, nine-tenths of his time thoroughly deserving his nickname the Bounder, yet on occasions the term was used almost with affection. One sub-writer sent him to Borstal. It was a silly story; all the same Vernon Smith deserved to go there on scores of occasions. Yet somehow or other you had a kind of

sneaking regard for him. Anyway the Magnet would not have been the same without him.

Bob Cherry! Cherry, reliable, sunny tempered Bob. I can't think of a St. Jim's chap quite to compare with him.

As for the masters, well Mr. Quelch stood head and shoulders above all the rest, including Mr. Railton. He was summed up aptly with the comment "A beast but a just beast".

If there had never been a Magnet I should have been quite satisfied with the Gem and would have defended it against any other paper. I do think though that it had a tendency to harp too much on rivalry and ragging. Shell against Fourth; New House against School House; St. Jim's versus Gordon Gay & Co. Many of these stories were trifling and boring. At Greyfriars, of course, there was no house rivalry and that between the Remove and the other forms negligible. But there was some rivalry - that with Highcliffe. This, however, was the real thing, providing some of the best stories in the Magnet, especially in the early days. What's more, Highcliffe supplied at least three outstanding and contrasting characters, Courtenay, De Courcy and Ponsonby.

Cliff House, too, came in handy to lend a little variety, more so than the fleeting appearances of Cousin Ethel in the Gem.

One word more. Let me remind you that the wonder author who created all the characters we love to argue about is better known today as Frank Richards, rather than by the name which appears on his birth certificate. Isn't there something significant in that?

Chairman: Well that's to the point anyway. Yes, I see you Andrew. Come on, I guess we're going to hear something about the Gem now.

Andrew (quietly): Yes, Mr. Chairman, you're going to hear something about the Gem now. Michael thinks Trimble was a wash-out, so do I, but he was not the only fat boy at St. Jim's. What about Patty Wynn? Apart from their girth and their appetites he and Bunter had nothing in common. He could be the cause of raising a quite chuckle, though, if not a roar of laughter, and was one of the best characters of the two schools, as for Bunter, well, isn't it possible there was too much Bunter? Didn't he spend too much time under tables, in cupboards, up trees, at keyholes, and other places where he could overhear conversations? In my opinion St. Jim's had a character every bit as genuinely humorous as Bunter and far more likeable. I refer, of course, to dear old D'Arcy. D'Arcy was -

Brenda (impulsively): O-oh, D'Arcy! I think he was silly. He -

Chairman (reprovingly): Now then Brenda, you mustn't interrupt. Go on Andrew.

Andrew (smiling): Well, as I was going to say D'Arcy was, of course, drawn larger than life, so were most of the other characters, so was the Scarlet Pimpernel, so was Jeeves, but that's author's license. You sympathised with D'Arcy when he got into trouble. You seldom did with Bunter. Where D'Arcy was concerned there was sometimes a tear behind your laughter, as for instance when he fell in love. He was courteous and courageous, and as Pentelow aptly put it, simple but no simpleton. Though blue blood flowed through his veins he was certainly no snob. No, if for D'Arcy only, I should always prefer St. Jim's.

Now Michael said Wharton was a stronger character than Tom Merry. Well, I dunno. A leader should always set an example to his followers.



Wharton by his lapses often didn't. And you've got to face it that quite often, especially in the later years he was pushed into the background by Bunter. Michael also said the St. Jim's stories were too flimsy. Well some of them were but what about those about Talbot; those of Levison before his reformation; of Lumley-Lumley, too. Oh, I could go on for long enough but I want other Gemites to have a go.

Chairman (with a twinkle in his eye): Now Brenda, you can take the floor.

What's this about D'Arcy?

Brenda (blushing): Well, I'm sorry I interrupted, but oh I do get vexed when people praise D'Arcy. I could never stand him. I thought he was so silly with his affected speech and he was so conceited; always bragging about what a clever cricketer or footballer or singer he was, and whoever heard of a schoolboy wearing a monocle? And all he thought about was clothes; he was a proper fop. No I had no patience with D'Arcy. My favourite was Mark Linley. He was a nice, gentlemanly boy, just as good-mannered as D'Arcy, even if he did come from a poor home. There ought to have been more stories about him. I liked Tom Redwing and Dick Penfold, too, in fact all the scholarship boys. It was a shame the way some of them were treated when they first went to school.

Chairman (smiling): Well you've certainly got some decided opinions about D'Arcy, Brenda. All your sympathies are for the bottom dog, aren't they? Well that does you credit, but you shouldn't take D'Arcy too seriously you know; it takes all types to make a good school story. Anyway I daresay we shall here more about D'Arcy later. Okay John.

John: Well I confess I saw very little of the Gem in my boyhood, my pocket money went in the Magnet. I've read a number of St. Jim's stories of late years but I'm still faithful to Greyfriars and I should like to take up what Andrew said about Bunter. I disagree with him when he says there was too much of him. It's true that the formula was very much the same in scores of stories, hundreds perhaps. But you can't get away from the fact that it was simply satisfying popular demand. One football match is very much like another, yet a real fan will watch his favourite team year in and year out. Bunter was the most remarkable character in school boy fiction, if not in all fiction; a boy with hardly a redeeming feature, yet one who could make the most model schoolboy chuckle with glee; one who developed from being just one of the crowd, to the most prominent character of all; one who was destined to travel from the obscure pages of a halfpenny weekly to the halls of the mighty B.B.C., for you can't get away from the fact that it was Bunter who put Greyfriars on television and caused something like a panic before his living counterpart could be found.

And here's something else touching on the actual point at issue. How do you account for it that the Greyfriars stories in book form at 7/6d have been a big success, whereas the St. Jim's stories at 1/6d have failed, despite the fact that they were jolly good value for the money? I suggest that it was mainly due to the magic word Bunter, and because the Magnet stories were always better and more popular than those of the Gem.

Stephen: I should like to back up John on that. Consider. The Magnet ran smoothly on for over 33 years, undisturbed by any upheavals, putting up with 1683 different stories about the same cast of players, a record far beyond that of any other paper, and which is unlikely to be every beaten, certainly not in our time. The Gem did play a good second but only in comparison

with other papers. For remember what happened. When it had been running about 23 years it was evidently in troubled waters, for they suddenly took the drastic steps of starting the stories again from the beginning. This I consider spoilt the reality of the stories. Take the case of the reader who had been taking the paper for a period, dropped it and then taken it up again shortly after the reprints started. If I remember rightly the powers that be soon stopped broadcasting the fact of the travel back through time. Therefore the returned reader would be confused. He would be reading of a school where characters he knew well did not seem to exist any more. Cardew Talbot, Wally D'Arcy, Harry Noble to name a few. Further, most fans will agree that the Magnet stories in the later years were superior to those of the early ones, despite the urge to collect red Magnets, the Gem too improved after the first two or three years then fell away a considerable time before the change of policy. Thus the Gem was always lagging behind the Magnet. Then by the time the reprints ceased the Gem was in trouble again. Now why did they muck about with the size? I honestly believe that even if there had been no war the Gem would have come to an end and about the same time.

Patrick (squaring his shoulders): Mr. Chairman, fellow debaters. My word! the poor old Gem isn't half getting a buffeting. I'm not dismayed; I'm still an unrepentant advocate for St. Jim's. First let's clear up the matter of the reprints. Since we started to get together we have learned the reasons for things which once puzzled us. Thanks to remarkable achievement of John Shaw we know that editors (one in particular) were in the habit of giving the maestro periods of "rest" and putting on understudies, who if it had happened on the stage would have been given "the bird" in no uncertain fashion. It was just as sensible as if in the Cup Final it had been decided to drop Stanley Matthews and play an unknown player from some village team. If we turn to our lists we shall find that in the three or four years before the Gem reprints started, the hand of the maestro was seldom at work. The Magnet suffered, too, but not to the same extent as the Gem.

It is true, of course, that owing to the reprints there were fewer new stories in the Gem, but there's something the Magnetites have overlooked. As I understand it, the point at issue in this debate is "were the St. Jim's stories better than those of Greyfriars or vice versa." Well, I beg to remind you that hundreds of the Magnet stories were not Greyfriars stories at all. I refer, of course, to the numerous travel series. They were jolly good yarns I'll frankly admit, but certainly not school yarns. They concerned just a handful of characters; the Famous Five, Bunter, with the addition at various times of Vernon Smith "Maully" Wu Ling and so on. But, no Quelch, no Skinner, Snoop and Stott. No Coker, no Peter Todd or any other of the characters who made up the Greyfriars scene. In these stories far away from the Greyfriars country the old school was hardly ever mentioned. It is true Tom Merry & Co. travelled too, but to nothing like the same extent so I contend that where school stories were concerned it helped to level matters out.

Now to get down to those school stories. Michael seems to have a poor opinion of those in the Gem but -

Michael (jumping to his feet): Sorry to interrupt, Mr. Chairman, but I did not say I had a poor opinion of the St. Jim's stories. I simply said those in the Magnet were better.

Patrick (smiling): Sorry, I withdraw. Anyway, I contend that if we confine

ourselves to the genuine stories despite the fact that there were so many fewer, a good case can be made out for the Gem. Take Ernest Levison for instance - A voice: Greyfriars had him first, Patrick (good humouredly). All right, Greyfriars had him first and St. Jim's took him in and reformed him. Well, in my opinion he was in his degenerate days a more convincing character, cleverer in his scheming than Vernon Smith. He used the rapier whereas the Bounder lashed out with a cudgel. Then as a contrast we had his minor, Frank. Do you remember that fine story wherein the younger brother pretended to go off the rails in order to shame the elder. Really true to life that appealing story. I happen to know, though in the case I am thinking of it was a matter of father and son.

The Gem seemed to specialise in characters who gradually became capable of better things and there is always something intriguing about them. In addition to Levison there was Lumley-Lumley, and later Cardew, that devil-may-care, aggravating fellow, in the language of film land the "man you love to hate".

Characters: Why St. Jim's had dozens of them. What about the dauntless Figgins, shrewd, thoughtful Kerr and sturdy, loyal Fatty Wynn, a great trio in very truth. Of the less regular members, one to remember was that inventive genius Bernard Glyn. Remember his bowling machine which, thanks to Bob Whiter, was given prominence in a London evening paper because an actual cricketer had thought of the same idea years after Bernard.

I am a staunch supporter of D'Arcy. Sorry, Brenda. We mustn't touch on politics, but I should like to say that we are told that the old aristocracy and their stately homes are passing. Well if they were all like dear old Gussy and his people all I can say it's a pity. I don't like the idea of his father showing visitors round Eastwood House at half-a-crown a head.

I could go on. Talbot; Miss Marie; the Gang, but just one parting shot. John reminded us with pride that television chose Greyfriars. Admitted but that's finished now, but we can still be reminded of St. Jim's on sound, thanks to Douglas Cardew Robinson.

Frank: Mr. Chairman. Listening to the debate I am reminded of a good cricket story. It concerned an occasion when Yorkshire were playing the South Africans. For once in his life Hedley Verity was being clouted all over the place. The late Hugh Cameron had the audacity to hit over thirty runs off him in one over. On crossing over Arthur Wood, the Yorkshire wicket-keeper grinned at Hedley and said: "He's got tha in two minds, Hedley". "In two minds?" said Verity looking puzzled. "How do you mean?". Replied Wood with an unfeeling chuckle. "He doesn't know whether to hit tha for a six or a four".

Well, listening this evening you've got me in two minds. When it comes to the vote I hardly know how I shall cast mine. This, despite the fact that I have known the papers longer than perhaps any of you, for I can remember buying the first number of each, and I kept in touch with them almost throughout their careers. As a matter of fact I have never been able to make up my mind. I have been a kind of floating voter, sometimes I should have been a Gemite, at others put my X unhesitatingly against the Magnet. In the blue Gem, red Magnet days I think I usually favoured St. Jim's, later especially when the stories ran often in series I found the Magnet appealed to me more. Like the last speaker I found the stories where Levison was at his worst most absorbing. I liked the Talbot stories at first, but later there was too much repetition. On the other hand in the early Magnets there were many fine dramatic stories, especially those in which the sea played a part. Greyfriars had an advantage over St. Jim's there.

You know there's so much in the remarkable careers of these two papers,

so much opportunity for thrust and counter thrust that one could go on arguing all night. For one thing there's not the slightest doubt that if all the hundreds of characters Charles Hamilton created, the one he will be best remembered by is Billy Bunter. No one can deny that. Yet in four of the finest, most absorbing stories ever to appear in the Magnet, Bunter never appeared at all. I don't think his name was mentioned once. I refer to the four which formed the Ravenspur Grange series. They held you on tenterhooks from beginning to end. I am inclined to agree with those who say there was too much Bunter, yet I must admit that I was vastly entertained by the Bunter Court series where it was nearly all Bunter.

There's no doubt about my support for D'Arcy, though. I agree with all Andrew said and I was rather surprised to hear a lady member declare she didn't like him. I should have -

Jill: (emphatically). I liked D'Arcy. I think he was a dear, so good natured and good mannered. Er - sorry.

Frank: (smiling). Okay, Jill. The ladies beg to differ evidently. Well, I was going to say I should have thought that girl readers would have felt they wanted to 'mother' him so to speak, console him when his lady of the moment told him gently not to be a silly boy. However, I can tell you an experience of my own which shows you could get support for D'Arcy in quite unexpected places. I have told the story before but it is worth repeating.

I was going on duty on a summer's night during the war. As things settled down about midnight I had with me a roll of Gems and Magnets I had just bought, to pass away the wee sma' hours. There was a military policeman on guard at the entrance to our underground retreat, hidden away behind a tall block of offices. He was a menacing looking figure, the sort to send a shiver down your spine when he yelled "Who Goes There?". His features were fierce and weather beaten; a typical 'sweat' of the old school. When the troops spoke of him they used all sorts of words you won't find in the dictionary. However, he couldn't put me 'inside' so as I had done before I pulled up to pass the time of day. He spotted the roll of papers in my pocket and said "Got owt good to read there? T'duty officer will be round soon then t'coast 'll be clear". Expecting a growl of derision I bashfully pulled the roll from my pocket. "Nothing in your line I'm afraid", I said apologetically. Then I got the surprise of my life. The top one happened to be the last blue-covered Gem 'Under Gussy's Protection'. As soon as he caught sight of it the red-cap exclaimed "Gussy! well I'll be damned". He held it out with both hands at arms length and stared at it. A beaming smile spread over his face; he was transformed, the troops wouldn't have recognised him. "Well, well, Gussy" he grinned, "Strewth! I haven't seen him for donkey's years. Where the hell did you get this?"

I told him a few things and showed him a Magnet or two. He was not so keen. "Oh yes" he said, "I read the Magnet as well sometimes, but I liked the Gem best".

Well I passed on to duty leaving him happy with a couple of Gems in which Gussy was prominent.

Round about eleven (it was double summer time) I went up for a breath of fresh air. There in the dusk, seated on a low wall was the red-cap absorbed in the tribulations of Arthur Augustus. He received me with a grin. "Lummy" he said, "I feel like a ruddy boy again".

Often after that I had a chat with him about the old papers and found he had quite a knowledge of them. Then he got posted and I heard of him no more. (Laughter and cheers).

Well I think I've said about enough, but I will just suggest this. Don't you think the reason some are so loyal to the Gem, others equally to the Magnet is because the majority of us in our schooldays could only afford to buy one paper (I had got to work when the Gem started so could manage both) and which ever he chose he has remained loyal to, because of the happy memories it had for him? I know that of all the series of papers I eventually read I still place first the one I bought with my own Saturday penny.

Chairman: Well, there's something and I must say, impartial chairman though I must be that I liked that story about the red-cap. I knew a few myself and I could just picture that one. Now then, Jill, would you like to say any more?

Jill: (shyly). No, not really, but well I'm sure that military policeman could not have been a bad sort when he liked D'Arcy like that, and I know I read an old Gem not long ago where D'Arcy ran away from school and got robbed by a tramp and it nearly made me cry. He was so good-natured about it. I liked Wally too, even though he was so different to his brother

Ted: I want to challenge a statement made by Stephen. He said the Gem would have died even if there had been no war. He seems to have assumed that because it changed its size, but I don't think it was a very convincing reason. After all the Nelson Lee Library changed its size and went on for years.

Stephen: Yes, I know, but that was for technical reasons, something to do with new printing machinery. We had that from E.S. Brooks. But in nine cases out of ten when they start making drastic changes in the format of a paper its the writing on the wall. Anyway there was no acute paper shortage at the time of the death of the Gem. That came months later.

Ted: Well it might have been so but I should want some more evidence. Now someone, I think it was John, reminded us that the Tom Merry 1/6d books had folded up. All too true, unfortunately. But don't you think that was at least partly due to lack of enterprise by the publishers? (Voices - Hear - Hear). I never saw any of them on the bookstalls, and whereas the Bunter books were often reviewed in the newspapers, the Tom Merry's seldom got a notice, if any. Yet I'm convinced the stories were every bit as good as those of Greyfriars. All round poor old St. Jim's had a pretty raw deal, you know. There were I believe about 500 imitation stories in the Gem; if you add to them the 400 or so reprints you get somewhere about 800 genuine, original stories. The Magnets were, of course, all original ones, about 1400 of which were genuine. Thus the real Frank Richards wrote 600 more stories than the real Martin Clifford. I am not going to say this was absolutely all to the advantage of the Magnet, for I believe there was more repetition in the Greyfriars plots, and, though it may seem heresy to say so, I thought some of the imitation stories were not at all bad. There was one author who was a capable understudy, so we must give him his due. The great majority of the imitations though were ghastly. Oh well, whether I've made a case or not I shall still stick to St. Jim's.

Denis: (smiling). I must say I do admire these faithful unto death St. Jim's fellows. It reminds me of some General Elections I voted in. There was no doubt that I should vote for Smith because he represented the party I believed in, but Jones, his opponent was such a nice chap and argued his case so well that I felt almost sorry I couldn't vote for him. Well here in this debate we've only one vote but we can be honorary members of both schools if we want to. I've read hundreds of Gems and Magnets and had thousands of happy hours with each, but possibly for the reason suggested by Frank I put the Magnet first; the paper I bought week by week for years as I went to school, so maybe I'm swayed by nostalgia. But you can't get away from the fact that Bunter is just about the

most astonishing character in fiction. It's true that the formula hardly ever varied, a plot with two starting points; Bunter setting off on one of his Nosey Parker expeditions; one of the other fellows in serious trouble, the two themes dovetailing so immaculately. There was no "who dun it" stuff about it, yet it always seemed fresh and never boring. I remember someone illustrating it something like this: Take two streams, high up in the hills, flowing gently along, apparently with no connection with each other. Then gradually they come together, merge quietly and then with ever increasing speed, rush on to the sea. I think that aptly describes many a Magnet story, don't you?

Philip. Yes, Denis, a good illustration indeed, but it could apply to many a St. Jim's story, too, for Frank Richards did not lose his skill then for the nonce he became Martin Clifford. And here, seeing no one else has, I should like to reply to Michael when he tried to make capital out of the fact that Mr. Hamilton is now-a-days better known as Frank Richards. Things may have worked out like that, nevertheless, I believe he has just as much regard for St. Jims as he has for Greyfriars. It was his first love, don't forget, and I go as far as to say that if it had not been for St. Jims, there would never have been a Greyfriars. The Magnet came as a result of the enormous success of the Gem and whereas the Gem ran for less than a year at a halfpenny, the Magnet was two years old before it became a penny. When they got on equal terms, I should say that for some years they ran neck and neck in the popularity stakes. Then with the rising of Bunter to stardom, the Magnet reached the heights and like Charlie's Aunt, he is still running. Another example might be Sherlock Holmes. The public took a fancy to him and Conan Doyle, reluctantly it is said, had to satisfy their demands and so made the Strand Magazine a huge success. Yes, I'll frankly admit that Bunter was a phenomenon; his story just about the most astonishing thing in fiction, yet withal, maybe I'm a contrary sort of bloke, I'm still a supporter of the more varied bill of fare the good old Gem provided. And I'll repeat that if it had not been for Tom Merry, D'Arcy, Blake & Co., blazing the trail, you might never have heard of Bunter or the Famous Five.

Chairman. (as Malcolm rises). All right, Malcolm, but you'll have to make it snappy. Time's nearly up; I can only give you about a minute.

Malcolm. Okay, I'll be brief, but I must say I do admire those St. Jims chaps for the way they have fought for the old school and grateful to them for being the means of Greyfriars being built, but I must take one of them up. Who was it? Yes, Patrick, when he said the many travel series were not part of the argument because they were not Greyfriars stories at all. That was a mere quibble. They provided some of the variety just mentioned by Philip and well, distance lends enchantment to the view. With this realistic atmosphere, they added to a school-boy's knowledge of foreign lands and undoubtedly were some of the finest stories for boys ever written.

Chairman. Well, time's up and I congratulate you on a good show. You put up some provocative arguments, but I don't suppose any St. Jims supporters will want to move over to Greyfriars, or vice-versa. And now to the voting. We'll take St. Jims first, seeing as Philip reminded us it's the elder. One-four-seven-twelve-fourteen, yes, fourteen. Now Greyfriars - one-three-five-eight-eleven-thirteen-fourteen - fourteen. Is that another hand up there in the corner? Geoffrey, is your hand up? It is? - ah well, that's fifteen. St. Jim's fourteen,

Greyfriars fifteen! A good finish; Greyfriars won by a wicket. Hard luck St. Jims.

THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL (cont'd from page 11)

1937: Greyfriars. Coker's Side-Show  
 Packsaddle. The Packsaddle Gold-Rush  
 Greyfriars. Squiff of the Remove  
 (Reprint of Magnet 343 - A Cool Card)  
 Greyfriars. Coker comes a Cropper  
 St. Jim's. Mr. Ratcliff Has a Busy Day  
 Rockwood. Carthew Goes too Far

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1938: Greyfriars. Fooling Fish  
 St. Jim's. The Shadow over Eastwood House  
 (Reprint of Gem No. 724 - Lord Eastwood's Christmas Party)  
 Cedar Creek. The Cedar Creek Pantomime  
 Greyfriars. Mutiny on the Spindrift  
 (Reprint of Magnet No. 267 - Chums Afloat)  
 Rockwood. Tubby Muffin Goes Gay  
 Greyfriars. Mr. Quelch's Delusion  
 Rockwood. Lovell on the Warpath  
 Greyfriars. Kipps and the Fiver  
 St. Jim's. Skimpole Works his Will  
 Greyfriars. Jack Drake's Capture

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1939: Greyfriars. Billy Bunter's Fearful Affliction  
 (Reprint of Magnet No. 715 - Bunter's Very Latest)  
 St. Jim's. Glyn's Streamlined Christmas Party  
 St. Jim's. They Called Him a Funk  
 Rockwood. The Cheat  
 Greyfriars. The Mystery of the Christmas Candles  
 (Reprint of Magnet No. 723 entitled as reprint)  
 St. Jim's. Trimble the Twister  
 Rockwood. Algy Silver's Pal  
 St. Jim's. Grundy's Gunpowder Plot  
 (Reprint of Gem No. 717 - The Stolen Guy)  
 Cedar Creek. The Cedar Creek Ventriloquist

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1940: Greyfriars. Music Hath Charms  
 St. Jim's. The Case of the Beak's Black Eye  
 Rockwood. The Amazing Proceedings of Timothy Tupper  
 Greyfriars. Sir Fulke's Warning  
 (Reprint of Magnet No. 776 - The Ghost of Mauleverer Towers)  
 Greyfriars. Rip Van Winkle at Greyfriars  
 Rockwood. Public Benefactor No. 1  
 Cedar Creek. False Witness  
 St. Jim's. Fighting the Flames  
 (Reprint of Gem No. 695 same title)

GARDENERS will tell you that summer is the time for annuals, but give me the winter variety, every time. For what would Christmas be without its Annuals? What other pleasure is there, which can compare with the delight felt in opening one of those grand, heavy books, crammed to the very covers with good things? It makes one realise the sensations which a treasure-seeker would feel, when the long-sought-for chest at last stands open before him, with all its accumulated wealth revealed.

Since 1947, we fortunate members of the Old Boys' Book Clubs, have been able to experience this joy in full measure. And now, once again, Christmas brings us another issue of The Collector's Digest Annual, to add to the mounting pile. Although, of course, I am writing this long before the event, by all accounts the 1953 Annual promises to be the best of all. If, however, we get anything like the pleasure from it which its six predecessors have given us, we shall be abundantly satisfied.

Thinking about the C.D. Annual, brought recollections of other Annuals of the past into my mind; and I realized, as perhaps never before, how the joys of Christmas, for almost every year of my life, have been concentrated as it were, in the fond receipt, and rapturous contemplation of one Annual or another. Two in particular stand out in my memory.

## THE HARDIEST ANNUAL of ALL

By GERRY ALLISON.

I need not tell you which Annual it was that for twenty years 'made' Christmas, for me, and for all other good Hamiltonians! From 1920 to 1940 there was only one Annual for us. Shall we ever forget that Christmas when we received the first Holiday Annual? I have my copy before me now with its fine colourful cover, drawn by Warwick Reynolds. After being a faithful reader of the 'Magnet' and 'Gem' for years, what a thrill it was to get such a wonderful Christmas present.

Well, I could go on writing about the Holiday Annual until the cows come home, and then some, but the title of this article does not refer to the "H.A." I would like to tell you about the Annual which I received every year from 1912 to 1919. It is a book which made its bow in December 1866 and which has appeared every year since, albeit in altered guise. The present publication is, admittedly, nothing like the one which I received as a boy, but the title is the same, and no doubt, the youngster who gets it nowadays is as pleased as I was in years past. Yes, perhaps you have guessed that I refer to the Chatterbox Annual, which this year celebrates its 87th birthday. Truly a hardy annual indeed!

Perhaps I am wrong, but I do not remember seeing this book mentioned before in the pages of the Collector's Digest, or the C.D. Annual, and I feel it is time that this sad omission was rectified. I consider that Chatterbox fully deserves to be remembered with affection and respect, if not with the loving worship which is accorded to the Annual which appeared in 1920, when Chatterbox was 54 years old.



First I will give you as much of the 'data' as I have been able to collect, and then, perhaps you will allow me to reminisce a little.

The first halfpenny number of Chatterbox appeared on December 1st, 1866. The publisher for the first year, was a Mr. William Macintosh. The editor, and founder of the paper was John Erskine Clarke, who was a Derbyshire clergyman, later to become Canon Clarke. After a year, or thereabouts, the paper was transferred to Messrs. Wells, Gardner, Darton & Co., who ran it for the next 60 years or more.

The weekly issues had 8 pages and at the end of each year they were published as an Annual of 416 pages. In 1919, however, the number of pages was cut down to 316, as a result of the paper shortage. In 1907 the paper had been made into a monthly instead of a weekly publication, whilst after 1916, it was issued as an Xmas Annual only.

The book was quite successful from the start, especially amongst the religious-minded public. One important feature of Chatterbox was the large number of excellent illustrations which it contained. There were as many full-page pictures in black and white as there were of reading matter, and in addition, each Annual contained a dozen brightly coloured plates. There was the same frontispiece in every edition from the beginning. Do any of you remember it? A floral design of intertwined fruits, nuts and flowers, surrounding a picture of a kindly old lady in a mob-cap, encompassed by a crowd of children all clamouring to be read to, out of books which they held in their hands. Also a smaller inset of a boy, nutting; and another of a little girl with a sheaf of corn on her head. All very old-fashioned, but most attractive. That frontispiece still gives me a pleasant sensation of bygone happiness.

When I first had this article in mind, I wrote to Wells, Gardner, Darton & Co., asking them if they could give me the name of the Editor(s) who followed John Erskine Clarke, and also tell me when the Annual finally passed out of their hands. In reply I received a very courteous letter from the present manager of the firm, regretting their inability to help me. Many of the firm's records were lost in the London blitz and no one on the staff can remember the details I asked about. I was sorry about that, but perhaps you will be relieved. Facts and figures are rather dull after all.

However, the change-over must have been between 1920 and 1934. I have the 1920 Chatterbox in the old style, and only this week I saw the 68th volume of the Annual dated 1934. This was published for "The Chatterbox Company", by Simpkin, Marshall & Co. Ltd. This copy contained a miniature reproduction of the original frontispiece.

Since 1936, Chatterbox has been published by Dean & Co. Ltd., London. They have just issued the volume for 1954 - the 87th number in the series! The price is still 5/-, but there are only 124 pages. The cover depicts a Red Indian chief, in full warpaint, and a 'Mountie' shooting the rapids in a birch-bark canoe. There is a five-part serial 'The Voyage of the Stella Mavis', by Betty E. Spink. Also 25 other items, school and adventure tales, articles, puzzles, etc. Just a nice children's book.

But what a poor thing it is, when compared with the Chatterboxes of my boyhood. It was for Christmas 1912 that I received my first present of a Chatterbox Annual. I was aged 7. What a grand volume it was! On page 2 there began a long school story by John Barnett. The title was "Wilding's First Term"

and there were twenty chapters. This was a really fine tale, and, to make my satisfaction complete, the hero's name was Gerald! Such a contrast to the wretched crew of cads and bullies who dishonour the name in the pages of the Magnet and Gem. Gerald Crooke, Gerald Cutts, Gerald Knox, Gerald Loder, etc. Even Mark Linley's cad of a brother was a Gerald. And then there was Jerrold Lumley-Lumley. Sheer persecution, I call it! And so there was no wonder that I liked my first Chatterbox.

Besides the long serial, there were 276 other items in the index! And of the 416 pages, over half were illustrated. A book worth having indeed.

The following year there was the best adventure tale I have ever read in any Annual, 'Bird Cay' by H. de Vere Stacpoole; a story of a search for hidden treasure, which puts 'Treasure Island' completely into the shade. I have read the yarn dozens of times and always with the same enjoyment and excitement. Only last year, the story was serialized by the B.B.C. in their senior school broadcasts, whilst there was a query about 'Bird Cay' quite recently in John 'o London's Weekly. Apparently others beside myself remember this grand tale with affection.

I think the best serial school tale which appeared in Chatterbox was 'Jimmy the New Boy' by Archibald Marshall, author of 'Exton Manor', 'The Clinton's', etc. This was in the 1917 volume. The story contains a most poignant example of a master who could not control a class of boys. At times it is as moving as 'Goodbye, Mr. Chips'. I shall never forget poor Mr. Ringrose. And Jimmy Henshaw is a grand lad, very much like that other Jimmy at Rookwood. I can recommend this tale to all who like a good school tale. There is action galore, and a fine 'scrap' between Jimmy and the bully Norman, or The Conqueror, as he is called. I saw a reprint of the book last year, but have forgotten who the publisher was.

Besides the serials, there were scores of short stories, some with a moral flavour, but none too goody-goody. Then there were pages of puzzles, and articles on every subject imaginable. I used to like those about other authors, under the title 'On Every Boy's Bookshelf', which gave short biographies of writers like G.A. Henty, Captain Marryat, Charles Kingsley, etc., with details of their best books.

Many famous authors wrote for Chatterbox. The present poet-laureate, John Masefield, had pride of place in the 1909 Annual, with his adventure tale 'Martin Hyde', which was the serial that year, whilst the year after his equally fine tale 'Jim Davis', appeared. The illustrations were also excellent and made just skipping through the book, a pleasure.

But why go on? There was good reading every year in Chatterbox, and if some of it has now dated there is plenty which has not. Besides, for those who, like myself, got Chatterbox every Christmas when young, the pleasure of nostalgic remembrance is worth quite as much as the actual reading.

I once inspected a collection of 'red' Magnets, which caused me to break the tenth commandment into smithereens. When I asked the fortunate possessor how often he read them, his reply was surprising. "Oh", he said, "I hardly ever read them. I get such a delight in just handling them and looking through them". Well, it is exactly the same with my Chatterboxes.

And finally, here is a very good point in their favour. They are fairly

easy to collect and not too expensive. A year ago, I had only one volume in my possession - the 1913 copy, and that in poor condition. One day, whilst browsing around an antique shop in Ripon, I noticed some books in a far corner. To my amazed delight there were 3 Chatterbox Annuals amongst them, all in perfect condition. The dates were 1913, 1915 and 1916. The price 2/6d each! Well, I snapped them up like a flash, and when I got home I lovingly placed them on my shelves and discarded the old 1913 copy.

The next week I found a copy of the de-luxe edition for 1912, with cloth cover, gilt edges, and all, in Miles's book shop in Leeds. The price was 3/-! Well, now I had four beauties and was fairly well off. I thought I would see what an advert in Exchange & Mart would do towards getting me a few more. I had in mind a run from about 1910 to 1920.

The ad. appeared in April of this year and the result staggered me. I received offers of Chatterbox Annuals from all over the place. A few of the people who answered my advertisement asked the fantastic, extortionate prices we know so well. But most of them were quite reasonable. The best lot was a complete run from 1903 to 1917, offered by the widow of a clergyman who was moving into a smaller house and who was disposing of her husband's library. I offered 4/- a copy for the numbers I wanted and it was accepted. I bought a few earlier numbers for curiosity - the oldest is 1893 - but my set of 21 copies is now quite satisfactory to me and I get immense pleasure from browsing over these handsome volumes. And although it is so long since my single advert appeared, I am still getting Chatterboxes offered!

I fear that this article is very rambling, and exceedingly egotistical, and perhaps I had better stop right now. But - 'good hunting'.

THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL (cont'd from page 20)

1940: (cont'd)

Rookwood.           When Tubby Sat Tight  
 Greyfriars.        Billy Bunter's Bike

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1941:           Greyfriars.        Billy Bunter's Burglar  
 Greyfriars.        Billy Bunter's Busy Day  
           (Reprint of Magnet No. 942 - The Mystery of the Head's Study)  
 Greyfriars.        Christmastide at Chunkley's  
 Rookwood.         Jimmy Silver Does the Trick  
 St. Jim's.         Skimpole the Star-Gazer  
           (Reprint of Gem No. 976 - Skimpole's Telescope)  
 Cedar Creek.       Snowbound!  
 Oakshott.         The Moat House Mystery

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WANTED: N. Lees (Old Series) Nos. 12, 14/16, 26/34, 38/40, 52, 54, 64/73, 76/77, 80/81, 84/90, 92/95, 98, 102/103, 107, 113, 130, 513, 515, 551.

C. CHURCHILL, 123 PINHOE ROAD, EXETER.

Some notable characters —

# AROUND & about GREYFRIARS

Paul Purdy  
Poot



Mr S. Quelch.

Horace James  
Coke



Herbert  
Mauler



Mr Lazarus.

Fisher  
T. Fish.

W. G.  
Bunker.



Mr Joe Banks.

William Goring

Herbert  
Vernon-Smith



George  
Wingate.



Sir  
H. P.

"No, I suppose not".

Harry Wharton stared at him blankly. Something of the truth came into his mind, and he was strongly inclined to laugh; but the look in Bob Cherry's face banished that inclination. Bob's face was quite white.

"Bob, old chap, you're right; you are an ass" he said. "Why, you're younger than I am, and I'm only fifteen. Bob, you are an ass, old chap."

"I know I am. Of course, it's all rot" said Bob hastily; "only - only she doesn't seem to have eyes for a fellow at all; when you are around, at all events".

"My dear Bob - "

"Oh, don't say any more; I know I'm an ass! But not a word, for goodness' sake; if I were chipped about it, I should go mad" said Bob Cherry, in a low voice.

Harry Wharton advised him to forget it, but the advice does not seem to have been taken, though Bob was never in such depths of despair again. It is interesting to compare this with D'Arcy's love affairs in the Gem; Gussy was always made to look ridiculous, but Bob was presented to the readers in a more serious light, more like Figgins in his regard for Cousin Ethel. The other serious topic in 1908, apart from the vicissitudes of Mark Linley's early days was the career of Ernest Levison - the subject of a special article by Breeze Bentley last year, a lily which requires no gilding here.

The early issues of the Magnet read like extracts from a diary, and one chapter often has no bearing on any other. There were no secondary plots in the stories, but a double number, like No. 43, would have two independent plots in the same story: in that issue, the tale of the Christmas concert runs parallel with the tale of Levison's spying on Wun Lung, and when the later chapters dealing with the second plot were reprinted in No. 43 of the Schoolboys' Own Library, it was not apparent that enormous cuts had been made in the text of the original story.

The illustrations were always an integral part of the Magnet, and the first few months' drawings were well done by Hutton Mitchell. In practically every drawing of his, it is possible to distinguish each member of the Famous Four at a glance. He was succeeded at the end of the year by Arthur Clarke, who was undoubtedly a better artist, but unfortunately he tended to draw all his faces alike, and when Mr. Chapman took over he was obliged to copy this style. Hutton Mitchell's work had a number of defects: his perspective was faulty, and some of his early sketches of Billy Bunter were lacking in imagination. But his work was free from the heavy and laboured overtones that marred Clarke's first drawings, and the charm of the very early Magnet illustrations is still a pleasant feature of most 1908 issues.

#### 1909 - The Red Magnet Finds its Feet

For some curious reason, 1909 is the scarcest year of the red Magnets, and accordingly it will not be amiss if we linger over a number of the issues of this year. No. 48 entitled "The New Term at Greyfriars" is in a way one of the minor classics. Billy Bunter banked up the fire for his cooking operations so greatly in study No. 1 that he set the chimney on fire, and eventually the walls of all the studies in the Remove passage were set alight. Harry Wharton saved Molly Locke, the Head's younger daughter, from the blaze, but strangely enough this incident occurs in the middle of the story, leaving the rest rather an anti-climax.

The following week saw the arrival of Ionides, the Greek dandy, who was appointed a prefect and later deposed by the Head all within a few days of his coming. In No. 59 he gate-crashed at a fancy dress ball held at Cliff House to celebrate the opening of that academy, but to his mortification Miss Primrose mistook him for a waiter.

A story with quite an adult flavour to it is No. 50 - "Harry Wharton's Campaign". The Head's youngest sister, Miss Locke, who was staying at the school for a while, had become a suffragette. In what must have been the most amusing and interesting debate in the annals of the Sixth Form Society, she made a cogent and reasoned plea for votes for women. The Head reluctantly allowed her to address the school on the same topic, but the fallacy of some of her arguments were exposed when Temple demanded votes for schoolboys. Charles Hamilton presented the arguments for and against women's suffrage with fairness, but it would be interesting to know exactly what he thought himself at that time about this once stirring topic.

The stories at this time continued to be episodic in character, and most of them devoted at least one chapter to Billy Bunter's progress in ventriloquism. His main interest, however, was his work for the Patriotic Home Work Association. Having purchased (with borrowed money) an expensive box of paints from this worthy body, he proceeded to colour postcards for them, and was constantly in expectation of earning £3 a week, which, like his Postal Order, seemed never to materialise. In No. 60, he took Harry Wharton to see someone who was actually receiving this amount from the Association, but Wharton correctly divined that this was a sprat to catch a mackerel. In No. 63, Bunter picked up Wingate's five-pound note in an envelope in the quad, and persuaded himself that this was his long-awaited remittance.

The development in Bunter's character was beginning to take a distinctly unpleasant tone, and in No. 53 he used his ventriloquial skill to make Harry Wharton appear to bid £110 for a wrecked schooner. Fortunately Colonel Wharton agreed to give him an advance from the money that was to be his when he came of age, and the sailor cadet corps was founded. In No. 62, they were shipwrecked on Seagull Island with Marjorie and Clara, and when they were rescued some days later the Head forbade any future excursions.

A dramatic tale of outstanding quality for this period was No. 58 - "Cut by the Form". Bulstrode organised a party to tar and feather Mark Linley. The plot went awry, but it came to the ears of Mr. Quelch from Snoop, and Bulstrode was flogged. Snoop said Linley had sneaked and the Lancashire junior was sent to Coventry. It was not until Marjorie Hazeldene intervened that the matter was put right.

Marjorie was, from the first, presented as a thoughtful and intelligent schoolgirl, but she was made to act somewhat out of character in No. 60 - "The Greyfriars Cricketers", when Cliff House challenged the Remove to a match. This contest proved even more farcical than the match against the aliens in No. 19; the author was perhaps allowing his keen sense of fun to run away with him. Certainly Marjorie was never presented in a ridiculous aspect again.

Another story with two plots was "Stony Broke" in No. 66. Billy Bunter had invited Fatty Wynn over for a feed, and then left it to Harry Wharton to find the wherewithal. On the same day, Linley's sister Mabel arrived to look around Greyfriars, and was ragged by Bulstrode and Co. Compared with the well-knit

plots the author was providing for the Gem at this time, it is evident that the Magnet was still of only secondary importance. Even so, a number of Greyfriars stories of merit and charm did appear in 1909, like No. 78 - "Harry Wharton's Bank Holiday". They met D'Arcy and his brother in London, and went to the Crystal Palace for the day. The story was simply a string of unconnected incidents, but had it not been so, we should never had had the pleasure of reading how Gussy went into a barber's shop and had a shave on that memorable occasion.

Penny Double Numbers were plentiful at this time, and No. 95 - "Billy Bunter's Christmas Dream" - is one of the famous ones. Like many others, it has two separate plots: one, the story of Monsieur Charpentier's enemy Duprez, and the other, the story of how Bunter forced Wharton to provide the cash for a pudding which he ate in its entirety, despite the fact that it was promised as a reward to some Removites who were doing lines for him. The following week at Wharton Lodge, a Christmas Pudding Competition was organised at Bunter's instigation. He poured blacking over his opponents' mixtures, but Bob Cherry by way of revenge mixed some cement in Bunter's, and the booby prize - a monkey on a stick - was awarded to the fat Owl.

### 1910 - The Year of Promise

The third year of the Magnet was one of great promise, as the Double Number "Nugent Minor" in No. 100 well shews. The arrival of Nugent's spoilt younger brother, and the vicissitudes of his first few days in the school read as well now as they did 43 years ago. For the first time, a Double Number related a single coherent story, instead of two separate ones. The culmination of Nugent Minor's early career - throwing a stone at Wingate, and the sequel - the sentence of expulsion later commuted to a flogging, seemed to have brought Dicky Nugent to his senses for a while, but he always remained a trouble to his major in the Remove.

The next issue shewed, however, that the Magnet still received less of the author's time than the Gem, for the climax of the story - Ionides' accusation that Wharton was a thief - came in the middle of the tale, instead of at the end. The fault was remedied six weeks later, in "The Cad of the Sixth" which had a really splendid climax at the end of the story. On this occasion Carberry inveigled Nugent Minor to the Waterside Inn with Loder and Carne. Bunter ventriloquised outside the window, making them think that the Head had seen them. Carberry went straight back to Dr. Locke and told him that he had entered the inn only in pursuit of Nugent. The outcome of all this was the expulsion of Carberry, a notable end to another remarkably good early Magnet story.

No. 119 saw the advent of a really famous character - Herbert Tudor Vernon-Smith. Smithy arrived at the school the worse for drink, but like Lumley-Lumley of St. Jim's, he could not be expelled because his father had a hold over the Head. The Bounder soon began to encourage Hazeldene in his bad ways, and, to remove Marjorie's brother from his bad influence, Harry Wharton and Co. took Hazeldene to Lausanne with them for a fortnight in Nos. 123 and 124. Vernon-Smith also took a trip to Switzerland, and before long he and Hazeldene were gambling in the Kursaal; Hazeldene with stolen money. This somewhat loosely-written travel story turned itself in the end into a fine dramatic tale. Incidentally, it is curious to note that No. 79 of the Schoolboys' Own Library, which is a reprint of these two Magnet stories, contains a few passages written by Charles Hamilton which were for some reason omitted from Magnet No. 124.

The following week saw another arrival - Alonzo Theophilus Todd. There is a quaint charm which surrounds this character, but it seems that he was not greatly liked by the readers, for Alonzo stayed at Greyfriars as a regular pupil for only five years. Earnest, tactless, long-winded, always quoting the precepts of Uncle Benjamin to an unappreciative audience, he was perhaps a little too prim and old-fashioned for the readers. It is impossible not to laugh at many of his howlers, especially when, on the first day, he took Skinner's advice and asked Mr. Quelch if his father was out of prison yet; again, seven weeks later, he attempted to foster a romance between Miss Primrose and Mr. Quelch, which ended in that lady swooning in the arms of the Remove master just before the Head appeared. It was all done from the best of motives, but it all ended in the same unfortunate manner. Poor Alonzo!

It was about this time that the author began to develop the power of writing about arguments in a convincing manner. This was especially noticeable in No. 129 in which Bulstrode appealed to the Head against lines set by Mr. Quelch; on the face of things, the Remove master had acted hastily, but the wise questioning of Dr. Locke eventually elicited the true facts. It was long past red Magnet days, however, before Charles Hamilton reached the peak of proficiency in describing such battles of words.

One of the red Magnet classics was No. 145 - "Coker's Catch". Coker was the oldest fellow in the Shell, and his Aunt Judy arrived at Greyfriars to bludgeon the Head into giving him his remove into the Fifth. Dr. Locke acted on the principle that Coker might just as well be a fool in the Fifth as a fool in the Shell, but Aunt Judy went away convinced that the Head had begun to realise what a genius her nephew was.

Hazeldene was (once again) not on friendly terms with Harry Wharton at this time, and so in No. 147 - "The Schoolboy Traitor" - he agreed to fall in with Ponsonby's plans to administer a drug in Wharton's coffee before the match, so that Highcliffe would have an easy victory for a change (Ponsonby was junior captain at that time - Courtenay did not arrive at Highcliffe until 1915). Solly Lazarus overheard the plot and put Wharton on his guard. As usual, Hazeldene escaped punishment, in order that Marjorie should not be worried.

The following week - "Bunter's Bust-up" - was another Double Number, with Bunter eating doctored Christmas pudding and writing to a charitable organisation to raise cash for another feed. Considered as a Double Number, the story is inferior to "Nugent Minor" at the beginning of the year.

Fisher T. Fish arrived in No. 150. From the start he was never attractive, being boastful and unpleasant early on, and growing positively avaricious after a while. The Famous Four put up with him sufficiently to be able to bear his company at Wharton Lodge over the Christmas holiday that season, but this was a rare occasion.

The following issue saw the arrival of Johnny Bull. He is perhaps the least interesting member of the Co., possibly because one always knows in advance exactly how he will re-act; dependability can be a little dull at times. In the early days, of course, he was not a member of the Co. The first intimation the Remove had of his presence was an unearthly wailing which turned out to be his concertina being played. This unpopular instrument was destined to have a short life.



1911 - The Year of Fulfilment

Johnny Bull was featured fairly prominently in 1911. In No. 152 he was obliged to play the concertina in the grounds of Wharton Lodge at night, so greatly did the others object to hearing it, and the midnight moanings convinced everyone that the grounds were haunted. In No. 154 his Aunt Tabitha gave him £500 to see if he could be trusted to spend the money without dissipation, and so earn the right to be her heir. In No. 156 his cousin Lucas Crane attempted unsuccessfully to lead him into bad ways in order to get him disinherited, but the scheme came to naught. These stories were out of the ordinary, certainly, but not particularly striking for any other reason.

How Bunter dived into an empty swimming-bath and lost his memory, becoming quite a tolerable fellow for a while, was told in No. 160 - "Poor Old Bunter". Johnny Bull played his concertina to the invalid, who promptly threw it on the fire. The Removites were very kind to Bunter during his illness, and accordingly he attempted to convince them three weeks later that he had had a relapse. Alonzo Todd borrowed Gosling's coke-hammer, and obligingly offered to cure Bunter by giving him another blow on the head. Bunter succeeded in convincing nobody except Marjorie Hazeldene and Alonzo Todd, and even Alonzo was brutally frank to Bunter at times, as is evidenced by this amusing excerpt from No. 163:-

"Do I understand you to make the extraordinary assertion that Wharton is jealous of you on account of your good looks?"

"Yes, ass".

"But your statement is amazing, my dear Bunter. You see, it has no foundation. Wharton is not the kind of fellow to be jealous of another fellow's good looks. Besides, you have no good looks, you know, my dear Bunter".

"Eh?"

"You are a very plain boy, not to say ugly" went on the candid duffer of Greyfriars. "You do not mind my speaking plainly, do you? My Uncle Benjamin always impressed upon me never to flatter. Of course, a fellow cannot help his looks, though you could certainly improve your appearance by eating less, sleeping less, taking more exercise, and cultivating a loftier kind of thought. Good meditations lend a very agreeable expression to the countenance, my dear Bunter."

"You - you ass!"

"Your thoughts are continually running upon eating and drinking and bodily comfort" went on Todd. "That is bound to lead to the gross expression of countenance which renders your face so unpleasant to look upon, my dear Bunter."

Uncle Benjamin had always advised Alonzo never to fail to put in a word in season, and the above extract is typical of Alonzo in red Magnet days.

Dr. Locke's family were rarely, if ever, featured after the early stories, though they enjoyed a good share of the limelight in their time. In "Wingate's Chum" (No. 162) Mademoiselle Rosina of the circus turned out to be none other than Miss Rosie Locke who had been kidnapped years before, and five weeks later she was kidnapped once again in "The Prisoner of the Priory". This was an expensive business for Dr. Locke, and he had borrowed money from Mr. Vernon-Smith to pay for the search.

In May 1911 began what may be called the heyday of the red Magnet. First class stories, week by week, came pouring from the pen of Charles Hamilton. It is difficult to pick and choose from such a distinguished collection. There was Uncle Benjamin himself at Greyfriars in No. 169, remarking that he was sure Alonzo was a reckless young rascal, always getting into scrapes, but he thought none the worse of him for that. There was Bulstrode becoming form captain again in No. 170 (the beginning of a set of exceptionally fine stories about this character), and a new headmaster, Mr. Lothrop, who caused a rebellion during his fortnight's stay in Nos. 171 and 172. There was a spiteful new boy called Heath in Nos. 173 and 174 who so cleverly engineered Bob Cherry's expulsion that only Linley and Wharton remained true to their chum. There was Harry Wharton as "The King's Guest" in No. 175, the Coronation number, and there was Bulstrode, still form captain, being "Barred by his People" in No. 177, owing to a misunderstanding caused by Bunter. There was the unusual episode of Bulstrode minor in No. 178, a wild young lad who died at the school after a reckless escapade, upon which Bulstrode left the school for a while and Harry Wharton became captain again. There was "Bob Cherry in Search of His Father" in No. 179, while Mark Linley was striving desperately for the Founder's Scholarship in No. 180, and nearly robbed of it by the vindictive intervention of the Bounder. Vernon-Smith celebrated his own success somewhat prematurely by a midnight party outside the school, and he was expelled. In No. 181 Bob Cherry saved Mr. Vernon-Smith's car from a crash, and when offered a reward demanded that the Head's I.O.U. be cancelled. The Head was saved from the ruin the millionaire had threatened if his son were expelled and the Bounder was allowed to return to the school. And so ended a truly amazing sequence of first rate stories.

1911 saw the advent of a number of permanent residents in the Greyfriars Remove. Bolsover, the bully, arrived in No. 182 and a fortnight later came Lord Mauleverer, good natured, but easily led into wrongdoing in those earlier numbers - quite different to what he subsequently became in the thirties. Penfold, the son of the local cobbler, arrived in No. 194 and he was subjected to even more snobbish treatment than Mark Linley had been.

The finest story of the year - dare one say the finest red Magnet story of all? - was undoubtedly No. 186 - "The Only Way". Rupert Valence, the Hazeldene of the Sixth Form, was caught poaching by Sir Hilton Popper, and he gave Courtney's name to the keeper who caught him. Sir Hilton sent Courtney a note telling him to come and take a flogging or be brought before a magistrate. Without knowing what the trouble was about, Valence's sister, Vi, asked Courtney to help her brother and Courtney went to Hilton Hall in Valence's place. The story has perhaps dated a little, and for this reason was never reprinted (another reason was the fact that Pentelow later thoughtlessly wrote a story removing the principle characters from the school - see Magnet No. 520 entitled "A Very Gallant Gentleman"). But there is no denying the high dramatic quality of the story in No. 186 and the intrinsic merit of its theme.

A temporary master with a difference was Mr. Lang, who appeared in No. 189 to take Mr. Quelch's place for a while. Temporary masters were usually depicted as tyrants or freaks - there was little point in having them as a rule unless they were one or the other - but the character of Mr. Lang was drawn as carefully as that of a permanent resident. Young, keen on classics, officious, well-meaning but unfortunate in his manner, he became on bad terms with the Remove by a series of unfortunate incidents into which he was led by the defects of his

character. His attitude to games, which he regarded as childish, set the seal on the misunderstanding. This is a red Magnet story for adults to relish, one in which Charles Hamilton took great pains to give us a character study of an unusual type.

Most Magnet collectors know that the Remove had obtained exemption from fagging, but probably few can have come across the interesting story in which this actually came about - No. 190 entitled "The Outlaws of the School". We are told that the Head had abolished fagging for the Upper Fourth as a preliminary to abolishing the institution altogether. Loder's ill-treatment of a fag precipitated the strike of the Remove, but they received scant sympathy from the rest of the school, the higher forms thinking them presumptuous and the lower forms alarmed because they foresaw that they would have to do more fagging if the Removites were exempted. The story contains a particularly interesting scene in which Wingate caned the Remove for disobedience, in spite of Mr. Quelch's order that he should stop. When Mr. Quelch appeared a second time, Wingate bandied words with him - the only time on record that the captain of the school was impudent to a master. The point was well made that, in attempting to suppress defiance, Wingate was defiant himself, and eventually he came to agree with the Remove that their campaign should succeed.

Loder was the cause of another disturbance in No. 196 when he was attacked in the dark by Skinner. Blame fell upon Harry Wharton, who was later cleared owing to Frank Nugent's efforts. Skinner was expelled and no more was heard of him for two years.

The Christmas Double Number was "Wingate's Folly" in No. 200, in which he fell in love with a pantomime actress. The plot was well integrated and there were no loose ends, but it is not the sort of story to appeal to younger collectors who were brought up on the style of later issues. It was, however, by no means out of place in red Magnet days, and as a story of a young man in love is a work of some merit.

#### 1912 - On the Crest of the Wave

1912 was a year of consistently good stories rather than a year containing a few outstanding ones. Peter Todd made a fleeting appearance in "The Duffer's Double" in No. 205 - much to the surprise of the Removites - and Bolsover minor was rescued from the London slums in No. 206 without any rejoicing on the part of Bolsover major. A pair of stories in Nos. 217 and 218 related how the clue to treasure was acquired, and how it was found on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius.

A fine pair of stories appeared in Nos. 221 and 224, again featuring Courtney and Valence. There was another poaching expedition which again came to grief, and this time Valence was expelled. In the second story he returned to the school disguised as a new boy, hoping to win the respect of the Head anew. By a series of unfortunate happenings he became mixed up with Banks, the book-maker, but all came right in the end and he was allowed to stay. It would be false to assert that stories centring around the Sixth Form were frequent, but there is no doubt that the Wingate-Courtney-Valence relationship was a good basis for writing such stories, and Pentelow cannot be condemned sufficiently for destroying it for the sake of writing a piece of cheap and sentimental heroism. Faulkner, Sykes, Gwynne and North are merely names to Magnet collectors, but Courtney and Valence were well-drawn characters which the Magnet ought never to

have lost.

The difference between the Magnet and Gem stories was not so great in these early days, as is evidenced by No. 223 - "Frank Nugent's Great Wheeze". The Fifth Form refused to play the Remove at cricket so the Removites disguised themselves as a French team and did not reveal their true identities until after they had won the match - shades of Gordon Gay indeed!

Charles Hamilton gives us a good impression of what life in the slums was like in those times; in No. 228 Bolsover minor, weary of the taunts and jibes of his elder brother, ran away from Greyfriars back to the slums he had come from. Bolsover major had the grace to be sorry when his younger brother was discovered again, very ill, but his sorrow was short lived.

Typical of red Magnet stories was the day excursion from the school or home. In No. 234 Lord Mauleverer took a party to Blackpool. The most amazing episode was undoubtedly Monsieur Charpentier dressed up as a pierrot and singing saucy songs on the promenade. Poor Mossco was then, as always, short of cash.

Charles Hamilton often found the idea for a story in reading items in the daily papers. The mystery of the Marie Celeste, that strange vessel which was found floating in the Atlantic without a soul on board, but otherwise in perfect order, undoubtedly inspired the story of "The Hidden Horror" in No. 239. In this tale, the Aspasia floated into Pegg Bay and ran ashore. The ship was empty and the Co. intended to claim the salvage, but they had many unpleasant experiences before the mystery was solved.

Coker's younger brother arrived in No. 241 and was put into the Sixth Form, much to Coker's indignation, but even a protest to the Head did not succeed in sparing Horace this indignity. The following week Fishy was in the limelight again with his Insurance Company. There was a mysterious outbreak of throwing stones through study windows, and after that many juniors insured against a repetition of this. Strangely enough, those who didn't insure soon had their windows broken again. The Bounder was one of those who refused to join in the scheme, but he paid Fishy off in his own coin by smashing the windows of all those who had insured themselves, and the Insurance Company soon went bankrupt after paying out a record number of claims.

The year ended in a grand manner with the famous series in Nos. 247 to 254. The first three stories explain how Vernon-Smith became on more than usually bad terms with the Famous Five and Mark Linley, and the last five tales shew how he set about getting all of them expelled. When it came to Bob Cherry's turn in the last number, he refused to go, and he barricaded out with Inky in the old tower. Of course, all came right in the end and even the Bounder was allowed to stay. But the last number of the series must have been a great favourite with the readers, for the advertisement columns in the Magnet for years afterwards contained requests for copies of "Bob Cherry's Barring-Out".

### 1913 - The Flag Still Flies High

1913 saw the arrival of a number of new boys - Richard Rake in No. 258 and Oliver Kipps, the conjurer, in No. 268, but neither were destined to play a large part on the Greyfriars stage. One with more potentialities was Jack Wingate in No. 265. He arrived, rather like Nugent minor, a spoilt child who expected everything to go right with him. Wingate minor, however, was even worse in that respect in that he expected his major to ensure that he had everything he

wanted. Loder favoured him ostentatiously in order to aggravate the situation, and the fags would have nothing to do with him. Four weeks later he was sent to Coventry, only Bolsover minor standing by him, but he eventually managed to live down his reputation as a sneak, though he always remained a weak-willed sort of character.

Another newcomer was one who always remained in the forefront - Peter Todd, the amateur lawyer. In No. 271 - "The Impossible Four" - he came to Greyfriars to stay, attempting to make study No. 7 the leaders of the Remove, rather like Redfern and Co. who called themselves the New Firm at St. Jim's. Peter's task was hopeless from the first, but he never despaired of making a man of Bunter.

Bob Cherry was also in the forefront at this time, in two stories featuring his ne'er-do-well cousin Paul Tyrell. In No. 266, Tyrell arrived as a games coach, seeking to rob the school, and in No. 270 he re-appeared, robbed Mauly of a considerable sum and vanished to Monte Carlo to attempt to win a fortune at roulette (the similarity to the episode in the Gem featuring Figgins' cousin, Archie Hilton, is striking). As always, the description of the game of roulette and the gamblers around the table is remarkably good.

Charles Hamilton must have begun to realise that it was a waste to expel well-drawn characters. At any rate, Levison was resuscitated in the Gem, and in Magnet No. 274 Skinner was allowed to return to Greyfriars. Skinner was tired of office work, and, by shamming illness on a visit to the school, managed to gain the Head's sympathy and a pardon for his previous wrongdoings. The return of Skinner was no gain for the Remove, but it was a valuable contribution to many Magnet stories in the future.

1913 was undoubtedly Fishy's year. In No. 272 he set up the Twentieth Century New York Loan Office, lending money at  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  interest a day. Unfortunately none of his clients would pay, and when the affair came to the ears of Dr. Locke it was only because the Head considered him more stupid than wicked that he was not expelled. In No. 284 he found his pawnshop was a failure (Bunter would bring articles belonging to others, and the real owners then retrieved them by force without payment). In No. 290 when Mrs. Mible had to close her shop for a while, he opened one of his own - at exorbitant rates - but it was soon put out of business when his swindled customers decided to run one in competition. In No. 302 he was shadowing Mossoc, convinced he was the local cracksman, but even Fishy had to admit he was barking up the wrong tree when Monsieur Charpentier captured the real villain. Fisher T. Fish is not everyone's favourite, but there is no doubt that Charles Hamilton exercised a good deal of ingenuity in writing about this character.

There were a number of unusual tales in 1913. Harry Wharton and Bob Cherry were involved in munity on the Spindrift in No. 267; Johnny Bull's cousin Fluffy put in an appearance in No. 283 - "The Sandow Girl at Greyfriars" - and Bunter found himself in an iron grip after he had asked for a kiss; the Remove were playing football by moonlight in No. 293 after they had been forbidden to play for a time by Mr. Quelch; and Fishy and Harry Wharton and Co. were busying themselves with the Greyfriars Herald in Nos. 296 and 306.

More in the usual run of things, however, were Nos. 297 and 298, with Vernon-Smith breaking detention to play in a match at St. Jim's, and Mr. Quelch

chasing over for him, only to be led astray by a trick on the part of Levison. Another familiar sort of story was "The Scapegoat" in No. 303, with Hazeldene in trouble again with a bookmaker, and Harry Wharton receiving thanks for getting him out of it.

#### 1914 - Coming Events Cast Their Shadow Before

In the first six years of the Magnet there were only seven stories by substitute writers. There were as many as this in 1914 alone, and every year up to 1926 was to see the number increase. The coming of the war, and the uncertainty of the author's movements were to leave their mark on the Magnet. No. 311 revolved around the unpleasant Mr. Mobbs of Highcliffe. After getting the Remove caned as a result of one of his complaints, he was waylaid and snowballed on the way back. Of course, Skinner had to put a stone in one of his snowballs, and the next day Mr. Mobbs was back again with another complaint. It was a story without a twist in the tail, but nevertheless provided some good characterisation.

Wibley arrived in No. 322, mistaking a threatening scene in the Remove Dramatic Society's rehearsal for the real thing. He was thrown out when he suggested later that he could teach them a thing or two, but the time soon came when the Remove were willing to admit that he was the authority on the subject of dramatics, and he was the mainspring of many a plot in future Magnets.

Mr. Lascelles came into the stories in No. 324. He was Larry Lynx, a professional boxer, but was, like Mr. Dalton at Rookwood, allowed to remain at the school after he had rendered the Head a service. Some weeks later he was kidnapped by old friends who wanted him to return to his old life, but he was rescued by the Remove. This theme was repeated, after a decent interval of nineteen years, in 1933. Another repeated theme was that in No. 332, when the Removites had a day trip to Boulogne, and a certain member of the party stole money to gamble at the casino. After thirty-nine years, a similar tale appeared in "Billy Bunter's Beanfeast". Repetition there may be in the Greyfriars stories, but it can be spotted only by the inveterate collectors.

A new boy with a difference was Sir Harry Beauclerc in No. 329. Bunter claimed him as a relation until he found that Sir Harry spoke without sounding his aspirates. It transpired that he had taken the place of the real Sir Harry who wanted to go to Highcliffe. The next week the genuine baronet antagonised the whole of the Remove, thinking that money could buy him everything he wanted, and when this failed he resorted to scheming, for which he was expelled. Sir Harry was quite right to have preferred Highcliffe; Mr. Mobbs would have toadied to him to his heart's content.

Wally Bunter changed places with cousin Billy in No. 333 and pleasantly surprised the Removites. The story ended "Never again was Greyfriars likely to ring to the shout of 'Bravo Bunter!' ". Not again until 1919, at any rate, when they made an exchange lasting several weeks.

Smithy's reform was nearly nullified in No. 334, in which Jerry Hawke was released from prison and attempted to blackmail Smithy with an old I.O.U. Desperate remedies were needed and a neat little kidnapping solved the difficulty. There were more desperate remedies needed four weeks later when Temple arranged for the Remove eleven to be kidnapped in a small coach, so that his eleven could then play the cricket fixture with St. Jim's. In a gruesome scene, Smithy dug his penknife into the chauffeur's neck as the only means of getting him to stop

the coach.

The Summer Double Number in Magnet 340 is not really a red Magnet at all since it had a coloured cover, not unlike the Gems of the thirties. It was a description of a series of cricket matches played by Harry Wharton's eleven during the holidays. It was the last of the rambling, inconsequential sort of Double Number, but was nonetheless a pleasant and interesting account of how the juniors spent the last pre-war summer. The war had in fact broken out before this number appeared, but it did not take the Magnet long to catch up with events. In No. 352 Peter Todd and Vernon-Smith tried to make their way to Switzerland to rescue Alonzo Todd and Uncle Benjamin, who were stranded without funds and were contemplating returning through Germany. In this grim story the two juniors ran into some fighting in France and were sentenced to be shot as spies by the advancing German troops. Some weeks later, the editorial columns stated that war stories were definitely out. It would seem that this episode was too gruesome for most readers.

#### 1915 - Farewell to the Red Magnet

Billy Bunter appeared in a new light in No. 364 when he saved Mr. Quelch's niece Cora from a bull. Cora was a plump young lady who thought that Billy's interest in subjects like cooking was very sensible for a boy. She visited the school again on only one other occasion, in No. 460.

Johnny Bull was to the fore again in No. 367, when his rich uncle from Australia sent his secretary, Falke, to Friardale to report on Johnny's character. Falke was double-crossing his master and meant to use the Bounder as a tool to ruin Johnny, but Vernon-Smith was not such a rogue as the secretary thought. The following week Johnny Bull told his uncle what he thought of him, but uncle was not put out and decided that his nephew was worthy of inheriting his money as well as Aunt Tabitha's. After which, Johnny went for a trip to Australia with his uncle and Squiff temporarily filled his place with the Famous Five.

Another Double Number with a coloured cover was No. 374, "The Fall of the Fifth". Ponsonby - under an alias - advertised for amateur dramatic companies to play at a private house. The Remove found out the hoax in time, but Coker would not be warned; and his company arrived at Eastwood House, much to the surprise of Lord Eastwood, to play "Red Ruin", a drama in verse written by Coker's own fair hands. Incidentally, this issue saw a gathering of the clans indeed, with Greyfriars, St. Jim's, Highcliffe and Cliff House well represented.

Although it was war time, it was business as usual so far as Fishy was concerned. He was issuing insurance policies against punishments in No. 381, and a fortnight later Bunter and he attempted to take advantage of an advertisement offering £50 if anyone could prove that Gobbey's Ginger Beer contained any impure ingredients - Fishy was sure it did, because he put them in himself! It was fierce - not to say the bee's knee - but nothing advantageous accrued from these ventures.

Mauleverer was featured again in No. 386 in "Mauly's Flirtation". He had succumbed to the fetching charms of Miss Bella Bunbury, a romance which her father encouraged, since every visit to the shop resulted in a large purchase. It is interesting to note that this romantic type of story seemed to disappear from the Magnet and Gem after the first world war. Looked at as part of a series, it

is evident that it seemed somewhat out of place.

Probably the most famous Double Number in the Magnet was No. 392 - "Schoolboys Never Shall Be Slaves". A picnic on Popper's Island which Sir Hilton Popper claimed without foundation to be his property, together with a smoking party elsewhere, so infuriated the baronet that he laid a complaint with Dr. Locke. Sir Hilton had just become a governor of the school and he was convinced that the school was going to the dogs. Accordingly he introduced a Sergeant Sharp, and, instead of games, drilling took place outside school hours. The episode ended in rebellion, and when Colonel Wharton visited the school he soon identified Sharp as a deserter from the German army. Sir Hilton's scheme collapsed like a pack of cards, and he resigned from the Board of Governors. The story is a favourite with many collectors who enjoy tales of rebellion, but it is written in a rather sombre tone without any of the high spirits which usually accompany revolts. Incidentally, the cover bore the amazing inscription "Long complete anti-German school story" much to the annoyance of Charles Hamilton. The last red Magnet appeared four weeks later (the blue Gems went on for nearly another year, since the blue dye was easier to obtain than the red one), and we may accordingly end our researches with this famous story.

#### Conclusion

It would be idle to pretend that the red Magnet period was the best in the history of that paper. A case could, perhaps, be made out for the claim that it was superior to the blue and white cover period, but only because the latter was the time of thin numbers and many stories by substitute writers. The red Magnets cannot hold a candle to the later coloured covered ones when it comes to plot construction and characterisation.

Yet the red Magnets are not without merit. They were written at a time when everything was new to the author, and they possess an exuberance and freshness that were later displaced by a highly polished style of writing. Each red Magnet is unique in that the plot is new and the author's observations had never been made before. We miss the familiar phrases, but it is a pleasant change to find each situation described in a different way.

The very early ones are really of only historical interest. We like to know, for example, exactly how Bob Cherry arrived in No. 3, but it cannot be claimed that this was a good story in its own right. It is satisfactory to note that, when Inky arrived in No. 6, he was really intended to go to Herr Rosenblum's Academy, but the story itself is only a collection of unrelated incidents, with the author exploring the ground, so to speak.

The red Magnets of the middle period were undoubtedly the best selection. The two years commencing May 1911 were probably the finest sequence of tales to appear between the red covers. A number of good stories appeared after this time, of course, but the author's foreign travels, especially the one in Austria at the beginning of the war, and the hectic days in Paris afterwards, undoubtedly caused the fluctuations in the standard of the later red Magnet stories.

We may close our volume on a note of approbation. The readers who are prepared to judge the stories as the early work of a promising author, the readers who are willing temporarily to forget the later stories, the readers who will accept a very different Billy Bunter, the readers who are keen to see what Greyfriars was like when the world was young - it is they alone who can pass through



the mystic portals and enter the celestial abode where they may fall victims to the spell of red Magnet magic.

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by

CHARLES  
WRIGHT

# Speaking of Aldines

Speaking of Aldines some months ago, I was asked to write an article on this subject for the Collectors' Digest Annual. Now as most of these were before my time, my acquaintance with the majority of them has been at second hand, so I hope that the elder brethren of our hobby will not consider me presumptuous in attempting this article. I have gathered information where I could to supplement my own knowledge, and my thanks are due to Mr. A. Lawson for granting me the freedom of his collection on one very interesting and instructive evening. When I found myself going down the byways of Victorian boys' literature, I had at times to force myself back to the Aldines, and in passing it seems to me that much of this Victorian period information should be gathered in before it, and the thinning ranks of the above mentioned elder brethren should disappear for ever. My thanks are also due to Mr. Hugh Fennell for putting me right on several points.

The Aldine Publishing Co. was, as far as I can gather, tied up at a very early period with the "Hogarth House", and they later reprinted many of the latter's romances. Many were the well known authors and artists who worked at one time or another for Aldine. The most famous and most prolific of the artists was, of course, Robt. Prowse; he was almost exclusively an Aldine artist, though he did illustrate a few of the early "Plucks" for the Amalgamated Press. He started in the "sixties" but his best work was between 1900 and 1910; he turned out some rather poor stuff in later years, but again reverted to his best in the covers of the Buffalo Bill stories after the 1914 war. His work on the Claude Duval Library covers were works of art and his cavalier dresses correct down to the last detail. H.M. Lewis was another artist, but his work for "True Blue" and "O'er Land and Sea" was rather poor. Afterwards he went to Harmsworth, where his work improved and he became one of the band of portrayers of Sexton Blake. F.W. Boyington also did quite a lot of work for Aldine, but he lacked the individual touches of Prowse. A number of lesser artists remain, in many cases, enshrouded in mystery, being only known by initials; one case is W.M.B. who started in the "Garfield Boys' Journal" and J.K. in the "Robin Hood Library". Some of the authors were E. Harcourt Burrage, born 1839, who wrote "The Island School" and "Lambs of Littlecote"; he started and edited "Ching Ching's Own" and was also responsible for "Boys of Fengate School" and a host of other stories. Wm. Murray Graydon, born 1864, also wrote for Aldine, with many historical stories under the name of Alfred Armitage and he was a well known Sexton Blake author for A.P.

Charlton Lea, well known for his Dick Turpin and Claude Duval stories had, as a young man, served on the staff of Charles Fox, between 1880 and 1890, where he re-wrote several of Lloyds old romances. Stephen Agnew, another well known author was, unfortunately, killed in action in the 1914 war. Then there was Bracebridge Hemyng, author of the famous Jack Harkaway stories, who wrote his final stories in Aldines and died from paralysis in 1901. Henry T. Johnson, born 1858, was a gentleman who apparently looked after his copyright, and we find his "Pride of the Ring" published in book form by Aldine at 6d and

afterwards published again in their Boys' Own 3d. He also wrote 'Dion the Charioteer' which appeared as a serial in Pearsons Big Budget and was reprinted some years later in Aldine "Boys' Own". Some other authors were Escott Lynn, Charles Brand, H. Philpott Wright, who also wrote the "Taffy Llewellyn" stories in the Vanguard. The celebrated Charles Hamilton contributed to Aldine at one time and John G. Rowe, born 1874, wrote also as Charles Lewis, Gregory Dunstan and James Bright. He was well known for his "Tufty" stories in Henderson's "Nugget Library". Clive Fenn, son of George Manville Fenn was another and there were hosts of others.

In 1888 The Aldine took over New Boys' Paper from Ralph Rollington and continued it as British Boys' Paper, but after No. 46 it was in its turn taken over by Guy Rayner.

The Garfield Library 1888: This was published at 3d; it was small pocket size with a coloured cover and had quite long stories. It ran to 88 Nos. and contained, for the most part, reprints of American half-dime novels, although some English stories by E.H. Berridge appeared. The name "Garfield" puzzled me at one time, when I first saw them at the late Barry Ono's house, until he explained that it was the name of an American President.

Boys' First Rate Pocket Library: contained 32 pages for 1d; they were approximately Nelson Lee size and ran to 427 numbers, finishing in 1905. The stories after No. 30 were mostly American reprints featuring Deadwood Dick. After No. 300 the earlier stories were reprinted. Then came the O'er Land and Sea Library; this ran till 1905 and was priced at 2d and contained 64 pages, lasting for 408 Nos. Most of the stories were imported from the United States and quite a lot of them dealt with Buffalo Bill, in fact, No. 1 was called "Buffalo Bill, or Life and Adventures in the Wild West". Pirates also figured in many stories - No. 106 had the weird title "The Pirate Priest". One famous story to appear in "O'er Land and Sea" was the "Gun Maker of Moscow". I don't suppose many people of today have read it, but it was very well known in its day. It was published in the Family Herald in 1856 and in "O'er Land and Sea" No. 54 and appeared for the first time as a separate publication in 1888.

One at a Time came out round about 1888, but as only 5 numbers appeared it would seem to have been a dead loss.

Home Library of Powerful Dramatic Tales 1890: This ran to 64 numbers. It was more for adults than the youth of the period. No. 1 was entitled "The Story of the Bells" and "Louis XI". Dedicated by special permission to Henry Irving, Esq.

Aldine Half Holiday Library Sept. 1892 - Jan. 1910, ran for 904 numbers. It had 24 pages and contained one long story; No. 1 having the alluring title "Rosebud Rob, or Nugget Ned of the Gulch". The great majority of the stories were reprints of Beadle and Adams "American Dime Novels". The first series finished in 1908 at No. 801 and the new series, in which was incorporated "Detective Tales" carried on with no break in the numbering; this series was smaller in size with the pages increased to 48 and sub-titled "The Great Detective Weekly"; with number 904 it was incorporated into the last series of the True Blue.

Invention, Travel and Adventure Library (better known perhaps as Frank Reade's) ran to 272 numbers until 1905. Frank Reade was originated in America by

Harry Enten and taken over, I think, by Luis P. Senarous, who died at Brooklyn in 1940. He first appeared in "The Boys of London and New York". The Invention had attractive and breathtaking covers. No. 1 was "Frank Reade Junr. and his New Steam Man", or "The Young Inventor's Trip to the Far West". The stories bristled with steam men, steam horses, electric vehicles and all sorts of wonderful machines running on a mysterious fuel. Comic relief was supplied by the inventor's two assistants Barney O'Shea and Pomp, a negro. The caption on the cover was "Jules Verne Outdone" and I think he was not content with adventures in and under the sea; on land and in the air; he had a few jaunts to the stratosphere. After No. 180 the Aldine began to re-issue the stories from No. 1, but after the first 22 they dropped the original covers and replaced them with less interesting ones. From 170 Jack Wright, another American genius appeared, and ran concurrently with Frank Reade, but he never became popular. The last number was called "On the Wings of the Wind" or "The Last Voyage of the Queen Clipper of the Clouds". A second series was issued in 1910 at a halfpenny and lasted for 32 numbers and in 1913 a third series ran to only 12 numbers, but both these latter series had very drab covers and this fact probably had a lot to do with the failure to run longer.

Cheerful Library (1st series) Feb. 1894 - 1895. 27 numbers.

Cheerful (main series) Aug. 1895 to May 1911 - 822 numbers.

No. 1 of the first series was "Bob Brass the Weekly Boarder", a character originated by E. Harcourt Burrage. The illustrations were by Prowse. Several other stories by Burrage appeared, also yarns about the inventor Jack Wright, but the rest were Dime novel reprints. With the new series the size of the pages was increased, but the number was reduced to 24. At the end of this series a third was issued at a halfpenny and the title was altered to "Cheerful Adventure Library". The stories were Jack Wright reprints and with No. 8 of this series was incorporated the final series of "True Blue".

Detective Tales, about 1894, had a good run of 348 numbers and contained 96 pages for 2d. This book featured all sorts of detectives. The Dog Detective (not Pedro); Deathface the Detective; Paddy Piper; Neverfail; were some of them, but they were all American reprints. A second series followed containing 64 pages for 1d and the title was now "Tip Top Detective Tales". Most of the stories were British but a few American stories appeared; it ran to 36 numbers and was followed by a third series of 16 numbers which includes some Frank Reade reprints.

Tip Top Tales: These were dime novel reprints and ran for 324 Nos. They were very small books 6" x 4½" and had highly coloured covers. The stories were chiefly American, featuring Broadway Billy, and Deadwood Dick. No. 1 was called "Sleepless Eye" or "Peters the Cute 'Tec". I have been given to understand that a considerable number of these tales were reprints of stories taken from O'er Land and Sea and First Rate, with different titles!

Garfield Boys' Journal Sept. 1894 - July 1895, 45 numbers. This book had 24 large pages and was printed on better paper than usual. One fine story published in this journal was "Adrian the Swordsman" by Ernest Brent and was illustrated by W. Boucher, who did so much work for Hendersons. E.H. Burrage also wrote for it. In 1895 it was incorporated into No. 1 of the new series of the "Cheerful Library". In 1895 appeared the famous "Lambs of Littlecote" in 39 penny numbers followed by "The Island School" in 38 numbers. Each number contained 24 pages in a coloured wrapper. The first 13 numbers of the former were illustrated by H.W. Maguire; the remainders and all the covers of the "Island School" were

done by Prowse.

True Blue Library 1d, Jan. 1898 to July 1900, 133 numbers. It was about the same size as the "Marvel" of that period, with a blue cover and several illustrations inside. In 1900 The True Blue War Library at 1d commenced as a small 40 page book, and at No. 4 it became a large 24 page book. It had an attractive cover with the title in a panel and a Union Jack as background, and featured stories of the Boer War. With No. 26 the two series of "True Blue" were merged and the word "war" was dropped; this series ran from Feb. 1900 - May 1906, 330 numbers. At number 66 the No. of pages was increased to 32 and serials were introduced. Some fine writers contributed to this periodical; A.M. Burrage, Alec G. Pearson, Escott Lynn, Philpot Wright, to name a few. Bracebridge Hemyng's last stories were published in True Blue. His final story was "Sam Sawft" or "A Green Hand Afloat" and was published in No. 93. About No. 289 the old blue cover reappeared and at No. 330 it was merged into the "Half Holiday Library".

In Jan. 1910 The True Blue Library was revived as a penny paper with 32 smaller sized pages and it incorporated the deceased Half Holiday Library. At No. 26 the Deadwood Dick stories were reprinted and carried on to the end at number 75. Near the end a pink paper was used and the True Blue was incorporated with the last series of the Cheerful Library.

<u>Buffalo Bill Library</u>	(1st series)	1897 - 1909,	230 numbers.
"	"	(2nd series)	1909 - 1913, 130 "
"	"	(3rd series)	1912 - 1932, 702 "
"	"	(4th series 3d & 4d)	1918 - 1932, 342 numbers.

The first series were mostly revised versions of American original stories by British authors; the majority being done by G.C. Glover. It was a small sized book consisting of 40 pages and was enlarged at No. 85 to the size of the Aldine Dick Turpin. The second series went back to the original size and were reprints of the first series. The third series, which were also reprints, were doubled in price and some of the stories were issued twice in the same series and some were spread over two numbers, thus making a total of 702, so it enjoyed quite a good run. The fourth series were also reprints in a small size, but were in much better form than the two previous series. The whole of the covers in the four series were done by Prowse, but his best work was done in the first series.

Robin Hood 1902 ran to 88 numbers and in my humble opinion this was the best of the Aldines. Many authors contributed to it; G.C. Glover, Singleton Pound, A.S. Burrage, Escott Lynn and Ogilvie Mitchell, and the illustrations were done by Prowse, F.W. Boyington and a mysterious individual, who signed himself J.K. No. 1 was entitled "Sweet Liberty or Death". About 1907 they were reprinted and No. 11 of the original series became No. 1 of the new and was called "The Great Fight in Sherwood Forest". The original Robin Hoods were about 5 inches by 8 inches long and the front page illustration was beautifully done in red, green and gold, and they contained 32 pages. A third series was issued about 1924 at 2d; they were pocket size and the covers were red, green and a vivid yellow; they were reprints of the earlier series with some of the dialogue cut out. In one of the stories called "For Richard and the Right", quite a lot of the work had been lifted from Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe".

Dick Turpin 1902 to 1909, 182 numbers. The first 111 numbers were

written by Charlton Lea and the remainder by Stephen Agnew; the former author was the better of the two, as some of Agnew's plots were impossible and fantastic. Turpin went through his adventures with his band of faithfuls, Tom King, Pat O'Flynn, Sing Sang, Blueskin, Beetles and Peters, etc., the comic relief being supplied by the last named two. The title of No. 1 is "Driven from Home" or "Dick and Black Bess seek Fame and Fortune". Prowse did most of the covers and some were by F.W. Boyington. Newnes afterwards reprinted the Dick Turpins, having bought the copyright from Aldine.

Claude Duval 1902 to 1906, 48 numbers. The whole of the stories were written by Charlton Lea, and Prowse and Boyington were the cover artists. Despite the short run, I think the stories were better than the Turpins, but even with such characters as Colonel Blood, King James and Judge Jefferies, it went into the discard at number 48.

Red Rover, 1903 to Jan. 1904, 8 numbers. These were all pirate stories, but apparently the youth of the period was not interested. The first four dealt with Blackbeard and the last four with Captain Kyd. Numbers 1 - 4 were written by Charlton Lea and numbers 5 - 8 were by T.G. Dowling-Maitland, and as they are so few it will perhaps be worthwhile giving the titles:

1. The Vengeance of Blackbeard or The Return of Don Salvo Quinada.
2. Blackbeard the Terror of the Seas or The Cruise of the Avenger.
3. Marooned by Blackbeard the Pirate or The Betrayal of Jack Skye.
4. Blackbeard's Terrible Triumph or The Doom of Salvo Quinada.
5. Captain Kyd's Press Gang or The Pirate Taker turns Buccaneer.
6. Captain Kyd's Vendetta or The Doom of Bonard the Buccaneer.
7. Captain Kyd's Treasure Hunt or Dick Rainham's Dash for Liberty.
8. Captain Kyd Outwitted or Homeward Bound at Last.

The covers of the Red Rover were black, white and a dim red, but I doubt if many collectors number these 8 books in their collections.

Spring Heeled Jack, March to Sept. 1904, 12 numbers. Stories by Charlton Lea and covers by Prowse, but in spite of hair raising adventures and fine covers it never rang the bell and Jack sprang into the discard.

Jack Sheppard, 1904. 24 numbers. These had the usual fine Prowse covers and were written by various authors, but the boys soon tired of following Jack in and out of various prisons and it finished after a short run.

Tales for Little People. These were a series of old and new fairy stories which ran from 1904 onward, but for how long it seems difficult to find out, as I have read and been told 50, 350 and 400 numbers respectively.

Diamond (1st series) 1906 - 1913, 213 numbers. This popular little book published quite a large range of stories, for the most part original, but there were some reprints from "True Blue" and "Detective Tales". The celebrated Charles Hamilton wrote school stories for it under the pen name of Clifford Owen. Dixon Brett, Detective and Kettle and Co. of Wyeminster School were very popular characters in this library. The second series was published from 1913 to 1915 and ran to 58 numbers, but the stories were nearly all reprints from the first series. Then followed the Diamond War Library 1915 to 1916, 20 numbers, but, as in the case of the "True Blue" the addition of "war" to the title brought no luck and it came to a speedy end. A third series was issued in 1920 at 2d and ran

for 131 numbers.

Boys' Own 3d, 1908 to 1914, 93 numbers. This library was a rival to the Boys' Friend Library of the Amalgamated Press. Some very good stuff appeared in its pages; the first four stories were written by Henry T. Johnson. Alec G. Pearson also wrote for it, but it also had numerous reprints of Dick Turpin, Claude Duval, Jack Sheppard, Robin Hood and Deadwood Dick stories; an abridged "Island School" and "The Lambs of Littlecote" in two numbers were also reprinted. Writing of Littlecote calls to mind a full page advert of this story in one of Mr. Lawson's many periodicals, announcing to all and sundry that the forthcoming story "The Lambs of Littlecote" was not a reprint, but was being specially written for Aldine by Mr. E.H. Burrage and that No. 2 would be given away with No. 1 and two coloured plates thrown in!

Black Bess, 1909 to 1910, 18 numbers. This was an attempt at a joint revival of Dick Turpin and Claude Duval. The stories were written by Charlton Lea and the covers by Prowse, but these covers were more subdued in colour than the previous highwayman libraries. No other libraries dealing with highwaymen were issued after this failure.

Boys' Comic Library, 1911 - 1912, 26 numbers. These were issued in two short series and had such titles as Val Vokle Ventriloquist, Slippery Slyshoes at School, The Larks of Lannigans Lambs, but they were not very popular. Cigarette cards were given away with these books.

Britons Own 3d, 1914-1915, 12 numbers. This was a sort of second series of the Boys' Own and contained war stories. No. 1 was called "On to Berlin", but once again war brought no luck as it finished at No. 12.

After the first war the Aldines turned out very mediocre stuff with the exception of the Buffalo Bills. A Dixon Brett 4d Library came out in 1928, but only ran to about 20 numbers, and while looking at some of these at Mr. Lawson's we came across a glaring error. On the cover of No. 8 is the title "The Murder in the Fog" by Richard Worth and on page 1 is the heading "The Murder in the Fog" by P.W. Batten, so who the author really was we don't know. An Aldine Thriller Library was also published at 4d, No. 12 being "The Quest of the Soltada Emeralds".

Some other Aldine Publications were "My Queen Novels"; these were love stories for women; "Masterpieces of Modern Fiction" was another, Kit Carson appeared in number 3; "The Aldine Life and Adventure Library", featuring mostly Deadwood Dick. No. 1 was called "Deadwood Dick and the Outlaws of the Hills". No. 2 featured the famous Calamity Jane, Boxing Novels, Mystery Novels and reprints of Tales for Little People.

The Aldine Publishing Co. came to an end in 1933 and the copyright of all works, excepting Dick Turpin, Robin Hood and Jack Sheppard, which had been transferred to Geo. Newnes some time previously, were bought by the Shoe Lane Publishing Co. The premises which contained a number of the file copies was unfortunately destroyed in the blitz. The late Messrs. Barry Ono and John Medcraft were fortunate enough to purchase some of these before the building was destroyed.

I suppose one could say that the Aldine was the last of the publishers of the Penny Dreadful, and a complete collection of covers only of their periodicals would make a marvellous array, for in my opinion no finer covers ever adorned

boys' books before or since.

Information on some of their books is very hard to come by these days and if some of the items above seem rather scanty I can only ask the reader to follow the advice that used to hang in the old Western saloons, "Don't shoot the pianist he is doing his best".

(Editor's Note: The artist "W.M.B." was W.M. Bowles.)

"DETECTIVE LIBRARY" Wanted. Your price paid for any of the following numbers in good condition:

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 29, 31, 33.

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WANTED: Original Aldines, Jack Sheppards, Robin Hoods, etc.

E.R. LANDY, 4 NUNEATON ROAD, DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

## HIDDEN HAMILTONIANA NO 2

From DONALD WEBSTER (MERSEYSIDE)

\* \* \*

Here is a Christmas "Quiz" again. Below you will find the names of 15 of Charles Hamilton's characters. Can you ascertain who they are from the clues given. There are 5 from St. Jim's, Greyfriars and Rookwood Schools. Don't reach for that Holiday Annual, unless you have to!

1. It's your money they're after.
2. He has a blemish on his face.
3. The stranger loses an 'R'
4. The other one is missing.
5. He has a sense of direction.
6. Had a dispute with the B.B.C.
7. Make it a double.
8. He also springs from Wells.
9. Domestic animal and mixed 'extras'
10. Treads the downward path.
11. Oh no, he's not a 'big shot'.
12. Cob, sir!
13. Surely this chap didn't climb to fame.
14. The outer covering.
15. Shades of The Inquisition.

\*\*\*\*\*

Example: Is he a Paul Pry? - Snoop.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Answers on page 57)



THE "BOYS' FRIEND", - the 'Green 'Un', as it was affectionately known to thousands, - was already an old paper when the 'Gem' was born in 1907. I have heard it alleged that the 'Green 'Un' was in its heyday when Hamilton Edwards was the Editor. Whether there is any foundation for the claim, I cannot say. But for me, as for most admirers of the work of Charles Hamilton, the halcyon days of the 'Boys Friend' were the YEARS OF CONQUEST, - the eleven or so years during which time the Rookwood yarns were appearing in the paper.

One rarely hears of the 'Boys' Friend' being much sought by collectors. This is almost certainly due to the size of its pages. The immense sheets take up so much space if laid out flat; yet, if the paper is folded, deterioration of the copy soon takes place. I think it is almost certain that there are comparatively few copies of the 'Boys' Friend' in existence today. It was not an easy paper to preserve in loose numbers, and, if it were bound, the volumes were far too tall for the average bookcase.

I am fortunate in possessing an almost complete set of the paper covering the YEARS OF CONQUEST, and it is over these issues that I propose to browse in this article, mentioning the Rookwood stories in particular and, here and there, the 'Boys' Friend' in general. I am somewhat handicapped by being

## THE YEARS OF CONQUEST

A Review of the ROOKWOOD STORY,  
together with comments on other stories  
in the Boys' Friend.

by ERIC FAYNE

unable to refer to the paper by its initials, for obvious reasons.

### THE OPENING YEARS:

It was early in 1915 that the "Boys' Friend" passed under the editorship of Mr. Hinton. For some time he had controlled the 'Companion Papers' which, at the beginning of 1915, comprised the Magnet, the Gem, Chuckles, and the Penny Popular. So the first Great War was less than one year old when the Green 'Un' became a Companion Paper, and before the end of that year the "Greyfriars Herald" was added to the list.

Hinton set about making changes in the programme of the Green 'Un, and, with a great fanfare of trumpets, readers were urged to buy the first issue of the new Boys' Friend, and to read the adventures of a fine new schoolboy character, - Jimmy Silver of Rookwood. There was no change in the size of the sheets or in the colour of same, - indeed, these remained the same throughout the entire history of the periodical. But there is no doubt that Jimmy Silver brought a long new lease of life to the Boys' Friend. Whether the change of editorship was brought about by the fact that the paper was in deep waters, I cannot say. More likely, the shortage of staff at the Fleetway House was the main cause.

Some collectors have asserted that the characterisation in the Rookwood tales was superior to that at Greyfriars and St. Jim's. I do not agree with this view in the slightest, and I cannot find any grounds for such an assertion.

I have always considered that, from the characterisation viewpoint, Dr. Chisholm was outstanding, as an extremely well-written pedagogue of the stubborn and somewhat pedantic type; as the series went on. Mornington, too, was a fine piece of character-painting, especially in the 'Erbert stories. But Jimmy Silver was a typical, happy-go-lucky schoolboy, without the gifts of either Harry Wharton or Tom Merry; Arthur Edward Lovell was something of a junior Coker, in his way; Tubby Muffin was just a stupid fat boy.

Nevertheless, the stories were first-class work, and the series, as a whole, was much more consistently handled than either Greyfriars or St. Jim's during the YEARS OF CONQUEST. This was, of course, due to the fact that Mr. Hamilton himself wrote almost all the Rookwood stories. The subs, only occasionally, were allowed to step in and mar the picture. Again, the Rookwood canvas was not nearly so wide as St. Jim's in particular and Greyfriars to a lesser extent. This, in my opinion, was a great advantage. The Rookwood picture was not overcrowded, and, though there were countless yarns featuring Mornington, it was always Jimmy Silver who made the main pivot of the stories.

A good many of Mr. Hamilton's best plots were first used at Rookwood. Some were and are completely peculiar to Rookwood, even to this day. Others were repeated in the Gem or the Magnet, years later.

The opening stories were not remarkable. In February 1915, Jimmy first appeared in a railway carriage, going to school with a number of his future companions. He was put into the End Study with Lovell, Raby, and Newcombe, who did not welcome him. Eventually, he rescued Lovell from a pit into which the latter had fallen, and everything in the garden was then lovely.

Higgs was the bully. Smythe, the dandy, was captain of the lower school, and controlled junior sport with no success. Jimmy defeated the bully in a fight, and became captain of the Fourth in very quick time. Finally, he became Head of junior games and Rookwood became a great cricket and soccer school.

#### THE YEAR 1916:

These early stories made pleasant reading, without being in any way notable. Rivalry with Cecil Pankley & Co., of Bagshot School - the Bagshot Bounders - played a large part in a great many. The Colonial Co., - Conroy, Pons, and Van Ryn - arrived in a neat series. Lattrey came upon the scene. His father was a moneylender who had a hold over the Head, and, in consequence, Lattrey could not be expelled. A milestone was reached with the arrival of Mornington. Though the early tales in which he appeared were nothing to speak of, he was to feature in some of the finest stories in juvenile literature.

#### THE YEAR 1917:

The Erroll series, though the theme seems a trifle hackneyed today, was superb. Kit Erroll was brought to the school by a man who called himself the boy's father. But 'Erbert, Mornington's protege, recognised the man as 'Gentleman Jim', an old acquaintance of his in "Dirty Dick's". Mornington persecuted the new boy, until the real Captain Erroll, the junior's genuine father, turned up unexpectedly, to tell how his son had been stolen ten years earlier. After that, Mornington and Erroll became firm pals.

Erroll was distinctly reminiscent of Talbot of St. Jim's, while his

friendship with Mornington had an uneasy path that reminds the reader of that between the Bounder and Redwing.

Jimmy Silver was now firmly established, and it was impossible to imagine the Boys' Friend without Rookwood. The issue for July 7th 1917 was still priced at One Penny for 12 large pages. Jimmy Silver was on the cover in "The Shadow of Shame", in which the rascally Lattrey made Jimmy believe that his cousin, Bob Silver, had deserted from the army. (The same issue contained a new series called "Crusoe Island", by Maurice Everard. Everard's stories of Frank Polruan ran side by side with Owen Conquest's for a long period. Herbert Britton gave a Redclyffe story, "The Missing Notes", a complete story of Bob Travers, the Boy Boxer. Duncan Storm's serial "The Secret City" was an adventurous affair about Cy Sprague, an American detective, and Lal Tata. Richard Randolph was represented with a series of caravanning stories, "The Rival Caravanners". Quite an attractive and varied programme).

Then, in successive weeks, in the Rookwood series, came "Saving a Scapegrace" (a Mornington story); "Snythe's Terrible Uncle"; "Left in the Lurch", in which Jimmy and Erroll played for Bulkeley's First Eleven and defeated St. Jim's; "Mornington's Poe"; "The Missing Heir", a very fine story in which Mornington discovered that 'Erbert was the missing heir of Mornington and, consequently, the possessor of the Mornington fortune.

The issue of the Green 'Un for August 18th was a very memorable one, for in that number began "Frank Richards' Schooldays", a grand run of stories which was destined to remain in the paper for a long time. On the cover of this issue was the opening of a new serial by Duncan Storm, "The Boys of the Bombay Castle". Probably some readers liked it. The Rookwood tale was "Brought to Heel", continuing the Mornington-'Erbert series. Frank Richards' Schooldays began at St. Kit's, and told how Frank's father had lost his money, and how Frank was to go to live with his uncle, Mr. Lawless, in Canada. It was described as "No. 1 of a great new series of stories dealing with the school life of the famous author who has written no less than 500 tales introducing Harry Wharton & Co.", - by Martin Clifford. Though this series was re-printed more than once, this first story was never repeated.

The Rookwood stories continued - "Game to the Last"; "A Terrible Temptation" (the latter a grand story in which Morny was tempted to push 'Erbert over a cliff); "Mornington's Vengeance"; "The Downward Path"; "Raising the Wind" (all continuing the Mornington-'Erbert theme).

September brought "A Discredit to the School", a Tubby Muffin story; "Bob Travers at St. Jim's" by Herbert Britton. (Who was he?) The Cedar Creek story was "Rounding up the Rustler"; and a new series, "Crusoe Island", by Maurice Everard, commenced.

Then, in the Rookwood list - "The Rookwood Refugee" and "The Winning Goal", a Clarence Cuffy story. The last issue also contained "The Bagshot Mystery" by Herbert Britton, introducing the Conquest characters.

Continuing the Mornington series came "A Thief in the Night", plus another Herbert Britton tale "The Courtfield Champion", showing Bob Travers in association with Solly Lazarus.

October 27th gave pride of place to "Mornington's Triumph", and the

Herbert Britton story in this issue was "The Bluffing of Ponsonby", telling of Bob Travers at Highcliffe. The Vere Beauclerc stories were now in full swing at Cedar Creek.

The Rookwood tale for November 3rd, by a "sub" writer, was called "In Another's Power" in which Knowles, the prefect, was arrested for murder. "Bob Travers at Greyfriars" was the Herbert Britton effort, and "The Schoolboy Author" is a title which speaks for itself about Cedar Creek.

November 13th gave "Gentleman Jim's Secret", in which Erroll's old enemy came to Rookwood as a school porter; the closing Herbert Britton story was "The Return to Redclyffe".

November 17th brought "The Impostor's Downfall", sequel to the previous Rookwood tale; plus a new series of short stories told by Rookwood juniors, No. 1 being "The Making of Morley" by Jimmy Silver. Then "A Fool and His Money", a Smythe story, followed by "Foiled at the Finish" and "Brought to Terms", Lattrey tales.

The Xmas Number for 1917 was the last Double Number in the history of the paper. The full-sized cover picture showed "Frank Richards' Christmas", telling of Frank's first yuletide with his uncle, Mr. Lawless; "Jimmy Silver's Guest" was Lattrey; "The Boys of the Bombay Castle" had a long instalment; Tales of the Dormitory presented "The Christmas Mail" by Conroy; "The Ghost of Grasmere Grange" was a complete Xmas story, introducing Pankley & Co. of Bagshot, the author remaining anonymous; "De Courcy's Chum" was a Highcliffe story, once more with no author's name; and the Maurice Everard series completed the bill of fare. A fine Xmas Number of the Green 'Un. The following week saw "Mornington's Last Plunge", a sequel to the Xmas story, and then came "Algy of the Third" in which Jimmy's cousin becomes a third-former at Rookwood.

#### THE YEAR 1918:

The opening issue of 1918 saw the paper reduced to 8 pages and very small print. The fine Rookwood story was "Under the Shadow", the first of a magnificent series in which Lattrey blinded Mornington by throwing at him a snowball containing a stone. The series continued with "Condemned by the School", "Expelled by the Form", "Rebellion at Rookwood", "Sticking it Out", "The Fourth Against the Head", "The Rebels' Raid", "Hard Pressed", "From Out of the Past", "The Last of Lattrey", "Outcast and Hero". It was a long and very fine series, in the last story of which Lattrey redeemed himself by rescuing Mornington in a train crash.

The end of March brought "The Scamp of the Third" in which Mornington returned, followed by "Put to the Proof" in which Lattrey was forgiven and came back to his form.

Now the price of the paper rose to 1½d, and in "Algy's Pal" we met Bertie de Vere, an old friend of Algy Silver, followed by a sequel "Betrayed by His Chum". Then came "The Schoolboy Investors", a story by a substitute writer.

May brought the start of a series in which Bulkeley's father was arrested, and Rookwood lost its captain. The titles speak for themselves:- "A Blow for Bulkeley", "The Shadow of Suspicion", "Rivals for the Captaincy", "Rough on Rookwood", "Brought to Light", and, finally, "Foul Play" in which Knowles, the new

captain, tried criminal methods to prevent the return of Bulkeley. Herbert Britton was now back in the Green 'Un with a new series about Redclyffe, introducing Jack Jackson, new boy. Rather weak stuff.

Mid-June brought another "substitute" effort, "The Scare at Rookwood". The Green 'Un was now described as "The All-School-Story Paper", and there was some truth in the claim. For instance, the June 22nd issue contained "Getting Even with Carthew"; "Lord Todgers", a Cedar Creek tale in which Chunky Todgers thought he had entered the peerage; "The Outcast of Redclyffe" by Herbert Britton, and "The Boys of the Bombay Castle", the serial about a school afloat. June 29th, in "The Hidden Hun" told of Rookwood bombed, and this was the start of a fine holiday series, which continued with "The Rookwood Caravanners", "The Sorrows of Sergeant Kettle", "Tit for Tat", "Cuffy and the Caravanners", "The Caravan Cricketers"; "The Haunted Caravan" (introducing Billy Bunter), "The Caravanners' Guest", "Jimmy Silver & Co's Victory", and "Rivals of the Road". The closing story of the series introduced Arthur Augustus D'Arcy. The caravan horse was Robinson Crusoe. A grand series. (While the holiday series was in full swing, a new Bombay Castle serial began, "The Boys who Beat the Kaiser".) Mr. Hamilton must have been in holiday mood with a vengeance, for the Cedar Creek boys, led by Frank Richards, were on holiday and enjoying some exciting adventures in the Rocky Mountains, accompanied by Chunky Todgers and the Chinese, Yen Chin.

Back at Rookwood, the stories continued on unique lines. Rookwood had been bombed, and the new term opened with the school under canvas. The opening story of the series was "Rookwood Under Canvas", and the series continued with "Done in the Dark", "For the Scapegrace's Sake" (an Algy Silver story), "Peele on the Warpath", and "Settling with the Sharper", the sharper being Joey Hook. (The Cedar Creek chums were now on the closing stages of their holidays, during which time they had discovered a gold-mine.) "Jimmy Silver's House-warming" told of the celebrations of the Rookwood chums when their school, repaired after the bombing, was ready to receive them again.

An excellent series by Owen Conquest now began, which told of the disappearance of the Fistical Four, kidnapped and hidden in the vaults by an old boy of Rookwood, Baumann who had adopted the name of Captain Lagden. The titles: "Lovell's Disappearance", "A Baffling Mystery", "The Vanishing of Newcome", "The Missing Trio", "The Kidnapping of Jimmy Silver", "The Secret of the Vaults". It was Mornington who brought the kidnapper to justice and rescued the chums.

(A barring-out series was now running at Cedar Creek. Miss Meadows, the headmistress, had been dismissed, and Mr. Peckover put in her place). The Boys' Friend was exceptionally attractive at this time. Now came two indifferent Tubby Muffin stories, both by a substitute writer, "Tubby Muffin's Benefit", and "Tubby Muffin-Musician". After these came two stories in which Tommy Dodd was shown to be possessed of a rascally double, "The Mystery of Tommy Dodd", and "Pardoned by the Fourth". There was no Xmas Number in 1918. The last issue of the year brought "The Christmas Captives" followed by "The Mystery of the White House", both "sub-written and well below the usual Conquest standard.

#### THE YEAR 1919:

For January 11th there was a new serial, "The Boys who CAUGHT the Kaiser", far-fetched stuff by Duncan Storm. The Rookwood story was "Tubby's Little Trick".

The New Year treat was a fine original series in which the masters of Rookwood went on strike, and various substitute masters were engaged with exciting results. The titles were "Jimmy Silver's Sentence" (Jimmy was sacked, and Mr. Bootles refused to agree to the expulsion); "Dismissed from Rookwood", (the fourth-form master being dismissed, although it was proved that Jimmy had been innocent of an attack on the Head); "Backing Up Bootles", "Masters on Strike", "The School Without Masters", "The Rumpus at Rookwood", "Stormy Times", "The Master with a Past", "Schoolmaster and Cracksman", and "Jimmy Silver's Campaign". A fine series which had no counterpart in either the Gem or the Magnet.

(March 19th brought another new serial by Herbert Britton, "The Scapegrace of Redclyffe".) Putty Grace - called Putty because he was "so soft" - now arrived at Rookwood in a brilliant series in light vein, "Putty of the Fourth", "The Scamp of Rookwood", "Sold Again", "Rookwood's Hero", and "Tubby's Triumph". This series was succeeded by a "sub" story "Lovell's Great Aunt", but a fine new series by the genuine Conquest started on May 10th. Bulkeley was guilty of an indiscretion and was sacked from the captaincy. Here are the titles of a grand set of tales:- "The Fall of Bulkeley", "The Strike of the Prefects", "The Blackleg of Rookwood", "Captain Tubby Muffin", "School versus Captain", (the new captain was Carthew), "The Fifth Form Prefects", and "Bulkeley's Chance".

On June 21st, the Boys' Friend was increased to 12 pages once again. A glance through the issue is indicated. First came a sub-writer's Rookwood story "The St. Jim's Match"; a cricket article was contributed by H.T.W. Hardinge, the famous Kent cricketer; some verse under the title of "Rookwood Personalities", illustrated by G.W. Wakefield, the subject of the week being Tubby Muffin; a fine Cedar Creek story of Frank Richards & Co. kidnapped, entitled "The Rescue"; a Duncan Storm serial "Skull Island"; and a chat page, "In Your Editor's Den". This issue was followed by "The Tyrant of Rookwood", a poor substitute story.

(On July 12th a new serial commenced, "The Sports of St. Clive's" by Arthur S. Hardy. It was attractively and profusely illustrated by R.J. Macdonald.) A new Rookwood series began with this number, in which Jimmy Silver resigned the captaincy and Mornington succeeded him. Here are the titles:- "Jimmy Silver's Day Out", "Jimmy Silver's Resignation", "Mornington's Bad Start", "Jimmy Silver's Way", "Fagging for the Fifth", "Turning the Tables", "Jimmy Silver's Trial" (the latter a sub story), "The Giddy Goats", "The Right Sort", "The Mystery of Mornington", "Captain and Slacker", "Saved by His Chum", (the latter introduced the Gem character, Tickey Tapp, once again in connection with a gambling den), "A Surprise for the School". In the final story, Mornington resigned the captaincy and Jimmy was re-elected.

October 11th brought a sub-story, "Lying Low" followed by "Rookwood to the Rescue" and "A Dual Secret". November saw a new series, the titles of which speak for themselves; "Lovell's Minor", "Looking After Teddy", "The Trials of Teddy", "A Disgrace to His Form", "Barred by the Third", "Teddy's Last Chance". Then came two moderate single stories, "The Mystery of Mossoc", in which the French master dyed his hair, and "The Form Master's Double", a tale of Mr. Manders.

Now, the Xmas Number, 1919. "The Ghost of Rookwood School" proved to be Lattrey; J. Rutherford, who played for Arsenal, wrote on "Corner Kicks"; Gordon Wallace gave an instalment of his serial "The Double Horseshoe Ranch"; Frank Richards & Co. of Cedar Creek were "Snow Bound"; the serials, "Sports of St. Clive's" and "Skull Island" each had an instalment. Not a great Xmas number.

THE YEAR 1920:

The new year started with a light story "Carthew's Tea-Party", followed by a "sub" story, "Backing Up Bulkeley". Mid-January brought a new Rookwood series featuring a relation of Smythe's. The titles, - "The Nameless Stranger", "The Boy without a Memory", "Smythe's New Pal", and "Charlie of Rookwood". (By this time the Boys' Friend had adopted a rather unusual plan, by serialising Conan Doyle's novel, "Rodney Stone". It is impossible to judge whether it was a popular move with the readers of the Green 'Un.)

February brought a couple of amusing stories of Rookwood rivalry with Bagshot School, - "With Pankley's Compliments", and "Singeing Pankley's Beard". (Duncan Storm now weighed in with yet another Bombay Castle serial, "The School-boy Adventurers".) Another light Rookwood tale was "Tubby's Golden Dream".

Now Peele blackmailed Lovell over the latter's minor, Teddy, and we had two stories, - "The Whip Hand", and "Peele Meets His Match".

(On March 20th, Maurice Everard was back with another serial, "The Boy King of Roatura".) A moderate Rookwood series was now due, "Bagging Beresford Baggs", "Mornington's Enemy", "Arthur's Uncle", "Arthur's Aunt", "Arthur's Cousin", and "Exit Arthur".

(May 8th brought a new serial "The Star of the Films" by Tom Bridges.) Now came Tubby Muffin over his claim that findings are keepings - two stories - "Tubby Muffin's Treat", and "The Tribulations of Tubby".

Whitsun brought "A Stolen Name" in which Peele, caught out of bounds, gave the name of Jimmy Silver to a rascal named Tigg. Sequel to this was "Saving a Scamp". June 5th saw the start of a superb series in a cricket setting, in which Mornington was expelled. Titles, "French Leave", "Last Man In", "The Rookwood Rebel", "In Hiding", "Sacked", "From School to Shop", "Mr. Bandy's New Boy", "Hard Times".

Now came the summer holidays, with Mornington still sacked, and, in a "Jamboree" number of the Boys' Friend, Owen Conquest contributed "Jimmy Silver & Co. at the Jamboree". Then we had the final story of the Mornington series, in which Morny rescued the Head from drowning, "Back to the Old School". (Two new serials were now running, "The Golden Trail" by Sidney Drew, and "Redskins and Rustlers" by Gordon Wallace).

August brought a Putty Grace series, Putty was an impersonator of the Wibley type, "The Other Mr. Bootles", and "Putty's Plight".

With September came a series in which Lovell was compelled to leave Rookwood, owing to money troubles at home, "The Man in Black", "Fallen Fortunes", "Parted Chums", "The Mysterious Tenant", "Putty Grace to the Rescue".

October presented "At Grips with the Sixth", in which the chums found themselves at war with Knowles, the prefect, and the sequel, "The Rookwood Secret Society". Then came a couple of weak "sub" stories, "Muffin, the Mischief Maker" and "Sir Tubby of Rookwood".

"Early November saw the "Boom Number" of the Green 'Un. First and foremost, a Boxing book was given away with the issue. Four new serials started, which looked rather ominous, but was not, - yet! The serials were "The League of the Star and Crescent" by John Margerison; "The Adventures of Grant, chauffeur,

detective" by Edmund Burton; "The Boy with Fifty Million", a story of Don Darrell, by Victor Nelson; "The Missing Scout Master" by Ross Harvey. Frank Richards & Co. of Cedar Creek were "Roping in the Rustlers".)

In the "Boom Number" a new Mornington-Erroll series commenced, introducing "The Kid", a waif, who turned out to be the long-lost child of Dr. Chisholm. We were told that, later, Cyril Chisholm would come as a pupil to Rookwood School. It was a good series; but the finish took some swallowing. The titles, "The Phantom of the Past", "Betrayed by His Chum", "The Waif's Sacrifice", Mornington's Atonement", and "After Many Days".

Christmas brought two stories, "Cheering up the Captain" and "The Phantom Abbot of Rookwood". The "phantom" turned out to be Captain Digby, Mr. Bootles' nephew. (In the Xmas number there was a new serial, "The Miner's Eleven", while the Xmas adventures of the Cedar Creek chums were related in "Frank Richards' Christmas Story".)

#### THE YEAR 1921:

New Year, with the chums still on holiday with Jimmy Silver, was the occasion of "Gentleman Jim's Christmas Visit".

Back at Rookwood for the new term, we heard some more about the Rookwood Secret Society, - "Trouble for Four", "Rough Justice", "Borrowed Plumes", and "The Death of the Secret Society". A very jolly series.

Now we come to the series in which Mr. Bootles inherited a fortune, and left Rookwood for good, - "The Mystery of Mr. Bootles", "The Rookwood Millionaire" "The End Study to the Rescue", and "Tubby Wants Adopting". (Duncan Storm was now back with a new Bombay Castle serial, - "The Adventures of Jim Handyman".)

With the departure of Mr. Bootles, Rookwood lost a sound character, and in March started a fairly long series in which various new masters tried their hand with the Fourth with amazing results, until Mr. Dalton, the boxing "beak" came along and settled down for good. Opening story was "The Amazing New Master". This long series was followed by "Wrongfully Accused" in which Jimmy was accused of smoking, and the sequel was "Carthew's Great Catch" in which Jimmy got his own back on the officious prefect. (By this time, the sands were running out for the Cedar Creek stories, and this fine series ended in mid-summer, 1921. The departure of Cedar Creek left a gap which was never filled in the Green 'Un.)

A special Summer Number, August 6th, brought the first story of a Mornington series, "Jimmy Silver's Holiday", in France this time. It was followed by "Mornington's Folly".

In the Autumn came the stories of Morcom, "The Rookwood Charity Boy", and in "The Forbidden Fight", Morny became the enemy for a time of the new boy.

Christmas saw Rookwood unable to go on holiday, owing to quarantine for influenza. Mr. Manders was left in charge, with hilarious results, but it was a poor Xmas series.

#### THE YEAR 1922:

With Dr. Chisholm still away with influenza, Mr. Manders became temporary Headmaster, and a barring-out series followed. (The price of the Boys' Friend was now increased to twopence, for which the reader received 16 large pages.)



An interesting series in March told of the arrival of a guest of the Head. His name was Lucian Durie, but Erroll recognised him as a criminal, though the Head refused to believe the junior. The titles, "The Head's Guest", "Five at the Boat Race", and "Lagged at Last". Now Gunner joined Rookwood, and the first Gunner series followed. Gunner was not a very attractive character, being a replica of Grundy of St. Jim's.

The summer was made joyful by a grand cricket series with Mornington in the stellar role. The titles of the series, "Left Out", "By Hook or Crook", "Judgment of the Fourth", "Barried by the Form", "Mornington's Confession", "Playing for His Side". The series ended with Mornington expelled.

The summer series told of a holiday tour with a horse and trap. The first story was "Lovell's Business Deal", the deal being the purchase of a horse and trap. The horse, by the way, was named "Trotsky". During the tour, the chums had some adventures with Grundy of St. Jim's.

The holiday series closed with a story in which the chums met one, Eric Gilmore, who turned up at Rookwood for the new term as a master. In two grand stories, "The Mystery Man at Rookwood" and "The End Study's Triumph" the Gilmore puzzle was solved to our satisfaction. Now came a fine long series in which Mornington came back to Rookwood disguised as a red-headed boot-boy, Sandy Smacke. The opening story, "Jimmy Sees Fair Play". A splendid set of stories.

The Xmas number contained "The Phantom Prior", who turned out to be Mr. Spencer, the secretary of Mr. Silver. In this seasonable series, Mr. Silver's Rembrandt was stolen by the secretary, who was unmasked by Mornington.

#### THE YEAR 1923:

The Fistical Four, arriving back late at Rookwood for the new term, found their End Study had been stolen by Peele and his friends. A bright little series, commencing with "The Study Stealers". Now came a Raby series, in which this character was accused of cowardice, and refused to accept his old chums after he was proved innocent. Opening story, "The Boy who Ran Away".

In the Spring of 1923 started the longest series ever written of any of the three Hamilton schools. "Jimmy's Canadian Cousin" was Hudson Smedley, a rancher from the Windy River Ranch, and the Fistical Four went to Canada with him. The long series, of no less than thirty stories, ran right through the summer and autumn of 1923, - so long, in fact, that one began to wonder whether Rookwood was a thing of the past for Jimmy. It was a superb series, every one of the thirty was a real gem.

Towards the end of the year, the chums came home, bringing with them Texas Lick, a Canadian schoolboy, who appeared in "Texas Lick at Rookwood" and a few more stories before he played the lead in the Xmas series "Texas Lick's Ghost Hunt".

#### THE YEAR 1924:

Texas Lick yearned for his own country and resolved to get himself sent back to Canada in a few bright tales. Then, after a few "singles", came "The Fourth Form on Strike", the first episode of an exciting series in which the Fourth barred out on the island in the river, on account of the dismissal of Mr. Dalton.

"True or False" was a good set of stories in which Mr. Greely recognised a criminal in Monsieur Gaston, the new French master at Rookwood. The Frenchman betrayed himself by freeing Peele from a safe in which the lad had accidentally shut himself. (This plot was used in a Levison story, in blue-cover days in the Gem. An excellent plot, too, and worth repeating.)

In the early summer "The Heroism of Clarence Cuffy", which was not so heroic as it seemed, made the framework for an original series.

The holiday series, which started with "The Rookwood Ramblers", told of hilarious adventures with a motor-scooter, which Lovell had purchased and insisted upon riding. At the close of the holidays the chums came upon "A Chalet in the Wood", and met the genuine Rutland. Back at Rookwood they found someone who claimed to be Rutland, but was really a rascally impostor named Packington. This was followed by "Lovell Lends a Hand", and in a happy series Lovell tried to save the weak Gower from going completely to the dogs.

"The Rookwood Bargain Hunters" was the opening story of a bright little series in which Putty Grace came into conflict with Prefect Carthew. "Lot Fifty-Four" was a mysterious trunk, which Lovell bought while in obstinate mood. The adventures in connection with the trunk were diverting for the reader. "Asking for Trouble" started an excellent and novel series, in which Jimmy, in a weak moment, renewed the abandoned footer fixture with Oakshott School, and came into conflict with the unscrupulous Chilcot of Oakshott.

In early December, "Gunner's Hamper" caused a sensation in a couple of yarns, though it proved only to contain fossils.

In the Xmas series, "Lovell's Christmas Adventure" caused him to snow-ball the Head, for which he was ordered to spend the vacation at school. He redeemed himself, naturally, and Xmas 1924 was spent at Jimmy's home, the Priory. It was over this Christmas that Harry Wharton of Greyfriars, on bad terms with his pals and with Mr. Quelch, had been to Monte Carlo with the Bounder. Quarrelling with Bounder, Harry returned to England and spent some of the vacation at the Priory as the guest of Jimmy Silver. In consequence, the Boys' Friend and Magnet stories ran in intriguing connection for a week or two.

#### THE YEAR 1925:

Back at Rookwood on January 17th, we found a sinister new Maths master "Up Against the Fistical Four". That master was soon unmasked as a counterfeiter, in a brilliant series.

(The Boys' Friend at this time was running a serial "The Captain of the Fourth", by Frank Richards. It is interesting to note that an earlier story, that of Harry Nameless, which Mr. Hamilton, under the name of Clifford Clive, had written for Hinton's ill-fated paper "School and Sport", had been re-printed in the Boys' Friend, as a serial, during 1924. At the close of the re-printed Harry Nameless story, in which the nameless boy had proved to be Harry Wilmot, cousin of Aubrey St. Ledger, Mr. Hamilton contributed a sequel, "The Captain of the Fourth", which was running its course in the early months of 1925 in the Green 'Un.)

In February we found "Jimmy Silver in a Fix". Rookwood had been accustomed to regard the footer game with St. Kit's (see previous paragraph) as a walk-over, and Jimmy had promised Gunner a place in the team. Then Jimmy

discovered that St. Kit's, under the junior leadership of Harry Wilmot, now had a first-class team. How Jimmy found a solution to his difficulty made excellent reading.

"Rallying Round Rawson" was the opening yarn of a series concerning the scholarship boy, Rawson, who now found himself compelled to leave Rookwood. His worries were ended, however, by the sale of a very valuable stamp.

"Going for Greely" introduced a grand series, in which Mr. Greely was dismissed from Rookwood by an impetuous and stubborn Dr. Chisholm. Mr. Greely had been tutor to Sir Edward Hansom, the father of Hansom of the Fifth, and the baronet bought the Manor House and made it into a school with Mr. Greely as Headmaster. Greely found he had bitten off more than he could chew, but the clouds rolled by and he returned to Rookwood.

"What Gunner Knew" - or thought he knew - was that Mr. Dalton's brother was a tramp. A jolly little series. "Tubby Muffin's Wonderful Offer" was an invitation to some Rookwooders to spend the summer vacation on his uncle's yacht. It made the background for a tip-top, exciting series, though the yacht, the "Silver Cloud", proved to be a floating boarding-house, on which the chums were expected to pay for their board and lodging. A sinister individual - Ulick Lee - made life thrilling for the guests - he was seeking some diamonds which had been hidden on the vessel.

Autumn brought "No Luck for the Fistical Four" in which series the chums fell foul of the Head, owing to the machinations of a study-ragger. "A Chip of the Old Block" was Marcus Manders, the unsavoury nephew of Mr. Manders of the Modern Side. Some interesting stories appeared before Marcus was given the "Order of the Boot".

The final Christmas - Xmas 1925 - was not spent at the Priory, but at Lovell's home in Somerset, where "Jimmy Silver & Co's Christmas Jape" brought Lovell into conflict with an irascible uncle of Arthur Edward's.

THE LAST YEAR OF CONQUEST. THE YEAR 1926:

Peele was "Up Against His Form-Master" in a series in the New Year. Then "Tubby Puts the Screw On" - the screw being a spot of blackmail on Bailey of the Fifth Form. Novel series.

The final series of Rookwood tales was a good one, and unusual, too. The opening story, "The Price of Friendship" found Jimmy and his pal in conflict. Owing to Lovell's obstinacy, Jimmy felt obliged to resign the captaincy, and, as the series went on Lovell replaced his old friend as captain of the form. But Lovell had no gift of leadership and the series ended with everything calm and bright.

ANTI-CLIMAX:

With the departure of Rookwood from the Green 'Un, after a stay of eleven years, few could have doubted that the end was in sight for that grand old paper. Why Rookwood went is something that only the Amalgamated Press, and probably Mr. Hamilton, could tell us. At any rate, the Boys' Friend carried on for something under another year, getting into deeper and deeper water. A glance at one of the last issues is sadly enlightening.

Comic pictures, the adventures of Chick and Chubby, the Chirpy Chappies,

appeared on the front page. Within was a serial "His Convict Father", with no author's name, but probably a re-print. Next came another serial, "The School for Backward and Troublesomes", also anonymous.

Then came a whole page of comic pictures. Another anonymous serial was "Under the Greenwood Tree". A complete tale of Deadwood Dick was "The Ghost Rider". Another complete story was "The Captain's Ride", a story of the Captain, the Cook and the Engineer. The bill of fare ended with yet another whole page of comic pictures.

Obviously the paper had passed under new editorship, but with such a programme, the paper was doomed. It disappeared completely, leaving only memories of a magnificent history, with the last minutes of 1927.

#### MEDITATION:

Such, then, was the ROOKWOOD STORY. Taken as a whole, it was a superb and magnificent story. Can we lament the fact that it ended in 1926? My own view is that we cannot, though I dearly loved Rookwood.

During the YEARS OF CONQUEST in the Boys' Friend, our author had been writing weekly stories of Jimmy Silver and, for the greater part of that time, of Cedar Creek as well. But, though he is a genius, he is not a magician. He had to eat and sleep during the YEARS OF CONQUEST. And, while he wrote Rookwood and Cedar Creek, he had not too much spare time for Greyfriars and St. Jim's. So the YEARS OF CONQUEST were also the years of "sub" writers in the Gem and the Magnet. At least, that's how I look at it. I may be wrong.

With the passing of Rookwood, Frank Richards was able to give much more of his time to Greyfriars and the Magnet. I repeat that I loved Rookwood, but when I browse over the long list of magnificent Magnet series between 1926 and 1940, I find I cannot regret the passing of the YEARS OF CONQUEST! Can you?

First Rookwood Story "The Rivals of Rookwood"; No. 715, 20th Feb., 1915.

Last Rookwood Story "Tubby the Protector"; No. 1298, 24th April, 1926.

584 stories in all.

#### ANSWERS TO "QUIZ" on page 45

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Banks         | 8. Kipps    |
| 2. Wharton       | 9. Catesby  |
| 3. Newcome       | 10. Rake    |
| 4. Wun Lung      | 11. Gunn    |
| 5. North         | 12. Hansom  |
| 6. Topham        | 13. Hillary |
| 7. Lumley-Lumley | 14. Peele   |
| 15. Racke        |             |

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS

BY

OF

HERBERT LECKENBY

BOYS'

WEEKLIES

\* \* \* \* \*

WHEN, some months ago, I asked if we should publish a list of boys' weeklies over the past century, there was an unanimous 'Yes'. Well, here it is, made as complete and correct as ever possible, thanks to the valued help of Len Packman and others. Len spent many days in the vaults of Fleetway House checking, revising and adding to the list which appeared in our first Annual six years ago.

It has not been an easy task, for the locusts have eaten many of the years and the records. It may not matter very much if, say, "The Boys of the Nation" of 1895 ran for thirteen weeks or fourteen, but as a whole this record, the only one of its kind, is of no little importance. That is evident from the fact that what the younger generation want is very much in the news these days, both in print and on the air.

To collectors of boys' literature there is almost as much to interest as to a veteran cricket lover browsing over a yellow-backed "Wisden". One can trace the rise and fall of the men responsible for providing the boys of several generations their weekly reading.

First Edward Lloyd and the men disguised as the Newsagents Publishing Company. Actually they do not play much part here for their publications were of a rather different type; the one long story published in weekly parts of eight pages, which often broke off in the middle of a sentence. Their story has been told elsewhere. They were responsible, if anyone was, for someone coining the phrases "penny dreadfuls", "penny bloods", "blood and thunder", so they have a lot to answer for.

In the 'sixties came Edwin J. Brett. For years he was a power in his particular field. Many a rival dared to challenge him. Charles Fox would appear to have put up something of a fight, and James Hendersons had a number of successful publications. They, however, were of a somewhat different type. All the other rivals did not stay the pace for long.

Of all Brett papers "Boys of England" was the most intriguing. It ran for over thirty years and proudly claimed it was read by Royalty. So successful was it that, after eight years, a re-issue edition was started composed entirely of stories that had appeared in the parent paper. It, too, was successful, and for eleven years 'Boys of England' could be bought twice weekly.

Brett passed on and in 1906 his son decided to bring out another 'Boys of England'. Its format was different, so was its fate, for it lasted fourteen weeks.

A little earlier, however, Brett senior had shown he was still to be reckoned with. The House of Melrose had announced they were bringing out a paper to be called 'Boys of the Empire'. Brett had had a paper with that title, but it had died seven years before. He revived it and was a week ahead of Melrose's. It was easy for he simply filled it with old stories. Brett won; the Melrose venture died after three years; Brett's reached the age of six.

At the beginning of the nineties arose the Aldine Publications. One does not see much of them here, for they specialised mainly in "four a month libraries" glamourising Dick Turpin, Claude Duval, Jack Sheppard, Robin Hood and others of their kind. In consequence, for some twenty years they drew countless coppers from the pockets of Victorian and Edwardian boys.

Close on the heels of the Aldine Company came Alfred Harmsworth, greatest of them all. He set out with a noble motive - to kill the 'penny dreadful'. Funny how all the publishers of papers for boys of the time set out with that ambition. However, to give the future Lord Northcliffe his due, with the turn of the century there was an improvement in the quality of the boys' weeklies. This was particularly so with those which were in evidence between the two wars, for no one can deny that there was a vast difference between the Magnet, the Union Jack, the Modern Boy and others of their day and, say, the Boys' Monster Weekly and Boys' Leisure Hour of the Victorian era.

Until the close of the First Great War, the Amalgamated Press had the field almost to itself. Rivals challenged from time to time but they were soon dispersed. But with the renewed activity in the publishing world a formidable competitor came from across the Scottish border, D.C. Thomson, and the Amalgamated Press got some of its own medicine. Today, of all the papers which were in existence before the war, the Amalgamated Press have one representative, the Champion, whilst Thomson's can claim four; all apparently healthy. But we are not much concerned with today.

Harking back to Victorian ones, the days when every boy was assured that one Englishman (or should it be Britisher?) was worth three Frenchmen, German or what have you, one notes the patriotic touch the publishers had in naming their papers for boys. For example, "British Boys"; "Sons of Albion"; "Young Men of Great Britain". The vogue passed with the 19th century. Even Lord Northcliffe did not favour the idea, apparently. True, the "Union Jack" flew for years and there was "Young Britain", but those I think were the only examples.

Browsing over the record one is struck with the varied fortunes of boys' weeklies. Some lived over twenty years, but quite a number not as many weeks. Most remarkable of all, of course, was the achievement of the 'Magnet' with the same characters who took the stage in 1908, taking the final curtain thirty-three years later, and the same hand who wrote the opening sentence in No. 1, penning the last word in 1683.

How different was the experience of Guy Rayner (S. Dacre Clark), that quixotic, optimistic publisher - author of the 'eighties. He was like one of those freak independent Parliamentary candidates who loses his deposit, yet who bobs up again at each succeeding bye-election. For, if one of Guy Rayner's papers managed to live for a year it was something quite out of the usual. One suspects he may have been a bit of a cynic when he named one of his publications "The Bad Boys' Paper". Were there few bad boys in those days, seeing it only ran

twenty-one weeks? Probably a critic of present day youth would say a paper so named would have a big sale if all the male delinquents had the nerve to ask for it.

Reflecting further more intriguing questions arise. Why did the Amalgamated Press "Boys' Herald" run for just on ten years whilst the "Boys' Leader" started a week later die three weeks before its second birthday, despite the fact that they were almost identical in appearance, with the same star authors writing for both? Why did the "Pluck" started in 1894 run for over twenty years and the one launched in 1922 less than two? Why was it famous publishers like Cassell's, Newnes and Pearson, so successful with other periodicals, so often failed where boys' weeklies were concerned? What a pity we can't ask Robert Hamilton Edwards, who looked at his boys so thoughtfully from the editorial pages of the Boys' Friend, Boys' Realm and Boys' Herald for so long. He would probably have twirled his moustache, smiled benignly and said "Ah well, modesty forbids". One recalls how when the "Boys' Leader" died he assured his readers that the 'unfortunate paper' had never been under his control. Seeing that for two years he had splashed that fact all over the pages of his own papers, that assurance was rather unnecessary. He no doubt could not resist doing a quiet dance on the grave of the dead rival.

Nevertheless, 'tis a pity we have no Hamilton Edwards today. If we had, maybe we should not hear so much about American "comics".

Before bringing these rambling comments to a close, let me refer to that famous paper "Chums". For most of my data I am indebted to Harry Stables of Bradford, to whom nothing is too much trouble to get an authentic record.

"Chums" was Cassell's one success in the boys' weekly field, and even then it had to pass into the hands of the Amalgamated Press. Started September 14th, 1892, it ran in weekly, and monthly parts, right on until 1927. In addition, of course, there appeared round about Christmas time each year, the huge, scarlet-backed Annual of nearly a thousand pages. Of the later days Harry says:-

"From November 1920, the monthly part can be reckoned as a separate publication. It had all the reading matter of the weeklies, but the covers were left out - mostly advert and cover illustrations - and this left anything up to 20 pages to be filled in the monthlies. These were filled by short stories, articles and even serials, which never appeared in the weeklies at all. The Annual was, of course, made up from the monthlies as usual. The paper continued as a monthly mag: until July 1934, and was then amalgamated with Modern Boy.

It continued as an Annual only until, I think, 1941. Anyway, I haven't come across any volumes later than that date.

The change over from Cassell's to Amalgamated Press was in 1927. The first monthly part to carry the A.P. imprint being February of that year. The first weekly would be No. 1787. I can't say if the weekly was discontinued when the A.P. took over, but they gave up printing the serial numbers at the bottom of the sections in the monthly corresponding to the weekly numbers. The last serial number included was 2073 or 2074. Someone blundered with that monthly, as two serial stories from the previous part should have finished in it. I may have been unlucky and got hold of an

incomplete copy, but carelessness and lack of consideration for the customer characterized the A.P. Chums right from the beginning, almost as if they took it over with the intention of killing it."

The strange fact that the venerable "Chums" was ultimately merged in a less famous paper of a formidable rival firm, leads one to reflect on the fates of other once popular papers. Much amusement is derived thereby. Let's trace, for instance, what was supposed to have happened to the Amalgamated Press "Boys' Herald", which in its hey-day carried the slogan 'A Healthy Paper for Manly Boys'. As I have said, it had a good run of ten years. Then, its health apparently declining, it drastically altered in appearance and changed its name to "Cheer Boys Cheer". It didn't prove a very appropriate name, for there being little to cheer about, it soon changed to "Boys' Journal". A short career under that name, then came what was really the end. But old papers never die, of course, the blessed word is amalgamation; the partner in this instance being the "Dreadnought". The "Dreadnought" faltered and with much blowing of trumpets went into partnership with the "Boys' Friend", famous elder brother of the "Boys' Herald" in happier days. Time passed on then the once mighty Green 'Un was swallowed by the "Triumph". Triumph! seemed inappropriate for what was really a death knell. Finally the Triumph was embraced by the Champion. Thus, if we reckon the "Boys' Herald", "Cheer Boys Cheer" and "Boys' Journal" as one paper, we find the "Champion" taking under its wing what had once been four separate publications.

Again we can trace "Nelson Lee Library" into "Gem"; "Gem" into "Triumph"; "Triumph" into "Champion". And, of course, there were instances of the all accommodating "Champion" taking over other weaker brethren without any other blood in their veins such as "Young Britain" and "Boys' Magazine". If one could take all those amalgamations seriously; one would expect to find the "Champion" about as bulky as Debrett's Peerage, or Billy Bunter, instead of the pale shadow of its own former self it surely is. The partners must have acted like leeches and drained its blood.

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Adventure	17. 9.1921.	still running	-	D.C. Thomson	
Aldine Half-Holiday	6. 9.1892.	6. 1.1910	904	Aldine Pub. Co.	
At Home and Abroad	23. 2.1870	21.12.1870	44	H. Lea	
Bad Boys Paper	5.10.1889	1. 3.1890	21	Guy Rayner	
Best Budget	15. 3.1902	31. 5.1902	12	Trapps Holmes & Co.	1
Big Budget	19. 6.1897	20. 3.1909	611	Pearsons	
Bits for Boys	24. 6.1893	9. 9.1893	12	Best for Boys Co	
Bonnie Boys of Britain	18.10.1884	11. 4.1885	26	Guy Rayner	
Boyhood	29. 3.1890	21. 6.1890	13	Guy Rayner	
Boys & Girls Companion	4. 4.1857	3. 9.1858		Howeston & Wright	
Boys & Girls Penny Mag:	11. 9.1832	?	?	W. Howden	
Boys and Girls	30. 7.1887	19.11.1887	17	Guy Rayner	
Boys Athenaeum (Monthly)	1. 1.1875	?	?	?	
Boys Book of Romance	20. 4.1868	28. 9.1868	24	Chas. Stevens	



Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Boys	15.10.1892	13.10.1894	104	Sampson, Low	
Boys	1. 1.1875	5. 3.1875	10	Ward, Lock & Tyler	
Boys' Best Story Paper	7.10.1911	22. 6.1912	37	Newnes	
Boys' Broadcast	27.10.1934	29. 6.1935	36	Amal: Press	
Boys' Champion Journal	1. 4.1889	28.12.1891	144	Chas. Fox	
Boys' Champion Paper	26. 9.1885	11. 9.1886	51	Guy Rayner	
Boys' Champion Story Paper	16.12.1900	25. 4.1903	120	James Hender-son	2
Boys' Cinema	13.12.1919	18. 5.1940	1063	Amal: Press	
Boys' Coloured Pictorial	24. 5.1902	6. 9.1902	16	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Comic Journal	17. 3.1883	9. 4.1898	787	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Companion & British Traveller	15. 5.1865	23.12.1865	33	Newsagents Publishing Co.	3
Boys' Favourite	11.11.1870	15. 9.1871	41	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Favourite	24. 5.1879	26. 7.1879	10	Ritchie	
Boys' Favourite	4. 5.1929	20. 2.1930	40	Amal: Press	
Boys' Friend (Monthly)	7. 6.1864	7. 8.1867	38	H. Lea	
Boys' Friend ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	29. 1.1895	8. 6.1901	332	Amal: Press	
Boys' Friend (new series)	15. 6.1901	31.12.1927	1385	Amal: Press	4
Boys' Graphic	8. 3.1890	28. 2.1891	52	Guy Rayner	
Boys' Graphic	11.10.1902	13.12.1902	10	Chas. Strong	
Boys' Guide, Philosopher & Friend	27.10.1888	21. 2.1889	19	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Half Holiday	30. 4.1887	17. 7.1887	12	Chas. Fox	5
Boys' Halfpenny Journal	19.10.1878	27. 9.1879	50	J. Dicks	
Boys' Herald	6. 1.1877	30.11.1878	100	J. Dicks	
Boys' Herald	1. 8.1903	18. 5.1912	511	Amal: Press	6
Boys' Illustrated News	6. 4.1881	8. 6.1882	61	Cassell's	
Boys' Journal (Monthly)	6. 1.1863	1871	?	Vickers	
Boys' Journal	20. 9.1913	9. 1.1915	72	Amal: Press	7
Boys' Jubilee Journal	16. 4.1887	9. 6.1888	61	Guy Rayner	
Boys' Leader ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	1881	1882	52	H.W.Jackson	
Boys' Leader	11. 9.1895	14. 2.1900	229	H.W.Jackson	8
Boys' Leader	18. 9.1903	12. 8.1905	101	Pearsons	9
Boys' Leisure Hour	23. 8.1884	21.11.1891	379	Chas. Fox	
Boys' Library	28. 2.1879	16. 5.1879	12	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Life	27. 4.1907	22.10.1907	25	Cassell's	
Boys' Magazine	27. 2.1922	20. 1.1934	620	E. Hulton, later A.P.	10
Boys' Miscellany	7. 3.1863	30. 7.1864	74	E. Harrison	11
Boys' Monster Weekly	21. 2.1899	1. 1.1900	45	Chas. Shurey	
Boys' Newspaper	15. 9.1880	26. 7.1882	98	Cassell's	
Boys' Novelist	18. 1.1887	?	?	?	
Boys' of Britain	22.11.1870	?	45	W. Williams	
Boys' of Britain	1871	?	approx 20 approx	Ritchie	

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Boys of England	27.11.1866	30. 6.1899	1702	E.J. Brett	
Boys of England (re-issue)	20. 4.1874	14. 4.1885	574	E.J. Brett	
Boys of England	22. 9.1906	22.12.1906	14	E.J. Brett	
Boys of London & New York	7. 1.1882	30.12.1899	835	H.W. Jackson	
Boys of the British Empire	9. 5.1882	29. 4.1884	104	E.J. Brett	12
Boys of the Empire	6. 2.1888	22. 5.1893	277	E.J. Brett	
Boys of the Empire	20.10.1900	15. 9.1906	311	E.J. Brett	13
Boys of Our Empire	27.10.1900	27.10.1903	155	Melrose	
Boys of the Isles	22. 1.1889	28. 9.1889	36	Guy Rayner	
Boys of the Nation	5. 9.1895	25.11.1895	13	Chas. Fox	
Boys of the United Kingdom	26. 4.1887	21. 4.1888	52	Guy Rayner	
Boys of the World	21. 9.1869	16.11.1870	62	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Own Journal	14. 6.1856	1. 1.1857		Beeton	
Boys' Own Journal	17. 5.1883	6.12.1883	30	G. Emmett Jr.	
Boys' Own Magazine	- 4. 1855	- - 1874	?	Beeton	
Boys' Own Paper	18. 1.1879	still running		Religious Tract Society	
Boys' Own Reader	2. 1.1866	5. 6.1866	23	Newsagents Publishing Co.	
Boys' Own Times (Monthly)	1. 1.1859	1.12.1859	12	?	
Boys' Pictorial	15.10.1921	25. 3.1922	24	Odhams	
Boys' Peep Show	1905	1906	26	Chas. Strong	
Boys' Popular Weekly	21. 4.1888	19. 1.1889	41	Guy Rayner	14
Boys' Penny Magazine	- 1.1862	- - 1866	?	Beeton	
Boys' Penny Novelist	- - 1848	?	?	?	
Boys' Realm	14. 6.1902	20. 3.1916	717	Amal: Press	
Boys' Realm (2nd large series)	5. 4.1919	16. 7.1927	432	Amal: Press	
Boys' Realm (small series)	23. 7.1927	26. 1.1927	80	Amal: Press	
Boys' Realm Football and Sports Library	16. 9.1908	5. 6.1915	351	Amal: Press	
Boys' Standard (1st series)	6.11.1875	7. 5.1881	288	Chas. Fox	
Boys' Standard (2nd series)	14. 5.1881	18. 6.1892	580	Chas. Fox	
Boys' Star	1906	?	?	Chas. Strong	
Boys' Stories	27. 3.1898	23. 1.1899	44	T.H. Roberts	
Boys' Story Teller	4. 5.1897	8. 6.1897	6	W.M. Stevens	
Boys' Sunday Reader	8. 1.1879	9. 1.1880	53	E.J. Brett	
Boys' Weekly	3. 5.1919	?	?	James Henderson	
Boys' Weekly Novelette	26. 6.1892	14. 9.1895	169	Chas. Fox	
Boys' Welcome	21. 7.1897	?	?	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Boys' World	12. 4.1879	27.12.1886	404	Ralph Rollington	
Boys' World	30. 5.1905	6. 3.1906	41	Cassell's	
Brave and True	7.10.1893	30. 8.1894	43	?	
British Boys	1883	?	26	G. Emmett, Jr.	
British Boys	12.12.1896	3.12.1898	104	Newnes	
British Boys' Paper	3. 3.1888	19.10.1889	86	Aldines to No.45	
Bullseye ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	28. 2.1898	11.12.1899	94	Aldine Pub. Co.	
Bullseye	24. 1.1931	21. 7.1934	188	Amal: Press	

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Captain, The (Monthly)	1. 4.1899	1. 3.1924	300	Newnes	
Champion Journal for Boys	22. 9.1877	24. 7.1880	147	Ritchie	
Champion	28. 1.1922	still running		Amal: Press	
Charm (The) (Monthly)	30. 4.1852	31. 3.1853	12	Adey & Co.	
Cheerful (1st series)	17. 2.1894	31. 7.1895	76	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Cheerful (main series)	7. 8.1895	29. 4.1911	822	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Cheerful ( $\frac{1}{3}$ d series)	6. 5.1911	4.11.1911	27	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Cheerio	17. 5.1919	17. 4.1920	47	Amal: Press	
Cheer Boys Cheer	25. 5.1912	13. 9.1913	68	Amal: Press	15
Ching-Chings Own	23. 6.1888	17. 6.1893	261	E.H. Burrage	
Chums	14. 9.1892	- 7.1934	2074	Cassell's later Amal: Press	16
Comrades	18. 9.1886	9. 4.1887	30	Guy Rayner	
Comrades (1)	14. 7.1893	1.10.1895	142	Chas: Shurey	17
Comrades (2)	16. 2.1898	20. 2.1899	52	Chas: Shurey	18
Companion for Youth (Monthly)	1.10.1858	1.12.1861	38	W. Kent & Co.	
Detective Library	2. 8.1919	10. 7.1920	50	Amal: Press	18(a)
Dreadnought	9. 3.1912	12. 6.1915	159	Amal: Press	19
Empire Library ( $\frac{1}{3}$ d)	19. 2.1910	6. 5.1911	64	Amal: Press	
Every Boys' Favourite Journal	17. 1.1892	5.10.1892	43	?	
Every Boys' Journal	12. 4.1884	7. 6.1884	9	E. Maurice	
Every Boys' Magazine (Monthly)	1. 2.1862	1. 9.1888	319	Routledge, Warne & Routledge.	20
Every Boys' Paper	14. 6.1884	16. 8.1884	10	E. Maurice	
Firefly	28. 2.1914	31. 3.1917	161	Amal: Press	21
Football Favourite	4. 9.1920	27. 4.1929	452	Amal: Press	
Football Weekly	22. 8.1936	23. 1.1937	23	Amal: Press	
Fred Leslie's Journal	- - 1906	short run		Chas: Strong	
Fun and Fiction	12.10.1911	21. 2.1914	127	Amal: Press	
Garfield Boys' Journal	26. 9.1894	31. 7.1895	45	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Garland (The)	1. 8.1896	26. 7.1900	209	James Henderson	
Gem ( $\frac{1}{3}$ d series)	16. 3.1907	8. 2.1908	48	Amal: Press	
Gem (new series)	15. 2.1908	30.12.1939	1663	Amal: Press	
Gentleman's Journal and Youths Miscellany	1.11.1869	12. 9.1872	150	Harrison	
Greyfriars Herald (1st series)	20.11.1915	18. 3.1916	18	Amal: Press	22
Greyfriars Herald (2nd series)	1.11.1919	25. 3.1922	177	Amal: Press	23

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Hotspur	2. 9.1933	still running		D.C. Thomson	
Halfpenny Surprise	2.11.1894	12. 9.1906	614	E.J. Brett	
Jack Harkaway's Journal for Boys	24. 4.1893	22. 8.1893	18	E.J. Brett	
Jack's Paper	→ 10.1922	20. 2.1923	17	Pearsons	
Kingston's Magazine for Boys (Monthly)	1.11.1859	1. 2.1863	40	Harrison	
Lads and Lassies	6. 3.1894	11.10.1894	28	E.J. Brett	
Lads of the Village	18. 7.1874	17. 4.1875	40	Hogarth House	
Magnet	15. 2.1908	11. 5.1940	1683	Amal: Press	24
Marvel ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	15.11.1893	23. 1.1904	533	Amal: Press	
Marvel (new series)	30. 1.1904	22. 4.1922	952	Amal: Press	25
Modern Boy (1st series)	6. 2.1928	12. 2.1938	521	Amal: Press	
Modern Boy (2nd series)	19. 2.1938	14.10.1939	87	Amal: Press	
Modern Wonder	22. 5.1937	16. 3.1940	148	Odhams Ltd.	
Nelson Lee Library (small series)	12. 6.1915	23. 4.1926	568	Amal: Press	
Nelson Lee Library (1st large series)	1. 5.1926	18. 1.1930	194	Amal: Press	
Nelson Lee Library (2nd large series)	25. 1.1930	18. 2.1933	161	Amal: Press	
Nelson Lee Library (3rd large series)	25. 2.1933	12. 8.1933	25	Amal: Press	26
New Boys' Paper	2.10.1886	25. 2.1888	74	Ralph Rollington	
New Boys' Paper	12.11.1906	3. 6.1907	30	E.J. Blogg	
New Boys' World	13. 3.1906	30. 3.1907	55	Cassell's	
Nuggets	7. 5.1892	10. 3.1906	724	James Henderson	
Nugget Weekly	17. 7.1920	5. 3.1921	34	Amal: Press	27
Our Boys	21. 7.1897	-	1	?	
Our Boys Journal	30. 8.1876	27.12.1882	330	E.J. Brett	
Our Boys Paper	18.11.1880	31. 1.1883	117	Ralph Rollington	
Pals	7.10.1895	6. 5.1896	31	Chas. Shurey	
Penny Popular (1st series)	12.10.1912	30. 3.1918	276	Amal: Press	
Penny Popular (2nd series)	25. 1.1919	7. 2.1931	628	Amal: Press	
Pilot	7.10.1935	2. 4.1938	126	Amal: Press	
Pioneer	10. 2.1934	28. 7.1934	25	Amal: Press	
Pluck ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	24.11.1894	29.10.1904	518	Amal: Press	

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Pluck (new series)	5.11.1904	18. 3.1916	594	Amal: Press	
Pluck	28.10.1922	30. 8.1924	97	Amal: Press	
Prairie Library	15. 4.1919	10. 7.1920	56	Amal: Press	28
Prince, The	16. 9.1893	25.11.1893	11	Best for Boys Co.	
Ranger (small series)	14. 2.1931	29. 7.1933	125	Amal: Press	
Ranger (large series)	5. 8.1933	28. 9.1935	112	Amal: Press	
Red Arrow	19. 3.1932	18. 3.1933	52	D.C. Thomson	
Robin Hood Library	15. 4.1919	10. 7.1920	56	Amal: Press	29
Rocket	14. 2.1923	16. 8.1924	84	Amal: Press	30
Rovers Log	11. 3.1872	12. 4.1873	59	W.N. & G. Emmett	
Rovers of the Sea	11. 3.1872	12. 7.1873	72	E.J. Brett	
Rover	4. 3.1922	still running		D.C. Thomson	
School and Playground	12. 1.1898	?	?	Chas. Fox	
School and Sport	17.12.1921	?	?	Popular Publications	30(a)
Scoops	10. 2.1934	23. 6.1934	20	Pearsons	
Scout	18. 4.1908	still running			
Skipper	6. 9.1930	1. 2.1941	543	D.C. Thomson	
Sons of Albion	22. 5.1870	19.12.1870	31	W. Williams	
Sons of Britannia	14. 3.1870	15. 7.1877	394	W.L. & G. Emmett	
Sons of Old England	26. 8.1883	15. 2.1884	26	G. Emmett, Jr.	
Sport and Adventure	29. 4.1922	21.10.1922	26	Amal: Press	
Sports Budget	1. 3.1935	14.10.1939	236	Amal: Press	
Sports for Boys	9.10.1920	16. 4.1921	24	Amal: Press	
Standard Journal ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	18. 3.1896	20.10.1897	85	Chas. Fox	
Startler	1. 3.1930	18. 2.1932	102	Amal: Press	
Surprise	25. 2.1932	11.11.1933	89	Amal: Press	
Triumph	22. 9.1908	- 7.1909	44	James Henderson	
			approx		
Triumph	6. 9.1924	25. 5.1940	814	Amal: Press	32
Thriller	9. 2.1929	11. 5.1940	587	Amal: Press	
True Blue ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	15. 1.1898	16. 7.1900	133	Aldine Pub.Co.	33
True Blue (1d)	5. 2.1900	30. 5.1906	330	Aldine Pub.Co.	
Union Jack	1. 1.1879	25. 9.1883	191	?	34
Union Jack ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	27. 4.1894	10.10.1903	494	Amal: Press	
Union Jack (new series)	17.10.1903	18. 2.1933	1531	Amal: Press	35
Up-to-Date Boys	30. 6.1899	28. 6.1901	104	E.J. Brett	
Vanguard ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	4. 5.1907	?	?	Trapps, Holmes & Co.	
Vanguard	15.10.1923	22. 5.1926	136	D.C. Thomson	
Varieties	12. 5.1894	25. 7.1896	116	James Henderson	36

Title	Start	Stop	Total	Publishers	See Note
Wild West Weekly	12. 3.1938	18. 2.1939	50	Amal: Press	
Wonder, The	4. 1.1913	21. 3.1914	64	Amal: Press	
Young Britain (1st series)	11. 6.1919	17.11.1923	232	Amal: Press	
Young Britain (2nd series)	24.11.1923	5. 7.1924	33	Amal: Press	
Young Briton	18. 9.1869	20.10.1877	433	W.R. Emmett	
Young Englishman	19. 4.1873	6. 9.1879	336	W.L. & G. Emmett	
Young Englishman's Journal	13. 4.1867	9. 3.1870	154	W.R. Emmett	
Young Folks	12. 1.1871	13.10.1896	1353	James Henderson	
Young Gentlemen of Britain	24.10.1868	16. 4.1870	78	W.R. Emmett	
Young Man's Monthly	2. 5.1853	?	?	Sampson, Low & Co.	
Young Men of Great Britain	29. 1.1868	17. 6.1889	1117	E.J. Brett	
Young Men of Great Britain (re-issue)	4.11.1874	30. 1.1883	430	E.J. Brett	
Youths Instructor (Monthly)	- - 1858	- - 1859	9	?	
Youths' Miscellany "	1. 2.1822	1. 7.1823	17	Sherwood, Jones & Co.	

## NOTES:

1. Title changed to "Larks".
2. First 46 were priced  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, after 120 title changed to "Pocket Budget".
3. Amalgamated with "Boys' Own Reader".
4. Amalgamated with the "Triumph".
5. Plus one supplement with "Boys' Leisure Hour".
6. Title changed to "Cheer Boys Cheer".
7. Amalgamated with the "Dreadnought".
8. Halfpenny American reprints.
9. Amalgamated with "Big Budget".
10. Taken over by Amalgamated Press and amalgamated with the "Champion".
11. Considered first of the "dreadful" journals.
12. May have run a little longer.
13. First 26 were price  $\frac{1}{2}$ d; after 311 title changed to "Boys of England".
14. Title changed to "Boys' of the Isles".
15. Title changed to "Boys' Journal".
16. Amalgamated with "Modern Boy" (see introduction).
17. Title changed to "Pals".
18. Title changed to "Boys' Monster Weekly".
- 18(a). See 28 and 29.
19. Amalgamated with "Boys' Friend".
20. Amalgamated with "Boys Own Paper".
21. Continued as a 'comic'.
22. Price  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
23. Title changed to "Boys' Herald" in last year.
24. First 105 price  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
25. Title changed to "Sport and Adventure".
26. Amalgamated with the "Gem"

27. Amalgamated with the "Marvel".
28. )
29. ) Amalgamated and title changed to "Nugget Weekly".
- 18(a) )
30. Last traced No. 84, but may have been more.
- 30(a) Last number traced No. 8. May have been a few more.
31. Amalgamated with new paper "Pluck".
32. Amalgamated with the "Champion".
33. Amalgamated with ld "True Blue" No. 26.
34. Edited by G.A. Henty and W.H.G. Kingston.
35. Title changed to "Detective Weekly".
36. Title changed to "The Garland".

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HINTONISMS!

By ERIC FAYNE

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There is no doubt that the Editor's Chat page made quite pleasant reading in the old papers, whether that chat was called "Come Into the Office", "Between Ourselves", or "In The Editor's Den". To read those old "chats" to-day is a fascinating pastime, and there are none which tickle one's sense of humour more than those of Mr. H.A. Hinton, who edited the Gem and Magnet for a good many years.

Mr. Hinton was probably an excellent Editor - at any rate, the old papers had a distinctive charm of their own during his period of office - but his chat pages were petulant, pompous, pedantic, and rather puerile.

If one can believe everything which Mr. Hinton wrote, he was the frequent recipient of scurrilous letters from ignorant readers, letters full of abuse against the worthy editor and the papers he controlled. At frequent intervals Mr. Hinton published these letters, the spelling of which was distinctly reminiscent of that of Bunter or Coker. A gentleman whose screeds were often published was one named Malpas, of Oxford, but there were a great many others. Why Mr. Hinton gave prominence to such stuff in his chats is a matter of question? It certainly was no advertisement. But anybody's guess is as good as mine.

Here is a selection from some of Mr. Hinton's "REPLIES in BRIEF", selected at random from Gems and Magnets:-

R. RENNIE (Aberdeen) - "I don't suppose that is your real name. What a nice boy you are! I would undertake to produce plenty of loyal "Gem" readers who would, if you were obliging enough to place yourself within a yard of a ditch, very speedily put you in without removing their hands from their pockets. They would enjoy it too. Write again and cheer us up." (This particular reader was alleged to have said that the stories were sheer rot, and to have asked for stories of boys "who smoke, swear, drink and gamble.")

CYRUS P. CRAKE (New York) - had his letter published in full, in spite of the fact that it was anonymous. It was typically abusive, and ended "Wishing your paltry rags the worst of luck." The Editor commented "Thank Heaven that British boys are manly, and would scorn to strike below the belt in this blackguardly manner. I will waste no more time on an outsider who compares Britons to Yankees. Being a Yankee, Master Meddling Crake is, of course.. (cont'd page 107)

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THE year was 1943, and blacked-out London seemed blacker than ever on that November evening. I was groping my way along the Uxbridge Road at Ealing, and there was a sinister quiet. A quiet that Londoners knew so well during those nights of blitz. It was as though London was poised, waiting. Waiting for that inevitable wail of the siren. First, far away in the distance, then taken up by the nearer sirens, and finally filling the air with that dreadful din.

A few faint shafts of light here and there penetrated into the blackness, and as I passed a billiards saloon I heard the click of the balls.

Two or three minutes later I heard the first distant wail, from somewhere down the Thames Estuary, the first signal that another night for London had started.

I hurried home to my "digs", not that it was much safer there than in the streets, but it afforded some comfort. As I entered the house the first rumble of gunfire was audible and shadowy forms in steel helmets were discernable in the gloom.

Far away a dull red light glowed in the sky towards the east.

As I entered the house, my landlord, Mr. Edwards, was putting on his steel fire-watchers helmet, making a quaint, grotesque little figure in the dim light of the faded hall. A typical Londoner, without any heroics, he did his share towards helping to win the war.

He grinned at me.

"Here he is again" he said. "Dead on time. But somehow I've got a feeling he'll keep away from our side of London tonight. Hundreds of new guns in this neighbourhood."

"I sincerely hope so," I answered, and went to my room, emerging in steel-helmet and great-coat. I was engaged on War Office work in the London area with the R.E's. and was billeted with Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, a kindly pair.

Mr. Edwards was a newsagent, and I had complete and free access to the newspapers and periodicals.

The thunder of the guns was increasing, and soon the whole of London was one vast roar of explosion. The din of the barrage was indescribable. After about twenty minutes the raid appeared to be developing towards West London. In other words we looked as though we were going to "get it".

Mr. Edwards appeared through the black-out and there was a tremendous crash as a stick of bombs fell somewhere in the Uxbridge Road. "Better get into the shelter" he announced. "I don't like it."

"Can't say I'm much in love with it, either" I remarked. So we adjourned to the shelter where Mrs. Edwards had already ensconced herself.

And it was in that shelter in a London suburb that I first became aware that a certain paper known as "Exchange and Mart" revealed the

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fact that other people than myself were interested in the collection of Magnets and Gems! As I was casually glancing through that week's issue, my eyes caught the magic words - Magnet and Gem, and reading the advertisement more closely I discovered that a Mr. Jack Corbett of Birmingham was requiring some Magnets and Gems.

Curiously enough, I had found great solace in re-reading some of the Magnets and Gems I had kept since boyhood days during those nights of terror in London, and had a dozen or so in my room. I have followed the fortunes of Smithy on an excursion through the night to the Three Fishers whilst outside the earth and air throbbed with thunder and fire. I have chuckled with Cardew of the Fourth whilst German bombers droned through the night, and walked down Kent lanes with Harry Wharton and Co. during London's agony. I have been in the calm peace of Dr. Holmes' study, whilst walls were tottering and the capital burned.

It was with considerable interest that I read Mr. Corbett's advertisement, and I made a mental note that I would write to him. I had this in mind when quite suddenly the earth opened up, and the shelter and its occupants temporarily disappeared. When the dust and din had subsided we sorted ourselves out, and to our amazement and relief found that we were all unharmed apart from a rather severe shaking. Mrs. Edwards bore herself with great fortitude, and was another of London's women, who, night after night, helped to win a war no less than a front line soldier.

By a trick of fate, the Edwards' home was almost undamaged, apart from a few broken windows.

The next day I wrote to Mr. Corbett, and offered him a few Gems which were accepted, and subsequently Mr. Corbett and I became firm correspondents.

Mr. Corbett introduced me to the Story Paper Collector, that little amateur journal so ably controlled by Mr. William Gander, and as the years slipped by, and the blitz became a memory he was responsible for telling me about a little paper edited by Messrs. Herbert Leckenby and Maurice Bond called "The Collectors' Digest", in which nowadays we note with interest the activities of the Birmingham Old Boys' Book Club, the chairman of which is Mr. Jack Corbett.

And today the "Collectors' Digest" is an essential feature of my life, looked forward to with some impatience during the early days of each month with a similar degree of excitement with which we awaited the appearance of the Magnet on Mondays, and the Gem on Wednesdays.

It is rather intriguing to reflect that if I had not picked up that paper in that London air-raid shelter I might never have known that other people collected Magnets and Gems, Boys' Friends, Nelson Lee's and Union Jacks, and look what I should have missed!

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WANTED: to complete collection.

Nelson Lees (old series) Nos. 1, 4, 7, 11, 15 - 17, 22, 27, 31, 40, 42, 46, 49 - 51, 53, 59, 60, 62, 64 - 66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78, 82, 84, 88, 92.

Will pay any price, or will exchange three old series Nelson Lee, or two old series Sexton Blake Library for each of above numbers. Have several hundred for exchange.

J.R. MURTAGH, 509, SELWOOD ROAD, HASTINGS, NEW ZEALAND.

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# RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

by

GEORGE MELL

MY boyhood allegiance to the "Magnet" (never the "Gem"!) probably ended about 1922 and had lasted, maybe, five or six years. My present slowly growing collection, inspired by reading "Boys Will Be Boys" covers chiefly the period 1936-39 and, unless my memory is betraying me, the issues I possess might well be those of an entirely different paper.

The characters are the same, the illustrations are little different except that blazers have ousted Eton jackets in the Remove, boys arrive in taxis not cabs and, since motor-bikes became machines of surprising reliability Coker's antics with his "stink-box" no longer provide comic relief. But one great change seems to have transformed the "Magnet" more than any alteration in size or cover design. And, strange to relate, the change has been for the better.

Greyfriars, in my day, was unacquainted with crime. I scarcely remember a crook master superseding a regular "beak" and robbing the local gentry for weeks until Ferrers Locke or his assistant, Jack Drake, laid a trap that was not sprung prematurely by Billy Bunter. Holiday trips abroad were unheard of --- probably because foreign travel thirty years ago was not yet within reach of people who had not long outgrown the paper.

Week in, week out, we were regaled with stories that rarely had connecting links with successive issues and I am quite sure that I gave up the "Magnet" because I detected a cycle of plots which tended to repeat --- and sometimes repeat again --- after a few years.

For years I remember seeing "Want Ads" asking for that old favourite "Bob Cherry's Barring-out" and, though I never had the pleasure of reading it (perhaps someone will sell me a copy so that I may realise one of my minor ambitions!), it seems now that it only ran to one issue. None of my present collection includes a barring-out --- if ever there was another --- but, as the later stories were invariably series, I doubt if the struggle between the Remove and some temporary tyrant could have been disposed of in less than seven or eight weeks.

No! Bunter went deaf, came into money, simulated blindness or illness; Fisher T. Fish propounded some new knavery that always recoiled on his own head; one by one the stalwarts, Dick Penfold, Mark Linley, Frank Nugent --- even Harry Wharton --- lapsed from grace and, for a while, surpassed Harold Skinner in their efforts to go the pace. More surprisingly the Cad of the Remove went straight for once in a while; at least two film companies descended on Greyfriars and George Wingate conceived a grand passion for the leading lady and --- surely this must have been a series! --- Walter Bunter appeared on the scene while his cousin Billy vanished in his stead to St. Jim's and by his prowess made the name of Bunter honoured until, eventually, Walter became a master.

The Owl of the Remove, I am quite sure, was less the peevish, ill-mannered wretch he became in later years and more the greedy, eternally hard-up chump, but perhaps the difficulty of providing plots brought about a change in policy soon after I began to fancy that identical plots were cropping up again.

For that no one can blame Frank Richards for an indefinite number of plots is just not feasible. And so, I imagine, began the series era, opening up the possibility of more intricate situations that are perhaps best demonstrated in stories with a mildly criminal background.

My slender pile of reddish "Magnets" recounts the adventures of Carter who wanted to get Billy Bunter expelled; Bertie Vernon tried his hardest to rob Vernon-Smith of his inheritance; almost each Christmas some rascally servant or butler kidnapped a schoolboy or an upgrown only to be restored to the happy party in time for Yuletide festivities that always took place in deep snow.

Mr. Vernon-Smith was kidnapped and held to ransom; Mr. Quelch, like one or two other characters, spent weeks in the ruined abbey; relations whose existence had hitherto never been suspected turned up at Greyfriars, particularly waifs and gypsies and in all these Bunter played a part.

In almost every tale some seemingly pointless jape or theft of grub by the Owl placed him in possession of information which ultimately provided the key to a well-nigh insoluble situation.

And, though the series were often too long and the solution apparent before the stage had been properly set for the drama, the few old copies I possess show Frank Richards' skill as a story-teller developed. Maybe I have an undue proportion of substitute authors' stories among my few old ones but, one and all, they are vastly inferior to those published just before the paper closed down.

As if to emphasise that point I cherish No. 246 "The Terror of Greyfriars", a would-be comic yarn introducing an Alonzo Toddish type named Theophilus Flippis. It is on a part with the crudities of the "Union Jacks" and "Sexton Blakes" of the period and spares me the need for acquiring other early issues that have, to me at any rate, only a collector's interest.

To me the Greyfriars stories were most enjoyable in the early "Holiday Annuals" --- and still are! I find the latest annuals worthy companions to the volumes I sought as Christmas present when I was still at school.

Almost as pleasant to read are the articles about the stories in "Collector's Digest" and, until their unfortunate demise, the "Collector's Miscellany" and "Story Paper Collector". They kindle the ashes of memories long faded and if mine, as here recorded, are not as accurate as they should be, then at least I can claim to have reversed the usual contention of a grown-up looking back on his lost youth. In my day things in the "Magnet" were not as good as they became later on.

Like vintage wine Frank Richards improved with age and his sure touch shows no sign of faltering.

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WANTED: Original Aldines, Jack Sheppards, Robin Hoods, etc.

E.R. LANDY, 4 NUNEATON ROAD, DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

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To mention every adult who has ever appeared in the Gem and the Magnet stories would require very much more space than I have at my disposal in this issue of the Collectors' Digest Annual. In the following list, therefore, I have selected those grown-ups who are remembered, either because they appeared in an outstanding story, or, perhaps, because they appeared from time to time in the background of the school life at Greyfriars or at St. Jim's. The regular teaching staffs at the schools are not considered in this article.

ANGEL, Sir Philip.

The father of Aubrey Angel of the Fourth Form. The baronet featured in the Mick, the Gipsy, series of 1923, in which Mick proved to be Sir Philip's younger son.

BANKS, Joe.

A not over-scrupulous bookmaker. Chiefly a Gem character, but has appeared in some Magnet stories.

BARNES, Arthur. See Captain Poynings.

## THE ADULT LIFE of the Magnet and the Gem

by ERIC FAYNE

BEAN, Sandy.

An old Scot who turned out to be the Ghost of Lochmuir in a Christmas series, 1923, featuring Mick Angel and the Greyfriars chums.

BELLEW, Miss.

The mistress of the Fourth Form at Cliff House. Appeared as such in the "School Friend" stories, and eventually married a Mr. Hartley and disappeared from the tales. Miss Bellew has reappeared in the Greyfriars stories, so it can be assumed that she lost her husband in the war, and has resumed her former position along with her maiden name.

BLAGG, Mr. - The Rylcombe postman who serves St. Jim's.

BLOORE, Gilbert.

A rascally secretary employed by Lord Eastwood. Brought to justice by Wildrake, Xmas 1921.

BOSANNEY, Eric.

Another rascally secretary, this time to Mr. James Lowther. Brought to justice through Gussy and Lord Conway. (1923)

BRIGHT, Mr. Esau.

The father of the Remove "Toad". Sent his son to Greyfriars to search

for the will of Mr. Thorpe. (1927)

BRANDRETH, Mr.

Made Tom Merry his "Heir to Millions". As a result, Tom was kidnapped by Gerald Goring, who sent Reggie Clavering to St. Jim's to disgrace the junior skipper.

BROOKE, Sir Rupert.

Relative and guardian of Lord Mauleverer. Has made brief appearances in several fine series.

BULLIVANT, Miss.

Maths mistress at Cliff House, where she is nicknamed "The Bull". Appeared frequently in the "School Friend", but her main appearance in the Magnet was in the Skip series in 1937, - Skip proving to be her long-lost brother.

BUNTER, Mr. W.S.

The father of Billy, Sammy and Bessie, and the lord of Bunter Villa, near Reigate. Amusing picture of a harassed parent, skilfully drawn.

BUNTER, Wally.

First appeared as the cousin and double of Billy Bunter in a long series played out in both the Magnet and the Gem. Later became a master at Greyfriars for a time, so it can be assumed that he aged more quickly than his plump cousin. The latter theme, a feeble one, was handled entirely by substitute writers.

BRANDER, Mr.

A Dutchman who became head of Greyfriars in a fine series in 1930.

CARNEFORTH, Dr.

Became Headmaster of Greyfriars, and a sixth form barring-out resulted. (1922)

CARTER, Uncle.

Billy Bunter's relative - his rich relation in the Carter series of 1937. Now runs a boarding house in Folkestone, so has apparently lost his wealth.

CHANDOS. The rascally butler at Portercliffe Hall, the mansion taken by Mr. Fish, who hoped to unearth a hidden treasure. (1935).

CHESHAM, Mr.

A faddist form-master who became master of the Remove for a time in early days.

CHEW, Chick.

An American gangster who sought to kidnap the American Schoolboy, Putnam van Duck. Well below the usual Magnet standard. (1936).

CLARK, Nosey.

The crook who tried to drive Jim Valentine back to a life of forgery. (1932).

CLEGG, Mr.

The proprietor of a general stores in Friardale. Known to the Greyfriars boys as "Uncle" Clegg. Usually kept a crate of eggs on show outside his shop, to enable various lads to fall therein.

COBB, Mr. - The landlord of the Cross Keys Inn.

CONWAY, Lord.

Gussy's elder brother. Appeared often in the Gem in blue cover days, and once as a fugitive from justice. Appearances since 1920, very infrequent.

COKER, Miss Judith.

Horace's lovable Aunt Judy. In early days, insisted that Horace should be transferred from the Shell to the Fifth Form. A great burden on Mr. Prout, whom she persists in calling Mr. Snout. Featured in many fine series, but never seen to greater advantage than in the Caffyn series, 1935.

COOK, George.

Billy Bunter's cousin. Bought a yacht and turned it into a floating boarding-house, in which the chums had many exciting and hilarious adventures. (1933).

CROCKER, Randolph.

Old Boy of Greyfriars. Set up his cobbler's shop near the school, in order to carry out his burglarious activities. Brought to justice by Jack Drake. (1939).

CROW, Captain.

The father of Reginald Talbot, the "Toff". Died when Talbot was a small boy.

CRUMP, P.C. - The Rylcombe policeman.

CURLL, Horatio.

A very thirsty gentleman who first appeared in the Gem in 1911 in "Stage Struck". Was leading man in the Roser Moser Opera Company to which Monty Lowther ran away from school. After that made occasional appearances as a broken-down actor. Featured in one Magnet story, - yet few realised that Frank Richards was Martin Clifford.

CORKRAN, Kit.

Bob Cherry's cousin. An explorer who figured in the famous Congo series. Had an artificial eye, which had nearly as much effect on the natives as Billy Bunter's ventriloquism. (1922).

COMPTON, Sir Harry.

Sent "Ragged Dick" to Greyfriars as his heir, in an effort to prevent a worthless nephew succeeding to his entailed property. (1925).

CHERRY, Major.

Bob's father. Played a substantial part in an early masterpiece "Bob Cherry in Search of His Father". Was also in charge of the Sahara party, 1924, and made numerous other appearances in the stories.

DANCE, Mr. - The rascally manager of Whiffles' Circus. (1928).

DAWLISH, Jim.

A weak crook, associated with Talbot in early days.

DEVARNEY, Howard.

A rascal who adopted the Jewish name of Isaacs, and swindled his kinsman. His relative, Devarney of Greyfriars had a feud with Monty Newland in consequence. (1929).

DODDS, The Rev.

The curate at Huckleberry Heath. Appeared in the Gem frequently in blue cover days, and, on one occasion, took a temporary mastership at St. Jim's.

EASTWOOD, Lord.

Gussy's noble pater. Chiefly notable for sending "fivahs" to his hopeful son. Once supplied Gussy with a cheque book, with disastrous results.

FISH, Hiram.

The father of Fisher T. Played a big part in the splendid Hollywood series, 1929, being connected with a film company at that time. Also appeared in an unattractive role in the Portercliffe Hall series.

FIX, Inspector.

Scotland Yard official. First appeared in the Gem in 1911 in "The Schoolboy Scouts", and then was featured from time to time. Played a prominent part in the magnificent kidnapping series in 1921.

FAWCETT, Miss Priscilla.

Tom Merry's guardian, a sweet old lady of old-fashioned taste in dress, who persists in forgetting that Tom is more than nine years old. Appeared in the first Gem in 1907 and also in the last in 1939. Lives at Laurel Villa, in Huckleberry Heath. Once lost all her money and Tom had to seek his fortune alone in London.

GLYN, Mr.

A millionaire who lives at Glyn House near Wayland. The father of Bernard.

GLYN, Edith.

The grown-up sister of Bernard. Often appeared in early Gem stories.

GAUNT, Gideon.

A mysterious character who tried to kidnap Mauleverer on board a yacht. Turned out to be the mate, Poynings. (1922).

GILMORE, Eric.

A temporary master of the second-form at Greyfriars. Was impersonated by his twin brother. Not an outstanding series. (1928).

GORING, Gerald.

A rascally fellow who was Tom Merry's rival for Mr. Brandreth's millions. A fine set of stories in the Gem in 1914 and 1937.

GRIMES, Inspector.

Chief of police at Courtfield.

HANNAH. Miss Priscilla Fawcett's old companion-help, at Laurel Villa.

HUGGINS, Bobby.

The sponsor in the ring of the "Game Kid", Richard Dury, who was a Removite for a time. (1927).

IBRAHIM. An Egyptian guide who attached himself to the Greyfriars chums in the grand Sahara series. (1924).

IRONS, Inspector.

Of Scotland Yard. Came to Greyfriars as Mr. Steele and took Mr. Quelch's place as Remove master. Trapped the Greyfriars Cracksman in a smash-hit series. (1930).

JARVISH.

A cowardly butler type, who made Billy Bunter a billionaire one summer holiday. (1934).

JAPP, Mr.

The Mayor of Wayland. Gussy criticised his trousers.

JEFFRIES, Mr.

Became Headmaster of Greyfriars, and was the cause of a barring-out. A first class series of stories this. (1918).

JIMMY the One.

A crook associated with Flip of the Second. Took Mr. Twigg's place for a time.

KIDD, Mr.

The Housemaster of the School House at St. Jim's before Mr. Railton.

KIKOLOBO.

The Kikuyu warrior who became devoted to Vernon-Smith in Kenya, when the Greyfriars chums were sold into slavery. 1931.

LOCKE, Ferrers.

First appeared in the Gem as a private detective and often used Tom Merry as his assistant. Later came on the scene at Greyfriars as the relative of the Headmaster. Perhaps his last appearance in the Gem was in the Captain Mellish series (1911, 1935). Starred in many Magnet masterpieces and eventually took Jack Drake as his assistant. Best remembered, possibly, in the fine Ravenspur Grange series, when he trapped Packington, the butler. Solved the disappearance of Mr. Quelch in 1940, but took a long time to do it.

LUMLEY-LUMLEY, Mr. Lascelles.

A millionaire who made his money in the U.S.A. The father of Jerrold. Mr. Lumley-Lumley received a signed undertaking from Dr. Holmes to the effect that Jerrold should remain three years at St. Jim's. Hence "The Outsider" was "unexpellable".

LILBURN, Lord.

Uncle of Cardew of the Fourth and less indulgent than the fourth-former's grandfather.

LODGEY, Joe.

A racing tout, ready for any underhand piece of business. Made his initial appearance in the Gem during the first Great War years, but has featured in Greyfriars stories in more recent years.

LAMB, Mr.

Art Master at Greyfriars, but was also the illusive cracksman, Slim Jim. Kidnapped Mr. Quelch in the over-long series 1939-1940. Eventually brought to justice by Ferrers Locke, with the help of the Bounder.

LOWTHER, Mr. James.

A member of parliament and the lord of Holly Lodge. Featured in two brilliant series in the Gem, 1923 and 1925. (See BOSANNEY).

LANCHESTER, Sir Peter.

Believing Billy Bunter to be courageous, Sir Peter placed Billy at Reynham Castle as Lord Reynham. (1937).



LAZARUS, Mr.

The father of Solly, and one who kept a second-hand shop at Friardale which often features in the stories.

LEVISON, Mr.

Father of the Levison boys. Always depicted as rather a weak character. Featured in the Dirk Power series and in one Xmas story.

LYNDON, Colonel.

Uncle of Talbot and Croke. Has appeared in a few stories in the Gem.

KRANZ, Franz.

Old boy of Greyfriars, who had been expelled. Proved to be a spy for a foreign power. He kidnapped several boys in an effort to make Major Cherry divulge the secret of some valuable plans. Defeated by Lord Mauleverer. (1934).

MARKHAM, Captain.

Harry Wharton's rival for a fortune, who sent Da Costa to Greyfriars to disgrace the Captain of the Remove. Outstanding series. (1928).

MELLISH, Captain.

Mellish's cousin and a star footballer. Eventually unmasked by Ferrers Locke, as the Mysterious "X". Grand tales. (1911, 1935).

MAULEVERER, Brian.

Mauly's cousin, who appeared in several series and also in one post-war story. A bad character who reformed in the 1937 South Seas series, where he was found as a beachcomber.

MOOKERJEE, Mook.

The famous Moonshree who taught Hurree Singh his remarkable brand of the English language. Speaks in the same way himself. Appeared in the fine India series, 1926.

M'PONG. A black man who attached himself to Tom Merry in the Gem's Congo series. Came to St. Jim's for a time. (1911, 1935, and Boys' Friend Library, "Under Sealed Orders").

MAINWARING, Elsie.

A film star in a film-making series in 1920, who had a potted love-affair with Wingate. Poor yarns, probably by a substitute writer.

MURPHY, Mrs.

Runs a general stores and tuck-shop in Rylcombe.

MOSES, Mr.

The uncle of Dick Julian, the Jewish boy at St. Jim's. Described as a financier, but also ran a second-hand shop of some description in Wayland.

MUCCOLINI, Signor.

An Italian spy, who was the proprietor of a circus. Not very outstanding holiday series. (1936).

ORRIS. A rascally secretary at Mauleverer Towers. Kidnapped Lord Mauleverer one Xmas, only to have his plans upset by the one and only Bunter. (1931).

O BO. Aged uncle to Wun Lung. Tried to kidnap the Chinese boy, with the object in view of adopting him. (1937).

O NO. Head of the household of the Mandarin, Tang Wang. 1930.

PACKINGTON.

The butler at Ravenspur Grange and the villain of the piece. Unmasked by Ferrers Locke who proved him to be Edgar Ravenspur, a wastrel. Committed suicide at the close of a fine series. (1929).

PRIMROSE, Miss.

Headmistress at Cliff House. In early Magnet stories was depicted as an old frump, but has assumed normality in later years.

PAWSON.

The Eastwood House secretary who accompanied Tom Merry & Co. on their flying holiday in the final Gem year. Turned out to be a rascal. Lord Eastwood was particularly unlucky in his choice of staff over the years. (1939).

PILBEAM, Mr.

Replaced Mr. Linton as master of the Shell at St. Jim's for a time. Not a Hamilton character, so of little consequence. (1931).

PILKINGTON.

The rascally butler who kidnapped Lord Eastwood and Gussy in the famous Painted Room episode one never-to-be-forgotten Xmas. (1913, 1936).

PIKE, Poker.

The gunman protector of an American schoolboy at Greyfriars. Below the average Magnet standard. 1936.

POPPER, Sir Hilton.

The lord of Popper Court. A land-owner, near Greyfriars, who seems to live in perpetual trouble with the Inland Revenue authorities. Like most great land-owners, he finds difficulty in making both ends meet. Seldom appeared in a very good light in the Greyfriars stories. Sponsored Lancaster at the School, under the threat of blackmail.

PYNSENT, Mr.

Harry Wharton's tutor at home, before the boy came to Greyfriars. (1908).

PEPPER, Erasmus Zachariah.

A miser who lived near St. Jim's. An overdrawn character in white-cover days. Once rented a barn to Tom Merry & Co. who opened it as a tea-shop in an effort to raise the wind. (1922). Seems to have disappeared with the white covers from the Gem stories.

POWER, Dirk.

A madman who chased Mr. Levison and Tom Merry & Co. across Canada into Alaska in a far-fetched series in 1920.

PUNTER, Captain.

A scoundrel who led schoolboys into gambling on trains. Appeared from time to time in both the Gem and the Magnet, and always in similar circumstances.

PILKINS, Mr.

An estate agent in Courtfield. Rented Combermere Lodge to Billy Bunter, who re-named it Bunter Court, in a very famous series. (1925). Has appeared from time to time since then.

PENFOLD, Mr.

The boot-repairer of Friardale and the father of Dick Penfold. Appeared in a few early tales in the Magnet.

PYE, Joey.

Clown in a circus, which was featured fairly frequently in the Gem. Also appeared in a series in Pluck in 1908.

POYNINGS, Mr.

Rascally secretary to Coker's uncle at Holly House. Kidnapped Horace and blackmailed the uncle. Xmas series, 1926.

POYNINGS, Captain.

Came to Greyfriars as Arthur Barnes, the Head's chauffeur and featured in the splendid Courtfield Cracksman series of 1930. Brought to justice by Inspector Irons.

POYNINGS, the mate.

See Gideon Gaunt.

POLK, Myron.

An unscrupulous film-star in the fine Hollywood series, 1929.

PICKLE JAR.

A black man who attached himself to Harry Wharton in the Congo series, 1922. Came to Greyfriars for a time.

POMFRET, Mr. Claude.

The stockbroker who sent Len Lee to St. Jim's in a false name. Excellent series this. (1924).

RAO, Baji.

Kinsman of Hurree Singh. Kidnapped Inky in the fine India series, in order to become Nabob of Bhanipur himself. Defeated by Bunter. (1926).

RACKSTRAW, Cyril.

The cousin of "Chumley for Short", - Tatters of the Remove. Rackstraw used Carne as his tool to bring about the disgrace of Tatters, the tinker's boy. Fine human series. (1931).

RACKSTRAW, Rogue.

An old associate of Talbot's. Appeared as the Miller of the Moor in a fine series in which many St. Jim's boys were kidnapped and held to ransom. Eventually unmasked by Wildrake. (1922). (See Inspector Fix).

RIVERS, John.

Appeared originally in the first Talbot stories. Once a crook and the leader of the gang of which Talbot was a member as "The Toff"; Rivers was then known as "The Professor". Eventually reformed and won pardon and honour in the first Great War. After that, appeared occasionally in Gem stories.

RIVERS, Marie.

Daughter of John Rivers and a member of the gang to which Talbot belonged. Known at one time as "The Little Sister of the Poor", she reformed and became a nurse in the St. Jim's sanatorium. Was given originally as "about Talbot's age" but seemed older as time went on. Some years older than Talbot would be more feasible, for a teen-ager would hardly have been appointed nurse in the sanny at a boys' school.

REDWING, John.

The father of Tom Redwing. Appeared in 1917 as a naval officers, but later became "the old sailorman" with whom we are so familiar. When on shore, lives in a cottage at Hawkscliff.

RECKNESS, Lord.

The grandfather of Cardew of the Fourth at St. Jim's. Usually shown as very indulgent to his grandson.

RAWLINGS.

The villainous mate of the yacht "Firefly", the smuggling ship in which the Co. spent a Christmas at sea with Valentine Compton. (1936).

RANCE, Elias.

A rascally estate agent in Devonshire who kidnapped Mr. Vernon-Smith and the Bounder and imprisoned them on Blackrock Island. (1939).

SANDS, Mr.

The keeper of a general stores at Rylcombe.

SILVERSON, James.

A distant relation of Miss Priscilla Fawcett and one who took a post at St. Jim's in order to try to disgrace Tom Merry. The closing series in the Gem and a very fine one.

SPOONER, Shifty.

An unsavoury character who made himself a nuisance to Harry Wharton & Co. throughout their trip up the Thames in the "Water Lily". (1939).

SOAMES, James.

An outstanding character among Magnet adults. Originally the valet of Mr. Vernon-Smith, he showed himself a reckless and villainous crook in the superb South Seas series of 1927. Appeared later in a Xmas series when Smithy and Redwing were kidnapped and hidden in a cave (1928), the Christmas cigarette case series (1937), and in the final series in the Magnet in 1940 - the Eastcliffe Lodge series.

SIN SONG.

The "Sinister Dr. Sin", who was the secretary to Wun Lung's Uncle O Bo. (See O Bo.)

SKEAT, Inspector.

Chief of Police at Wayland.

SARLE, Mr.

Lawyer to Coker's Aunt Judy and the unscrupulous guardian of Edgar Caffyn. (1935).

SNEATH, Mr.

A rascal who attempted to blackmail Mr. Selby in a fine Wally D'Arcy series. (1925).

SMEDLEY, Eustace.

Was really Lucius Teggars, a distant relative of the Bounder. Teggars became master of the Remove in the name of Smedley, with the object in view of getting the Bounder disinherited by his father. Long and very fine series. (1934).

STEELE, Mr.

See Inspector Irons.

SPARKINSON, Professor.

Tenant of the Willows, near Greyfriars, for a time. Gave Alonzo Todd the famous red fluid which made the weedy boy into "Strong Alonzo". Tip-top tales. (1933).

SUGDEN, Slimy.

A scoundrel who had a hold over Sir Hilton Popper and blackmailed the baronet into sponsoring Lancaster at Greyfriars. Magnificent series. (1931).

SPENCER, Captain.

The Head's guest in 1927. Smithy exposed him as the Lantham bank robber.

TANG WANG.

Villainous Mandarin who gave the chums and Ferrers Locke some exciting times in the finest of all the travel series. (1930).

TYRRELL, Paul.

The weak cousin of Bob Cherry. Was featured in an outstanding Magnet story in 1916, "The Deserter". Showed up again in 1932 and was the indirect cause of Harry Wharton's bitterness against Colonel Wharton, when Harry decided to work for a scholarship. Neat series the latter, in which Wharton resigned the captaincy and the Bounder took his place.

TALBOT, Jack.

Member of a circus which often performed near St. Jim's. (See Joey Pye).

TAPP, Tickey.

Appeared from time to time in the Gem and almost always as the proprietor of an illicit gambling den.

TIGHE, Mr.

Once defrauded Coker's Aunt Judy and later tried his hand at black-mailing Mr. Prout. (1931).

TEGGERS, Lucius.

See Eustace Smedley.

TODD, Mr. Benjamin.

Alonzo and Peter's famous Uncle Benjamin. Appeared in a few bright tales in early red-cover days.

TRUMBLE.

The porter at Rylcombe railway station.

TOZER, P.C.

The policeman at Friardale. Often made a brief appearance in the Magnet and played larger parts in two red-cover stories "The Schoolboy Policemen" and "Bob Cherry's Barring-Out". In more recent times was struck down by Loder after dark.

TIPER, Mr.

Printer at Rylcombe. The gentleman who prints "Tom Merry's Weekly".

VERNON, Captain.

The father of Bertie Vernon, the cousin and double of the Bounder.

Kidnapped Vernon-Smith in an effort to put Bertie in Smithy's place as the heir to millions and imprisoned the Bounder in the turret room at Lantham Chase. Long series, brightened by cricket settings. 1939.

VERNON-SMITH, Mr.

The father of the Bounder and an outstanding adult character. Appeared in red-cover days as a moneylender who had a hold over Dr. Locke. In later years was an attractive and well-written character, the millionaire financier. Appeared in many fine series.

VENIZELOS.

A rascally Greek who attempted to steal a valuable scarab from Lord Mauleverer in the Egypt series. (1932).

WALSINGHAM.

The butler who suffered extensively at the hands of Billy Bunter, when the latter turned Combermere Lodge into Bunter Court. (1925).

WALSINGHAM.

The butler at Hilton Hall. A man with a secret in the shape of a convict brother who escaped one Christmas, when the Greyfriars chums were at Hilton Hall. (1934).

WELLS.

The butler at Wharton Lodge and an exceptionally well-drawn character. Appeared prominently one Christmas when Bunter secreted himself in the attic at Wharton Lodge. (1933).

WHARTON, Colonel.

Harry's uncle, who appeared in the first Greyfriars story. A retired army officer, often described as an "old gentleman", though is probably only in late middle life, judging by his activity. Lives at Wharton Magnus, near Wimford, Surrey, and has appeared in some of the most attractive Magnet stories.

WHARTON, Miss Amy.

The Colonel's sister and Harry's Aunt. A kind lady who has graced quite a few stories.

WOOSE, Mr.

Became master of the Remove when Mr. Quelch was driven to resign during the headmastership of Mr. Prout. Mr. Woose remained at Greyfriars as Art Master after Mr. Quelch returned. In later stories was called Mr. Woosey, for some reason unknown.

WHIFFLES, Montgomery St. Ledger.

Circus proprietor. Billy Bunter became owner of his circus, in the best circus series of all time. (1928).

"X", the mysterious.

See Captain Mellish.

ZERO, Count.

A villainous Italian who made Christmas ghostly for the Greyfriars chums at Polpelly. (1935).

ZORRO.

Proprietor of a circus which performed near Greyfriars, and of which Pedrillo of the Remove was a member. (1926).

# They Wrote of Sexton Blake \*\*\*

A RECORD OF THE STORIES WRITTEN BY SEVERAL POPULAR AUTHORS

in the

MAN FROM BAKER STREET'S HEY-DAY.

\* \* \* \* \*

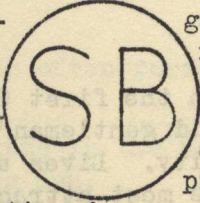
COMPILED by the MEMBERS OF THE SEXTON BLAKE CIRCLE

## A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is indeed a happy task once more to edit a joint contribution to the 'Annual' from our Sexton Blake Circle.

As many of you may call to mind this great year of glorious Coronation marks the sixtieth anniversary of the introduction of Sexton Blake to the reading public of this country.

More shame to the Amalgamated Press lords that they abstain from publishing something special by way of commemoration. Indeed their lack of gratitude, and even of common courtesy, toward a character who has been so profitable to them over so long a span of years goes even further because so far as we have been able to find out up to the time of going to press this important date will fail to receive even so much as a mention in any of their numerous publications.



Let us then mark it well!

It seems to be generally agreed among the experts that the momentous year was 1894 but for those who insist upon exactitude I have to report that sources differ as to the exact date of publication of the first story.

The 'Sexton Blake Annual of 1941' reprints a version of the first Blake yarn ever written for publication and gives the date as May the 4th.

Reginald Cox however, in his admirable 'Sexton Blake File', has it that the publication was in No. 2 of the 1/2d 'Union Jack' with the date just one month earlier to the day - that is, the 4th of April, 1894.

But at Arsenal Stadium in September it was Herbert Leckenby himself who informed me that the Diamond Jubilee of Sexton Blake would fall in November of 1953 - which of course would put publication in November 1893.

(Note: The explanation is that Sexton Blake Annual of 1941 and Reginald Cox were both wrong because No. 2 of the 1/2d Union Jack was not the first Blake story at all. The distinction goes to its slightly elder brother the 1/2d Marvel. The story appeared in No. 6 and was called "The Missing Millionaire". This is the story I was thinking about when I spoke to Harry at the Arsenal Stadium. But I was also wrong when I said it appeared in November 1893, for the actual date was December 20th. A sequel "A Christmas Crime" appeared a week later. A third

Blake story appeared in No. 10. The facts concerning this surprising discovery appeared in the Collectors' Digest No. 17, May 1948, and referred to again in No. 83, November 1953. - H.L.).

These lines are being written in far-off Northern Spain and a friend of mine not long ago dropped round to see me one Sunday morning, to find me surrounded with half a dozen 'Union Jacks' and a few 'Sexton Blake Library' numbers that Leonard Packman sent out to keep me in touch with my reading.

Felipe, his Basque surname is Zubizarreta, picked one up in surprise:-

"Oh, ah!" he said, "Sehiton Blarkie."

And I found that twenty to thirty years ago the great man of Baker Street was known to every Spanish schoolboy - and to a few of their sisters!

Another link came when I met Chem - a most lively character who was sent out to fit gyroscopic equipment to the new crack Spanish liner 'Covadonga'.

Over a few glasses of wine it turned out that one of his best friends had been the late Gwyn Evans!

I heard much of Gwyn that would be of no interest to the average reader but he must have been a most lovable chap and a real bohemian to his very fingertips. His life of course was shadowed by tragedy and the series of stories featuring Miss Death was but a reflection of his own case. That his style was perhaps the gayest and most human of all Blake's authors was, according to my friend Chem, typical of the man.

All true Blake fans should drink a glass to his memory every Christmas!

And now, dear friends, I must leave you to pass judgment on the main body of our feature.

As stated last year, error is inevitable but in our case it is pleasant to note that omission is the more frequent crime.

To that end we incorporate the new column of 'CORRIGENDA' for those who like to keep their records complete and up-to-date.

Again my sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard to produce this feature and again a plea for help in detecting any error or omission.

May you all have the Happiest of Christmasses and before the New Year goes into 1955 may the fates have brought me back amongst you all again!

HARRY HOMER,  
Chairman,  
The Sexton Blake Circle,  
Bilbao, Northern Spain,  
October, 1953.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WORK OF GWYN EVANS

in the 'Union Jack' and the 'Sexton Blake Library'

(The list compiled by Rex Dolphin and checked by Leonard Packman)

So many pacons of praise have poured from so many pens about the work of this fine young author whose career was cut short in such tragic circumstances



that I do not intend to elaborate nor gild the lily.

There is room for more work on the subject as I have always thought the Christmas Numbers to have overshadowed much else of worth in his work, especially perhaps the characters of 'Splash' Page and Ruff Hanson as well as several of the more ambitious series.

This is a subject that I shall one day attempt myself.

As the two characters named above appeared in most of Evans' work, in particular, 'Splash' Page, no attempt has been made to indicate the few exceptions.

Also no details of 'Detective Weekly' stories are given according to the stated policy of the Sexton Blake Circle.

(H.H.)

GWYN EVANS --- STORIES IN U.J. AND S.B.L.

Union Jack:

1068	The Mystery of the Mask of Mirth	
1071	The Time Killer	
1101	Black Magic	
1123	Who Is The Man?	
1130	The Case of The Wandering Jew	
1143	The Great Waxworks Mystery	
1153	The Sign of The Saracen	
1167	The Case of The Missing Link	
1173	Guns Is Guns	1st Ruff Hanson
1179	The House on Hathou	
1180	Pedro Takes Charge	
1192	The Secret of Shakespeare's Skull	Hanson
1193	Ruff Hanson Runs Amok	"
1210	Mrs. Bardell's Christmas Eve	
1232	The Case of The Disqualified Derby	
1233	The Problem of The Double Four	King Karl, etc.
1234	Duped By The Double Four	"
1235	The Gallows Mystery	"
1236	The Return of Sexton Blake	"
1237	Eclipse	
1238	The Mystery of The Ivory Beam	King Karl, etc.
1239	The Adventure of The Vanished Shops	"
1260	The Affair of The Black Carol	Hanson
1272	The Coffee Stall Mystery	
1277	The Man Who Walked By Night	Mr. Mist
1278	The Phantom of Scotland Yard	"
1280	The Great Budget Conspiracy	"
1281	The Mystery of The Missing Mace	"
1283	Fraud!	
1293	Poison!	
1301	The Man on The Stairs	
1313	The Crime of The Christmas Tree	Robin Hood League
1323	The Book of Death	Miss Death

Union Jack (cont'd)

1324	The Case of The Hairless Man	Miss Death
1333	The Case of The Bradford Dragon	"
1337	Exposure!	
1341	The Phantom of The Footplate	Miss Death
1345	The Great Pyramid Swindle	
1360	The Men Who Were Dead	Shadow Club
1361	The House of Eyes	"
1365	The Mistletoe-Milk Mystery	Robin Hood League
1366	The Masque of Time	"
1369	The Mystery of The Wailing Wall	Shadow Club
1370	The Six Green Arabs	"
1375	The Melodrama Mystery	
1386	The Broken Sphinx	
1392	Black Brotherhood	
1393	Drums of Hate	
1398	The Grey Panther	
1399	Disgrace!	
1417	The Man Who Hated Christmas	
1467	The Ghost-Mobile	
1481	The League of Onion Men	Onion Men
1483	The Mystery of Bluebeard's Key	"
1489	Fear-Haunted!	" also Tram Series
1493	The Plague of Onion Men	"
1498	The Fifth Key	"
1519	Suspended From Duty	
1521	The Masked Carollers	

S.E.L. 2nd. Series

9	The Affair of The Man Who Never Slept
26	The Barton Manor Mystery
76	The Crook of Fleet Street
96	The Case of The Hold-Up King
115	The Prisoner of Peru
121	The Case of The Poisoned Pen
141	The Mystery of Mitcham Common
149	King of The Underworld
164	The Case of The Jack of Clubs
171	The Case of The Crimson Conjuror
221	The Silent Jury
241	The Mission of Doom
271	The Death Sign
282	The Riddle of The Turkish Baths
289	The Abandoned Car Crime
312	Steelface
313	The Crystal Cell
321	Sinister Castle
352	The Man From Dartmoor
357	The Great Waxworks Crime
370	Doctor Sinister
380	The Fatal Friendship

390	Death In The Jungle	
413	The Black Cap	
568	The Case of The Man Who Never Slept	(Reprint of No. 9)
576	The Curse of The Santyres	" 26)
604	The Crook of Fleet Street	" 76)
623	The Prisoner of Peru	" 115)
635	The Case of The Poisoned Pen	" 121)
723	The Crimson Conjuror	" 171)

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THE WORK OF PIERRE QUIROULE IN THE 'UNION JACK'  
AND THE 'SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY'

(The list compiled by NORTON PRICE and checked by LEN PACKMAN)

All students of Sexton Blake lore will feel greatly obligated to that staunch pair of enthusiasts, Norton Price and Len Packman, for having at last cleared up the maze of doubt and confusion surrounding many of the stories of this most popular author.

The real name of Pierre Quiroule (the French 'pierre qui roule' becomes in English 'the rolling stone') was W.W. Sayers and his great claim to fame is that he was the creator of that fine type of Secret Service man, 'Granite' Grant and his female French counterpart, Mademoiselle Julie, to say nothing of the jovial chief of the Paris Surôte, Monsieur Bertrand Charon.

The success of Grant could not have been expected for the first story had him a married man, a state of affairs which had to be wound up when the vivacious Julie appeared upon the scene.

But after the first few stories little or no effort was made at chronology so we are left with a fascinating collection of mostly very good adventure-cum-detective-cloak-and-dagger stories which take the reader into many far parts of the globe and many dubious corners of out-of-the-way Europe.

What a pity Sayers could not write about the mad European Cauldron today with Grant and Julie playing hopscotch on both sides of the Iron Curtain!

(H.H.)

'S.B.L.' (First Series)

110	The Case of the King's Spy
125	The Case of the Strange Wireless Message
135	The Mystery of the Turkish Agreement
141	The Mystery of the Living Shadow
151	The Mystery Box
163	The Secret of the Frozen North
169	The Secret of the Six Black Dots
193	The Sacred City
204	The Secret of the Red Mountain
221	The Phantom of the Pacific
234	The Secret of the Oblong Chest
243	The Crimson Domino
258	The Riders of the Sands

- 278 The Case of the Cabaret Girl  
 287 The Outlaw of Jugo-Slavia  
 300 The Case of the Five Dummy Books  
 303 The Lost Expedition  
 318 The Secret of the Black Wallet  
 330 The Vanished Million  
 339 The Case of the Kidnapped Legatee  
 352 The Forest Fortune  
 363 The Mystery of the Lost Battleship  
 377 The Secret of Thirty Years

Second Series - 'R' indicates 'Reprint' but a full list follows)

- 5 The Mystery of the Phantom Nugget  
 18 The Adventure of the Albanian Avenger  
 40 The Black Limousine  
 45 The Ethiopian's Secret (R)  
 416 Dead Man's Diary (R)  
 420 The Secret of the Woods  
 423 The Missing Spy  
 426 Riders of the Sands (R)  
 432 The Mystery Box (R)  
 436 The Red Mountain (R)  
 440 The Phantom of the Pacific (R)  
 443 The Sacred City (R)  
 448 The Red Domino (R)  
 451 The Living Shadow (R)  
 455 The Outlaw of Jugo-Slavia (R)  
 458 The Case of the Five Dummy Books (R)  
 462 The Slaver's Secret  
 467 The Vanished Million (R)  
 471 The Forest Fortune (R)  
 475 The Man With the Black Wallet (R)  
 483 The Secret of the Gold Locket (R)  
 491 The Secret of the Armaments King  
 504 The Havana Mystery  
 508 The Soho Cafe Crime (R)  
 512 The Albanian Avenger (R)  
 523 The Lost Expedition (R)  
 532 The Ethiopian's Secret (R)  
 540 The £100,000 Insurance Swindle  
 569 The Mystery of No. 13 Caversham Square  
 589 The Mystery of the Missing Aviator (R)  
 607 The Three Leper's Heads  
 621 The Mystery of No. 7 Bitton Court  
 630 The Hated Eight  
 658 The Riddle of Ugly Face  
 684 The Riddle of the Evil Eye  
 691 The Mystery of the Missing Envoy

FULL LIST OF REPRINT NUMBERSFirst SeriesSecond Series

151	.....	432
163	.....	416
169	.....	589
193	.....	443
204	.....	436
221	.....	440
243	.....	448
258	.....	426
287	.....	455
300	.....	458
303	.....	523
318	.....	475
330	.....	467
339	.....	483
352	.....	471
363	.....	504

Second SeriesSecond Series

5	.....	508
18	.....	512
45	.....	532

It will be noted from the above that there was no effort made to reprint the stories in any form of chronological order nor was the important first yarn ever reprinted. However, there is a precedent for this in the method of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in writing the stories of Sherlock Holmes so we can have no grumbles.

(H.H.)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In order to save the confusion of too much cross reference, always a mixed blessing in my opinion, there has been no mention of the fact that certain of the Second Series 'S.B.L's' were re-writes (some say 'rehashes') of 'Union Jack' stories. A list compiled by Len Packman and checked by myself follows and may serve to clear up complexity in the mind of many collectors. The 'Union Jack' number and title is given first in each case and is followed by the number and title in the Second Series of the Sexton Blake Library.

(H.H.)

915	'Granite' Grant's Mission.	1011	The Vengeance of the Black Eight
684	The Riddle of the Evil Eye.	630	The Hated Eight
951	The Case of the Tatooed Dagger	1059	On the Righthand Wall
691	The Mystery of the Missing Envoy	607	The Three Leper's Heads
	1087		The Mystery of the Random Bullet
	621		The Mystery of No. 7 Bitton Court

A SIDELIGHT ON ANTHONY SKENE

Contributed by

ARCHIE YOUNG

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It is again the pleasure and the privilege of the Sexton Blake Circle to present a glimpse of the private personality of one of our favourite authors.

We are indebted for this to that staunch member, Archie Young, who last year gave us such an insight into the origin and creation of Zenith the Albino when he allowed us to publish some of his personal correspondence with the author.

This year many of the gaps are filled in and I am proud to peruse further letters from Anthony Skene to Archie Young which are dated as far back as 1927 and as recently as 1951.

Many of us will be astonished to learn that it was possible for Skene himself to have a story rejected by the 'Union Jack' in 1933 so many years after the introduction of Zenith the Albino.

Here then you may learn more of life behind the scenes during that great period of the Amalgamated Press before the petticoats took control, and better still, you are able to meet Mr. Skene himself as his personality emerges from his letters and unrolls itself over the years to his admirer who became a friend.

More comment on my part would only be an impertinence, so I will close with a 'Thank you, Archie' and "I am very pleased to meet you, Mr. Skene'.

HARRY HOMER.

Hotel Imperial,  
Lowestoft.

27 April 1927.

Dear Mr. Young,

I fear that I am a disappointment, both to myself and to those who are kind enough to like what I write. For about twelve months the Editor of the U.J. has kept me so busy that I have had no opportunity for other writing. This does not excuse my belated reply to your letter. I am only one of the many who would rather receive letters than write them.

Your estimate of my character is altogether too flattering, you know.

Music? If you have ears to hear, you are no longer shackled to the flesh! Music is the portal of another world - a world of which (alas!) I know very little. Only that I - at times - have forgotten self therein.

That you should like both music and my prose is sufficiently pleasing; but, I implore you, do not ask me for autobiography! I am entirely ordinary except that I have that bug in the think-box which enables its unfortunate host to live more lives than one. I play the 'cello and the fool.

Sincerely yours,

(Anthony Skene.)

"Lakenham"  
Kingsmead Avenue,  
Worcester Park,  
Surrey.

17 February 1931.

Dear Mr. Young,

Many thanks for your letter. I certainly do not deserve all your compliments, but they are naturally encouraging. No, I cannot claim to be Milward Kennedy. I must read one of his yarns to see whether I agree with you that we write similarly. These things are always interesting.

For a long time I have not written under another name.

I agree with your implied criticism that my women characters are wooden. I don't seem to be able to get them to come to life at all.

Glad you like Galsworthy.

I have never written a book. If ever I do you shall certainly be among the earliest to get a copy from the author.

Again many thanks,

Sincerely,

(Anthony Skene.)

"Lakenham"  
Kingsmead Avenue,  
Worcester Park,  
Surrey.

15 May 1933.

Dear Mr. Young,

I was afraid when I started reading your letter that you were going to say that my writing now is inferior to my older efforts. I was rather depressed at the time, and had you said it I might have believed you. Fortunately, however, you said nothing of the kind.

My own opinion is that I write better now than I did ten years ago. I should do; I am always trying to improve the stuff, but I don't expect that you are going to think much of "The Masks", if you read it. Between ourselves it is only a rejected Union Jack story expanded into a novel.

Yours very truly,

(Anthony Skene.)

Tel:  
Tudor 2446.

30, Denison Close,  
Hampstead Garden Suburb,  
London, N.2.

Dear Mr. Young,

I can't tell you how flattered I am by your continued interest.

Your list of my novels is correct, although I am surprised that you discovered the last which was a flop, selling only a few hundred copies.

Some time ago I wrote a novel which cost me more labour than all the others put together, but nobody would publish it. I wonder whether you will be surprised to know that it was indescribably melancholy.

Now, however, I have another on offer which is merely an amplified version of a Detective Weekly yarn - The Man from Nowhere. I had a high opinion of this story, which opinion was endorsed by the editorial people at The Amalgamated Press. Nobody seems to be getting excited about the novel all the same.

I am using the idea which you put up to me a few years ago - in your last letter perhaps - of combining three Detective Weekly yarns dealing with the same characters and offering them as a novel. One such collection is going to Sampson Low within a few weeks. If it is published I can hardly do less than send you a copy.

In the meantime could you spare an evening for a jaw and a pipe of tobacco? You see what the telephone number is and the address. Give me a ring if you feel like it. It would do me a lot of good to meet one who has liked my work so well and so long.

Hoping to see you soon,

Sincerely,

(Anthony Skene.)

Rhasielce,  
Inchinnan,  
Renfrewshire, Scotland.

29th April, 1950.

Dear Mr. Young,

Nothing doing. Can't sell a thing. Have got a government job here in a munition factory and that provides a livelihood bare but assured; otherwise I should have to go on the parish.

For all that, I assure you that I haven't forgotten my duty to my first and only admirer to whom I can never be sufficiently grateful; and when I do write again - as I shall - be sure you shall have the earliest proof that we are again producing.

My only literary earnings of late have been a couple of Dixon Hawke yarns for Thomsons - The Dixon Hawke Library, but I am beginning to disdain crook stuff. Maybe I shall write under another name and something of a different kind. But I shall not fail to get your reaction.

You should know - you of all people - that cars do not last for ever. I have had another Ford since I saw you last and now drive, or rather, am driven, in a Standard 14. Quite satisfactory.

If ever there was a place created for the needs of a writer it is this bungalow, on a hill ten miles from Glasgow and four from a public house, where I now live. But when the munition factory needs me no longer I must come South again when I hope we shall renew our acquaintance.

Until then,

Sincerely yours,

(Anthony Skene.)



GLAMORGAN.

27.10.51.

Dear Young,

I am twenty years older than you and I dare say you thought when you received no reply to your letter dated the 18th.: wonder if the old party has tipped over the perch. Happy to reassure you: I am alive, well, and still working as a surveyor, which is very much easier than - although possibly not so profitable - as working as a writer (syntax!) and here I am in South Wales. I do get about, don't I? The last masterpiece I, haw!, gave to the world, was written in Scotland, for Thomsons, and about Dixon Hawke, who in case you don't know is an anaemic brother of the eternal S.B.

Lewis Jackson has been here to spend a week with me. He is a wonderful chap (I forget whether you met him or not) and takes great pains with his stories. I always envied him his ability to construct a story before he wrote it, instead of not knowing from one para to another what it was all about, as was always the way with me. He and I started writing tec yarns together each having one published in the last issue of PLUCK in, I think, 1916.

Pleased to know that you still think my stories good. I seem to have written nothing that you don't know about. Astonished that you spotted that one in the Evening News. Their Fiction Editor pushed it through on a Bank Holiday hoping that no one would read it: he was afraid that we might have infringed a trade name.

Strange that you should remain for so many years at the same address, with the same employers, and interested in the same fiction.

G.H. Teed was good: when the A.P. ran a competition for a Blake yarn to get new authors he banged one in under a false name and topped the list, although they would not give him the prize.

Don't know whether you travel but if you do and you are ever Cardiff way I should be glad if you would let me know: we might resume the interested discussion which was interrupted in 1933.

I will promise this: I will send you a copy of anything more that I write. There may be nothing.

Well, my dear chap, the best of luck and may we meet again.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Anthony Skene.)

---oOo---

WORK OF CECIL HAYTER IN THE 'UNION JACK'

Many who are fortunate enough to possess copies of the old pink paper are agreed that the stories of adventure in far parts of Africa which so often featured Sir Richard Losely and Lobangu are in the topmost flight of Sexton Blake lore. Their creator, Cecil Hayter, has the Hamiltonian gift of timelessness. Only this summer I read again No. 672 'The Mystery of the Inari Treasure'

and thought how little it had dated with the passing of the years.

It must of course be remembered that as from 'U.J.' No. 1053 these characters passed to the pen of Rex Hardinge and to this day form the very best of his work. They are not included here as this author is to be dealt with in the Feature for the next 'Annual'.

We have traced five very early 'U.J.'s' by Hayter which are not Blake stories but we include them to complete the record. They are:-

- 19 Frank Ferret, Detective
- 38 Running the Gauntlet
- 44 A Tyrant and a Bully
- 45 The Spy
- 84 The Axtec's Treasure

Cecil Hayter's first Blake story introduced the famous pair.

- 171 The Slave Market
- 181 Sexton Blake's Zulu
- 206 Sexton Blake, Whaler
- 244 Through the Enemy's Country
- 302 In Deadly Grip. (Introduces Sir Richard Losely and George Marsden Plummer)
- 404 The Flying Column
- 504 The Long Trail
- 565 The Land of the Golden Beetle
- 592 The Holding of the Kana Pass
- 652 The Place of Fire
- 672 The Mystery of the Inari Treasure
- 681 The Moor House Mystery. (Not a Losely-Lobangu story)
- 696 The Treasure of Sonora
- 752 The Golden Reef
- 766 No. 13 Broughton Square. (Not a Losely-Lobangu story)
- 795 The Moon of the East
- 851 The Forest of Ghosts
- 878 The Island of Death
- 883 The Mystery of La Percousse
- 896 The Mystery of Lidethake Cottage
- 912 The Terms of the Wager
- 920 The Convict's Cypher. (Not a Losely-Lobangu story)
- 926 The Artist of Travenne
- 936 Lobangu's Ju-Ju
- 949 The Flower of the Etbaia
- 953 Missing at Lloyd's.
- 960 The Ghosts of Losely Hall
- 974 A Legacy of Death (Not a Losely-Lobangu story)
- 988 Sexton Blake in South America
- 992 Sexton Blake, Gun-Runner
- 993 The Clue of the White Feather
- 1052 The Devil Woman of the Makali

Although Sir Richard Losely and Lobangu never made a bow in the 'Sexton

Blake Library' some of which featured the detective and his friends. Some of this was original work, some reprints from the 'Union Jack' and some condensations of serials which had appeared in various papers.

The following list does not include non-Blake stories.

Boys' Friend Library - First Series

- 102 Sexton Blake at School
- 105 Sexton Blake in the Sixth
- 107 Sexton Blake at Oxford
- 229 Tinker's Schooldays
- 232 The Four Musketeers. (Conclusion of 'Tinker's Schooldays.')
- 246 Sexton Blake's Zulu
- 433 In the Hands of the Head-Hunters.

The first three of the above list were reprinted under the name of John Andrews as author in the B.F.L. Sexton Series Nos. 388, 392 and 396 with slightly different wording in the titles.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WOMEN IN THE SEXTON BLAKE SAGA

By BEN WHITER

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The facts having been established that over one hundred authors have written stories about Sexton Blake it is natural enough to infer that the number of those who belong to the fair sex and appear therein must be legion. Some of these it is true have only appeared in individual stories thence to vanish never to return, but others created by various authors have appeared to play their parts time and again in the stories of the great Baker Street sleuth.

Not all of them have always been on the side of law and order and indeed quite a few have pitted their wits against society and the great detective, while others have hovered between the straight and the crooked paths. Most who belong in this latter category have been torn between a resentment against the established order of the law and a strong personal feeling for the great detective himself.

Two of the most famous were created by G.H. Teed in the graceful persons of the fair Australian, Yvonne Cartier, and her counterpart from Canada, Roxane Harfield.

Much has already been recorded about these twain so perhaps it were meet to pass on to some of the lesser-known female characters.

Many who pass behind Kingsway and see The Old Curiosity Shop are put in mind of June Severance who once set herself up in a like antique shop with the assistance of one Hong Lo Soo of creditable renown to all lovers of their Teed.

This author it was who linked the destiny of George Marsden Plummer with that of the one-time Cantonese Temple girl, later to become the rage of Paris when she danced as 'The Bird of Paradise', who went by the name of Vali Mata-Vali - glamorous as her name, most beautiful and quite without scruple.

As if in apposition Teed teamed his other great character, Dr. Huxton Rymer, with one who was first introduced as a housemaid in the person of sweet Mary Trent. For contrast to the loyal and placid Mary, Teed provided one of the most vivid characters ever to come up against Blake. This was the Voodoo Queen of the Carribean, neither white nor black nor creole but a devilish mixture of all three - Marie Galante, who once fell deeply in love with Blake, was rebuffed and so threw in her forces with Rymer.

Back to Plummer we find his emotional life still further complicated when Muriel Marl, film star and gang girl, entered his orbit.

Her clash with the Voodoo Queen produced some amazing elocution!

Finally we meet Elsa von Kravitch, although she never appeared in the 'Union Jack', who was the daughter of a Polish nobleman. She was one who bordered on the line between good and evil owing to a promise made to her dying mother.

Coutts Brisbane gave his scientist master of disguise, Dr. Ferraro, no less than two wives. The first was Miss Alfride Carney (S.B.L. 246, First Series) and the second Miss Helen Dal (S.B.L. 176, Second Series).

Another very famous woman in Blake's life was created by Robert Murray in his great Criminals' Confederation series. This was Ysabel de Ferre, the Black Duchess of Jorsica, another who loved the great detective deeply without response from his side.

Lastly comes the namesake of the ballad 'Nirvana', which always brings to the mind of the author of these lines the young lady dancer of that name who wrecked such havoc with young Tinker in a long series of tales. She was as good and sweet as her sister, Marie, was evil and cruel.

So as the doors of memory open they come and linger and pass on - Fiffette Bierce, associate of the Master Mummer, Leon Kestrel; Mademoiselle Julie, the second love of 'Granite' Grant; Miss Death; Broadway Kate; The Girl Camille; the Butterfly, partner of Dirk Dolland when he operated as The Bat; Gloria Deane, Julia Fortune, Eileen Hale, Fifito Madrano, Cora Twyford and many, many more down the years.

In the very beginning, of course, pride of place must be given to Sexton Blake's first landlady, Mrs. Gaffney, later to be superseded by the now renowned Mrs. Bardell, undisputed queen of the Baker Street residence for more than three decades.

Martha Bardell was the creation of William Murray Graydon and I often think he got inspiration from her famous counterpart in Charles Dickens' 'Pickwick Papers'.

In any case she is a most lovable soul and two authors who portray her at her very best are Gwyn Evans and Gilbert Chester. Evans indeed went so far as to bring in her sister, Mary Ann Cluppings, and gave us some fine Christmas stories with the pair of them playing important parts.

Who was the most famous and outstanding of these charmers is a matter of individual taste but one sure thing is that the women who appear in the current 'Sexton Blake Library' stories are mere ships that pass in the night.

There is no effort at characterisation these days and the generation

of authors that gave us such as Yvonne and Roxane has passed on leaving us with our memories . . . .

---oOo---

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF ALLAN BLAIR

Allan Blair featured no characters in his stories who appeared with regularity or in series.

The only exceptions were two minor characters in the form of extra assistants to Blake. Their names were Barry and Weston.

However, Allan Blair featured Pedro, the bloodhound, more consistently in his stories perhaps than any other Sexton Blake author.

Allan Blair had no regular Scotland Yard man to act as collaborator or foil to the great detective.

His real name was William J. Bayfield.

NOTES:

Blair had none of his stories reprinted, although it will be noted that Sexton Blake Library (First Series) No. 123 bears the same title as Second Series No. 360, that is, "The Lincoln's Inn Tragedy". They are however two quite different stories which happen to bear the same title.

General opinion credits S.B.L. (Second Series) No. 78 "Who Killed Carson?" to Allan Blair, but Bill Colcombe, although he includes it in the list, has personal doubts about it. His opinion is that if Blair did write it then, both in style and story content, it is quite different to any of his other work.

In the case of 'Union Jacks' Nos. 1223 "The Puzzle of Blue Ensign" and 1253 "The Norman Duke Mystery", Bill Colcombe states that these two are featured in some lists as being the work of Allan Blair, but he is of the firm opinion that he wrote neither story so they are not included here.

All detail has been checked by Leonard Packman.

The List Compiled by Bill Colcombe and checked by Leonard Packman  
\* \* \* \* \*

<u>No.</u>	<u>'The Union Jack'</u>
654	The Strange Case of Mr. Justice Jannifer
659	The Curious Case of the Missing Boy
660	The Parrowby Will Mystery
664	The House of Secrets
666	Who Killed Simon Phaley?
679	The Case of the Third Partner
687	The Curious Case of the Crown Prince
690	Held in Trust
691	The Mark of the Thumb
702	The Typewritten Clue
713	The Mystery of Dead Tree Hill
732	The Strange Case of the Red Pocket Book

	<u>'The Union Jack' (cont'd)</u>	
735	The Heir of Quarterlands	
759	The Tragedy of the Top Floor Flat	
804	The Sacred Sapphire	

'Sexton Blake Library'  
(First Series)

46	When Conscience Sleeps
50	Whose Was the Hand?
59	A Matter of Millions
66	The Bungalow Tragedy
81	The Fourth Theory
94	The Affair of the Demobilised Soldier
99	The Clue of the Charred Diary
113	The Case of the Bogus Ingots
123	The Lincoln's Inn Tragedy
137	The Twist in the Trail
145	The Marble Arch Mystery
149	The Home of his Childhood
170	The Affair of the Family Diamonds
177	The Case of the Double Tangle
187	The Architect's Secret
201	False Scents
206	The Case of the Deserted Wife
220	The Mystery of the Missing Journalist
247	The Case of the Vanished Husband
270	The Affair of the Seven Mummy Cases
272	The Case of the Wizard Jockey
290	The Last Clue
301	The Doctor's Secret
320	The Case of the Income-Tax Frauds
326	The Case of the Millionaire Blackmailer
328	The Farrowshot Park Affair
336	The Boarding-House Mystery
338	The Brixham Manor Mystery
340	Flat No. 4
350	The Strange Case of Hubberton's Mill
354	The Old Tollgate Tragedy
368	The Secret of the Mansions
381	The Mystery of the Pot-Bank

'Sexton Blake Library'  
(Second Series)

3	The Case of the Deported
15	The Crumlerock Crime
24	The Case of the Press Photographer
31	The Crook's Double
38	The Adventure of the Red-Headed Man
53	The Council of Crooks
58	The Mystery of the Seaside Hotel
69	The Mystery of Hanging-Sword Alley

No.	'Sexton Blake Library' (Second Series)
74	The Death-Duty Swindle
78	Who Killed Carson?
84	The City of Horrors
88	The Trail of the Old Lag
98	The Secret of the Tomb
110	The Oath of Fear
118	All Suspected
136	The Adventure of the Man on Bail
159	The Riddle of the Million Pound Bet
163	The Flying Squad Tragedy
187	The Covent Garden Mystery
193	The Death of Duboyne
199	The Mint Mystery
215	The Masked Forgers
222	The Masked Dancer
243	The Murder of Constable Cartwright
252	The Mystery of the Monument
264	The Law Courts Mystery
268	The Lombard Street Mystery
275	The Kidnapped Witness
284	The Great Tunnel Mystery
290	Exhumed!
307	The Fatal Wager
318	The Town Hall Crime
330	The Waiting Room Mystery
346	The Police Boat Mystery
360	The Lincoln's Inn Tragedy
372	The Arterial Road Mystery
382	The Man from Dublin
399	The Great Turf Fraud
408	The Lord Mayor's Show Mystery
424	The Blazing Garage Crime
444	The Crime at the Seaside Hotel
472	The Mystery of Beecher's Brook
480	The Case of the Crook Councillor
482	The Bathing Pool Mystery
499	The Case of the Murdered Taxi-Driver
507	The Secret Inquest
516	The Crime on the Quay
527	The Old Bailey Mystery
538	The Man with the Glaring Eyes
571	The Riddle of Five Needle Creek
599	The Case of the Blackmailed Banker
624	Crooks' Convoy
639	The Mystery of the Missing Constable
655	The Case of the Kidnapped Prisoner
679	The Case of the Stolen Police Dossier
715	The Case of the Dictator's Double

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF JOHN G. BRANDON

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Notes and Comment

John G. Brandon introduced the character of Ronald Sturges Vereker Purvale, so well known to us all as R.S.V.P., into all his stories of Sexton Blake except No. 734, 'The Riddle of Dead Man's Bay' - see note below.

His personal manservant, 'Flash' George Wibley, the reformed crook, first appeared in No. 411, 'The Tragedy of the West End Actress' and in all subsequent stories except Nos. 720 and 734.

Big Bill Withers, the taximan, also first appeared in No. 411 and in most of the other stories after this number, noted exceptions being Nos. 595, 657, 705, 720 and 734.

Other characters to make intermittent appearances in the stories were Lord Chanways, Lt-Commander Ginger Blair, R.N., who were friends of R.S.V.P., as well as his father, the Viscount Ebdale and his grandmother, the Dowager Duchess of Foulkside.

Detective-Inspector Coutts is also featured in the majority of the stories.

No. 734

This story, 'The Riddle of Dead Man's Bay', although appearing under the name of John G. Brandon, is actually a reprint of an earlier Sexton Blake Library story, No. 358, Second Series by Mark Osborne entitled 'Dead Man's Bay'. The names of the characters have been changed but otherwise it is the same story word for word.

General

Many of Brandon's Sexton Blake stories have appeared in bound volumes published by Wright and Brown. The names of characters have been changed in some instances but the stories are substantially the same.

John G. Brandon died in 1940.

The List Compiled by Bill Colcombe and checked by Norton Price  
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No.

Sexton Blake Library  
 (Second Series)

365	The Survivor's Secret
397	The Taxi Cab Murder
411	The Tragedy of the West End Actress
417	The Mystery of Three Cities
421	The Chink's Victim
425	The Glass Dagger
433	Murder on the Stage
437	The Championship Crime
445	Under Police Protection



Sexton Blake Library  
(Second Series)

<u>No.</u>	
453	On the Midnight Beat
461	The Case of the Gangster's Moll
469	The Downing Street Discovery
477	The Yellow Mask
486	Murder in 'Y' Division
493	The Red Boomerang
498	By Order of the Tong
505	The Case of the Murdered Commissionaire
509	The Case of the Night Club Queen
517	Dead Man's Evidence
521	Murder on the Fourth Floor
529	The Mystery of the Murdered Blonde
535	The Girl Who Knew Too Much
551	The Victim of the Thieves' Den
556	The Mystery of the Three Acrobats
558	The Mystery of X 20
565	The Mystery of the Murdered Sentry
572	The Crime in the Kiosk
575	The Bond Street Raiders
579	The Tattooed Triangle
583	The Man From Italy
591	The Diamonds of Ti Ling
595	The Melbourne Mystery
603	The Victim of the Secret Service
606	The Spy from Spain
616	The False Alibi
619	The Mystery of the Street Musician
622	The Pigeon-Loft Crime
632	The Road-House Mystery
636	The Mystery of the Murdered Ice-Cream Man
643	Murder on the High Seas
647	The Mystery of Dead Man's Wallet
652	The Clue of the Tattooed Man
657	The Mystery of the Green Bottle
664	Fatal Forgery
670	The Man from Singapore
677	Murder on the Ice Rink
682	In the Hands of Spies
689	The Man With the 'Jitters'
696	The Gunboat Mystery
699	The Great Taxi-Cab Ramp
705	The Terror of the Pacific
709	The Black Swastika
720	Crooks' Cargo
724	The Riddle of the Greek Financier
727	On Ticket of Leave
734	The Riddle of Dead Man's Bay
739	Under Secret Orders
'Detective Weekly' - No. 56. The Man with the Rubber Face	
65. The Affair of the Secret Treaty	

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF COUTTS BRISBANE

(The List by Bill Colcombe, checked by Rex Dolphin and amended by Len Packman)

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The real name of Coutts Brisbane was R. Coutts Armour, but he also wrote quite a few Sexton Blake stories under the name of Reid Whitley as will be seen from the following list.

He created and was the sole user of the character, Dr. Ferraro.

As Coutts Brisbane, he also wrote three stories featuring the Indian criminal, Gunga Dass. They were Sexton Blake Library (Second Series) Nos. 534, 550 and 587.

Brisbane featured only one Scotland Yard man in his work, Inspector Harker.

A. Sexton Blake Library 1st. Series

173	The Episode of The Stolen Voice	Dr. Ferraro.	1st appearance
185	The Man Who Forgot	"	(in S.B. stories)
188	The Leopard Man		
202	Terror Island		
205	Through Fire and Water		
213	The Studio Mystery		
223	The Baboon's Claw		
231	The Mystery of The Sunken Road.	Dr. Ferraro.	
239	The Great Diamond Flood	"	
246	The Werewold of Elphinstone	"	
256	By the Skin of His Teeth		
260	The Lighthouse Mystery	Dr. Ferraro.	
264	The White Refugees	"	
275	The Case of The Island Princess.	"	
280	The Sun God		
292	In Savage Hayti		
298	The Secret of The Lagoon		
309	The Desert Trail		
314	The Case of the Mysterious Germs		
322	The Case of The Millionaire Newspaper Owner		
327	The Case of The Eccentric Will	Dr. Ferraro.	
334	The Platinum Smugglers.		
346	Certified Insane		
348	The Adventure of The Oil Pirates		
373	The Clue of The Cloak-Room Ticket	Dr. Ferraro.	

B. Sexton Blake Library 2nd Series

7	The Adventure of The Egyptian Student	
32	The Treasure of The Manchus	
56	The Mystery of Bullen Point	Dr. Ferraro.
60	The Secret of Torre Island	
64	The Adventure of The Silk Smugglers	

B. Sexton Blake Library 2nd Series (cont'd)

68	The Affair of The Trade Rivals	Dr. Ferraro.
72	The Riddle of The Lost Emigrant	
80	Dead Man's Shoes	
92	Pirates of The Airway	
99	The Movir Mystery	
109	The Prisoner of Buddha	
127	The Mystery of The Isle of Fortune	Dr. Ferraro.
156	The Affair of The Crook Explorer	"
166	The Mystery of The Masked Surgeon	"
170	The Trail of Doom	
176	The Affair of The Atlantic Mail Robbery	Dr. Ferraro.
177	The Secret of The Cask	
197	The Riddle of Dead Man's Pit	Dr. Ferraro.
203	The Riddle of The Great Art Exhibition	
219	The Bootlegger's Victim	
231	The Warehouse Murder	
232	The Masked Raiders	
245	The Trapper's Victim	Dr. Ferraro.
263	The Gang's Deserter	
279	The Secret of The Sanatorium	Dr. Ferraro.
287	The Death House	
299	The Murder of Munsden	
328	Murder in The Air	
340	The Fatal Talisman	
358	The Trail of the Tiger	
364	The Trafalgar Square Mystery	
371	The Mystery of The Tramp Steamer	
387	Dead Man's Peak	
400	The Secret of The Loch	
412	Dr. Ferraro's Frame-Up	Dr. Ferraro.
450	The Secret Temple	"
478	The Nursing Home Crime	"
502	The Secret of The Glen	
511	Blind Man's Secret	Dr. Ferraro.
526	The Secret of The Balkan Heiress	
534	The Crime of Gunga Dass	Gunga Dass.
542	The Case of The Three Absconding Swindlers	
550	The Trail of The White Turban	Gunga Dass.
587	The Masked Man of The Desert	"
610	The Mystery of The Missing Doctor	Dr. Ferraro.
678	The Riddle of The Negro's Head.	
719	The Mystery of The Red Tower	

C. Union Jack

1184	The House of a Thousand Teeth	
1242	The Mystery of The Dyed Rats	
1290	Hands Up, London!	Dr. Ferraro.

C. Union Jack (cont'd)

1308	Sexton Blake ---- Lord Mayor		
1332	The Mystery of The Four Buffalo Bills	Dr. Ferraro.	
1336	One Hundred Years After		
1352	The Gas Ring Mystery	Ah Wo.	R.W. *
1367	The Judgment Men	"	"
1386	Burning Wire	"	"
1424	Ambush!	"	"
1427	The Mole	"	"
1462	The White Black	"	"
1520	The Hunted Man	"	"

R.W. \* These under name of Reid Whitley.

---oOo---

THE CORRIGENDA COLUMN

It were best for readers to ignore the title of this column as it has little to do with the contents this year.

The fact is that since the idea came to me just under a year ago I have kept with care all letters sent to me, either to Yulden Farm, Heathfield, or to the Pension Cuevas, Bilbao, dealing with error or omission in the Sexton Blake Circle feature. So carefully that I have left them behind in my den at Yulden Farm!

All I can do is to apologise and ask those who wrote to rack their brains and if they remember error in the last feature or detect any in this one to write again to me at the Pension Cuevas, Gran Via 39, Bilbao, Spain, and I will start typing the column for next year's 'Annual' right away.

One thing I can remember for some odd reason was that 'Sexton Blake Library' (Second Series) No. 418 should read 415.

The idea was really born one cold wet day early in January of this year, when I was happy to receive an air letter from Ronald Rouse in homely Norfolk.

It was that awful time when the New Year limps and all that is left of the Festive Season is a mess of hangover and bills and it seems that one will never get in step with work again. Even the cheerful Bilbao Basques were hard put to raise a laugh. So it was like a draught of cool champagne when my good friend, Ronald, sent such an interesting letter. Perhaps it would be better to quote him direct:-

"With regard to Author's Lists in the Blake Circle feature and particularly S.B.L's. Nos. 208, 227, 228 and 293, it seems quite likely to me that they were all written by Mark Osborne as they all contain Plummer stories, but with regard to issues such as 228 ('The Hooded Riders'), which comes in between them, I was wondering if it, or more of them, was not by G.H. Teed. He is credited with all the Huxton Rymer stories such as 'The Ivory Screen' and 'The Spirit Smugglers', which come about that period. Why not then at least one such as 'The Hooded Riders'? Of course it is

taken for granted that all the early Plummer stories were by Osborne with Teed taking over later, but is there any proof of this contention."

Now here is the very meat of discussion.

Personally I would not dream of argument with such experts as Bill Colcombe or Rex Dolphin, but I have always had a pet theory about this period - both in the 'Union Jack' and the 'Sexton Blake Library' - the trouble is I can prove nothing as the Libraries are no nearer my collection than on my Wants List! But I have often wondered why Osborne, if he had been connected with the big comeback of Plummer into Blake literature after such a long absence, dropped out so soon afterwards. Now if Teed had been handling both characters but trying at first to imitate Osborne's style in the Plummer yarns, we might have something ...

Certainly as Teed developed Plummer the character lost a lot and became not much more than a vicious type of Rymer - gone were the green eyes when he was angry, gone the references to Scotland Yard and noble birth, gone the green Larranaga cigars and the hatred until death of Sexton Blake and 'the brat, Tinker'. Anyway Ronald Rouse has given us a talking point so stoke up the fire, light the cigars, pour out the wine and put on your thinking caps, chaps!

As to the future of this column, I hope that most of the errors in it will be of omission only, but numbers are apt to get confused at times as lists pass from hand to hand and are penned or typed anew.

Again I say that contributions to it will be welcome from all, but I am sure that everybody is with me in the hope that they will not be plentiful!

Cheerio then for another year!

HARRY HOMER,

Yulden Farm,	Pensión Cuevas,
Heathfield,	Gran Via 39,
Sussex,	Bilbao, Spain.
England.	

\* \* \* \* \*

STOP PRESS

(For the Corrigenda Column)

That great fellow, Ronald Rouse, to whom I should have paid tribute last year for his work on the Plummer, Kestrel, Waldo and Zenith lists, has sent a few additions along for those who like to keep their lists right up-to-date.

He rates the S.B.L. (First Series) No. 307 'The Crimson Belt' (and of course its reprint) as an Yvonne story.

He points out that 'Murder in Manchuria' should be listed as 415 not 418.

He also lines himself up with those who would credit G.H. Teed with First Series Nos. 227, 228 and 293 - especially the first two mentioned.

Although he does not think they were written by E.S. Brooks he quotes two more Sexton Blake Libraries which featured Nelson Lee, to wit;



By J. R. MURTAGH, NEW ZEALAND

*St. Frank's Stories*  
*in the*

**3<sup>d</sup> NUGGET LIBRARY**

FOR some considerable time I have had in mind the idea of writing more about the St. Frank's stories in the 3d Nugget Library, as I feel sure that very few readers have read these - they are so scarce. I am fortunate enough to have the full set and I have recently re-read these St. Frank's yarns to refresh my memory, before writing this article.

I gave details in the August 1951 C.D. of this 3d Nugget Library as a whole, and in this article I intend to deal more fully with the St. Frank's stories, but just briefly to refresh your memory the 3d Nugget Library ran from May 1919 till March 1922; two copies appeared on the 15th of each month and a total of 70 issues appeared. It was then amalgamated with the Boys' Friend 4d Library. It is not to be confused with the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Nugget Weekly which ran 34 issues from 1st July, 1920 to 5th March, 1921. I feel sure that all these stories are by E.S. Brooks and he himself told me in a letter that he wrote ALL the St. Frank's stories that appeared in various papers.

Anyway there were 13 St. Frank's stories in the 3d Nugget Library and I'll deal with each in turn. Nine of these stories are reprints from the Boys' Realm, I find on going through the Boys' Realm titles in C.D. 42 - 46. One, No. 35, is a reprint from a serial which ran in the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Nugget Weekly. Nos. 43, 59 and 61 I am unable to trace as reprints; possibly they are also from the Boys' Realm, but I have no copies of this paper so cannot say with any certainty, however, I am giving a brief outline of each story so other readers may be able to send along some information that will help.

No. 35, THE HONOUR OF ST. FRANK'S:

Reprinted from a serial in the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Nugget Weekly.

This yarn featured Edgar Fenton of the Sixth, popular Captain of the school and skipper of the first eleven. Fenton had a mysterious bag and was obviously worried about it, so much so that he lost a cricket match for St. Frank's; later Handforth accidentally found out that it contained £25,000 worth of jewellery. This fact, added to the fact that two doubtful characters turned up at the school to see Fenton and that there had been a big jewel robbery in the district, made things look black for Fenton. One of the doubtful characters was found stabbed in his hotel room and Fenton was blamed and arrested. Nelson Lee stepped in at the finish and Fenton explained that his worries were over trying to protect a senior, who was in the hands of a moneylender. Fenton's bag

contained evidence of this and got mixed on the train with the jewel robbers bag and Fenton landed back at the school with the proceeds of a jewel robbery. Hence the visit of the two doubtful characters, who later had a row and one stabbed the other and Fenton who was trailing them to see what they were up to got the blame.

No. 42, THE NEW BOY'S SECRET:

Reprint from Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, Boys' Realm.

Deals with the arrival of Augustus Hart, whose real name is Augustus Hart-Hyde. However, he dropped the name Hyde as he had been expelled from his previous school, Hazelhurst College, for being a thief, gambler and all round rotter. He came to St. Frank's determined to start afresh, which he finds very hard when Fullwood and Co. found out his dirty past, however, he wins through in the end after being blamed for all kinds of caddish tricks and is voted a true blue by all the Remove.

No. 43, THE MASTER OF THE REMOVE:

Unable to trace this as a reprint.

This yarn starts off with Christine planning to imitate Mr. Crowell's voice and jape the Ancient House chaps. Handforth gets wind of the plot and in the dark Triangle bowls over the real Mr. Crowell and ties him up and covers him with soot, thinking it's Christine. Handforth and Co. get off with a flogging and Mr. Crowell gets a month's leave. A new temporary master, Mr. Woodhouse arrives. A young fellow only about 25, he is just like one of the boys in his speech and manners. Handforth tries to punch his nose on the train, before he arrives at St. Frank's, but Mr. Woodhouse pushed him under the seat and there he stayed till they arrived at Bolton. Catching Fullwood and Co. smoking, he joins them and gives them all a cigar with the condition that if they don't smoke them right through a detention for the next two half-holidays. They ended up a very sick company. In revenge they set a booby trap in the new master's study, but the Head collected it instead.

Nipper and Co. arrange a concert at St. Frank's, admission one shilling, the proceeds to help a needy gypsy woman who's husband was in hospital. Mr. Woodhouse turns up disguised as a tramp and proves to be the star turn of the show. Later he plays in the Remove Eleven against Fenton's 1st Eleven and the juniors win, thanks to Mr. Woodhouse and much to the consternation of the Sixth. There is also quite a mystery about the form master, who is heard by Teddy Long at the keyhole plotting a murder. It turns out in the end that he is only rehearsing a play and is actually a comedian and actor, who earlier had also been a schoolmaster.

No. 49, THE AMAZING SCHOOLBOY:

Reprints of Nos. 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, Boys' Realm.

This Amazing Schoolboy happens to be Timothy Tucker and the first part of the story deals with his arrival at St. Frank's. He gets mixed up in all kinds of amusing incidents, gets confused with an escaped lunatic, wins a boat race against Handforth. Jimmy Little raids his hamper and finds that the good things that T.T. said were in it, turn out to be dry old books. This issue seems to comprise of several short stories joined together. The second one deals with how Nelson Lee and Nipper and Co. solve the mystery of a £1,000 missing from the Bannington Slate Club. The secretary, Mr. Augustus Montague Brown, was quite



upset about it. Don't tell anybody - it was this secretary "wot done it".

The next story deals with the "Wedding of Handforth". A notice in the Bannington paper, under the heading of "Marriages" attracts Nipper & Co's attention, as the bridegroom's name is Edward Handforth; no relation of Handforth's, of course, but there's lots of fun when they hide confetti in Handy's clothes and study and show everybody the paper. Handy gets a very rough time.

The next story is about Handy taking lessons in ventriloquism with disastrous results to himself, especially when he imitates the Head's voice (so he thinks) and tells Mr. Crowell to give him and his chums the afternoon off. A very amusing episode.

No. 51, THE OUTSIDERS:

Reprinted from Nos. 51 to 64, Boys' Realm.

Boys from Rottingham School, which was burnt down, come to St. Frank's for a short while led by a wealthy young tyrant Langley Mostyn and their form master Mr. Potts, who also is apparently bribed by Langley Mostyn.

Langley Mostyn digs up the turf on the cricket pitch and plays all sorts of caddish tricks, with the support of Mr. Potts, and the Remove is in trouble all the time. However, all ends well when Mr. Potts is sacked and Langley Mostyn is expelled.

No. 53, EXPELLED FROM ST. FRANK'S:

Reprints of Nos. 63 to 67, Boys' Realm.

Tommy Watson finds himself in the clutches of a rascally cousin and sells all he has to raise money to help him and keep the family name clean. He is accused of stealing £5 from Fullwood's study, of attacking the school porter when breaking bounds and stealing the Head's silver. He is expelled, but escapes from the punishment room and runs away. After various incidents he clears his name and finds his cousin isn't his cousin at all, but a man who once worked for his cousin, so all ended well. A short detective story appears in the end of this number called "Nelson Lee's Good Turn".

No. 55, THE PET OF ST. FRANK'S:

Reprints of 81 to 84, Boys' Realm.

Handforth buys a monkey off an organ grinder and this monkey justs about wrecks the school; breaks windows, wrecks studies and creates havoc. Everyone is blamed except the monkey and in the end Handy is glad to sell it back to the man he bought it from.

A second story about St. Frank's appears in this issue in the last 14 pages called "The Boy from India". It's about a new boy called Assam Singh, who shortly after his arrival disappears with the school silver. However, it turns out he followed the real thieves and also that he was not an Indian at all, but disguised because he wished to make a fresh start.

No. 59, THE SCAPE-GRACE OF ST. FRANK'S:

Unable to trace this as being a reprint.

Gulliver is the scape-grace in this story, which is about a feud Gulliver had with one of the Governors of St. Frank's, a Mr. Etherinton. Some

French schoolboys on a visit to St. Frank's are in the story and Gulliver makes the Governor look a fool by shooting peas at him when he is making a welcoming speech to these boys at the station. Later, he squirts red ink all over him at night and Nipper gets the blame. Fullwood and Co. jape the French boys by telling them its customary for visitors to take the Head a large cabbage, which they do. However, they get their revenge in several ways and Fullwood and Co. make a final fade out covered with whitewash.

No. 57, REBELS OF ST. FRANK'S:

Reprints of Boys' Realm 68-80.

A new, temporary Headmaster arrives named Wiggins; he hates all forms of sport, closes the gym, has the football goal posts chopped down and burned with all the other football gear. Things get so bad that the Remove hold a barring out in the Porter's Lodge and defy all attempts to dislodge them until Dr. Stafford returns, when everything is straightened out.

No. 61, THE OUTCAST OF ST. FRANK'S:

A new boy, who is a cad and a rank outsider, arrives at St. Frank's determined to carry out by fair means or foul fivethings.

1. Play in form team and perform in a creditable manner.
2. Prove himself a capable boxer.
3. Prove himself a capable runner.
4. Prove he has pluck.
5. Receive the praise of the Head for something.

He proceeds to do all these things by foul means for he was to get a cheque for £100 from his guardian, if he succeeded. He came very near success, but his evil deeds caught up with him in the finish.

No. 63, THE MYSTERY OF ST. FRANK'S:

Reprints of 91-96, Boys' Realm.

The first part of this yarn deals with a Xmas visit to Merton Manor, owned by Watson's uncle, where a page boy Joe Redway, who held a treasure map left to him by his father, is rescued by St. Frank's boys when attacked by a mysterious stranger. He gives the St. Frank's boys 4 pieces of the map to mind and when back at St. Frank's they are one by one captured and locked up beneath the vaults by the stranger who was once an old boy of St. Frank's and was expelled. All ends well and the stranger is exposed; the treasure is dug up by the Old Mill on Bannington Moor. This story brings to light, the fact that a secret passage runs from the punishment room in the Ancient house to a room below the vaults.

No. 67, THE ST. FRANK'S PROFESSIONAL:

Reprinted from Boys' Realms 99-103.

The St. Frank's Professional is Nipper. To protect Tommy Watson from scandal he is blackmailed into playing professional matches. His schoolfellows are very annoyed when they find out, as Nipper is leaving the St. Frank's team in the lurch. After many exciting episodes everything is cleared up and Gerald Welbourne, who is really to blame for a robbery which Watson is accused of, is sent to jail for 6 months. Wonder if he is a relative of Hon. Aubrey De Vere Wellbourne of Riverhouse School.

A short detective story of Nelson Lee "A Scoop in Diamonds" appears in last pages.

No. 69, NIPPER'S CIRCUS CHUM:

Reprint of Boys' Realms 105-109.

Nipper befriends a circus boy, Jack Henley, who had lost his memory and was ill-treated by the brutal owner of the circus. Fullwood and Co. do all they can to make things worse and in one part of the story are chased and treed by an escaped tiger in Belton Wood. There are some quite exciting episodes and finally all ends well when it is found that Jack has been kidnapped by a rascally relative and placed in the circus so that the relative will inherit some money.

A short story in the back entitled "Nipper's Capture" deals with a man after the plans of an invention that Mr. Crowell's brother has sent him to look over. Nipper captures him after he had knocked out Mr. Crowell and all ends well. This is the final story in the Nugget Library about St. Frank's.

I am sure that all St. Frank's fans will agree with me, that these grand stories have a definite place in the saga of St. Frank's, forming as they do part of the history of St. Frank's, for amongst other things two new boys, who became well known, arrived in the 3d Nugget Library stories, namely Hart and T. Tucker.

Thirteen grand stories about a grand school, and although these wonderful boys periodicals which ran these and other St. Frank's stories have long ago ceased publication, St. Frank's still lives on in our hearts with its many thrills and happy memories.

HINTONISMS (cont'd from page 68)

too proud to fight." (This was written, as is obvious, in the early years of the 1914-18 war.)

A GRAVE WRONG RIGHTED:

"In the issue of the Gem entitled "Great Sports Tournament" I had occasion to mention several cads who had sneered at this journal. I made the mistake of including the name of Albert Smith of Wolverhampton, who is one of our most loyal readers. My chum's good name may have suffered in consequence, and I feel it is up to me as one who always urges his readers to 'play the game' to make a public statement exonerating Master Smith from all blame in connection with the affair."

"NOT SATISFIED" (Drumguth):

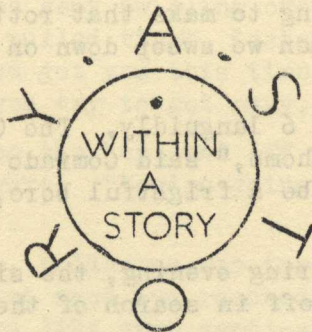
"If you dislike the Companion Papers, you know your remedy. Leave them alone."

VIOLET D. (Johannesburg) - "You are the first girl reader who has ever seen fit to abuse the 'Gem'. No. I refuse to publish your epistle."

WAYWARD YOUTH APOLOGIZES: Master H.J. Child of Islington writes to apologize for his abusive letter. He says "I am now determined to be decent." Mr. Hinton said "I sincerely hope that Master Child will keep his word, and never again resort to a practice which can only be classed as dishonourable."

The type of thing mentioned above went on for a number of years. Why, if so many letters of abuse were really received - anonymous (cont'd page 121)

By  
JACK WOOD



By  
JACK WOOD

CHRISTMAS is the time for a jolly story and a little brain teaser over the mellowing nuts and wine. Here is a combination of both, which older Nelson Lee readers may recognise as a competitive story, now slightly abridged, from the St. Frank's Magazine. Originally prizes were offered for guessing the names behind the numbers, but now I offer it merely as a mental exercise for a leisure moment. So read on .....

THE COMRADES OF THE CRIMSON CROSS!

By RICHARD HAMILTON

\*\*\*

The Comrades of the Crimson Cross were in full meeting. The Council Chamber was packed, all the members of the Order being indistinguishable from one another. They wore black hoods, through which nothing could be seen but their eyes. The Chief was speaking, his voice being quietly impressive, and the other 23 listened to him earnestly.

"Comrades, the time has come for us to get down to the actual work of the League", said the Chief. "As you all know, I am Comrade 1, and you've all got to remember that no names are to be mentioned. If you have occasion to speak to one another, use your numbers, and nothing else".

"All right, 'fathead'". said comrade 2. "Don't chew the rag like this - get on with the business. As a matter of fact, I ought to have been Chief. I never knew such a fellow for jawing".

"Buck up with the scheme" said Comrade 3, "and let's be off. I'm absolutely starving. You can't expect me to go out on an expedition unless I have a good feed first".

"There will be no time for feeding. We have banded ourselves together for the purpose of putting down all forms of petty violence and brutality. For this evening I propose that we deal with Lumpy Bill, of Bellton, and in order to save all argument I shall take with me those five of you whose numbers immediately follow my own. You are all agreeable to this?", asked the Chief.

"Of course we are" said Comrade 2.

"It would be better if we had a feed first," said Comrade 3.

"Souse me, we've got no time for eating", said Comrade 4. "We've got to do as the skipper says, and set sail for Lumpy Bills's craft."

"I kinder think we're going to make that rotter sorry for himself. By jinks, he'll be a bit surprised when we sweep down on him and put him through the mill" said Comrade 5.

"Absolutely" said Comrade 6 languidly. The Chief outlined exactly what they had to do. "A dashed good scheme," said Comrade 6 approvingly. "Of course, between you and me, it's going to be a frightful bore, dear old lads, but all in the interests of justice, what?"

In the gloom of the gathering evening, the six hooded members of the Comrades of the Crimson Cross set off in search of their first victim.

Six others broke through a gap in the hedge and went off across the meadows. They were all keen on executing the task with which the Chief had entrusted them. "It's about time Farmer Holt got his deserts," said Comrade 7, with a shake of his dark head. "He should bully people just as he likes, we're going to pull him up with a jerk, the old lozer".

Comrade 8 nodded. "Well, of course, my dear sir, that is a matter of opinion. When I joined this society, I was quite unaware of its violent nature. I am quite opposed to all warfare, deeming such methods to be brutal and barbaric. Yes, quite so. My idea is to read Farmer Holt one of my lectures on the Domestic Policy of the Ancient Aztecs.."

"I'm blessed if I know why we brought you" put in Comrade 9. "Still, it's too late to send you back now, my son, but if you're not prepared to do your whack, there'll be trouble from the Chief".

"My dear sir," began Comrade 8. "Oh, dry up," interrupted Comrade 10. "We don't want to hear your piffle now, old man. We have quite enough of it in the study".

Wise words, O speaker of sooth. Even as thou sayest, Comrade 8 is quite enough trouble in the study, without starting his frightful lectures out here," said Comrade 9.

"Dear, dear, dear", began Comrade 8 again. "Begad, can't you keep that chap quiet," asked Comrade 11, in a tone of mild annoyance. "He's nothing more nor less than a nuisance, he is, really. We are out on a serious expedition".

"Hear, hear" said Comrade 12. "And that cuts both ways, because we're here". "You are getting smart in your old age, Comrade 12" said Comrade 9. "It isn't usual for you to make puns or jokes of any sort. But when it comes to action, you're the fellow for work."

"Don't be an ass" said Comrade 12 bluntly.

After Farmer Holt had been thrown into his own muddy pond, the expedition returned to St. Frank's, where they heard of the success of those who had gone to deal with the village bully. But what of the other two avenging expeditions?

The first of the other two parties had marked down the Hon. Aubrey de Vere Wellborne, leader of the River House "Honourables" -- a small clique of young rascals than whom a more caddish collection of snobs could scarcely be named. Wellborne was an unmitigated rotter, and a contemptible bully, but

retribution was at hand, nearer than he supposed.

As he walked through Bellton Wood, two mysterious figures materialised out of the gloom. A rope was sent swirling over his head, it looped over his shoulders, and was suddenly pulled tight, fastening his arms to his side. "By gum," said Comrade 13, "We've got you this time, you cad. You're our prisoner, tha knows, and, by gum, if you try to get away, you'll be gagged and bound."

"We've caught you on the hop, and off we're going to pop," said Comrade 14, who was quite a tall figure. "You're going to stand your trial - for all your misdeeds vile".

Between his captors, Wellborne was forced along the footpath, then across a meadow, until a quiet spot was reached. Here there were four other figures, and they stood there like grim sentinels. Wellborne was held firm as he faced the mysterious figures.

"Hot dog", said Comrade 16. "Say, that was sure nifty work, boys. This is sure where you watch your step, you mutt".

"This is where you answer for your sins," remarked Comrade 15. "We shall probably spoil your beautiful suit - but that's just as well, because I don't believe in this dandified dressing. I go in for comfort, and never care how I look."

"Goodness knows, you're not particular about your appearance, said Comrade 17, with a cackle. "Don't blame me for this, Wellborne, I'm not really against you, you know, I was dragged into it."

"Dry up, you little worm," said Comrade 18. "Let's get on with the business. Now, Wellborne, it's up to you to choose. Crikey, we ain't half going to put you through it." "Don't get excited, Comrade 18", interrupted Comrade 15, "you're still a bit liable to drop into your Cockney talk."

Then Wellborne was ordered to choose one of the masked figures and fight him. Comrade 17 yelped as his finger pointed at him, but the fight, such as it was, went on, Wellborne having quite an easy task and knocking out his opponent after a few exchanges.

The expedition was not regarded as a success, and the Comrades faded into the gloom.

Meanwhile, the fourth party had been dealing with Kenmore, the bully of the Sixth. He stepped into the trap beautifully. As he walked out of the gymnasium into the gloom of the Triangle, he tripped headlong over a stout piece of cord, which was stretched about a foot from the ground. As he sprawled at full length, six figures swooped upon him, lifted him bodily and carried him into the shrubbery.

"Got him," said Comrade 19, with a savage note in his voice. "By gad, I've got one or two scores to pay off with this beast."

"I dare say," murmured Comrade 20, "but strictly, you ought to have been one of the victims, and not in the League at all."

"Oh, dry up," said Comrade 21, "you're not bad in a scrap, but you're too unreliable. When it comes to something serious, you're too easily swayed by popular sentiment." "Well, I'm not a chap to chuck my money about like you are," retorted Comrade 20 tartly. "I wish I had a quarter as much as you squander in a

week."

"Dry up, you squabbling asses. There's no need for us to stand talking here," said Comrade 22 briskly. "We want to seize this opportunity to make more capital out of our coup. There's nothing like pushing a thing on when its going, the value of publicity is always underestimated by the crowd. With an opportunity like this, we ought to make the whole school ring with our success."

"Well, let's be going," said Comrade 21, "we've got to go and make our report." "I think Kenmore will make a report, too, when that gag's removed," chuckled Comrade 23. "Rather a pity, though, we didn't make the rotter fight."

"Six against one doesn't seem quite fair," objected Comrade 21. "Of course, you might have taken him on single-handed ---" "I should think he could", said Comrade 22 with feeling. "I'm considered to be a tough beggar at fighting, but I wouldn't challenge Comrade 23, the best boxer at St. Frank's."

As the party returned to their Houses, Comrade 24 removed his cowl and put his head in at the Ancient House prefects' room. "Quick", he gasped, "Kenmore's out here in the shrubbery, tied up with a placard on him. Something's happened."

He rejoined his companions, and as they entered the Council Chamber, they met the other Comrades of the Crimson Cross. As Comrade 24 spoke again, Comrades 15 and 16 recognised his voice and went over and patted him on the back with the familiarity of close friendship.

"Good gracious, what does this mean?" interrupted a voice. Mr. Crowell stood in the doorway which Comrade 24 had neglected to close properly, no doubt because his memory was not as good as it had been at one time. "Remove those absurd cowls at once, I have never seen such a piece of preposterous nonsense in all my life," said Mr. Crowell, and so the secret League was dead -- not that it mattered, its purpose was achieved.

\* \* \* \* \*

24. Cecil De Valerio	18. Alf Brent
23. Ernest Lawrence	17. Teddy Long
22. John Buserfield Boots	16. U.S. Adams
21. The Hon. Douglas Singleton	15. Duke of Somerton
20. Timothy Armstrong	14. Clarence Fallowe
19. Ralph Leslie Fullwood	13. Dick Goodwin
12. Tommy Watson	6. Archie Glenhorne
11. Montie Tregollis-West	5. Jerry Dodd
10. Jack Grey	4. Tom Burton
9. Reginald Pitt	3. Ratty Little
8. Timothy Tucker	2. Edward O. Handforth
7. Solomon Lovl	1. Ripper

Solution

COMRADES OF THE CRIMSON CROSS

By ROBERT BLYTHE

The

PART II  
THE 2ND NEW SERIES

AFTER the many fine series that appeared in the Old Series, and the 1st New Series, those in the 2nd N.S. were disappointing to say the least. The writing had been on the wall for some time, but I doubt very much if any of us, disappointed as we may have been with some of the latter 1st N.S., could have imagined what was to happen to the old school and its characters.

The story of how successive "leamer" editors played ducks and drakes with the N.L. at this period has been told before and there's no point in retelling it here. I'm not so much interested in their policy (if they had one!) as in the practical results of that policy.

In my youth I, like many another, felt very bitter at the way the old paper was being allowed to go to the dogs. As a result I found fault with nearly every innovation and even now have not a very high opinion of this series. However, to be fair it must be admitted that there is quite a number of good yarns to be found. This statement will, I think, be believed more by those who commenced reading the N.L. with the 2nd N.S. rather than those who had grown up

The demand has become too strong and St. Frank's is rebuilt. Handforth & Co. leave the agency and return to the school to take up the cudgels on behalf of the old timers against a collection of newcomers from Carlton College - in other words K.K. Parkington and his Red Hots (!). The school stories are complete in themselves, occupying only seven pages and are mostly of the custard-pie throwing variety. The bulk of the paper is taken up with the detective story, although the last five are really adventure yarns.

Nos. 29 - 47

Detective stories are out. In other words back to full length St. Frank's yarns. Each story is complete and nearly all of them are broadly humorous.

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with St. Frank's. And this, of course, is natural. We all of us regard the period in which we first actually bought the paper week by week as our favourite period.

Therefore, for those who prefer the 2nd N.S. to the others, and to complete the record of the St. Frank's Saga, here are the various series. They do not fall easily into groups of seven or eight issues as in the other two series, owing to the above mentioned editorial peculiarities. Nevertheless, bear with me, and all will be made clear.

2nd. N.S. Nos. 1 - 14, St. Frank's Destroyed, The Cub Detective Agency.

St. Frank's is destroyed by the Green Triangle and the school is forced to disband. Certain of the more prominent juniors join a 'cub' detective agency formed by Nelson Lee, and thus the stage is set for a run of complete detective stories. After the first four, which deal with the Green Triangle, the 'cubs' have a Tussle with Dacca the Devil Dwarf, then the brutal Ameer of Balghanistan and then a collection of lesser criminals, (all of which you'll be pleased to hear were successfully brought to justice) until:-

Nos. 15 - 28 Complete Detective Stories  
Nos. 15 - 28 Back to St. Frank's



Nos. 48 - 50. Gangsters at St. Frank's

A very regrettable series this, and one, I would say, I disliked the most. Based on the notorious Jack Diamond - Al Capone of real life. Their fictional counterparts stage a gang-warfare at the school. All very exciting no doubt if you're interested in gang-warfare - I wasn't!

Nos. 50 - 54. Rebellion!

This one's not much better. Pyecraft is Headmaster and all the masters are crooks!! No wonder there's a rebellion!

Nos. 55 - 60

Back again to complete school-stories once again with broad comedy to the fore.

Nos. 61 - 64. Viscount 'Skeets' Bellton Arrives

Mr. Tim Rossiter and his son 'Skeets' come from a one man farm in the backwoods of Canada to claim their inheritance as Lord Edgemore and Viscount Bellton. A couple of doubtful types with vague connections with the family, aspire to the titles and stop at nothing to discredit the Canadians. The 'nothing' involves attempted murder so you can guess what happens to them.

Nos. 65 - 70. The Second Visit to Northestria

With this series we approach a period in which the stories nearly reached the high level of the 1st N.S. Nearly - but not quite! Gone were the irritating short stories and we were back to normal. But something was missing. That something was, I feel sure, the wholehearted interest of the author. It was like listening to a man, an expert on his subject, but whose mind was elsewhere.

Anyway, with this series the juniors in the company of Lord Dorrimore, take another trip to the lost land of Northestria, locked away behind mountains in the Arctic.

Once again they take up arms with the Northestrians against the Gothlanders led by Cedric the Cruel - but, shades of Kassker. It was not the Northestria we had left 5 years earlier. I wonder how much the artist Kenneth Brookes was at fault here?

Nos. 71 - 73

A short series dealing with the sojourn at St. Frank's of Dr. Scattlebury who, if not mad, was an eccentric of no mean ability. Amusing, but more far-fetched, in my opinion than some of the more publicised "fantastic" series.

Nos. 74 - 77. St. Frank's Under Canvas

St. Frank's have been granted possession of a field next to the school under the will of a local inhabitant, provided the field is used continuously for a camp for the space of one month. The said local inhabitant's next of kin will inherit if these conditions are not carried out. Since Amos Whittle, the next of kin, wishes to build a saw mill on the spot and St. Frank's doesn't want him to, there is lots of skulduggery on the part of Mr. Whittle. That Mr. Whittle gets it in the neck is a foregone conclusion.

Nos. 78 - 83. St. Frank's in Caronia

Victor Orlando, otherwise King of Caronia(!), a small Baltic State, joins

the Remove. Shortly afterwards he is kidnapped by Caronian plotters, who seek to obtain the throne of Caronia for Prince Zeno, the schoolboy king's rascally half brother. Nipper and Co. feel it is up to them to defend their new form-fellow. From Sussex the scene moves to Caronia where there is plenty of excitement one way and another.

Nos. 84 - 87. Barring-Out Against Proff. Ogleby

Proff. Ogleby, an eminent archeologist and governor of the school discovers evidence of a Roman encampment beneath the school property. As a commencement he decides to dig up the playing fields. This is violently opposed by the boys and the result is a barring-out - on the playing fields. After many attack and stratagems the Professor confesses himself beaten and calls the whole thing off.

Nos. 88 - 91 - Complete school stories.

Nos. 92 - 94

This short series reintroduces Ezra Quirke and is well up to the standard of Brooks' earlier efforts in the way of spooky effects. In brief Vivian Travers comes into the possession of a ring. Soon mystery and terror go hand in hand, with Ezra Quirke doing his stuff with warnings of impending evil and tragedy. A good yarn this even if not so good as the original Quirke series. But then, that series was one of the best Brooks ever wrote.

Nos. 94 - 97. U.S. Adams as Captain

Owing to a riot on the football field, Nipper is deposed from the captaincy and Adams, of all people, gets elected. From then on the American junior really 'goes to town' but after a while his American ideas of hustle begin to pall. Nipper gets his job back and U.S. Adams gives up trying to teach the fellows how to be real live wires in the American way.

Nos. 98 - 101. Christmas Series

A Christmas of danger for Jimmy Potts who survives several attempts on his life. After many exciting events the culprits are captured and all is well.

Nos. 101-105. The Schoolboy Slaves

One by one the juniors vanish, captured by a gang of crooks and, by means of a drug which robs them of any will-power, are made to work for the gang's ends. With Jim the Penman and Proff. Zingrave thrown in it makes a rattling good detective yarn, but there's not much school element in it.

Nos. 106 - 109

Proff. Zingrave again. This time he's pitting his wits against Nelson Lee and Nipper and Co. (he ought to have known better by now!) It all concerns a treasure hidden by one of the Earl of Edgemore's ancestors. Nelson Lee and the boys have half the necessary information and Zingrave has the other. Result - Zingrave comes out at the thin end - as he might have expected had he given the matter a moment's thought!

Nos. 110 - 111

Introduces Tony Crosswell, a new boy, who believes his father to be a crook.

Nos. 112 - 115. Maxwell Scott Reprints

This series I should think marked the beginning of the end. The merits or demerits of Maxwell Scott's stories need not be gone into here. Suffice it to say that we paid our tuppences for stories of St. Frank's, by Brooks. Speaking personally, I was bored to tears with the never-ending plot and counterplot and was heartily glad when the series came to an end. As the stories concerned were 'The Silver Dwarf' and 'The Missing Heir' I shall probably be considered sacrilegious talking about such famous stories in this way - the fact is that they were not written for boys of my generation and that is probably the answer.

Nos. 116 - 122. The Green Triangle again

Once again Proff. Zingrave turns up in a plot against Lord Edgemore. Having been defeated in this project he pops up again as, believe it or not, Headmaster of St. Frank's, suitably disguised, of course. Mixed in with these two stories are three detective stories by Maxwell Scott, unless I'm very much mistaken.

Nos. 123 - 128. Detective Stories

Once again St. Frank's is pushed into the background and we are regaled with 'tec stories. The last three are definitely by Maxwell Scott.

Nos. 129 - 141. Waking up St. Frank's.

The end is fast approaching. St. Frank's is back again. Where? As a serial at the back of the book and so we're back where we started. Anyway the school story deals with the methods Mr. Jim Kingswood adopts in his efforts to put some life into the juniors. He considers that they've got into a rut. How he goes about getting them out of that rut makes amusing reading. As for the main detective story, all I can say is that they are interesting enough. I believe that most of them are reprints from Sexton Blake stories.

Nos. 142 - 155

A very mixed bag this. First we have that most ominous sign - a reprint. This is the serial covering all the above numbers. It's the story of how Handy became the Remove captain, originally told in 1st New Series 21 - 25. A rattling good yarn this, which, in 1932, made me long for the good old days. Next from No. 141 - 146 there is another of Brooks' 'lost world' yarns. This time the scene is the Sargasso Sea. There is an island with prehistoric monsters, cavemen and descendants from pirates as well as more law-abiding, but much down-trodden survivors from past wrecks. I know the whole thing is most improbable, but Brooks makes a good job of it and it's very exciting. There's a bit of a mystery about this story for, as I've mentioned before, the first three stories in this series do not give the usual credit "by E.S. Brooks". Also, there are many points of similarity with Dennis Wheatley's book "Uncharted Seas". Probably only a coincidence - or is it? Nos. 147 - 149 contains full length 'tec stories probably rehashed versions of early Sexton Blake adventures. Nos. 150 - 151 is a detective story by Brooks centring on St. Frank's and concerns Lee's efforts to prove that Mr. Stockdale is not a murderer.

Nos. 152 - 154 'Nerk the Sorcerer' is Brooks at his best. No-one is better than he when it comes to providing a really old-fashioned spooky Christmas. The usual crowd spend Christmas with Archie Glenthorne's aunt in a lonely old house in the New Forest. And what a time they have! All the ingredients are here plus a few new one's thought up by Brooks' fertile brain. The fact that 'Nerk' is a

crook trying to extract money from Archie's aunt is a bit of an anti-climax after all the weird and wonderful happenings, but the fact remains that it's the best story by E.S.B. for a long while and quite up to his old standards. No.155 is another rehashed S.B. story.

Nos. 156 - 161. The Fellowship of Fear

When we started on this review of the 2nd N.S. we found St. Frank's being destroyed by the Green Triangle. Now that we are at the end of it what do we find? St. Frank's is again menaced. This time by the "Fellowship of Fear", and at one time we have the school surrounded by machine guns and all because this criminal organisation requires all masters at all big schools to teach the society's own harmful teachings and doctrines in place of the ordinary school curriculum. One feels that Proff. Zingrave ought to be at the bottom of all this, but Zingrave had gone for good, and we have a character called Baron Von Holtz doing the dirty. On the whole not a good plot and not very convincingly written.

And with that we come to the end of the 2nd N.S. Although not a patch on the two previous series, nevertheless there are several bright spots. Various stories show that, whatever was behind the ditherings of Editorial policy, the master had not lost his gift of exciting and absorbing story-telling.

THE THIRD NEW SERIES

These 25 stories are rather an anti-climax, but I'm including them briefly to make the record complete.

Nos. 1 - 8. Nipper - New Boy

Reprinted from various numbers numbers 112 - 126 Original Series.

Nos. 9 - 18. Hunter the Hun

Reprinted from O.S. 148 - 157. (For summaries of these two series see last year's Annual.)

No. 19. - Reprinted from 1st N.S. No. 8.

Nos. 23 - 25. China Series

This series, of which these were the first three, were reprinted from 1st N.S. Nos. 12 - 14. The remainder of the series (and the final insult) were carried on as a serial in the "Gem".

(Note: Nos. 20 - 22 were original St. Frank's stories.)

HINTONISMS (cont'd from page 112)

letter at that - the Editor bothered to publish them, is something we can only guess at.

In response to the request of "large numbers of readers" the Editor started to place his photograph at the head of his Chat. This was followed by a series of letters of abuse over many weeks, asking why he did not join the army. The Editor, kindly and petulantly, explained his reasons. Quite amusing.

Here are a few more of his replies, interesting or amusing, according to how they strike you:-

G.H.B. (Loughborough) "The gas at Greyfriars is obtained from the gasworks at Courtfield. (So now we know). (cont'd page 128)...

GEORGE JOSEPH CARBERRY

We have been accustomed for so long to think of Gerald Loder as the bullying prefect at Greyfriars, and the sworn enemy of Harry Wharton & Co., that we are apt to forget that in the early days of the Magnet, Loder did not appear at all. So far as I know, the first mention of him was in Magnet No. 66, and at that time he was not a prefect.

In those very early days, George Joseph Carberry was the bad hat of the Sixth, and it his story that I wish to tell.

Carberry was a cross-grained fellow who considered only himself, and who indulged in vicious habits without thought of the consequences.

From the beginning of the Magnet stories he was a prefect - but a very unsatisfactory one. He liked the authority, prestige and privilege of the office, but hated the duties that attached thereto. His hand was ever-ready to grasp and use his walking-cane ("ashplants" were yet to reach Greyfriars) and when his turn came (as it did all too frequently) to shepherd a junior form to their dormitory, and see "lights out", he grumbled at what he regarded as a troublesome waste of his time, and sought compensation in random bullying of his charges. Further, his habitual method of addressing the juniors as "you young rotters" and "you young whelps" (when no master was in the offing) was calculated to rub them the wrong way.

Like most bullies, Carberry delighted in seeing others hurting themselves.

## *Carberry, Late of the Greyfriars'*

BY

J. BREEZE BENTLEY

### *Sixth*

Thus, in Magnet No. 2, when Bob Cherry (then newly-arrived) was preparing to fight Harry Wharton, Carberry would have made them dispense with the gloves, had not Wingate intervened.

Of Carberry's wild ways, we have much evidence. The cigarettes that he smoked were legion, and many were the little parties given in his study, where poker or nap was played, and whisky and water drunk - a thing unheard of in the more mature days of the Magnet. And he was not above sending his fag or some other junior down to the village to bring his smokes and drink from the Red Cow at Friardale. Further, while other Sixthformers helped their fags with "prep", \*Carberry never did so. In return for their services, he initiated them into his own iniquities and as Frank Richards wrote in Magnet No. 46 "more than one young swaggerer in the Lower School had smoked his first cigarette in Carberry's study; the reward of smuggling the smokes into the school."

Carberry enjoyed good food, and expected it on his tea-table, no matter whether he had money or not. Bulstrode remarked in Magnet No. 8 that "Carberry doesn't pay much for what he has on his table at tea-time." If funds were low, the fag had to scrounge the food, or pay for it himself.

Like the rest of his kidney, Carberry betted on horses, and lost money by so doing, and there is one recorded instance of his resorting to Isaacs, the Hebrew moneylender, whose office was at Dale, two miles from Greyfriars.

\* Magnet No. 2.

/ Magnet No. 12.

Carberry was a snob. In Magnet No. 45, when Mark Linley - a new boy - was being ragged by Bulstrode and his cronies, Carberry intervened and not being heard by Linley, told him that an ex-factory-hand had no place in the school, and thrashed him with a slipper. Once again, Wingate came to the rescue.

Between Carberry and Wingate no love was lost. Wingate's unwillingness to interfere with Carberry's private wrongdoing, was interpreted as weakness, while his prevention of bullying was bitterly resented. Carberry was outwardly subservient to the masters, yet could scarcely forbear from criticizing them. This led to trouble in Magnet No. 23, when Carberry was in charge of the Remove. He arrived late, twisted Adolphe Meunier's ear for an overheard remark, abused the form for "wasting time", picked holes in Wharton's construe, and roused Wharton's ire by remarking "... a slovenly class, and a slovenly master, I suppose." Finally, bullying of Bunter led to Wharton's intervention, and a riot, in which Carberry was frog-marched round the room. (A similar fate befell Gerald Loder in later days). The noise brought the Head on the scene. He brushed aside Carberry's complaints, and rebuffed him by saying "You cannot keep order. I shall take care not to put you in charge of a Form, again."

Whether Carberry ever played games, we do not know, but he certainly was no fop. Though he associated with the Greek Sixthformer, Heracles Ionides, he heartily despised that unsavoury fellow's effeminate ways. When Ionides arrived in Magnet No. 49, Carberry was scornful of the Greek's request for hot water in which to wash, and when annoyed by the row coming from Ionides' study, threatened to come in "and ram his scent-bottles down his neck" if it did not cease.

Carberry first appeared in Magnet No. 2. In those days the Remove was a fagging-form, and Hazeldene was Carberry's fag. His own fag not being within ear-shot, Carberry tried to impress Wharton, who was passing the study to get a book for Wingate. Carberry refused to accept Wharton's story, flung him into his study, and was on the point of thrashing him, when Wingate intervened. Thus began the relentless feud between Carberry and Wharton.

The same story contained the episode in which Hazeldene sent Bob Cherry (newly-arrived) to Carberry's study, telling him that it was the Head's study; and when Cherry expressed surprise that the Head's study should be in the Sixth Form corridor, he received the glib reply "the Head has his study there to keep an eye on the Sixth. They'd be tipsy all night long if the Head did not keep an eye on them!"

In Magnet No. 44, the Remove held their Christmas Pudding Competition, in which several studies competed - No. 1 being among them, as would be expected. Each and all had their own ideas on the ingredients, and Harry Wharton - amazingly to us - was emphatic that no Christmas pudding was worthy of the name unless it contained BRANDY. In vain did the others argue against it. Brandy there must be, and finally Wharton and Cherry got a pass from Wingate "to fetch things for the pudding" and set off to the Red Cow. Wharton went in and Cherry waited outside, and it so happened that Carberry decided to visit the pub on his own behalf that evening and caught them red-handed. With every justification, he righteously hauled them before Dr. Locke who was appalled, but the summoning of Nugent, Hurree Singh and Billy Bunter, who bore out Wharton's explanation, and the good repute in which the Co. was held, got them off. Carberry was, not unnaturally, furious, and his anger did not diminish when Bunter artlessly blurted out that he had been against the project from the beginning, lest Carberry got wind of it ... "I knew all along that if Carberry got hold of the brandy we should never see it again.

I know he drinks whisky as a rule, but a fellow who drinks whisky will drink brandy, and..." Here Wharton trod on his toe, and the Head - fortunately for Carberry - dismissed the remark as merely one of Bunter's fatuities. (In passing, it may be mentioned that Mrs. Kebble got the brandy, with permission to add a little of it to the Famous Four's pudding-mixture.)

A further incident, in Magnet No. 46, added to Carberry's wrath. The Sixth-former, intending to entertain his form-mates, Hacker and Datchett, wanted a catspaw to go to the Red Cow and pick up a bottle of whisky and a box of gold-tipped cigarettes. Mark Linley incurred Carberry's enmity by refusing to go - in spite of the proffered sixpenny tip! - but Levison obliged. Later, Bob Cherry stole into the study and dipped the ends of the cigarettes into water, so that they would not "light", then poured half the contents of the bottle (which had already been drawn) into a jug of flowers, and filled up the bottle with lubricating oil, gum and paraffin. Before he could leave, Carberry and his friends caught him, but in fear of his telling of their contraband, they let him go, unhurt. Needless to say, Carberry's little party was a complete "flop".

That evening in the dormitory, Bob Cherry in anticipation of trouble, organized a race over the beds and purposely damaged Bulstrode's bed, then meekly agreed to exchange beds for the night, so that when Carberry arrived with a cane, after "lights out," it was Bulstrode who got it hot and strong.

Two weeks later, in Magnet No. 48, at the beginning of the new term, Carberry officiously tried to board the Remove Form brake at the station, ignored Wingate's advice to "let it go" and hung on the steps, to be dislodged by Bob Cherry's getting the driver to "whip behind". Not an auspicious start.

In Magnet No. 66, Wun Lung entered the fray. After fetching cigarettes from the village, he unwrapped each one and inserted an explosive cap in it, before delivering them to Carberry. He received no payment, but a curt "I'll owe it you. Be thankful that you get out of the study without receiving a licking," but had the satisfaction of knowing of the surprise that lay in store for Carberry and his pals Loder and Benson.

The theme of Magnet No. 81 was further war, this time initiated by Carberry, who gave Billy Bunter a pound of sausages, well past their prime, with the remark "they are good enough for the mongrels of Study No. 1." This riled the Co., who planned revenge.

Hurree Singh went to Carberry's study, and by passing a cheeky remark, got seized, to be rescued at once by Harry Wharton and Mark Linley. Carberry, Loder and Lucas gave chase, and were decoyed by Bob Cherry into the Remove dormitory, where they were locked in. The Co. then set to work, and hid the sausages in Carberry's study - one under his pillow, another in his best topper, the third in the table drawer, the fourth in his handkerchief box, the fifth over the gas-jet and the last impaled in the table by a fork, with the message "Returned with thanks - the Remove."

On his release, Carberry returned to the study and at once observed the sixth sausage, and hurled it out of the window. Soon afterwards, number five began to frizzle, was taken down, and followed number six - narrowly missing Mr. Quelch. By bedtime, the air was becoming strong and Carberry, after a search, found number four in the handkerchief box and number three in the drawer, then retired for the night. In the alcove, the stench was intolerable. He arose at speed, found the offending sausage and sent it after the others. The pillow he hurled into the passage: a cushion had to do service instead. On the morrow, the room was uninhabitable. He set off to chapel in his best hat, taking the

dreadful smell with him, till he ran the last sausage to earth.

Note the close similarity between this story and the tale of the dead cat in Kipling's "Stalky and Co."

Further troubles came in Magnet No. 88 when Hurree Singh, filling a spirit stove on the window-sill, allowed some of the liquid to spill into the quad., where it fell on Carberry. The prefect's angry shout of "You confounded nigger" made Hurree Singh draw back involuntarily, strike his head on the window-bottom and accidentally push the stove off the sill. Naturally, it hit Carberry, who raced up to Study No. 1, and was first repelled by Bob Cherry's skilful use of a soda-water siphon, then overpowered by the Co. Wingate arrived and let them off far too lightly with 50 lines apiece.

In the same story, when Bunter took articles from the dormitory, while sleep-walking, Linley was accused by Bulstrode, and Carberry (who investigated the case) unwisely remarked that "he would not be surprised if Bulstrode was right." This earned a rebuke from Mr. Quelch.

Magnet No. 97 "The Greyfriars Sweepstake" was a splendid story based on the yarn in "Tom Brown's Schooldays" in which the bully Flashman featured prominently. From remarks passed by the egregious Micky Desmond, Harry Wharton discovered that Carberry had organized a sweepstake on the Burnham Stakes, which had gained support from members of all forms in the school - Loder and Carne of the Sixth, Blundell and Bland of the Fifth, Hoskins and Higgs of the Shell, Temple and Dabney of the Fourth, Russell, Ogilvy and others in the Remove, and even some Thirdformers. Wharton, as Captain of the Remove, went to Carberry's study and indicated plainly that he was not going to allow the Remove to be duped by a swindle. Thereupon, Carberry, Loder and Carne spread him on the table and beat him for "cheek", till dragged off by Bob Cherry, Frank Nugent, Mark Linley and Tom Brown, who secured entry by smashing the door-lock with a stool. They tied up Carberry, and ragged the study.

Nevertheless, the "sweep" was continued, the draw taking place in Loder's study. Carberry drew the second favourite, Loder a horse that had been 'scratched'. On being informed, Carberry feigned surprise, and Loder was given a second chance, a blank being added. Thus all the Sixth-formers secured a starter. The favourite fell to Sidney James Snoop. After the draw, Carberry skilfully prevented Snoop from leaving the study and by a judicious mixture of flattery, cajolery and intimidation, induced him to sell his ticket for £1. Having thus made sure of the kitty, Carberry, Loder and Carne sallied forth to the Golden Pig,\* in Friar-dale, and gambled it away.

Next day, Carberry received by messenger the alarming news that Son of Mine - a rank outsider - had come in first, and he vainly essayed to buy the ticket from Micky Desmond, who up till then, had been vainly trying to sell it at a cut price. Wharton - overhearing Carberry's offer, spiked it.

On the morrow, the news broke, and Micky marched off to collect his winnings, to be met with Carberry's facile evasion that by an unfortunate blunder, two slips for Son of Mine had been included in the draw - and that Carne's was the genuine slip while Desmond's was the worthless duplicate! Carberry offered, however, in sheer kindness of heart, to refund the cost of Micky's ticket : half-a-crown.

In fury, Micky hurled back the coin, and rushed to Wharton who coldly pointed out the hopelessness of the position : any appeal to a master or prefect would be an admission that he had been gambling, and would probably incur a flogging. Micky was done.

\* Kept by a Mr. Joliffe.



But Carberry did not get away with it. Wharton threatened to go to the Head if the money was not produced - and on the following Saturday, three pounds fifteen was reluctantly dropped into the poor box, which became the winner of the sweep!

In Magnet No. 101, the Remove were invited to a dance at Cliff House, and Billy Bunter coolly borrowed clothes from all and sundry, preparatory to cutting a dash before the girls. Wharton discovered that Bunter's shirt was adorned with a diamond stud - the property of the Greek Sixth-former, Heracles Ionides, - and hastened to return it. He was caught in the study by Ionides and Carberry. The former - ever suspicious - suspected theft, the latter - in spite of his many rows with Wharton - merely a jape. "I will see if anything is missing from my dressing-table" said Ionides. "Oh! stuff." rejoined Carberry. "Wharton's not a thief." But the Greek persisted, and discovered his loss. Wharton then said that he had come to return the stud, and produced it. He explained that Bunter was too craven to bring it himself. Carberry at once took Wharton's part by saying "In that case, the only thing to do is to question Bunter. If he admits having taken the stud, Ionides, you must own that Wharton is cleared." But he questioned Bunter in a hectoring manner and the Owl, thoroughly scared, denied everything. Hearing this, Ionides could not be restrained from assaulting the Captain of the Remove, and in the middle of the fracas, Mr. Quelch arrived on the scene. A full enquiry followed, and Wharton was cleared.

This story was remarkable in that Carberry shewed signs of having learned from his previous mistakes, and at no time did he make any accusation against Harry Wharton.

Magnet No. 107, "The Cad of the Sixth" was undoubtedly one of Frank Richards' finest stories. The principal characters in it were Carberry, Dicky Nugent - Frank Nugent's younger brother - the Famous Four and Billy Bunter.

Dicky Nugent had arrived in Magnet No. 100, as a spoiled and wilful child, difficult to lead and impossible to drive, who had readily accepted and smoked a cigarette in Bulstrode's study merely to annoy his brother. He became Carberry's fag.

The story (107) began with Carberry setting out for a spree at the Water-Side Inn\* in the company of Loder and Carne, taking Dicky Nugent with them. At the inn, he was called upon to mix the brandy and soda, given a cigarette and invited to join them at nap, which he did after some hesitation. It did not take long for his cash to run out, but Carberry cheerfully kept him going with the bantering remark "and I shan't send you a writ if you can't pay up."

Whilst the game was in progress, the Co., Mark Linley and Billy Bunter arrived in hot pursuit. Wharton went in through the window, and peremptorily demanded that Dicky leave. Naturally, he refused to do so, and the Sixth formers threw Wharton out.

Outside, the chums conferred and Bunter suggested the use of ventriloquism to scare them. This was agreed, Bob Cherry remarking "Well, even babbling idiots have good ideas, sometimes." So Bunter approached the window and in the Head's voice addressed the Sixthformers by name, and ordered Nugent minor to return to school.

Back at Greyfriars, the three Sixthformers, filled with gloom, sought to escape their fate and Loder suggested "Can't we work up some yarn about going there to look for some junior who was out of bounds?" Carberry jumped at this, and at the further suggestion that Nugent minor be made the scapegoat. As a reason for their suspecting Nugent minor of bad habits, Loder hazarded that "he had been caught smoking, once." "Good," said Carberry. "Found him smoking

\* Kept by a man called Hanway

behind the gym. That happens to be true, which is an advantage. Always shove in as much truth as possible when you're telling a crammer. Walking down the towing-path we heard a familiar voice in the place, and stepped in at the window to see what was there, eh? Found Nugent minor playing cards with a set of rascals - were trying to point out to him the error of his ways, when the Head dropped on us."

Loder was enthusiastic, but Carne was doubtful. "What price the kid, though" he said. Carberry sneered. "Don't be an idiot, Carne. It's no time to begin that rot, when it's a question of saving ourselves from being sacked. Besides, he will only be flogged, and we can make it up to him afterwards." And so it was agreed.

Carberry broached the subject with Dr. Locke and was aghast when he found that the Head knew nothing about the affair. He could not, however, merely withdraw; the subject was too serious and he had to go through with it. So Nugent minor was falsely accused and search made for him.

A complication now ensued. Bunter, forever on the make, called at Carberry's study to get a postal order cashed on the strength of keeping quiet about the little party at the Waterside Inn that afternoon. Loder and Carne were for kicking him out, but the more astute Carberry gave him a £1 postal order that he had purchased in Friardale that afternoon. Bunter filled in his own name and forthwith blued the money by standing treat in the tuckshop. He then returned for more, and paid for his sins. Carberry gave him a sound thrashing and when the enraged junior threatened to go to the Head, Carberry coolly told him that if he did, he would be accused of stealing the postal order!

By this time, Harry Wharton and Co. had rooted out Dicky Nugent and brought him back to the school with the assurance that it was Bunter and not Dr. Locke who had spoken to him at the Inn. It was, therefore, a great shock to him when Mr. Quelch met him with the instruction to go before the Head.

There he quickly learned that his escapade was known. When asked whether he had any companions, he admitted that he was not alone, but refused to incriminate anyone. Thereupon the Head sent for Carberry and asked him whether he saw anyone with Nugent minor. The cad of the Sixth shook his head. "No sir, I saw only Nugent minor." Dicky Nugent stared at him, unable to believe his ears. "Once more, Nugent, answer my question" said the Head "...the prefect who discovered you at the inn unfortunately did not see who your companions were, but I must have their names."

Then Dicky Nugent realized the treachery that had betrayed him, and declared vehemently "It was Carberry that I went with. He has turned on me and given me away." Outwardly calm, Carberry denied the accusation, and the shocked Headmaster told the fag that "this reveals a depth of spite and wickedness I never suspected before. I fear that it will be impossible for you to remain at Greyfriars."

All seemed lost.

But Billy Bunter, having tried in vain to wheedle the postal order from Mrs. Mible, had turned in despair to Wharton, who got it by pledging his allowance, and they were looking for Carberry when Mark Linley told them that Carberry had been summoned by the Head. Wharton's comment "Then it means squalls for Carberry and Nugent minor. If the young ass had listened to me and left those blackguards when I asked him..." was overheard by Mr. Quelch, who informed them of the position, and told them that any information that Wharton could give would be of advantage.

At this, the Co. hurried to the Head's study with Mr. Quelch and the truth

came out.

Cornered, Carberry appealed for Loder and Carne's evidence to bolster up his case, but when they came, Gerald Loder's nerve failed him and he admitted that he went with Carberry to play cards. Arthur Carne agreed, and the sorry plot lay revealed.

That was the end. There could be no reprieve. Carberry was expelled and left Greyfriars next morning by the early train.

So departed one who had often been in the limelight, leaving a gap that had to be filled. It spoke ill of Dr. Locke's experience and memory that his successor was Gerald Loder who (according to Magnet No. 117) "was made a prefect when Carberry was expelled."

#### HINTONISMS (cont'd from page 121)

"Nutty" (Edinburgh.) "Keep a packet of acid-drops in your pocket, and place one in your mouth whenever you feel the desire to smoke. The flavour of the sweet will destroy your craving." (Useful tip in these days, when cigs are 3/7 for 20).

"Jimmy" - "As for those friends who are caddish enough to mock you on account of your big feet, their ignorant conduct should be utterly ignored. They don't read the Magnet, I'll be bound."

"Maidie Tucker" (Sidmouth) - "Bunter is 15 years of age, and weighs nearly 14 stone".

"Quill Driver" (Birmingham). "You will see that Master Carlton has amply apologised for his folly, and his unfortunate campaign against the Gem is now a thing of the past."

A.L. Brown (Seabrook). - This reader points out that, quoting "Of that there wasn't a shadow of doubt, no possible probable shadow of doubt, no possible doubt whatever." Mr. Richards attributes the quotation to "The Mikado." Actually, it comes from the "Gondoliers". "I thank my reader for pointing out the mistake. The Magnet is generally quite correct in its quotations." (And so say all of us).

H.W.S. (Purley) - "Horace Coker turns the scale at 10 stones."

J. Staveley (Bridlington) - "Jack Blake hails from Wakefield in Yorkshire."

R. Lyons. (Forest Gate) - "I can assure you that this paper has never been used as a medium for sneering at those of the Jewish nationality."

A Would-Be Helper. (Toronto) - "To class some of our stories as poor yarns, indifferently written, is absurd. If this statement is true, I wonder you lower yourself to the extent of purchasing the Companion Papers."

"A BRITON" (Stretham) - "Bob Cherry's closest chum is Mark Linley. Bob was at Greyfriars before Wharton came." 'Guess Mr. Hinton was "out" in both these statements).

S. Huntley (Monmouth) - "As for you, sir, and all who belong to your precious School for Scandal, you can keep off the grass, or I shall send our Fighting Editor down to Monmouth. Do try to be decent for a change!"

"Robert F." (Oldham) "Harry Wharton's home is in Hampshire." (We had an idea it was in Surrey.)

G.M.U.F. "Ferrers Locke is the Head's nephew." (Never realised this before. He is usually described as a 'relative').

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C O N C L U S I O N

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# THE COLLECTORS'

## WHO'S WHO

Compiled by HERBERT LECKENBY

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Browsing over the first "Who's Who", which appeared six years ago, I was struck by the fact that only a small percentage of the names which appeared therein will not be in this year. Few fraternities can have such a large proportion of loyal supporters. It's a gratifying thought. There's only one note of regret - that some names are missing because the Grim Reaper has claimed them.

With each succeeding year, new names have been added, this year being no exception, and they are indicated with an asterisk.

Old Boys' Book Club Branches: London (L); Northern (N); Midland (M); Merseyside (Mer); Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Vic).

Here are the Groups:-

1. Victorian Papers.
2. Early 20th Century.
3. Aldines.
4. Captain, Boys' Own Paper, Chums and similar papers.
5. "Hamilton" Papers  
(a) Magnet; (b) Gem; (c) Penny Popular; (d) Schoolboys' Own Library;  
(e) Holiday Annual.
6. Sexton Blake  
(a) Union Jack; (b) Sexton Blake Library; (c) Detective Weekly
7. Nelson Lee  
(a) Nelson Lee Library; (b) Monster Library.
8. Between Two Wars  
(Champion, Thriller, Ranger, etc.)
9. Comics.
10. Schoolgirls' Own Library; School Friend; Schoolgirls' Weekly, etc.

Collectors' favourites appear in order of preference.

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ADDISON, JOHN R., 319 Long Lane, East Finchley, London, N.2. (L). Group 5 (all).

ADLEY, DEREK JOHN, 19 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex. (Age 26).

Groups 5 (a) (b) (d); 7 (a), 5 (c) (e), 7 (b), 6 (b).

Would be glad of help from other collectors in compiling lists of the scarcer papers, i.e., "Fun & Fiction", "Cheer Boys Cheer", "Chuckles" etc.

ALLEN, LEONARD M., 3 Montgomery Drive, Sheffield, 7. (N). (Age 47) Civil Servant.

Groups 4; 7 (a); 2; 9; 6 (a).

Requires early comics (1910 to 1924), Cheerio, various Nelson Lees.

- ALLISON, GERALD, 7 Summerfield Gardens, Bramley, Leeds. (N). (Age 48). Departmental Manager. Groups 5 (b), (a); 9; 5 (d).  
 Thanks all those who have responded to the appeal for duplicates, and says "keep up the good work." Reveals that the Northern Section Library has 1,500 books in stock.
- ALLISON, MOLLIE. 29 Eden Crescent, Leeds, 4. (N). Bank Clerk. Groups 5 (a), (d), (e). Chief interest Magnet Vernon-Smith or Harry Wharton Series. Particular wants at moment Nos. 1426, 1523, 1525.
- ADSLEY, G.R., 17 Abergarw Road, Brynmenyn, Nr. Bridgend, Glam. (Age 30). Builder and Decorator. Group 5 (a), (b). Collects Christmas Numbers only of Magnet and Gem for private collection, but is always interested in purchasing any old boys' books and usually has supplies of the popular papers for sale and exchange.
- ANDERSON, L.T., 51 Holmewood Gardens, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.2. (Age 42). Assurance Representative. Group 5 (all).
- ARMITAGE, S.F., 11 Prospect Rd., Ossett, Yorkshire. (N). Journalist. Group 5 (a), (b).
- AUCKLAND, Charles Kenneth, 20 Chiltern Rd., Sheffield, 6. (N). Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (all).
- BAKER, ANTHONY P., Christ Church Vicarage, Barnet, Herts. (age 15). Schoolboy. Groups 5 (a), (e), (b), (d); 6 (b); 4.  
 Wanted: Magnets before 1932 at reasonable prices.
- BAKER, CHARLES G., 7 Marine Terr., Waterloo Port, Caervarnon. Groups - All.
- BANKS, CYRIL, 42 Rose Terr., Calton Street, Huddersfield. (N). (Age 44). Clerk. Groups 7 (a); 5 (a), (b), (c); 7 (b); 5 (e); 10 (for daughters).
- BARTLETT, HENRY J.H., Shipton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset. (Age 52). Hire Cab Proprietor. Groups 5 (a), (b), (d), (e); 6 (all) and all others.  
 Will send a full Guide of Bridport Rural District Council district to anyone sending 3d stamp for postage.
- BEARDSSELL, FREDERICK CLIFFORD, "Plymstock," Ross Avenue, Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire. (N). (Age 49). Master Window Cleaner. Group 5 (a), (d), (b).
- \*BELLFIELD, J.F., 24 Grainger's Lane, Cradley Heath, Staffs. (M). Groups 5(a), (d), (b), (e); 7 (a), (b); 10. Has always been interested in both Magnet and Nelson Lee Library, but considers Charles Hamilton the superior author, especially where character drawing is concerned.
- BENNETT, RAYMOND V., 64 Dudley Rd., Tipton, Staffs. (Age 37). Chief Clerk. Groups 5 (a); 7 (a); 6 (a); 5 (b).
- BENTLEY, J. BREEZE, 4 Greenfell Drive, Bradford Moor, Bradford, Yorkshire. (N). Group 5 (a), (b), (d). Chairman, Northern Section, O.B.B.C.
- BLIGHT, EDWARD, "Treneglos," Trevarthian Rd., St. Austell, Cornwall. (L). (Age 52). Retired Engineer. Groups 3; 5 (a), (b), (e); 6 (a), (c); 7 (a); 8 (Thriller). Also particularly interested in Boys' Friend (3d) Library.
- BLYTHE, ROBERT CHARLES, 46 Carleton Rd., Holloway, London, N.7. (L). (Age 39). Assistant Stock-keeper. Groups 7 (a); 5 (a); 6 (E.S. Brooks stories only). Co-founder of London Old Boys' Book Club.

- BOLAND, JOHN A., 12 Cullenswood Gardens, Merton Drive, Ranelagh, Dublin, Eire, Ireland. (L). (Age 22). Group 5 (a), (b), (d).
- BOND, HERBERT, MAURICE, 10 Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. (Age 41). Group 6 (all).
- BOTTOMLEY, FRED A., 48 Downhills Park Rd., Tottenham, London, N.17. (Age 46). Shopkeeper. Groups 5 (a), (d); 7 (a).
- BRADSHAW, W.H., 227 West 88th Street, Los Angeles, Cal., U.S.A. Group 6 (all).
- BRANTON, W. LESLIE, 63 Thoresby St., Hull, Yorkshire. (L). Commercial Artist. Group 5 (a), (e), (c).
- BRETHERTON, T.P., Heskin, Nr. Chorley, Lancs. Groups 2; 1; 9.
- BRIGGS, S.C. GODFREY, The Dispensary, Public Hospital, Rotorua, New Zealand. (Age 59). Groups 5 (b), (a), (c), (e); 2; 4 (Captain, Chums); 6 (c), (b); 9 (Chips).
- BROMLEY, GEORGE, "Holeywell," Estoria Avenue, Wigston Magna, Leicester. (L). (Age 32). Trade Union Officer. Groups 5 (a), (b), (e), (c); 7 (a).
- BROWN, RAYMOND E., 54 Longreach Road, Liverpool, 14. (Mer). (Age 26). Group 5 (all); 6 (all); 8; 9.
- BURROW, RONALD, 1 Albert Square, Yeadon, Leeds. (Age 43). Grocer. Groups 7 (a); 8; 5 (b); 2. Wanted: Nelson Lees (old series) 17, 30, 78, 107, 114, Gems, 1023, 1024, S.O.L. 4.
- BYRNE, F.G., 40 Whitebarn Lane, Dagenham, Essex. (Age 28). Schoolmaster. Groups 5(a), (d), (b), (e), (c); 7 (a); 6 (c); 8. Wants Collectors' Digests 1 - 12; 14 - 21; 23 - 37; 39, 40, and 42.
- CARTER, ERNEST CHARLES, 2 Cooper Street, Kingsford, N.S.W., Australia. (Age 42). Clerk, Eastern Command, Army, N.S.W. Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (all); 6 (all); 2; 3; 1. Urgently requires: Nelson Lees 1915-1916, to complete set. Will pay good prices or exchange for red Magnets in the first 100 in mint condition. Numbers are 28, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72. Also 209 and 212.
- CASE, FRANCIS, 4 Dee Street, Liverpool, 6. (Mer). Groups 9; 2; 5 (all). Hon. Sec. Merseyside Branch, O.B.B.C.
- CHAMBERS, W.E., 83 Orme Rd., Bangor, North Wales. (Age 34). Porter. Interested in all Groups except 9 and 10.
- \*CHAMPION, WILLIAM, 13 Drayton Road, Reading, Berks. (Age 44). Manager, Engineering Works. Groups 5 (b); 7 (a); 5 (a). Collection consists of 85 Gems, 140 Nelson Lees, 10 Monster Libraries, 12 B.O.P's., Holiday Annuals 1920-1928, and a few Magnets, Greyfriars Heralds and Penny Populars. Would like to obtain a Gem published about 1918, which was a cricket story starring Philip Rushden.
- CHARLESWORTH, JOHN, 9 Tanfield Rd., Birkby, Huddersfield. (N). Group 5 (a), (b).
- CHECKLEY, PETER J., 18 Tarleton Rd., Coundon, Coventry. (Age 19). Printer's Apprentice. Groups 8 (Bullseye, Surprise), 5 (b), (d), (c); 6 (a); 7 (a). Still on National Service.
- CHILD, A.C., 64 Gilbertstone Ave., Birmingham, 26. Group 7.
- CHURCHILL, CHARLES H., "Highfield," 123 Pinhoe Rd., Exeter. (Age 44). Accountant. Groups 7 (a), (b); 6 (a). Still considers the 'Nelson Lee' the best of all. Particularly needs old series Nos. 107, 113, 130. Is also an admirer of 'Jack North's' Wycliffe stories.

- CLOUGH, WILLIAM, H., 3 Fonthill Grove, Sale, Manchester. (Age 52).  
Groups 2; 3; 6 (a); 4 (Captain); 9.
- COATES, VERA, 33 Blenheim Place, Blackman Lane, Leeds, 2. (N). Groups 10; 5(a);  
6 (a); 7 (a). Particularly interested in Schoolgirls' Own Library  
Morcove stories.
- COLCOMBE, WILLIAM HENRY, 256 South Ave., Southend-on-Sea, Essex. (L). (Age 32).  
Works Security Officer. Groups 6 (a), (c); 5 (a), (d).
- \*CONROY, PATRICK, 14 Middle Gardiner St., Dublin, Eire. Group 3.
- COOK, JACK R., 178 Maria St., Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Groups 7 (a), (b);  
5 (a), (b); 6 (a), (c).
- COOK, JAMES W., 4 Swanston Path, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts. (Age 45). Film  
Despatch Clerk. Groups 7 (a), (b); 6 (b); 5 (all).
- COOK, RONALD, 190 Crowborough Road, London, S.W.17. (Age 31). Civil Servant.  
Group 5 (all); 8 (Ranger, Bullseye). Collection consists of 781 Magnets  
36 Gems, 62 S.O.L's., 3 Holiday Annuals. Requires Populars 626-8,  
S.O.L. 19, Magnets 893, 896, 900, 903, 906-18, 920, 921, 925, 927,  
929-34, 936-40, 942-4, 946-50, 952-7, 959, 960, 962, 963, 965, 968-72,  
974, 982, 986, 990.
- \*COPEMAN, ERIC V., 50 Ruby St., Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia. (Age 36).  
Groups 5 (all); 7 (a), (b); 6 (all).
- CORBETT, JACK, 49 Glyn Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham, 32. (M). Group 5 (all).  
Chairman, Midland Branch, O.B.B.C.
- COX, EDMUND, W., 29 Carisbrooke Drive, Bitterne, Southampton. (L). (Age 25).  
Groups 5 (a), (b), (d), (e); 9; 8; 10; 7 (a).
- CROLLIE, RONALD, J., 8 Lytton Rd., Romford, Essex. (L). (Age 35). Bakery Engineer.  
Groups 5 (a), (b), (d); 7 (a); 5 (e); 6 (a), (c).
- DAINES, COLIN, 209 Mile Cross Lane, Norwich, Norfolk. (Age 43). Electrical  
Draughtsman. Groups 7 (a); 5 (a), (b).
- DARWIN, WILFRED, 76 Western Rd., East Dene, Rotherham, Yorkshire. Gardener.  
Groups 6 (a); 8 (Hulton's Boys Magazine).
- DAVEY, EDWARD JOHN, 26 Bourton Rd., Olton, Birmingham, 27. (M). (Age 50).  
Accountant (Export). Groups 5(a); 4; 10. Hon. Sec., Midland O.B.B.C.
- \*DAVIES, ALFRED O., 12 Alfriston Rd., West Derby, Liverpool, 12. (Mer). (Age 50).  
Secretary. Group 5 (b), (a), (c), (d). Has been a book collector for  
over 30 years and possesses a library of some 1,500 bound volumes.  
Collecting Magnets and Gems is a much more recent hobby, two years, and  
includes 250 Magnets, 300 Gems, 170 Penny Populars and 200 S.O.L's.  
Particularly requires the following Gems for binding; condition must  
be good: 1221-1240, 1245, 1251, 1252, 1254, 1257, 1258, 1261, 1264,  
1273, 1277-1281, 1283-1288, 1290-1293, 1296, 1297, 1299, 1300. Other  
great interest - Contract Bridge.
- DAVIES, GRAHAM C., 54 Newton Rd., Mumbles, Swansea, Glam. (Age 34). Principal,  
Secretarial Services. Groups 6 (b), (a), (c); 5 (a), (b).
- DEASEY, JAMES C., 11 Sallymount Gardens, Ranelagh, Dublin, Ireland. (Age 21).  
Clerk in Aer Lingus. Group 5 (a), (b).
- DE SOYSA, A.C.H., 4 Boyd Place, Colombo, Ceylon. (L). (Age 36). Company Director.  
Group 5 (a), (e). Is still anxious to buy Magnets and Holiday Annuals.  
If exchange preferred could send Ceylon curios. Correspondence invited.
- DOBSON, TOM, 16 Tovan-Akas Ave., Bentleigh, Victoria, Australia. (Age 48). Public  
Servant (P.M.G. Dept.) Groups 5(b)(a)(e)(d)(c); 6 (all); 7 (b) (a).

- DOLPHIN, REX, 13 Meadow Way, Hyde Heath, Amersham, Bucks. (L). (Age 38).  
Group 6 (all).
- DOWLER, HARRY, 86 Hamilton Rd., Longsight, Manchester, 13. (Age 63). Commercial  
Teacher. Groups 2; 4; 6.
- DOW, JAMES, "Romla," Kingswells, Aberdeenshire. (Age 39). Shopkeeper.  
Groups 5 (all); 7 (a), (b).
- DRYDEN, WHEELER, Box 2647, Hollywood 28, Cal., U.S.A. Group 5 (all).
- \*EAMES, ELIZABETH PAMELA, 77 Pulteney St., Bath, Somerset. (Age 24). Civil Servant.  
Groups 5 (a), (b), (d); 10; 5 (e); 7 (b). Has only recently started to  
collect and thinks it a most interesting hobby. Considers the Hamilton  
papers provides that good, clean fun which seems so rare these days.  
Says all the people with whom she works have read the Magnet and Gem at  
some time or other. Special favourites, Mr. Quelch and Horace Coker.
- EVERETT, C.A., P.O. Box 7, Brinkworth, South Australia. (Age 49). Farmer.  
Groups 5 (a), (c), (d); 7 (a). Particularly requires runs up to 1260  
of Gem and Magnet. Any help would be greatly appreciated.
- FARISH, ROBERT, 24 English St., Longtown, Cumberland. (Age 52).  
Groups 5 (b), (a), (c), (e). A keen supporter of the Gem.
- FAYNE, ERIC, The Modern School, Grove Rd., Surbiton, Surrey. (L).  
Groups 5 (all); 6; 8.
- FENNELL, HUGH W., 4 Dixon Rd., South Norwood, London, S.E.25. Groups 1; 2; 3;  
and all others. Wants: "Wild Boys of London"; "Scoops"; Frank Reades;  
Sherlock Holmes books and Holmesiana odd numbers; "Skeleton Horseman"  
and "Boy Detective". Collects unusual books in French and English.
- FLINDERS (Miss) E.B., "Roseview," Gosmore Rd., Nr. Hitchin, Herts. (L).  
Illustrator. Groups 5 (b), (a), (d), (c).
- FORD, DEREK, 42 West Bond St., Macclesfield, Cheshire. Group 6 (all).
- GANDER, WILLIAM H., Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada. (L). (Age 55). Retail  
Storekeeper. Groups 2 (Boys' Friend all period); 5 (a). Still needs  
about 25 Magnets to complete set. New series Greyfriars Heralds, Nos.  
30-35, 52 to end. Boys' Friend in Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 23 to end.
- GEAL, JOHN W., 277 Kings Rd., Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. (L). (Age 32).  
Scientific Instrument Maker. Groups 5(a); 8 (Modern Boy), 5(e)(b); 7(a).
- GILES, F. VICTOR, 6 St. Paul's Rd., Barking, Essex. Group 5 (a), (b), (d), (e), (c).
- GOCHER, JOHN WOODWARD, Benevenagh, Abbey Rd., Sudbury, Suffolk. (Age 32).  
Ironmonger. Groups 8; 6 (all); 5 (all); 4; 3; 2; 9; 10; 1.
- GODSAVE, REUBEN JAMES, 35 Woodhouse Rd., Leytonstone, London, E.11. (Age 43).  
Commercial Traveller. Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (a).
- GOODHEAD, WILLIAM HENRY, 50 Porter Road, Derby. (Age 37). Postal Worker.  
Groups 5 (a), (d), (b); 6 (a), (b); 7 (a); 6 (c).
- GOURLAY, NEIL CLARKSON, 54 Grosvenor Dr., Whitley Bay, Northumberland. (L).  
(Age 27). Electrical Engineer. Groups 5 (b), (a); 7 (a); 5 (d), (e),  
(c); 7 (b); 6 (all); 10.
- GRAINGER, GEORGE P., Alexandra Rd., Paynters Lane End, Redruth, Cornwall.  
Groups 1; 2; 3; 6 (a). Special Wants: Ally Sloper, Christmas numbers  
and plates for 1886, 1887, 1888, 1892, 1897. Nos. 132, 139, 200, 1007, 1093,  
1132. Aldine 2d Detective Library, Nos. 10, 17-20, 22, 23, 32, 73-75, 78.  
Tip Top Tales ld. Nos. 9, 11, 25, 55, 59. Boys' Friend ld. Nos. 523,  
575, 577-579, 581, 597, 616.



- GREGORY, NORMAN, 6 Metfield Croft, Harborne, Birmingham, 17. (M). (Age 37).  
Accountant and Auditor. Groups 5 (all); 4; 7 (a),(b); 6 (a); 3; 2; 8; 1.  
Collection of papers of all groups steadily grows, but can always find  
room for more. Would welcome correspondence with all and sundry.
- GUNN, JOHN, A.M.H.C.I., Gunn's Guest House, 1 Stratford Square (off Shakespeare  
St., Nottingham. Guest House Proprietor. Groups 7 (a), (b); 8.
- \*GUNN, JOHN MAXWELL, c/o Gunn's Guest House, 1 Stratford Square, (off Shakespeare  
St., Nottingham. (Age 16). Page Boy, The County Hotel, Nottingham.  
Groups 7 (a); 5 ((d) St. Frank's stories); 8 (Thrillers). A new re-  
cruit to the ranks of readers of old boys' books. Although he has read  
all the Tom Merry Annuals his main reading was modern weeklies, i.e.,  
Hotspur, Wizard, etc. Has tried to read Magnets and Gems but did not  
like them. Bought some S.O.L's. (St. Frank's) and found that E.S.  
Brooks' style of writing was "just the job" and immediately became a St.  
Frank's addict, having "requisitioned" his father's collection of Nelson  
Lees and Monsters. Wants N.L.L's. 1930 and 1931 at reasonable prices.
- HALL, ALFRED L., 34 Compton Crescent, Leeds, 9. (N). Clerk. Groups 3;2;6 (a)(b).
- HALL, LESLIE, 32 Second Ave., Wortley, Leeds, 12. (N). (Age 48).  
Groups 5 (a) (b); (3); 5 (d); 9.
- HARRIS, ARTHUR, "Caynton", Llanrhos Rd., Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno. Group 9 (Comic  
Cuts 1890 to Churckles 1914). Interested in all comics between these  
dates.
- HARRISON, WILLIAM, 54 Chandos Ave., Leeds, 8. 'Phone 66-4849. (N). (Age 51).  
Groups 5 (a), (b), (c), (d); 9.
- HEMINGWAY, HENRY B., 32 Dickering Rd., Kingston Hill, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.  
Electrical Engineer. Groups 5 (d), (a), (b), (e).
- HEPBURN JAMES, 1 Sixth Ave., Blyth, Northumberland. (N). (Age 48). Grocery  
Manager. Groups 4; 6 (b); 5 (a).
- HESS, GEO. H., (Junr). 40 North Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul 4., Miss., U.S.A.  
Groups 3; 4; 5 (all); 6 (all); 7; 8.
- HIGHTON, GEORGE J., 14 Greyhound Rd., Kensal Green, Willesden, London, N.W.10.  
(Age 26). Automobile Engineer. Groups 5 (a); 7 (a).
- HOCKLEY, GEOFFREY, 308 Keyes Rd., New Brighton, Christchurch, New Zealand. (L).  
(Age 51). Motor Cycle Dealer. Groups 4; 2. Recently realised his  
ambition of completing a complete run of Chums volumes (1893 - 1941). Is  
no longer actively collecting but is still intensely interested in  
everything pertaining to the old boys' papers.
- \* HODGSON, RONALD, 49 Horbury Rd., Ossett, Yorks. (N). (Age 28). Clerk.  
Groups 5 (b), (a).
- HOLT, BRIAN D., British Legation, Reykjavik, Iceland. (L).  
Groups 7 (a); 5 (b), (d), (a).
- HOMER, HARRY M., Pension Cuevas, Gran Via, Bilbao, Spain. (L). (Age 47).  
Groups 6 (a),(b); 5 (d),(e); 6 (c); 9. Chairman Sexton Blake Circle.
- HOPKINS, RAYMOND H., c/o Knezek, 39-34 45 Street, Long Island City, 4, N.Y.,  
U.S.A. (L). (Age 34). City Directory Compiler. Group 5 (a), (b),  
(d), (e), (c).
- HOPPERTON, TOM, Courtlands, Fulford Rd., Scarborough, Yorkshire. (N). (Age 46).  
Groups 5 (a),(b),(d),(c); 1. Other groups in lesser degree.
- HORTON, WILLIAM, 4 Marton Rd., Huyton, Liverpool. (Mer). Groups 5 (a); 7 (a);  
4 (Chums). Librarian, Merseyside O.B.B.C. Has a leaning for stories  
by Major Charles Gibson, and any dealing with the Rio Kid. Possesses

- several volumes of Chums.
- HUBBARD, ERNEST ALEXANDER, 5 South View Crescent, Sheffield, 3. (N). (Age 47). Groups 5 (all); 7 (a), (b); 9; 2; 6 (a). Is anxious to obtain early Gems and Magnets, particularly between 1914 and 1925. Also first series Nelson Lee.
- \*HUBBARD, WILLIAM JOSEPH ALFRED, c/o The Department of Agriculture, Machakos, Kenya Colony, B.E.A. (L). (Age 34). Administrative Assistant, Department of Agriculture, Kenya Colony. Groups 5 (b); 7 (a); 5 (d), (a), (e), 7 (b). Has a small but growing collection of Gems and Nelson Lees (St. Frank's stories only) as well as a number of Holiday Annuals and S.O.Ls. Has been interested in St. Jim's and St. Frank's for a good many years. Whilst at home on leave from Kenya in 1952 heard about the O.B.B.C. and is now a member of the London branch. Considers the hobby an interesting and fascinating one and is particularly keen on articles on the various 'series' which have appeared in C.D.
- HUGHES, JACK SHERWOOD, 184 Riverview Dr., Chelmer, S.W.3., Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Minister of Religion. Groups 5 (b), (d), (e); 7 (a); 5 (c); 7 (b). Is desperately anxious to complete long runs. Needs:- Magnets 1385, 1386, 1450. Nelson Lee 46 (December 1930); Gem 1098; S.O.Ls. 233, 246, 258, 260, 261.
- HUMPHREYS, ERIC, Oak Dene, Boat Lane, Higher Irlam, Nr. Manchester. (N). (Age 38). Laboratory Assistant. Group 5 (a), (b), (d), (e), (c). Still anxious to obtain the Cavandale Abbey and Otto Van Tromp series. Thinks the C.D. the smartest magazine in the world!
- HUMPHRIES, KENNETH, 61 Long Hill Rise, Hucknall, Notts. Groups 5 (all); 7.
- HUNTER, J.V.B. STEWART, 4 Lulworth Rd., Mottingham, London, S.E. 9. (Age 54). Groups 1; 3; 2.
- HUNTER, RONALD HENRY, Rua Inglaterra, 8 Ponta Da Praia, Santos, Brazil, South America. (Age 40). Assistant in Shipping Company. Group 5 (a), (e), (b), (c), (d).
- HURRELL, JAMES W., "Glenisle," 10 Ilfracombe Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex. (L). Progress Clerk. Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (all); 6 (a), (b). Is pleased to see the library idea gaining strength and hopes that before long there will be a vast number of the old papers available.
- IMPSON, STANLEY, "Stanfield," Jerningham Rd., New Costessy, Nr. Norwich, Norfolk. (Age 56). Master Upholsterer. Groups 5 (a), (b), (e); 2; 4; 6 (a), (b); 5 (d); 7 (a); 8; 1; 5 (c); 4; 9; 10.
- INGRAM, ARTHUR JOHN, 97 Tettenhall Rd., Wolverhampton. (M). (Age 40 odd). Schoolmaster. Group 5 (all).
- IRALDI, JAMES C., 28-13 33rd Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York, U.S.A. (L). (Age 46). Group 5 (all).
- \* JACK, JOHN, 16 Sandholes St., Paisley, Scotland. (Age 32). Clerk. Group 5 (a), (b), (d). Collection consists of 220 Magnets, 50 Gems, a few S.O.Ls. and Holiday Annuals. Ambition is a complete set of Magnets!
- JAMISON, WILLIAM, Lisnacree, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Gardener. Group 5 (a), (c).
- JARDINE, WILLIAM W., 52 Kipling Ave., Woodingdean, Brighton, Sussex. (L). (Age 38) Engineering Sales Correspondent. Groups 5 (all); 7 (a); 6 (all) but Gwyn Evans stories only. A Frank Richards admirer, with a nostalgic affection for the nineteen-twenties. "Second-favourite" writers, E.S.

Brooks and Gwyn Evans. Is still on the look-out for Magnets Nos.910-917.

JENKINS, ROGER M., "The Firs," Eastern Rd., Havant, Hants. (Age 28). Civil Servant (Legal Branch). Group 5 (a), (d), (b), (c), (e).

JEYES, JAMES A., 108 Adnett St., Northampton. (Age 57). Group 2.

JOHNSON, MARCUS, 164 Amesbury Ave., Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2. Accountant. Groups 7 (a); 5 (a),(b),(c). Would like to hear of any Boys' Friends 1917 - 1919 inclusive, for sale. Also Magnets Nos. 465-620; Gems 475-656; and Nelson Lees, old series 83-186.

JONES, RAYMOND, "Melrose," 39 Mill Hill Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight. (Age 24). Shop Manager. Group 5 (a), (d), (b), (c).

JONES, S.F., High School, Penrith, N.S.W., Australia. Group 5 (b), (e).

KEELING, FRANK, 107 Dolphins Road, Folkestone, Kent. (L). (Age 46). Electrical Instrument Maker. Groups 7 (a); 10; 5 (a).

KELSHAW, L.G., 41 Selby Ave., South Shore, Blackpool. Group 5 (a).

KIRBY, GORDON J., c/o Public Library, Swanston St., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. (Mel). Group 5 (all); 10.

KNASTER, R.M.J., 4 Elm Place, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W.7. Group 5 (a).

KNIGHT, STANLEY, 50 Browning Street, Bradford, Yorks. (N). Group 5 (all).

KUTNER, M., 4 New North Place, Scrutton St., Finsbury, London, E.C.2. (L). (Age 46). Wood Carver. Group 5 (b), (a), (c). Collection now consists of 490 Gems, 360 Magnets and 80 Penny Populars. Interested in the illustrators, particularly Warwick Reynolds.

LANDY, ERIC R., 4 Nuneaton Rd., Dagenham, Essex. (Age 50). Commercial Traveller. Groups 3; 1; 2. Particularly requires Aldine Robin Hoods, (original 1901) and Jack Sheppards.

LAWSON, ARTHUR W., 13 Charles Square, Hoxton, London, N.1. (L). Groups 1; 2.

LECKENBY, HERBERT, Telephone Exchange, c/o Central Registry, Northern Command, York. (L). (N). (Age 64). Military Telephone Exchange Supervisor. Groups: All, particularly 1; 2; 3. Very anxious to obtain Chips, Comic Cuts, Comic Home Journals, 1896-1904.

\*LETTEY, C.L., 27 Heather Close, Kingswood, Bristol. Group 5 (all). Present collection consists of Magnets 1932-40. Often has duplicates for sale or exchange on generous terms. Would like to obtain copies of earlier Magnets and Gems. Views on the hobby: "Like most things in life it is full of elations and depressions. The former when you get that long-sought-for number or series; the latter when you find middle pages are missing or that some unknown has cut out slices for competition entries in the long ago. Or when you open an apparently mint copy and find that some ass has coloured all the inside pictures with crayon."

LEWIS, MERVYN D., 10 Dudley Road, Folkestone Kent. (Age 31). Group 5 (a).

LOFTS, WILLIAM O.G., 42 Ashbridge Street, St. Marlebone, London, N.W. 8. (Age 30). Engineer (Carburettor Assembling). Groups 6 (b); 5 (a). Is acquainted with several authors of present S.B.Ls.

MACHIN, HUBERT, 38 St. Thomas Road, Moor Park, Preston, Lancs. Group 5 (a).

- McCABE, Robert Jackson, 74 Ann St., Dundee, Angus, Scotland. (Age 35) Reed-Maker. Groups 5 (a), (b), (d), (e), (c); 3; 6 (b), (a), (c). Wishes to obtain stories of Biggles (W.E. Johns) in the Boys' Friend Lib. or other magazine.
- McGARVA, R. ANTHONY, 15 Wellstone Rd., Bramley, Leeds. (Age 30). Groups: All.
- McKIM, WILLIAM, Coxwold, York. Medical Practitioner. Groups 1; 2; 3; 4.
- McPHERSON, E., 60 Benedict St., Glastonbury, Somerset. (Age 37). Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (a), (d).
- McROBERTS, GEORGE, 31 Ardenlee Dr., Cregagh, Belfast, Northern Ireland. (Age 51). Groups 5 (all); 7 (a).
- MAGOVENY, EDITH, 65 Bentham St., Belfast, N. Ireland. (Age 44). Groups 5 (a), (c), (d), (e); 7 (a), (b).
- MARTIN, BILL, 93 Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London, N.W. 10. Dairyman. Groups 5 (all); 6 (all). Requires a few Magnets to complete collection.
- MATHESON, ALEXANDER S., 11 Ackergill St., Wick, Caithness. (L). (Age 22). Meteorological Assistant. Groups 5 (b), (a); 8 (Thrillers); 6 (a). Wants last three issues of Gem. Any numbers of Thriller, particularly with John G. Brandon's Inspector McCarthy stories and W.E. John's Steeley Deleroy.
- MELL, GEORGE, 49 Gracefield Gardens, Streatham, London, S.W.16. (L). (Age 45). Journalist. Groups 5 (a), (e), (b), (c), (d); 4.
- MELLOR, PETER LODGE, 19 Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22a. (Age 31). Machine Tool Fitter (Skilled). Groups 5(all); 6(all); 1; 2; 8; 7(a), (b).
- \*MORGAN, J.K., 58 Moorfield Rd., Great Crosby, Liverpool. (Mer). Groups 5 (all), 7 (a), (b). Above his main favourites, but also interested in all others groups.
- \*MORLEY, LAWRENCE, 29 Netheravon Rd., Chiswick, London, W.4. (Age 27). Motor Tube Inspector. Groups 1; 2; 5(a), (b); 6(a); 5(c), (e), (d); 7(a); 8; 9; 4; 6 (a), (b). Has only been collecting a few months and already has 20  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Union Jacks; 14 Boys' Friend, 1922-25; 20 Magnets; 76 Nelson Lees; 20 S.O.Ls; 3 vols. B.O.P.; 100 Ally Slopers and a variety of others of all periods. Would like to get hold of very rare items like Varney the Vampire.
- MORTIMER, ROBERT, 115 Walton Rd., East Molesey, Surrey. (L). (Age 52). Commercial Artist. Groups 5 (a), (b), (d).
- \*MUNRO, A., 11 Regent Park Ave., Headingley Lane, Leeds, 6. (N). (Age 60). Goods Station Agent, British Railways. Groups 2; 4 (Chums); 7 (a); 5 (d), (e), 7 (b); 3; 5 (c); 8 (Boys' Realm and Champion). His first collection is how in 1901 his father placed an order for Chums to be delivered for a year as a birthday present. During that year he discovered also the Boys' Friend and Boys' Realm. Then came the Boys' Herald. All these he read regularly until 1910. In later years he tried to find, through the A.P., without success, others who were interested in the old papers. Then, a few months ago, he found to his surprise and delight that there was an organisation of the very kind he had been wanting, almost on his own doorstep.
- MURTAGH, JOHN R., 509 Selwood Rd., Hastings, New Zealand. (Age 40). Entertainer. Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (d), (a); 6 (a), (b); 5 (c); 6 (c); 5 (e). Requires 34 Nelson Lees (old series - 1915-17) to complete collection. Nos. 1, 4, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17, 22, 27, 31, 40, 42, 46, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78, 82, 84, 88, 92. Will pay any price; or will exchange three old series Nelson Lee or two old series Sexton Blake's for each of above numbers. Have several hundred for exchange.

- NICHOLLS, RONALD ALICK, The Grey House, Staunton Rd., Whitchurch, Bristol, 4. (L) (Age 39). Groups 5 (a), (b); 4 (Chums, B.O.P.); 6 (a). Wants Magnets particularly for years 1924-1933. Any price within reason. Gems 1924 onwards. Union Jacks 1924 to the end. Chums Annual 1922 or 1923. Holiday Annual 1924. Scout Annual 1926, 1927, 1928 or 1929.
- \*NORTH, PERCY, The Great Western Hotel, Vyne Rd., Basingstoke, Hants. (L). (Age 48). Groups 5 (b), (a), (e), (d Rookwood); 7 (a). Has a small but growing collection, started February 1953. Has all Holiday Annuals except 1920. Gems (most  $\frac{1}{2}$ d numbers) about 100 Magnets, some early Boys' Friends also all Bunter post-war books, Tom Merry's and Rookwoods. Requires  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Gems 7, 9 and 23. 1d Gems, 29, 34-41, 43, 48, 53, 58 and 60. Also Nos. 1108 and 1125. Holiday Annual, 1920.
- \*O'SHEA, R.J., 8 Eve Rd., Leytonstone, London, E.11. Turf Accountant. Group 5 (a), (b), (d).
- ORR, W.S., 3 Hartfield Terrace, Dumbarton, Scotland. (Age 51). Groups 5 (a), (b), (c); 6 (a); 2; 8 (Boys' Friend).
- PACKMAN, LEONARD, 27 Archdale Rd., East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L). (Age 48). Civil Servant (Established). Groups 5(all); 7(both); 6(all); 9; 10. Urgently requires:- Detective Library ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d) Nos. 1,2,3,5,6,8,10-15,17, 19,21,22,24,29,31,33,38,39,41,42, 45-50. Will pay 3/- each for clean copies of any of the above. Chairman, London O.B.B.C.
- PACKMAN, JOSEPHINE, 27 Archdale Rd., East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L). Civil Servant (Established). Groups 6 (all); 5 (b). Requires Sexton Blake Libraries (1st and 2nd series only). Please give serial number and price required. All offers welcome.
- PARKS, JOSEPH, 2 Irvin Ave., Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorkshire. (Age 61). Master Printer. Groups 2; 1; 3; 5 (a); 6 (b).
- PARRATT, C. JAMES, 188 Compton Buildings, Goswell Rd., London, E.C.1. (L). Groups 7 (a), (b); 5 (all); 8 (Thriller).
- \*PAYNE, RONALD WILLIAM, 5 Bugbrooke Rd., Gayton, Northants. (L). (Age 33). Clock and Instrument Mechanician. Groups 7(a),(b); 5 (e),(a),(b); 6 (a). Is emphatically a Nelson Lee fan; considers it far superior to all others. Is at present collecting 1st New Series and only requires eight copies to complete set. Been collecting just over a year.
- PICK, ROBERT, 3 Stonegate Grove, Leeds, 7. (Age 54). Master Tailor. Groups 5(b), (a), (d), (c), (e).
- \*PORTER, T.W., Old Fields, Corngreaves Rd., Cradley Heath, Staffs. (M). (N). Groups 5 (a), (d); 7 (a), (b); 5 (b),(e),(c); 6 (b). As a boy was a Nelson Lee fan and still possesses a certificate of membership of the St. Frank's League. Still enjoys a Nelson Lee but now prefers Hamiltoniana.
- POUND, REV. A.G., St. Paul's Vicarage, 68 Finmore Rd., Birmingham, 9. (Age 51). Minister of Religion. Groups 5 (a), (b), (e), (d); 1; 2.
- \*PRAGNELL, NORMAN, 33 Brae St., Liverpool, 7. (Mer). (Age 38). Groups 7 (a),(b); 5 (d), St. Frank's stories only, 5 (a); 8 (Boys' Magazine, Boys' Realm). Strong Nelson Lee enthusiast. Recently started re-collecting and now has 300 Nelson Lees and a number of St. Frank's S.O.Ls. Other interests: A keen Gramophile and supporter of Arsenal and Everton.
- PRICE, H.C. NORTON, 22 Northdown Rd., Margate, Kent. (L). Master Grocer. Group 6(b) Requires Nos. 407 and 513 Second Series Sexton Blake Library to enable him to complete the three series. Also requires many Boys' Friend Libraries.

- PRIME, BERNARD, 43 Mayfield Road, Sanderstead, Surrey. (Age 52). Group 5 (a),(b). Is anxious to obtain Magnet No. 336. Interested in "School Cap".
- RANSOM, GEORGE H., 207 Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berks. Groups 5 (a), (b); 6 (a); 7 (a). Always on the look-out for Magnets and Gems. Has now a collection of nearly 1,100 books.
- RAYNER, WILLIAM JOHN, Albion, Clarence Road, Sudbury, Suffolk. (Age 41). General Manager, Cinema Company. Group 5 (all).
- RENEN, CHARLES GERARD VAN, P.O. Box 50, Uitenhage, Cape Province, South Africa. (Age 42). Bank Official. Group 5 (all). Has now complete collection of Holiday Annuals, but still requires about 120 Magnets, as advertised in June C.D., to complete my collection of originals from 1916 to the end.
- RHODES, A. WRIGHT, Regional Intelligence Officer, c/o Rhine Centre, Dusseldorf, B.A.O.R. 4. Group 5 (a), (b).
- RICHARDSON, ARTHUR, 49 Ashburnham Mansions, Chelsea, S.W.10. (L). Groups 2; 1; 3.
- \*RICHARDSON, L.H.S., Oxford House, 21 Lee High Road, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. (N) (Age 40). Army Officer. Group 5 (b), (a), (d). Collection is restricted to a few copies of Gems and Magnets, and to the books published since the last war. Was an avid reader of the papers dealing with the Hamilton schools, and until 1930 retained a large collection. Being a soldier, however, had to move pretty constantly and the old papers were lost. His first priority now is not to own Gems and Magnets but to renew acquaintance through what he calls the Northern Section O.B.B.C.'s. excellent library. Shortly, however, hopes to start a collection again.
- ROUSE, RONALD E.J., 3 St. Leonard's Terr., Norwich, Norfolk. (Age 31). Groups 6 (b),(a); 1; 6 (c); 7 (a); 8 Detective stories only. Wants: "Calander of Horrors"; "Calcraft the Hangman"; Police Budgets, Clippers, Bits and News, pre-1900. Empire Library Nos. 1 and 2. Famous Fights; "The Terrific Register" and "Martha Willis".
- RUSSELL, BERYL, 4 Ashgrove Rd., Perry Barr, Birmingham, 22. (M). (L). Departmental Manageress. Groups 5 (a),(d),(b),(e); 7 (b). Has continued to increase collection which now comprises 450 Magnets, 350 S.O.Ls., and complete sets of Monster Libraries, Holiday Annuals, C.D., and C.D. Annuals. Is anxious to complete collection of S.O.Ls. Recently elected committee member of Midland Branch, O.B.B.C.
- \*RUTHERFORD, FREDERICK GEORGE, Herbert Lodge, 3 Cotham Park North, Bristol, 6. (Age 49). Co. Director Engineer. Groups 5 (a),(b),(d); 7 (a),(b); 5(c), (e). Commenced reading Magnet and Gem in 1916 and has pleasant recollections of buying lots of red and blue covered ones at 3 a ld. Started reading Nelson Lees soon after St. Frank's stories started. Collection now consists of four Holiday Annuals bought on publication and a small quantity of Magnets, Gems and S.O.Ls., bought during past year, all Bunter and Goldhawk books and Tom Merry Annuals. His sister has similar interests but puts first Nelson Lees.
- SATCHELL, T.G., 63 Cantwell Road, Plumstead, Woolwich, London, S.E.18. (Age 50). Butcher's Manager. Group 5 (a), (b). Interested only in red-cover Magnets and blue-cover Gems.
- \*SELLARS, GEORGE, 1 Hesley Rd., Shiregreen, Sheffield, 5. (N). (Age 52). Labourer. Group 5 (b), (a). Started re-collecting recently and at present has only a small quantity of Gem reprints. Is anxious to obtain Gems 370, 375 and 393.

- SHAW, JOHN R., 4 Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London, S.E.5. (Age 35). Groups 5 (b),(a),(e); 6 (a),(b); 7 (a); 5 (d). Interested in all periods of Charles Hamilton's work. Desires to obtain certain Plucks dated 1909-10 containing stories of Tomsonio's Circus by Harry Dorrian.
- SHEPHERD, JAMES, 43 Station Rd., Killamarsh, Sheffield. Group 5 (b),(a). Particularly interested in early issues.
- SIMPSON, CLIVE, Flat 2, 8 Granby Rd., Harrogate, Yorks. (Age 37). Medical Representative. Groups 7(a); 6(a); 7(b); 6(b); 5(b),(a); 6(c); 8 (Thriller); 4; 5(a); 2; 1; 3; 10; 9.
- SMITH, CLIFFORD, 5 Sharman Ave., St. Annes, Lancs. (N). (Age 36). Local Government Officer. Group 5 (a),(d),(e). Has completed collection of Magnets 1,000 to end. Would like to obtain some Boys' Friend Libraries containing Rio Kid and King of the Islands stories.
- SMITH, DEREK, 14 Crescent Lane, Clapham Park, London, S.W.4. (Age 27). Detective Story Writer. Groups 5(a),(b); 7(a); 5(e),(c); 6(b). Collection includes 550 Nelson Lees, 150 S.O.Ls., 100 Magnets, 75 S.B.Ls., 8 Holiday Annuals.
- SMITH, JOSEPH, 36 Langham Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5. Group 5(a),(b),(d),(e).
- SMITH, NORMAN JOSEPH, 34 Waincliffe Mount, Beeston, Leeds, 11. (N). Sales Office Manager. Groups 5(a),(d),(b),(e). Hon. Sec. Northern Section, O.B.B.C.
- SMITH, PERCY, The Stores, Mumby, Nr. Alford, Lincs. (Age 52). Groups 3; 2; 5(b); 7; 5(c).
- SMITH, STANLEY, Millichope School, Craven Arms, Shropshire. (N). Groups 5 (all); 7 (a); 10; 8.
- \*SMITHWICK, FERGAL, "Belgana," Greenville Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. (Age 33). Chartered Accountant. Group 5 (d) Greyfriars; 5 (a).
- SMYTH, SYDNEY, 1 Brandon Street, Clovelly, N.S.W., Australia. Silk Screen Artist. Groups 5 (a),(b),(c),(d); 7(a). Is anxious to obtain Magnets Nos. 960-66, 979, 981, 987-90, 992, 995, 996, 999, 1007, 1011, 1012, 1016, 1024-25, 1027, 1031-38, 1062-63, 1066, 1075, 1078-80, 1087-89, 1100, 1117-8, 1125, 1128, 1154, 1174, 1180, 1194, 1205, 1208, 1270.
- SNELL, FRANK, 24 The Strand, Bideford, Devon. Group 5 (all).
- SOUTHWAY, ARTHUR JAMES, P.O. Box 3, Beaconsfield, Cape Province, South Africa. (L). Groups - All.
- SOUTHWOOD, ROGER, 3 Spring Villas, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants. (L). (Age 18). Cinema Projectionist. Groups 3; 5(a),(b),(d); 4 (Chums only). Anxious to obtain Aldines, especially Dick Turpins.
- \*SOYSA, A.C.H. DE, 4 Boyd Place, Colombo, Ceylon. (L). (Age 36). Company Director. Group 5 (a), (e).
- STABLES, HENRY, 44 Hawes Road, Little Horton, Bradford, Yorks. (N). (Age 66). Groups 4; 1; 3; 2; 9; 8; 6 (all); 7 (a),(b). Requires Boys' Friends Nos. 692 and 971 to complete short runs.
- STEVENS, SHEILA, 783 Rathdown St., North Carlton, N.4., Melbourne, Australia. (Mel). (Age 39). Groups 5 (all); 10; 4; 7 (a),(b); 8; 2; 1; 3; 6 (all).
- STEWART, ALAN, 290 Archway Road, London, N.6. (L). (Age 43). Dance Musician. Groups 7 (a); 5 (a), (b).
- STONE, LEON, Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., Australia. Journalist. Groups 5 (a),(b), (c); 4.
- STOREY, ROWLAND, 4 Byron St., Shieldfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2. Storekeeper. Groups 2; 4. Is anxious to obtain early copies of the "Big Budget".
- STURDY, F., 8 Watson St., Middlesbrough, Yorkshire. Group 5 (all).

- SUTCLIFFE, HERBERT JAMES, 27 Victoria Avenue, Wickford, Essex. (L). (Age 35). Warehouseman. Groups 7(a); 6 (E.S. Brooks stories only); 5(a), (b), (c), (d). Very definitely a Brooks' enthusiast. Regular reader of "Meccano Magazine" since January 1924. Hobbies - Cycling and gardening.
- SUTHERLAND, PEARD, 3930 W. 35th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. (Age 51). Assistant Public Relations Manager, British Columbia Telephone Co. Groups 5(b); 4; 5(a), (c); 6(a). Has now a complete set of "Chums".
- SWAN, JAMES ROBERT, 3 Fifth Ave., Paddington, London, W.10. (Age 37). Electric Arc Welder. Groups 2; 4; 5(a), (b), (c); 6(b); 7(a); 8. Has now a mixed collection including first 130 "Champions". Wishes to get a run of "Magnets" from 1930-40. Pride of place in 'mixed bag' is No. 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Gem.
- TAYLOR, RAYMOND, 22 Pembroke Ave., Ettingshall, Wolverhampton. (Age 64). Groups 1; 2. Still anxious to obtain Henderson's "Young Folks Budget", "Nuggets" and "Varieties".
- THOMPSON, GORDON, 53 Wallasey Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Tobacco Worker. Groups 5(a), (d); 7(a), (b); 5(b), (c). Is anxious to obtain loose Magnets and bound volumes before No. 1000. Also Nelson Lees 141 & 169 (old series)
- THURBON, WILLIAM T., 47 Cromwell Rd., Cambridge. (Age 50). Clerk. Groups 2; 5 (c. Jack, Sam & Pete only); 6 (a. Lobangu only); 4; 3; 9 (early "Pucks" only). Wants: 1d Marvels 6, 37, 129, 131-133, 274, 283-285.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Marvel 385, 389, 408, 416, 432, 434. Penny Populars (1st series) 38, 39, Union Jacks: 201, 244, 504, 565, 652. B.F.L. (1st series) 92, 142, 118, 95, 163, 197. Pucks Xmas and Summer double numbers 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912.
- TRAYNOR, J. RICHARD, BCM/Adventures, London, W.C.1. (Age 47). Asst. Commissioner of National Savings. Groups 7(a); 5(a); 6(a); 10 (Schoolgirls' Own). Specially wanted for sentimental reasons, Nelson Lee (old series) No. 61 "The Golden Boomerang" and Union Jacks No. 664 "House of Secrets" and No. 697 "The Broken Span".
- TWELLS, J., 32 Bridgett St., Rugby. (Age 46). Group 7 (a).
- VENNIMORE, CHARLES E.F., 25 Byron Ave., West Hounslow, Middlesex. Still possesses a huge collection of periodicals of all types, including many No. 1's.
- WAINES, GRANVILLE T., 6 Burnham Rd., Westcott, Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks. (Age 50). Groups 5; 6; 7; 8. Particularly interested in Double Numbers.
- WALKER, PETER A., 16 Thorncliffe Rd., Mapperley Park, Nottingham. Groups 5 (b), (a); 7 (a); 4; 5 (d), (e).
- WALLIS, CLIFFORD, 64 Oakwood Park Road, Southgate, London, N.14. (Age 33). Civil Servant. Groups 5(a), (b); 8; 7(a); 5(c), (d); 6(a), (c), (b); 5(e); 7(b); 9; 10; 1; 2; 3; 4.
- WALSH, JAMES, 345 Stanley Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool. (Mer). (Age 44). Group 5 (a), (b), (c), (d).
- WARREN, PHILIP, 3 Newton Rd., Urmston, Lancs. (N). Group 5 (all).
- WEBB, WALTER, 84 Park Rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11. (Age 44). Group 6 (a), (b).
- WEBSTER, DONALD B., Waterloo House, 7 Crosby Rd. South, Liverpool, 22. (Mer). 'Phone Waterloo 3079. (Age 48). Civil Servant. Groups 5(b), (a), (e), (d), (c); 7(a); 6(a). Been a reader of Companion Papers since 1910 with a preference for the Gem. Is still seeking B.F.L. (1st series) No. 237 "King Cricket" by Charles Hamilton, also wishes to obtain Magnet 223



- "Frank Nugent's Great Wheeze". Chairman Merseyside Branch, O.B.B.C.
- WEBSTER, PETER, 7 Crosby Rd. South, Liverpool, 22. (Mer). (Age 12). Group 5(e); 9 (pre-war). Youngest Club member; at present a member of "Remove" at Merchant Taylor's School, Crosby. Has 10 Holiday Annuals. Is anxious to obtain a copy of Puck and Chuckles.
- \*WESTWATER, W., 4 Buckley Street, Glasgow, N. Engineering Draughtsman. Groups 5(a),(d),(c); 9; 6(a). Has been collecting since 1947. Collection at present, 78 Magnets; 60 Penny Populars; 56 S.O.Ls; 76 Comics; 30 Nelson Lees; 40 Gems. Also many other Hamilton papers. Prefers collecting a number of copies for each year of the life of a paper rather than a continuous run. Has a preference for Christmas and special numbers.
- WHITER, BENJAMIN GEORGE, 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). (Age 48). Warehouseman. Groups 5(all); 6(a),(b); 4; 3; 9; 8; 2; 1; 10. Being Hon. Sec., London Branch O.B.B.C., has to have an extensive knowledge of all groups in order to answer numerous queries put to him.
- WHITER, ROBERT H., 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). (Age 29). Cycle Dealer. Group 5 (all); 8; 4.
- \*WHITER, EILEEN JOAN, 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). Insurance Broker's Book-keeper. Group 5 (a).
- WHITMORE, IAN, 3 South Bank Lodge, Surbiton, Surrey. (L). (Age 19). Bank Clerk. Group 5 (all). At present on National Service.
- WINDOVER, EILEEN I.M., 55 Avondale Rd., Gorleston-on-Sea, Yarmouth, Norfolk. Group 10.
- WHORWELL, RICHARD, 29 Aspinden Rd., Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16. (Age 55). Groups 5 (all); 4; 8; 6 (all).
- WILLET, E.P.K., Church Cottage, Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex. (L). Groups 5 (all); 4 (Captains and B.O.P's. Annuals only); 7 (a); 8 (Pre-war Triumphs, Skippers, Rovers, Hotspurs, Wizards and Adventures, Modern Hotspurs, Wizards, Lions). Special Wants: Magnets between 828-880, Gems between 700-880. Pre-war Triumphs or Modern Lions with Tom Stirling stories. Has been collecting since 1946 and has now about 900 Magnets, 200 Gems, 400 Populars, a set of S.O.Ls., all Holiday Annuals except two, besides numerous Nelson Lees, pre-war Big Five, etc.
- \*WILLIAMS, J.S., 99 Smyth Rd., Bristol, 3. (Age 37). Groups 5 (all); 7 (a). Also interested in other old boys' books and comics from 1900. Collection at present only small.
- WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, 410 Oakwood Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, 8. (N). (Age 52). Warehouseman. Groups 5 (all); 6 (a),(b); 2; 4.
- WILLISON, FRANK A., 6 Meredith St., Cradley Heath, Staffs. (Age 52). Tool Progress Chaser. Groups 4; 6(b); 2; 9. Wants early Boys' Friends, pre-1914; particularly Vol. 6. Henderson's Comics; Jesters.
- WILSON, ROBERT, 100 Broomfield Rd., Glasgow, N. (Age 55). Medical Practitioner. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e),(c); 6(a); 7(b). Has taken a re-awakened interest in the adventures of Zenith Reece, Ferraro, etc. Has now about 600 copies. In addition now has 1150 Magnets, 670 Gems, 313 Schoolboys' Owns, 100 Populars, 280 Boys' Friend Libs, 100 Thrillers, 230 Boys' Friends, 50 Boys' Realms, complete Monster Libs, all Holiday Annuals, C.Ds., and C.D. Annuals. Urgently requires Gems 1287 and 1288 to complete run for binding.
- WOOD, JOHN PETER, "NOSTAW", 328 Stockton Lane, York (N). (Age 39). Groups 7(a); 6(all); 5 (a), (b), (c), (d).
- WRIGHT, CHARLES, 12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L). (Age 48). Hospital Attendant. Groups 5(b); 6(a); 3; 2; 7(a); 9.
- WRIGHT, OLIVE, 12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L). Counter Hand. Group 6 (all).

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TO ALL C.D. READERS

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