

TAE

# Collectors' DIGEST Annual

9<sup>th</sup> YEAR

CHRISTMAS, 1955

Price  
11s. 6d.



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WILLIAM CAMPION (PUBLISHERS)

45, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

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# The Collectors' Digest Annual Christmas 1955

NINTH YEAR

NINTH YEAR

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YORK DUPLICATING SERVICES, 7 THE SHAMBLES, YORK, ENGLAND

Editor - HERBERT LECKENBY,  
c/o York Duplicating Services,  
7, The Shambles, YORK, ENGLAND.

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## FOREWORD

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Here in time for the Christmas fireside is our Annual. It makes its appearance as certainly as the festive season itself, thanks to our staunch little band of regular contributors, some new ones, and the co-operation of our publishers. There are several new-comers to the Who's Who, and in due course I shall particularly appreciate their frank opinions. There are more articles this year than last, thus more variety.

Now here's something else to think about, the next Annual will be the Tenth. That in its way will be as notable achievement as the 100th C.D. of blessed memory celebrated earlier in the year. It will mean that over a million words have been written on our fascinating hobby for the Annual alone. That is something we hope to mark in no uncertain fashion. But of that, more anon.

In conclusion, the old, old wish to everyone at home and in every clime to which the Annual finds its way - "A Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year".

Yours very sincerely,

*Herbert Leckenby*

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**AROUND THE HOME OF HARRY WHARTON**

WIMFORD

WIMFORD COMMON

← TO WHITEBRIDGE

TO GREENFORD

TO BUNTER VILLA

MEADOWS

RIVER WYME

REGGATE RD

SHEPCOT FARM

THE LARCHES

WIMFORD WOOD

DOWNES

BEECHES

GILES' POND

HUNTERS BEECH

OLD MOAT HOUSE

THE BUNCH OF GRAPES

WATER MILL

ROUGH LAND

RACE COURSE

ELM BRIDGE

RED COW

JUPKIN'S SHACK

ELM DALE

JENKINS BUNGALOW

SANKEY

PARK

WHARTON PARK

WHARTON MAGNUS

WHEAT

DERELICT MILL

OLD OAK INN

OAKWOOD LANE

HEATH

RIVERSIDE BUNGALOW

OLD BARN

WILLOW LANE

TO ASHWOOD AND CAVANDALE ABBEY

TO ASHWOOD

WARREN CROFT

LAKE

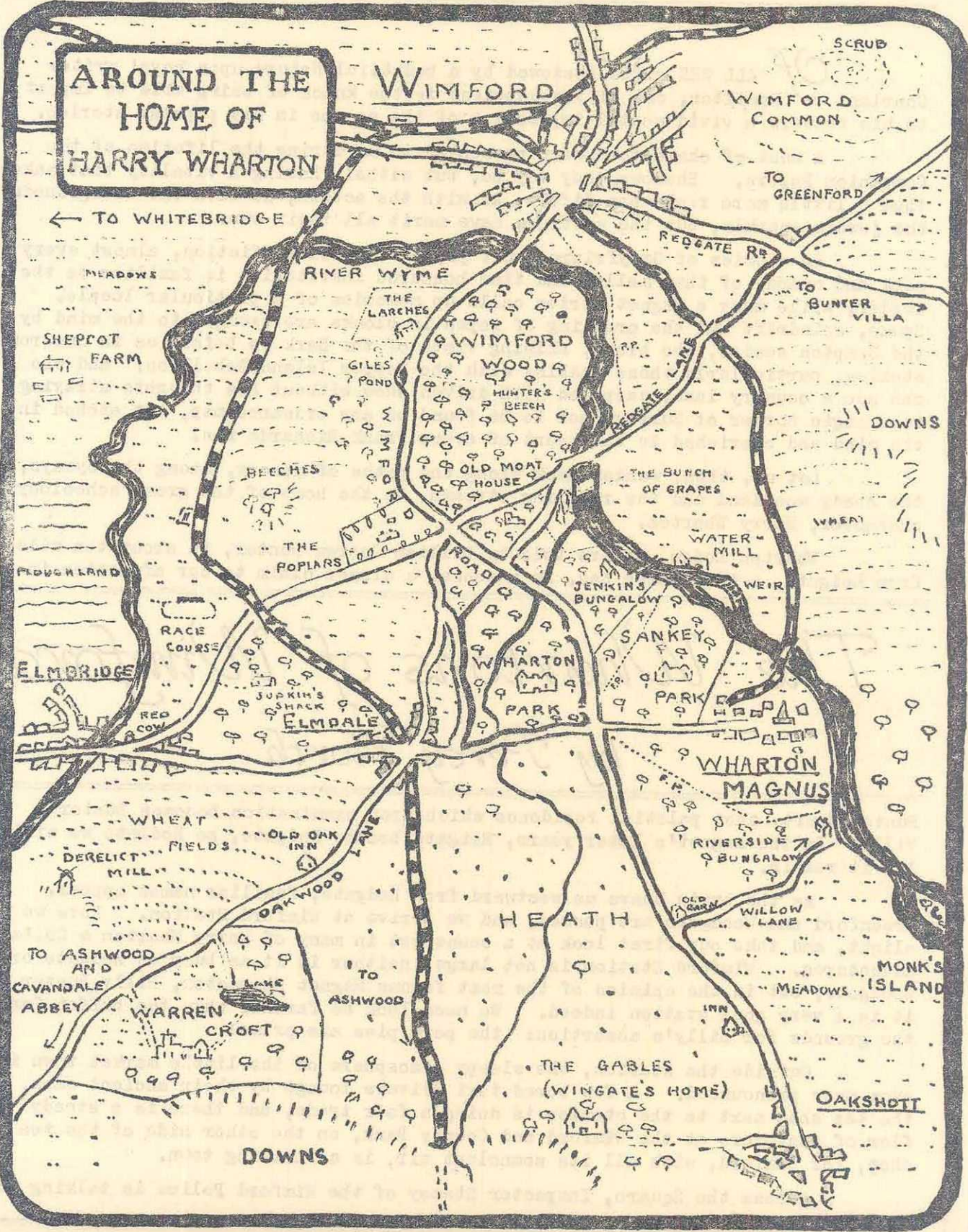
MONK'S ISLAND MEADOWS

INN

THE GABLES (WINGATE'S HOME)

OAKSHOTT

DOWNES



Of ALL THE gifts bestowed by a bountiful Nature upon boys' writer Charles Hamilton, one of the happiest is the knack of being able to impart to his readers a vivid mental impression of the scenes in his popular stories.

A host of characters were presented to us during the lifetime of the Companion Papers. Shadows they may be, but withal, having a vitality that makes them a little more real than life. As with the actors, so with the backgrounds: the jewels sparkle, but the settings have merit all their own.

In stories of Greyfriars, most popular school of fiction, almost every nook and cranny of that mellow and time honoured institution is familiar to the reader, while many a Magnet series calls up memories of a particular locale. Spume, spindrift and the creaking of ropes in blocks are brought to the mind by the Compton series, the broad, shining vista of the Sark is before us in numerous stories, particularly those dealing with the Popper Island Rebellion; and who can see a country lane, carpeted with driven snow without his thoughts straying to a magic corner of Surrey, not to be found on any ordnance map, but etched in the mind and cherished in the heart of every Frank Richards fan.

Let us, then, wander back along the paths of memory, among the byways, the shady woodland and the rippling streams, to the home of the great schoolboy character, Harry Wharton.

Wharton Lodge, we are told by William George Bunter, is about ten miles from Reigate, a town which has, in a sense, a closer claim to our affection in

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# The Whartons of Wimford

## by Percy North

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Bunter Court, that palatial residence which upon examination becomes Bunter Villa. In the Magnet's later years, Reigate became Redgate, so Redgate we will let it remain.

As the train bears us westward from Redgate, familiar names appear. Greenford and Woodgate are passed, and we arrive at Wimford Station. Here we alight, and take our first look at a scene set in many of Harry Wharton & Co.'s adventures. Wimford Station is not large, neither is it as busy as Redgate or Woodgate, but in the opinion of the most famous Magnet character, Billy Bunter, it is a very good station indeed. We need look no farther than the buffet for the grounds for Billy's assertion: the pork pies are prime!

Outside the station, the sleepy atmosphere of the little market town is even more pronounced. A few bored taxi drivers lounge by their ancient cabs, the tea shop next to the station is doing a fair trade, and there is a steady flow of customers at the Wimford and County Bank, on the other side of the tea shop, for Wimford, with all its somnolent air, is a thriving town.

Across the Square, Inspector Stacey of the Wimford Police is talking to

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a stout constable who is holding a bicycle. He is Mr. Piper, the Elmdale village policeman. Farther down the High Street we see the Wimford Picture Palace. The Co. like this cosy little cinema because it has a tea lounge attached. Needless to say, it is Bunter's favourite cinema, too. To the right of the railway station is the Station Hotel, while further up the street, to the right are the Theatre Royal and the Imperial Cinema.

Just as we are about to make a move down High Street towards the bridge, Wimford seems to erupt into life. Inspector Stacey gives one look up the street towards Whitebridge, and abruptly vanishes into the police station. P.C. Piper puts his cycle in safety around a side alley, and several policemen emerge from the police station, some buttoning up their tunics. From the Bank, tea shop, and all other establishments customers, clerks, shopkeepers and others rush out, while from the direction of Whitebridge comes a most appalling din, and a procession slowly winds into view, headed by an enormous elephant, upon whose neck is a young lad, dressed in tights and spangles, balancing himself upon one leg while he bangs away at a drum that he is holding, a feat which draws cheers from sundry errand boys and other small fry among the onlookers. Very fit and handsome this young fellow looks, although that nose of his reminds us of someone. Why, of course, it reminds us of Sir Hilton Popper. This is his nephew, Pop of the Circus, and the cavalcade is Walker's World Famous Circus and Hippodrome, better known as Walker's World Famous. And by Jove! there is "Old Jimmy", Jimmy Walker himself, the jolly looking purple-faced gentleman at the rear of the parade, in the Buster Seven. Walker's World Famous slowly crosses the Square, on its way to Wimford Common, where it is to pitch for a few days, and disappears.

As the tumult dies down, we wend our way down High Street and over Wimford Bridge, where we get our first glimpse of the River Wyme.

The Wimford Road is really little more than a wide lane, with Wimford Wood on the left hand, and farm land with clumps of beech trees on the other. That very tall tree laying a little way back in the wood, by the foot path is Hunter's Beech. Here it was that Herbert Vernon-Smith kept his appointment with the beery Mr. Banks of the Three Fishers, near Greyfriars. That gentleman received the surprise of his frowsy life, and a thrashing into the bargain. Lucien Teggers, alias Mr. Smedley, was watching from nearby thickets, and reported to Colonel Wharton and Mr. Quelch, who was staying at the Lodge, that the Bounder had met Banks at Hunter's Beech, but he made no mention of the fight, or that the bookie had been sent about his business, and things looked black for the Bounder until it was revealed that Bunter was also hidden nearby, and had spied upon Smedley as well as Smithy.

A little further on we come to Giles Pond, where Wharton and Hurree Singh ducked Lucas Bull, Johnny Bull's cousin, in "Johnny Bull On The Run".

The clump of beeches across the field to our right is where Bunter, with the aid of the Co., climbed a tree to identify the Poplars as the place where Fisher T. Fish was held to ransom by Barney McCann. Bunter could hardly see the bungalow at all, much to the disgust of four of the five chums. The fifth, Hurree Singh, had thought things over and had brought a pair of field glasses for just such an emergency. So the Famous Five were at last sure that they were on the track of the kidnappers. Around a bend in the road we come upon The Poplars itself, scene of the thrilling rescue of the boy from Noo Yark. A grim, forbidding place is the bungalow, surrounded by a tall fence topped by poplar

trees.

At the cross roads we turn left and follow the lane past the Old Moat House, here Mr. Quelch was imprisoned in a secret cell by the cracksman, Slim Jim. Bunter later joined the Remove Form-Master in captivity, but by the time that Ferrers Locke's assistant, Jack Drake, had discovered the secret of the Old Moat House, Mr. Quelch had been removed to safer quarters. Still, Bunter was rescued, which was something. In fact to the Owl it was everything!

We now come to the river again, and a little way down Wheatfield Lane is the Bunch of Grapes, a very respectable hostelry where the Famous Five first met Richard Lancaster, the schoolboy cracksman. This is as good a place as any to take a little light refreshment, and the apple-cheeked old waiter who ministers to our needs, upon learning of our interest in the district points out with evident relish the ancient horse-trough outside the inn, into which the Famous Five up-ended Horace Coker.

Having satisfied the inner man, we pass through the inn garden to the tow-path, and cross a little stream; the same which flows, a quarter of a mile away, through Wharton Park.

We now come to Jenkin's Bungalow, where Billy Bunter was again held a prisoner, this time in the cellar, and by the rascally sea-lawyer, Soames, in the affair of the silver cigarette case. Hereabouts Lancaster saved Coker from drowning. The water mill to which they were being swirled away to death can be seen on the other bank, and the roar of the weir can plainly be heard. A close call, this. The little stone bridge over the Wyme is where Harry Wharton spotted Richard Steele, otherwise Inspector Irons in the Courtfield Cracksman series, and just below is where that gentleman saved William George Bunter from the black, swirling waters and the cracking ice, only to be met with a storm of abuse over the loss of his (Bunter's) cap.

Continuing along the towpath we are now clear of Wimford Wood, with Sankey Park to the right, and a glimpse of the red bricks of Sankey Hall through the trees. On past the lock, and nestling in a curve of the river we can see the thatched roofs and old church tower of Wharton Magnus.

A little further down the river we come to a very nice little bungalow, with green shutters and french windows. Riverside Bungalow is the name of this property, and it is well worth noting, for it was here that the Bounder received the thrashing of his life from Harry Wharton. This was in the second of two splendid stories, "The Bounder's Folly" and "Harry Wharton's Enemy" published at Easter, 1932. They are worth recalling. In the first, Vernon-Smith was holidaying at Riverside Bungalow with Tom Redwing. Smithy's father had hired the bungalow for the two boys, and all went well until Smithy's shady streak began to get the upper hand. He invited a race-course acquaintance, Freddie Paget, to stay at the bungalow for a while. Meanwhile, a daring robbery had been carried out at the Wimford and County Bank by two men who escaped along the Wimford Road on a motor-bike. Along the road, the pillion rider, who was the actual robber, jumped off the motor-cycle and vanished into the woods, where he stripped off his disguise, and stowed the stolen notes away in his pockets. Had he known of the existence of William George Bunter, he might have guessed that the fat ornament of the Remove would be hiding in the hawthorns nearby. As it was, Bunter remained all-seeing but unseen and thus became the only person, besides the miscreants themselves, to know what the bank-thief really looked like.



The Owl's knowledge did not get Inspector Stacey very far in his search for the culprits, for Bunter produced a description which, though in his own opinion a brilliant piece of observation by a master mind, was, in fact, no use whatever to the harassed inspector in his search for the daring marauder. Meanwhile, Bob Cherry hurried through the woods to Riverside Bungalow to warn Smithy to keep a look out for the thief, who had headed that way. The Bounder, however, had a grudge to pay off against Bob, and with the aid of Freddie Paget, Bob was thrown headlong into the river. Soaking wet, and with an incipient cold, Bob hurried back to Wharton Lodge, where he was packed off to bed. The other four members of the Co. set out for the bungalow and Smithy on vengeance bent. Bunter came along because he couldn't believe that there wasn't a feed in the offing. The juniors burst in through the french windows at the bungalow, to the surprise of Smithy, Paget and Redwing. Their surprise was nothing to what followed as soon as the short-sighted Owl got a good look at Paget, for the Bounder's new-found friend was none other than the Wimford bank robber! A glorious free-for-all ensued, and Paget was secured and handed over, with the booty, to the Wimford police. Smithy received the royal and imperial jaw from his father over the affair, and his feelings towards the Famous Five were more bitter than ever.

Some days later the Co. took a boat out on the river, and were passing the bungalow on their way to Monk's Island, further down the river. The Bounder, who could never miss a chance to be unpleasant, when the mood stirred him, heaved a turf at Bob Cherry, but Redwing spoiled his aim and Harry Wharton got it full in the face. Crimson with wrath, Harry jumped ashore and let out at Smithy right, left and centre. Vernon-Smith was unable to withstand such a furious attack, and was knocked back across the towpath, through the gate and onto the lawn, where Harry Wharton got to work on him in real earnest. The rest of the Co., Redwing and the servants watched the Bounder go crashing to defeat, and to make matters worse, Ponsonby with his friends arrived on a visit just in time to find their host sprawling on the lawn, licked to the wide.

Anyone who knows Herbert Vernon-Smith will rest assured that the matter did not end there. Unable to persuade Redwing to handle Wharton, the Bounder soon found a more willing ally. A few days later, Redwing was agreeably surprised to find Smithy in a better frame of mind, in fact the Bounder suggested getting Wharton to come over to the bungalow to make it pax. Redwing was delighted, and phoned Wharton straight away. That young gentleman, not for the first time in his life, was regretting that he had let his temper get the better hand of him, and he was no less pleased than Tom to find the Bounder willing to let bygones be bygones. He set out along the footpath through the woods, although it was getting late, and already dark. Redwing, waiting at the bungalow, decided to walk to meet Wharton, and started along the path from the other end. He was startled to hear the voice of Cecil Ponsonby in the woods. The Nuts of Highcliffe were waiting in ambush, and the disillusioned Redwing realised that he had been duped by Smithy, so he hurried along the path to warn Wharton. Harry was not altogether surprised, the Bounder's change of heart had seemed too good to be true, and Wharton turned back to Wharton Lodge, while Redwing despondently retraced his steps to the bungalow.

Reddy hardly gave the Nuts another thought, in fact he cared not a jot for the four of them, but he was not prepared for an attack from above. High in the branches of a tree, Ponsonby glimpsed a figure coming along the dark path below. Unaware that Redwing was in the wood, he thought it was Wharton, and

with nice judgement dropped a sack over the shadowy form that passed beneath the bough. The Nuts threw themselves upon the astonished Redwing, and after a short struggle, Tom was as helpless as a trussed chicken. Brutally gagged, he could not reveal his identity, the Nuts knew by his cap that they had bagged a Greyfriars man: that it was not Wharton did not occur to them. The second part of the precious plan was to take Wharton downstream to Monk's Island, and leave him in Leofric's Cell all night. This the Nuts safely accomplished, or so they believed, and Redwing was left, bound and gagged, in the ruined building, exposed to the elements and with no hope of escape. Ponsonby and Co. reported their "success" to the Bounder, who was cock-a-hoop, but as the night drew on he became uneasy and puzzled by the absence of Redwing. We get a fine study of the Bounder, at the open french window peering into the black night for a Redwing that will not return, and becoming a prey to the first pangs of remorse as rain starts to pour, and his thoughts go to the helpless victim of his plotting alone on the island.

By the morning Redwing had still not returned, and Smithy was really alarmed. From Bunter he learned that Wharton was not missing from the Lodge, in fact he had been there when Bunter left, and it was revealed to him, with dreadful certainty, who it was had spent the night in the monk's cell. A frantic dash downstream in his skiff brought Smithy to the rescue of his hapless friend. Redwing was in a bad way, and Smithy spent the rest of his holiday by a sick bed, racked by suspense and a martyr to his own conscience.

Redwing recovered in the course of time, but was not seen at Greyfriars for some weeks after the holiday.

Here we leave Riverside Bungalow, and walk beside the Wyme as far as Wharton Magnus, where we say goodbye to the river and walk through the village to a lane leading to the cross roads, where Dr. Locke picked up Bunter in his car, and took him to Wharton Lodge for Christmas, 1929. We turn into the Wimford Road, and approach Wharton Park. Not for us the gates and drive, we use Bunter's method of entry, over the Park fence. We find ourselves in the New Plantation, so we walk up the ride to the Lodge, and on our way we glimpse the lake, or the pond as Bunter and Fishy call it, and the little stream that flows through the Park on its way from the Surrey Downs to join the River Wyme.

Do not be alarmed by that shadowy figure that has disappeared among the trees, it may be a cracksman "casing the joint" or merely Colonel Wharton's keeper, Jessop.

On emerging from the woodland we see the cricket pitch and tennis court, and we cross to the gates of the Lodge itself. Through we go, into the garden, with a view through an opening in a neatly clipped yew hedge of the rose garden, special pride of Miss Amy.

That dormer window high above the terrace is "Bunter's Attic", where the Owl successfully camped in during the Christmas of 1933. Around the corner of the terrace there are some stone steps leading to a little balcony outside a room on the first floor, with french windows. This room is Harry Wharton's den, and the windows have long provided a mode of ingress to Billy Bunter, and sundry other gentlemen with designs on Colonel Wharton's safe, or against that honourable military gentleman himself.

But to see Wharton Lodge at its best, we must come again at Christmas time, with the old chimneys and gables silhouetted against a starry sky; the trees,

the grounds and the red roofs of the Lodge now coated with a white mantle of snow, a cheerful glow coming from the mullioned windows, and as we draw near we see them all in the great hall. There they are, the Famous Five, the Colonel and Miss Amy, Marjorie and Clara, Billy Bunter, Smithy and Hazel; Wells, James and John; and Thomas in charge of the radiogram, with a huge grin of enjoyment on his chubby face.

There we must leave them, and bid our fond adieu to Wharton Lodge, and as we step quietly down the snowy drive to the Wimford Road, we hear the Greyfriars School Song roared out by the powerful voice that was wont to wake the echoes of the Remove passage

" Good old Greyfriars, second to none!  
Past and present and twenty years on!  
Stick it to the end, keen as you began  
For that is the way of a Greyfriars man! "

And with the voice of Robert Cherry ringing in the Yuletide air it is born to us that it is our way also, all of us, Brethren of the Happy Hours

Twenty, thirty and forty years on!  
Keen - as we began!

#### THE BOYS' FRIEND LIBRARY (1st. Series)

(Note: We are frequently asked for a numerical list of the above stories, or for details of those by some particular author. It is not possible to find room for the former, so here are details of the stories written by the most popular authors. - H.L.)

#### ALLAN BLAIR:

48. Black England; 78. Pluck Will Tell; 80. The School in the Backwoods; 93. The Muff of Melthorpe College; 147. Only a Highland Laddie; 168. Champion of the World; 170. King of the Ring; 350. Dreadnaught Dick; 564. Storm Island.

#### EDWY SEARLES BROOKS:

200. Canvas & Caravan; 403. Scorned by the School; 405. The Cad of the School; 514. Nipper at St. Franks; 568. \*Curtis of the Fifth; 649. The Green Triangle (Nelson Lee); 656. The Return of Zingrave (Nelson Lee); 657. The Wonder Craft (Nelson Lee); 704. Pots of Money (St. Franks); 708. The Kidnapped School (St. Franks); 713. The New York Mystery (St. Franks).

\* As Robert W. Comrade.

#### SIDNEY DREW:

32. Wolves of the Deep (F.L.); 33. Lion Against Bear (F.L.); 50. The Boys of Barrowby; 60. Wings of Gold; 186. Staunch Chums at Calcroft; 218. Beyond the Eternal Ice (F.L.); 222. Through Trackless Tibet (F.L.); 234. The Rival Cinematographers; 261. The Millionaire Sportsman (F.L.); 267. The Schoolboy Athletes; 273. The Three Scapegraces; 294. Ching-Lung's Wager (F.L.); 307. The Headmaster's Daughter; 211. The Pride of the Footplate; 326. The Air Raiders; 334. Charlie Chaplin's Schooldays; 387. Prince of the Circus; 524. The Blue Orchid (F.L.); 569. The Golden Trail (F.L.); 617. For Fame and Fane; 662. The Blind Boy; 667. The Invisible Raiders; (continued page 15 .....

# STREETS OF MEMORIES

by Herbert Leckenby

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(NOTE - THIS IS THE article which appeared in the Collectors' Digest in August 1948 and which some London members urged me to republish in the Annual. Bowing to their wishes, here it is, slightly revised. I might mention that shortly after it appeared originally Mr. Goodyear that author of grand school stories for boys died, almost in harness. Only the day before I had been speaking to him on the 'phone, when he seemed to be his usual cheery self. - H.L.)

In a letter to me, Mr. R.A.H. Goodyear, that good friend of our hobby circle, said:

"It just occurs to me that an article on the York shops which sold the mags. you loved would have a quaint interest, many perhaps being in Stonegate, near by Bootham Bar, and similar historic quarters. I guess you knew them all."

So far as his last sentence is concerned, how right was he. I did know them all and to tell the truth I oft-times wander about the ancient streets close by the stately Minster in the evening's dusk. I pause by certain shops and picture them as they used to be. In imagination I put back above the windows the names that once were there, and fancy I can hear the jingle of the hansoms and the clippety-clop of the horses' hooves as they pass along cobbled streets.

There was, for instance, the shop of "Peter" Lawson, in the shadows of the Minster. "Peter" was a gaunt, black-bearded man, tall and shabby in appearance. He lived alone behind his shop, one with two large windows. If you had chanced to pass that way some fifty years ago you would almost certainly have seen a line of boys - and adults - with their noses pressed to the window, gazing awestruck at the pink pages of the "Police Budget" and the "Police News" strung right across one of the windows, front pages, back pages, centre pages portraying the latest murders and other crimes of violence. If they happened to be murders with a "sex interest" depicting some buxom damsel sprawled on her back, bespattered with her life's blood, and with a frilly petticoat displayed coyly about her boot-tops, then the spectators were before the window the live-long day. Yes, "Peter" was a good window dresser.

I looked at the "Police Budget", of course, for I was just an average boy, but I can honestly say I was more interested in the papers more suitable to my age, and these were displayed in profusion on the sloping boards in the bottom of the window - Bretts "Jack Harkaway's Schooldays", "Rubert Dreadnought", "Ned Nimble among the Indians", the "½d. Pluck", "Marvel"; the gaily covered "Aldines", the "Boys' Friend" and the rest of the papers which gladdened the hearts of boys when the century was very young.

Black Peter got to know me well, for many's the penny I've passed over his counter. The inside of the shop was dark, dirty and untidy, usually lit by one single gas jet. I well remember, once, how he brought out for me from somewhere about a dozen  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "Boys' Friends", numbers then quite a few years old and some I had never seen before. I thought them quite a find even then. Now, forty years on, a complete run of that once popular  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series has been offered in the pages of the "C.D."!

One morning the shop remained closed; and when later the door was broken open, Black Peter was found hanging from a beam, or was it with his throat cut? Anyway, he was unquestionably dead.

And the "Police Budget" and the "Police News" fluttered on in the window until they became back numbers, and the murders shown thereon forgotten. I am not sure whether the death scene in Peter's shop was ever considered worthy of a place in one of the later pages!

The shop is still a bookseller's and stationer's, but of a more dignified type. They would disdain to show in their windows the "Police Budget", "Aldine Dick Turpins", and "Jack Harkaway's Schooldays", even if they could; but I often see them there in fancy as I pass that way.

Not far away is the tiny street quaintly named Whip-ma-Whop-ma Gate, a name almost as long as the street itself. Just at the corner there was once the little shop kept by an ancient dame named Miss Lambert. Oft-times she could be seen trotting along the streets nearby in old-fashioned garb, a pathetically small supply of the morning papers under her arm. Could she return to-day dressed as she was, maybe in view of the "New Look" she would be considered quite a lady of fashion! Miss Lambert added to her meagre income by means of the "Aldines" - not second-hand copies, but the new ones as they came out. In the narrow window there was always a display of glossy "Dick Turpins", "Robin Hoods", and Claude Duvals, lending a splash of colour to the drab little street. Oh, the "Aldine" covers, how attractive they were to the devotee of the "penny bloods"!

Now Miss Lambert had a sister who was blind and she, poor soul, sometimes had to look after the shop whilst the other was on her rounds, and thereby hangs a tale, one of which I am not exactly proud. However, one day, I entered the shop, a penny in my moist palm. The blind sister, dressed in rusty black, emerged from the living quarters and in response to my request for a "Dick Turpin" turned to a shelf behind the counter, passed her hands along the little piles, and in some uncanny fashion found the right ones. I picked out the four new numbers, examined each one critically, and could not decide which of two to take. Meanwhile the old lady stood patiently waiting, her sightless eyes staring over my head. Temptation came to me, I thought "She can't see, - she wouldn't know." I dropped the penny into her hand saying, "I - I'll take this one". Then a voice inside me seemed to say, "Rob a blind woman - Shame on you". I hurriedly put down one of the copies, and made for the door with scarlet cheeks.

It is a radio shop now. I fancy I can hear the voice of little Miss Lambert saying from the shadows: "Radio - what's that?" Dear old lady, I have often been glad I didn't rob you that day. May your soul be resting in peace.

A few yards away in Colliergate there stood the shop I knew best of all.

I pushed open the little door and heard the tinkle of the bell every week for more than thirty years. I witnessed the owner, Mrs. Walker, advance from a stout, pleasant looking person in her thirties, to one with bent shoulders and hair of snowy white, and when first I became a customer she would eye me disapprovingly through the window as I pulled up outside with the pram containing the youngest member of the family. In after years she saw me draw up with another pram - with my own offspring inside. By that time, however, we had become good friends, and she would sometimes say, with a smile, "You've been coming here a good many years, now, haven't you?", and I would reply, "I have an' all".

Oh, what a grand shop it was, a mecca, a magnet, to the "Blood hunter". Always there were piles in the window a foot high, the many Aldines", Henderson's "Wild West", and "Budget Story Books";  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "Union Jacks", "Plucks" and "Marvels" and later the ld. ones; red-covered "Magnets" and blue-tinted "Gems" and the rest of the complete story papers.

One day, way back in 1902, I looked in at that shop window and saw three huge piles of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Union Jacks, Plucks and Marvels. I happened to have a copper in my pocket; I went inside and was handed a goodly number to choose from. I found that I had not had a single one of them before; they were of an earlier period than those I had known, I chose four and handed the others back with a sigh. I set off home, longing for more and wondering how on earth I was going to get some cash to obtain them. Suddenly I thought of something. I had a chum who after school, and on Saturdays worked for a newsagent. Part of his job was to sell the evening newspapers, and more than once he had suggested I help him, assuring me that a useful sum could be earned as pocket money. Up to then I had turned the offer down as I thought it rather undignified. However those "bloods" in Mrs. Walker's window haunted me, so I approached him, saying nothing to my parents. He said he could get me fixed up for the following evening.

Though I did not realise it at the time I had chosen well my day. The Australian cricketers were in England and the Fifth Test was in its last day at the Oval, that Test which is still looked upon as one of the greatest of all time. As we went down to the centre of the city for the papers the whole country was ringing with the news of Gilbert Jessop's glorious century, that century which has become immortal. The match too, in which Wilfred Rhodes last man in with sixteen runs wanted to win joined his Yorkshire comrade George Hirst who is reputed to have said "Wilfred we'll get them in singles." As the history books tell they got the runs, whether in singles or not, and England won a mighty victory by a wicket.

Well my chum Gordon and I got our papers, as many as we could possibly carry. I was urged to shout. Bashfully I piped "Cricket Post". "Result to t' Test Match". The papers began to go like hot cakes; my pocket grew heavy with coppers: I grew bolder and yelled at the top of my voice. We returned for more and those went too. Thank goodness the cricket lovers of 1902 knew nothing about the wireless.

When we came to cash up I found to my delight that I had earned 1/- and the newsagent, in generous mood, added another 2d. That night I could hardly sleep; I lay thinking of all those  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Union Jacks, Plucks and Marvels in that window. Straight from school next day I was off there as fast as my legs could

carry me. Mrs. Walker eyed me as I selected one after the other. At last I was satisfied, I had forty-eight, far more than I had ever bought at one time in my life before. I plonked down a shilling walking on air, the pile under my arm. A problem then arose, where to hide them; I solved it somehow.

In a newsagents recently I saw a boy picking up one 'comic' after another. With ten or so in his possession he unconcernedly dropped half-a-crown on the counter, picked up some change and went off. The newsagent said the boy spent at least that amount every week. I wonder if he will in fifty years time remember buying them as I do that purchase of mine in the long ago. I trow not.

Not long ago one of my collector friends paid me a visit. We talked "shop" all the afternoon, then went off in search of a meal. The cafes were busy, but at last we found one, an unpretentious sort of a place, but where, at least, we were able to satisfy the inner man. Whilst we were waiting for the meal to be served, I stopped talking, - for the first time - and, no doubt, my friend wondered why. Well, the reason was my thoughts were far away in the past. Just by where we were sitting I fancied I saw a counter laden with "penny dreadfuls"; on the window to my left instead of eatables I saw more piles of "bloods" of yester-year. I turned my head, almost expecting to see Mrs. Walker come along from the back in response to the tinkle of the shop bell. For we were seated in the place I had entered hundreds of times in the years that were gone, in quest of another kind of meal!

I pause before a bookseller's in one of the main streets. It's a different kind of bookshop; never in its long history have "bloods" appeared in the windows or on the counters inside, unless you include "Chums" Annual and the B.O.P. among "bloods". Nevertheless, that shop has memories for me, and my thoughts travel back through the years. I had just left school and was looking round for a job. One evening I saw in the local evening paper two advertisements for errand boys, one by a confectioner, the other by a bookseller. Not being very ambitious, I made up my mind to apply without saying anything to my people. Thought I to myself, "Buns or Books". Which shall be first? Books won! I got the job and was told to start on the morrow. I have often wondered what my future life would have been if the other shop had got my services instead.

A few months as the most humble member of the staff; then I took a most important step. I became a printer's apprentice to the same master and set off each day to the little old-world office in the street nearby. Each Christmas season, however, I had a temporary change. I was "promoted" to shop assistant, and took my place behind the counter in the shop to help cope with the Christmas rush. One 23rd December I well remember; my master and I were holding the fort together during the quiet of the lunch hour. A lone customer came in, a boy wearing the cap of one of our oldest schools, St. Peter's of York, the school of Yardley, captain of England. The boy came up shyly to the counter and asked my employer, "Have you a book by S. Walkey, please?" My master knew not Walkey, and answered with a shake of his head, "Walker? - No, I am afraid not, my boy!" But I knew better, I cut in, "Oh, yes, sir, we have one, came in this morning." (Tactful, the last sentence.) I darted to the back of the shop - I had a fellow feeling for that boy - and snatched up a book from the bottom of a pile, leaving the others all in a heap, hurried back and placed before him - "Kidnapped by Pirates". Even now, years on, I can see that boy's eyes as they lit up and hear him say, "Oh, just what I wanted". He placed down his 3/6d. and went out with beaming face. His hair will now be tinted with grey; I

wonder if he still remembers that little incident as does the boy behind the counter that far off day.

Next day was Christmas Eve and as I was going to lunch the boss said to me, "I'll give you your Christmas Box now, my boy". I paused in anticipation. Now, though just and kindly, that first employer of mine was not usually a very generous one. My wage at the time was 4/- a week, and the previous year my Christmas Box had amounted to just one fourth of that sum. However, on this occasion he wrote on the till roll, withdrew a coin, and placed it in my hand without letting me see what it was. Then he proceeded to tell me how pleased he was with the way I had worked during the year. I had made good progress, he assured me; and then went on to make special reference to the incident of the day before, it had impressed him very much, and so on. All the time he was talking I was fingering the coin in my palm - for I couldn't very well look at it - and thinking, "Pooh, a measly "tanner" - worse than last year. Might show a bit more appreciation if I have been as good as that." Then, with a little salute, he said "Now off you go to dinner; get back as soon as you can, and a Happy Christmas". "Same to you, sir," I muttered and darted off. The moment I was off the doorstep I opened my hand. Then my eyes popped out of my head, my heart gave a great jump, for I had not been fingering a measly "tanner" but a glorious, gleaming, golden half-sovereign. Oh joy, I nearly did a horn-pipe on the pavement and then made a bee-line for - yes, I daresay you have guessed it, my favourite shop just around two corners. I bought a goodly pile, and Mrs. Walker looked at me suspiciously as I handed her the precious coin. "It's all right," I grinned, "It's mine, it's my Christmas Box."

Oh, good old Walkey! Kind old boss! Happy Christmas, Mrs. Walker!  
Did I have a Merry Christmas? I'll say I did! Buried in bloods!

Boys of to-day with their generous pocket money may not fully appreciate my excitement in the long ago. No, perhaps not, but with all their weekly wealth, they've never had the thrill of handling a gleaming, golden half-sovereign.

The other evening I had an urge to visit the suburb in which I had spent my schooldays. I hadn't been that way for years. I paused before a newsagent's that once had been "Fatty" Glover's, the shop at which, each week, I had bought my "Boys' Friend". I recalled the Saturday when, a child of six or seven, I had sat on the pavement all the afternoon awaiting the coming of the new "Books for the Bairns", and how Mrs. Glover, at long last, came out and tapped me on the head with it. Why does one remember tiny incidents like that throughout the years, when more important events are forgotten?

I passed the house where "Dicky" Clarke, with whom I used to swop, once lived. Poor "Dicky", he never knew the "Champion" and the "Rocket", for he was killed in the Kaiser war.

I came to the shop once kept by a grumpy sort of man called Millard, who wore a trimmed pointed beard like Captain Kettle. The same name was above the shop, but it belonged to a different generation. There were "Hotspurs" and "Wizards" in the window, but I knew it best when Aldine "Tip-Tops" and "Comic Home Journals" were displayed there.

I reached my old school - Park Grove. The scholars had all gone, and the shadows were stealing across the playground. I looked through the railings at the shelter in which I had sat and read many a yarn. My gaze travelled to



the first floor, and I counted the windows. Yes, that would be the room in which one afternoon "Sammy" Mills, the burly teacher had confiscated my "Jack, Sam and Pete". I recalled, with a smile, how I had returned to the room after prayers in search of it, and how I found "Sammy", who never attended prayers, sitting with his feet on the desk reading it, and how he waved me away with an impatient gesture and told me to ask for it in the morning. Often after that he would say to me with a grin "How's Jack, Sam and Pete getting on?"

Poor Sammy, he weighed about sixteen stones then, but years later I read in an evening paper how he had been found dead in a ditch and a verdict had been returned, "Died of Starvation".

I wended my way home that evening of my visit to the suburbs wondering what on earth I should think about if I weren't a nostalgian.

Yes, indeed, Mr. Goodyear, the ancient streets of York hold many golden memories for me, of the days when a humble penny bought happiness and contentment.

Postscript. Lest it be thought that I spent all my boyhood days immersed in "bloods", let me hasten to say it was not quite as bad as that. I played quite a lot of cricket in the manner that boys do and I could in its proper place write quite a lot about Grace and "Ranji"; Jessop and Fry; Hirst and Haigh and other giants in the golden age of the summer game with the lovely name.

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(cont'd from page 9...)

691. Gan Waga's Island (F.L.); 695. The Pearl Poachers; 762. That Terrible Term;  
F.L. - Ferrers Lord.

DAVID GOODWIN:

37. Man to Man; 69. A Lancashire Lad; 71. The Boy Bargeowners; 75. The Terror of the Remove; 77. With Pick and Lamp. 81. Gunfleet Jim; 89. Rajah Dick; 91. Jack O' The Fens; 94. The House of Garth (J.T.); 98. Barred!; 101. Secret of the Thames (J.T.); 104. On Turpins Highway; 106. The Black Mask; 110. Dave the Barge Boy; 114. War of the Mills; 117. Britain Invaded (J.T.); 118. Britain at Bay (J.T.); 121. Britain's Revenge (J.T.); 125. Forester of St. Osyths; 137. Redcastle & Co; 139. Dr. Quilter's School; 143. Redcastle at St. Simeons; 145. Hank Haldane's Schooldays; 149. Middies of the Fearless; 151. Midshipman Drake, D.S.O.; 156. Gypsy of St. Simeons; 157. The Earl of St. Simeons; 162. The Cad of St. Cortons; 164. Smythe the Cortonian; 167. School and Mill; 187. Under Japan's Flag; 201. The Sneak of St. Simeons; 212. Clogland; 216. Two Lancashire Lads; 221. Off to Canada; 223. The Great North-West; 231. Kaiser or King (J.T.); 233. The Conquest of London (J.T.); 236. The Flying Armada (J.T.); 239. The Emperor of the Air (J.T.); 251. The Taming of the Third; 253. The Fourth Form at Courthorpe; 256. Dick of the Highways; 264. The Skipper of the Challenge; 265. The Fool of the Navy (J.T.); 268. Max the Middy (J.T.); 271. The Middies in Morocco (J.T.); 274. For the Honour of St. Simeons; 281. Sealed Orders; 283. The Fag of Study 3; 285. The Legions of the Kaiser (J.T.); 286. The Fags of St. Simeons; 295. The Mailed Fist (J.T.); 300. With the Allies Flag (J.T.); 312. The School Republic; 318. True Blue; 325. From Ocean to Ocean; 349. The Boy Who Wasn't Wanted; 379. Jock O' the Loom; 515. King of the Canals; (cont'd page 19)

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ROUND

by  
Eric Humphreys

A — RAMBLE — GREYFRIARS

In February of 1908 there came into being a magical piece of territory, the light of which, the ravages of time have failed to dim after almost fifty years. Pleasantly situated near the coast of Kent, Greyfriars school, with its ivy covered walls, has survived two world wars. The wind from the sea still sweeps across the old quad in winter, whilst in summer, Friardale Wood, still smiles under the hot sun; and the merry click of the cricket-bat can still be heard on Little Side.

Anyone coming down to Greyfriars by train must change at Lantham junction for Courtfield junction. It's a pleasant ride from Lantham to Courtfield of about ten miles, through smiling wheat fields, pasture land, and apple orchards; while over on the right you get an occasional glimpse of the sea. The railway line at one part runs parallel with the Redcliffe road, and for an instance Cliff House girls school with its playing fields and gardens can be seen before an embankment hides it from view.

From the town of Courtfield we have the choice of a number of ways to get to Greyfriars. It would be nice to walk it over Courtfield Common, or by way of the towing-path along the river Sark, but this is rather a long way round. Or we could go by bus along Courtfield road to the signpost at the corner of Oak Lane. But we'll go the same way the fellows do when they are coming back to start a new term - by local train to Friardale village.

Waiting outside Friardale station is the old horse-drawn hack, which for the sum of two-and-sixpence will deposit you somewhat breathless at Greyfriars. It's only a short ride, through the sleepy old village, past Uncle Clegg's shop and the Cross Key's Inn, along Friardale Lane and past Mr. Coote the carrier's cottage to the gates of the school.

On the weather-stained stone of the gate is a hefty iron bell, whose note will bring old Gosling the porter with his gnarled and crusty grin to let you in. Just inside is old Cossy's lodge, a little neat stone building with small ancient windows.

Whispering elm-trees fill the ground, and a grassy elm-walk stretches away to the playing fields in the distance. The elm-walk is a favourite place of Mr. Prout's; he loves to stroll in the quiet of the evening, discoursing on the beauties of nature if a victim can be found to listen to what his Form disrespectfully call, "his jaw".

On to the green playing fields, where on Big Side the Seniors perform mighty deeds with bat and ball. While over on Little Side, the juniors have fought out many stirring battles. Beyond the playing fields is a wide view of the cool and placid river Sark winding its way through woods and fields.

On the other side of the school are the cloisters, a reminder of the days when Greyfriars was a Monastery. It is here that the Ghostly Abbot is said to walk, and not many fellows will linger on a winter's night when the wind is howling through the gables. It is here too that the old cloisters wall provides an easy way out for any of the bad lads "going gay". Smithy could tell you all about it.

We come now to a small building that has certainly had its share of the limelight in the past. The bicycle shed. Here are machines of every shape and size, some are handsome jiggers the best money can buy, and with all the latest gadgets. While others - well look at this one! Both tyres flat! Pedals wonky! In fact all the parts seem to jangle, clank and ring. Must have a very careless owner!

Another little shed not far away that the authorities fondly believe is used by Gosling for chopping and stacking wooden faggots, is used as we know well, for many another purpose. Here Skinner & Co. enjoy (or think they do) many a secret smoking. While Bunter has often been locked in with a bag containing some other fellow's food. On one famous occasion, Smithy secretly made a guy of the Head for use on Bonfire-night, but luckily got found out in time. In fact the woodshed is used for everything except chopping wood in.

A place of great interest is the Quadrangle. Something always seems to be going on here. Bob Cherry knocking off Coker's hat - and being chased by Coker. Someone else chucking Temple's topper into the fountain. Masters walking in the quad and listening to the sound of Prout's chinwag. Coker's caught Bob Cherry, but the rest of the Co. are not far off and soon come to the rescue.

On the other side of the cloisters is the Head's house. Built of old red brick, and with a trailing vine over the front door. The Head's garden is full of apple, pear and plum trees, watched over very jealously by gardener Mible to see that youthful members of the school do not try to pick them.

In the tower the old school clock with its deep and mellow chime is slowly and solemnly ticking away the hours. It seems to race like mad when break is one; but oh how it does drag when anyone is detained. The way up in the tower is by treading a steep and spiral stair; but you must keep a good look-out or you will knock your head on the rising-bell.

The Sanatorium is a place to be avoided if possible. But if anyone has picked up a dose of the flu, or has got an ache in the tummy, off to the sanny they must go. There, the house-dame, Mrs. Kebble, has plenty of medicines and strong tonics for you.

Just inside the entrance-hall is the letter-rack. When the letters are put out there is always a crowd about looking with rosy hopes for remittances. The most regular of these is Billy Bunter, expecting a postal order everyday. When it comes the fellows say it will have whiskers on.

Just across the way in Big Hall roll is called. Name after name, with always (or nearly) the old familiar answer of "adsum". Here also on speechday, which is styled by the fellows as "Gasbags day", come all the scholars, watched by fond fathers, mothers and aunts, to receive their prizes. But sometimes the school is assembled while some victim shakes with fear when the Head picks up his birch and ----- .

In the prefects room everything is solemn and calm. The mighty men sit and wag their chins - Wingate, Gwynne and Sykes, talking footer. While Loder, looking bored, much prefers racehorses. Sometimes the prefects assemble in force when some unfortunate is up for a beating, then the calm is somewhat shattered by a rythmical whacking.

The Head's study is an apartment grim to any junior thus summoned; they come in fear and trembling. The Head sits in solemn state at his desk, while a pliant cane lies easily to his hand. Over in the far corner a bust of Sophocles is prominently on view.

Next we come to Masters' Corridor, where all the studies of the "beaks" are situated. First is Mr. Prout's, where prominently displayed is his Winchester repeater, and relics of his former hunting days. In Mr. Quelch's room a typewriter is seen, and piles of manuscript devoted to that glorious work "The History of Greyfriars". Mr. Wiggins whose hobby is photography, sometimes makes a darkroom of his study. Mossoo's study is warm and stuffy, while Capper's is very neat and prim. Nothing out of the ordinary in Hacker's, while Larry Lascelles has lots of sporting gear, and cups and shields galore. Last of all comes Mr. Twigg's full of books and nature studies.

In the Fifth-form games room George Blundell the captain lays down the law to the mighty "bloods" of the Fifth, compared to whom, the Sixth are just a lot of duds, and very small fry indeed, or so Blundell says. The only man to argue is Coker. But isn't Coker just the man to stick his neck out?

From the music-room comes a sound like an air-raid. But no need to be alarmed, it's only that mad musician Hoskins of the Shell playing on the piano one of his famous compositions.

The Remove passage is no place to go if you want quiet seclusion. Quelch's boys are at it again. Bob Cherry from the door of Study No. 13 is bawling for Wharton. Billy Bunter pinching a pot of jam from Study No. 4 lets out a wild yell as he gets kicked. Horace Coker comes charging in, and after a great shouting and barging, goes down the stairs with a bump. Only old Mauly is calm and peaceful - he's fast asleep on the study sofa.

Along a dusky passage and up a little staircase is the way to the Remove box-room. Here in the dusty room all the trunks and bags of the Form are kept. Many times in the past Billy Bunter has come grunting his way up the little staircase to the old box-room, with a pie belonging to one of his schoolmates, and seated upon a pile of luggage with his ill-gotten gains, really finds that pie "prime". Skinner and Co. find it very useful for their little card and smoking parties. While Smithy breaking bounds at night finds easy access through the box-room window.

The Recreation room - or Rag is a very cheerful place. After prep. things happen here. Bunter likes to sit in a chair near the fire, footer jaw goes on, and some like to play chess. Sometimes war breaks out between Temple's crowd and the Remove, until prefects stroll in with their ashplants and clear the floor.

The fags' common-room is a place better seen from a distance. Here with lots of noise, Dicky Nugent & Co., looking very grubby and inky, sit congregating round the fire, with kippers stuck on the end of pen-holders, which they are slowly toasting - or should I say burning. My hat! What a pong! Let's leave

them to it!

The dormitories, six of them, are all very similar in appearance, and are situated on the top floor. Only the Sixth have no dorm., using their studies for sleeping. Each dorm. is long and wide, and with nothing in the way of furniture except beds and lockers. Also on the top floor is the punishment room, and a number of box-rooms.

We've seen most of the sights now, but before leaving, must not forget to visit Dame Mimble in the old tuckshop under the elm-trees. The kindly old Dame is really very busy trying to serve everyone at once. Smithy buying in for a study feed. Harry Wharton & Co. drinking lemonade in the corner. Coker after one of those big delicious cakes. And - "I say you fellows, you really must try these tarts. They're prime!"

(cont'd from page 15...)

531. The Sea Waif; 755. Topsail Tony.

(J.T. - As John Tregellis)

WILLIAM MURRAY GRAYDON:

31. The Rival Forts; 56. The King of Scouts; 81. Gordon Fox, Detective; 113. Sahib and Sepoy (A.A.); 120. In Wildest Africa; 123. Sexton Blake in the Congo; 124. Across the Equator; 129. Legacy of Peril; 158. The White King of Africa; 161. Across Siberia; 333. Cavalier and Roundhead (A.A.); 371. The King of Scouts; 402. The Yellow Dragon; 412. The Jungle Trappers; 438. Red Rose and White (A.A.); 443. The Redskin Traders (A.A.); 499. The House in the Jungle (A.A.); 512. The Red City (A.A.); 551. Tracked Through Russia (A.A.); 560. The Rajah's Fortress (A.A.); 567. Loyal to Napoleon (A.A.); 579. The Circle of Thirteen; 580. From Clue to Clue.

A.A. - As Alfred Armitage.

CHARLES HAMILTON (under own name)

36. Football Fortune; 46. Rivals of St. Kits; 237. King Cricket; 479. Redfern Minor; 494. Arthur Redfern's Vow.

CHARLES HAMILTON (as Martin Clifford)

30. Tom Merry & Co; 38. Tom Merry & Co's Conquest; 67. The Secret of St. Winifreds; 367. Cousin Ethel's Schooldays; 383. After Lights Out; 417. Frank Richard's Schooldays; 465. The School in the Backwoods; 469. Chums of the Backwoods; 473. The Parting of the Ways; 481. Dropped from the Clouds; 485. The Mountain Adventurers; 493. The Schoolboy Rebellion; 497. Adventure Creek; 509. The Schoolboy Castaways; 517. Under Sealed Orders.

CHARLES HAMILTON (as Prosper Howard)

235. The School under Canvas.

CHARLES HAMILTON (as Frank Richards)

288. The Boy Without a Name; 328. Rivals and Chums; 513. On the Warpath.

CHARLES HAMILTON (as Owen Conquest)

413. The Feud at Rookwood.

(cont'd page 30.....)

# "White Cover Days"

by Eric Jayne

"Gem" lovers - and their name is legion - probably have mixed feelings concerning the years when the old paper was dressed in its plain white cover. Those who joined the clan some years earlier - say between 1910 and 1912 - may feel that the paper deteriorated badly after the old Blue jacket departed; those who first met Tom Merry and Gussy after Levison had reformed and Cardew had come on the scene, between 1917 and 1922, may look back on the White Cover days with affection and nostalgia; younger Gem enthusiasts may have an open mind. Generally speaking, I think that few would regard the period as the heyday of the paper.

The blue cover disappeared for ever with No. 436, and the issue dated 24th June 1916 was the first to have the white cover.

When the editor announced "Good-bye to the old Blue Cover", the Gem seemed to lose more than its familiar jacket. Old traditions were forsaken, some of the change being due to the war, and some of it to alteration in general policy. As Roger Jenkins commented in his very fine article in last year's Annual, the Blue cover days were largely the story of Tom Merry. In the six years of the white cover, the limelight was swung away from the Hero of the Shell, and, though he remained the central hub of the stories, he was rarely to feature as the leading character as he had done in the past. Many new characters were introduced, - some good, some indifferent - and they remained to overcrowd the St. Jim's stage at the expense of many of the old and tried favourites.

True, there had been marked signs of this change in policy for nearly two years before the white cover came along. Tom Merry's eclipse had set in by 1914, though he played a fairly substantial part in the early Talbot series. During the last year of the blue cover, there is clear evidence that the Gem was trying to cash in on the popularity of some of the Magnet characters. Grundy, Wilkins, and Gunn had been introduced as copies of Coker, Potter, and Greene, and Trimble had arrived as the St. Jim's version of the inimitable Billy Bunter. It is my own view that St. Jim's gained little with these characters, especially as such promising personalities as Fatty Wynn, Lumley-Lumley, Koumi Rao, and, of course, Tom Merry, were neglected as a result.

The reasons for the change in policy, and, particularly, for the fading out of Tom Merry, can at this stage be nothing but a matter for speculation. Roger Jenkins, writing some years ago, said "The simplicity and charm of the early Gem stories were now to be replaced by more finely drawn characters and more tightly woven plots, and Tom Merry had little to contribute to the new scheme of things. ....Who knows, perhaps Cardew's mocking tones in which he referred to the Captain of the Shell as the 'Saintly Thomas' was the voice of Charles Hamilton, his creator, alert to perceive the changing mood of the times, and eager to adapt the Gem thereto. He that as it may, however, a transformation was effected, and effected successfully".

Almost invariably, I find myself completely in tune with Roger's views, and his opinions, so ably expressed, always command respect - but, in this particular instance, I do not find myself one hundred percent with him. From my own personal taste - and I admit that I may be in the minority - I find comparatively little in the white cover period which can hold a candle to the scores of fine stories of the blue cover days. That the plots were more tightly woven cannot be gainsaid, but we have to remember that the stories of the white cover days were almost all of only about half the length of those which had appeared between the blue covers. I often wonder whether Roger, when he wrote the words quoted above, was not thinking more of the 1922-1927 period of the Gem - undoubtedly a golden period of the Gem - than of the white cover days in general.

With regard to the fading of Tom Merry's star, I feel that Roger is correct in his assumption, though I believe that the policy was a mistaken one. Also, I do not consider it quite a satisfactory explanation. There must have been a large proportion of Gem supporters to whom Tom Merry meant a great deal, and, if the Fleetway House had come to the conclusion that Tom Merry was too perfect, it seems to me that the most natural procedure would have been to bring about a subtle modification of his character, as dozens of other Hamiltonian creations were cleverly modified to keep them abreast of the times.

For Tom Merry was, and is, one of the most famous names in school literature, and to speak of the Gem is to speak of Tom Merry. It is not easy to put one's finger on what was the compelling quality of his personality. Clearly there was some magic in the painting of his character that has shone down through the years, despite the "playing down" which he suffered during the early white cover period. There was, admittedly, a certain perfection about him, an ideal element that others recognised. It may be that we, in a more cynical age, are less moved by this. We accept our own defeats and disillusionments and do not care to accept that there can be an element of what used to be called "noble" in people. We are, perhaps, too ready to decry and deride the conception of control over our lives, of an ordered and achieved life. Possibly, in some of the very early Tom Merry stories, the idea was overplayed a little. But to deny it altogether is an inhibited way of looking at things.

It may or may not be significant that, as the white cover days lengthened into years, the Editor was continually mentioning that the Gem was dropping behind in the circulation race. The first mention that the Gem's circulation was giving cause for concern seems to have come in 1918, and in 1919 Charles Hamilton referred to it himself in a delightful tale, "THE AMATEUR ADVERTISER", of which more anon.

Early in White Cover days, Levison reformed. No doubt the reform was popular at the time, and the reader soon got accustomed to Levison as the serious, steady, and thoughtful youth that he became.

Reviewing the Gem as a whole, it is interesting to speculate as to whether the reform was a little too wholesale to be credible, and whether the Gem lost a character of great possibilities when the unscrupulous and infinitely clever Levison became the good boy of the white covers. Whether one welcomed the change or not, nobody will deny that the stories made excellent reading. It would appear that the former character of Levison was divided, and part of the mantle fell on Racke, who was never a very inspired character,

and Cardew, who was to become one of the most interesting personalities at St. Jim's.

In the later and greater years of the Magnet, Frank Richards concentrated on his main characters, and one feels fairly certain that Martin Clifford would have followed the same policy with the Gem, if the later history of that paper had been different from what it was.

Between 1915 and 1921, the new characters who arrived remained on the stage, some of them becoming nothing but dead wood. The substitute writers flicked the limelight around from one character to another in bewildering succession.

If anyone should regard the white cover period as something of a blot on the Gem's escutcheon, it must be chiefly because it was a time when the substitute writers were excessively active. The only exception was the year 1922, when the genuine Martin Clifford really came into his own again, and this was one of the brightest periods in the whole of Gem history.

There is no doubt that some of the substitute writers have received less than justice from Gem and Magnet readers, simply and solely because, though they wrote competently enough, their style was so completely different from that of Mr. Hamilton. There is no space to go very fully into the question of these writers, - what they did, what they didn't do, and what they might have done, - the subject would form a long and comprehensive article all on its own - but they played such a great part in White Cover Days that it is impossible to ignore them entirely. Undoubtedly, some readers enjoyed their work, but not many will disagree with me when I say that between 1915 and 1922 there were dozens of stories which were the work of substitute writers and which were stupid, ill-written trash, unworthy of a great paper.

It does, in fact, say much for the fundamental values of the Gem that it managed to survive at all the succession of rubbishy stories which some of the substitute writers poured out between the white covers. From 1918 onwards, the Gem stories were very short, especially, unfortunately, those of the genuine writer, and even those of 1922 were, on the average, of only about nine chapters. The rest of the paper, too, does not appear to have been very attractive. For a time there were pages of indifferently written short episodes, purporting to be extracts from "Tom Merry's Weekly" and "The Greyfriars Herald"; at other times, the paper was completed with not very inspired serials - sometimes two of them running at the same time; later on, there were pages of gossip, most of it trite and unimaginative. There were, of course, occasional bright spots in the supporting bill of fare. It would, too, be grossly wrong to suggest that there were no brilliant stories during this period, but it is, perhaps, not going too far to say that they were the exception rather than the rule.

Talbot was the character who suffered most at the hands of the substitute writers. Their motto seems to have been "When in doubt, re-hash the Toff's murky past".

#### THE YEAR 1916:

Whatever criticism can be offered of the later White Cover tales, they started well. The first one, "A STRANGE SECRET", in No. 437, must rank among the Gem's very finest. It was the second story of two featuring Valentine



Outram, a boy whom Levison denounced as having been in a reformatory - a Borstal boy, as we should call him to-day. It was a magnificent yarn, and a gem of superb character painting.

At this time, there was a substitute writer who was over-sentimental in his more dramatic moments, but whose plots were quite neatly etched, and whose main failing, probably, was simply that he was not the genuine Martin Clifford. He was responsible for the second white-cover story, "A SCHOOLBOY'S SACRIFICE", a curious tale which featured Grundy and Wilkins, and which was unique in that Tom Merry was only mentioned once throughout the entire yarn.

A fortnight later, "MONEYBAGS MINOR" was Aubrey Racke, who came on the scene as the son of a war-profiteer. He was introduced, no doubt, in readiness for the reform of Levison, but Racke never shone as any masterpiece of character painting. He was simply a black sheep, and little interest ever really attached to him.

The following week came "TOO CLEVER BY HALF", one of those excellent one-week stories in which the genuine Martin Clifford excelled. It featured St. Leger, and was the last Gem for many moons to be illustrated by R.J. Macdonald, who had now entered the Navy.

Early in August, Warwick Reynolds took over the Gem illustrations. He drew for the Gem for several weeks, and his work was very popular with the more discriminating. At this time, he was deservedly famous for his paintings of nature, and he undoubtedly infused character into his drawings of the schoolboys whom he depicted. In passing, his home was in Glasgow, where he spent many years of his life. The first white cover Gem he illustrated was entitled "THE SCHOOLBOY REPORTER", which featured Redfern. The latter was occasionally used in a similar role by the substitute writers, but whether Mr. Hamilton ever referred to this propensity of Redfern, I cannot say.

"PATRIOTS OF ST. JIM'S" told of Gussy's idea for the conscription of wealth, and, dealing as it did with the war effort, it is purely a period piece. All the same, it was an hilariously amusing story, with a wealth of clever satire.

"KILDARE'S ENEMY" introduced yet another newcomer, Sidney Clive, who later was to team with Levison and Cardew in Study No. 9. The enemy of the title was Sefton, the prefect, who was expelled at the end of the story. With so many newcomers turning up, the loss of a sixth-former did not count for much, though I always have at the back of my mind the idea that Sefton had been expelled in a story in Blue cover days.

"HEROES OF THE FOURTH" told of a cricket week at Lord Conway's home, and a substitute writer seems to have been inspired by a story by Mr. Hamilton on a similar theme, which had appeared many years earlier. It introduced Sylvia Carr, who had been on the scene in a substitute writer's Dick Brooke story a few weeks before, and it told skittishly of the clever cricketers among the girls of St. Evelyn's.

In the last week of September arrived "LEVISON MINOR", a youngster of entirely different character from his brother. He teamed with Wally D'Arcy and Reggie Manners in a trio to be known as "the three minors", and, from now on, Joe Frayne dropped almost entirely out of the picture. With the coming of Frank Levison, the reformation of Ernest Levison started in earnest - no pun

intended - though the reform stories did not form a series. The transformation of Levison took place in surprisingly few tales, each one really complete in its way, and each excellent reading of its type. The four or five reform stories were separated one from the other by other yarns, though I believe that they were placed together when re-printed in the "thirties".

The Christmas Double Number, published as usual in mid-November was "IN THE SEATS OF THE MIGHTY", a hotch-potch affair centred at Eastwood House, by a substitute writer. I have browsed over the story several times in an effort to discover what the title meant, and have come to the conclusion that it meant nothing.

"HERRIES ORCHESTRA" introduced a character, Mrs. Tyle-Loose, whose name indicates the value of the story - plus Billy Bunter. The substitute writers were sinking further into the depths.

It was Croke who was "BARRED BY THE SCHOOL", accused of striking down the French master, though the culprit was really the German master, Herr Schneider. Mr. Hamilton never left any doubt as to his strong patriotism and his dislike of the Germans.

#### THE YEAR 1917:

The opening story of 1917 was an exceptionally good one. An insult to Mr. Linton was written by Racke, but a handwriting expert, Mr. Spother, stated emphatically that the insulting words had been written by Grundy. In "GRUNDY'S GUILT", Mr. Hamilton showed that he had a poor opinion of some of the so-called experts who occasionally figure in the national press.

This was followed by the culminating story of the Levison reform, and perhaps the very best of them. Entitled "THE WISDOM OF GUSSY" it told, in brilliant style, how Gussy had the masterful scheme that Frank Levison should pretend to be following the shady road to ruin as trodden by his brother. A clever story, with shrewd character work, and a neat and intriguing plot.

"A PAL IN PERIL" re-introduced Giacomo Contarini, nicknamed "Jackeymo". He was an Italian schoolboy, who may or may not have been a Hamilton character. I fancy he was not featured again in the lead, though he remained on the stage as dead wood for many years.

In mid-January the size of the Gem was reduced to 20 pages, and each page was divided into three columns instead of two. The first story to be published in this style was "THE INTRUDER", and told of a grown man named Parker, who came to St. Jim's as a schoolboy. It had a sequel the next week called "ARTHUR AUGUSTUS' ALLY", and Parker re-appeared later in at least two more stories, "PARKER, THE PRODIGAL" and "THE ST. JIM'S COMPETITION SYNDICATE". They were substitute stories and of the type which were almost unreadable.

In the issue dated March 17th, Ralph Reckness Cardew arrived in "CARDEW OF THE FOURTH", and this whimsical, rather lovable character stayed on to become one of the most popular personalities at St. Jim's and to feature in some of the most outstanding series.

In the opening story, Cardew was met at the station by his "distant relation", Gussy. Cardew wanted to drive to the school in a car, but it was pointed out to him that, as it was wartime, boys were not expected to use a car except to take wounded soldiers for a run. Accordingly, Cardew called at the

local hospital and collected several soldiers, one of whom had lost both legs, another had lost one leg, and a third had lost an eye and an ear. On this rather sombre note, Cardew turned up at St. Jim's. When the story was re-printed in the thirties, it must have needed considerable editing to bring it up to date.

A couple of months later, Cardew accused Mossco of stealing a £5 note, in "LOOKING FOR TROUBLE", - it was all a mistake, of course, and Cardew was filled with remorse when he learned the truth.

A fortnight later, in the issue dated June 2nd, the Gem was reduced to 16 pages, and "LACY OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL" introduced a new Cardew series, the other stories of which were "FINGER OF SCORN", "STICKING IT OUT", and "THE OUTCAST'S LUCK". In this series, Lacy, a newcomer to the Grammar School, recognised Cardew as a fellow who had been expelled from Wodehouse School in the north, for theft. In the final story, we learned that Cardew had been shielding a Wodehouse sixthformer whom he had admired. These tales helped to establish the popularity of Cardew.

On 28th July, 1917, began the series which opened with "HIS BROTHER'S KEEPER", telling of Reggie Manners accused of theft and brother Harry taking the blame. It was a fine, powerful series, beautifully written, and of great appeal. It was, perhaps, the finest serious story of St. Jim's in all the war years, and must be classed with the Gem's greatest of all time.

Mid-September brought "LEVISON'S SISTER", introducing Doris Levison, followed by "THE TRIBULATIONS OF TRIMBLE" in which Baggy fell in love with her. A fortnight later, "MR SELBY'S DILEMMA" occurred when the boys suggested that the Third Form master was dodging the call-up for the army, and there was a welcome re-appearance of Mr. Horatio Curll as a bogus recruiting officer, to carry away Mr. Selby to the colours. If it strikes one as being rather unfunny in 1955, it must be remembered that it was written at a time of fervid patriotism, when young women were cruelly presenting white feathers to any youngish man who happened to be not in uniform. It does, at any rate, bring home to the reader the fact that, in those days, the masters of St. Jim's were not so believable as those of Greyfriars.

At the end of October, the Cedar Creek tales were starting in the "Boys' Friend", and the substitute writers had things more and more their own way in the Gem. A number of yarns centred around an institution known as "THE ST. JIM'S PARLIAMENT". They seem to have been mostly handled by the substitute writers, and were mediocre, though the genuine Martin referred to the affair occasionally in his stories. Mr. Erasmus Zachariah Pepper first appeared in the opening tale, and would seem to have been the invention of a substitute writer, though Mr. Hamilton used him off and on during the next few years. The idea of a parliament had been used in the very early blue cover days, and it is possible that the substitute writer in question had been browsing over old copies of the Gem.

The last Christmas Double Number in Gem history was in the shops during the week ending 17th November, and contained "THE SHADOW OF THE PAST", an excellent story re-introducing Valentine Outram. The reformed Levison was anxious to atone for his shabby treatment of the unhappy ex-reformatory boy. It was a well-written and exceedingly interesting story, even if it did not quite reach the great heights of the original Outram yarns which had inaugurated

the White Cover days.

### THE YEAR 1918:

This was a poor year for the Gem, for Pentelow seems to have been the author of the greater number of the stories, and those from the master were few and far between, and, perhaps, not particularly memorable when a welcome one did appear.

In January "MANNERS' VENDETTA" told of a quarrel of the Shell fellow with a new boy, Roylance, over a suspected act of bullying Manners Minor. Two substitute efforts separated this story from the other two tales in the series, the latter telling how Manners, who had met more than his match in Roylance, persuaded Tom Merry to fight the newcomer.

In Mid-March commenced the long series in which the Shell and the Fourth went in for a number of sporting events, even including chess. The series ran, on and off, for several months, and the stories were chiefly by Pentelow, though the genuine Clifford contributed five to the theme. Sporting enthusiasts may have found the tales to their liking, but even a brilliant series would overstay its welcome over fifteen weeks - and this lot were hardly that. Generally speaking, the Gem was in the doldrums.

In August, Mr. Hamilton contributed a three-story series, "THE SCHOOLBOY HUN", "CARDEW'S CHUM", and "SON OF A SAILOR". It told of the arrival of a supposedly German lad, Paul Laurenz, who turned out to be Paul Durrance, the son of Commander Durrance, Cardew's uncle. It was a welcome bright spot in a dull year.

In November, the genuine Clifford was back again with a pleasant, exciting, and quite novel Talbot series, introducing Tickey Tapp with his inevitable gambling den. Talbot was kidnapped, and the titles of the stories were "CALLED TO ORDER", "TALBOT'S FOES", and "BROUGHT TO LIGHT".

This series was followed by a delightful romp, typically Hamiltonian, entitled "THE MISDEEDS OF MULVANEY MINOR".

There was no Christmas Number in the year 1918.

### THE YEAR 1919:

This was a much better one for the Gem than the previous one had been, in that the genuine Martin Clifford contributed a larger proportion of stories, though they were all in light vein.

In mid-January commenced the series in which Billy Bunter came to St. Jim's under the name of his cousin Wally. There were fifteen stories of Billy Bunter at St. Jim's, and the genuine Martin wrote all but five of them. Billy Bunter departed in "BUNTER-AND BUNTER", dated 26th May, 1919.

The Bunter stories were followed immediately by a four-story series in which Mr. Ratcliff's nephew, Bartholomew, came to St. Jim's until he was expelled for theft. In those days, the character of Mr. Ratcliff was heavily overdrawn, and the appeal of this series was probably chiefly to the younger generation of Gemites.

The issue dated June 21st, "SCHOOLBOY AND BOXER", was the last to be illustrated by Warwick Reynolds, though it was a month more before Macdonald

returned to take up the work.

In July, the genuine Martin Clifford was back with a tip-top caravanning series - a long series of no less than eleven stories, and the Gem reader of 1919 must have felt that he was indeed in clover. The fifth story of the series, "TRIMBLE ON THE TRACK", was the first to be illustrated by R.J. Macdonald after his return from the war.

Three weeks after the end of the caravanning series, Mr. Hamilton weighed in again with one of the most unusual stories ever published in the Gem, "THE AMATEUR ADVERTISER". Gussy, learning that the circulation of the Gem has fallen, decides to set about advertising the paper, and, in one delicious chapter, Martin Clifford, who apparently had Frank and Hilda Richards staying with him on holiday, was visited by Gussy, and dropped happily into the first person singular. A very jolly and original tale.

After this, the genuine Martin seems to have taken a long rest from the Gem pages. A substitute writer, who tried hard but not very successfully to imitate the master, took over and produced some not very attractive stories, quite a few of them about Talbot's past. In November came "TALBOT'S GIRL CHUM" and "IN SEARCH OF MARIE", rather sentimental material, and a fortnight later, yet another Talbot story, "PLAYING A PART". About this time, the Gem's size was increased to 20 pages. At the end of November came two more Talbot efforts, "LINK WITH THE PAST" and "LOYAL MISS MARIE", and soon after this came Talbot again in the Christmas Number, "A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE".

Then, as though one member of the Trimble family was not adequate, we had "TRIMBLE MINOR". Teddy Trimble, who was depicted as being a complete contrast with his brother, stayed on the scene for a year or so, and then disappeared, unmourned.

#### THE YEAR 1920:

Another poor year for the Gem, during which time one almost gave up hope that the genuine Martin would ever return to the fold. The stories by the substitute writers were poor, to put it generously.

It was not until September 11th that hope returned. Then Mr. Hamilton was back with his first travel series for many years, when Mr. Levison, his sons, and Tom Merry and Co. fled to Alaska before the madman, Dirk Power. It ran to five stories, "THE SHADOW OF THE PAST", "FLEEING FROM FATE", "FOR HIS FATHER'S SAKE", "THE TABLES TURNED", and "HUNTED DOWN". It was, perhaps, not a great series, when compared with the travel masterpieces of later years, but it was a welcome oasis after the drought of the many substitute months. Thrills and action were snappy and rapid, but the stories were short, only running to about nine chapters, for the Gem was offering two serials at this time. An innovation was that Tom Merry played quite a substantial part in the series.

The Dirk Power stories were followed by a delightful couple of yarns, "CONDEMNED BY THE STUDY" and "THE COLD SHOULDER", featuring the incomparable Gussy.

After this, the substitutes came into the picture again for several months, and the Christmas Number had yet another Talbot sub story, "A CHRISTMAS BOMBSHELL".

THE YEAR 1921:

This was rather better than the previous year, in that the genuine Martin Clifford was responsible for about 50% of the total number of stories.

At the end of January, Wildrake was introduced for the first time, as "THE BOY FROM THE WILD WEST", and featured in three or four stories before the sub-writers came into the picture again. In May, an excellent couple of yarns appeared, with Wildrake and Cardew playing the lead. In "CHUMMING WITH WILDRAKE", Cardew takes Wildrake to a gambling den, and in "HIS CHUMS AGAINST HIM" the Boy from the Wild West takes Cardew on a long, ten-mile walk, and has to carry him home.

St. Jim's had its summer vacation early that year, for towards the end of June we found Tom Merry and Co camping. It was a short series - and no story was very long, but what it lacked in length it more than compensated for in quality. The titles, "TOM MERRY & CO'S CAMP", "SEVEN SCHOOLBOYS AND SOLOMON", "CARDEW AND THE CAMPERS", and "CAMP, CARAVAN, AND CRICKET", - a real gem of a quartette.

In the middle of August came a memorable single story "THE ST. JIM'S SWIMMERS", in which Cardew goaded Tom Merry into attempting to swim the Channel. This issue had a full length picture of Tom Merry on the back cover.

In September came a fairly entertaining series, where a lion escaped from Sankey's circus - "TOM MERRY'S TEN POUND NOTE", "IN THE HOUR OF PERIL", "THE SCHOOLBOY LION-HUNTER". The lion-hunter was Wildrake.

October brought a jolly series on the old House rivalry theme - with an unusual twist - "FIGGINS ON THE WARPETH", "BLAKE & Co'S CAMPAIGN", and "TOM MERRY & Co'S VICTORY".

At the end of November came a series in which Figgins & Co barred out Mr. Ratcliff, and the barring-out was broken by Tom Merry & Co. - a fairly novel theme.

The genuine Martin Clifford wrote his first Gem Christmas story since 1917 - "LORD EASTWOOD'S CHRISTMAS PARTY", - a single story in which Wildrake discovered that the earl was being poisoned by his secretary, Bloore.

It would seem that Wildrake was the last new character to be introduced at St. Jim's in a permanent way. Whether he was really necessary is beside the point. He figures very prominently for a time, and featured in some fine outstanding series. Apart from his gift as a tracker, there seemed to be no particularly striking traits in his character.

THE YEAR 1922:

This was the Gem's finest year since 1912, and must ever rank as one of the best of all time. The genuine Martin Clifford wrote almost every story, and only an odd one, here and there, was the work of a substitute writer. It was many years since the Gem had published such a succession of consistently sound stories, and it is rather doubtful whether it did so again, until the re-print days brought back the old masterpieces.

January opened with a Levison-Cardew series, in which an unscrupulous adventurer, Dandy Carson, turned up from Mr. Levison's shady past, and kidnapped Cardew in mistake for Levison. Carson had installed himself in the Levison

home, and was administering secret doses to Mr. Levison to undermine the latter gentleman's self-assurance. Doris Levison, sweet and demure, was frantic with worry till the last chapter. Like the Dirk Power series, this one was slightly on the melodramatic side, but it made very satisfying reading.

This was followed by a light four-story series - sometimes collectively referred to as the Wacky Dang series - bubbling with joyous fun over the rivalry with the Grammar School. Then came three tales with Racke in the lead, in which the character of the black sheep of the Shell was more shrewdly analysed, and in consequence it was possibly the best series in which he ever featured. Racke tried to win fame by pretending to rescue Trimble from drowning, and, when his trickery was exposed, only Gussy stood by the outcast.

March brought a very fine, serious series - "THE FIFTH FORM MYSTERY", "SELF-CONDEMNED", and "WILDRAKE'S WINNING WAY", - in which Darrell, in the aftermath of a calf-love affair, was suspected of a theft of £50, which Cutts had committed.

At the end of April, "THE HERO OF THE SHELL" was a gem of a single story in which Tom Merry played for the First Eleven.

May is memorable for that excellent series in which various boys were kidnapped by Rogue Rackstraw, and imprisoned beneath Wayland Mill. The stories were tense and dramatic, and worked up to a tingling climax, and this series stands supreme among the many kidnapping themes which Mr. Hamilton handled over the years. It re-introduced Inspector Fix of Scotland Yard who had first appeared way back in Blue Cover days. The titles - "THE MYSTERY OF TOM MERRY", "HELD TO RANSOM", "HAND OF THE UNKNOWN", "WILDRAKE'S DESPERATE VENTURE", and "OUT OF THE DEPTHS".

June was a joyous month, for Tom Merry & Co, in three priceless stories, opened "THE ST. JIM'S TEA-SHOP" in an effort to raise the wind, and found their state worse than their first. The series culminated in that classic, hilarious episode when Gussy visited a pawn-shop and tried to "pop his tickah!"

Mid-July brought the superb series with Gussy in flight, after he had run away from school. The titles tell their own tale - "THE ST. JIM'S RUNAWAY", "GUSSY AT GREYFRIARS", "THE REFUGEE AT HIGHCLIFFE", "GUSSY AMONG THE GIRLS", "THE RUNAWAY AT ROOKWOOD", and "THE RETURN OF THE RUNAWAY".

Without any delay, Mr. Hamilton launched another tip-top series, in which news got around St. Jim's that Levison had been expelled from Greyfriars before he went to St. Jim's. So far as older readers were concerned, its impact would probably have been greater had it been published some ten years earlier, and one wondered that any boy was admitted to a school like St. Jim's without reference having been made to his previous headmaster before he was accepted for entry.. But, without delving too deeply into the pros and cons of the case, it was a cleverly written series, which made fine reading.

October brought a couple of pleasant stories in which Clarence York Tompkins' uncle tested his nephew by pretending to lose his wealth.

The issue dated October 28th saw the opening yarn of another fine series - "THE CARDEW CUP", and the White Cover Days ended in a blaze of glory with the second story of the series, "FIGHTING FOR THE CUP", early in November 1922.

What a year was 1922 for the Gem! What a contrast with much of the rest of the White Cover period with its drabness and its disappointments! What promise for the years of the Roaring Twenties yet to come - a promise only partially fulfilled, sad to relate. But that is another story!

Such then is the story of the seven years of the White Cover, from the viewpoint of one who has always loved the Gem the most of all the old papers. There are many unanswerable questions which present themselves during this period, and perhaps the most fascinating one of all is "Why did the Gem drop behind in the circulation race after the white cover came on the scene?"

It would be easy to ascribe the decline to the substitute writers, and it is more than likely that they were the cause to some extent. But not the whole cause, for the Magnet at this time suffered equally if not more so from the activities of those much-maligned writers. Could it be that the Gem, in adopting its new policy for St. Jim's, turned away some of its loyal enthusiasts, and did not replace them? I don't know, and, probably, neither do you, - but it's an interesting thought with which to turn over the last of the white covers.

(cont'd from page 19...)

The following though appearing under a Hamilton pen-name were written by substitutes.

153. The Silent Three (M.C.); 276. Through Thick and Thin (M.C.); 319. School and Sport (F.R.); 489. Football Champions (F.R.).

CECIL HAYTER:

44. Ned Kelly; 45. Trooper and Bushranger; 64. The Unknown Sea; 102. Sexton Blake at School; 105. Sexton Blake in the Sixth; 107. Sexton Blake at Oxford; 140. The Rival Explorers; 185. Hidden Millions; 229. Tinker's Schooldays; 232. The Four Musketeers (Tinker); 243. Against Time; 246. Sexton Blake's Zulu; 249. For Greed of Gold; 263. Nosey Parker's Schooldays; 296. The Tenderfoot; 339. The Pearl Seekers; 426. The Seal Poachers; 429. Through Unknown Africa; 433. In the Hands of the Head Hunters; 503. The Boy Adventurers; 606. Sent to Coventry; 676. From Pole to Pole; 677. The Whaler's Quest.

S. CLARKE HOOK:

1. Jack, Sam and Pete in Africa; 2. Jack, Sam and Pete's Treasure Hunt; 3. Jack, Sam and Pete in South America; 6. Pete's Boyhood; 18. Pete in Canada; 20. Three British Boys (M.M.); 23. Pete's Schooldays; 26. Pete, Detective; 35. Pete's Christmas; 76. Pete, Moneylender; 79. Pete's Strange Expedition; 92. \*Call of the South; 95. \*Mutiny; 100. Pete's Great Plot; 109. Dan the Boxer; 119. The Prize Fighter; 122. Pete's School; 126. Dr. Pete; 130. The New Junior; 142. \*The Last Stand; 148. Pete's Boxing Tour; \*154 In the Far, Wild Seas; 155. \*Voyage of the Vulcan; 160. Trapper and Redskin; 163. \*The Rebel Chieftain; 169. \*The Wrong Trail; 175. \*The Mystery Ship; 178. Pete's Emigrants; 184. Pete's Stern Chase; 188. \*The Caravan Detective; 193. Chief Constable Pete; 197. \*Roving Commission; 203. Pete's Flying School; 208. Pete, Bandit Hunter; 211. Pete & Co; 214. Pete's Picture Palace; 219. \*Sold into Slavery; 225. Pete's Post Office; 238. Pete's Parliament; 245. Pete's Plantation; 250. Editor Pete; 258. \*Land of the Knout; 226. \*Land of the Rising Sun; 272. Pete's Aerial Treasure Hunt; 279. Pete's Circus; 293. Pete's Prisoners; 303. Pete's Hun Colony; 314. Pete's World Wide Quest; 321. Boys of Ravenswood College; 324. \*The Mystery Ship; 338. \*The Land of Peril; 353. \*The Land of Dread;

(cont'd page 38 ...)



# Those Remarkable Serials

## in Old-Time Comics

*by Herbert Leckenby*

In the late 'nineties' and the early years of the present century, comics like 'Chips' and 'Comic Cuts' were veritable 'gold-mines'. This was probably partly due to the fact that astute Alfred Harmsworth had an eye to the whole of the family. The four pages of comic pictures were meant for the amusement of the children, but the four allotted to serials and complete stories were intended for adults only. I don't mean in the manner of the modern cinema, for the stories were as harmless as those of Mrs. Henry Wood or Charles Garvice. It was simply that they invariably had a 'strong love interest' and fair ladies and villainesses were as prominent as heroes and villains. So it came about that after the kids had chuckled over the latest adventures of Weary Willie and Tired Tim and been packed off to bed, dad, and perhaps mother, would pick up the pink or white pages and become engrossed in 'The Man Without a Soul' or 'Fatal Steps of Bad Men'.

What enticing titles some of those serials had, especially in 'Chips' and 'Comic Cuts'. For example: 'The House With the White Shutters'; 'The House on the Heath'; 'Sealed Lips'; 'Beyond the Golden Mist'; 'The Smugglers of St. Ormes'; 'The Blue Room'; 'The Black River'; 'The House With the Red Blinds'; 'The Fatal Seven'; 'The Buried City'; 'The Woman in Scarlet'; 'The Man With the Horn Shaped Thumb'; 'Black Death'; '999'; 'The Strange Story of Madame Bluebeard'; 'The Cruise of the Octopus'; and 'The Invisible Band'.

Many of the stories were written anonymously, but authors who were named were Colin Collins, Stanhope Sprigg and Hubert Trelawney.

Not only were these stories adult, appearing in papers usually considered for juveniles; but they seemed to be in a class to themselves, different to those appearing in other adult papers of the period. Shrewd editors gave a crisp synopsis of the chapters that had already appeared so that a new reader had no difficulty in picking up the threads. Copies of these comics of 50 years or more ago are very scarce indeed, and I only possess a few scattered ones; but these introductions are real works of art and are so interesting that I propose to set down several examples. First I will turn to 'Chips', No. 775, July 8th, 1905, and the story 'Sealed Lips'.

"On the eve of the wedding of beautiful Beryl Langley to Frank Morland, Sir Cuthbert Langley, her father, warns her of a family secret of which it is necessary she should remain in ignorance until she comes of age. Darcy North calls to entreat Beryl to abandon the marriage and become his wife. She refuses.

The wedding morn arrives, but the bride suddenly disappears. Search is made for her high and low, fruitlessly. Crushed with grief Sir Cuthbert

resolves to sell up the Hall and live abroad. At the sale Frank buys a gun-chest. Curiosity prompts him to open it on the spot, and there in her bridal robes lies his love.

She is restored to consciousness by a clever American doctor, and Frank arranges for the wedding to take place. On his return with the registrar he is horrified to find his housekeeper bound and gagged, and that Beryl has again disappeared. Baffled in every direction, he consults an old crone, who gives him a description of a house in London where Beryl is concealed. The house is a gambling place run by Darcy North, under whose influence, and that of Cora Winchester, Beryl is. There is a quarrel at cards, and in the darkness Frank thinks he has shot a man. He is forced to pay North heavy blackmail as the price of his silence. Still under the influence of Cora Winchester, Beryl states that she wrote a letter to Frank, releasing him from his engagement to her. She is also forced to commit a series of forgeries, one of them being Morland's name. Tired of North's endless blackmailing, Frank gives himself up to the police and is brought before a magistrate, but is discharged, as the man Sievewright, whom he thought he shot, turns up alive. Frank Morland hears of Beryl's whereabouts, and Sievewright promises to help him find her. They trace her to Brighton, but North overpowers them just as the police arrive. North shows them into a room where a man is sitting at the tables which is covered with cheques and copies of signatures. They arrest him, and he is sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude. Sievewright calls on Cora Winchester on a matter of importance."

The instalment which follows is very thrilling, real melodrama of the day. Listen:

"Cora trembled slightly and perceiving that danger was in Sievewright's eye, she struggled to exercise over him the hypnotic influence which she had found so useful on past occasions. But, owing to the fact that her nerves were unstrung, the influence refused to develop, and she was powerless."

"As you please" she replied. "Come into my boudoir." She fancied that she saw something in his hand that resembled a weapon, as he followed her through the passage into the chamber which she had indicated.

Directly she had entered the room, Sievewright locked the door, and put the key in his pocket.

"How dare you cage me thus?" she cried, unlock the door this instance."

He laughed hoarsely.

"Not till I have done with you," he replied in a voice which sent a terrible shudder through her.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean this, Cora Winchester. That I have seen through the villainous plot devised by North and yourself, and that you shall not leave this room until you have signed a confession which shall take Frank Morland from his prison cell."

"Are you mad?"

"You may consider me sane or mad as you choose, but I swear that you shall not quit this place until you have done what I have said. I love Morland almost

as a brother. He is the best fellow on earth, and, by jove, he shall not spend the best years of his life in gaol if I can help it!"

"But, you see," sneered Cora, "You see, you cannot help it."

"You vixen! You know that he is innocent."

"Doubtless I do, but as it suits me to keep my mouth shut concerning the fact, I shall do so."

A struggle takes place and Sievewright has just forced the stubborn Cora when suddenly scoundrel Darcy North appears through a side-door "only known to himself. The men get to grips, and North shoots Sievewright. Cora turns on North. "Don't come near me! Don't touch me!" she hissed. "You - you fiend."

North wonders what to do with the body. Then: "I have it," he exclaimed. "The cellar under the cliff will hold him until the crack of doom."

He takes the body into the cellar and with the aid of a pickaxe removes some bricks from the wall, and when a sufficient hole had been made places the body against an inner wall, and builds up the bricks again. Then suddenly there is a great crash, a terrific fall of earth and bricks and the villain finds himself in a living tomb. He shrieks with terror as scores of huge rats swarm round him. "

There the instalment ends, and I regret to say I am unable to say what happened next.

I am sure you will agree that 'Sealed Lips' would hardly appeal to the younger members of the family; the boys thereof would much prefer the adventures of Jack, Sam and Pete or of Nelson Lee, who, at the time, would be appearing in the Boy's Friend.

Now to another typical one of the period, "The Black River"; a story of Underground London. Here is what the new reader plunged into when he turned to page six of 'Chips' No. 732, September 10th, 1904.

"The story opens with an explosion near the Bank of England. A young man, richly dressed, takes advantage of the confusion to enter a door which leads to vaults under the Exchange. A girl named Vera Charteris comes suddenly out of the darkness and denounces him as being Max Denzil, the assassin. There is no time to be lost; this woman is the only living being who can denounce him. There is a short struggle, and she is left lifeless on the pavement.

"The aristocratic villain enters the vaults, and by a secret passage gains the river that runs underground through London.

"Here we find Bernard Ringrose, a mad inventor, and his daughter Madge. Denzil has come to see the new invention worked by compressed air which will force an entrance to the vaults of the Bank of England.

"Max Denzil is chief of a blackmailing firm known as a detective agency. He is assisted by a strangely deformed man, called Little Monti. By chance Alexia Charteris - sister to Vera - the murdered girl - calls at the agency. She has come to London in search of her sister, and the scoundrel Denzil determines to ensnare her, as he did poor Vera. He conducts her to the mortuary, where Vera's dead body is recognised. Alexia asks Denzil to help her find the person who has killed her sister, never dreaming that he is the assassin. A man named Platoff meets Denzil and arranges to take over the money when the

Bank is robbed. Little Monti shadows Platoff and warns his master of treachery.

"Denzil determines to make use of Madge Ringrose and under a promise to marry her he lures her from the underground river.

"Meanwhile Platoff's spies are at work, and on the track of Denzil. They have discovered the secret of the underground river.

"Denzil kills them both, and tells Monti to be close at hand when their bodies are discovered.

"Denzil now determines to find out what the dead girl's luggage contains. He finds letters that would have revealed his secret. On his return he finds Madge has been taken ill. He is terrified. Has she disclosed the secret of the Black River?

"His fears are groundless. But whilst he is watching her in her deep trance, he is much alarmed when she raises herself and, pointing towards him, exclaims, "Murderer!" for though the words come from the lips of Madge Ringrose, the voice is that of Vera Charteris, the girl he had foully murdered.

"Madge presently recovers in great fright, and declares he means to desert her.

"Denzil assures her of his fidelity. She warns him that should any woman come between them she, Madge, will kill her. Denzil proceeds to rent a beautiful house overlooking the grounds of Buckingham Palace, which place he contemplates burgling. He then descends to the Black River."

Strange goes on at the turn of the century. A companion for Father Thames, designs on the Bank, and burglary at Buckingham Palace as a kind of side-line. And I regret I cannot tell you whether Vera was murdered, or whether she wasn't.

Now, if the new reader turned to page seven of that same Chips, No. 732, he would find 'The Strange Story of Madame Bluebeard' and having devoured the fare provided for him would no doubt declare it was indeed a strange story. To wit:

"Who is this Madame Bluebeard? What is she? Where is she?"

"Sir Clifford Armitage - a smart, aristocratic young man - accepts a challenge, and starts off intent on offering himself to the mysterious woman known as Madame Bluebeard, who has already married and buried three husbands, and is in search of another. She lives in an old castle in Scotland, guarded by wild and lawless men.

"In due course he arrives at the castle when to his surprise he discovers that Madame Bluebeard is a beautiful young woman. Her real name - she tells him - is Ailsa Keith.

"That same night Clifford finds himself a prisoner, and on waking finds he is not alone. A beautiful young girl is imprisoned in the gloomy place. She tells him that her name is Janet Ross, and being suspicious of having learned Madame Bluebeard's secret, she had been made a prisoner.

"They are eventually released, and Madame Bluebeard asks to be forgiven.

"At last Madame Bluebeard's secret is disclosed. It seems that he is her first and only husband, Ivor Ingram, is wanted on a charge of murder.

"Now, Ingram is not dead, and he has adopted the disguises of Madame's husbands to put the police off the scent.

"He is eventually taken prisoner, but attempts to escape dressed in the uniform of a policeman. The inspector prevents this, and hurries him off in the train. Clifford meanwhile has altered the points in order that the train shall run into a siding.

"In the confusion that follows Ingram gets clear away.

"Now what is to be done? Every port will be watched by the police, while others will search for the fugitive.

"They put up for the night at a lonely country inn, and in the morning Clifford is amazed to find that Ingram has disappeared, leaving not the slightest trace. However, later on he receives a note asking him to meet Ingram at Dead Man's Cross. He does so, and Ingram explains that he had dreamt that the police were upon him, and this dream was so terribly realistic that, scarcely conscious of what he was doing, he had opened the window and escaped down the water-pipe."

Well, in the instalment which follows the reader was told:

"Sir Clifford held out his hand, "Ingram" he said, "from this hour onwards count on me as your chum, for I will go through fire and water for your sake, and for the sake of the noble woman who calls you husband."

"Ingram then tells Sir Clifford he had decided on a daring plan - to pretend to be mad so that he will be put in a lunatic asylum (they didn't call them mental hospitals in those days). "To think," he murmured to his companion, "to think of the police hunting for me in every hole and corner whilst I am safely locked up in a public asylum! By Jove, were not the issues so serious, I could shout with laughter at the mere idea!" He went on, "I shall remain in the asylum until the hue-and-cry has died out and then of a sudden my wandering wits will return to me. When once the doctors perceive that I am restored, they will give me my discharge, and within twenty-four hours of that discharge I shall be out of England."

Sounded easy, doesn't it? No passports or any petty restrictions of that sort in those days apparantly. However, by the end of the instalment he was acting the part so convincingly that he was well on his way to the asylum. The story was to be concluded the following week but alas! I haven't got the number so I can't say how it all ended up. No doubt all ended happily though it would not be with wedding bells - unless he married Madame Bluebeard for the fourth time, just to make sure.

Now, I said earlier on that the boys of the period would not as a rule read the serials, but there was one boy who must have been an exception to the rule - myself. For, there was one serial which was running in "Chips" in 1898, of which I at least read part (I should be under ten years old then), and which I have remembered ever since. It was called "The Fatal Seven" or "The New Euston Mystery". It was written by Stanhope Sprigg. I have a distinct recollection of smuggling an instalment to bed with me one summer's evening in that year of '98 (children were sent off to bed early in those days). I recall distinctly exclaiming to myself in my innocence, "It's true, it's true". This simply because someone in the course of that instalment mentioned the name of the Diety in a reverent sense. Remarkable how tiny incidents like that remain

in one's memory down the years?

Anyway, throughout the fifty years and more between I often thought of 'The Fatal Seven' but never thought I should ever see any of it again. Then three or four years ago I caught a glimpse of it when I called on John Medcraft not long before his lamented death. Better still about a year ago, thanks to Arthur Harris, that great collector of comics, a few instalments of 'The Fatal Seven' came into my possession. However, let's have a look at a few of the happenings in 'The Fatal Seven'. A point of interest to northerners is that quite a lot happened in that part of England, especially in Scarborough. Here's the introduction as it appeared in Chips, No. 421, September 24th, 1898.

"The story relates how Jack Strong and Norman Hurst hunt down a gang of railway thieves known as 'The Fatal Seven'. Jack is a railway-detective, and he has been prompted to the quest by the fact that a young girl named Sybil Avondale has been lured from her home in Preston on the eve of her marriage and beaten to death in a first-class railway carriage of the Grand Southern Railway, with which he is associated. Norman loved the dead girl and both men obtain evidence that implicates 'The Fatal Seven' in the crime. They go to Preston, and there they meet a girl named Mary Hanson, who plays a suspicious part; but in spite of that Jack falls in love with her. Later on they trace the gang to Worcester and have some terrible experiences with them in a mysterious mansion known as Weirdwood. Norman and Miss Hanson are subsequently kidnapped; but Jack traces them and the gang to Scarborough, to some caves under the castle cliff, where, to escape death, Norman promises to become a member of 'The Fatal Seven'. His weird initiation then begins, and is watched by Mary with obvious anguish, and also from a place of concealment by Jack, who is intent on rescue.

"Suddenly the Duchess of Santon enters, and demands that the Fatal Seven shall assist her to murder her husband and stepson. This the band of scoundrels agree to do, and the duchess then leads them to a room where the duke is lying asleep. He is drugged and taken away, and his son, who attempts to interfere, is also sentenced to death by the Fatal Seven."

Not a very pleasant specimen the Duchess of Santon, was she? Oh, I see, she was a Frenchwoman! Anyway, in the instalment which followed, September 24th, 1898, her unfortunate step-son, Lord Sherbourne was enveloped in a sack and Norman was given the job of throwing him from Castle Hill - into the sea. However he manages to whisper to his lordship that he will attempt to undo the stitches in the sack as he carries, that he will throw him clear of the rocks, then there will be a chance to escape. Just as Norman is about to get rid of his burden, however, one of the gang sets fire to the sack, just to make sure the demands of the blood-thirsty duchess are satisfied, I suppose. Anyway "she laughed loud in diabolical triumph," as Norman darted to the side of the cliff and hurled his burden into the sea. But happily, everything happened as he had anticipated. Directly he started to fall Lord Sherbourne contrived to cast the burning, flaring covering from him, and to dive headlong into the surging waters beneath, apparently unscathed." As simple as that.

Now quite a lot of you will know Scarborough, and will agree that unless the Castle Hill, or the sea, has shifted since the story was written, Norman's was indeed a mighty throw.

But the Lady Santon was not yet satisfied, there was still her husband to deal with. The poor duke had been drugged "and snatched from his warm bed in a

South Cliff boarding-house." He was brought before the gang "the poor old fellow seemingly being terribly frightened." Quoth one of the leaders of the gang "My lord duke, we are thieves, robbers, blackmailers, if you like, and we want you to sign a blank cheque for us on the York City and County Bank". The duke appeals piteously that that bank contains all his money.

The gang leader retorts, "We can't help that. We know nothing of pity, mercy, forgiveness, compassion. The only thing that weighs with us is money, money, money and it is your money we mean to have you old dotard."

A terrible scene follows. The gallant member of the old aristocracy defies his persecutors with the result that "A great wooden instrument like a camp bedstead, mounted with vices and pulleys and thumbscrews, was wheeled to the front of the platform. Then the duke was seized from behind, and the duke was flung on to the boards. Ropes were attached to his wrists and fingers and ankles and toes, and these were drawn quite tight."

"Now, will you sign a blank cheque?" cried Barnes, advancing to the side of the rack and gazing threateningly into the old duke's eyes."

"I will not!" defiantly retorted the old nobleman. "I tell you the Dukes of Santon know what it is to suffer. Do your worst! You have robbed me of wife and child. You shall not strip me of honour too!"

Then a great powerful, muscular brute came forward, grinned, and then took hold of a wooden handle at the side of the rack, which he began to turn. There was the creak of boards, the rustle of rope passing laboriously over wooden blocks, then a piercing shriek from the duke... A pause a last chance given, again refusal. So the man bent to the hand, and "once again there came borne on the soft still air of that Scarborough cave the tense creak of taut rope, and then the crunching of bones and flesh as the old duke's limbs and fingers were literally dragged out of their sockets...

To read on: "Norman covered his face and eyes and ears with his hand and arms but never could be forget that awful crunching sound that told him the hapless wretch had had bones broken then - bones that would never set, would never harden - that reduced that noble form to the level of a mere insensate jellyfish. With a wild scream of horror he started up to protest and fight against this hideous diabolical brutality, but alas he was too late. The Duke of Santon had passed where scoundrels like that could not touch him, could not injure him. He was dead, quite dead."

I don't think I could have read that instalment in bed when I was eight years old or so, for I don't recall having any nightmares. Anyway I think I'll leave 'The Fatal Seven' there for you'll know the villains all got their deserts in the end.

Well the years passed on, gradually the policy changed and before the outbreak of the First World War we find serials in 'Chips' and 'Comic Cuts' more suitable for the youngsters of that or any other generation. Serials like 'The Red Rovers' by E. Newton Bungay, which ran for years and years; 'Val Fox'; 'The Blue Lamp'; and 'The Pride of the Potteries'. They were clean, straightforward stories, with noble heroes and sweet, gentle heroines, stories to which no parent could possibly object. Stories in which if there were any 'Teddy Boys' they got their just deserts.

There are no serials of any kind written for 'Chips' and 'Comic Cuts' today

for alas the papers died over two years ago. A more cynical age had no time for them.

(cont'd from page 30 ...)

372. \*The Armoured Raider; 378. Pete's Gold Plot; 395. \*Tracked Through the Jungle; 427. Pete in Peruvia; 456. The Boys of St. Kildas; 463. The Boys of Ravenswood; 467. "The Land of Fire; 496. Pete in Russia; 619. "The Mandarin's Treasure; 652. \*Bandits of the Bush; 666..Pete's Partner; 680. Pete's Wireless; 696. \*The Congo Adventurers; 720. \*Volcano Island.

Where not obvious from the title Jack Sam & Pete stories are indicated by a \*

HENRY T. JOHNSON:

15. The Drudge of Draycott School; 354. The Black Sheep of the School; 362. The Boy Shopkeeper; 382. Chums of the River; 390. Champion of the Wheel; 459. The Bullies of St. Claires; 466. The Crackpot of St. Crispin's; 470. The Water Champions; 476. Houp La! 478. Roy of the Ring; 488. The Boxing Barrister; 507. Limelight Lure; 559. Sportsmen of the River; 664. Lonesome Len; 665. Lonesome Len at Cambridge.

J.N. PENTELOW (as Jack North):

53. Chums of Wycliffe; 73. Larry & Co. (W); 82. The Runaway (W); 141. The School Conspiracy (W); 166. The Haygarth Detective; 201. The Fifth Form at Haygarth; 430. The Troublesome Twins; 518. Moxon's Fag (H); 532. Jack Jackson's Enemy (W); 535. The Rise of Bowker's House (W); 539. The Prefects of Bowker's House (W); 542. Staunchest of Chums (W); 547. The Wycliffe Scholarship Boy; 550. The Brothers of Borden (W); 55. Birds of a Feather (W); 558. The Rival Captains (W); 562. Captain of Welstead; 573. The Three Macs (H); 576. The Feud in West House (H); 583. The Rival House Teams (W); 588. Prefect and Fag (W); 593. In Open Rebellion (W); 598. A Troubled Term (W); 604. Alexander the Great (W); 670. The Fourth Mac (H); 674. Jimmy Mack, Detective (H); 678. Friends at Last (H); 684. The Kidnappers (H); 686. The Haygarth Caravanners; 692. Jimmy Mack's Double (H); 721. Leader of the Fourth (H); 752. The Sixth Form at Haygarth; 754. The Barring Out of Haygarth.

W: Wycliffe School.

H: Haygarth School.

J.N. PENTELOW (as Richard Randolph):

393. The Fourth Form at Franklingham; 400. Fred Reckless, Amateur; 410. The Rook Patrol; 624. The Last Choice; 625. Young Yardley; 639. Ferrers of the Sixth; 640. Ferrers of the Films; 705. The Greatest Game; 716. Smith of Rocklandshire; 717. Brother Pros; 732. Young Sheriff Fist-Fight; 733. The Three Riders.

J.N. PENTELOW (as Randolph Ryle)

745. Dare of the Rovers; 757. The Trojan; 757. Rivals of the Rovers; 761. The Rotter of the Rovers.

J.N. PENTELOW (as Harry Huntingdon):

360. The Shadowed Schoolboy; 510. Quinthred's Quest; 585. The Smuggler's Secret.

ARTHUR S. HARDY:

22. Sporting Life; 29. Playing to Win; 99. Football Foes; 206. Tom Sayer's Boxing Booth; 230. Down on His Luck; 240. The Blue Crusaders; 241. For League and Cup; 290. Fighter and Footballer; 304. Secrets of the Racecourse; 337. The Fighting Footballers; 345. Black and White; (cont'd on page 46 ...)





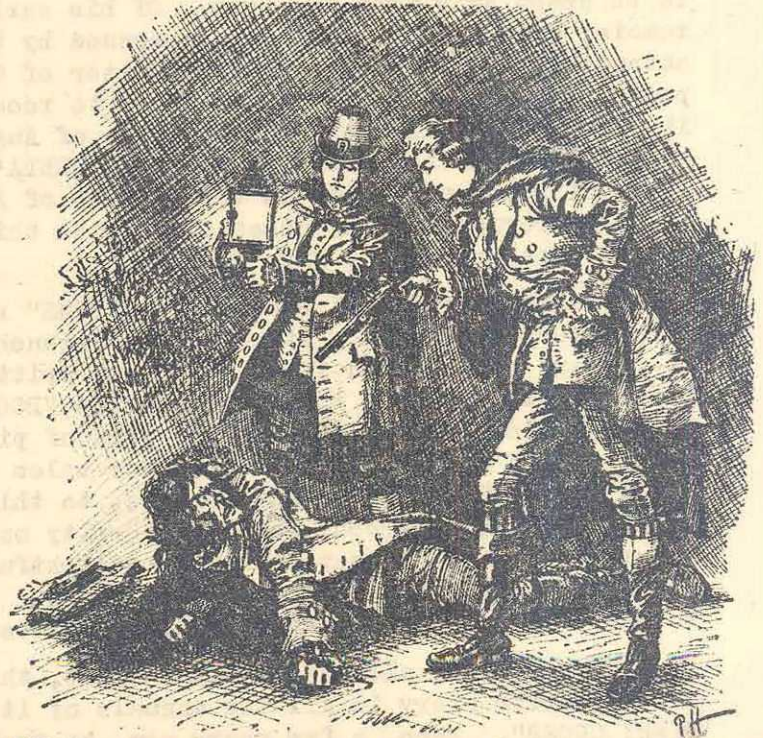
from  
 "YO-HO  
 FOR THE  
 SPANISH  
 MAIN"  
 ~

Maroon, with a hoarse bellow of rage, lugged out his knife and took a step towards the Admiral; but Snake shoved him aside.  
 "Fool!" he cried. "You would kill him at once and so lose half the game!"

from  
 "JACK - A - LANTERN"



S. WALKER  
 from a photo. about 1925



"We have lost the jackal, but we have caught the old wolf. What have you to say for yourself, my dear Zazime?" he asked.

# S. Walkey

## King of Adventure - Story Writers

by Geoff Hockley

Who was the greatest writer of adventure stories for boys? Many illustrious names come to mind when the question is asked, for the authors who once regaled the youth of the Empire were legion, but it may be safely asserted that few are remembered with such affection by their readers as is Samuel Walkey, the one-time bank clerk who, before the beginning of the present century, started to write boys' adventure stories as a hobby, and whose work so captivated boys the world over that stories came almost uninterruptedly from his pen for more than forty years --- tales which I, with others who, like myself, have long left their youth behind them, can read again to-day and recapture the ecstasy with which we devoured them in boyhood.

Samuel Walkey was born in 1871, and at the age of sixteen entered a bank. Promotions came with the passing of the years, and before the nineteenth century had drawn to a close he had risen to the rank of inspector, and later, to staff controller --- positions which necessitated a good deal of travelling in the course of visiting branches. It was at this time that he tried his hand at authorship as a means of filling in those evenings which perforce had to be spent away from his home. Of his early unpublished efforts, no records remain, but in 1895 a friend, impressed by Walkey's work, brought it to the attention of Max Pemberton, then editor of Cassell & Co.'s famous boys' weekly paper, "CHUMS". Pemberton was quick to recognise talent when he encountered it, with the result that in the issue of August 28, 1895, Walkey made his debut as a "CHUMS" author with "IN QUEST OF SHEBA'S TREASURE", an excellent serial story of pluck and peril in the deserts of Arabia, and which was destined to be the forerunner of an association with this once-famous boys' paper which was to last for nearly five decades.

The story was well received. "CHUMS" readers clamoured for more, and Walkey responded with a story which entrenched him firmly in their affections --- a yarn which, even if he had never written another, would have earned him imperishable fame --- the unforgettable "ROGUES OF THE 'FIERY CROSS'", a dashing, slashing, pulse-stirring yarn of pirates and the Spanish Main, and the first of a long line of buccaneer tales which were to enthral boys the world over. Few old "CHUMS" readers, to this day, will forget this memorable yarn. W. Macqueen-Pope, famous authority on Victorian and Edwardian times, refers to it affectionately in his delightfully nostalgic books, "TWENTY SHILLINGS IN THE POUND" and "BACK NUMBERS". In the latter volume, referring to the boys' papers of the period, he writes:

"But best of all was "CHUMS". That, the Boy read over and over again. His favourite story in all the annuals of it which he had was "ROGUES OF THE FIERY CROSS". When, a few years ago, he wrote a book and mentioned that tale,

with a pretty full description, he did not imagine that anyone but himself would recall it. How wrong he was! Letters poured in from men of his own age all over the country. They remembered it too.....so many were there, that he considered forming a "ROGUES OF THE FIERY CROSS" club!"

This famous story was also notable in that besides establishing Walkey as a top-notch adventure-story author, it was illustrated by the famous black-and-white artist Paul Hardy, thus commencing an author-artist association which was to last until Walkey laid his pen aside for the last time, more than forty years later. With few exceptions, all Walkey's stories carried Hardy's striking illustrations, which added salt and savour to the author's dashing prose. No other illustrator came within a tithe of so graphically depicting the dashing heroes and bloodthirsty ruffians of the stories, and the Walkey-Hardy partnership proved one of the happiest author-artist combinations in the history of boys' literature.

After "ROGUES OF THE 'FIERY CROSS'" came another fine pirate yarn, "THE KING OF THE SEAS", and then, temporarily forsaking the blue seas and palm-fringed islands of the Spanish Main for the lakes and forests of North America in the days when Britain and France battled for Canada, Walkey contributed another "CHUMS" serial which still lingers fondly in the memory, "WITH REDSKINS ON THE WARPATH" --- an epic resounding with Indian war-whoops, the crack of long rifles and the twang of bowstrings. The hearts of boys the Empire over beat faster as they followed Ensign Blyth Cary and Julian Flood the forest ranger on their perilous mission, entrusted to them by General Wolfe himself, to deliver the Silver Tomahawk to the chiefs of the Five Nations and thus bring the powerful confederacy of Indian tribes into the war on the side of England.

The legions of "CHUMS" readers just could not get enough of Walkey, and his next two serials entrenched him even more firmly in their affections. These were "FOR COMRADE AND COUNTRY" and "THE ROVERS OF BLACK ISLAND", dashing pirate stories in the author's best vein. Then followed "THE PIRATES OF EL DORADO" and "COMRADES IN PERIL", the latter being a thrilling yarn of the adventures of two English boys among the terrorists of the French Revolution. Incidentally, the period of the Revolution later inspired Walkey to create one of his most famous and best-loved characters, of whom more anon.

If all previous Walkey stories had "rung the bell" with "CHUMS" readers, his next contribution to the famous old paper sounded a peal which echoed the length and breadth of the Empire. On March 17, 1909, in No. 862, appeared the first instalment of the immortal "YO-HO! FOR THE SPANISH MAIN!", which eclipsed even "ROGUES OF THE 'FIERY CROSS'" in popularity and was the most widely-acclaimed serial which "CHUMS" or any other boys' paper ever published. So avidly was each instalment seized upon by "CHUMS" readers that the author, in response to an editorial request, extended the story far beyond its originally intended length.

No more dashing adventurers, and no more villainous ruffians, ever strode through the pages of boys' fiction than the characters with which the Walkey magic peopled "YO-HO! FOR THE SPANISH MAIN!". Who, having once read this tale, can ever forget Rolly Rosewarne and Harry Tressilian, dashing youngsters both -- bluff old Admiral Slam, fighting admiral of the old school, who possessed stout fists and deemed it no loss of dignity to use them -- Captain Angel, strange mixture of scented, silk-clad dandy and deadly fighter -- honest, jovial Davy Yardarm, very incarnation of the tough old sea-dog of the period -- Captain

Jack of the Blue Rovers -- to say nothing of the choicest collection of ocean cut-throats who ever looted an honest merchantman or pelted helpless victims to death with empty rum bottles -- Solomon Snake of the "Moonlight", terror of the Main, and his villainous henchman, Maroon --- Sharkteeth, Barracouta, and a host of other ruffians, with the black-robed fiends of the Spanish Inquisition thrown in for good measure. With what exquisite thrills did one follow the fortunes of the heroes through perils on land and sea in their quest for the fabulous derelict treasure galleon, until one could almost hear the crash of broadsides and see the flash of rapiers and the glint of cutlasses! Paul Hardy's inimitable illustrations gave added zest to the story. Reading it again recently, strengthened my conviction that no finer yarn of its type was ever penned.

In his next contribution to "CHUMS", Walkey introduced one of his most popular characters, whose appeal was such that his exploits appeared in the pages of the old paper at intervals for many a year -- the dashing and elusive "Jack-a-Lantern". Readers young and old were captivated by the exploits of the gay and daring young Englishman who spirited away hapless victims of the Reign of Terror from the very shadow of the guillotine, and whose name was execrated by the blood-mad monsters of the Revolution. Many splendid characters appeared in the "Jack-a-Lantern" tales -- blue old Captain Barleycorn, whose barque, the "Never Tell", slipped away from the terror-ridden shores of France with many a cargo of rejoicing aristocrats snatched from the mob by the audacious Mystery Man -- Chris Chesney, the young English boy, Jack-a-Lantern's protege -- and a host of others, heroic and villainous whose doings made the "Jack-a-Lantern" tales one of the most popular series ever to appear in "CHUMS".

The year 1911 was a bumper one for the legion of "CHUMS" readers who scanned the editorial page from week to week for the announcement of a new serial by their favourite author, for in that period this prolific writer made no fewer than three fine contributions to the old paper -- two serials and a series of complete stories, all of which met with an enthusiastic reception. "THE TEN PIRATES" was a slam-bang tale of wild doings on the Spanish Main in the author's finest vein, and later in the year appeared a yarn which lingered long in the memory, and which ranks with Walkey's finest work -- "WOLF-ON-THE-TRAIL", a stirring tale of action and adventure laid against the background of the French and Indian wars. Here again were memorable characters whose fortunes we followed from week to week with almost breathless suspense -- Dick Forrest, the young scout, dedicated to the clearing of his father's name, and his two valiant comrades Long Gun the ranger and War Arrow the Tuscarora -- Bob Whiskers, the fat and jovial bosun from a King's ship, who wrought mighty havoc with his cat-o-nin-tails -- Jack Flag, the little midshipman -- and that dreadful villain, the Red Rat. Historical fact mingled with stirring fiction in this absorbing tale, the description of the massacre of General Braddock's doomed army at Fort Duquesne being in particular a fine piece of writing.

In "RED ASSEGAI", the series of complete stories which appeared still later in the 1911 volume, Walkey broke new ground with an African locale in the days when the land was being laid waste by the hordes of the bloodthirsty Zulu tyrant, Chaka the Terrible, and the adventures of Ishmael Stork and Adrian the Boy Hunter formed a stirring series of episodes.

Next year, the author's popular character "Jack-a-Lantern" returned in a series of complete yarns, "THE MYSTERY MEN OF THE REIGN OF TERROR", in response to readers' demands for more exploits of the daring young hero whose audacious

doings made fascinating reading. At the conclusion of the "MYSTERY MEN" series came an outstanding serial, "HURRAH! FOR MERRY SHERWOOD!", woven around that hero of legend, Robin Hood. Walkey's genius as a story-teller was never employed to better advantage than in this stirring tale, in which the doings of the legendary heroes of Sherwood Forest thrilled readers as they have always done down the ages, but Walkey made them live as never before. Here we met again that gallant company -- Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, Little John, Allan-a-dale, and the Merry Men -- and a host of other characters -- the hero, young Torquil Algarson -- old Thor Wolfgang, mighty man of valour and terrible wielder of his mighty battleaxe -- the fighting abbot, Leofwin of Ravenswing Abbey -- Ivo The Cruel and Odo the Ogre, villains of the deepest dye -- all moving against the romantic background of the period in deeds of derring-do and breathless action. Walkey, in later years, referred to this as one of his favourite stories and it undoubtedly contains some of his finest writing.

If "CHUMS" gave Walkey his first opportunity of establishing himself as a writer of boys' stories, it may be safely surmised that the publishers must have congratulated themselves more than once during the ensuing years on that editorial decision back in 1895, for the author's popularity continued unabated, and the announcement of a forthcoming Walkey serial was always a topic of pleasurable speculation among "CHUMS" readers the world over. Serial followed serial (to say nothing of many complete stories, too numerous to mention) year after year, all crammed with action and adventure in the inimitable Walkey manner -- such stirring yarns as "CROSSBONES ISLAND", an exciting pirate story of the quest of a band of English adventurers for the fabled loot of Captain Crossbones, one-time scourge of the Spanish Main -- the clue to which was a bit of doggerel verse which I can still recall:

"On Crossbones Isle, near Spanish Key,

"There is a ruby, hidden by me.

"Seek it, and let this pirate's skull become your guide,

"To the vast treasure of the mountainside."

Yes, another tale to delight youthful hearts -- but only one of many, for in quick succession came "THE TWO JACK-A-LANTERNS", more chronicles of the relentless duel between the elusive Mystery Men and the Terrorists of the Revolution -- "THE WARWHOOPE OF THE REDSKINS", a saga of tomahawk and rifle in border days -- "CAPTAIN SWING", another fine buccaneer yarn -- "FOR DRAKE AND MERRIE ENGLAND", a brave tale, this, which nearly four decades later was specially reprinted in book form by Cassel's for Coronation Year -- a gesture which delighted the author probably more than anything else could have done, for Walkey was, above all things, the epitome of the modest, loyal, and patriotic Englishman, and a lover of his Queen and country.

In the 1916 volume we find a fine series of complete tales, "THE HEAD-HUNTERS OF BORNEO", and a long and absorbing serial of African adventure, "IN QUEST OF A KINGDOM". Rider Haggard himself never wrote a better story of its type than this thrilling romance of the quest for the mythical Land of the White Sentinels by young Alan Chandos and his comrades Ned Lacy, Sir Montague Saintly, Captain Roarer, Derry O'Flynn and the giant Zulu, Tolla the King-Slayer. The clash of Zulu impis, the flash of assegais, desperate conflicts and peril from man and beast, made this tale of the Dark Continent in the days of the dreadful tyrant Chaka, the Wild Beast of the Zulus, a yarn which out-  
rivals "King Solomon's Mines."

A year elapsed until Walkey's next contribution, but it was well worth waiting for. "UNDER THE BLACK FLAG" returned to the author's favourite Spanish Main setting, and must be included in the best examples of his work. The adventures of Cloudesley Raven and Tom Godolphin among the ferocious Brotherhood of the Main -- a sort of Buccaneers' Guild, united, for once, in protection of themselves from the reprisals of honest seafarers for dreadful deeds of ocean banditry -- made thrilling reading. In this yarn we met Holy Rob, admiral of the pirate fleet -- a pious, hypocritical, treacherous ruffian who for cold-blooded villainy would make even the late lamented Solomon Snake look to his laurels. There were other pirate captains, too, with delightfully bizarre names -- Captain Cripple, Grave-Digger, Abraham Sweetlocks, Anaconda, and other precious scoundrels. The description of the grave of the treasure-galleons on the uncanny Reef of the Seven Devils, guarded by weird monsters of the deep, contains some of the author's finest writing.

In the 1918 volume we find Walkey represented only once, with a short but enjoyable serial, "THE PIRATES OF SKELETON ISLAND", but during the following year he contributed no less than three fine yarns, the first, "A ROVING COMMISSION", being distinctive for one of the author's rare departures from the customary brave-old-days-cut-and-thrust formula in which he excelled. Nevertheless, his genius as a story teller was not confined to scenes of bygone days, as was proved by this tale of the exploits of a trio of free-lance intelligence agents -- Professor Dewdrop, Dick Warrenne, and the likeable American, Washington T. Hare -- in the course of defeating the machinations of German spies. There is no doubt, however, that the majority of Walkey's admirers preferred his stories laid in historical settings, and in his next contribution he returned to his familiar and popular type of story with "KING OF THE OUTLAWS", another rattling yarn of the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest, replete with all the romantic panoply of the period -- and including, strange to say, a tinge of what is popularly referred to as "love interest", rarely found in a boys' adventure story. However, the romance of the youthful hero, Hereward the Red, and the fair Elfwyn, in no way detracted from the excellence of this fine tale.

Closely following came another pirate yarn, but with something of a new twist -- "PHANTOM JACK", the exploits of a sort of Jack-a-Lantern of the seas. The adventures of this will-o'-the-wisp of the Spanish Main provided some thrilling reading, and I know at least one Walkey enthusiast who rates "PHANTOM JACK" as his favourite example of the author's work.

"THE NIGHT ROVERS", which appeared in the 1920 volume, also struck a new note, and the adventures of Jim Rodney and Valentine Roseorn on the Cornish coast, in their perilous quest to expose the identity of the Bat, that weird and mysterious desperado who led the smuggling band known as the Night Rovers, were chronicled in the best Walkey style and most effectively illustrated by Paul Hardy. In this volume also appeared a short serial of Elizabethan days, "THE QUEEN'S CHAMPION".

An outstanding historical serial, "SEA-KINGS AND SEA-WOLVES", appeared in 1921, and here again the author broke new ground, the scenes being laid in the England of Henry the Eighth and in the Mediterranean. This story moved at a swift pace from the first chapter in a series of "hairbreadth 'scapes by flood and field" -- terrific sea battles with the fierce corsairs of the Mediterranean under the dreaded Barbarossa, grim clashes between Cross and Crescent on the island of Malta, held for England by the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, and,

interwoven among these historical scenes, the story of Rollo Cary's perilous mission on behalf of his Sovereign. Desperate conflict by land and sea, the clash of arms and armour, the storming of grim castles -- all made this a stirring and gallant tale.

The author's dashing and debonair hero, whose popularity never waned, appeared the following year in a full-length serial, "THE ADVENTURES OF JACK-A-LANTERN", and in the same volume came a superlative historical serial, "WHEN THE VIKINGS CAME", for the opening instalment of which the peerless Paul Hardy did a full-page illustration which must be ranked among the finest pieces of work which this gifted artist contributed to "CHUMS". Following this came another fine story "CAPTIVES IN EL DORADO" -- a rousing yarn of English sea-dogs against the might of Spain, a lost race and a secret city in the land of the ancient Incas, strange monsters and desperate doings -- a grand tale. But alas! why did the powers that be engage the services of another artist than Hardy to illustrate it? However, we welcomed the return of the inimitable "P.H." in the next Walkey story, "KIDNAPPED AND MAROONED" a short three-part serial which appeared in mid-1924.

1925? Thirty years had elapsed since Walkey's first story had appeared in "CHUMS", in which period he had contributed no fewer than thirty-five serials and countless complete stories. But (to paraphrase the Immortal Bard) age could not wither the vitality of his writing, nor custom stale the infinite variety of his plots, and in an age far removed from the Victorian days in which he made his first bow, boys followed the doings of his heroes and villains as raptly as their fathers had done before them. The Editor of "CHUMS" waxed enthusiastic over the Walkey serial with which the 1925 volume opened -- "the greatest story ever written by our world-famed author" -- "the finest historical narrative of recent years" -- "every instalment teeming with thrills" -- ran the banner headlines. And indeed, "THE SWORD OF TALLIFER TRUEBLADE" was deserving of superlatives, for never had the author created more memorable characters or moved them in more vigorous action, in settings ranging from England in the days of the Rebellion, to the Spanish Main and the slave plantations of the Indies, and to the forests of the New World. Here we met that splendid soldier of fortune, Tallifer Trueblade -- Derry Hawkwood and Caryll Winspear, loyal comrades both -- Starlight Tom the highwayman and Black Stoat, the horrible footpad -- the treacherous Sir Raven Creeply -- the scarlet-robed demon Judge Jeffreys -- the sea-solves of the "Santa Rosa" and the cruel overseers of the slave plantations -- Trail-Hunter the scout and the scalp-hunting savages of New England -- and literally scores of others, in a whirlwind of action which held the reader from the first chapter to the last. Yes, one could forgive the Editor his liberal use of superlatives -- and Hardy's illustrations caught the very spirit of the story.

Later in the same year came "FLAME-BEARD'S TREASURE", a pirate yarn of the finest vintage, which got off to an exciting start with a midnight burial on the Cornish coast and unfolded a breathless narrative of wild doings on Coffin Island in the Spanish Main. Once again we were introduced to characters whose very names did the heart good -- Admiral Windy, Doctor Primrose, Parson Stout, Squire Boscastle, and the two youthful heroes, Jim Boscastle and Rufe Trecarrell -- and on the other hand, the villainous crew of the pirate ship "Black Albatross" included some of the most ferocious ruffians ever conjured up by the author's fertile imagination -- the terrible Blind Judas, the treacherous Salvation Meek, the murderous Cheat-the-Gallows, and other choice candidates for Execution Dock.

"The most powerful adventure story ever written by this famous author of old-time tales", claimed the Editor -- and even allowing for Editorial exuberance, it was undoubtedly a fine yarn, with Paul Hardy supplying some very effective illustrations.

"POWDER-MONKEY JACK", a fine tale of the Navy in Nelson's day, was Walkey's only serial contribution to "CHUMS" in 1926, and after this nearly two years elapsed before another appeared. But absence undoubtedly made the hearts of his admirers grow fonder, and the advent of a new series dealing with the further adventures of his popular hero, Jack-a-Lantern, was received with enthusiasm. "THE RETURN OF JACK-A-LANTERN" was perhaps the finest of all the tales of this dashing young exquisite, and the one and only "P.H." contributed a splendid title-heading and some of his finest illustrations. Hardy's depictions of blood-crazed Revolutionary mobs were perhaps only excelled by his drawings of the savage and sinister characters appearing in Walkey's pirate yarns. Incidentally, the author admired Hardy greatly, and when replying to letters from admirers of his own work, he invariably mentioned his appreciation of the artist's genius in catching the very spirit of his stories. Strangely enough, author and artist never met in the course of their long careers.

Hardy's illustrations, alas, were absent in the three Walkey serials which appeared from 1931 to 1937 -- "ROGUES OF THE 'ROARING GLORY'", "DRAKE GOES WEST", and "RED FALCON THE PIRATE-HUNTER" -- fine yarns, every one, which demonstrated that the author, though now in his sixties, had not lost any of his genius as a yarn-spinner of derring-do in the brave old days. Indeed, in "CHUMS" 1935 volume we find a long Editorial article on Walkey's writing career in a series of sketches, "FAVOURITE CHUMS AUTHORS", in which the veteran author's popularity is very evident. Back in 1910, twenty-five years before, another "CHUMS" editor had said almost the same things!

But the end of an era, in more ways than one, was approaching. "CHUMS" had passed from the house of Cassell to the Amalgamated Press, and opinions varied (and still do) as to whether the change was for better or worse. A wit once remarked of Sherlock Holmes that although the famed detective had survived his supposedly fatal encounter with his arch-enemy Moriarty, he was never quite the same man again (a statement, by the way, with which I heartily disagree). But I personally think, with all due respect for the lords of A.P., that a similar statement could truthfully have been applied to the famous old paper after it passed into their hands after so many years under the Cassell banner. War clouds, too, were looming, and "CHUMS", alas, was fated, in the not-so-distant future, to share the doom which was in store for more than one popular boys' periodical after so many honourable years. But although the writing was on the wall, the end was not quite yet.

If you should ever happen across a "CHUMS" volume for the year 1940, turn to page 295 and read the swan-song of Samuel Walkey, for forty-five years the author of fine, clean and stirring adventure tales for boys. Here is his last story, "THE TREASURE OF PIRATE'S ISLAND", bravely illustrated by Paul Hardy. No more truthful tribute could be paid to the veteran author-artist collaborators, and to the story itself, than this Editorial foreword.

"Those old favourites and collaborators in "CHUMS", S. Walkey and Paul Hardy", wrote the Editor, "are still with us in "THE TREASURE OF PIRATE'S ISLAND". As I write this, I have before me a copy of the first issue of "CHUMS", with a



sketch in it by Paul Hardy, and his work is as wonderful today as it was then in the September of 1892. The greatest buccaneer stories ever written have been from the pen of S. Walkey, and his association with "CHUMS" has been one of the romances of boys' literature. Those of us who have not forgotten when we were young, will remember "ROGUES OF THE FIERY CROSS" and other stories that had in them the lash of great waves breaking against tall and stately galleons and ship to ship in mortal combat. The authentic touch was there, and it is here as ever it was in this magnificent tale of stirring adventure, of rapier play, treasure, and sea romance. Here is a story to stir the blood and to thrill the lads who proudly possess a seafaring tradition."

Alas, only one more of the familiar scarlet-clad volumes was fated to appear. 1941 saw the last annual, and "CHUMS" was no more. Hundreds of fine stories had run through its pages in the course of its long and honourable career which spanned nearly half a century, but none will be more joyously remembered than the work of Samuel Walkey, patriot, Imperialist, lover of gallant deeds and British fair play, who passed on recently at the age of eighty-three mourned by all who once had revelled in his tales, and who truly merited the title of "KING OF ADVENTURE-STORY WRITERS".

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S. WALKEY'S SERIALS AND SERIES OF COMPLETE STORIES  
IN "CHUMS", 1896-1940

1896 In Quest of Sheba's Treasure; 1897 Rogues of the 'Fiery Cross'; 1900 The King of the Seas; 1901 With Redskins on the Warpath; 1903 For Comrade and Country; 1905 The Rovers of Black Island; 1905 Wildcat, The Boy Scout (series); 1907 The Pirates of El Dorado; 1908 Comrades in Peril; 1909 Yo-Ho! For the Spanish Main; 1910 Adventures of Jack-A-Lantern (series); 1911 The Ten Pirates; 1911 Wolf-on-the-Trail; 1911 Red Assegai (series); 1912 Mystery Men of the Reign of Terror (series); 1912 Hurrah! For Merry Sherwood; 1913 Crossbones Island; 1914 The Two Jack-A-Lanterns (series); 1914 The Warwhoop of the Redskins; 1915 Captain Swing; 1915 For Drake and Merrie England; 1916 The Head-Hunters of Borneo; 1916 In Quest of a Kingdom; 1917 Under the Black Flag; 1918 The Pirates of Skeleton Island; 1919 A Roving Commission (series); 1919 King of the Outlaws; 1919 Phantom Jack; 1920 The Night Rovers; 1920 The Queen's Champion; 1921 Sea-Kings and Sea-Wolves; 1922 Adventures of Jack-A-Lantern; 1923 When the Vikings Came; 1924 Captives in Eldorado; 1924 Kidnapped and Marooned; 1925 The Sword of Tallifer Trueblade; 1925 Flame-Beard's Treasure; 1926 Powder-Monkey Jack; 1928-29 Jack-A-Lantern (series); 1930-31 Rogues of The "Roaring Glory"; 1932-33 Drake Goes West; 1936-37 Red Falcon the Pirate Hunter; 1940 The Treasure of Pirates' Island.

(cont'd from page 38...)

ARTHUR S. HARDY (cont'd) 422. The Boxing Sailor; 445. Tom Sayer's Vow; 484. Leaders of the League; 487. The Luck Against Them; 495. The Spy of the Team; 500. Fighting for the Cup; 525. The Sports of St. Clive's; 544. Blake of the Blue Crusaders; 578. Champion of the Cue; 600. The Football Outcasts; 601. The Fighting Celt; 605. Lad of the League; 618. The Master Batsman; 643. The Trials of the Manager Wilson; 650. Idol of the Crowd; 660. Captain Jack; 682. The Schoolboy International; 697. Suspended for Life; (cont'd page 78.)

A FRIEND REMARKED to me recently "Do you still derive as much pleasure in reading these books by Frank Richards as you did when a boy?" - which set me thinking; hence this article.

The accepted theory according to Jaques, the cynic in Shakespeare's "As You Like It" is that there are seven ages of man. I disagree, and maintain there are only three as far as readers of the Collectors' Digest are concerned, namely: YOUTH, ADOLESCENCE, and MATURITY.

Comparisons at any age are odious, for who can tell whether they enjoyed reading the Companion Papers, etc. as much at ages 14 or 40. Let us therefore, take the three ages of reading our beloved periodicals as they appealed to the writer:

#### YOUTH

As a child any School story fascinated me whether it was written by Charles Hamilton or appeared in "The Boys' Own Paper", "Chums", or was the work of Talbot Baines Reed. Of course, like most youths, I read those so-called classics "Tom Brown's Schooldays", "Eric", and "St. Winifred's" (this latter story remaining in my memory for many years). By the time I was ten years of age, "The Gem" and the "The Magnet" were firmly established as my favourites and were eagerly awaited each week whether obtained by purchase or exchange.

As children we laughed at Billy Bunter (like Mr. Micawber waiting for something to turn up - only it was a Postal Order in Bunter's case), were easily amused at Gussy ("Yass wathah, deah boys") and the House and Form rivalry we thought great fun. The antics of Coker, Fishy and his Americanisms, plus Inky's weird interpretation of our English language also caused us much merriment. Oh, and we must include Tom Dutton and his deafness, but we did not acknowledge "The Toff" as an improbability.

We did, however, have time for the sentimental side, for there rose a lump in our throats as we read sentimental or emotional passages. Here is an example, which I remember affected me when I read it. It is taken from Magnet No. 357 ("The Return of the Prodigal") - the Xmas No. for 1914, wherein Dr. Locke is so disappointed in the return of his long-lost nephew:-

"Dr. Locke returned to his study. Until the door was closed upon him the Head retained his calmness. No one passing him would have dreamed of the emotion he was holding in check.

But when he was alone his self-control gave way. He sank

into his chair with a heavy groan and covered his face with his hands. "My boy, my boy", he muttered with white lips, "Heaven help me." The prodigal had returned - that return for which the old man had thought of, dreamed of, for so many years. It had come about at last and in this manner. The boy, whom he had loved as a son had come back a hunted reprobate, a hard and cynical blackguard!

Long the Head sat there, in the deepening darkness, buried in miserable thought, the tears trickling through the fingers that covered the kind old face."

So much then for the emotional side. Of course it all turned out happily in the last chapter.

How many of us in our youth envied those boys fortunate enough to attend Public Schools and even visualised ourselves doing so. The japes that were played, a study shared with others (also their joys and sorrows), subjects taken which never came under our curriculum, and finally an allowance of pocket money beyond our wildest dreams.

Finally: in our youth we were thrilled by the appearance of the Double Numbers of our favourites - particularly those at Christmas with snow scenes on the covers. Oh, halcyon days - never to return!

#### ADOLESCENCE

We now come to an age when the works of the authors are beginning to be understood. We see exclamations like "You burbling jabberwock" and know it is derived from Alice's jabberwock which burred as it came. When Mr. Quelch's frown is likened to that of The Lord High Executioner we immediately think of "The Mikado" and Gilbert and Sullivan. We also appreciate the classical allusions such as "Billy Bunter, like Gallio of old, cared for none of these things," or "like Brutus, he paused for a reply". Maybe we don't remember or even know who Aunt Sempronia was or whether she was "My only Sainted Aunt", also. (Perhaps somebody will enlighten the writer).

The humorous stories which appealed to us in youthful days are being superseded by something more dramatic, such as Barring-outs, the sacrifices of Talbot, the escapades of Vernon Smith, but we still have time for the caravaning, camping or adventure series.

Nevertheless, the characters are now really beginning to take shape, and we can also discern that the plot in "The Magnet" revolves round a most trivial incident concerning say Bunter in the first chapter or two.

Now we begin to appreciate the genius behind the author's pen when he is dealing with his characters. Some of the best examples of this can be found in the following extracts from the "Bunter's Boater Hat" Series in "The Magnet". Here are two of them:

- (a) "Billy Bunter did not heed, however; he was deep in the land of dreams, sleeping as soundly as he ever slept in the Remove Dormitory at Greyfriars, and his snore mingled more or less melodiously with the buzzing of the wasps and the whisper of the wind in the gorse."
- (b) "Mr. Hinks had no eye for scenery, the river winding down to the sea and

the deep blue sea in the distance failed to evoke any admiration from him. He was taking a rest, his career being one of successive rests. Harold was one of those men with a natural disinclination to work - for work and Mr. Hinks had long been comparative strangers. Under happier auspices he might have been a Cabinet Minister or an ornament of the Civil Service. But as a matter of sad fact - he was neither - he was a tramp.

One could go on giving many such instances of clever characterisation but comment would be superfluous and it would serve no purpose.

Alas! Some of us about this time began to stop reading the Companion Papers, etc. for life has so much to offer at this stage and we hadn't time for everything.

### MATURITY

Perhaps this is the happiest age of all. To recapture one's youth and the joy of seeing (and reading) once again books that stood out in one's memory 30-40 years ago and collect perhaps a few of them for nostalgic reasons is "Paradise enow". Maybe the greatest shock we experienced in this era was to discover that both the "Gem" and "Magnet" were written by the same man - Charles Hamilton. We remember how we used to argue as to the relative merits and demerits of Frank Richards and Martin Clifford, etc. and feel a little foolish now. It explained why the characters in "The Gem" were mentioned in "The Magnet" and vice-versa. On the other hand we learn more about Nelson Lee and why the old papers seem to decline and also something behind the scenes in The Union Jack Library and Sexton Blake. The curtains have been lifted.

How wonderful too, to discover the existence of the Collector's Digest, and also to meet kindred souls through the medium of Old Boys' Book Clubs, and also by correspondence.

One also learns why some of the stories we read those many years ago were not quite up to standard, for little did we know of the work by "sub" writers. We also recognise the "Gem" reprints and wonder who was responsible for some of the awful titles given to same.

How useful we find is the Collectors' Digest Annual, particularly when it contains information we have been seeking for years and had even despaired of ever finding out. How nice too, to catch up where we left off and realise what we missed and haste to make up the leeway.

To conclude: with the advent of Television we can even see Greyfriars in the flesh, as it were - though we may not agree with the casting and acting of some of the characters.

We can also, through the medium of Messrs. Cassells, obtain the latest Bunter book for a modest sum, to say nothing of Billy Bunter's Own Annual which has replaced our Holiday Annual.

Let us then at this age be thankful for small (or should it be many) mercies, for is not the King of School Stories still writing - long may he reign!

Maybe, HE thinks - with a twinkle in his eye - which age is the best; why my age of course! What do you think, dear Reader.

## Introduction

The Blue and White Magnets were born not from choice but necessity. Early in the first world war the renowned red dye used for the covers of the original Magnets became difficult to obtain. Blue ink on white covers was the war-time substitute, and - like a lot of war-time makeshifts - it lingered on for a long while after the cessation of hostilities.

This era of the Magnet was in fact the least satisfactory of all, for a number of different reasons. At times during the war Charles Hamilton was not always available to turn out the weekly story, and on occasions the substitute writers were so taxed for inspiration that C.H. Chapman used to execute a number of illustrations around which they would concoct a story (shades of the Pickwick Papers indeed!) Later, when Pentelow took over the editorship, Charles Hamilton's stories would be deliberately set aside in order to make way for Pentelow's own effusions. Under his regime, substitute stories often appeared in preference to those by Charles Hamilton.

The war brought other vicissitudes. The paper shortage drastically reduced the length of the stories, even though the print was reduced in size. The uncertainty of the author's movements and general wartime factors all tended to take some of the shine off his stories; the leisurely pre-war world was indeed gone.

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# Those Blue and White Magnets

## by Roger M. Jenkins

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In all these circumstances, the wonder is that the Magnet kept going at all. Yet it did, and it was during the latter part of the war that it outstripped the circulation of its older competitor - and at that time superior paper - the Gem. After this somewhat gloomy introduction it may well be that some collectors new to the period will be agreeably surprised at the fare the Blue and White Magnet can provide. At all events, let us begin by examining the last part of the volume for 1915 and see what the Magnet of that time has to offer.

### 1915 - New Bottles for the Old Wine

The end of the red cover did not portend any immediate change - indeed it was only the cover that distinguished the new stories from the old. Coker had the honour of featuring in the first Blue and White Magnet, No. 397 dated 18 September, 1915. "Coker's Canadian Cousin" was expected to call en route for Flanders, but Skinner hired a seedy actor to impersonate cousin James, much to Coker's discomfiture. No. 398 saw the juniors engaged in a short-story competition. Manuscripts went astray in a very odd manner, and at one stage Bunter even suspected Mr. Quelch of boning his war story entitled "Through Mud and Blood". Loder was the villain of the piece the following week, at war with the Remove, who found a surprising ally in Coker, "The Champion of the Oppressed".

No. 401 saw "Bunter's Anti-Tuck Campaign". He had been punished by the Remove for guzzling in wartime, and he turned the tables on them for a while by leading a campaign to go without meals. The wrath of the Remove descended upon him with poetic justice when it was discovered that he was eating on the sly.

Sir Hilton Popper was kidnapped by German spies in No. 402, but the following week saw a story more in the usual vein, in which Cecil Snaith of the Shell was expelled. How he stole money from the Remove dormitory and attempted to throw suspicion on a member of that form, only to be foiled by a relentless cross-examination at the end made a fine dramatic story in typical Hamiltonian style. It was Fishy who was "Going the Pace" in No. 404, this time as an amateur bookmaker, only to find his cheating exposed in the end by the Caterpillar.

A ghost from the past was Friedrich Falke in No. 406. He had done his best when secretary to Johnny Bull's uncle to get Johnny disgraced (Nos. 367/8). On that occasion Vernon-Smith had been his tool, but this time he chose the detestable Snoop. The plot was foiled with the aid of Kipps and the Bounder.

No. 407 entitled "The Jape of the Season" was a complete contrast, being written in Charles Hamilton's best humorous vein. In it we learn that Mr. Quelch had never married because he had been disappointed in love many years ago. To rectify this sad state of affairs Skinner inserted an advertisement in the matrimonial columns of the Friardale Gazette to the effect that a lonely form-master of pleasing personal appearance and affectionate disposition wished to meet a kindred soul. Mr. Quelch was quite surprised at the behaviour of the succession of middle-aged ladies who visited him that afternoon. Another humorous episode occurred the following week when Rake formed a rival football team and was beaten by Wharton's team disguised as girls.

The Christmas Double Number in No. 409 is one of those mysteries which beset Magnet collectors. Its first three chapters are full of Hamiltonianisms but the sparkle of the real Hamiltonian story is completely missing, and it is not surprising that this story was once classed as an imitation by the collector who compiled the list of these stories. With chapter four, however, the tale of "Harry Wharton & Co.'s Pantomime" revives. How the juniors spent the Christmas playing in pantomime at Lantham to send comforts to the soldiers at the front, and how Frank Nugent fell in love with Conchita, the Fairy Queen (who disappointingly turned out to be 37 years old and engaged to the stage manager) is all related with that cheerful kindness that was the hallmark of the best red Magnet stories.

Bunter shewed up at his worst in "Bunter the Masher" in No. 410. He was receiving letters from Marjorie Hazeldene and meeting her on the cliffs, giving everyone to understand that Marjorie had succumbed to his fatal fascination ("Girls like a chap with a good figure"). In point of fact, he had told Marjorie that her brother owed him money, and she was endeavouring to meet the non-existent debt. Bob Cherry was in the depths of despair until the truth of the matter came to light.

#### 1916 - All Quiet on the Home Front

1916 started off well with No. 412 which was dated for New Year's Day. Entitled "Hazeldene's Honour", it was a story about Snoop's attempt to get Hazeldene discredited and so win his place in goal for the match against

Highcliffe - the ulterior motive being to lose the match and win a bet with Ponsonby. This was the sort of story that Charles Hamilton did so well; perhaps a little far-fetched in ingenuity, but nonetheless fine dramatic entertainment for war-weary readers.

Stories about Fisher T. Fish were usually amusing; his plots always went awry, but his schemes were fun while they lasted. At this stage in the war, however, the Americans were still "too proud to fight", and the prevailing anti-American feeling was epitomised in the stories about the Yankee schoolboy who now ceased to be funny and became downright unpleasant. "The Schoolboy Speculator" in No. 413 attempted to buy up all the woollen goods in the district in order to re-sell them at a profit to organisations sending comforts to the front. Later, in No. 420, he was sending anonymous threatening letters to Mr. Quelch.

Vernon-Smith had been a reformed character for some while now, but Mr. Quelch had some mental reservations about the genuineness of his reform. So when in No. 418 Cecil Snaith re-appeared and associated with the Bounder, the Remove master felt (quite wrongly, as it turned out) that his suspicions were justified. This was an interesting story in a familiar vein. "Coker's Engagement" in No. 419 is notable as a story by Charles Hamilton featuring Phyllis Howell, the creation of a substitute writer. Phyllis featured in another story in No. 423 in which Rattenstein, a German prince who had arrived in the Remove the previous week, engineered a series of quarrels and misunderstandings which she managed to put right.

Minor characters were featured quite often in these days. In No. 425 Micky Desmond was elated to find a Sandwich Island stamp in his collection worth £1000, only to be dismayed later to discover it was merely a copy.

Snoop's father was a guest in one of His Majesty's Establishments, and in No. 428 we were introduced to another convict, this time Carne's father who had escaped from a local prison. Carne thought his father had a post in the Colonial Service, and by a quirk of fate it was Carne who gave the information that led to the recapture of Convict 27. In the end it turned out that Mr. Carne was innocent (unlike Mr. Snoop), the real villain being Mr. Black who was temporary maths master while Mr. Lascelles was at the front. The following week Coker decided to assist the law and round up a local man suspected of dodging conscription. The result was a thousand lines and detention for four half-holidays.

Two weeks later saw Billy Bunter masquerading as "The Hero of Greyfriars". Bob Cherry saved Sir Hilton Popper's niece from a train, but had had to keep quiet about it as he had been breaking detention at the time. Bunter saw no reason not to claim the glory, and at the same time he sent Sir Hilton a bill for £7.18.0. in respect of damage done to clothes by collision with a locomotive. When the truth came to light Bunter confided to his form-master that, under the circumstances, he was willing to let the matter drop, but Mr. Quelch did not seem to agree.

No. 433 saw Rattenstein "Kicked Out of the School" after the failure of his plot to get Wharton expelled, while "Frank Nugent's Folly" in No. 434 was in lending the cricket club funds to Snoop who promised faithfully to return them at the end of the week; fortunately for Nugent, the Bounder came to the rescue in an anonymous manner. No. 435 saw Loder betting against the school

cricket team, and, after an unpleasant story about a German spy in No. 437, Wibley starred the following week in one of his many impersonations of Monsieur Charpentier who had become involved in betting transactions with Mr. Banks.

Billy Bunter's cousin Wally, who was so like him in appearance if not in any other way, had already made his bow in red Magnet days (No. 333). In No. 439 he re-appeared to win a cricket match for the Remove, though not before Billy had nearly lost the match by pretending to be his cousin. A fortnight later saw the Removites on the land, helping a farmer whose hands had joined the army. Lord Mauleverer was in charge of a cart, but he upset the milk and eggs in the ditch, broke a wheel, and let the horse bolt. Bunter knocked over some hives in his search for honey, whilst Skinner and Snoop had a smoking party in the barn and set it alight. Charles Hamilton could be very amusing in these days, but he did not often allow himself such a free rein.

A fine story (which looked forward to the Courtfield Cracksman series) was "Sticking to his Guns" in No. 442 in which Vernon-Smith effected the capture of Slippery Jim, a notorious burglar who cracked the safes of all the best houses in the neighbourhood. Another fine tale with a foretaste of the future was "A Split in the Study" in No. 446 in which Wharton's hasty temper led him to quarrel with Nugent - a side to his character which was to be more fully developed in the two Rebel series.

In No. 444 the school saw Mr. Linley for the first time as a result of a trick of Skinner's, a joke which misfired; a few days later Wibley punished Skinner by disguising himself as an old freak and arriving as Skinner's wealthy uncle Joseph who had made his money in the fried fish business.

Large holiday gatherings with representatives from Greyfriars, St. Jim's, Rookwood, and Highcliffe were all the vogue at this time, and the assembly in No. 450 was at Eastwood House, the villain of the piece being Captain Punter, an old friend from blue Gem days. Another echo from the blue Gem was "The Stolen Study" in Magnet No. 452. Wharton and Nugent were late in arriving back at the school, and found Study No. 1 bagged by Bolsover, Fish, and Bunter, but all came right in the end, of course.

Smithy's reformation had never convinced many at Greyfriars, and, when Mornington of Rookwood arrived in a thousand guinea motor car to pay Smithy a visit, the stage was all set for an adventure which nearly had a disastrous end for the Bounder. That he was not expelled, despite the efforts of Ponsonby and Mornington, was due to Harry Wharton.

No. 456 is really an historical document. It relates how Skinner and Co. systematically set to work to drive Herr Gans out of his mind; particularly interesting is the light it sheds on the public attitude to the Germans at that time. Herr Gans was a Saxon who resented Prussian ascendancy, and so it was possible to distinguish him from the Huns.

The substitute writers were given a rest at this time, and readers were treated to a fairly long run of genuine Hamiltonian stories: "Mauleverer's Detective" in No. 457 was employed to find his missing wallet; "Coker's Spy" in No. 458 turned out to be a drunken longshoreman from Pegg; Temple's attempts to make the Fourth Form team the junior eleven went awry in No. 459; while "Billy Bunter's Reformation" in No. 460 was brought about by another visit by Cora, Mr. Quelch's plump niece. In No. 364 Bunter had saved her from a bull, and in No. 460 he managed to drag her out of the river; but the reformation



did not last long:-

"It was exactly three days before Bunter made his first attempt to raise cash on a Postal Order he was expecting - a Postal Order from one of his titled relations, as he explained. And the same evening he had occasion to stop and tie his shoelace as he was passing Mr. Quelch's keyhole. So, amazing as it had been, there was an unfortunate lack of permanency about Billy Bunter's Reformation."

Double numbers did not always live up to the high hopes entertained of them. There were notable exceptions to this rule, like "The Mystery of the Painted Room" in the Gem, but only too often a long holiday story was not so good as a shorter story in a school setting. "The House on the Heath" in Magnet No. 461 was quite an enthralling story about the capture of a German spy at Christmastide but one cannot help wishing it could have been a school story instead.

Bunter was in trouble in No. 462 with a mysterious fever; it was not until half way through the story that the reader was told it had come from a money-lender, but luckily Monty Newland was able to get him out of trouble. The "Foul Play" in No. 463 was engineered by Ponsonby - Carne was to drug the first eleven to win a large bet on the match, but Ponsonby (who had tried a similar scheme in No. 147) was as unlucky this time as he had been on the previous occasion.

#### 1917 - Business as Usual

The New Year began with Fishy "Getting Rich Quick" in No. 465 by gambling on the Stock Exchange with Mauleverer's money. This was not such a bitter satire as No. 413, and was altogether much more enjoyable. This story was followed by two connected with the war: No. 467 was about Bob Cherry's cousin Paul Tyrell, who was evading the call-up, while No. 469 was an amusing trifle about "Billy Bunter's Big Brother" at the front, an imaginary relative who was in desperate need of money for comforts.

With No. 470 the number of pages was cut from 20 to 16 (excluding covers,) and the number of columns increased from 2 to 3, this latter innovation becoming a permanent feature of the Magnet. No. 470, entitled "The Fellow Who Funked", related how Nugent was unjustly sent to Coventry by the form.

A new boy with a difference was Mauleverer's relation Sir Jimmy Vivian in No. 471. Like Joe Frayne of St. Jim's, he was rescued from the slums of London. Bunter, Skinner, and Fish were horrified at a penniless baronet who dropped his aspirates, and it was not long before Skinner was plotting against him.

Mr. Bunter arrived at the school in No. 474 and informed his hopeful son that he could soon claim the title 'Viscount Bunter', whilst his younger brother would become the Hon. Samuel Bunter. Mr. Bunter had been assured by a swindler that, after a certain amount of costly research, he could lay claim to an extinct earldom. It was not long before the swindler was shewn up, and Viscount Bunter became a commoner again, giving up D'Arcy's accent and Ponsonby's sneer which he had so assiduously cultivated.

Kipps and Mauleverer both starred in "The Prefect's Plot" in No. 475 (which was in fact written before No. 471, because the editor had to add in the

story an explanation of Vivian's absence). Loder was trying to blacken Wharton's name in order to squeeze money out of Lord Mauleverer, but he was unlucky. A somewhat delayed sequel to Nos. 467 and 471 appeared in No. 483 entitled "Sir Jimmy's Secret" which dealt with the unwitting part Vivian played in concealing property which Tyrell was suspected of stealing.

One suspects that Charles Hamilton had a sneaking affection for Skinner, who could be amusingly witty at times; No. 485 began with Skinner and Snoop sewing up the sleeves of Gwynne's new overcoat ("Must do something to keep off war-worry - What?") and the theme developed into a feud between Carne and the Famous Five, in which Skinner and Gwynne both played a large part.

Series were few and far between in these days, and so the fine one about Vernon-Smith in Nos. 487-490 was all the more noteworthy. There had been a rather sensational series about the Bounder in red Magnet days about his plot to get all his enemies expelled, but this series was far more restrained and subtle than that. Owing to some misunderstanding, Mr. Quelch unjustly suspected Vernon-Smith of backsliding, and in the end the Bounder decided to have the game as well as the name. After letting the team down he was dropped, and he played a number of rotten tricks on the cricket eleven, but in spite of it all he never relapsed into the unmitigated scoundrel of old, and the series ended with him on friendly terms with the Famous Five again, though no longer a reformed character. The only drawback was the further reduction of pages to 16 (including covers) which must have abbreviated this splendid quartet of stories.

Vivian featured again in No. 491, in which an old friend from the slums came down to see him, and would have been arrested as a thief owing to Skinner's plotting had not the Bounder forestalled him. The following week saw Mr. Snoop, the escaped convict, transformed into Private Smith in the army, whilst No. 493 related how the Bounder joined Ponsonby's team "Against His Own Side". Vernon-Smith starred again in No. 494; Skinner was still anxious for revenge for being foiled in No. 491, and he did his best to get the Bounder expelled, but his trickery came to nought, once more.

Hurree Singh stepped into the limelight in No. 496, in which he was suspected of frequenting the Cross Keys, but the culprit turned out to be an old friend of his called Kuri Din. Unfortunately, before this became known, Johnny Bull refused to take the Nabob's word that he was not the hypocrite nearly everyone thought him, and in No. 497 they were "Parted Pals" until Smithy hit upon a scheme to restore mutual harmony between them. Comic relief was provided by Coker the following week, when he set himself the task of organising the neighbourhood to further the war effort.

Rebellions were not unknown at Greyfriars, but hitherto they had not been accorded the dignity of a series. This omission was rectified in Nos. 501-5 dealing with the new headmaster, Mr. Jeffries, and his henchman Schwarz who became Remove master. This splendid series was very famous in its day, setting as it did the pattern for all future series of this kind to follow.

"Ponsonby's Pal" in No. 507 was Jack Wingate; Ponsonby was not seeking the delights of the company of a third form fag, but rather an indirect way of getting revenge upon the Captain of Greyfriars. No. 508 saw the aftermath of the Remove rebellion; Coker delivered an ultimatum to Mr. Prout, then temporary headmaster, to the effect that unless he was made a prefect the Fifth would start a barring-out against Prout. Somehow or other, Coker was unable to

recruit any followers for his campaign.

There was "An Old Boy at Greyfriars" in No. 510, a fine story about Levison's appearance in the St. Jim's eleven which was visiting Greyfriars. Skinner had laid a heavy bet on the home side, and resorted to desperate measures to save his money. Levison was still at Greyfriars the following week and was able to do Smithy a good turn when he was being blackmailed by Jerry Hawke.

No. 515 was unusual in that Charles Hamilton featured two of Pentelow's characters in the story - Flip and Flap Derwent. The year ended with more news of Kuri Din, Hurree Singh's childhood friend, now at Redclyffe. In No. 516 he was shewn up in his true colours, and Hurree Singh remarked "I have dismissed Kuri Din from friendship and from memory".

### 1918 - The Top of the Tree

The New Year saw the advent of the last new boy who was destined to play any significant part in the Greyfriars stories - Tom Redwing. The Bounder went sailing in a storm, and was rescued by a young sailor from Hawkscliff. Tom later ran into Clavering who was destined for the Remove but wanted to join the army, and they decided to exchange names, Redwing going to Greyfriars as Clavering, and Clavering joining up as Private Redwing. How Redwing earned the enmity of Ponsonby and Skinner, and how Vernon-Smith did his best to shield him until the truth came to light was told in a very fine series in Nos. 517-9 and 521-2. Redwing left Greyfriars at the end of the series, but it was certain that more was to be heard of him.

It is difficult to know what to say about No. 520 "A Very Gallant Gentleman", the only story by a substitute writer which need be considered in the course of this review. This celebrated story by J.N. Pentelow in which he killed off Courtney of the Sixth and made Valence leave the school played havoc with the set-up in the Sixth Form. The story was not in the Greyfriars tradition at all, but that would not have mattered had Pentelow written his heroics about two seniors whose names he could have made up for the occasion. Unfortunately Courtney and Valence were well-defined characters about whom some splendid tales had been written in red Magnet days, and their departure was a serious loss from the point of view of the stories. The characters were never replaced, and the Sixth Form was never so interesting again.

After Herr Gans had featured in Nos. 525 and 526 in a series about a German spy, Coker came to the fore again in No. 528 in which he decided to perpetrate jokes incessantly in a patriotic attempt to keep the home front from collapsing.

The second series about Redwing was published in Magnets 530-3, and constituted a fine quartet of stories. Redwing was far too proud to accept Mr. Vernon-Smith's offer to pay his fees at Greyfriars, and so the Bounder suggested to his father that a scholarship should be founded by an anonymous donor. Redwing eventually won the scholarship, but not before both Skinner and Ponsonby had done their best to deter him and disgrace him.

It was Ogilvy who was "Saved from Shame" in No. 534. He had the honour of having six brothers in khaki, and the arrival of Captain Malcolm Ogilvy from the front was opportune in saving Donald Ogilvy from being expelled. Another soldier on leave from the trenches was Snoop's father, alias Private Smith in

Magnets 536 and 537. Mr. Snoop succeeded in winning the King's Pardon, and was able to rejoin the army under his own name.

Another minor character was featured in No. 539, which described Elliott's troubles during his last week at Greyfriars before he left to go to Canada. It was Bolsover, his study-mate, who came to his rescue and saved him from the plottings of a cardsharp named Smiles. Elliott's place in Study No. 10 was taken by Napoleon Dupont the following week, a pleasant episodic story with no plot.

"William the Good" in No. 541 was, unbelievably, Billy Bunter; as a result of pressure from the Remove he cunningly reformed himself into such a virtuous prig that they were glad to see him change back into his old self once more - a humorous theme, this, but far better treated at St. Jim's when Baggy Trimble reformed in Gems 927 and 928.

Pentelow, the editor, often re-arranged the sequence of the stories. No. 542 was a sequel to No. 539, and written before Dupont came to Greyfriars. "Bolsover's Enemy" was Smiles, the cardsharp, who tried to use Bunter as a tool in his attempt to get Bolsover expelled. The following week saw the return of Redwing's father, who was thought to have been torpedoed and drowned.

If Dupont's arrival at the school had not been made the subject of a notable series, the same could not be said of Aubrey Angel's advent upon the Greyfriars scene, which was recorded in Magnets 546-8. Angel of the Fourth came nearer to Ponsonby than any other character for complete and utter villainy. Hazeldene and Sir Jimmy Vivian were two of his dupes, but it did not take long for the scales to fall from their eyes. Comic relief was provided in No. 551; "Coker's Campaign" was aimed at getting Wingate deposed and himself appointed as school captain.

The third Redwing series in Nos. 533-6 was the finest of them all. Redwing shared study No. 11 with Snoop and Stott, whilst Skinner was in No. 4 with Vernon-Smith. Out of sheer obstinacy Skinner refused to change with Redwing, whose attempts to swot for a prize in Study No. 11 were continually ruined by the shady trio. The Bounder evolved a deep-laid scheme, as a result of which Skinner was forced to exchange studies, but to his chagrin Redwing refused to move in, since Skinner had moved out unwillingly. This rebuff brought out all the evil in Vernon Smith's character, and he even went so far as to imply that it was only his wealth that made Redwing desire his friendship. When the Bounder had repented, he found that Redwing was too deeply hurt to forget the matter, even though he broached the topic after Redwing had rendered him another service:-

"You don't want to be friends again?" he asked.

"I suppose you feel bound to say that," answered Redwing calmly. "I've told you that there's nothing to make a fuss about."

"Will you answer my question?"

"If you like, certainly. No, I don't want to be friends again."

The Bounder winced.

The answer was simply and quietly spoken, and it was evidently in earnest. There was no resentment in Tom Redwing's tone or look, only quiet seriousness. At that moment, more than ever before, the Bounder realised what he had lost in losing the friendship of the sailor lad. It had been lightly lost. It was not to be so lightly regained.

Skinner's persecution of Redwing came to the knowledge of Mr. Quelch, who ordered them to change studies - a move which came too late in the day. Mr. Vernon-Smith arrived at the school, and was exceedingly wrathful when he learned by accident that Redwing had refused his son's friendship, whilst Redwing decided to give up his scholarship when he came to know how it was founded. The threads were gathered together in a masterly manner in No. 556 in which it became known that Mr. Vernon-Smith was bankrupt. Redwing immediately offered his friendship to the Bounder again, and the ruse also succeeded in convincing the millionaire that his son's friend was genuine, while Redwing was prevailed upon to remain at Greyfriars. This splendid character series was never equalled in the Blue and White Magnets. Nothing half so fine had ever appeared in the old paper before, and nothing so good was to appear for some time to come. Redwing's character was etched with such revealing certainty that he came to life in a way that Linley and Penfold and the other poor juniors never succeeded in doing, probably because they had no friend like Vernon-Smith to act as a contrast.

"The Missing Masterpiece" in No. 558 was Hoskins' march in F Major, which had been hidden by Hobson whose loyalty to his chum could not stand the thought of having it played to him twice daily for an indefinite period. The following two weeks were concerned with the misadventures of a new boy, Richard Hilary, whose father was a conscientious objector. "Coker's Latest" in No. 561 was ventriloquism, while No. 563 saw Snoop in a new light, challenging Angel to a fight for making sarcastic references to Corporal Snoop.

In No. 561 Billy Bunter had made more than one reference to his cousin Wally's impending change of circumstances which was to be known the following week, but it was not until the last story of the year - No. 568 - that the prologue to the long Wally Bunter series appeared. Billy ended the year by getting into debt with Jerry Hawke, the bookmaker.

### 1919 - Aftermath

"Wally Bunter's Luck" in No. 569 was that his employer had decided to send him to his old school, St. Jim's, for having rendered him a special service. Wally would have preferred to go to Greyfriars and renew his acquaintance with the Famous Five, while Billy was finding Greyfriars was getting too hot for him. Wally was accordingly inclined to accept Billy's suggestion that they should change places. For the next few weeks Wally was doing his best to live down his cousin's unsavoury reputation, and after that the initial impetus of the plot seems to have spent itself, for Wally became pushed somewhat into the background by the trouble with Highcliffe, the reformation of Snoop on his father's release from the army, and the feud with Loder.

In the meanwhile, Billy Bunter's career at St. Jim's was being told in the Gem commencing with No. 571, and the twin series came to an end with No. 585 of both papers. Billy had now made St. Jim's too hot for himself, and he returned precipitately to Greyfriars, leaving Wally no option but to proceed to St. Jim's to face another accumulation of wrath for his cousin's misdeeds. In the end, Wally left St. Jim's to take up a position in Paris. Incidentally, it may be noted that stories by substitute writers were interpolated into both the Magnet and the Gem series, the only time this was ever done in the history of both papers.

Napoleon Dupont caused a stir in Nos. 586-7 when he went for Bolsover

with a rapier, and then ran away from the school. Bunter featured in another pair of stories in Nos. 589/90, having found some stolen silver which Fishy was keen to auction for him, but it turned out to belong to Sir Hilton Popper. Bunter was the centre of attraction again in No. 593, in which he turned Bolshevik until he was cured with a dose of his own medicine.

After another of Coker's newspaper advertisements had gone wrong in No. 597, readers were re-introduced to the seedy actor Montgomery Snooks who had previously impersonated Coker's Canadian cousin. In No. 600 entitled "The Hero's Homecoming" he swathed himself in bandages and arrived as Larry Lascelles.

No. 612 was timed to co-incide with the revival of the Greyfriars Herald which was just commencing as a separate paper for the second time. In "The Herald's Rival" (the rival being Bunter's Weekly) Harry Wharton telephoned Fleetway House and Bunter spoke of doing ghost work for Martin Clifford in a story which struck a somewhat curious note.

It was now time for another Redwing series and, like all the others, it was first-class. Nos. 613-5 related how Redwing was detained on the afternoon of a football match, and the Bounder gave him a false message that Mr. Quelch had excused him. Skinner informed Mr. Quelch, and Vernon-Smith was flogged. (It is interesting to note that Wharton was shocked by Smithy's behaviour; he would not have been so shocked ten years later.) The rest of the series was devoted to the Bounder's plot to get Skinner a flogging by way of revenge, but it was made clear to Vernon-Smith before the end that the game he was playing was not worth the candle.

"The Rise and Fall of William Gosling" in No. 617 came about when he answered a matrimonial advertisement by a wealthy widow with a prosperous public house. He began by cheeking the boys and finished up by patronising Dr. Locke, who very kindly forgave him when his high hopes proved groundless.

### 1920 - Low Water

It is known from Charles Hamilton's autobiography that he joined the army towards the end of the war. The results of this are clearly seen in the Gem and the Magnet which were flooded with substitute stories in 1920. Only nine complete stories of his were published in the Magnet in that year, plus No. 652 which will be considered in due course.

The first genuine story for 33 weeks was "Bunter the Bankrupt" in No. 640 dated 15/5/20. This has the distinction of being the only story Charles Hamilton ever had to put aside because he was unable to see how the plot should progress. With chapter 3 the story takes a somewhat different turn and it is certain that, in more normal times, the first two chapters would not have been allowed to stand.

"Billy Bunter's Speculation" in No. 643 was in selling Toddy's bike in order to raise funds to invest on the Stock Exchange, and it was Bunter who was "Chumming with Loder" in No. 649, though the friendship was all one-sided, being founded on some incriminating documents Bunter had acquired. Bunter also featured in No. 651 when he disguised himself as Bessie in order to secure admittance at a feast at which he scoffed the lion's share.

No. 652 is the mystery story of the year. Entitled "Bunter's Baby", it relates how a woman asked Bunter to mind a pram, and the trouble he was caused

as a result. Here and there may be found parts written by Charles Hamilton, but most of it is by a substitute writer. How it was concocted is one of the many puzzles of this unsatisfactory year.

The only series Charles Hamilton wrote for the Magnet in 1920 was about the schoolboy film stars in Nos. 660-4. A party of Greyfriars fellows, under the care of Mr. Quelch, went to stay at Hawthorne Park where Mr. Cyrus Hunker was making films. This was an odd melodramatic sort of series, with Wingate in the lead. How he fell in love with the actress, Elsie Mainwaring, is recounted in a manner which harks back to red Magnet days. This was indeed the last of the love stories in the Magnet.

### 1921 - The Turn of the Tide

Charles Hamilton's contributions to the Magnet in 1921 were numerically about the same as in 1920, but the stories shewed a notable improvement in quality which heralded well for the future.

"Thin Bunter" came in No. 682 after a sequence of 17 substitute stories, but it was well worth waiting for, as was "Deaf Bunter" in No. 689, the titles of both these stories speaking for themselves. The trio was completed by "Bunter's Picnic" in No. 693, in which he intercepted a letter to Wharton, and then decided to accept an invitation in his name - a piece of trickery which came to nought.

The first holiday series to appear in the Magnet was the caravanning series in Nos. 704-9, and a remarkably good series it was. The first two numbers concerned Coker and the secret of the caravan, but after that the individual stories ceased to have any connecting link, and were probably all the better for it. In No. 706 Mauleverer became entangled with Ponsonby & Co., in No. 707 they met Jack Drake and an escaped convict, in No. 708 they persuaded Colonel Wharton to let them take the caravan over to France, and in No. 709 Bunter sold the horse and bicycle to raise cash to gamble in the casino. Typical of the gaiety of this series is Bunter's excuse to Colonel Wharton when that gentleman's cigar had exploded in his face:-

"Besides, it was only a joke," gasped Bunter. "I never hoped that it would blow your moustache off, sir!"

"What?"

"I don't think that a white moustache looks idiotic, sir, and ought to be blown off. Not at all!"

This was the Bunter who was to become such a popular character in years to come, the fatuous ass, not the scheming rascal.

"Bunter's Very Latest" in No. 715 was a pretence of blindness which almost deceived Mr. Quelch, while "The Mystery of the Christmas Candles" in No. 723 was the last of the enlarged Christmas numbers, costing 2d in place of the usual  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, and having only four more pages than a normal number. It was a pale echo of the splendour of the Christmas Double Numbers of old, but it did at least sport a coloured cover.

### 1922 - High Water

"Billy Bunter's Big Bargain" in No. 729 was an old four-poster bedstead which he recklessly bid for at an auction and had knocked down to him. Bunter

also starred in an excellent series in Nos. 737-9 in which he ran away from school to escape punishment and took refuge in St. Jim's and Rookwood. This must have been a popular theme, for Charles Hamilton wrote a story on similar lines for the 1927 Holiday Annual.

The rebellion which took place in Magnets 743-5 was unique in that it emanated from the Sixth Form. Sir Hilton Popper had prevailed upon Dr. Locke to resign, and his nominee, James Carnforth, was appointed headmaster. Mr. Carnforth's idea was to instil discipline throughout the school commencing at the top, but the Sixth objected to being caned, and a barring-out took place in which the Remove later joined. Mr. Carnforth's regime lasted but three weeks, after which Dr. Locke agreed to return.

In No. 478 Bunter went to see a film entitled "The Clutch of the Crook" and was greatly impressed thereby. He even thought of using these methods on Mr. Quelch ("A bullet through the brain would bring him to his senses") but in the end it was Mr. Quelch who brought Bunter to his senses.

Timothy Perkins was a footman's son, but when his father acquired a fortune he came to Greyfriars and changed his name to Algernon de Vere. The story of the Snob of the Remove was told in Nos. 749-52, but the theme was not perhaps a very pleasant topic to work upon.

"Bunter's Raffle" in No. 753 was a gramophone bought on hire purchase, which he stated was a gift from a relative. Fisher T. Fish became involved in the raffle, and he engineered a deep-laid scheme to ensure that he won it, but it proved an empty victory, for the hire-purchase firm regained possession of the gramophone, since Bunter had of course neglected to keep up the payments on it.

The last series to appear in the Blue and White Magnets was the one in Nos. 755-9 about Gideon Gaunt, the kidnapper, who pursued Mauleverer even on board the yacht Silver Scud when it was cruising on the high seas. This must be classed as one of the more successful mystery stories by Charles Hamilton; the identity of the criminal and the key to the mystery were by no means apparent, and, though this series cannot rank with the Mysterious X stories in the Blue Gem, it is at least a worthy runner-up.

"The Persecution of Mr. Prout" in No. 763 presented the Fifth Form master in a light similar to Mr. Greely at Rookwood. He became offended at hearing himself referred to as "old Prout" and the touchiness he displayed induced someone to insert an advertisement in the local paper in his name, asking for a cure for baldness. Nos. 764 and 765 related the tale of the Highcliffe match, the first number being concerned with Fishy's attempts to blackmail his way into the team, and the second number with Ponsonby's efforts to ruin the match. No. 766 was devoted to Loder's feud with the Famous Five, and his search for incriminating evidence against them, a theme which was more fully developed in the 1929 series. With this number, we may conclude this review of Charles Hamilton's contribution to the Blue and White Magnet, since No. 767 was by a substitute writer, and Nos. 768/9 formed the beginning of the Congo series the bulk of which was published in coloured cover days.

### Conclusion

The Blue and White Magnets make a strong impression on the reader, an impression of ridiculous letters in the editorial column from "anti-Magnetites",



of exhortations to eat less bread; of dreadful photographs of loyal readers - schoolboys in eton-collars, youths in bowler hats, and men in khaki (where are they all now, I wonder?); of outrageous advertisements which make one doubt the age of the readers of the Magnet - advertisements for a beauty cream designed to cure crow's feet, lines round the mouth, blackheads, wrinkles, and sallow complexion, advertisements for a permanent hair waver for men ("Mine curled at once" - Major), or for boys to be trained for posts in the establishments of noblemen. But these are, after all, only the trimmings. It is the stories themselves which matter.

The stories set a pattern quite different to those in the red Magnet and to those in coloured cover days. Series were the exception rather than the rule, as became the case later. On the other hand, the single stories were on the whole much better than they had been in red Magnet days; they lost in length, but gained in variety and originality of treatment. In particular, they featured far more members of the Remove than at any other time; the reader in those days could, after a few months, feel well-acquainted with nearly every member of the form. For instance, how often in more recent times have Snoop, Desmond, Dupont, Bulstrode, Ogilvy, and Bolsover played any real part? "But the stage was overcrowded" object some. "No, the stories were more individual and less streamlined" reply others. You pay your money and you take your choice.

One thing may be asserted without hesitation: this was the heyday of the Magnet. Better stories were to come, yes, but it was in this period that the Magnet outstripped the Gem in circulation and really reigned supreme. Everyone knew the Magnet well; the Thomson papers had not yet arrived on the scene to sow their seeds of destruction, and the only other competitors were Amalgamated Press papers, many of them written by Charles Hamilton himself. The Magnet and the Gem were read by nearly every schoolboy and schoolgirl instead of just the discriminating minority of later years. That the characters really lived, even then, is evidenced by the letter from the indignant reader who claimed that Skinner was his favourite character, and was being unfairly depicted by Frank Richards! How few authors have been paid such a graceful compliment - that a character of his own imagination, and a minor one at that, could have an independent existence in the mind of the reader.

The paper shortage and the plethora of substitute stories both take some of the gilt off the gingerbread in this period, and it cannot be denied that some of the stories dealing with topics connected with the war leave an unpleasant taste in the mouth when re-read in happier times. It would be idle therefore to pretend that this transitional stage in the history of the Greyfriars saga was its finest hour. The best was yet to be, and the collector who has never even seen a Magnet of this period may nevertheless possess the pick of the Greyfriars stories. And yet it is not wholly irrational to cherish an affection for this, the popular period of the Magnet; in the three Redwing series and the Judge Jeffries series, together with a handful of individual stories, it had its days of triumph, and who are we, in the time when the Magnet is no more, to deny it its due honours?

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
 One far fierce hour and sweet:  
 There was a shout about my ears,  
 And palms before my feet.

# RESTORING ORDER AT ROOKWOOD

by Gerry Allison

There have already been three excellent articles on the Rookwood scene, which have discussed the stories of the Hampshire school in great detail, and which have given the reader or student much valuable information, presented in very interesting style. The articles are:-

- "Rookwood Stories in the Schoolboy's Own Library" By Roger M. Jenkins  
(The Story Paper Collector No. 49. Jan 1953).  
"Rookwood Review" by Wm. H. Gander. (The Collector's Digest Annual 1950)  
"The Years of Conquest" by Eric Fayne, (The " " " 1953)

I do not therefore propose to cover all this ground again. I can only refer my readers to these articles, which I have found very helpful in preparing the following data, and I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the three writers in question. If I give a few items of addenda or corrigenda which have come to light in my research, I am certain they will not mind.

My idea in planning this article was first, to present a full list of titles of the Rookwood stories as they appeared in the "Boy's Friend" from number 715 to 1298, a total of 583. Secondly I wished to give some indication of the correct sequence in which the same tales should be read in the reprints contained in the 53 numbers of "The Schoolboy's Own Library" which dealt with Rookwood.

Not many collections of Hamiltonia contain copies of "The Boy's Friend" in any quantity, owing to the fragile format of this paper, but many hobbyists possess full, or almost full sets of the Rookwood "S.O.Ls". When therefore, an almost complete run of the old 'Green 'Un' with the Rookwood stories came to light during the disposal of the Stables Collection, it was suggested by J. Brezce Bentley, Chairman of the Northern Section, O.B.B.C. that an excellent opportunity now presented itself for the compilation of such a table of data as mentioned above.

Other Club members and collectors whom I approached, were in full agreement with the idea, and promised help. So when our Editor had given the scheme his blessing, and promised that the catalogue should appear in the "Collector's Digest Annual" for 1955, I set to work.

The compilation of the full list of 583 Rookwood titles of the stories in the "Boy's Friend" was quickly accomplished. These have been contributed as follows. T.W. Porter 210. W.O.G. Lofts 102. G. Allison 271. Here they are in numerical order. The numbers following the titles are those of the 'Schoolboy's Own Library' which contained any part of the reprinted story.

"ROOKWOOD STORIES IN THE BOY'S FRIEND and S.O.L."

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
715	The Rivals of Rookwood	118	Jimmy Joins Up
716	Jimmy Silver's Ruse		- do -
717	Healing the Breach		- do -
718	The Fistical Four		- do -
719	The Rebels of Rookwood		
720	Barred Out		
721	No Surrender		
722	The Imposters		
723	The Slackers of Rookwood	128	Backing up Jimmy
724	The Prefect's Plot		- do -
725	Backing up Bulkeley!		- do -
726	Jimmy Silver's Fix		- do -
727	The Fall of the Mighty		
728	Smythe's Little Sweep		
729	The Modern's Mistake		
730	Rookwood's Revenge		
731	A Stern Chase		
732	The Bagshot "Bounders"		
733	His True Colours		
734	Parted Chums		
735	The Outcast of the Fourth		
736	The Bogus Eleven		
737	Pankley's Picnic		
738	Turning the Tables		
739	Police Constable Jimmy Silver		
740	The Spy in the School		
741	Renounced by Rookwood		
742	Last Man In		
743	The Terror of Rookwood	182	The Terror of Rookwood
744	Ructions at Rookwood		- do -
745	The Rookwood Junior's Human Chain		- do -
746	One Against The School		- do -
747	Gunter's Mistake		- do -
748	Getting Rid of Gunter		- do -
749	Chummy with Smythe		
750	Who Shall be Skipper		
751	The Fight for the Captaincy		
752	A Shattered Friendship		
753	Put to the Test		
754	Jimmy Silver's Downfall		
755	Shoulder to Shoulder		
756	His Last Chance		
757	Jimmy Silver's Guest		
758	The Rookwood Raiders		
759	Dishing the Dandy		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
760	The Rookwood Pantomime		
761	Jimmy Silver's Journal		
762	Just Like Jimmy		
763	The Hate of the Hun		
764	The Scouts of the School		
765	In Honour Bound		
766	The Duffer of the Fourth		
767	Curing the Duffer		
768	Caught Napping		
769	Scorned by The Slackers	262	The Fistical Four
770	Keeping his End up		- do -
771	The Scholarship Boy's Secret		- do -
772	Rallying Round Rawson		- do -
773	In Deep Disguise		
774	The Wrong Sort	262	The Fistical Four
775	A Disgrace to Rookwood		- do -
776	Jimmy Silver's Sacrifice		- do -
777	The Rival Recruits		
778	The Freak Match		
779	By Request of The Head		
780	The Rascal of Rookwood		
781	The Tyrant of the School	268	The Rookwood Barring-in
782	The Revolt against The Head		- do -
783	The Rookwood Barring-in		- do -
784	The Shadowed Schoolboys		
785	A Tough Handful	6	Captain of the Fourth
786	Bluffing the Bully	272	Taming the Bully
787	The Rookwood Redskins	278	Follow Uncle James
788	Jimmy Silver's Victory	6	Captain of the Fourth
789	Foes of the Fourth		- do -
790	Turned out of the Team		- do -
791	The Rascal's Repentance		- do -
792	Fagging for Beaumont		
793	The Uninvited Guest	272	Taming the Bully
794	The Rookwood Players		
795	Jimmy Silver's Weekend		
796	Cornering the Cad		
797	The Rookwood Co-operators		
798	The Colonial Schoolboy	272	Taming the Bully
799	The Rookwood Ventriloquist		- do -
800	The Fistical Four's Revenge		
801	Barred from the Team	12	Expelled
802	Jimmy Silver's Guilt		- do -
803	Expelled from Rookwood		- do -
804	Rawson to The Rescue		- do -
805	The Hero of Rookwood		- do -
806	The Rookwood Reformers		
807	Spoofing the School		
808	The Modern's Triumph		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
809	Mornington Minor	284	Jimmy Silver's Christmas Party
810	Jimmy Silver's Xmas Party		- do -
811	The Waif of Rockwood		- do -
812	The Boy From Canada	48	The Colonial Co.
813	The Canadian Junior's Conquest		- do -
814	Held to his Word		- do -
815	Mr. Mander's Tea Party		
816	Scorned by the Fags	284	Jimmy Silver's Christmas Party
817	By Sheer Pluck		- do -
818	Tubby Muffin, Millionaire		
819	Conroy the Cornstalk	48	The Colonial Co.
820	The Colonial Co.		- do -
821	The Upper Hand	296	The Fourth Form at Rockwood
822	A Traitor in the Camp		- do -
823	Lovell's Luck		
824	The Rockwood Paperchase	296	The Fourth Form at Rockwood
825	Mornington's Chance		- do -
826	Foiled on the First		
827	Van Ryn's Ruse		
828	The Eccentric Headmaster		
829	Greener than Grass		
830	The Fall of the Fifth		
831	The Son of a Cracksman	220	Son of a Cracksman
832	Rockwood on Rations		
833	Mornington's Masterstroke	220	Son of a Cracksman
834	A Straight Game		- do -
835	The Hidden Schoolboy		- do -
836	From Foes to Friends		- do -
837	Light at Last		- do -
838	The Trick that Failed		
839	The Shadow of Shame		
840	Saving a Scapegrace		
841	Smythe's Terrible Uncle		
842	Left in the Lurch		
843	Mornington's Foe	32	A Schoolboys Temptation
844	The Missing Heir		- do -
845	Brought to Heel		- do -
846	Game to the Last		- do -
847	A Terrible Temptation		- do -
848	Mornington's Vengeance	108	Facing the Music
849	The Downward Path		- do -
850	Raising the Wind		
851	A Discredit to the School		
852	The Rockwood Refugee		
853	The Winning Goal	108	Facing the Music
854	A Thief in the Night		- do -
855	Mornington's Triumph		- do -
856	In Another's Power		
857	Gentleman Jim's Secret		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
858	The Impostor's Downfall		
859	A Fool and His Money		
860	Foiled at the Finish		
861	Brought to Terms		
862	Jimmy Silver's Guest		
863	Mornington's Last Plunge		
864	Algy of the Third		
865	Under the Shadow		
866	Condemned by the School		
867	Expelled by The Form		
868	The Rookwood Mutineers		
869	Rebellion at Rookwood		
870	Sticking it Out		
871	The Fourth against The Head		
872	The Rebel's Raid		
873	Hard Pressed		
874	From Out the Past		
875	The Last of Lattrey		
876	Outcast and Hero		
877	The Scamp of the Third		
878	Put to the Proof		
879	Algy's Pal		
880	Betrayed by his Chum		
881	The Schoolboy Inventors		
882	A Blow for Bulkeley	36	The Shadow of Shame
883	The Shadow of Suspicion		- do -
884	Rivals for the Captaincy		- do -
885	Rough on Rookwood		- do -
886	Brought to Light		- do -
887	Foul Play		
888	The Scare at Rookwood		
889	Getting even with Carthew		
890	The Hidden Hun		
891	The Rookwood Caravanners	202	The Rookwood Gipsies
892	The Sorrows of Sergeant Kettle		- do -
893	Tit for Tat!		- do -
894	Cuffy and the Caravanners		- do -
895	The Caravan Cricketers		- do -
896	The Haunted Caravan		- do -
897	The Caravanner's Guest		
898	Jimmy Silver & Co's Victory	202	The Rookwood Gipsies
899	Rivals of the Road		- do -
900	Rookwood Under Canvas		
901	Done in the Dark		
902	For the Scapegrace's Sake		
903	Peele on The Warpath		
904	Settling with The Sharper		
905	Jimmy Silver's House Warming		
906	Lovell's Disappearance	20	The Vanished Schoolboys

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
907	A Baffling Mystery	20	The Vanished Schoolboys
908	The Vanishing of Newcome		- do -
909	The Missing Trio		
910	The Kidnapping of Jimmy Silver	20	The Vanished Schoolboys
911	The Secret of The Vaults		- do -
912	Tubby Muffin's Benefit		
913	Tubby Muffin - Musician!		
914	The Mystery of Tommy Dodd		
915	Pardoned by The Fourth		
916	The Christmas Captives		
917	The Mystery of The White House		
918	Tubby's Little Trick		
919	Jimmy Silver's Sentence		
920	Dismissed from Rockwood	206	Masters on Strike
921	Backing up Bootles		- do -
922	Masters on Strike		- do -
923	The School Without Masters		- do -
924	The Rumpus at Rockwood		- do -
925	Stormy Times		
926	The Master with a Past		
927	Schoolmaster and Cracksman		
928	Jimmy Silver's Campaign	206	Masters on Strike
929	Putty of the Fourth	28	The Boy who was Soft
930	The Scamp of Rockwood		- do -
931	Sold Again		- do -
932	Rockwood's Hero		- do -
933	Tubby's Triumph		- do -
934	Lovell's Great-Aunt		
935	The Fall of Bulkeley	170	Prefects on Strike
936	The Strike of The Prefects		- do -
937	The Blackleg of Rockwood		- do -
938	Captain Tubby Muffin		- do -
939	School Versus Captain		- do -
940	The Fifth Form Prefects		- do -
941	Bulkeley's Chance		- do -
942	The St. Jim's Match		
943	The Tyrant of Rockwood		
944	Jimmy Silver's Day Out	308	Jimmy Silver Resigns
945	Jimmy Silver's Resignation		- do -
946	Mornington's Bad Start		- do -
947	Jimmy Silver's Way		- do -
948	Fagging for The Fifth		- do -
949	Turning the Tables		- do -
950	Jimmy Silver's Trial		
951	The Giddy Goats	317	No Good as Captain
952	The Right Sort		
953	The Mystery of Mornington	317	No Good as Captain
954	Captain and Slacker		- do -
955	Saved by his Chum		- do -

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
956	A Surprise for the School	317	No Good as Captain
957	Lying Low		
958	Rookwood to the Rescue	317	No Good as Captain
959	A Dual Secret		- do -
960	Lovell's Minor		
961	Looking After Teddy		
962	The Trials of Teddy		
963	A Disgrace to his Form		
964	Barred by The Form		
965	Teddy's Last Chance		
966	The Mystery of Mossoc		
967	The Form Master's Double		
968	The Ghost of Rookwood School		
969	Carthew's Tea Party	42	The Boy from Nowhere
970	Backing Up Bulkeley		
971	The Nameless Stranger	42	The Boy from Nowhere
972	The Boy without a Memory		- do -
973	Smythe's New Pal		- do -
974	Charlie of Rookwood		- do -
975	With Pankley's Compliments		
976	Singeing Pankley's Beard		
977	Tubby's Golden Dream		
978	The Whip Hand		
979	Peele Meets his Match		
980	The Missing Manuscript		
981	Bagging Beresford - Baggs	68	Sir Japhet's Heir
982	Mornington's Enemy		- do -
983	Arthur's Uncle		- do -
984	Arthur's Aunt		- do -
985	Arthur's Cousin		- do -
986	Exit Arthur		- do -
987	The Ragging of Morny		
988	Tubby Muffin's Treasure		
989	The Tribulations of Tubby		
990	A Stolen Name		
991	Saving a Scamp		
992	French Leave		
993	Last Man In		
994	The Rookwood Rebel		
995	In Hiding		
996	'Sacked'	60	The Scapegrace of Rookwood
997	From School to Shop		- do -
998	Mr. Bandy's New Boy		- do -
999	Hard Times		- do -
1000	Jimmy Silver & Co. at the Jamboree		
1001	Back to the Old School	60	The Scapegrace of Rookwood
1002	The Other Mr. Bottles		
1003	Putty's Plight		



Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1004	The Man in Black		
1005	Fallen Fortunes		
1006	Parted Chums		
1007	The Mysterious Tenant		
1008	Putty Grace to the Rescue		
1009	At Grips with the Sixth		
1010	Muffin the Mischief-Maker		
1011	The Rockwood Secret Society		
1012	Sir Tubby of Rookwood		
1013	The Phantom of the Past		
1014	Divided Duty		
1015	Betrayed By His Chum		
1016	The Waif's Sacrifice		
1017	Mornington's Atonement		
1018	"After Many Days"		
1019	Cheering up the Captain		
1020	The Phantom Abbot of Rookwood		
1021	Gentleman Jim's Christmas Visit		
1022	Trouble for Four		
1023	Rough Justice		
1024	Borrowed Plumes		
1025	The Death of the Secret Society		
1026	The Mystery of Mr. Bootles		
1027	The Rockwood Millionaire		
1028	The End Study to the Rescue		
1029	Tubby Wants Adopting		
1030	The Amazing New Master	76	The Fighting Form-master
1031	Bolshevism at Rookwood		- do -
1032	The Reign of Terror		- do -
1033	Cutting Christopher Cutts		- do -
1034	Peele's Plot		
1035	Something New in Form-masters!		
1036	The Frolicsome Form-master		
1037	Form-master and Boxer	76	The Fighting Form-master
1038	Carthew - Detective		- do -
1039	Prefect versus Form-master		- do -
1040	The Fighting Form-master		- do -
1041	Wrongfully Accused!		
1042	Carthew's Great Catch		
1043	Montmorency of the Fourth	174	Living a Lie
1044	The Mystery of Montmorency		- do -
1045	The Upstart's Secret		- do -
1046	From Servant's Hall to Rookwood		- do -
1047	Living a Lie		- do -
1048	Danger Ahead		- do -
1049	Chumming with Monty		- do -
1050	Shewn Up		- do -
1051	Exit Gentleman George		- do -
1052	Jimmy Silver's Holiday		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1053	Mornington's Folly		
1054	Jimmy Silver & Co. in France		
1055	Caravanning with Bunter		
1056	The Fistical Four's Foe		
1057	A Visit to Trimble Hall		
1058	The Rookwood Rescuers		
1059	"Lord Bob" at Rookwood		
1060	Not Wanted at Rookwood		
1061	The Forbidden Fight		
1062	The Rookwood Charity Boy		
1063	The Rookwood Sleuth		
1064	Detective Muffin of Rookwood		
1065	Putty's Proof		
1066	Tubby's Tenner		
1067	Ragging the Rotters		
1068	The Slackers' Football Challenge		
1069	The Slackers' Match		
1070	Raby at the Races		
1071	A Loyal Pal		
1072	The Rookwood Prize Winner		
1073	Christmas at Rookwood		
1074	The Mysterious Mrs. Manders	94	The Rookwood Rebellion
1075	Exit Mrs. Manders		- do -
1076	Too Much Manders		- do -
1077	The Rookwood Rebellion		- do -
1078	Jimmy Silver's Journey		
1079	" " Barring Out	94	The Rookwood Rebellion
1080	The Fighting Fourth		- do -
1081	A Fight to a Finish		- do -
1082	Backing Up Dicky Dalton		- do -
1083	Cuffy's Practical Joke		
1084	The Face From the Past		
1085	The Man with a Secret		
1086	Jimmy Silver & Co. at the Boatrace		
1087	Truth Will Out		
1088	The Amazing New Boy	124	Gunner Gets Going
1089	A New Boy on the Warpath		- do -
1090	The Jape of the Year		- do -
1091	Gunner Gets Going		- do -
1092	Gunner's Great Catch		- do -
1093	The Rookwood Treasure		- do -
1094	Dropped from the Team	104	Dropped from the Team
1095	Left Behind		- do -
1096	Sentenced by the Fourth		- do -
1097	Not Wanted		- do -
1098	Mornington's Temptation		- do -
1099	At the Eleventh Hour		- do -
1100	The Rookwood Exile		- do -

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1101	Gunner's Deep Game	124	Gunner Gets Going
1102	Gunner's Latest		- do -
1103	Lovell's Bargain	84	Chums on Tramp
1104	Rookwooders on the Road		- do -
1105	Fortune Favours the Brave		- do -
1106	Washed Out		- do -
1107	Rough on the Rookwooders		- do -
1108	Trouble for the Tramps		- do -
1109	Mornington's Resolve		- do -
1110	Ructions En Route		- do -
1111	The Rookwood Recruits		
1112	The Man who Escaped	132	Under False Colours
1113	Jimmy Silver's Secret		- do -
1114	The Grip of the Law		- do -
1115	The Wanted Man		- do -
1116	In False Colours		- do -
1117	Jimmy Silver's Discovery		- do -
1118	Rookwooders to the Rescue		- do -
1119	Jimmy Silver's Protégé		
1120	The Rogue of Rookwood		
1121	The Mornington Mystery		
1122	The Elusive Outlaw		
1123	The Invisible Schoolboy		
1124	By Pluck and Luck		
1125	The Phantom of the Priory	138	The Ghost of the Priory
1126	Trailing the Spectre		- do -
1127	Run to Earth		- do -
1128	A Merry Meeting		- do -
1129	An Amazing Match		- do -
1130	Pulling Coker's Leg		- do -
1131	All Lovell's Fault		- do -
1132	Jimmy Silver's Strategy		- do -
1133	A Rift in the Lute	341	On Fighting Terms
1134	The Fistical Funk		- do -
1135	On Fighting Terms		- do -
1136	Chums Re-United		- do -
1137	Rivals of the River		
1138	Lovell's Wonderful Wheeze		
1139	The Cousin from Canada		
1140	The Rancher at Rookwood (Cut very drastically)	146	Jimmy Silver & Co. Out West
1141	Jimmy Silver & Co. Out West		- do -
1142	The Rookwood Tenderfeet		- do -
1143	The "Tenderfeet" Make Good		- do -
1144	Foes of the Ranch		- do -
1145	Jimmy Silver's Enemy		- do -
1146	The Peril of the Prairie		
1147	The Bad Man from Texas		
1148	The Rebel of the Ranch		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1149	The Cowboy's Secret		
1150	The Gold Brick		
1151	The Boss of Sunset Ranch		
1152	The Rustlers of Coyote Creek	150	Pals of the Ranges
1153	The Raid on the Ranch		- do -
1154	Held by the Rustlers		- do -
1155	Rounding up the Rustlers		- do -
1156	Tricking the Cowpunchers		- do -
1157	Held up on the Prairie		
1158	Mick of Windy River		
1159	Run Down at Last		
1160	The Missing Heir		
1161	Smugglers of the West	154	The War Trail
1162	Rockwood to the Rescue		- do -
1163	The War Trail		- do -
1164	Lone Wolf's Captive		- do -
1165	Trouble on The Ranch		- do -
1166	The Hundred Thousand Dollar Trail		
1167	Trailing the Horse Thief		
1168	The Hunting of Black Prince		
1169	The Stranger's Secret	158	Chums of the Ranch
1170	The Tenderfoot's Ordeal		- do -
1171	The Tenderfoot's Double		- do -
1172	Run Down on the Prairie		- do -
1173	Tricked by the Cowpunchers		- do -
1174	Homeward Bound		- do -
1175	From Ranch to Rookwood	162	Trailing the Phantom
1176	Lick in The Limelight		- do -
1177	Lick Lays the Ghost		- do -
1178	Trailed in the Snow		- do -
1179	Cut by the Study		- do -
1180	Fed up with Rookwood		- do -
1181	Working the Oracle		
1182	Bucking up Cuffy		
1183	Mr. Dalton's Dilemma	166	The Fourth Form Rebels
1184	Fourth Form Rebels		- do -
1185	Up Against the Head		- do -
1186	Sticking to their Guns		- do -
1187	The Retreat from Rookwood		- do -
1188	Holding The Fort		- do -
1189	Facing the Music		
1190	The Fight with the Fifth		
1191	Back to Rookwood	166	The Fourth Form Rebels
1192	That Ass Gunner		
1193	In Luck's Way		
1194	Tupper Goes the Pace		
1195	Tubby's Great Sell		
1196	A Dead Secret		
1197	Gunner's Triumph		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1198	The Crushing of Carthew		
1199	Cuffy's Catch		
1200	Shown Up		
1201	Under False Colours	335	Under False Colours
1202	The Mystery Master		- do -
1203	Put to The Test		- do -
1204	The Price of The Past		- do -
1205	The South African Match		
1206	All Lovell's Fault		
1207	A Hero by Accident		
1208	Cuffy Chips In		
1209	The Rookwood Scouts at Wembley		
1210	Lovell's Great Bargain		
1211	On the Open Road	347	Chums on the Open Road
1212	Stop, Thief		- do -
1213	The Mystery of the Lonely Bungalow		
1214	Lovell The Sleuth		
1215	Danger Ahead	347	Chums on the Open Road
1216	Stranded		- do -
1217	The Mystery Fifth Former		- do -
1218	The Fifth Former's Secret		- do -
1219	A Friend in Need	368	Rookwood Calling
1220	A Lucky Find		- do -
1221	Putty's Bright Idea		- do -
1222	The Jape of the Term		- do -
1223	Cuffy in Goal		- do -
1224	Leaving it to Lovell		- do -
1225	The Secret of The Trunk		- do -
1226	A Football Feud		
1227	An Awkward Situation		
1228	A Victim of His Own Treachery		
1229	A Christmas Chase		
1230	The Haunted Tower		
1231	All Square		
1232	Up Against the Fistical Four		
1233	The Rookwood Detective		
1234	Bulkeley's Enemy		
1235	The Other Tommy Dodd	389	Rival Guys of Rookwood
1236	Putty's Capture		- do -
1237	Bound by His Promise		- do -
1238	The St. Kit's Match		- do -
1239	Rough on Rawson		
1240	A Turn of Luck		
1241	Gunner's Brain-Wave		
1242	The Rookwood Boat Race Party		
1243	April Fools at Rookwood		
1244	Lovell's Revenge		
1245	The Rookwood Raffle		

Boy's Friend No.		S.O.L. No.	
1246	Ructions Ahead	226	The Fifth Form Rebellion
1247	Dismissed From Rookwood		- do -
1248	Standing by Greely		- do -
1249	The Fighting Fifth		- do -
1250	By Order of the Head		- do -
1251	The Fifth Form Rebellion		- do -
1252	The Limit		- do -
1253	Rookwood's Rival		
1254	Back to Rookwood		
1255	Gunner's Discovery	380	Rookwood Raggers
1256	Well Meant		- do -
1257	Done in The Dark		
1258	The Whip Hand		
1259	Tubby Muffin's Invitation		
1260	Paying Guests		
1261	The Rookwood Yachtsmen		
1262	Jimmy Silver & Co. at Sea		
1263	Rivals of the Silver Cloud		
1264	The New Passenger		
1265	The Secret of the Silver Cloud		
1266	The Haunted Yacht		
1267	A Rascal Trapped		
1268	The Watch that Vanished	380	Rookwood Raggers
1269	An Also Ran		- do -
1270	The Study Raggers		- do -
1271	Rough Justice		
1272	A Burning Question	389	Rival Guys of Rookwood
1273	A Duffer's Luck		- do -
1274	The Fifth at Rookwood		- do -
1275	The Sneak	392	The Sneak of Rookwood
1276	Sent to Coventry		- do -
1277	Too Much Manders		- do -
1278	Plated Out		
1279	Turned Out of Rookwood	392	The Sneak of Rookwood
1280	The Housemaster's Christmas Present		
1281	Trouble on the Train	392	The Sneak of Rookwood
1282	Ambushing Uncle Peter		- do -
1283	Lovell Does the Trick		- do -
1284	Too Clever by Half		
1285	Peele Pays the Price		
1286	Muffin the Merciless		
1287	A Friend in the Fifth		
1288	A Hero in Haste		
1289	Off His Game		
1290	Parted Pals		
1291	Out of the Running		
1292	The New Captain Gets Going		
1293	Nowhere to Go		

Boy's Friend		S.O.L.	
No.		No.	
1294	The Rookwood Boat Race		
1295	Friends Again		
1296	Lovell Plays Up		
1297	Money Talks		
1298	Tubby The Protector		

The second half of the programme proved a far more difficult proposition. In his article on the subject in "Story Paper Collector" No. 49, Roger Jenkins states that the tales required no abridgement or abbreviation at all when they came to be reprinted in "The Schoolboy's Own Library".

Perhaps this was true, but nevertheless investigation has proved that many of the stories did in fact receive all kinds of mutilation and rough treatment in their translation from the pages of "The Boy's Friend" to those of the "S.O.L.". Some were reprinted in their entirety; others had a chapter or two eliminated; whilst in a few cases, only a paragraph or even a sentence was given, such instances as the latter being usually at the end, being put in to round off the story. And of course, very many were not repeated at all.

However, in the majority of instances the stories in the 'Green 'Un' were easily traced to their relative number of the Library, and a very enjoyable task it was. The illustrations were a great help, as these were often of the same incident, although at times by different artists.

In this job my main collaborator was Tom Porter of the Midland Club, and between us we soon accounted for most of the 53 numbers of the "Schoolboy's Owns". Tom had an almost complete set, and I was able to borrow the library copies, and had the rest lent to me by Breeze Bentley.

We were left with a hard residue of about half a dozen or more numbers which were simply not to be found in the "Boy's Friend" yarns, and finally we found ourselves stuck. I therefore called for the help of the 'experts', i.e. Roger Jenkins and Eric Fayne, whose assistance was willingly given. The stories which had given us the difficulty turned out to be from other sources than the "Boys' Friend", being mainly serials which ran in the Gem. Certain of these were by 'substitute' authors.

As these were not part of the original 'sequence' I decided to read them all carefully, and then, by the internal evidence, to see if I could suggest where these stories might be interpolated into the main run of reprints taken from the "Boy's Friend".

We had previously had to tackle a similar problem owing to the fact that the original tales had in a few cases been taken from widely separated copies of the "Boy's Friend", and lumped together in one copy of the "S.O.L.". These were mainly in the later numbers which contained 96 pages. In such cases the book has been placed in the position of the main incidents, but we have tried to avoid any glaring mistake, such as introducing a scholar before he had officially arrived at Rookwood.

There were also some incidents which were reprinted more than once, and this also necessitated some careful thought as to the correct order in which to

place them.

It will be realised therefore what sort of a problem has been faced, and it is emphasized that although the large majority of the stories have been placed in their exact order, here and there an arbitrary decision has had to be taken, and that this is the opinion of the present writer only. However all evidence has been carefully weighed to give every story its proper place. The principal clues are the Bootles/Dalton eras, which immediately place a yarn before or after "Boy's Friend" No. 1027 - "The Rookwood Millionaire". The arrival of every new boy has been taken into account, and in the case of the Gem reprints, the date of publication. It would not have done to have had the boys playing cricket when they should have been in the footer field, or vice-versa.

The job has been difficult, and at times almost baffling! However it has now been completed to the best of our ability, and those collectors who are able to obtain a set of the 53 Rookwood "Schoolboy's Owns", will now have a guide as to the sequence in which this delightful saga should be read. The story begins of course with No. 118 "Jimmy Joins Up", telling of the arrival of 'Uncle James' at the school. Certain important events, unfortunately, were not reprinted in the Library, for instance, the account given in "Boy's Friends" 750-751 as to how Jimmy took over the Captaincy of the Fourth Form.

Apart however from a few such hiatuses, the history is fairly continuous, and I and my collaborators all hope that the lists will prove interesting and useful.

Before I give the numbers and titles of the "Schoolboy's Own Libraries" here are two or three items of addenda, etc., to previous articles on Rookwood or the "Boy's Friend".

In "Rookwood Review", Bill Gander gives a list of stories by 'substitute' writers, and includes four of which he is not sure. The numbers are 950, 967, 975, and 976. Well, I have read these carefully, and would say that they are quite definitely imitations. However carefully these 'forgeries' are written they never deceive. Can one imagine the real Owan Conquest being responsible for the following bits of dialogue, taken from the above stories.

"Rather not", cried Newcome, solemnly.

"Let's get out of this...." groaned Lovell irritably. And surely the faithful Remington could never spell 'Yaroo!' as 'Yarrough!' I am sure the stories are all 'substitutes' as also are the other 15 which are listed.

There are a couple of misprints in the article on Rookwood in "Story Paper Collector" No. 49 by Roger Jenkins. On page 310 "The Shadow of Shame" is listed as "S.O.L." No. 35. It should be No. 36. Similarly on page 312 "The Captain of the Fourth" is given as No. 4. The correct number is of course No. 6. This is one of the stories which were reprinted twice.

Finally, although this is a 'Cedar Creek' item. In "The Years of Conquest" on page 48 of "The Collector's Digest Annual" for 1953, it is stated by Eric Fayne that the first story of all dealing with Frank Richards' school-days was never repeated. It is the episode where Frank has to leave St. Kit's owing to his father losing all his money. Well, I find that this incident is reprinted at the beginning of "Boy's Friend Library" No. 417. "Frank Richards' Schooldays".



Now, here is the list of the fifty-three numbers of "The Schoolboy's Own" Library, dealing with Rookwood in the order in which it is suggested they should be read.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
118	"Jimmy Joins Up"	76	"The Fighting Form-Master"
128	"Backing Up Jimmy"	174	"Living a Lie"
182	"The Terror of Rookwood"	94	"The Rookwood Rebellion"
262	"The Fistical Four"	124	"Gunner Gets Going"
268	"The Rookwood Barring-in"	104	"Dropped from the Team"
6	"Captain of the Fourth"	84	"Chums on Tramp"
272	"Taming the Bully"	132	"Under False Colours"
12	"Expelled"	112	"For the Honour of Rookwood"
284	"Jimmy Silver's Christmas Party"	138	"The Ghost of the Priory"
48	"The Colonial Co"	341	"On Fighting Terms"
296	"The Fourth Form at Rookwood"	146	"Jimmy Silver and Co. Out West"
278	"Follow Uncle James"	150	"Pals of the Ranges"
220	"Son of a Cracksman"	154	"The War Trail"
32	"A Schoolboy's Temptation"	158	"Chums of the Ranch"
108	"Facing the Music"	162	"Trailing the Phantom"
36	"The Shadow of Shame"	166	"The Fourth Form Rebels"
202	"The Rookwood Gipsies"	100	"His Own Enemy"
20	"The Vanished Schoolboys"	335	"Under False Colours"
206	"Masters on Strike"	347	"Chums of the Open Road"
28	"The Boy who was Soft"	368	"Rookwood Calling"
170	"Prefects on Strike"	356	"The Boy Who Walked By Night"
308	"Jimmy Silver Resigns"	389	"Rival Gangs of Rookwood"
317	"No Good as Captain"	362	"Manders on the Spot"
42	"The Boy from Nowhere"	226	"The Fifth Form Rebellion"
68	"Sir Japhet's Heir"	198	"The Rookwood Secret Society"
60	"The Scapegrace of Rookwood"	380	"Rookwood Ragers"
	(cont'd opposite)	392	"The Sneak of Rookwood"

(cont'd from page 46)

712. The Invincible Team; 726. Lads of Lancashire; 764. Caddies of St. Cuthberts

MORTON PIKE:

47. Gilbert Nameless; 115. Guy of the Greenwood; 259. The Longbows of England; 458. Robin Hood and His Merry Men; 520. The Armourer's Apprentices; 543. King of the Woodland; 623. Romance of the Road; 628. The Red Rapiers; 636. The Black Dragoons; 658. Swords on the Great North Road.

HENRY ST. JOHN:

5. The Boys of St. Basils; 7. Shunned by the School; 10. Pride of the School; 14. Carrington's Last Chance; 28. Circus Ned; 40. The Fourth Form at Greyminster; 52. Strongbold the Gladiator; 55. Bob Redding's Schooldays; 58. Bob Redding Afloat; 59. The Seventh House at St. Basils; 61. The New Master; 63. Clive Hardacre's Schooldays; 87. Harry The Horseman; 150. True as a Die; 152. The Bully of St. Basils; 187. The Fourth Form at St. Basils; 191. In Nelson's Day; 219. The Scholarship Boy; 224. The Shame of St. Basils; 227. Shunned by the Village; 308. The Speed King; 348. The Cad of the Fifth; 394. King of the Road; 444. The School of Fear; 447. The Great Barring-Out at Cranwick; 482. The Millionaire's Son; 486. The Outcast of the School; 491. Henry St. John's Schooldays; 498. Sent to Coventry; 522. Not Guilty;

(cont'd page 83)

# 100 YEARS OF BOYS PERIODICALS. PART III

by W. O. G. LOFTS

It was most gratifying, judging by the many letters I received last year over my article on Boys papers, that my articles were of great interest to many readers. When I stated then that very few boys papers remained undiscovered, perhaps I was being too optimistic, but despite nearly another year's research at the British Museum, I have found only 12 new papers, which one would definitely class as boys papers. My most important discovery (and that by accident) is that there was in existence in 1777 a boys paper entitled "The Young Gentlemans Magazine". An amazing thing about this paper is that no records or copies of it are in any museum in this country! Whilst casually perusing through a catalogue of British Papers to be found in the American Universities, I saw listed a paper of the above name in the files of the Universities of Yale and Illinois. I have official confirmation from the British Museum that there is no copy recorded in this country.

Upon writing to the librarian of the Yale University for information about this paper, I received the following reply; "it was published from January until June 1777 (Monthly) and printed by G. Kearsly at No. 46, Fleet Street, London. At the end of the June 1777 issue the "Conductors" of the magazine reluctantly announced that the magazine would be discontinued through lack of financial support."

There is no doubt that this is an English magazine, and how there are copies in the U.S.A. whilst none in England I would not like to say.

"THE YOUNG GENTLEMANS MAGAZINE" January to June 1777. 7 issues.

Published by G. Kearsly.

TINY LIBRARY: March 7th, 1846 to February 1847. 63 issues.

Published by C. Woodhead & Co.

This was a weekly paper, although given the title of Library, very small size, in fact I think one of the smallest boys papers to have been issued. Its contents were of the type one would find in the early B.O.Ps. I should also think it the forerunner of the Libraries, as its small handy size was no doubt popular, it had a longer run than most of its companion papers issued in the same period.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS: April 1883 to January 1884. 10 issues.

Published by Lile & Fawcett.

This was a monthly paper, and was sub-titled "All work and no play makes Jack a lazy boy", but the contents of the paper were very dull, and of an educational and instructive nature; its run is very uncertain, as the Museum has later copies missing.

SCOUTS STANDARD: May 1910 - 1 issue only.

Published at 59, Fleet Street, London.

This paper was published on the same lines as The Scout, containing stories and articles of a scouting flavour. Only one issue appeared. Anthony Baker of Barnet has the only copy of this paper I know of, apart from the British Museum.

NICK CARTER WEEKLY (and The New Story Paper): November 22nd, 1911 to April 17th 1912. 22 numbers. Published by Geo. Newnes, Ltd.

This was an attempt to introduce the famous American sleuth, probably by arrangement with Street and Smith of New York who had run him for years. It was of about Detective Weekly size with a coloured cover.

Evidently there was little hope of Nick Carter becoming a rival to Sexton Blake over here, for with No. 8 it was styled "The New Story Paper" with 'Nick Carter' in smaller type. The story of the detective was shortened and odds and ends added. This did not save it, for according to the British Museum, No. 22 was the last.

EVERBOYS MONTHLY: February 1905 to December 1908. 47 issues.  
Published at 4, Bouverie St., London, E.C.

This monthly paper was published on the same lines as the B.O.P. and its Editor was George Andrew Hutchinson who was also in charge of the B.O.P. at that time. For its first main story they had a serial written by none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle entitled "An Exciting Xmas Eve, or My lecture on Dynamite. Perhaps readers have seen the bound issues of this paper in the past similar to the B.O.P. but the title was then changed to "Everyboys Annual". No reason was given for its discontinuation. My thanks are due to Anthony Baker for drawing my attention to this paper.

OUR OWN: January 1877 to March 1877. 4 issues.  
Published by W. Stuart & Co., Nottingham.

One of the rare papers published in the provinces, described as a monthly magazine for boys. Its Editor was H. Major, B.A., B.S.SC., F.R.G.S., who most certainly made use of his titles. His address was Sherwood House, Nottingham. Perhaps my friend Mr. Gunn may know where this is. (Or was). Its contents were very dry, and this no doubt was why the paper had a short run. In its last issue they announced "That the number of readers did not come up to expectations," and they appealed to readers to distribute copies. This must have been unsuccessful as the paper never appeared any more.

PLEASURE: March 1893 to October 1893. 8 issues.  
Edited, Printed and Published by Henry Potter.

This paper was the forerunner of the paper I listed in last year's article which only ran for one issue. This was issued monthly price 1d. and was subtitled "The Catholic Boys Journal", a paper no doubt issued for the Catholic Boys of London. This paper however contained some very interesting stories of pirates, and school life, although its editorial contents were of a religious nature. After No. 4 dated June 1893, the sub-title was dropped and replaced by "Monthly Journal", the change made perhaps to increase circulation, as Protestant Boys may have declined to buy the paper. In issue No. 8 the Editor made the announcement - that owing to financial reasons he had sold the copyright of the paper to "The Arundel Printing & Publishing Co. Strand, and that from next week that company would produce that paper. This was the paper listed in last year's Annual. The new publishers most certainly made a bigger mess than this Editor, as only one issue appeared!

THE YOUNG SCHOLAR: January 1872 to December 1873. 24 issues.

John Heywood, Publisher, Manchester.

Here is the only boys paper which I know of which was published in Manchester! Perhaps my friend Harry Dowler may have heard of it before, described as a monthly magazine for schoolboys, and its publisher was John Heywood at 141 & 143 Deansgate. Its contents were like many of the papers of that period, dry and of an educational nature. It did not have a bad run considering; but in November 1873 the Editor made the following announcement "The Publishers have come to the conclusion that they must cease issuing the "Young Scholar" after the year 1873. The magazine has not met in its two years trial the success which they had a right to expect. The number for December 1873, will therefore be the last number issued."

CAPTAIN: May 1934 to July/August 1934. 3 issues.

Rolls House Publishing Co.

Many readers no doubt have copies or at least heard of the famous Newnes publication which ran for 300 issues (Monthly) and was a type of paper for the public school boy. In May 1934 a monthly paper was issued, price 6d. and contained stories, articles on sport, rowing etc., similar to the other "Captain". It was of a larger size and authors included Francis Marlowe and Major Frederick Douglas. No more issues appeared after the holiday issue dated July/August, so it apparently was a failure.

As my article this year, of course, is not so lengthy as last year, I have written a sequel to my recent article which appeared in the 100th issue of the "Digest" entitled "Ghost Papers - Sequel".

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GHOST PAPERS - Sequel

I am most grateful for the keen interest shown in my recent article entitled "Ghost Papers" which appeared in the 100th issue of the C.D. and by the many letters I received on the various papers I had mentioned, I was able to track down some of the missing "Ghosts".

Mr. Leon Stone from faraway Australia was kind enough to point out "that the two bloods that I had mentioned 'Sawney Bean, or the Maneater of Midlothian' 1851 and 'The Skeleton Clutch or the Goblet of Gore' were in fact mentioned in Tom Hopperton's 'The Old Boys Book Collector' as being invented by one of the worlds greatest collectors of Bloods, J.P. Quaine, many years ago as a joke! It is really amazing that the late Montague Summers had for twenty years accepted these two Bloods as genuine, as they are listed in both of his world famous best sellers 'A Gothic Autobiography' and 'The Vampire; His Kith and Kin'. This seemed to have cleared up these two Ghost papers, but whilst perusing through some of the early C.Ds. I came across an article written by George C. Foster who had visited Mr. Barry Ono (the late largest collector of 'Bloods' that England will ever see) and he stated that he had seen the above two Bloods in Mr. Ono's collection, so where do we go from here?

"The Halfpenny Monarch" 1894, and "Excelsior Library" 1894, are still

(if any) in the hands of the unknown collectors. I still have to see a copy of either paper, and my offer still holds good for £1 for any copy of these two papers. "Boys Mail" 1895 or 1907 are still in the hands of unknown collectors, and Herbert Leckenby's copy is the only one known to be in existence.

Now for two papers which have been proved to have existed! Firstly "Broadsheet Novels". Mr. Stanley Smith was very interested in my article, and he wrote from the Institute of Agriculture, Monmouthshire, pointing out that he remembered buying the first issue of this paper in the 1930s. This paper was newspaper size, which when folded into three, was the size of perhaps a Sexton Blake Library. I wrote to Mr. Percy Kent of the Backnumber Department of the A.P. to confirm whether these papers did exist, and received the following reply: "We issued six numbers of 'Broadsheet Novels' in July 1936." Mr. Kent also invited me to call round to see him, and to view the papers. This I was pleased to do and I have seen all the six issues of this paper. They were all issued at the same time, and were no doubt all reprints of earlier stories which had appeared in various A.P. publications. The idea of this paper was to give the public a choice of various types of stories each month, but the scheme must have failed, no more copies appeared.

I was able to have a very enjoyable chat with Mr. Kent about the various papers, and he showed me his record box, which contains all the details of papers which the A.P. (and Harmsworth Press as it was called in the early days) had ever issued. A very amusing thing happened whilst I was leaving. As many readers know the Comic "Playbox" finished not long ago, and I was desirous of obtaining some of the last issues; whilst ordering the back numbers at the counter of the sales department, (I wanted ten issues of the last number) the clerk shouted out "10 "Playboxes" for this gentleman." Everyone stopped working, young girls and youths packing various magazines stopped in groups giggling amongst themselves, was my face red! I had to say lamely to the clerk "they are for my young nephew".

"Sunshine Comic". I have managed to trace that this comic was published by "Target Publications" Bath, and was of the same stable as the other popular comics which were flooding London in opposition to the great A.P. in the late 1930s, namely "Chuckler", "Bouncer", "Rattler", "Target", "Rocket", "Dazzler" and I believe "Merry Midget". This comic "Sunshine" only ran for 39 issues and I am informed by my good friend Mr. J. Jukes of Bournemouth that they were all drawn by the same artist, a chap named Diamond, who at one time worked for the A.P. but had some dispute over some matter, and published his own comics from Bath. Mr. Jukes also told me that it was a common practice for small firms to publish boys' papers and comics and then wait for the A.P. to buy them out! This must have been so because in all the last issues of the above mentioned comics they advertised certain A.P. comics which were published at that time. There is no doubt that these comics were very popular as besides being only half the A.Ps. price they were in great circulation in the London area; I can remember them quite well. And there great success must have given the A.P. great concern at the time. They even lifted some of the famous A.P. characters, and redrew them under other names.

Regarding the last of the papers I mentioned in the article "Ghost Papers" namely "Boys Life", whilst in the area of Holborn I called and saw Mr. Sheath who was a director of the late "Boys World". He is the owner of a paper called "Greyhound Owner & Breeder" hence him calling himself Greyhound Owner.

He was able to give me some of the scenes behind the launching of the "Boys World" and said that at one time they did intend launching a companion to it entitled "Boys Life", but the sales of the "World" dropped so the project was dropped altogether; they just put "Boys Life" in the imprint to safeguard the copyright, in case they ever did in the future launch a paper of that name. But I don't see how this was really necessary as there was a paper of that name published by George Newnes in 1907, and so Mr. Sheath's firm had no more right to the copyright of the title than anyone.

There has been no new development in "The Sexton Blake Investigator" supposed to have been published in 1874, although in the recent letters which appeared in the C.D. from the "Telegraph" about Sexton Blake, one correspondent wrote that there was a chief of the Income Tax Department in the Holborn area in that period with that name, and it is possible that being a person of great importance he may have published a pamphlet of some sort investigating certain forms of Income Tax, but that is only a guess. Whether any more "Ghost Papers" are found is in the hands of the Gods, but in any case at least two papers have been proved now not to be "Ghosts".

(cont'd from page 78)

653. Imprisoned for Life; 742. The Outcast of St. Basils.

MAXWELL SCOTT:

4. Birds of Prey (N.L.); 16. The Silver Dwarf (N.L.); 17. The Missing Heir (N.L.); 19. Nelson Lee's Pupil; 24. The Great Unknown (N.L.); 25. The Stolen Submarine (N.L.); 34. Nelson Lee's Rival; 62. The Football Detective (N.L.); 132. Well Cleared (N.L.); 133. Pride of the Team (N.L.); 138. The Hidden Will (N.L.); 171. Nipper's Schooldays; 209. The Black House (N.L.); 213. The Blot; 215. The New Broom; 282. Nelson Lee in the Navy; 298. The Film Detective (N.L.); 301. On His Majesty's Service (N.L.); 351. A Perilous Quest (M.D.); 355. Secret of the Ring (M.D.); 358. The Double Six (M.D.); 365. The Silver Key (M.D.); 373. A Scrap of Paper (M.D.); 416. The Seven Stars (K.F.); 437. Out to Win (N.L.); 464. The Lost Will; 472. The White Slave; 474. The Fighting Fifth (N); 483. Detective Nipper; 519. The Black House (N.L.); 527. A Son of the Sea; 530. Detective Warden Nelson Lee; 589. The Iron Skull (V.R.); 590. The Red Hand (V.R.); 736. Lorrimer's Legacy (V.R.).

Note: Where it is not obvious from the title the detective's name is given in brackets, viz: N.L. - Nelson Lee; K.F. - Kenyon Ford; M.D. - Martin Dale; N. - Nipper; V.R. - Vernon Read.

Others were not detective stories. The Black House was published twice.

REGINALD WRAY:

42. The Iron Way; 176. The Three R's; 179. Under the Southern Cross; 226. Deep Sea Gold; 375. The Boy Ventriloquist; 388. Fireman Jack; 521. The Treasure Seekers; 528. The Hidden World; 631. Railway and Ring.

WANTED: JACK NORTH HAYGARTH - WYCLIFFE - WELSTEAD SCHOOL STORIES ALSO RANDOLPH AND RYLE CRICKET AND FOOTER YARNS

BROSTER, PRIMROSE COTTAGE, KINVER, STOURBRIDGE.

I HAVE NEVER stolen coal from the Amalgamated Press but I was fascinated by the wan artistic type who did. He would send up some sketches for editorial consideration and at the same time take his ease by the waiting room fire. Resting his brief case on the floor near the coal bucket and under the pretext of reading he would proceed to transfer lumps of coal into his case. I discovered this by accident when I walked over to warm my frozen fingers. He barely had time to cover up his open case and hide his coaly fin in the pocket of his shabby overcoat. I pretended not to notice and for the rest of that snowbound winter I could never sit by my own cheerful fire without thinking of that poor devil and his handfuls of coal.

Later the AP went over to gas fires and then on to electricity, where they stuck. I have often wondered if these changes were brought about by the fuel leakage in the waiting room.

Within a few minutes of witnessing this sad little episode I was taken up to the sixth floor of Fleetway House and from then on never saw the inside of the waiting room again.

I had arrived back in England during the depression. Welsh miners

I MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH!  
by John L. Jukes

were singing in the London streets. One of them assured me his carve up of the kitty was never less than £3 a day. Newspapers were at each others throats for the dear kind readers pennies. They were giving away mangles, tea sets, electric irons, washing machines, just for signing on the dotted line. The full turn of the wheel came when the newspapers who so eagerly sought the public custom in 1934 saw fit to ignore their readers completely in 1955 during the newspaper strike for they made no attempt to print even a broadsheet. The striking journalists did.

The sixth floor of the AP was given over chiefly to juvenile publications of the firm. As one went along the corridors, doors could be seen bearing the labels of their particular papers. Comic Cuts and Chips, Butterfly and Golden Comic, Jester and Wonder, Keep Out, No Tea Here, Quiet, PLEASE! and so on. The floors of the corridors were of rubber. Insulation against the noise of the artists' and writers' bare feet striking the floor through their worn shoes no doubt. All was peace.

My quarry that day was Mr. Stanley J. Gooch, editor of Jester, Larks, Funny Wonder and other papers. I was ushered into a large room to find a couple of artists busy at their boards. In the corner by a roaring fire, snugly sat Mr. Gooch. That day started a continuous association which has lasted for over twenty years.

The two artists were the talented brothers Reg and George Parlett. Reg started off the first issues of Radio Fun with his Arthur Askey strips on the front page while brother George gave able support by doing the Sandy Powell strips inside. Arthur Askey held pride of place for many years on the front page until he was relegated to the back page in favour of a comic horse. Years later Arthur told me how peeved he was at the time but honour is more than satisfied for he now occupies the front of another of Mr. Gooch's publications at the present time.

Another editor I was to meet very soon was Mr. R. Newton-Chance, who was at that time editing Comic Cuts, Chips and Joker. R. Newton-Chance is the father of John Chance the detective story writer. Here too in this department I received kindly and helpful advice and regular work.

But the most enthusiastic editor was Stanley Gooch. In discussing a comic situation with an artist he would get up from his chair and proceed to give a practical demonstration in mime of how he would want the bad lad to come creeping down the street or how the blue-eyed hero should stand when addressing the tough character. In a few comic cameos the artist would be given the full details of the idea; it made the job lighter and the pictures better.

At that time the comic pattern was The Glare, The Chase, and the wallop with Virtue triumphant. All except the Virtue have disappeared with one or two exceptions.

By following editorial requirements closely I always had plenty to get on with. The inventing of new characters was the biggest headache of the lot. Sometimes an idea for a new one would come whilst on a bus or in a tea-shop, perhaps the luck was really in that day and one actually got TWO characters. Another time the artist would find himself in the arid desert where the only water flowing would be that under the bridge and the only date the one on the calendar red ringed with lipstick.

As other artists will testify a weekly output means hard and continuous application and no funny business. One labours at time gaily with life being one glad sweet song; other times can be dark. Editorial requirements have been met under clouds of deep personal loss or illness. There is no bunking away and leaving a job to someone else.

Establishing a claim to some space in the AP papers meant living near to the lode. I took a small but pleasant room at the house of a Miss Roper at Clapham South. When she heard of my work she greeted me as an equal. Her forte was painting wonderful flower designs on firescreens and on boxes for chocolates of the most expensive kinds. A grey haired old lady, she lived alone in one big room on the ground floor; the rest of the house was occupied by several others who spent most of their time keeping themselves to themselves. A painful English process I have never been able to understand. Miss Roper was the daughter of a former London Architect. Over a cup of tea in her salon she favoured me with a view of some of her late father's work. Having looked forward to this private exhibition, I was amused to find that many of the Council Schools and Public Conveniences of London appeared to have been designed by no other than her talented father.

My journey by tram to Blackfriars along the Clapham Road and Kennington Park Road always seems to have been done against a grey foggy backdrop. Coming



from the sunny beaches of Australia I found the fog, the dirty food shops, the coughs and the snuffles a very sobering experience. I had a job to fight down the waves of melancholy that would sweep over me whenever I got out on to the streets. Once at Fleetway House with my back to an editorial fire, all that would be forgotten under the warmth of a cup of tea from the ABC next door.

Amid the badinage and bonhomie ideas would be whacked out and rough sketches would be done for editorial approval. At five thirty there would be a general exodus to repair ravaged tissue with further chat and medication in some nearly hostelry.

Into one of these pleasant places one night strode a tall well set up chap clad in faultless Prince of Wales check with everything to match. He placed a large automatic pistol on the counter and, indicating us, demanded "drinks all round for my three friends here." I was introduced to him but, as is my habit, did not catch his name. He constantly referred to me throughout the rest of the evening as "our dear friend Johnny Jukes". The pistol became the centre of interest and by way of added attraction the owner broke it down into small pieces with an invitation to anyone to reassemble it in two minutes for a liquid prize. There were no takers, and seeing the thing was going to fizzle out like a damp squib I seized upon the pieces and amid cheers of encouragement had the firearm lying on the counter nicely reassembled and all ready for use if necessary. Amid murmurs of admiration I drank my winnings down with gusto forgetting to inform the company that for years I carried just such a weapon around in my luggage when abroad.

I next challenged the owner to produce his 'Licence to Carry' at the same time informing him of how windy the authorities are in this country of anyone carrying even a water pistol. He produced the licence. The name on it was Peter Cheyney. That formality over Peter became our host from then on. Camels were sent for and we drove off to Lottie's place in Dean Street, Soho. Is it there now? I don't know, but if you locate it let me know. It was there a long time ago. From there to a Chinese restaurant, a night club then on to the complete finisher of all good evenings, the Russell Square Turkish Baths for the rest of the night. The foregoing is a pattern many artists and writers can duplicate scores of times over. They are always the same yet so charmingly different. On this particular night our sojourn in the steam room was enlivened by impassioned singing in a nearby hot room.

I thought I recognised the voice but was not sure. A passing attendant confirmed that it was none other than Peter Dawson the famous Australian baritone. I made myself known to him and asked him for his autograph. From somewhere an indelible pencil was produced and the ebullient Peter signed his name across my sweat-beaded tummy with all the curves and flourishes worthy of the signature of Queen Elizabeth the First. I said "I shall never wash there again" but it all disappeared as I progressed through the rooms to the torture table.

Peter Cheyney was very punctilious over debts. One evening he had run out of cash and I lent him a pound. A fatal way to treat a pound in Fleet Street. The night was Friday. On Monday morning I received a crisp pound note by post together with a cheery letter of thanks from Peter.

In those early days newspapers began to bring out comic supplements.

The Bristol Evening World, a provincial outpost of Carmelite House started up such a publication. Robert T. Lewis, no mean cartoonist himself, was the editor and he gave me large slices of the supplements to fill with my pictorial whimsies. On one of my infrequent visits to Bristol I met a young fugitive from the Welsh valleys in the Art Room of the BEW. His work showed great promise and eventually young Gwynne Price moved to London to do a spell on AP comics, then on to the Daily Sketch where he is now known under the names of 'Gwynne' and 'Kim'.

On one of these Bristol visits R.T. Lewis told me he was soon rejoining the Daily Mail and asked me how I felt about taking over Teddy Tail sometime in the near future. I said I disliked the little blighter intensely and would rather take over Constable Cuddlecock in the AP Jester anytime. Alas, the Jolly Jester has gone long ago and Teddy Tail still lingers on. I am still of the same mind!

Hawes Brothers of Farringdon Street are very good tailors and they once made suits for me. Trying on one of their creations once, I was surprised to find how very loose fitting the jacket was. "Hey!" I exclaimed, "I know I am a big boy but hasn't this thing got a trifle out of hand?" Soon very worried chalk marks began to be applied to the garment. I looked down at the work-ticket pinned to the sleeve. The name thereon was R.J. Macdonald. Amid laughs of relief all round my suit was produced from another room and it was discovered that RJ and myself had ordered the identical material. A few weeks later, to much good humoured chaffing, I had the pleasure of meeting R.J. Macdonald in person. Needless to say we were both wearing our nice new suits.

An AP staffer I knew very well in my earlier years sometimes laboured under a sense of oppression. Whether it was imaginary or otherwise I could not say, but he would sit in his office and silently gaze across the roof tops to the statue of Justice on the Old Bailey. He would thump the desk with clenched fists. "Justice?" he would howl, "There aint no bloody Justice!" Having given himself up to this wild cry in the creative wilderness he would settle down quietly to his work. A prolific ideas man he eventually left the AP after many years service. No doubt in search of his goddess in other fields of endeavour.

Two Australian personalities arrived in London a few weeks before I returned. Friends of mine, they met me at Waterloo and informed me how fascinated they were by the fog and gloom and seeing the lights go up at 11 a.m. One of these Aussies was a lover of Dickens and the Dickens atmosphere. Under the hot white sun of Australia he would dream the hours away in picturing London of the Dickens period. I have to record he felt the cold sting and loneliness of the London streets before he came into his own. A quick count of his work shows he has now over 50 books to his credit. His name is Philip Lindsay. If ever a man worked and really suffered for the writing cause Philip did. My memories of him are of our Australian days on and off the various papers in Sydney. There one had to be tough and in turn tough we were. The other Australian was a young man who leaned towards the saxophone and drawing. His name was George Hickson of New South Wales. A nice affable chap he too had to seek his fortune in the hurly burly of the market place and now his drawings can be seen in Punch under the name of 'Hickey'. It was

George we had with us on a walk round Chelsea one fine Sunday morning. Seeing an old Chelsea pensioner for the first time he was anxious to know all about them. Drawing upon our hazy history we informed him that every time he passed a Chelsea pensioner it was the custom to raise the hat as a mark of respect for their years of service for the country. Needless to say George fell for this and the old guard rose equally to the occasion by chucking him up smart salutes and giving him a few heel clicks here and there. There were smiles and matyness all round.

Australian George served the war years with us in Britain and overseas. Saw armoured action in the desert and Italy, altogether a big war. I in turn, take off my hat to George.

While on the subject of the Old Guard I shall always remember the long conversation I had with Harry Lane in one of the little Fleet Street taverns. I was introduced to him about eight o'clock that night. I remember how we were still talking long after closing time or rather Harry was. To listen to someone who knew the older guard provided me with one of the most interesting evenings I ever spent in Fleet Street. Every name I mentioned Harry seemed to have something to say about them and it was as if they were alive and around one. Is there any magic in Fleet Street nowadays?

Another personality that came my way in those far off days was Colonel Igor Sikorsky who, at that time, was looking round for financial help to exploit a weird and wonderful contraption which we now know as the helicopter, a gadget Sikorsky helped to pioneer. I was flattered by this august person's attention and accepted his invitation to dinner. It was an excellent meal and I was sent home to my hotel in a very happy and expansive frame of mind. Phoning the mutual friend who introduced us the night before to let him know what a grand time I had he informed me with much chuckling that a certain AP worthy also in the party the night before had tipped off Sikorsky beforehand that I was the son of one of the biggest cattle barons in Australia and in consequence was literally rolling in the stuff. I have not seen Sikorsky since but I am happy to see he has managed very successfully indeed without my help!

One of the most serious experiences that came my way, one that could have had very serious consequences, was when I was crossing Waterloo Bridge at 3 a.m. one balmy summer morning. I had been to a very pleasant Press Club 'do' that night and with several others partook of a nap on the Embankment.

Making my farewells I set out to walk to Waterloo station. Halfway across the bridge two seedy characters stopped me for a light. No doubt they were attracted by my rendering of 'You are my heart's delight' which was being murdered by a chap named Tauber at that time.

To anyone who has lived in the Kings Cross area of Sydney the setting was obvious so I took avoiding action and stacked myself up against the parapet of the bridge. But a new technique was about to be introduced to me. I was calmly informed that if I didn't divvy up all the dough I'd got at once they would CHUCK ME OVER THE SIDE!

Save for us the bridge was deserted. Not even a taxi prowling about. In spite of the situation I could not help laughing and I pulled out a handful of silver which I always kept in my right hand pocket in doing this I let fall two or three half crowns. The trick worked and the two nocturnal birds

involuntarily bent down to retrieve the coins. The next move was obviously mine and I took every advantage. I kicked one fair and square in the ear the other swung round to see and I placed my toe under his chin. Even skinny little London thugs can feel pain and as I hoofed it toward the Waterloo end of the bridge they sat in the gutter wailing like spanked children. But my diversion was not yet over. A big London copper barred my way and he was anxious to have the news. We both walked back along the bridge and as we approached the scene of carnage the lads spotted us. Their turn of speed was something I shall never forget. In the excitement I had overlooked the fact that I had placed my portfolio of drawings and rough sketches on the parapet and in getting close to the side of the bridge I had caused the bundle to fall into the river. I had other sketches in my pocket and I regaled that London bobby with an open air exhibition on the parapet ending the session with a few impromptu sketches in his notebook... net the duty end. My little adventure cost me many hours of toil to redraw and recast rough sketches and ideas. Perhaps it would have been cheaper to have handed over my cash when it was demanded of me but had I done so I should have missed my bit of fun and also, perhaps, compounded a felony!

I regret to say I have never had the pleasure of meeting any of the OBBC favourite writers. I know well of their work. Upon reflection I am surprised to find how many stage personalities I have met. Tommy Trinder, Max Miller, Sophie Tucker, Norman Wisdom, Arthur Askey. Among the writers, Edgar Wallace, Ethel Mannin, Cheyney, Hedley O'Mant, Cedric Belfrage, Paul Holt.

A fascinating stimulating place Fleet Street. For every inch of it I love, I love one yard of my favourite Purbeck Hills of Dorset, in that I have both quality and quantity, so I prefer to live within sight of the sea and the hills beyond. Fleet Street too, is everlasting. Whenever I return it is like coming back to the old village once more.

WANTED: Chums, bound volumes, monthly, or weekly parts for the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1923. H.G. MATTHEWS, 38 VICTORIA ST., ALDERNEY, CHANNEL ISLES.

WANTED URGENTLY: Magnets 253-265, 828-830, 930-933, 1191-1194, 1244-1247. Gems 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, 29-31, 33-56. Nelson Lee Library (Old Series) 112-137, 139, 142, 143, 145, 146, 186, 237-239, 394, 499. BERNARD THORNE, 1231 WARDEN AVENUE, SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO, CANADA.

AM PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS to obtain Blue Cover Gem entitled "The Toff" in good condition. Would give C.D. Annual (1954) and unlimited number of C.D. magazines in exchange for same. T.G. SATCHELL, 63 CANTWELL ROAD, PLUMSTEAD, LONDON, S.E.18.

WANTED: Young Folks Tales; from January 1914 onwards. Will exchange the early Tim Pippin series, including No. 1. from 1906, or any old Boys Books, Magnets, Gems, Nelson Lees, early series. Also complete Silver Jacket. Any or all for Young Folks Tales. W. HALL, 46 WALDER ROAD, HAMMONDVILLE, Via LIVERPOOL, N.S.W. AUSTRALIA.

# SPOTLIGHT ON RED CIRCLE SCHOOL

by Jack Cook

An account of the school where boys DO grow up! No long ago I read an article by fellow collector, Gerry Allison: Should They Have Grown Up? As you all know, it pondered the idea of what might have been if our great schoolboy characters had been allowed to grow up, move from form to form, and finally leave the school. Unlike our famous schools, Red Circle School featured in The HOTSPUR does move with the times, its characters DO grow up - and finally leave!

Let us examine this unusual school, where anything might happen - and often does!

I have before me No. 1 HOTSPUR dated September 2nd, 1933, (in the same year the dear old Nelson Lee faded out.) The first Red Circle school story was entitled: "Japers of the Red Circle". This introduced Tubby Ryan and his pal, Jim Stacey of Study 3, Home House. The first few paragraphs are worth repeating:-

"Red Circle School was rather an unusual school. From the window of Study 3 it was possible to see all the school buildings, which were built in a circle round the quad. The buildings were of red sandstone, and so the name, Red Circle school was easily explained.

There was another strange thing about the school. Boys came to it from all parts of the British Empire and from America. For this reason, the junior boys were divided into three sections, according to their place of birth.

Tubby Ryan was Captain of the Home House. The Home House faced the main school building, and all its inmates were British boys.

The building to the east of Home House was the Trans-Atlantic House (later titled Yank House) and here were gathered all the American and Canadian juniors. The building to the west was the Colonial House (Conk House) and here were the boys from all parts of the British Empire.

It goes without saying that the rivalry between the three houses was intense. -----"

There were other houses but these weren't mentioned until later in the series; Junior House, Prep House and Senior House, and much later, New House.

The nearby village was Lington, and many miles away, the town of Tonbury. The rival school was the Brown Street Council school; a Mr. Clayton was the Head. Mr. Turner was their master, and their rivals Bill Baker, Terry Martin and Jimmy Watson.

Lington had a footer club, whose captain was Kenneth Edwards. The Editor of the local paper, the Lington News, we are told, was one, Herbert Dawson. Not far from Red Circle lies the Roderick Estate, and the high handed John Roderick reminds one of the quick tempered Sir Hilton Popper. Of Tonbury school there is little mention, but the Captain of Tonbury is Jim Campbell. The police were rarely brought into the Red Circle tales, but a mention is made

of Inspector Wardrop and Haines.

To get back to Red Circle, the tuck shop was managed by a kindly old Mrs. Cameron, from 1933 till 1951. In 1951 Shorty Smithson and his wife took over.

In Home House also we find Horace Glossup the school naturalist, and his pal Bulgy Todd who both occupied Study No. 5. Bill Gregory, Black Dawson, Windy Jones, Sammy Snell, Jimmy Blake, Poulton & Forbes. During these early days Mr. Wagstaffe was Housemaster till 1938 when Mr. Smugg, that tyrant, that old dope, who had been Housemaster of Yank House took over. He still remains in this office, getting in everybody's way, overbearing, pompous, even old Prout himself was not quite the same as this foolish, middle aged ass.

Many series were woven around Smuggy - Smuggy, Headmaster! Smuggy Hypnotised! On at least one occasion he was kidnapped; he got into trouble more often than any other character.

The Captain of Red Circle was Dead Wide Dick Doyle, who had the uncanny trick of going to sleep standing up - but, we are told, he was both cute and brainy! Pinky Farrel became skipper in 1939.

Captain of Yank House was Cyrus Judd of U.S.A. and his pal was Rawlinson of Canada. Throughout these early stories Rawlinson went without a christian name! Old Smuggy was Housemaster of the Yanks, while his brother, Weepy Willy Smugg was junior master in Prep House. Housemaster here was Mr. Gordon Bell, and Stinks master was Mr. Jenner. These characters were seldom mentioned and soon dropped out.

In 1938 Mr. Jefferson K. Jepson, the "Hurricane Housemaster" arrived and took over the vacant Yank House. In a recent issue dated August 1955 he had retired to his ranch which he had inherited from an uncle. The Red Circle boys were there on holiday, drawn from different forms, and having won their holiday by ballot. They were helping their former master to solve the mystery of who was making mysterious attacks upon Mr. Jepson.

One remembers with a certain nostalgia the adventures of the St. Franks boys in the same wild and wooly west.

In Colonial House, Kit Delaney of Australia was Captain, and with the help of his Indian pal, Punja Singh played japes apiece on his Home House rivals. Their teacher was young Kit Kimberly, and the House master was young Dixy Dale, who, in 1944 became Senior master. Shortly after, in the same year Dale became Headmaster and the elderly Dr. Jerome quietly faded out.

Between 1944 and 1948 the stories were many and varied, but not till 1948 did the really unusual characters arrive. For the first time we met that young Prince of the wide boys, Cyril (SPIV) Ringer. If Fisher T. Fish had been at Red Circle we can imagine the partnership that would have sprung up - though it would have taken the wily Fish all his time to keep up with his British counterpart!

Despite his wily way, Spiv was a real dunce in General Knowledge; when Smuggy asked him:

"In what state is Buenos Aires?"

Spiv replied: "Well, somebody told us it was in a shocking state."

On money matters it was a different story. Mr. Smugg asked the class a question in mental arithmetic which ran as follows:

"A man bought a hundred and three articles at sevenpence ha'penny apiece," he snapped. "How much did he pay for -

"Three pounds, four shillings and fourpence ha'penny," a voice rapped out before Mr. Smugg could even finish the question. Everybody stared because it was Ringer who had answered.

A little later the same day, Spiv tampered with the electric light system, then went around selling candles at fourpence each! Yes, he was wide awake this boy!

Then arrived young Lord Rupert Fitzrupert - and his man James. Our thoughts fly to Archie Glenthorpe and Phipps. There was only one big difference - James had an irresistible urge to jape his young master's friends. The dignified Phipps would never have descended to this kind of thing.

In succession came Tony West, Horace Quail, Busty Parker, who all went straight into the 5th. Slicker Hawkins, the sneaky japer, together with Bates and Jansen - then came another surprise character; the one and only Numb Ned Newton. Mauleverer and Ned had one thing in common. Sleep!

Ned was brainy, a good athlete, but he was too lazy. In an effort to waken him up, he was sent down from the Fourth to the Juniors, and the fags, joining in the spirit of the thing made him their Captain. His efforts to dodge the many and varied responsibilities made him decide to get back into Home House. Anything was better than being Captain of Junior House - even work under Smuggly!

A later series brought in his famous chair. This amazing chair had a row of push buttons, each serving a special purpose. The chair had a special shaded lamp for reading purposes, a built in wireless, a jointed arm holding a book rest which revolved at a touch of a button, and an extending foot rest - in short, it was NUMB NED'S DREAM CHAIR!

Red Circle, in common with other fictional schools had its black sheep, Greg Deacon, with his cronies, Barton & Lester were the 6th Form rascally prefects. Others in the 6th were Paul Codger and Randolph Drake, the latter being the school Dandy.

Deacon was the replica of our old pal, Loder, and every bit as bad. He was a bully and thoroughly disliked by everyone. Mentioning the 6th we now find that the former characters depicted in story No. 1 have been moved up from the 4th and are now prefects. They are of course, Tubby Ryan, Jim Stacey, also Poulton & Forbes. Curiously enough there is no further mention of them, and one must assume that like all the early characters they too have now left. Their places were taken by new boys, Bat Clarke, Roy Errol and Tom Perry.

1941 saw the advent of Hefty Simpson, a strong boy who, to prove his strength simply uprooted the iron gateway and threw it into the quad! In the same series we were introduced to one of those mean, cringing creatures - one, John Slinkerton. Like his predecessors, Enoch Snipe of St. Franks, Marcus Manders of Rookwood and others, Slinkerton soon earned the name of "the Slink" because of his creepy, crawly ways. A real worm.

1944 saw Dixy Dale now greying at the temples (no wonder) and now

Headmaster as I have mentioned.

Dale didn't take a forward place among the characters, and only once did he forfeit his post as Head. This was in 1949 when Freddy Poop took over. Freddy was something like Mr. Alington Wilkes of St. Franks, untidy, and insisting that everyone call him by his Christian name - more - that everyone should call each other by their Christian name. The boys were glad to call Smugg, Alfie, though Smugg didn't care for this one little bit. It was the old Honour System at St. Franks theme all over again. Freddy didn't last long, and Dixy Dale was soon back as Headmaster.

1945. Newcomers now are Stan Carter, described as the boy wonder footer player, Wilf Trotter and Jeep Jones who was to play major role in many forthcoming tales. Conk House had its new boys in Chris Tansley, Chaka, the Zulu boy, Bill Nepia the Maori from N.Z. and Posh Dipper who goes straight into the 6th. In Yank House were Spike Dewey, Art Doolittle, Elmer Barron. Fresh to Home House were Tony West, Ginger Robertson, Young Butch, Danny Hanley, nephew of a famous comedian. Spike Dewey is now Captain of Yank House. Percy Partridge, a naturalist, and Jamie Murchison enter 2nd Form in Junior House. Dave Hardy, the Moke, has been moved up. Jim Barker is acting Captain as Deadwide Dick has left!

Pinky Farrel is now Home House Captain, and it is in this year that Red Circle holds Court to decide who shall be Captain of the school. Rascal Greg Deacon tries by hook and crook to wrest the covetous position, but Cripple Dick Archer under the disguise of A.N. Other beat Deacon and became Captain of Red Circle, which position he holds to this day. Dick's pals are Jim Barker, Gordon Lindsay, Alan Webber, Bob Barclay and Lew Dodd.

The 5th Form now includes Pinky Farrel, Sammy Snell, Bob Wayne Jed Tucker and Nick Riley. These were all Fourth Formers from 1933. From the 3rd to the 4th, have moved Jimmy Todd, Pete Kelly, Cobber Collins and Scatty Sanders.

Albert Glossup, the inventor is now in the 3rd. Chip Wood too is now moved up - is, in fact the Junior House Captain. His pals, Twirpy Jubb and Freddy Irving bow to his strong leadership (shades of Willy Handforth & Co.)!?!?

Mr. Cockles Welks is the extraordinary name given to the 2nd Form master, but his place is taken in 1950 by new master Mr. Harvey Goof who was a mystery man. Also in the 2nd are Dave Duncan, Micky Milton and Frank Martin.

Be prepared for yet more changes. For, remember, this is a school of constant change.

The year now is 1950.

The boys are still growing up, and here and there one meets with a glaring error. Black Dawson is now in the Fifth Form - it has taken him exactly 17 years to move up one form!

With him have moved Sammy Snell, Jim Blake, Windy Jones and Roy Errol. Within a few months we find Jimmy Blake in the Sixth Form!

New characters arrive (and if you can't imagine the wet towel around me poor head - I've almost lost track - but hang on a minute)

Sam Webster, the mechanical marvel arrives and to give him the correct background before he goes into the factory, Red Circle is chosen for the



remainder of his schooling. Then Reckless Ralph Desmond, the voice impersonator. Peterson & Brodie, a couple of bad eggs, who, with Wildcat McCoy go into the 6th.

Bob Russel, son of japer Sam Russel who used to be at Red Circle comes to stay - and jape! Then Buzz Freeman and his outspoken paper the Red Circle Bombshell, Steeplejack Smith, Timpson T. Teak, Yank Historian, and Yeggy Spatz, a nasty piece of work. The last two go into Yank House.

Alan Reader, a new junior who is to feature in many tales goes into 2nd Form, Junior House. Following him is Percy Winter, (another Marcus Manders) Midge Mason, Phil Kingston.

Into the 4th comes Prince Ali Barabbi Tishanashalli Singharishoo, His Highness the Gaekwar of Gangwine, complete with negro bodyguard, (of Punja Singh there is no sign.) On his heels, comes Nick Mason, son of a detective, (not quite up to Nipper's standard really.)

There were Girls at Red Circle in 1951. Mrs. Cameron of the tuckshop retires, her place is taken by Shorty Smithson and his wife. Mr. Cockles Welks retires, and Mr. Plummer is temporary master. Into the 2nd we see Speckles Wynn and Tommy Tranter.

Kidnappers were at work at Red Circle, and Alan Reader, Mr. Moon, Mr. Barrel were all hypnotised and whisked away. They tried to hypnotise Smugg, but it just couldn't work. The hypnotiser, with a moan of despair gave up.

"A Lion at Red Circle", this title reminded me of the former "Lion at St. Jims". Then came the usual Skeleton on the Roof series. This was followed by the "King of the Kids".

Tom Johnson, a 6th Former who had lived his life on a desert isle, couldn't read or write, became the champion of the 2nd Formers, protecting them from the bullying Deacon & Barton. Things came to a head, and Tom and the fags barred out on a small island on the river. (Yes, I know, it's been done before.) So also was: "Do as you please at Red Circle (the Honour System of St. Franks) variations of this once popular St. Franks tale have appeared in thinly disguised form in the Thomson papers.

### 1952:

From here on the similarity of our former favourites becomes more marked still. Compound X a new drug which changed boys into supermen - and also changed their tempers. Title was: "It's Hard Work Being Bad". Shades of Zaxzol and Mr. Trenton. The Thomson writers, like all writers must at times be very hard up for really original ideas, for following hot on the heels of this effort was the following:

"Smuggy's Aunt at Red Circle"

"Anti-Slacker Society versus Numb Ned"

Both stories followed the old, familiar lines. More changes. Alan Reader moves up to the Third. Weepy Willy Smugg returns on holiday - Twins, Tom and Eric Foster arrive for 6th Form.

In 1953 "Red Circle's Secret Senior" came along. He was Reggy Lucas, a spoilt and selfish young trickster. Because no one was taking any notice of him he decided upon a daring trick. He was 16 yrs, but looked 14; he decided to copy out the letter of introduction changing his age from 14 to 16. In a

lower form he would know all the answers, and soon be recognised as a somebody. It doesn't all work out according to plan, and the resulting series made interesting reading.

Two more of the sly brigade made their slimy way into the stories; Cribber Foxe and Slippy Sharpe. Their names tell you everything. These two are in the 2nd Form. A new master for the 2nd is Mr. D.G.R. Dawson. Sandy Hardy is the name of the Third form's new wonder - a memory man if ever there was one: only he's only fourteen years!

Red Circle on T.V. Quite original. Then came - "The Junior With a Giant Shadow." Sengali and his bodyguard, Khandar.

Oh, my stars - what's this I see? "Red Circle Cadet Corps". Now where have we seen this before? It wouldn't be dear old St. Franks - could it?

Red Circle's Sampson, Mr. Baa-Baa Beamish, with the prize ram which he's stolen and has to be hidden somewhere in the school. Mr. Beamish is Mr. Kimberley's successor.

Then came "Mannock's son must have Revenge"! Paul Selver, a German boy was already at the school when Ivor Mannock arrived - looking for him - and revenge. Selver's father had been an air ace as was Mannock's. Selver senior had shot down and killed Mannock senior. Hence Ivor's vow to get Paul. Quite a good, dramatic yarn, with a plausible ending.

"Red Circle's Hoodoo - Voodoo". Introduced Larry Gomez from the West Indies, his father's rival in business has his negro witch doctor send Larry a Devil charm and hypnotises the boy into doing incredible things.

But hold everything - along comes the one and only Edward Brown - "Red Circle's Teddy Boy". Teddy isn't quite bad - things go against him; his conscience makes him undo his bad work and he finally makes good.

"Keeper of the Cushion". Numb Ned by helping a gypsy becomes the owner of the magic cushion; the contents are certain herbs which clears the brain and makes the sitter understand the most complex problems. Ned becomes the Gypsy King - then Smuggy takes over the cushion! Imagine Ned's horror - especially when the gypsies come asking questions. Really funny.

"Red Circle's Roller Boys". A roller skating competition.

Now we've reached 1955 and the verdict is up to you, fellow seekers. Are these tales good? Have the authors striven to give the modern boy a new outlook on life? I'd like to think so. Anyhow, here's your chance to pull the whole thing to pieces - or defend it. The boys of Red Circle are not so strongly sketched, the tales are mostly humorous, and as they grow up - they move out.

Dear old Nipper. He must be forty if he's a day - ah, me!

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Specially Wanted for Sentimental Reasons

S.B.L. No. 243 (Second Series) "The Murder of Constable Cartwright". Good price paid.

V.E. COLBY, 8 BERESFORD AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

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# THE MAN FROM BAKER STREET

SB

THE FOURTH ANNUAL FEATURE

Compiled and Contributed

by

MEMBERS OF THE SEXTON BLAKE CIRCLE

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## INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

In April of this year I received a letter from Harry Homer who, as some of you are already aware, is now engaged professionally for the best part of each year in Spain. The substance of the letter was that circumstances were now such that Harry found it impossible to look after the affairs of the Sexton Blake Circle - particularly in regard to the editing of our Collectors' Digest Annual feature. It was, therefore, with great reluctance that he would have to resign as Chairman. At the same time he assured me he would always continue to be a staunch member of the Circle, and has promised to contribute articles - as and when circumstances permit - for use in subsequent 'Annuals' and 'Blakiana' in the monthly 'Digest'.

Consequent upon this a Special Meeting was convened, the outcome of which being that I agreed to take over the Chairmanship, with Josie as vice-Chairman. The reorganisation of our programme for this year was also discussed. It was the opinion of the meeting generally that sufficient research had been carried out for the time being, and a proposal that the feature should consist of a series of articles by individual members was carried.

The lot of preparing and editing has, of course, fallen to me, and I now know just how much work Harry had to put in!

Here, then, is the finished product, and it is my sincere hope that the Bill of Fare will contain something to suit all tastes.

And so, with the presentation of its fourth Annual feature, the Sexton

Blake Circle wishes you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LEN PACKMAN, Chairman,  
The Sexton Blake Circle,  
East Dulwich, London, S.E.

October 1955.

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MARIE GALANTE - VODOO QUEEN

by JOSIE PACKMAN

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One of the most mysterious and exciting women ever to have appeared in the "Union Jack" and "Sexton Blake Library" was the glamorous Marie Galante, worshipped and feared throughout the West Indies by the superstitious negroes under the name of "Voodoo".

Who was she? Where did she come from, and why was she known as "Voodoo"?

The answers to these questions were supplied by the late George Hamilton Teed.

The history and background of Marie Galante was first related in a "Union Jack" story entitled "At the Full of the Moon" (U.J. No. 710 dated 19 May 1917), in which it is revealed that the name of Marie's father is Bob Kidd, who ran one of the most notorious drinking dens in Port au Prince, the capital of the island of Haiti.

Marie was the daughter of Kidd and a creole devil-woman, who disappeared into the Haitian jungle taking the child with her.

Years later, terrible things started happening in the jungle, for the dreaded Voodoo raised its ugly head when several young white men mysteriously vanished after becoming acquainted with Marie Galante.

It was the disappearance of one such white man that brought Sexton Blake and Tinker within the toils of this exotic woman, and their experiences in the secret Voodoo Rendezvous in the Haitian jungle were horrifying. But they achieved what they had set out to do - to rescue one of Marie Galante's dupes.

This story was apparently written as a single (non-series) yarn, but some five years later there appeared in the "Union Jack" (No. 984, dated 19 August 1922) a story called "The Voodoo Curse", introducing "a new character, Marie Galante".

Probably Mr. Teed thought his earlier story about Marie Galante would have been forgotten by then, as in this new one there is no mention of the original characters or of Marie's parentage.

However, "The Voodoo Curse" is a fine story, and relates the first meeting of Marie Galante and Dr. Huxton Rymer.

Rymer was not really interested in the secret Voodoo practices; he was seeking to fill his pockets with some of the hidden wealth of the island of Haiti. But he also became caught up in the toils of this beautiful witch. For Marie Galante undoubtedly was a witch, and by her witchcraft held the negroes of the West Indies under her spell. At her bidding mysterious deaths occurred amongst the small white population of Haiti, the plantations were destroyed and

stocks of goods mysteriously disappeared, until finally the mere whispered name "Marie Galante" was sufficient to cause the planters to be fearful of further disasters.

Into this weird country, with its atmosphere of mystery and horror, came Dr. Huxton Rymer, ready and willing to learn from Marie Galante how to create a Black Empire, with Marie as Queen, and all the wealth of the white men's plantations ready for the picking.

It had long been a secret desire of Marie's to create this Black Empire, and when Rymer appeared on the scene she realised he was the very man she needed to aid her in this scheme.

Swiftly the call went out for a gathering of the Voodoo worshippers on the night of the next full moon, on which night Rymer was to be initiated into the barbarous rites of Voodooism.

But once again Sexton Blake was on the trail of this "Devil Woman". He and Tinker were again visiting the West Indies, and became involved in the planters' troubles.

There had been whispers of this strange white man who had recently come to Haiti and gained the confidence of Marie Galante, so Blake resolved to go into the jungle in an endeavour to find this stranger.

His feelings on discovering this man to be none other than Huxton Rymer were of horror, and he entreated Rymer to leave Haiti and all the loathing of Voodooism.

But alas, Rymer had awakened in that weird, exotic woman something that was to cause him endless trouble in the future. It was not love, it was the fierce passion of the jungle this man aroused in Marie Galante, a passion with which she would shackle him - if she could!

Blake was at least successful in drawing Marie Galante's horns so far as the planters' troubles were concerned, but on his way homeward his thoughts were frequently of Rymer and this woman. Would that uncrowned queen of serpent worshipping blacks enslave the outcast man of science, or would Rymer fight this evil spell and let the spirit of the white man conquer? Only time could tell.....

After the disastrous setback to her plan for a Black Empire, Marie Galante appears to have left the West Indies, and when next heard of she is in South America, involved in more devil's work. These nefarious operations eventually necessitate her coming to England, whereupon Blake intervenes and the frustrated Marie Galante is forced to leave the country.

Strangely enough, Marie Galante - so far as I can see - is the only adventuress who does not appear to have any affection for Sexton Blake. It is Dr. Huxton Rymer who has awakened the slumbering passions of this beautiful Creole, and her visit to England was partly in pursuit of Rymer and partly to obtain his assistance in the devilry she was engaged upon. This adventure is recorded in 'Union Jack' No. 1050 (24 Nov. 1923) entitled "The Case of the Six Rubber Balls". Incidentally, this story is somewhat disappointing after a fine beginning. I rather feel that G.H. Teed's original manuscript was much longer and that it was intended for a Sexton Blake Library, the editor, however, deciding otherwise and pruning it down to fit the 'U. Jack'.

Some year or more after her return to her native country, Marie Galante is fated to become involved with Rymer in another plot, related in 'Union Jack No. 1110 (dated 17 Jan 1925) under the title of "The Treasure of Tortoise Island".

A friend of Blake contracts one of those mysterious Eastern diseases, and Rymer is apparently the only man capable of effecting a cure. Blake arranges for a meeting with Rymer who agrees to undertake the case (at a price of course). Rymer still seems to be under Marie Galante's spell, for he decides that the climate of the West Indies is more suitable than England for his treatment to take effect.

On arrival in Jamaica Rymer makes it generally known that he wishes to see Marie Galante. This becomes whispered all round, and Rymer knows that sooner or later it will reach the ears of Marie Galante in Haiti, and that she would either come to Jamaica or send for him.

Dr. Huxton Rymer had every intention of playing the game with his patient. He was being well paid for the job, in addition to which he was always interested in a strange disease he could fight and conquer. But the exotic Marie Galante attracted him like a magnet, and when he receives word as to where to meet her the evil influence of this 'devil woman' brings his criminal streak to the surface.

Without neglecting the patient in any way, he and Marie evolve a plan to swindle the sick man of his last penny. Unfortunately for them, however, they overlook the fact that by keeping the patient practically a prisoner, and not sending any of his letters to his wife back in England, they had aroused suspicions in the mind of that good lady who promptly went to Sexton Blake for his advice. Meanwhile, other circumstances have already arisen to make Blake himself suspicious and this, coupled with the lady's lack of news from her husband, decides him to go at once to the West Indies, taking Tinker with him.

From a jealous seaman, who had also fallen under the evil spell of Marie Galante, Blake learns that once again Rymer is mixed up in her schemes. From previous experience Blake guesses that a visit to the Old Spanish Galleon outside Kingston will most probably provide him with a clue as to their whereabouts, and sure enough it does.

But no sooner had Blake and Tinker set foot in Kingston, the word was passed to Marie and a trap set for them.

Alas for Marie and Rymer, once more their plans are doomed to fail. Although ambushed by Voodoo-maddened blacks, Blake and Tinker fight their way out of the trap, and in the fighting Rymer is shot. Blake immediately takes advantage of this and forces Marie Galante to give up all the wealth the pair have stolen, and also to bring back the patient from the small coral island where he has been imprisoned, together with the papers containing Rymer's notes on the case. Only then does Blake allow her to take Rymer, although he is so badly wounded it does not seem possible that he can survive. However, Blake knows that Marie Galante will fight to save Rymer's life if she possibly can, and he and Tinker set out for home with his old friend, who is now on the way to a complete cure.

Thus, once again Marie Galante is left to survey the failure of yet another of her evil schemes.....

Although Huxton Rymer had stirred the passions of the beautiful Marie as had no other man, she still held to her dream of being Queen of the Black Empire

- and Queen she truly was in her own Haitian jungle. But strange tales had reached her of a wonderful negro in the north, one Ceasar Lorraine, known to all North American negroes as the Black Emperor, and in her dreams she saw herself ruling those millions as well as her own Black Republic. If she could also rule Ceasar Lorraine, what power would be hers!

So Marie left the jungle and travelled north, and at her own chosen moment met the Black Emperor.

Now, Ceasar Lorraine truly appeared to be an Emperor, for he was the controller, in that part of the world, of a vast criminal organisation whose headquarters were in New York City, trafficking in human lives being the latest venture.

At that time the United States Government had recently begun the 'quota system' for immigrants, and many undesirables from Central Europe and Italy were thus legally excluded from entry into the states. Ceasar Lorraine was able to overcome their difficulties - at a price - and very profitable this human merchandise had become.

Marie Galante was only interested in this business because of the money, for she still had in mind the union of the blacks in the North and South, with Lorraine and herself as leaders, and wealth would help her in attaining her desire. For this reason she entered fully into the game with Lorraine.

But Marie Galante seemed fated in her schemes, for one load of human goods was brought across the Atlantic by none other than Huxton Rymer.

It was now some time since Rymer, having recovered from his wound, had left Haiti. In the meantime he had, as we all know, met Mary Trent who was the first woman he had really made his partner, and together they had bought an old tramp steamer and sailed round the world, having many adventures on the way. Now Rymer needed money again, and having accepted the offer of 200 dollars a head for transporting illegal immigrants to New York, he left Mary at home and sailed for the U.S.A. with 500 men packed into his ship.

No one was more surprised than Rymer to find Marie Galante in New York, but they soon got together and evolved a scheme to doublecross Ceasar Lorraine and rob him of a large portion of his ill-gotten wealth. Their plans started off all right, but nemesis in the form of Sexton Blake was on their track.

The U.S. Immigration Authorities were becoming increasingly worried about their agent's inability to trace the 'master mind' behind this illegal entry, and resolved to send one of their ablest men, Bryant Kennedy, (who was also Blake's New York agent) to England and ask for Blake's help that end. After many weeks of patient enquiry Blake discovers the Underground route, and he and Tinker travel to New York on the very ship that Rymer controls.

Blake sets out to smash the whole organisation of the Black Emperor, and finds that the negro also controls the illegal trafficking of drugs. Nothing seemed to him more ghastly than the selling of these evil drugs to the young people of the States, for it was the wealthy youngsters who bought the stuff for new sensations.

The whole story of how Blake achieves his object is related in a wonderful yarn called "The Black Emperor" in S.B.L. (2nd series) No. 52 (dated 30 June 1925).

At the finish Rymer returns to England, although Marie Galante tries hard to

persuade him to go with her. But this time the link seems broken, for Mary Trent is the woman who calls him.

So Marie returns to Haiti alone, but she knows that the call of the jungle will drag Huxton Rymer back to her at some future date.....

When next we hear of Marie Galante, in "The Rogues Republic", S.B. Lib. (2nd series) No. 85 (dated 31 March 1927), she has transferred her activities to Santa Marta, a small South American republic, and is involved in one of the many rebellions usual to that area of the globe. It is Marie, with her love of intrigue and desire for power, who has supplied aid to the opposition.

Into this hot-bed of intrigue and insurrection come several people, all of whom are fated to meet in peculiar circumstances before peace is restored.

Some time previously, the only honest man remaining in the Santa Marta government had requested Sexton Blake to investigate the loss of large sums from the Treasury. Blake and Tinker arrive secretly in Santa Marta, and carefully disguised they proceed with their work.

Two others - who were to cause much strife - also arrive quietly, bringing with them a young man destined to become ruler of Santa Marta, although not in the way these two persons expect. Travelling as uncle and niece, these two trouble-makers are none other than Dr. Huxton Rymer and Mary Trent.

When Rymer discovers that Marie Galante is the power behind most of the unrest he is greatly perturbed, remembering the way in which he had left Marie after the New York debacle. He knew also that there would be trouble between the two beautiful women, who now seemed to rule his life. The weak streak in him was always attracted by the devilish Haitian, but he knew Mary Trent would leave him for good, once she learned about Marie Galante. But still he became involved in Marie's plot to acquire a large portion of the country's wealth for herself and Rymer.

The last person to arrive on the scene is the young man who had travelled on the same boat as Rymer and Mary Trent. This man is the son of the old President of Santa Marta, whose recent death had signalled the beginning of the uprising.

But Sexton Blake and Tinker take a hand in the game, and finally order is restored. The young man becomes President of his country, and Rymer and Mary Trent are thankful to get away with whole skins and a substantial sum of money.

As for Marie Galante, she disappears once again into the secret places of her native land, still nursing her passion for the white adventurer.....

Marie Galante is next heard of in S.B.L. No. 153 (2nd series), dated 2 August 1928, entitled "The Adventure of the Voodoo Queen", wherein she emerges from her jungle ready for any adventure which will give her the excitement she craves.

Through the widespread organisation of the island blacks which she controls with her Voodoo, Marie Galante hears whisperings of a fabulous treasure in Cuba owned by an old Spanish aristocrat by the name of General Pina. No one has ever seen this treasure, but it is said that the key which General Pina wears on a gold chain around his neck is the key to the hidden Treasure of the Pinas.

This of course is the magnet which attracts Marie Galante to Cuba, where



once more she is to plot and scheme with Huxton Rymer, only to be foiled in the end by their old enemy Sexton Blake.

At this date Rymer is still roaming about the West Indies, unable to return to England until such time as he has acquired sufficient funds to enable him to live quietly at "Abbey Towers".

Having drifted from place to place he finally arrives in Cuba, and it is here that he meets that exotic woman Marie Galante once again. He is still attracted by her magnetic personality but the story of the hidden treasure attracts him still more, for only a small portion of that fabulous wealth would be enough to enable him to return home (although Marie Galante has other ideas about that matter).

Unfortunately for the schemers they are to encounter their arch enemy Sexton Blake who, with Tinker, has travelled to the West Indies, partly on holiday and partly to escort home General Pina's son, the latter having been receiving medical treatment in England.

The old General was himself suffering from some obscure disease, and Marie's scheme was to present Rymer as a well-known surgeon (a role he was fully capable of filling) with herself acting as nurse, thus securing entry into the Pina home. In this way it would be possible for them to discover where the treasure is cached.

Tinker is fortunate enough to spot Marie Galante and Huxton Rymer together, and after some exciting adventures is able to report to Blake.

On learning that Marie and Rymer are friendly with General Pina's rascally nephew, it does not take Blake long to realise that some plot is afoot. Learning that the two adventurers have discovered where the treasure is hidden, he persuades the old General to tell him of its whereabouts, and thereby takes steps to frustrate the plans of the evil woman and her accomplice.

In order to save any unpleasantness or scandal, however, Marie Galante and Huxton Rymer are given the chance to leave Cuba - a chance which they do not hesitate to take, but without the gold for which they had schemed.

Marie Galante's schooner is lying at harbour just off shore, and with she and Rymer aboard the vessel slips away quietly into the night.....

The next we hear of this pair of adventurers is in connection with the looting of a pearl bed.

In S.B.L. No. 265 (dated 4 Dec. 1930) "The Secret of the Thieves Kitchen", is related how some years earlier a group of marine biologists had the idea of transplanting pearl oysters from the Pacific to the West Indies, the clear waters around the little island of Santa Margarita being chosen for the scheme.

This proves to be a great success, and Marie Galante (who has not to hear of it) is only waiting the right moment for looting the oyster beds. For the full realisation of her plan, however, she needs a strong man, and thus we find Rymer involved with the 'Voodoo Queen' once again.

During the time that had elapsed since the pearl beds were first planted, Stephen Meldrum, one of the three men who originally started the scheme, had been swindled out of his share of the profits; for whilst on a business trip to England he had been informed by his partners that the scheme had failed. He was

offered a few hundred pounds as being his portion of the so-called selling price, but later, on returning to the West Indies, to his surprise he found the pearling beds showing very profitable results. He certainly had been swindled and on discovering that Sexton Blake was visiting Kingston, Meldrum resolves to seek his advice.

In the meantime Blake has discovered that the Voodoo Queen and Rymer are still up to their old tricks. Rumours had reached him that these two adventurers were very interested in these mysterious pearl beds, and on hearing Meldrum's story he decides to make a few investigations.

Together with Tinker and Meldrum, Blake visits the old "Spanish Galleon" - as he has done in the past when seeking information as to Marie Galante's whereabouts. The 'Galleon' is of course the haunt of the sweepings of the West Indies, and the three white men are ready for any trouble which might arise. Trouble comes all right, for the first two persons they see on entering the outer room are Marie Galante and Rymer. Marie's tigerish passions are aroused at the sight of Sexton Blake, and in the island patois she screams her orders to the blacks. Pandemonium instantly breaks out. The huge negro behind the bar throws a bottle at the swinging lamp, and in the gloom a fierce battle ensues. The three eventually manage to escape, and after this attack Blake decides to try once and for all to end this alliance between Huxton Rymer and Marie Galante. He could do very little about the latter, for any attempt would result in a 'Black Uprising'; Rymer, however, he could arrest and take back to England.

Blake succeeds in clearing up the case of the pearl beds for Meldrum, but during the final battle Marie Galante and Rymer manage to escape in Marie's schooner once again and the detective's plan to take Rymer back to England is foiled.....

The final story in this Saga of the Voodoo Queen appears in S.B.L. No. 376 (2nd series) dated March 1933, and is entitled "The Isle of Horror"; and never was a title more apt, for truly the island of Haiti was one of horror.

To this isle fled the absconding financier Evar Kreezer (in his own yacht), taking with him his ill-gotten gains and, as a prisoner, Sexton Blake - whom he had attempted to bribe when Blake had confronted him with his crimes.

Marie Galante is quite willing to take Kreezer's money, and for a large sum offers her protection to the island.

So into the black hills and jungles of Haiti Kreezer is taken, and Sexton Blake as well; for Marie conceives the devilish idea of a human sacrifice during the Voodoo rites at the next full moon.

And now, for the first time, another well-known character comes into contact with the Voodoo Queen. This is Roxane Harfield, who at that time was sailing in her yacht through the Carribean.

Tinker arrives in Jamaica and is able to contact Roxane. They learn that Blake is on his way into the interior of Haiti, along with Kreezer, who by this time has also become a prisoner of Marie Galante. This evil woman intended to have all the wealth Kreezer had brought with him, and would torture the man until he revealed where his cache was hidden.

In the meantime Tinker and Roxane, disguised as blacks, have mingled with

the crowds on their way to the Voodoo ceremonies, and after many horrifying adventures are able to rescue both Blake and Kreezer. After the tortures he had experienced in that ghastly jungle, Kreezer was only too glad to return with Blake, knowing full well the years of imprisonment lying ahead of him.

Marie Galante is finally beaten, her hold on the blacks slackening because she has not produced the human sacrifices that have been promised.

Only time would tell whether their fears and superstitions would be overcome, or whether the Voodoo Queen would still reign.

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### SEXTON BLAKE THROUGH THE YEARS

(A Brief Survey)

by CHARLES & OLIVE WRIGHT

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Detectives in general, and Sexton Blake in particular, have always been very prominent in juvenile fiction; and Blake has always figured largely in adult literature too.

It is surprising when one sits back to think, the amazing number of publications in which Blake has appeared:- Marvel, Union Jack, Sexton Blake Library, Answers, Penny Pictorial, Penny Popular, Detective Weekly, Detective Library, Boys Friend Library, Boys' Realm, Boys' Herald, Jester, Knock Out, and probably many more. Out of this galaxy of dead and gone but fondly remembered periodicals only the Sexton Blake Library and the Knock Out remain - in the latter, Blake, Tinker and Pedro carrying on their adventures in picture form. The Sexton Blake Library (now 9d) is good in its way, but does not hold the same interest for the middle-aged who were brought up, so to speak, on the cream of Blake stories.

Blake has appeared on stage, screen and radio. He has also been recorded, the name of the record being, we think, "Murder on the Portsmouth Road". One of the best of the Blake films was "The Mystery of the s.s. Olympic", being one of the episodes in his long fight with the Criminals Confederation and in which it also featured the evil Mr. Reece. He was represented on the stage as long ago as 1909 when he appeared in "Hush Money" at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford and the Star Theatre, Liverpool. We have also seen advertisements of the play "Sexton Blake - Detective" for the Alexandra Theatre, Hull and the Grand Theatre, Brighton, in the same year.

Sexton Blake appears in picture strip form in some Scandinavian papers, and the Sexton Blake Library is published in several other countries and languages, including Spanish. He has certainly gone a long way since the first story in the "Marvel" in the latter part of the last century. During the early days Blake was working with, or was in partnership with, one Jules Gervaise, a French sleuth. He has had a variety of assistants - a Chinese named We-Wee, a freak named Griff, and afterwards Wallace Lorrimer; but when Tinker arrived on the scene he became the one and only, and is still the regular assistant - apart from Pedro the bloodhound, who appears today pretty often in the Knock Out but is almost non-existent in the S.B. Library.

The first "Union Jack" story to feature Blake was in No. 2. We have a

replica of the cover before us as we write; three men digging in a graveyard, with Blake holding a lantern and another man by his side, presumably a police Inspector, the sombre shade of a church in the background and the moon appearing from behind the clouds. The price of this "Union Jack Library of High Class Fiction", to quote the cover heading, was one halfpenny!

Some of the more famous Blake authors were George Hamilton Teed, who staged his stories in practically every country in the world; Gwyn Evans, who wrote the delightful Christmas stories of Blake; Robert Murray, responsible for the almost fabulous Criminals Confederation series; Edwy Searles Brooks, the creator of Waldo the Wonder Man; Pierre Quiroule with his pair of characters Granite Grant and Mlle. Julie; Anthony Skene, who brought to life the bizarre Zenith the Albino with his opium cigarettes and Japanese servant; Mark Osborne, the writer of many George Marsden Plummer stories - the criminal character who had the longest run of all - and Cecil Hayter, the creator of the lovable character 'Lobangu', chief of the Etbaia tribe of Zulus. Neither must we forget Lewis Jackson, and his Leon Kestrel, the 'Master Mummer'.

Organisations such as the above mentioned Criminals Confederation; The Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle; the League of the Cobblers Last; the League of Onion Men, and the Black Trinity - what fine yarns and happy hours they recall to the memory! What a wonderful gallery of characters have appeared over the years! The Three Musketeers; Gunga Dass; Count Bonali - 'The Owl'; Dr. Butterfield alias Dr. Huxton Rymer; Paul Cynos; Miss Death; Broadway Kate; Dirk Dolland - 'The Bat', and scores and scores more of them. Then there were the characters on the side of law and order: 'Splash' Page, the reporter; Detective Inspector Coutts, he of the hard hat and bristly moustache, who commenced every case by being up against a blank wall; Will Spearing, who appeared in the early stories; Sir Richard ('Spots') Losely, who always brings to mind adventure in the jungle with Blake and the ever faithful 'Coal Box' Lobangu with his horn of snuff under his ear and the red mists which, when they appeared before his eyes, prepared the reader for murder most foul, and skulduggery in general.

Some of the more popular artists who brought these characters to life were Eric Parker; 'Val'; H.M. Lewis (who drew many of the early pink covers) and Arthur Jones of the 'cloak and dagger' school.

The love element was very slight in the Blake saga, the major part being supplied by Mdlle. Yvonne Cartier, who was what Tinker would describe in modern parlance "a smashing piece of homework". In the modern Sexton Blake Library Yvonne's place has been taken by Lady Emily Westonholme, a rather milk and watery imitation who acts as assistant for Blake on occasion.

Little is known of Blake's family, save that his father was a Dr. Berkeley Blake and his brother, Nigel, was a waster. Neither has anyone discovered Tinker's real name. We surmise that 'Tinker' was affectionately bestowed on him by Blake. Pedro was bestowed on Blake together with £100 by an unknown friend named Mr. Nemo.

Sexton Blake's adventures are read by people in all walks of life. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, was an ardent Blake fan. Supt. Cherrill, the fingerprint expert and late of the 'Yard' is another.

Blake also achieved headline status in the newspapers some two or three years ago, the caption being 'Sexton Blake Fan Foils Cosh Bandits', the fan being a night watchman who was hit on the head with an iron bar while actually

reading the S.B. Lib. entitled "The Scrap Metal Mystery". He soon came round and attacked the thugs with an ebony stick, putting them to flight and thus saving a four figure sum that was in the safe.

It now remains for Blake to appear on T.V. After that - who knows? Possibly "Sexton Blake - Space Detective".

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### THE STORY OF TINKER

by WALTER WEBB

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In compiling an article on the adventures - and misadventures - of Sexton Blake's astute young assistant, the writer is confronted with something of a problem, for he is faced not so much with what to include as what to leave out. Before him stretches a field of information, but so vast that, of necessity, many acreages must be left unprobed. Also, to write of Tinker's history with any degree of authenticity is difficult, because, although there were several stories published - mostly in serial form - dealing with his early exploits, they were contradictory in treatment, so giving the puzzled researcher the task of sifting the wheat from the chaff.

To quote what must now be ancient history, Tinker slipped quietly and unobtrusively into an unsuspecting world during the late autumn of 1904, in an unpretentious 'Union Jack' story, entitled "Cunning Against Skill", written by a schoolmaster named Lomax, writing under the pseudonym of Herbert Maxwell. After finding him wandering in the streets of London, an orphaned waif and stray, Sexton Blake had adopted him, the circumstances being similar to those in which Nelson Lee discovered Nipper.

Tinker - first described as a 'small, bright, cheeky-faced boy' - rose to popularity with amazing rapidity, for, at the outset, 'Union Jack' readers took him to their hearts, and certainly the stories of Sexton Blake were much brighter and more entertaining for his inclusion in them. The demand for more Tinker - and Blake too - did not pass unheeded by Hamilton Edwards, who, at that time, controlled nearly all the Harmsworth boys' papers and he arranged for serials featuring the famous pair to run in the pages of the 'Boys' Friend' and 'Boys' Herald'.

Tinker presented Blake with quite a problem at first, for whilst the boy was worth his weight in gold to him by reason of his tenacity, pluck, keen observation, and grit, that natural impetuosity with which every lad of his age is endowed, had to be curbed somewhat, and his struggle with the King's English mastered, for, be it noted, King Edward VII was the reigning monarch at the time of Tinker's entry into the fiction world. Although Blake cared not a fig what his clients thought of him for employing such an urchin to assist him he did resent the silent contempt the more aristocratic of them showed towards the cheery little waif, and, whilst cursing them inwardly, realised that in such a youngster, with so many natural abilities, the imperfection of his speech was bound to be a great handicap in the work he - Blake - would need him for. However, a year or so at a public school would soon alter that, and thus it came about that, at Blake's expense, Tinker, like his old pal Nipper, who went first to St. Ninian's and thence to the more famous St. Frank's, found himself

a pupil at Telford College.

But, it seems that we are a little ahead of ourselves here, for history has it that many adventures befell Tinker ere he was fortunate enough to fall under Blake's wing.

In the prologue of "Tinker's Secret" (U.J. No. 1149) on the occasion of a wet and dreary night in November, it was revealed that when a young lad of nine or ten years of age, Tinker was selling newspapers at his usual pitch near the Three Nuns Hotel, in Aldgate, when two closely wrapped up figures came into his line of vision through the driving rain - a girl of about sixteen or seventeen years of age, beautiful and classic of features, and a golden-haired little girl of about his own age. Egged on by the older girl, Tinker saw the little girl with the fair hair make her way to a cigar stand where an elderly man was standing, and skilfully remove from his waistcoat a gold watch and chain, afterwards making off with them, in order to pass them on to the elder girl. Tinker gave chase, and catching the little girl just before she could hand over the articles, snatched them from her grip. As he was attacked by the elder girl, a constable came on the scene, and she made off, dragging the frightened child with her. After making arrangements for the stolen valuables to be returned to their rightful owner, Tinker made his way to the only home he had, till then, ever known - a little garret room in Wapping, which he rented from a woman, who, with nine small children of her own to look after, had little motherly care to spend on the little paper-selling waif.

Following a period of serious illness, due to the exposure of his little ill-clad form to the elements, Tinker began a slow fight against the miserable conditions of his uncared for existence, and eventually, feeling well enough, made for his old pitch at Aldgate, searching the vicinity where the 'beautiful pale devil', as he mentally termed the older girl, and her golden-haired little companion, used to stand in search of intended victims. But the two girls never came back, and after nearly three weeks of patient waiting, the ragged little newsboy suddenly disappeared, and was never seen at his old pitch again. Nine years later, as the friend and protege of Sexton Blake, Tinker was once more to meet them and in circumstances which were seriously to jeopardise his friendship with Blake and come perilously near to causing a permanent breakage of his relations with the man he admired, loved, and respected more than any other living being. For the child with the golden hair was Nirvana, whose beauty was to completely turn Tinker's head and have him floundering confusedly in a world suddenly become unreal by her ethereal presence.

It was a slightly older Tinker who appeared in a serial written anonymously and presented for publication by Hamilton Edwards in the weekly 'Boys' Friend', in the year 1913, and if not perhaps the best of stories of Blake's famous assistant, was certainly not lacking in thrills. It described his many tussles with a coldly calculating master-criminal known as 'The Baron', who was assisted in his criminal activities by 'The Toff', a crook of similar calibre.

The spirit of Christmas was in the air again, and in the theatres it was rehearsal time. Tinker, having become much interested in the stage, and with a view to emulating H.B. Irving, Lewis Waller and one or two others, had an ambition to play Othello, rather strange in one so young and uneducated, to say the least.

But the lad's venture had a very abrupt ending, for having obtained a job

in the chorus of a theatrical company, he fell foul of the stage-manager, a bullying type of individual. During a rehearsal, the latter was venting his wrath and spite on one of the pantomime fairies, when much to Tinker's indignation, he saw the man reach out and box the little girl's ears. As she dissolved into tears, Tinker hurled himself at the stage-manager, butted him in the waist-coat, and deposited him over the footlights into the big drum left by the orchestra. Before the enraged manager could recover, Tinker had departed with alacrity, leaving all his ambitions behind him, not to mention a tearful little girl, whose gratitude was so overwhelming that she was heard to vow solemnly to marry him when she grew up!

Still alone and friendless in the world, and outcast that he was, the young lad, although having lived and run with all the riff-raff street life knows, remained clean and unsullied, and although the temptation to drift into crime had always confronted him the purity of his soul, inherited from the gentle mother he had never known, was a rock of resistance against which such temptations crumbled, as the crook known as 'The Baron' was soon to discover.

When he came into contact with the master-criminal, Tinker's impetuosity and lack of detective training almost led him to disaster on several occasions, and some of his miraculous escapes from death made exciting reading. One of the most remarkable crooks Tinker ever came in contact with, the 'Baron' was grossly fat, with cold fishy eyes, a bland, child-like expression on his face when in repose, giving way to something far more menacing and beast-like when roused. The only hint of affection the man permitted himself was that shown towards a sleek, white rat, which he fondled in the way an ordinary person would pet a cat, or tame rabbit. The ruthlessness and calculated cruelty of the man struck terror in the soul of the friendless boy on the occasions when they clashed, although Tinker was not to wage a lone battle for long, for it was his destiny to fall in with, and be befriended by, a stranger, calling himself Mr. Nemo. The latter, although ostentatiously a member of the 'Baron's' gang of toughs, was working secretly against them in an endeavour to secure sufficient evidence to convict the master-criminal on a charge of murdering his brother. Mr. Nemo's real name was Allandale. With the 'Toff', who was in every way as ruthless, cold-blooded, and evil a character as the 'Baron', the pair constituted as dangerous a combination of criminal intent as even Sexton Blake himself would have cared to pit himself against, but justice emerged triumphant in a climax fought out on the broad bosom of the Thames, when the 'Baron' and the 'Toff' with Tinker held fast a prisoner on a barge, endeavoured to reach safety with their charge. But Mr. Allandale and a friend of his, a young war correspondent, named Harley, gave chase in a tug, and after a gun battle, victory went to the pursuers, with the 'Toff' going to a watery grave, and the 'Baron' being brought to justice to answer for his many crimes.

The name of the author who wrote "Tinker's Boyhood" was never disclosed, even when it was reprinted later in the 'Union Jack', but that Cecil Hayter wrote it there is no doubt, for his style is unmistakable.

And so to Tinker's schooldays - and what schooldays they were, too!

At Greyfriars, St. Jim's and Rookwood - and, to a rather lesser extent, St. Frank's - school life was gay and carefree, but it did have its serious moments. At Telford College, however, it seemed one long round of hilarity from rising-bell to call-over, with juniors appearing to go to bed dreaming up the most original japes they could devise and then spending their waking hours in putting

them into execution.

Like nearly all new boys, Tinker was subjected to a certain amount of 'ragging', the raggers, in this instance, being the three leading lights of the junior school, Maxwell, Orford and Micky Doran, known as 'The Three Musketeers'. That Blake's cheery, young assistant was something out of the ordinary in new fellows the japers quickly discovered, and so impressed were they by Tinker's fistic qualities and his very obvious ability of being able to take care of himself, that they invited him to become one of themselves. Thus, they came to be known as 'The Four Musketeers', and, as a result, life at Telford became more hilarious than ever. Tinker became installed in Study No. 5, which he shared with the other Musketeers, and, in accordance with what must now be regarded as the usual order of things, soon found himself in a fistic encounter with the black sheep of the Form - in this case, one Langton Mainwaring, an out and out cad, with the dandified lack of manners reminiscent of Aubrey Racke, of St. Jim's.

The four juniors became inseparable, and even during the vacation when the fellows dispersed to their various homes, there was no break-up in the combine. Where one Musketeer went the others went, too. When Sir Charles Orford invited his son and his three friends to stay at Orford Hall for the holidays, it was not long before he was mentally kicking himself for his rashness, for, even out of school Tinker and his chums found it impossible to refrain from practical jokes. When Sir Charles found a four-pound pike ogling at him out of his bath-water, and his friend, Major Wetherby, an explorer, discovered a couple of grass snakes taking refuge in his shooting boots, both elderly gentlemen thought it high time they got a bit of their own back. Consequently, when Tinker retired that night he found the snakes tucked up comfortably in his bed.

Back at Telford the fun waged fast and furious in that most unusual of scholastic institutions. When the Four Musketeers, walking through the village near the school, spied a circus pitched on some waste ground, Tinker was struck with the germ of an idea at sight of an elephant, picketed to a stout post. What followed after Tinker had indulged in a most interesting conversation with the owner of the elephant caused Telford, used at it was to the most unusual occurrences, to rock back and forth in its foundations in a sensation never before experienced in its unique history.

Those humorous youths, well-known to readers of the 'Gem' and 'Magnet', Monty Lowther, of the Shell at St. Jim's, and William Wibley, of the Remove at Greyfriars, often had their schoolfellows in convulsions of mirth at the originality of some of their japes, but there were some things at which they drew the line. For instance, they would never have thought of bringing into the school a circus elephant; but that was exactly what Tinker did, and when that outsize in beasts came lumbering into the Form-room, 'Rosie', as Mr. Rose, Tinker's Form-master was nicknamed, nearly threw a fit, as the elephant became jammed in the Form-room doorway.

When Tinker left to rejoin Sexton Blake, Telford College was never quite the same, a matter of much regret by Tinker's pals, certainly not shared by the masters. Harassed frowns on learned countenances suddenly become careworn were gradually smoothed out; masters whose figures had been seen to slither furtively and dejectedly along corridors, fearful of booby-traps, or similar appliances, beloved of the irresponsible schoolboy, braced wonderfully at the exhilarating tonic of Tinker's departure, and, if Dr. Telford, the Headmaster, and Mr. Rose



were seen to shake hands silently, the reason for their solemn congratulations was not difficult to guess at.

In the 'Boys' Friend', the issue being that published week-ending 21 June 1913 (No. 628), the story of Tinker's first big case, under the title of 'Tinker Abroad', was published in serial form. Written by Cecil Hayter, and with illustrations by J. Abney Cummings, famous for his pictures of the characters of Jack, Sam and Pete in the 'Marvel', it described Tinker's relentless pursuit across land and sea of a gang of criminals responsible for his famous master's disappearance. Believing Blake to have been killed by the crooks, Tinker became obsessed with only one idea - to avenge the death of the man who had meant so much to him.

But, of course, Blake was not killed; ultimately he was to wage a successful war against such kings of crime as George Marsden Plummer, Dr. Huxton Rymer, Prince Wu Ling, Leon Kestrel, Zenith the Albino, Waldo the Wonder-Man, Mr. Reece, Professor Kew, and many others, and in those titanic battles Tinker was to be a trusty and invaluable ally at his side.

The lad, under Blake's expert tuition, became a master in the art of shadowing, and it was in this role that, above all else, his master found him most useful.

A somewhat strange fact about Tinker is that, despite his full and adventurous young life, he made hardly any friends of his own age after leaving Telford. Blake made many, and are well-known - Coutts, Dirk Dolland, Splash Page, Hon. John Lawless, Sir Richard Losely and others - but apart from his brief and whirlwind romance with Nirvana, and even briefer association with Topper, where were Tinker's young friends?

It was, perhaps, a craving for the companionship of boys of about his own age that set his feet in the direction of St. Frank's when Blake had no need of his services. One of those occasions happened just prior to a Christmas vacation when Nelson Lee was drawing the net tightly round a crook, known as Mr. Howard Martin, who had been engaged as Headmaster of St. Frank's in the temporary absence of Dr. Malcolm Stafford. Under cover of his honourable position, Mr. Martin had committed several robberies in the surrounding districts. Tinker's arrival at Study C in the Ancient House, greeted with jubilation by Nipper and his closest chums, Sir Montie Tregellis-West and Tommy Watson, coincided with Nelson Lee's denunciation of Mr. Martin; but in saving the life of one of Mr. Martin's unwilling associates from the hand of the schoolmaster-crook, Tinker almost wrecked the final plans of Lee, but, fortunately, merely delayed Martin's arrest by Chief Detective-Inspector Lennard, their old friend of Scotland Yard (see Nelson Lee Library, No. 236, Old Series, containing story 'Exit The Tyrant', published week-ending 13 December 1919).

Immediately following the rounding-up of the crooked Headmaster, St. Frank's broke up for the Christmas vac., and Tinker, along with Sexton Blake, was invited by Lord Dorrimore to spend Yuletide with him at his fine old historical mansion on the coast of Cornwall. Among the others invited to form the party were Nelson Lee, Nipper, Umlosi, the Kutana chief, Handforth and Co., Pitt, De Valerie, and several other St. Frank's juniors. In this merry gathering at Cliff Castle, Tinker cast all thoughts of detective work from him and became Tinker the irresponsible schoolboy once again, in which role he was encouraged by his genial host, Dorrie, and his popular sister, Lady Mornington. A Christmas

Day full of fun and incident, with the one and only Edward Oswald Handforth supplying much unconscious humour to add to the hilarity of the proceedings, and an evening spent round a crackling log fire with Dorrie relating some of his most exciting expeditions in all parts of the globe, and Sexton Blake and Nelson Lee swapping details of some of their most memorable cases, what time the wind moaned and sighed outside, as it drove the falling snowflakes in soft whispers against the windows.

No less welcome was Tinker when he made his way through the shady woodlands and green meadows that led to Calcroft School. Sight of the silver Calder, rippling and gurgling its way to the sea, with Barren Tor's shaggy shoulders draped in a mantle of purple heather in the distance, always brought back to Tinker pleasant memories of happy days once spent at the famous old school.

His first visit to Calcroft was on the occasion when his master received an urgent telegram from Dr. Harpnot, the Headmaster, requesting him to come over and investigate a murder which had taken place on property belonging to the school. The victim was a Mr. Gideon Crayne, whose nephew Lucien, a temporary Science-master, having just taken up his post at the school, was suspected of taking his life. Everything pointed to Lucien Crayne having committed the crime, but Blake soon began to have his doubts. It was during their investigations that Tinker met Fane, Eagleby and Curtwin of Pycroft's House, three decent fellows whom he chummed up with at once. Blake, ably assisted by Tinker, finally vindicated the honour of the suspected master, and, incidentally, that of the old school as well. Thereafter, Tinker was always a welcome visitor to Calcroft, and spent with Fane, Eagleby and Curtwin many happy hours in the shady glades of the extensive Calcroft Woods, boating on the shimmering Calder, picnicking on the banks of that cool stream, or rambling round the narrow, cobbled streets of picturesque Calcroft Town. Familiar landmarks, these, which will bring back nostalgic memories to those who remember Sidney Drew's famous tales of Calcroft School. Happy days for Tinker, too, and a pleasant change from the routine of detective work.

During Tinker's long association with the 'Union Jack' and 'Sexton Blake Library', there was no attempt made on the part of any author - G.H. Teed with his Nirvana series excepted - to bring even a breath of romance into the young assistant's life. What Tinker's feelings were towards the opposite sex in the days when he and his master were engaged in a ceaseless war against the giants of crime, such as Kestrel, Wu Ling, the Confederation, etc., is difficult to define, for, with so many authors engaged in turning out the stories, there was bound to be a certain amount of inconsistency. The general impression formed was that Tinker took a very dim view of girls, and, if they roused any interest in him at all, it was of a most academic nature. Certainly, he had no time at all for them in his leisure time, for when not pasting press cuttings into the famous Index, he liked nothing better than to visit a cinema or theatre, or take Pedro for a run round London's streets. The friendly look of invitation in the clear blue eyes of the pretty blonde in the Strand was sufficient to send a discomforted Tinker stumbling by with quickly averted head and heightened colour, whilst the look of admiration in the wistful brown eyes of the attractive brunette dining alone in the Venetia met with similar rebuff.

Typical example of Tinker's apathy was well illustrated in 1930 when George Hamilton Teed rather shocked us by having the glamorous Mademoiselle Roxane flung unconscious on a rock on Bonaventure Island from a crashed helicopter,

unclothed, save for a few wispy items of torn lingerie. Thereabouts Tinker's age was given as being nearly nineteen, but, for all the animation he showed at sight of mademoiselle's practically unadorned and inert figure, he might well have been an old man of ninety!

Today the modern author shows a more realistic and sympathetic attitude towards him. To the brand new name of Edward Carter, which Anthony Parsons has bestowed upon him, John Hunter has given him one or two girl friends to go with it. No more do we read of Pedro tugging at the leash in Tinker's hands, for it has given way to something warmer, intimate and exciting. The friendly invitation in the blue eyes of the pretty blonde in the Strand no longer meet with studied indifference; nor does the attractive brunette, with the appealing brown eyes, dine alone within the imposing walls of the Hotel Venetia.

But with the amorous streak developing more strongly in his nature, Tinker still remains the cheery, unassuming, fun-loving lad of his early Telford days. Compared to them, things seem rather tame today, and he finds less opportunity of indulging in his whim for practical jokes. Coutts, a regular victim in the golden age, pays only rare visits to Baker Street these days, and only then when Rex Hardinge brings him along; and it is that immaculately attired representative of New Scotland Yard, Superintendent Claudius Venner, whose faultlessly groomed figure is the more familiar sight in the consulting-room at Baker Street nowadays. Then, with an appetite made ravenous by a famine of prospective victims, Tinker really lets go, and the elegant limb of the scooper is pulled long and unmercifully.

And so, having emerged more or less successfully from the maze of Tinker's history, it only remains to express the hope that many more milestones of it will be reached ere, like so many of the old and popular characters of the past, he drifts into the gradual obscurity that ends in total oblivion. When that time comes - as, inevitably, it must - there is no doubt that the name of Tinker will live long in the memories of those who followed his adventures week by week in the pages of the 'Union Jack' and 'Detective Weekly', and month by month through those of the 'Sexton Blake Library'.

In October last year he accomplished a feat seldom achieved in the realms of fiction. He reached his fiftieth year of continuous and unbroken appearances in reading entertainment. It was a record which did not receive the recognition it so well merited. Here again is the season of good cheer and goodwill, when the health of relatives and friends all over the world is drank with more fervour than usual. To the character who has so deservedly earned the affection of millions and brought countless hours of thrills and enjoyment to those millions let us pay tribute. The toast - "Long Live Tinker!"

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DATE ON SOME CRIMINAL (and other) CHARACTERS AND ORGANISATIONS  
IN THE UNION JACK

by LEN PACKMAN

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In the various magazines devoted to old boys papers much has been written concerning the more powerful - and one might say almost 'permanent' - of Sexton Blake's adversaries, such as Zenith, Kestrel, Plummer, Rymer etc.

To a lesser degree this also applies to certain of the 28 characters and

organisations listed below - Dr. Satira, Nirvana and the Three Musketeers in particular. However, as each and every one of the 28 may be said to have more or less 'faded out' (so far as the "Union Jack" is concerned) I am including the three named.

The reason why I have chosen this statistical record as my contribution to this year's Blake Circle feature lies primarily in the fact that, from time to time, I receive requests for information concerning the appearance of characters in the "Union Jack". I am also hoping it will, to a certain extent, be of interest to Blake enthusiasts generally.

Here, then, is a handy guide for all those who wish to have the details. It should at least be a good help to anyone who is desirous of obtaining the issues of the "Union Jack" containing a given character or organisation. Incidentally, very few should prove difficult to acquire, although my wife cannot get a couple of the Paul Cynos stories for love nor money!

NIRVANA: Created by G.H. Teed. Featured in 13 issues.

1149 "Tinker's Secret"; 1150 "The Loyalty of Nirvana"; 1156 "Vendetta"; 1159 "Nirvana's Secret"; 1161 "The Mystery of the Painted Slippers"; 1168 "Nirvana's Ordeal"; 1198 "The Mystery of Room No. 7"; 1199 "The Case of the Sheffield Iron Master"; 1200 "The Affair of the Derelict Grange"; 1201 "The Mystery of the Venetian Palace"; 1202 "The Clue of the Two Straws"; 1203 "A Mystery of the Mountains"; 1208 "The Adventure of the Two Devils".

DR. SATIRA: Created by Robert Murray. Featured in 11 issues.

1206 "Lord of the Ape Men"; 1207 "The Mystery of the Masked Magician"; 1209 "From Information Received"; 1211 "The Quest of the Limping Man"; 1217 "The Lair of the Limping Man"; 1246 "The Adventure of the Dummy's Double"; 1248 "Justice Defied"; 1249 "The Mystery Man of Marl House"; 1250 "Sexton Blake, Convict"; 1251 "The Trail of the Bandaged Man"; 1326 "Dead Man's Plunder".

HUMBLE BEGGE: Created by Andrew Murray. Featured in 9 issues.

624 "At 4 o'clock"; 626 "The Death Sleep"; 629. "Self-Accused"; 636 "The Case of the African Missionary"; 640 "A Marked Man"; 647 "The Affair of the Allendon Plate"; 708 "The Grimsdale Abbey Affair"; 725 "When Greek Meets Greek"; 1009 "The Case of the Bamboo Rods".

THE THREE MUSKETEERS: Created by G.H. Teed. Featured in 8 issues.

977 "The Wireless Telephone Clue"; 991 "The Bandid of Bruyeres"; 1000 "The Thousandth Chance"; 1001 "The Diamond Special"; 1004 "The Palace of Mystery". 1018 "The Sceptre of Solomon"; 1042 "The Case of the Crippled Monk"; 1083 "The Quest of the Jewelled Globe".

THE SPIDER: Created by Ladbroke Black. Featured in 8 issues.

(Note. 1439 "The Needle Man" by Robert Murray features "The Spider", but it is not the same characters.)  
1212 "The Case of the Wrestling Rajah"; 1213 "The Spider's Revenge"; 1214 "The Riddle of the Green Diamond"; 1215 "The Spider's Lair"; 1279 "The Affair of the Gold Bars"; 1282 "The Affair of the Staggering Man"; 1284 "Sunk Without Trace"; 1286 "The Skeleton Clue".

PAUL CYNOS: Created by Robert Murray. Featured in 7 issues.

1289 "The Seven Sons of Cynos"; 1297 "A Million in Gold"; 1312 "The Mystery of the Black Van"; 1327 "Are You Paul Cynos?"; 1338 "I Defy!"; 1350 "King's Evidence"; 1359 "Retribution".

FERRERS LORD: Created by Sidney Drew. Featured in 7 issues.

742 "The Case of the Two Financiers"; 744 "The Mystery of the Standard Ships"; 749 "The Affair of the Premium Bonds"; 757 "For Political Reasons"; 760 "A Dead Man's Hate"; 765 "A Golden Stratagem"; 903 "Iron Island".

THE DOUBLE FOUR: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 6 issues.

1233 "The Problem of the Double Four"; 1234 "Duped by the Double Four"; 1235 "The Gallows Mystery"; 1236 "The Return of Sexton Blake"; 1238 "The Mystery of the Ivory Beam"; 1239 "The Adventure of the Vanishing Ship".

THE SHADOW CLUB: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 6 issues.

1360 "The Men who were Dead"; 1361 "The House of Eyes"; 1369 "The Mystery of the Wailing Wall"; 1370 "The Six Green Arabs"; 1392 "Black Brotherhood"; 1393 "Drums of Hate".

MOONSLAYER: Created by S. Gordon (Stanley Gordon Shaw). Featured in 5 issues.

950 "The Fur Thieves"; 1032 "The Imposter of the North West Mounted"; 1051 "The Case of the Phantom Frying Pan"; 1088 "The Trail of Broken Men"; 1106 "The Kentish Smugglers".

THE SCORPION: Created by Maxwell Scott. Featured in 5 issues.

517 "The Secret Report"; 521 "The Missing Heiress"; 534 "The Golden Calf"; 538 "The Secret of the Well"; 545 "The Case from the Clouds".

THE BLACK RAT: Created by G.H. Teed. Featured in 5 issues.

701 "The Black Rat"; 707 "The Opium Smugglers"; 712 "A Case of Extradition"; 715 "Uncut Diamonds"; 718 "The Case of the Lorrimer Twins".

JUNE SEVERANCE: Created by G.H. Teed. Featured in 5 issues.

1305 "Poisoned Blossoms"; 1308 "The Affair of the Six Ikons"; 1311 "The Case of the Scented Orchid"; 1315 "The Case of the Captive Emperor"; 1318 "Presumed Dead".

THE LEAGUE OF ONION MEN: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 5 issues.

1481 "The League of the Onion Men"; 1483 "The Mystery of Bluebeard's Key"; 1489 "Fear Haunted"; 1493 "The Plague of Onion Men"; 1498 "The Fifth Key".

FURG (The Fur Man). Created by S. Gordon. Featured in 4 issues.

1257 "The Mystery of the Haunted Trail"; 1258 "The Alaska Sweepstake Swindle"; 1259 "The Adventure of the Phantom Sealer"; 1261 "Captive Cargo".

MR. MIST: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 4 issues.

1277 "The Man who Walked by Night"; 1278 "The Phantom of Scotland Yard"; 1280 "The Great Budget Conspiracy"; 1281 "The Mystery of the Missing Mace".

MISS DEATH: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 4 issues.

1323 "The Book of Death"; 1324 "The Case of the Hairless Man"; 1333 "The Case of the Bradford Dragon"; 1341 "The Phantom of the Footplate".

KROCK KELK: Created by Arthur Paterson. Featured in 4 issues.

1288 "The Hunchback of Brotherhood Hall"; 1295 "The Bandit of the Bank"; 1304 "The Scourge of No Man's Land"; 1316 "The Gold Gang of Bear's Creek".

THE RAVEN: Created by F. Addington Symonds. Featured in 4 issues.

904 "The Raven's Prey"; 909 "The Case of the Chinese Hypnotist"; 918 "The Affair of the Exiled Princess"; 923 "The Raven and the Ruby".

GUNGA DASS: Created by H.G. Hill. Featured in 4 issues.

1006 "The Return of Gunga Dass"; 1021 "The Adventure of the Renegade Spy";

1037 "The Man with the Limp"; 1057 "The Golden Lotus".

EUSTACE CAVENDISH: Created by Edwy Searles Brooks. Featured in 4 issues.  
1354 "The Case of the Three Black Cats"; 1357 "Terror by Night"; 1364 "The Frozen Man Mystery"; 1384 "Quivering Steel".

THE BLACK TRINITY: Created by Anthony Skene. Featured in 4 issues.  
1228 "The Coming of the Black Trinity"; 1229 "The Trail of the Nameless Three";  
1230 "Sexton Blake, Suspect"; 1231 "The Case of the Phantom Head".

THE BLACK EAGLE: Created by G.H. Teed. Featured in 4 issues.  
1048 "The Black Eagle"; 1092 "The Secret of the Bottle"; 1122 "The Monte Carlo Mystery"; 1170 "The Adventure of the Bowery Tar Baby".

THE LEAGUE OF ROBIN HOOD: Created by Gwyn Evans. Featured in 3 issues.  
1313 "The Crime of the Christmas Tree"; 1365 "The Mistletoe Milk Mystery"; 1366  
"The Masque of Time".

CAPTAIN CHRISTMAS: Created by Stacey Blake. Featured in 3 issues.  
1247 "The Case of the Oil Pirates"; 1273 "Rogues Afloat"; 1274 "The Case of the Kaffir King".

OLGA NASMYTH: Created by Lewis Jackson. Featured in 3 issues.  
1269 "The Mystery of Manor Green"; 1270 "The Girl of Destiny"; 1271 "The Captive of the Catacombs".

THE CRIME MINISTER: Created by Robert Murray. Featured in 2 issues. 1407  
"Twice Dead"; 1409 "Crooks Convention".

THE WHISPERER: Created by Robert Murray. Featured in 2 issues.  
1456 "Hot Lead"; 1463 "Crooks' Hotel".

As I have sufficient space I am adding all the stories in the "Union Jack" featuring Roxane Harfield. The creator was G.H. Teed and the character was featured in 22 issues.

1378 "They Shall Repay"; 1380 "The Man from Devil's Island"; 1383 "The Brute of Saigon"; 1388 "Hunted Down"; 1390 "Jungle Justice"; 1391 "Forestalled"; 1396 "Blackmail"; 1397 "Shanghaied"; 1401 "Sinister Mill"; 1410 "The Shattered Room"; 1432 "Black Spaniard Creek"; 1445 "Pearls of Peril"; 1447 "Bootleg Island"; 1448 "Piracy"; 1450 "Gangland's Decree"; 1452 "Lonely Farm"; 1454 "Doomed to Devil's Island"; 1474 "Planned from Paris"; 1478 "Lost in the Legion"; 1487 "Revolt"; 1495 "Arms to Wu Ling" (This is the sequel to 1494, but Roxane did not appear in that number.) 1497 "The Blood Brothers of Han-Hu".

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THE MAGIC NAME OF SEXTON BLAKE

by BILL LOFTS

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In the later part of 1893 a father asked his young son "What name shall I call my detective? Shall it be Gideon Barr or Sexton Blake?" The boy plumped for Sexton Blake.

Harry Blyth senior (for that was the name of both father and son) wrote the story, submitted it to (Mr.) Alfred Harmsworth and was paid £9.9.0. for it - including the copyright of the name SEXTON BLAKE.

How many thousands of pounds Sexton Blake has made for the firm of

Harmsworth, later the powerful Amalgamated Press, is unknown; it is, however, undoubtedly correct to say that Sexton Blake has played his part in the building-up of the great firm they are today.

Much has been written of the exploits of Blake in the well-known "Union Jack", "Detective Weekly", "Sexton Blake Library" etc., but has any reader ever thought of how the name of Sexton Blake has been put into a story in a lesser popular publication, to give the paper a boost up when the circulation has dropped considerably, or when a new paper has been launched? Perhaps one or two of these instances will show you what I mean,....

In the period 1908-12 the sales of the "Penny Pictorial" were flagging. It was therefore decided to bolster it up with weekly stories of Sexton Blake (without Tinker). Whether this did improve the circulation of that paper only the proprietors know, but it is generally agreed that around this time 'Blake' was already a household word.

Around the same period, Sexton Blake stories also appeared in the favourite paper of Harmsworth - one which is still running today. This is the well-known "Answers". What these stories were about and who wrote them I have as yet been unable to trace, but I hope to write about them in a future issue of the Collectors' Digest. It is interesting to note that "Answers" was first published on 2 June 1888 and that it was originally called "Answers to Correspondents". The publishers at the commencement were Illiffe & Son, possibly the same firm which launched the 'one issue' paper entitled "Boy" (as recorded in last year's C.D. Annual).

In 1921 came the first real challenge to the A.P.'s powerful hold on the juvenile fiction market, when the Scottish firm of Thomson & Co. launched their first paper "The Adventure" in the September of that year. With its new style of presentation the sales were so great that the A.P. had to do something about it; and so the A.P. paper the "Champion" was born. The editor of the "Champion" was F. Addington Symonds, and the style and presentation of his paper was certainly something new in A.P. juvenile publications. With its first number they gave away the usual 'free gift' - a photograph of Georges Carpentier (the famous boxer), and for some time each issue contained a special eight-page story supplement by a first-rate author. For the first supplement they chose a story of Sexton Blake, written by none other than that King of Sports Story writers Arthur S. Hardy (whose real name was Arthur Steffens, and who was of Balkan descent). This story - a really first-class one - was written in the vein of all Hardy's stories, with action on the football field. The title was "Paid to Lose" and was a Blake story at its best, because, unlike the "Penny Pictorial", it introduced Tinker and that lovable bloodhound Pedro. The illustrator was Frank R. Gray.

I have been able to trace only one other story of Sexton Blake in the "Champion", and that was No. 7, entitled "The Golden Wolf". This was written by an author named Hartley Tremayne (I think this was the pen-name of another well-known author).

The paper was such a huge success that, in fairness to Mr. Symonds, the A. Press dropped Blake in later issues and introduced "Panther Grayle" and his assistant "Dusty".

A direct contrast to the "Champion" was the "Sports Budget", which finished in 1939. A Sexton Blake story appeared in the last issue (No. 241) written by

Charles Malcolm. This paper was then amalgamated with the "Detective Weekly", and thus it would seem that the publishers were preparing their readers for the Sexton Blake stories which were to come.

The last case I know of Sexton Blake being used to boost a paper's circulation was in 1939, when the A. Press - still fighting for the supremacy of the juvenile paper market - produced a new publication called the "Knock Out". This was on similar lines to the very successful Thomson publications "Beano" and "Dandy" which had been brought out in 1937 and 1938 respectively.

This, of course, was the beginning of a new era, an era in which the comic strip was to prove a popular favourite in the World of Juvenile Literature.

"Sexton Blake and the Hooded Terror" was the title of this strip which ran as a serial - no doubt to grip the reader's interest and thereby ensure that he or she bought a copy the following week. This story was, I think, a reprint of an earlier Blake yarn. I do know that there was a Sexton Blake film with that title which was shown in the 'thirties.

The "Knock Out" is of course still featuring Sexton Blake, Tinker and Pedro in a fresh adventure each week, and I know of one collector at least who is saving them until he has sufficient to make up a nice bound volume.

Yes, the A. Press and we readers have much to thank Harry Blyth senior for, and it is nice to know that his son (now an elderly man) has recently learned that his father's detective creation is not, as he had thought, almost forgotten, but is in fact as well-known as Sir A. Conan Doyle's creation, Sherlock Holmes.

Since those very early days in 1893 Blake has travelled far, and one often wonders whether he would have gone so far with another name.

Let us hope that he is still with us for many years to come, and that we can continue to look out for the magic name of SEXTON BLAKE.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEXTON BLAKE ARTISTRY

by BEN WHITER

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Pro Captu Lectoris Habent Sua Fata Libelli - 'The fate of books depends on the capacity of the reader'. Thus wrote Terentianus Maurus in the year 200 A.D. Little did Terentianus Maurus realise that in this year of grace 1955 A.D. the art of reading would be on the decline, due to the popularity of the picture strip.

Nevertheless, the fact remains - the picture strip IS popular, particularly in regard to juvenile publications.

Thus, the older generation who enjoyed reading Sexton Blake stories written by the brilliant authors of their day, and illustrated by equally gifted artists, now see the scene changing - with Blake featuring in a picture adventure each week in the Knock Out Comic.

For a time this feature was the work of Eric Parker, and this did at least help to keep the Blake WE knew before us. Since then, however, several other artists have taken it over; but whether their work will be discussed and acclaimed in twenty or thirty years time remains to be seen.



One thing is certain, the artist of yesteryear took great pains in his work, each and every one having his staunch admirers. Let us therefore turn back the clock to those happy days of the past and mention some of the artists who illustrated our Blake stories.

Some who did yeoman work for the Harmsworth publications (Amalgamated Press as that House later became) and other publishers, particularly in the early days, and were still going strong in the 'twenties are as follows:

R.J. MACDONALD: Renowned for his work in the "Gem", but whose drawings go right back to the days of the 1<sup>st</sup> "Marvel" and its companions.

VAL (Val Reading): A popular "Union Jack" illustrator during the first World War years and after. Put in a lot of work for the "Boys' Herald", "Boys Friend", "Big Budget" (Pearsons) and many other papers.

H.M. LEWIS: Drew a lot of Blake illustrations. Did extensive work for A. Press, Aldine and Pearsons.

J.H. VALDA: Another popular Blake illustrator. Drew for many papers. Had a great liking for drawing weird and gruesome pictures.

E.E. BRISCOE, R.A.: Drew extensively for many many years. Mainly illustrated sports stories in numberless papers. Although not considered brilliant at drawing faces, his inanimate objects such as schools are surpassed by none.

Others of the early period were:

FRED BENNETT: At one time on the art staff of the A. Press. Drew for practically all their publications at one time or another. Also did a lot of work for "Chums" and "Scout".

T.W. HOLMES: Drew for A. Press, Newnes, Cassel and Pearson for a period of thirty years or more.

J. ABNEY CUMMINGS: As well-known for his illustrations of Jack, Sam and Pete in the "Marvel" as Macdonald is for Tom Merry & Co. in the "Gem". A most prolific A. Press artist.

HARRY LANE: Another whose work for the A. Press and Cassel was enormous. Was still doing cover illustrations for the "Union Jack" in 1922.

ARTHUR JONES: Perhaps best known for his work in the early "Nelson Lee" and "The Thriller". Did a lot of drawings for the "Union Jack". Had an angular style, his work having a kind of sinister aspect about it.

In the early 'twenties the following did spasmodic work for the "Union Jack", although fully employed on other publications:

C.H. BLAKE; W. TAYLER; SID PRIDE; BERNARD HUGH; PHILIP SWINNERTON.

Other Blake illustrators are: E.F. HISCOCKS; RAY MORGAN; W. DEWAR;  
W.M. BOWLES; and G.M. DODSHON.

We then come to KENNETH BROOKES and ERIC PARKER. The former did a lot of work for the "Nelson Lee", "Gem" and "Union Jack", his style being very similar to that of R.J. Macdonald; but perhaps the most well-known is the last on the list - Eric Parker, whose drawings have delighted young and old alike, including many boys' book collectors of today. His style is easily recognised, and the work he did for the "Union Jack" alone must have equalled or surpassed that of

any other illustrator of that paper. Again, until quite recently the covers of the "Sexton Blake Library" were practically all his work. In addition to his artistry on paper, one of the chief things that he will be remembered by is the bust of Sexton Blake that he modelled. At one of the meetings of the London section of the Old Boys' Book Club held at Stanmore, Mr. Parker described how he made the original bust and how he stuck a pencil in it, vertically at the back - to keep the head upright! Copies of the bust - now greatly sought after - were sold to readers of the "Union Jack" at 3/6 each, and a fine story by Lewis Jackson entitled "The Case of the Sexton Blake Bust" (U.J. No. 1169) appeared uniformly. In the story, Eric Parker was featured under the name of Cedric R. Barker. A short, thick-set man, of quiet disposition, one has only to watch his nimble fingers filling his pipe to tell the sensitiveness and skill that lies in them.

The title of the "Montgomery Annual" published privately in Philadelphia, U.S.A. last Christmas was "A Study in Pictures". This featured many of the well known drawings by various artists that have appeared from time to time in periodicals and books pertaining to the other famous Baker Street detective, Sherlock Holmes. What a pity it is that many of the fine drawings by numerous artists of the Sexton Blake saga cannot be gathered together and published in a similar manner. However, for those who are fortunate possessors of a copy, "Union Jack" No. 1000 is something along these lines, for it contains inside illustrations by Arthur Jones, Val Reading and H.M. Lewis (with a photograph and short biography of each), whilst the cover is by - Eric Parker.

Finally, a tribute must be paid to two of our own 'collector' artists - Wilfred Darwin and Robert Whiter, who have so finely drawn Sexton Blake for many issues of the "Collectors' Digest" monthly and Annual magazines.

ERRATA: (See pages 85 - 90)

In connection with my remarks concerning the early features in RADIO FUN I am indebted to Bill Lofts for the following information which helped considerably to refresh my memory.

The first issue of RADIO FUN carried George the Jolly Gee-gee on the front and Askey appeared on the back page. Later in issue No. 17 Arthur Askey came to the front and remained there with Stinker Murdoch until superseded by Jack Warner. Later Tommy Handley took pride of place on the front where he remained until his death; right?

In my opinion R.W. Wilson, the artist who created George the Gee-gee and many other characters, is one of the most versatile and meticulous craftsmen comic art has ever had. His work still appears in the AP papers and it never seems to lose its freshness and charm. J.L. JUKES.

SALE: ALDINES: Boys Own Lib., Boys First Rate Libs., Britons Own Lib., Detective tales. "O'er Land and Sea", True Blues, Buffalo Bills.

NEWNES: Deadwood Dick Libs., Redskin Libs., Dick Turpins.

PEARSONS: Buffalo Bill, Robin Hood Lib. (A.P.). Two copies of Tom Merry & Co. "The Silent Three", Boys Friend Lib. 3d. Ed. No. 153. Offers and Exchanges taken. Details:-

J. R. SWAN, 3, FIFTH AVENUE, PADDINGTON. LONDON, W.10.

# WHO'S . . . . . . WHO

Compiled by HERBERT LECKENBY

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Here once more the indispensable guide for all collectors of old boys' books, as compact as it is possible to get it. Once again there are several new names, indicated with an asterisk, and several changes of address which should be noted.

If any names are missing it's probably due to the fact that Questionnaire forms were not sent in, though I have done my best to include where they were not.

Old Boys' Book Club Branches: London (L); Northern (N); Midland (M); Merseyside (Mer).

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 Lib., (e) Holiday Annuals; 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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ADAM, BASIL, 28 Derwent St., Newcastle on Tyne, 5. Laboratory Assistant.  
Group 5 (a), (d), (e).

ADLEY, DEREK JOHN, 19 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex. (Age 28).  
Accounts Stock Controller. Groups 5(a),(b); 7 (a); 6(b); 5(d),(c); 6(a);  
5(e); 10; 7(b). Would be pleased to hear from other collectors in connection  
with the hobby from all angles, especially regarding titles and lists of all  
the old papers.

ALLEN, LEONARD M., 3 Montgomery Dr., Sheffield, 7. (N). (Age 49). Civil Servant.  
Groups 4; 9; 7(a); 6(a). For sale: Boys Journal, Boys Herald, many others.  
Wanted, Nelson Lee 357.

ALLISON, GERALD, 7 Summerfield Gardens, Bramley, 13. (N). (Age 50). Department  
Manager. Groups 5(a), (b); 9. Boys Friend (Rookwood and Cedar Creek). Would  
like to obtain copies of the "Robin Hood Library" (A.P.), also "Cheerio".  
Could offer comics in exchange.

ALLISON, MOLLIE, 29 Eden Crescent, Leeds, 4. (N). (Age 38). Bank Clerk. Groups  
5 (a),(d),(e),(b); 10.

- ARMITAGE, TOM, 205 Batley Rd., Alverthorpe, Wakefield, Yorks. Groups 2; 5(a), (b), (c), (e); 6(a), (b); 7(a), (b); 9 (1910-16). Requires one copy each of most old boys' books between 1910 and 1922.
- AUCKLAND, CHARLES K., 20 Chiltern Rd., Sheffield, 6. (N). Groups 7(a); 5(a), (b), (d), (e); 7(b). Is anxious to obtain Gem No. 930-31, Xmas at Holly Lodge.
- BAKER, ANTHONY P., Christ Church Vicarage, Barnet, Herts. (L). Age 17. Schoolboy. Groups 5(a); 4; 5(e), (b), (d).
- BAKER, CHARLES G., 7 Marine Terr., Waterloo Port, Caernarvon. Groups - All.
- BEARDSELL, FREDERICK CLIFFORD, "Plymstock," Ross Ave., Davenport, Cheshire. (N). (Age 51). Master Window Cleaner. Group 5(a), (d), (b).
- BANKS, CYRIL DUDLEY, 14 Felcote Ave., Dalton, Huddersfield. (N). (Age 46). Wages Clerk. Groups 7(a); 5(b), (a); 6(b), (a).
- BELLFIELD, J.F., 24 Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Staffs. Group 5 (all). A fervid Greyfriars fan.
- BENNETT, RAYMOND V., 64 Dudley Rd., Tipton, Staffs. (L). (Age 39). Chief Clerk. Groups 5(a); 7(a); 6(a); 5(b).
- BENTLEY, J. BREEZE, 4 Grenfell Drive, Bradford Moor, Bradford. (N). Group 5(a), (b), (d).
- \*BILLHAM, WILFRED, 20 Appleby Place, Halton Moor, Leeds, 15. (N). (Age 41). Machinist. Groups 5(a), (d), (e); 6(a), (b); 7(a); 8; 9; 3; 2; 1; 5(b), (c); 6(c); 7(b). Would like to obtain books in all sections mentioned above. Interest was revived when he saw a Holiday Annual in a shop in Gibraltar. Was unable to follow up until he saw an advert in Yorkshire Evening Post concerning Northern O.B.B.C. Promptly became a member and found much pleasure in the meetings.
- BRIGGS, GODFREY, The Dispensary, Public Hospital, Rotorua, New Zealand. (Age 60). Hospital Dispenser. Groups 5(b); 2 (Boys Friend, Boys Realm); 6(a); 9 (Chips).
- BLIGHT, EDWARD, "Treneglos," 12 Trevarthian Rd., St. Austell, Cornwall. (L). (Age 54). Engineer Retired. Groups 3; 5(a), (b), (e); 6(a), (c); 7; 8 (Thriller).
- BLYPHE, ROBERT CHARLES, 2 Oxford Place, Press Rd., Neasden, London, N.W.10. (L). (Age 41). Assistant Stock-keeper. Groups 7(a); 5(a); 6 (E.S. Brooks' stories only).
- BOND, H. MAURICE, 31 St. Isan Rd., Heath, Cardiff. (Age 43). Commercial Librarian. Groups 6 (all); 5 (a); Requires several 1st and 2nd series S.B.L. by G.H. Teed. Numbers on request.
- BRADSHAW, W.H., 227 West 88th Street, Los Angeles, Cal., U.S.A. Group 6 (all).
- BRANTON, W. LESLIE, 63 Thoresby St., Hull. (L). Commercial Artist. Group 5(a), (e).
- BRETHERTON, T.P., Heskin, Nr. Chorley, Lancs. Groups 2; 1; 9.
- BROMLEY, GEORGE, "Holeywell," Estoril Ave., Wigston Magna, Leics. (L). (Age 34). Trade Union Official. Groups 5 (all); 7 (a), (b).
- BROSTER, WILLIAM HENRY, Primrose Cottage, Stone Lane, Kinver, near Stourbridge, Worc. (M). (Age 49). Sheet Metal Works Proprietor. Groups 8 (Boys Realm); 5 (a), (b), (c); 6(a), (b); 10 (School Friend). Though fond of Hamilton papers not enthusiastic enough to collect them. Same applies to Sexton Blake yarns, excepting "Yvonne and Roxane". Very anxious to collect all the J.L. Pentelow (Jack North, Richard Randolph, etc.) school and sport stories.
- BROWN, RAYMOND E., 54 Longreach Rd., Liverpool, 14. (Mer). (Age 27). Groups 5 (all); 6 (all); 8; 9.
- \*BROYD, DENNIS, 27 Sandhurst Rd., Bexley, Kent. (Age 29). Information Officer. Group 5(a), (b), (d). Wishes to obtain Magnets between numbers 800 and 1200. Gems prior to 1400. Rookwood S.O.Ls. Collection now about 450 Magnets, 200 Gems and about 120 S.O.Ls. Has always been a devoted Hamilton fan but began

- collecting seriously about seven years ago. Says "My best man had to drag me away from the Magnet on my wedding day."
- BURROW, RONALD, "Burrowmede," 164 High St., Yeadon, Leeds. (Age 45). Market Gardener. Groups 7(a); 5(b); 8; 2. Wanted: Nelson Lee's (old series) 17, 30, 78, 107, 114,; Gem, 1023,1024; S.O.L. 4; Boys Realm (1928) 76-82; Union Jack 777,794,806,807,810.
- BUSH, JOHN WILLIAM ALFRED, 32 Walden Ave., Chislehurst, Kent. (Age 44). G.P.O. Technician. Groups 7(a); 6(a),(b); 5(a); 8. Particularly wanted: Nelson Lee's 10-20 (first new series); Union Jacks, many numbers, years 1923 to 1933. Champion Nos. 14, 15, 38 to 52.
- BYRNE, F.G., 33 Roles Grove, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex. (Age 30). Schoolmaster. Groups 5(all); 6(all); 4. Apologies to correspondents for neglecting to reply due to pressure of work and domestic affairs. Wants S.P.Cs. 1 to 36 and 38 - 40. Also Groups 4, 5 and 6 books but cannot pay high prices.
- CARBIN, IDRIS ARTHUR, 22 Wentworth Rd., Overslade Estate, Rugby, Warwicks. (Age 35). M/C Tool Setter. Groups 5(all); 6(b),(a),(c); 7(a),(b); 8; 9.
- \*CAREY, JOHN ROBERT, 41, Aberdeen Rd, Oulton Manor Estate, West H'pool, Co. Durham. (Age 37). Carpenter. Group 5(a),(b),(d),(e). Collection consists mainly of Hamilton papers; Magnets 1374-1683; Gems 1467-1573; Several St. Frank's S.O.Ls., Bunter Books, etc. Been collecting nine years.
- CARTER, ERNEST CHARLES, 2 Cooper St., Kingsford, N.S.W., Australia. (Age 44). Clerk, Central Registry, Eastern Command, N.S.W. Groups 7(a),(b); 8(Nugget Library Nugget Weekly (A.P. only); 6 (all); 5 (all); 4. Still requires Nelson Lee's 1915-16 to complete set. Will pay high prices for these. Also wants S.B.Ls. 1st and 2nd series; Union Jacks 1894 - 1920.
- CASE, FRANK, 4 Dee St., Liverpool, 6. (Mer). (Age 49). Groups 5(a); 1; 5 (b), (c); 2; 3.
- CHAMBERS, W.E., 83 Orme Rd., Bangor, Caernarvonshire, N. Wales. (Age 36). Porter. Groups, All.
- CHAMPION, WILLIAM, 13 Drayton Rd., Reading Berks. (Age 46). Manager, Engineering Works. Groups 5(b); 7(a); 5(a).
- CHECKLEY, PETER J., 18 Tarlington Rd., Coundon, Coventry. (Age 21). Group 8 (Bullseye, Surprise); 5(b),(d),(c); 6(a); 7(a).
- CHURCHILL, CHARLES H., 123 Pinhoe Rd., Exeter. (Age 46). Accountant. Groups 7(a), (b); 6(a). Particularly needs Nelson Lee's (old series) Nos. 85, 88, 93, 98, 102, 113 and 130.
- CLOUGH, WILLIAM H., 3 Fonthill Grove, Sale, Manchester. (Age 54). Telephone Engineer. Groups 2; 3; 6(a); 9.
- COLBY, VICTOR EDWARD, 8 Beresford Ave., Beverly Hills, N.S.W., Australia. (Age 39). Chartered Engineer. Groups 6 (all); 7 (a), (b). Is interested in all phases of the Sexton Blake saga, and in all papers dealing with him. Has also happy memories of the Nelson Lee Library and Edward Oswald Handforth.
- CONROY, PATRICK, 34 Casino Rd., Fairview, Dublin, Eire. Group 3.
- COOK, JACK, 178 Maria St., Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Groups 7(a),(b); 5(d), (a),(b); 6(a),(c); 9. Still needs certain Nelson Lee's; also about 200 S.O.Ls. Interested in Union Jacks, Detective Weeklies and Comics, but main stress is on Lees and S.O.Ls. Welcomes letters from fellow collectors. Has been a roving investigator for many years and has stumbled on many human stories, some stranger than fiction.
- COOK, JAMES W., 4 Swanston Path, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts. (Age 47). Film Despatch Clerk for 20th Century-Fox. Groups 7(a),(b); 6(b).

- COOK, RONALD, 190 Crowborough Rd., London, S.W.17. (L). (Age 33). Groups 5 (all); 8.
- COPEMAN, ERIC VICTOR, 50 Ruby St., Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia. (Age 38). Clerk and Writer. Groups 6(all); 5 (all); 7 (a),(b); 8 (Thriller). Wants C.Ds. 1-44, 74, 78. C.D. Annuals 1947, 1951, 1952.
- COPPING, GEORGE, 104 Mayfield Rd., Swaythling, Southampton. Hairdresser. Groups 2; 5(b),(c). Specially wants Jack, Sam & Pete stories in  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Marvel.
- CORBETT, JACK, 49 Glyn Farm Rd., Quinton, Birmingham, 32. (M). (Age 44). Group 5(a),(b),(e). Chairman, Midland O.B.B.C. Has complete set Holiday Annuals in mint condition.
- CORDETT, MADGE, 49 Glyn Farm Rd., Quinton, Birmingham, 32. Groups 5(a),(b),(e); 6(b). Noted for her Club Readings. With husband Jack interested in good music.
- COX, EDMUND W., 29 Carisbrooke Dr., Bitterne, Southampton. (L). (Age 27). Insurance Clerk. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e); 9; 10; 7(a),(b); 4; 6(all). Always interested to hear of any Magnets (pre-1928) that may be available. Also Gems and S.O.L's. Comics wanted (1930's) Chips, Joker, Jester and Butterfly.
- CROLLIE, RONALD J., 17 Osborne Rd., Hornchurch, Essex. (L). (Age 37). Bakery Engineer. Groups 5(a),(b); 7(a); 5(e),(d); 6(a).
- DAINES, COLIN, 209 Mile Cross Lane, Norwich, Norfolk. (Age 45). Electrical Draughtsman. Groups 7(a); 5(a),(b).
- DARWIN, WILFRED, 76 Western Rd., East Dene, Rotherham, Yorks. Gardener. Groups 6(a); 8 (Hulton's Boys' Magazine).
- DAVEY, EDWARD JOHN, 26 Bourton Rd., Olton, Birmingham, 27. (M). (Age 52). Assistant Registrar (Company). Groups 4; 5(a); 9; 10.
- DAVIES, ALFRED O., 12 Alfriston Rd., West Derby, Liverpool, 12. (Mer). (Age 52). Secretary. Groups 5(b),(a),(c),(d).
- \*DAWKINS, CHARLES DERRICK, 5 Kingsbury Drive, Aspley, Nottingham. (Age 31). Clerk. Group 5(a). Has been collecting since October 1954 and already has over 350 Magnets. Is concentrating for the time being on the years 1930 to 1940 inclusive. Is particularly anxious to get Nos. 1505 and 1191 and would like offers of copies for 1932 and 1934 of which years he has very few.
- DEASY, JAMES C., 11 Sallymount Gardens, Ranelagh, Dublin, Ireland. (Age 23). Clerk in Aer Lingus. Group 5(a),(b).
- DICKENS, RONALD, 10 Petersfield Drive, Whiteheath, Blackheath, Birmingham. (L). (Age 43). Groups 5(all); 6(b). Also interested in the "Silver Jacket", and school stories generally.
- DOBSON, TOM A., P.O. Staff, Brighton, S.5, Victoria, Australia. (Age 49). Federal Public Servant (P.M.G. Dept.). Groups 5(b),(a),(d),(e),(c); 6(all); 7(a),(b). Interested in Blue Gems, Red Magnets and Pink Union Jacks. Any double numbers especially Gems "Talbot's Christmas" and "In the Seats of the Mighty".
- DOWLER, HARRY, 86 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester, 13. (Age 63). Commercial Teacher. Groups 2; 4; 6.
- DOW, JAMES, (Junr.) "Romla," Kingswells, Aberdeenshire. (Age 41). Shopkeeper. Groups 5(all); 7(a),(b).
- DRYDEN, WHEELER, Box 2647, Hollywood 28, Calif., U.S.A. Group 5 (all).
- EAMES, ELIZABETH PAMELA, 169a Oxford Road, Calne, Wilts. (Age 26). Civil Servant. Groups 5(a),(b),(e),(d); 10; 6(b); 8; 4. Still very interested in Old Boys' Books; Horace Coker a special favourite. Enjoys watching Bunter on T.V. and wishes that a full length film could be made of a Greyfriars story.
- EVERETT, C.A., P.O. Box 7, Brinkworth, South Australia. (Age 51). Farmer. Groups 5(a),(c),(d); 7(a).

- FARISH, ROBERT, 24 English St., Longtown, Cumberland. (Age 54). Group 5(b),(c), (d),(e),(a).
- FAYNE, ERIC, The Modern School, Grove Rd., Surbiton, Surrey. (L). Groups 5(all); 6; 8.
- FENNELL, HUGH W., 12 Exeter Rd., Brondesbury, London, N.W.2. Groups 1; 2; 3 and all others. Wants: Wild Boys of London, Boy Detective, Skeleton Horseman and similar. Also detective fiction before 1914. First edition of Sherlock Holmes and any Holmesiana.
- FLEMING, WALTER WILLIAM JOSEPH, 58 Boardman Ave., Chingford, London, E.4. (L). (Age 38). Shoe Clicker. Groups 7(a); 5(a);(b); 6(a);(b); 5(d);(c); 6(c); 5(e); 7(b). Would like to obtain the following Nelson Lee series: St. Franks in Australia; School Train; Deluge at St. Franks.
- FLINDERS, E.B. (Miss), 26 Dale Close, Gosmore Road, Hitchin, Herts. (L). Illustrator. Group 5(b),(a),(c),(d).
- FORD, DEREK, 42 West Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire. Group 6(all).
- GANDER, WILLIAM HENRY, Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada. (L). (Age 57). Retail Newsdealer. Groups 5(a); 2(Boys' Friends, all periods).
- GILES F. VICTOR, 6 St. Paul's Rd., Barking, Essex. (Age 32). Sales Writer. Group 5 (all).
- GOCHER, JOHN WOODWARD, Benevenagh, Abbey Rd., Sudbury, Suffolk. (Age 34). Ironmonger. Groups 8; 6 (all); 5 (all); 4; 3; 2; 9; 1.
- GODSAVE, REUBEN JAMES, 35 Woodhouse Rd., Leytonstone, London, E.11. (L). (Age 45). Commercial Traveller. Groups 7(a),(b); 5(a).
- GOODHEAD, WILLIAM HENRY, 50 Porter Rd., Derby. (Age 39). Postal Worker. Groups 5 (all); 6 (all); 7 (a),(b).
- GORFAIN, ARTHUR, 66 Beaconsfield St., Newport Beach, N.S.W., Australia. (L). (Age 43). Groups 5 (a), 7 (a). Publisher of "The Silver Jacket" 1/- monthly. 149 Castlereagh St., Sydney.
- GOURLAY, NEIL C., 54 Grosvenor Drive, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. (Age 29). Groups 5 (a),(b),(d); 7 (a); 6(a),(b).
- GRAINGER, GEORGE P., Alexandra Rd., Paynter's Lane End, Redruth, Cornwall. Groups 3; 6(a); 2; 1. Special wants: 1d Boys' Friend 523,575,581,597,616. Vol. 14 (1915); 1042,1054,1073,1084,1103,1276,1299. 2nd Aldine Detective Library 10,17,20,22,23,32,73,75,78. 1d Aldine Tip Top Lib., 9,11,25,55,59, 158,159,160.
- GREGORY, NORMAN, 11 Emerson Rd., Harborne, Birmingham, 17. (M). (Age 39). Accountant and Auditor. Groups 5(a),(b),(c); 7(a),(b); 6(a); 4; 3; 2; 8; 1; 6(b),(c); 9; 10. Still keen on obtaining Jack North's B.F.L's.
- GUNN, JOHN, A.M.H.C.I., Gunn's Guest House, 1 Stratford Square, Nottingham. (Age 40+). Hotel Keeper. Groups 7(a); 4; 8(Thriller). Wishes to obtain following 6 Chums Annuals to complete collection: Vol. 1 1892/3, Vol. 20 1911/12; Vol. 21 1912/13; Vol. 30 1921/22, Vol. 46 1938/39 and Vol. 47 1939/40. Would be glad if anyone possessing either the last two would contact as he wishes to check dating and numbering.
- GUNN, JOHN MAXWELL, Gunn's Guest House, Nottingham. (Age 18). Collecting suspended until August 1957 due to National Service.
- HALL, LESLIE, 35 Broadlea Hill, Sandford, Bramley, Leeds, 13. (N). Clerk. Groups 5(a),(b); 3; 5(d),(e); 7(a).
- \*HANDLEY, JOHN L., 343 Pershore Rd., Birmingham, 5. (Age 18). Salesman (Motor Cycle). Groups 2;4;1; 5(a),(b). Interested in publications around turn of century. Favourite authors, Coke, Finnemore, Reed, Richards, etc. Fond of cricket and hockey.

## 10,000 BOOKS FOR SALE

ANTIQUARIAN - Second-hand (scarce) ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICAS - DICTIONARIES -  
 MEE'S CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA - BOOKS OF KNOWLEDGE - PICTORIAL KNOWLEDGE - SETS  
 OF DICKENS, SCOTT, THACKERAY, WELLS, GALSWORTHY, BURNS, BRONTË, SHAKESPEARE  
 BOOK ON COLLECTING - FINE ART - YORKSHIRE FINE BINDINGS - ANTIQUES - MUSIC -  
 POETRY : : : MAGAZINES - ENGLISH, AMERICAN, BACK NUMBERS NAT. GEOGRAPHIC, POST,  
 ETC., COUNTRY LIFE, DALESMAN, PRACTICAL MECHANICS, MODEL ENGINEERS, RAILWAY,  
 MECCANO, WIRELESS, WIDE WORLD, PENGUINS, PELICANS, OLD BOYS BOOKS and MAGAZINES,  
 and many others too numerous to mention.

### B. HARDAKER,

(Opposite Rawson)  
 (Fish Market)

34-40, JAMES STREET,  
 GODWIN STREET,  
 BRADFORD, 1,  
 YORKS.

- \*HARRISON, DAVID, 51 Merton Mansions, London, S.W. 20. (L). (Age 26). Economist.  
 Groups 5(d),(a),(e); 4(B.O.P.); 5(b). Started reading the S.O.L. in 1939 at  
 the age of ten and continued until the close-down. Also a keen reader of the  
 B.O.P. Soon after the war his collection vanished in a 'putting away of  
 childish things' clear out. Later however bought a Skilton Bunter Book out of  
 curiosity: it awakened all the old interest. Then on moving to London he  
 discovered the O.B.B.C. and decided to start collecting again. In three years  
 has re-acquired most of the 1939-40 S.O.Ls., Magnets and B.O.Ps. 1937-40.
- HARRISON, WILLIAM, 54 Chandos Ave, Leeds, 8. (N). (Age 52). Groups 5(a),(b),(c),  
 (d); 9.
- HALL, ALFRED L., 34 Compton Crescent, Leeds, 9. (N). Clerk. Groups 3;2;6(a),(b).
- HALL, LESLIE, 35 Broadlea Hill, Sandford, Bramley, Leeds, 13. (N). (Age 50).  
 Groups 5(a),(b); 3; 5(d),(e); 7.
- HALL, WILLIAM, 46 Walder Rd, Hammondville, via Liverpool, N.S.W., Australia.  
 (Age 50). Carpenter. Groups 7(a); 5(a),(b); 9; 3.
- HARRIS, ARTHUR, "Caynton," Llanrhos Rd, Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno. Group 9 (Comic  
 Cuts 1890 to Chuckles 1914).
- HEPBURN, JAMES, 1 Sixth Ave, Blyth, Northumberland. (N). Grocery Manager.  
 Groups: General Interest.
- HOCKLEY, GEOFFREY, 308 Keyes Rd, New Brighton, Christchurch, New Zealand. (L).  
 (Age 54). Motor Cycle Dealer. Although no longer actively collecting his  
 interest in old boys' papers is as keen as ever.
- HODGSON, RONALD, 5 Silver St., Newton Hill, Wakefield, Yorks. (N). (Age 30).  
 Clerk. Group 5(b),(a). Hon. Secretary, Northern Section, O.B.B.C.
- HOLT, BRIAN D., British Legation, Reykjavik, Iceland. (L). (Age 34). H.B.M. Vice  
 Consul. Groups 7(a); 5(d),(b),(a).
- HOMER, HARRY M., Yulden Farm, Heathfield, Sussex. (Age 49). Teacher of Languages.  
 Groups 6(a); 5(c); 6(b); 5(d); 9.
- HOPKINS, RAYMOND H., 725 10th Avenue North, Apartment B2, Seattle, 2, Washington,  
 U.S.A. (L). (Age 36). Clerk. Group 5(all).
- HORTON, WILLIAM, 4 Willoughby Rd, Liverpool, 14. (Mer.) Group 4 (Chums).  
 Librarian, Merseyside O.B.B.C. A keen admirer of "Chums" and seeks the 1923  
 volume.
- HUBBARD, ERNEST ALEXANDER, 58 South Bank Crescent, Sheffield, 7. (N). (Age 49).  
 Groups - All.



- HUBBARD, WILLIAM JOSEPH ALFRED, c/o The Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 27, Machakos, Kenya Colony, B.E.A. (I). (Age 35). Office Superintendent. Groups 5(b); 7(a),(b); 5(a),(d); 7(b).
- HUGHES, E.V., 38 East Front Rd, Pagham Beach, Bognor Regis, Sussex. (Age 51). Provincial Newspaper Reporter. Groups 2; 5(a),(b),(c); 6(a),(b); 9. Has never been a specialist but is interested in almost any old magazines. Also the toy theatre.
- HUGHES, (Rev.) JACK SHERWOOD, 22 Herbert St., Gladstone, Queensland, Australia. (Age 32). Minister of Religion. Groups 5(all); 7. Special requirements: Nelson Lee No. 46, December 1932. Magnet, 1450, 1385. S.O.L. 258, 261.
- HUMPHREYS, ERIC, "Oak Dene," Boat Lane, Higher Irlam, Near Manchester. (N). (Age 41). Clerk. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e),(c). Collection now consists of 400 Magnets, 40 S.O.Ls., 6 Holiday Annuals and all the Bunter and Tom Merry books. Is anxious to obtain Magnet 1174 of the Otto von Tromp series. Looks forward to the C.D. every month and thinks it the grandest little mag. in the world.
- HUNTER, J.V.B. STEWART, 4 Lulworth Rd., Mottingham, London, S.E.9. (Age 56). Groups 1; 3; 2.
- HUNTER, RONALD HENRY, c/o Royal Mail Agencies (Brazil) Ltd., Caixa Postal No. 366, Santos, Brazil, South America. (L). (Age 42). Assistant Manager of Shipping Agency. Groups 5(a),(e),(d),(c),(b). Very anxious to obtain good copy of Magnet No. 1025. Required to complete volume for binding. High price offered.
- HURRELL, JAMES W., "Glenisle," 10 Ilfracombe Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex. (L). Progress Clerk. Groups 7(a),(b); 5(a),(c),(b),(e),(d); 6(all).
- IMPSON, STANLEY, "Stanfield," Jerningham Rd., New Costessey, Norwich. (Age 58). Master Upholsterer. Groups 5(a),(b),(e),(d); 4; 5(c); 7(a); 8; 6(all); 2; 7(b); 1; 3; 9; 10.
- INGRAM, ARTHUR JOHN, 97 Tettenhall Rd., Wolverhampton. (M). (Age 40 odd). Schoolmaster. Group 5(all).
- IRALDI, JAMES C., 28-13 33rd St., Astoria, Long Island, New York, U.S.A. (L). (Age 48). Group 5(all).
- JACK, JOHN, c/o Miss Bryden, 22 Barns St., Ayr, Scotland. (Age 34). Clerk. Group 5(a),(b),(d).
- JAMISON, WILLIAM, Lisnacree, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Gardener. Groups 5(a),(c).
- JARDINE, WILLIAM WALTER, 52 Kipling Ave., Woodingdean, Brighton, Sussex. (L). (Age 40). Sales Correspondent. Groups 5(all); 7(a); 6(a) Gwyn Evans stories only. Still seeking Bunter Court series of 1925.
- JENKINS, ROGER MICHAEL, "The Firs," Eastern Rd, Havant, Hants. (L). (Age 30) Civil Servant (Legal Branch). Group 5(a),(d),(b),(e),(c).
- JEYES, JAMES A., 108 Adnitt Rd., Northampton. (Age 59). Group 2.
- JOHNSON, MARCUS, 164 Amesbury Ave., Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2. (L). (Age 48). Accountancy. Groups 8 (Boys Friend); 7(a); 5(a),(b),(e),(d). Would be pleased to hear from any collector who may have the following for disposal. Boys Friend Nos. 908,913,916-17,967-971,973-979,1018 and 1020. Nelson Lees, old series, 85,121,132-135,142-147,166-169.
- JONES, RAYMOND, Station Road, Wootton, Isle of Wight. (Age 26). Shop Manager. Group 5(a),(d),(e),(b),(c).

- \*JUKES, JOHN LESLIE, 3 Stafford Lodge, Crosby Rd., Westbourne, Bournemouth. (Age 54). Black and White Artist. Groups 5(a),(b),(c); 6(a); 9 (all kinds). Interested in all kinds of comics and other journals. No collection, but chief relaxation is reading issues belonging to other people.
- KEELING, FRANK, 107 Dolphins Rd., Folkestone, Kent. (L). (Age 48). 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. Groups 5(all); 10.
- KUTNER, MAURICE, 4 New North Place, Scrutton St., Finsbury, London, E.C.2. (L). (Age 48). Wood Carver. Group 5(b),(a),(c). Interested in the illustrators, particularly Warwick Reynolds. Needs Gem No. 1283 to complete long run.
- LANDY, ERIC R., 4 Nuneaton Rd., Dagenham, Essex. (Age 52). Commercial Traveller. Still requires certain Aldine Jack Sheppards and Red Rovers.
- LAWSON, A.W., 13 Charles Square, London, N.1. (L). Retired. Groups 1; 2; 3. Wants: London Reader, Boys of England, Vols. 26 and 27. Boys Comic Journal, Vols. 9, 11, 28, 31 to end. Young Men of Great Britain, Vols. 30, 39, 41 and 52 to end.
- LAY, FRANK VERNON, 167 Watford Rd., Harrow, Middlesex. (L). (Age 42). Director, Clothing Manufacturers. Groups 7(a),(b); 6(all); 1; 2; 4; 8(Thriller and Boys Realm only). Particularly interested in Maxwell Scott, early Hamiltoniana and bibliographical side of the hobby. Correspondence always welcome. Always wanted Penny Pictorials and Answers with Sexton Blake and Maxwell Scott stories.
- LECKENBY, HERBERT, c/o York Duplicating Services, 7, The Shambles, York. (Age 66). Retired Civil Servant. Groups All. Anxious to obtain Comics 1896-1902.
- LEPTEY, CLIFFORD L., 27 Heather Close, Kingswood, Bristol. (L). Furniture Maker. Group 5 (all).
- LOFTS, W.O.G., 56 Sheringham House, Lisson St., Marylebone, N.W.1. (L). (Age 32). Carburetter Engineer. Groups 6(b); 5(a); 9; 1; and all other groups. Is still engaged on research work at British Museum.
- MCCABE, ROBERT JACKSON, 16 St. Boswells Terr., Dundee, Angus, Scotland. (Age 37). Reed Maker. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e),(c); 6(b). Would like copies of World War One stories in B.F.Ls. or Aldines. Also early Biggles stories.
- MCPHERSON, E., 60 Benedict St., Glastonbury, Somerset. (Age 39). Groups 7(a), (b); 5(a),(d).
- MCKIM, WILLIAM, Coxwold, York. Medical Practitioner. Groups 1; 2; 3; 4.
- MCRBERTS, GEORGE, 31 Ardenlee Drive, Cregagh, Belfast. (Age 54). Health Official. Groups 5(all); 7 (a),(b).
- MACHIN, H.F., 38 St. Thomas Rd., Preston, Lancs. School Teacher. Groups 5(a); 8(Boys Friends); 5(b),(c),(d); 6(a),(b); 3; 7(a),(b); 9; 4.
- MAGOVENY, EDITH, 65 Bentham St., Belfast. (Age 45). Groups 5(a),(d),(c),(e); 7(a),(b); 6(b).
- MARTIN, BILL, 93 Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London, N.W.10. Dairyman. Groups 5(all); 6(all). Always has books on offer.
- MATHESON, ALEX S., 11 Ackergill St., Wick, Caithness, Scotland. (Age 24). Group 4(Chums); 6(a); 8(Thrillers); 5(a),(b).
- MATTHEWS, HENRY GEORGE, 38 Victoria St., Alderney, Channel Isles. (Age 43). Pharmacist (M.P.S.) Groups 4; 8; 5(a). Wanted: Chums, bound volumes, or monthly or weekly parts for the years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1923.

- MELL, GEORGE, 49 Gracefield Gardens, Streatham, London, S.W.16. (L). (Age 47).  
Journalist. Groups 5(all); 4; 2; 7(a).
- MERRALLS, JAMES DONALD, 13A Campbell Rd., Balwyn, E.8., Melbourne, Victoria,  
Australia. (Age 19). University Undergraduate. Group 6(all).
- \*MOORCOCK, M.J., 36 Semley Rd., Norbury, London, S.W.16. (L). (Age 16). Junior  
Clerk, Shipping Office. Groups 5(b); 8(Modern Boy); 5(a); 5(d),(e); 7(a);  
4; 6(all); 7(b); 1; 2; 5(c); 3; 10; 9. Been collecting one year. Has 50  
Modern Boys; 40 Magnets, several others. Interested in Wodehouse "Wrykyn"  
stories. After National Service hopes to go in for free-lance journalism.  
Editor B.C.N. Would like to correspond with other enthusiasts of same age.
- MORGAN, JOHN K., 58 Moorfield Rd., Liverpool, 23. (Mer.) (Age 46). Employed  
G.P.O. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e),(c); 7(a),(b).
- MORLEY, LAWRENCE, 147 Nr Mills, Leabrooks, Nr. Alfreton, Derbyshire. (Age 29).  
Transport Worker. Groups 5(a),(b); 8; 2; 5(d),(e); 6(a); 9. Wishes to  
obtain double numbers Magnet and Gem. Also Wild West Weekly (1938) after  
No. 26.
- MURTAGH, JOHN R., 509 Selwood Rd., Hastings, New Zealand. (Age 42). Entertainer  
and Theatre Projectionist. Groups 7(a),(b); 5(all); 6(all). Requires Nelson  
Lees (old series) 4,7,11,15,16,17,22,27,31,40,42,46,49,50,51,53,59,60,62,64,  
65,66,68,69,71,73,75,78,82,84,88,92. 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, VERA (Mrs.) 44, Grosvenor Place, Leeds, 7. (N). Groups 10; 5(a); 6(b);  
7(a). Would like to see an article on the girls' papers now and again,  
especially Morcove School. Would welcome any information about Marjorie  
Stanton and wishes to obtain Schoolgirls Own Libraries containing Morcove  
stories.
- NICHOLLS, RONALD ALICK, The Grey House, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, Bristol, 4.  
(L). (Age 40). Groups 5(a),(b),(d); 6(a); 4(Chums, B.O.P.). Wishes to  
obtain Magnets 1924-40. Good condition essential. Correspondence welcomed.
- NORTH, PERCY, The Great Western Hotel, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, Hants. (L).  
(Age 50). Groups 5(a),(b),(e),(d); 7(a),(b).
- O'SHEA, R.J., 8 Eve Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11. (Age 40). Turf Accountant.  
Groups 5(a),(b),(d).
- PACKMAN, JOSEPHINE, 27 Archdale Rd., East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L). Civil  
Servant. Groups 6(a),(b); 5(b),(c). Would be grateful to anyone who can  
supply Union Jacks between 1914 and 1920. Also late 1st series and early 2nd  
series S.B.Ls. period 1921-26.
- PACKMAN, LEONARD G., 27 Archdale Rd., East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L). (Age 50).  
Civil Servant. Groups - All. Would appreciate any copies of the green (2d)  
Boys Friend year 1927, between numbers 1360 and 1380. Your price paid. Is  
also seeking a first class copy of the Holiday Annual, 1939.
- PARRATT, C. JAMES, 188 Compton Buildings, Goswell Rd., London, E.C.1. (L).  
Groups 7(a),(b); 5(all); 8(Thrillers).
- PAYNE, RONALD WILLIAM, 3 Britain Cottages, Gayton, Northants. (L). (Age 35).  
Clock and Instrument Mechanician. Groups 7(a),(b); 5(a).
- PORTER, T.W., Old Fields, Corngreaves Rd., Cradley Heath, Staffs. (M).(N).  
Groups 7(a),(b); 5(all). Still keenly interested in his first love - The  
Nelson Lee Library, but also enjoys all Hamiltoniana.

- POUND, A.G., St. Paul's Vicarage, 68 Finnemore Rd., Birmingham, 9. (Age 53).  
Minister of Religion. Groups 5(a),(b),(e),(d); 1; 2.
- PRAGNELL, NORMAN, 33 Brae St., Liverpool, 7. (Mer.) (Age 40). Groups 7(a),(b); 5(d), St. Franks stories only, 8(Boys' Magazine, Boys' Realm). Strong Nelson Lee enthusiast. Has over 300 N.L.Ls. and a number of St. Franks, S.O.Ls. A keen Gramophile and supporter of Everton.
- PRICE, H.C. NORTON, 22 Northdown Rd., Margate, Kent. (L). Master Grocer.  
Groups 6(b). Still requires many Boys' Friend Libraries.
- PRIME, BERNARD, 43 Mayfield Rd., Sanderstead, Surrey. (Age 54). Groups 5(a),(b).  
Wanted various Magnets and Gems. Magnets 336, 337 and later ones.
- RANSOM, G.H., 207 Basingstoke Rd., Reading, Berks. (Age 52). Independent.  
Groups 5(a),(b); 6(a); 7(a).
- RAYNER, WILLIAM JOHN, Bank House, Clare, Suffolk. (Age 43). General Manager,  
Cinema and Theatre Company. Group 5(all).
- RENEN, CHARLES VAN, P.O. Box 50, Uitenhage, C.P., South Africa. (Age 42). Bank  
Official. Group 5(all). Requires particularly Magnets, 397,400,401,407,  
409,437,461,906,907,1011,1013,1025,1038,1132,1134,1194 to complete set from  
1916 to the end.
- RHODES, A.W., British Embassy, (22c) Bonn, Friedrich Ebert Allee, Germany.  
(Age 41). Diplomat. Groups 5(all); 6(all).
- RICHARDSON, ARTHUR, 17 Devon Crescent, Redhill, Surrey. (Age 61). Civil  
Servant. Groups 2; 6(a); 7(a); 4.
- RICHARDSON, L.H.S., Oxford House, 21 Lee High Rd., Lewisham, London, S.E.13. (N).  
(Age 42). Army Officer. Group 5(b),(b),(d).
- \*RILEY, GEORGE, 18 Adelaide St., Poulton, Wallasey. (Mer.) (Age 18). Sixth  
Former at Oldershaw Grammar School. Group 5(all). Just commenced collecting.  
Prefers companion papers to present day literature for boys.
- \*ROBERTS, HORACE VICTOR, 12 Clairview Road, Streatham, London, S.W.16. Secretary  
L.C.C. Evening Institutes. Group 5(a). Has complete bound volumes of Magnets  
from 1934 to end. Requires more. Would be pleased to meet any members.  
'Phone Streatham 0499. Also a devotee of Chess.
- ROUSE, RONALD, E.J., 3 St. Leonard's Terr., Gas Hill, Norwich, Norfolk. (Age 33).  
Groups 6(b); 1; 7(a) (1915-18 only); 6(a),(c); 2; 8; 9; 3. Requires certain  
penny dreadfuls between 1835-85; Boys Friend Lib. No. 199; Early issues of  
Chuckles. Has all types of books for sale and exchange. Also collects rare  
pre-1902 cigarette cards.
- \*ROWLEY, LESLIE, British Embassy, Tokyo, Japan. Group 5(all). Says interested  
in all the writings of Charles Hamilton.
- RUSSELL, BERYL, E.M., 4 Ashcroft Rd., off Shady Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham,  
22 A. (L). (M). Takes great pleasure in reading the S.O.L.
- RUTHERFORD, FREDERICK G., Herbert Lodge, 3 Cotham Park North, Bristol, 6. (L).  
(Age 51). Co. Director and Engineer. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(e); 7(a),(b).  
Wanted: Magnets 1142-1167,1194-1219,1403-1418,1422,1423,1457-1464 and runs  
prior to 1090. Gems 1262-1331 and 1663,1226, and 'genuine' ones before 1220.
- SALMON, HAYDN E., 38 Warwick Rd., Ipswich, Suffolk. (L). Established Civil  
Servant. Groups 7(a); 9(1914-1924); 5(a). Wanted: B.F.Ls. school stories by  
Harry St. John and Henry T. Johnson, 1916-1926.
- SATCHELL, THOMAS GEORGE, 63 Cantwell Rd., Plumstead, London, S.E. 18. (Age 52).  
Butchers' Manager. Group 5 (a), (b).
- SELLARS, GEORGE, 1 Hesley Rd., Shiregreen, Sheffield, 5. (Age 54). Labourer.  
Group 5 (b), (a).

- SHARPE, HOWARD, c/o L.G. Morgan Pty Ltd., 192 Queensberry St., Carlton, N.3., Victoria, Australia. (Age 29). Costing Officer. Group 5(a),(b),(d),(e),(c). Keen to buy or exchange Hamilton stories, especially Red Magnets. Interested in Boys Friend Library, particularly school stories, the Rio Kid and Captain Justice.
- SHAW, JOHN R., 4 Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London, S.E.5. (Age 37). Groups 5(b),(a); 6(a),(b); 7(a). Is 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 Road, Killamarsh, Sheffield. Group 5(b),(a). Particularly interested in early issues.
- SMITH, CLIFFORD, 104 Headroomgate Rd., St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs. (Age 38). Local Government Officer. Groups 5(a),(b),(d),(c).
- SMITH, DEREK, 14 Crescent Lane, Clapham Park, London, S.E. 4. (Age 29). Writer. Groups 5(a),(b); 7(a); 5(e),(c); 6(b).
- SMYTH, SYDNEY, 1 Brandon St., Clovelly, N.S.W., Australia. Groups 5 (all); 8; 7. Very keen to have Bullseyes, Rangers and blue covered Gems.
- SMITH, JAMES, 36 Langham Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne 5. Group 5(a),(b),(d),(e).
- SMITH, PERCY, The Stores, Mumby, Nr. Alford, Lincs. (Age 54). Groups 3; 2; 5(b); 7; 5(c).
- SMITH, STANLEY, Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture, Usk, Mon. (N). Groups 5 (all); 7 (a); 10; 8.
- SNELL, FRANK, 24 The Strand, Bideford, Devon. Group 5 (all).
- SOUTHWOOD, ROGER, 129 Worsley Rd., Frimley, Aldershot, Hants. (L). (Age 20). Groups 3; 5(a),(b),(d); 4 (Chums only).
- SOUTHWAY, ARTHUR JAMES, P.O. Box 3, Beaconsfield, Cape Province, South Africa. (L). (Age 46). Assistant Secretary (Mineral Water Factory). Groups - All.
- SOYSA, A.C.H.DE, 4 Boyd Place, Colombo, 3, Ceylon. (L). (Age 38). Company Director. Group 5 (a),(e).
- \*STACEY, ROGER FRAYN, The School House, Holbeton, Plymouth, Devon. (Age 28). Police Officer (Colonial). Groups 5(a),(d),(b),(e); 7(a); 8. Is just beginning to collect the Magnet and in the first instance is aiming at a complete set from 1930 - 1940. Second interest Rockwood and hopes to obtain S.O.Ls. containing same. Is a new member of the O.B.B.C. being introduced by Bill Hubbard whilst serving in Kenya. Gerald Allison started his collection with 39 Magnets. Was educated at Christs Hospital and Queens College, Oxford. Taught at Wellington College. Joined Colonial Police in Kenya during Mau Mau emergency in order to see a little of the world. Hopes to settle down in England again soon. Wonders if he is unique in having two "Hamilton names" Frayn (no 'e') and Stacey.
- STEVENS, SHEILA (Miss), 783 Rathdown St., North Carlton, N.4., Victoria, Australia. (Age 41). Group 5 (d),(e),(c),(a),(b).
- STEWART, ALAN, 290 Archway Rd., London, N.6. (L). (Age 45). Dance Musician. Groups 7(a); 5(a),(b).
- STOKES, JOHN C., 6 Temple Gardens, Rathmines, Dublin, Eire. Group 5 (all).
- STONE, LEON, 28 Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., Australia. (L). Journalist. Groups 5(a),(b),(c); 4. Urgently wishes to obtain Vols. 14, 23, 28 of Captain to complete run of 50 vols. Lacks only these three.
- STOREY, ROWLAND M., 4 Byron St., Shieldfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2. Store Keeper. Groups 2; 4.
- STURDY, F., 8 Watson St., Middlesbrough, Yorks. Group 5 (all).

- SUTCLIFFE, HERBERT JAMES, 38 Victoria Ave., Wickford, Essex. (L). (Age 38). Warehouse Foreman. Groups 7(a),(b); 6(a),(c),(b) (Edwy Searles Brooks stories only); 5(all). Has read Meccano Magazine from 1924 to date. Is very anxious to obtain the following Victor Gunn novels:- "Death on Shivering Sand", "Dead Man's Warning", "Footsteps of Death" and "The Borgia Head Mystery".
- \*SUTTON, LAURIE, 112 Repton Rd., Orpington, Kent. (Age 33). Civil Servant. Group 5(b),(a),(d). Is keen to obtain Gems, Magnets and S.O.Ls. (St. Jims and Greyfriars) from 1930 to last issues. Has at present 180 Gems, 160 Magnets and 50 S.O.Ls. Has been collecting only since last December, but had been hunting for years previously without knowing the right places to look. Started reading the Gem in 1933 and kept them all from then to the end until 1944. Had to sell them when financially embarrassed for about 1d each. Has never ceased to regret his folly.
- SWAN, JAMES ROBERT, 3 Fifth Ave., Paddington, London, W.10. (Age 39). Electric Welder. Groups 5(a),(b); 8(Thomson papers and Boys Magazine); 7(a); 6(b); 4. Recently obtained Magnets 3-9 and 11.
- \*SWITZER, H.W., 27 St. Paul's Rd., Wallasey, Cheshire. (Mer.) (Age 74). Groups 3; 4; 6(b); 7(a). Merseyside veteran. Keen Dick Turpin (Aldines) fan.
- TAYLOR, RAYMOND, 22 Pembroke Ave., Etingshall, Wolverhampton. (Age 60). Stoker. Groups 2; 8; 4; 1. Is anxious to get a complete run of pre-1914 Boys Friends  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d, Boys Realms and Boys Heralds.
- THOMSON, DEREK, 14 Bonaly Rd., Merchiston, Edinburgh, 11. (Age 17). British Railways Clerk. Groups 5 (a), (d), (b), (e); 6 (a).
- THOMPSON, GORDON, 53 Wallasey Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Group 5 (a); 7 (a). Is looking for about 60 blue and white Magnets and some orange covered ones.
- THORNE, BERNARD ROBERT and BERENICE, 1231 Warden Ave., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. (L). (Ages 41 and 15). Federal Government Aircraft Inspector. High School Student. Groups 7(a); 5(a),(b); 7(b); 5(d),(e). Correspondents interested in above groups welcomed. All letters answered. Gems, Magnets, N.L.Ls. and Rockwood S.O.Ls. required. See advert elsewhere in this Annual.
- THROCKMORTON, NICHOLAS, St. James Club, 106 Piccadilly, London, W.1. (L). Civil Servant. Group 5 (a),(e).
- THURBON, WILLIAM THOMAS, 47 Cromwell Rd., Cambridge. (N). (Age 52). Clerk. Groups 2; 4; 6(a) (Lobangu only).
- \*TOMLINSON, JOHN, 58 Scalpcliffe Rd., Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. (Age 47). Storeman at Rubber Factory. Groups 4; 5(b),(a),(c),(d),(e). Only recently restarted collecting. Has Chums Annuals 1920-1925 and 1933. Would like to obtain Holiday Annual for 1924.
- TWELLS, J., 39 Rosewood Avenue, Rugby. (Age 48). Group 7(a).
- UNWIN, FRANK, 66 Merryhill Rd., Bracknell, Berks. (Mer.) (Age 38). Schoolmaster. Groups 7(a); 5(a),(b). Has no collection as such but, like Don Webster, prefers to obtain one copy of each of the periodicals.
- VENNIMORE, CHARLES E.F., 25 Byron Ave., West Hounslow, Middlesex. Still has for sale a huge quantity of periodicals of all types.
- \*WADHAM, NORMAN, "Lindisfarne", 9 Sunderland Rd., Heworth, Gateshead, 10, Co. Durham. (Age 27). Schoolmaster (Mathematics). Group 5 (a), (b),(d).
- WALKER, PETER A., 16 Thorncliffe Rd., Mapperley Park, Nottingham. Groups 5(b), (a); 7(a); 4; 5(d),(c).

- WALLIS, CLIFFORD A., 64 Oakwood Park Rd., Southgate, London, N.14. (L). (Age 36).  
Civil Servant. Groups 5(a),(b); 8; 7(a); 5(c),(d),(e); 7(b); 9.
- WARREN, PHILIP, 30 Newton Rd., Urmston, Lancs. (N). Group 5 (all).
- WEBSTER, DONALD B., Waterloo House, 7 Crosby Road South, Liverpool, 22. (Mer.)  
(Phone Waterloo 3079). (Age 49). Civil Servant. Group 5 (b),(a),(e),(d),(c)  
and all others. Chairman: Merseyside Branch O.B.B.C. Possesses for nostalgic  
interest copy of each periodical of his youth. Also collects Christmas and  
Double numbers (prior to 1917) of Magnet and Gem. Wishes to obtain Magnets  
Nos. 250 and 223.
- WEBSTER, PETER, 7 Crosby Road South, Liverpool, 22. (Mer.) (Age 14). Youngest  
Club member. Following in his father's footsteps in a love for the Companion  
Papers. Has a complete set of Holiday Annuals and a large collection of pre-  
war Comics.
- WESTWATER, W., 4 Buckley St., Glasgow, N.2. Structural Engineering Draughtsman.  
Groups 5 (a),(d),(c); 9; 7(a). Specially wanted: Copies of the Popular (2d)  
from 1924 to the end.
- WHITER, BEN, 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). (Age 50).  
Storeman. Groups 5 (all); 6 (all); 4; 7 (c),(b); 9; 3.
- WHITER, ROBERT H., 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). (Age 31).  
Cycle Dealer. Groups 5 (all); 8; 4.
- WHITER, EILEEN JOAN, 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L). Insurance  
Broker's Book-keeper. Group 5 (a).
- WHORWELL, RICHARD, 29 Aspinden Rd., Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16. (Age 57).  
Group 5 (all); 4; 8; 6 (all).
- WILLETT, E.P.K., Church Cottage, Laleham-on-Thames, Staines, Middlesex. (L).  
Groups 5(all). 4 (Captains and B.O.Ps. Annuals only); 8 (Pre-war Triumphs,  
Skippers, Rovers, Hotspurs, Wizards, and Adventures, Modern Hotspurs, Wizards  
and Lions).
- WILLISON, FRANK A., 49 Long Moor Rd., Hasbury Farm Estate, Halesowen, Worcs.  
(Age 54). Tool Progress Chaser. Groups 2; 4; 9; 6(b).
- WILSON, ROBERT, 100 Broomfield Rd., Glasgow, N.1. (Age 57). Registered Medical  
Practitioner. Groups 5 (a),(b),(d),(e),(c); 6(a); 8(Thriller and Modern Boy).  
Is most anxious to obtain the last seven numbers of S.O.L. to complete set,  
viz: 23, 25, 60, 65, 68 and 72.
- WILLIAMS, JOSEPH SCOTT, 99 Smyth Rd., Bristol, 6. (Age 39). Technical College  
Lecturer. Groups 5 (a),(d),(e); 7 (a),(b); 5(c),(b); 6(a),(b),(c); 9.
- WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, 410 Oakwood Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, 8. (N). (Age 54).  
Warehouseman. Groups 5 (all); 6(all); 2; 4.
- WOOD, JOHN PETER, Nostaw, 328 Stockton Lane, York. (N). (Age 41). Journalist.  
Groups 7 (a); 6(b); 5(a).
- WRIGHT, CHARLES, 12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L). (Age 50).  
Hospital Attendant. Groups 5(b); 6(a); 3; 2; 7(a); 9.
- WRIGHT, OLIVE, 12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E. 10. (L). Group 6(all).
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- SALE: ALDINES: Boys Own Lib., Boys First Rate Libs., Britons Own Lib., Detec-  
tive tales. "O'er Land and Sea", True Blues, Buffalo Bills.
- NEWNES: Deadwood Dick Libs., Redskin Libs., Dick Turpins.
- PEARSONS: Buffalo Bill, Robin Hood Lib. (A.P.). Two copies of Tom Merry & Co.  
"The Silent Three", Boys Friend Lib. 3d. Ed. No. 153. Offers and Exchanges  
taken. Details:-

# THE NELSON by JACK WOOD LEE S T O R Y

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A year ago I tried to write of the story of Nelson Lee in fact and fiction as a general whole: this year, because in the interim several of the serials have come into my possession, I want to particularise and to write in more detail about some of the less familiar adventures which Nelson Lee and Nipper went through in serial form.

For that reason, therefore, I do not propose to say anything here about the Order of the Ring, the Missing Heir and the Silver Dwarf, which by their frequent reprints must be familiar to everyone, however slight their knowledge of the Nelson Lee Story.

We take up our story, therefore, with Nelson Lee's Rival, which was serialised in Boy's Realm 26-52 from Dec. 6, 1902, to May 6, 1903, and illustrated by Fred Bennett. It was reprinted in Boy's Friend Library No. 34, when it was described as "A Xmas and New Year Tale of the Great Detective" by Maxwell Scott. The cover drawing was by D.D. Fitz.

"Tap! Tap! Tap! It was a wild, inhospitable Christmas Eve. A furious blinding snowstorm had been raging in North Derbyshire since early morning, and a fierce north-easterly gale was driving the snow across the moors, and piling it up in the dales, and whirling it round the summit of the Peak in madly-spinning spirals of smoke-like dust." So the yarn begins.

In the drawing room of Firvale Grange, Lady Bamford is disturbed by memories of another Xmas Eve, 20 years ago, memories which are to be awakened by the return to sanity of the former local doctor who was shot 20 years ago not far from the Grange.

The doctor, Martin Wraith, manages to tell the local curate, Hugh Palmer, that he is the rightful Earl of Bamford and not his cousin Philip, holder of the title. Wraith disappears, and there is a search for him in which there is a great race between Lee, on the side of truth and justice, and Jean Moreau, a Frenchman, briefed by the unscrupulous Philip.

Moreau has his offices in Furnival Chambers, Chancery Lane, and is a former member of the French Secret Service, from which he was dismissed for his unscrupulousness in trying to blackmail a French Minister. After living on his wits in Germany and Spain, he set up business as a private detective in London where his activities in "border line" shady cases won him several successes.

He and Lee have many clashes of wits in the search for justice, starting very early on with Lee chucking Moreau into a slimy pond!

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Action follows briskly, and there is a tremendously thrilling sequence in the famous Peak Cavern at Castleton, when Lee and Wraith, now mad again, fight in the Devil's Cellar. Nelson Lee finishes up in an underground torrent, but escapes, of course, and after further adventures the true story is brought to light and Hugh is restored to his rightful earldom.

"Nelson Lee, at the moment when these lines appear in print, is spending a brief vacation at Firvale Grange, and it is safe to say that, of all the guests whom Hugh has entertained since he came into his own, there is none to whom he has accorded a more hearty welcome than the brilliant young detective who, by his masterly handling of the "Bamford Peerage Case" - as it was called - proved once more that in skill, in courage, and in all that constitutes a successful detective, he stands today without a serious rival," the story concludes.

In *The Hidden Will*, which began in *Boy's Realm* 64 dated 29 Aug. 1903, we find that Lee's landlady was a Mrs. Jones who took a great interest in her famous lodger's cases and certainly is not guilty of any Bardellisms in her conversation.

In this story, reprinted in *Boy's Friend Library* 138, the adventures start with Lee dashing out barefooted and bareheaded, in his dressing gown, to rescue Eric Hayward, a 16 year old boy, from a would-be murderer in Gray's Inn Road at midnight on a stormy night. Later, Lee catches a small bomb "as neatly and cleanly as ever a cricketer snapped a lightning snick through the slips" to save a dangerous situation.

Eric is the son of a Marple, Surrey, doctor and was adopted by Jonathan Calvert, the mad millionaire of Marple, whose only living relative was Otto Crouch, a dissolute nephew.

A will naming Eric as the millionaire's heir is lost. Lee obtains half a letter as a clue to its whereabouts in a struggle with Crouch, and the scene then moves north to Durham and Standish Grange, one of Calvert's country homes near Sunderland.

There is still plenty of action, with Nelson Lee surviving death in a flooded underground smoking room, by being hurled over a viaduct, from a runaway train, and from more prosaic shooting!

The story ends in Sheffield, a city, of course, well-known to Maxwell Scott who began his medical and writing careers there. It ends with the arrest and hanging of Crouch, and the coming of Eric into his inheritance, which is placed in the hands of trustees while he completes his education at Rugby and one of the universities.

*Nelson Lee's Pupil*, which re-introduced Nipper, has already been dealt with by myself briefly last year and by our worthy editor elsewhere, as has also *Nipper's Schooldays*, so we will move on to the *Football Detective*, *Boy's Herald* 118/138, Oct. 1905 to March 1906.

Here we are introduced to Frank Goodwin, a young orphan of 25 years of age, who is a machine hand at Brincliffe Ironstone Mines, and inside right for Newport Rovers, for two seasons "Cock of the North". Frank, who has invented a patent drill, is engaged to Maggie Nemo, a mistress at the local Board School, who is in reality the daughter of a stockbroker who has bequeathed her £50,000. She is kidnapped.

Lee is brought into the case by Sir George Halliday, ironmaster, of Fulwood Grange, an old friend, and plays for Newport during his investigations. An old Corinthian, Lee is described by Sir George as "the crack of the Corinthian team and the finest outside right in England". Needless to say, Lee, whose authoritative knowledge of poisons comes in very valuable in this case, is successful again. Maggie comes into her fortune and a husband, after Frank has come into his own money by selling his invention in the right quarter.

In this story, reprinted in Boy's Friend Library No. 62, Lee plays against Blackburn Rovers in the Cup Final at Crystal Palace and scores a vital goal. Spectators include Nipper and his co-ward, Dick Starling, on special leave from St. Ninian's (Perhaps Percy North would like to send us his admirable map and story of St. Ninian's for next year's annual?)

I know nothing about the Black House (Boy's Friend 221-236) and I dealt with Detective Warder Nelson Lee last year, so on again, passing another unknown quantity in Nelson Lee, Soldier Detective, Jester 233-53, to Nelson Lee in the Navy, Boy's Herald 175/194, in which Lee, the "acknowledged head of his profession", is opposed to Jules Delaroché, a Frenchman known as the Prince of Spies, to prevent a grave public scandal, to save the plans of a new secret submarine, and to restore another rightful heir to his estate.

Lee enlists as A.B. Arthur Newman and apart from his aptitude for disguise we discover in this lively tale that he is also a noted billiards player and is, in fact, "the finest amateur cueist in the kingdom." We also learn of Lee's prowess as a ventriloquist, and his knowledge of Arabic and Spanish.

With the successful end of his mission, Lee ensures Britain of the lordship of the underseas for many years to come, "a priceless boon due to the skill and courage of Nelson Lee".

In The Iron Hand, Boy's Herald 207-232, which ran for the latter half of 1907, Nelson Lee and Nipper were opposed to Herman and the League of the Iron hand, another story reminiscent of Birds of Prey and the Order of the King. Here the struggle was for possession of the secrets of a new airship and the additional power it would ensure.

Mackenzie, a Scotsman, and O'Brien, an Irishman, join Lee and Nipper in this struggle which ends with a chase by gunboat to the Azores. This was another popular Scott serial which was later repeated in the Nelson Lee Library, when a bad attempt to bring it up to date brought in an odd version of St. Frank's.

Next we have Detective Nipper which was serialised in the Boy's Realm between The Fighting Fifth (1907) and The New Bowler (360 - 370, April-July 1909). It was reprinted in Boy's Friend Library 483, with reproductions of the original H.M. Lewis drawings on the cover. As the title suggests, this is really Nipper's adventure, and he has a hectic and worrying time searching for his beloved gov'nor and establishing the rights to an inheritance of Harry Wilson, a page boy and ex-pit boy.

Nipper's life is certainly charmed in an adventure which brings us back to familiar ground in Durham. He encounters an old friend in Jack Hartley, he survives trouble with striking pit men, a vicious mastiff, on the train, in a lake, in a blazing barn, in a haunted tower and in a yacht wreck before eventually achieving success. Poor old Nipper, how the humdrum existence at St. Frank's must have irked his adventurous spirit!

From April 1909 to Oct. 1909, readers of the Boy's Realm were regaled by the New Bowler and its sequel Bowled Out, in which Maxwell Scott, aided by E.E. Briscoe's sporting "prints" worked out a thrilling mystery - adventure against the background of the visit to England of the Australian cricketers.

Fascinating accounts of the county games, in which Scott brought in the full county strengths of the day, and the Test matches were told in the author's inimitable style, and read nowadays mirror a notable period of sporting history.

The New Bowler opens with Nelson Lee closing a case in Sydney and being taken by Noble, the Australian cricketer and an old acquaintance, to a Tour trial where Dick Vernon, an "unknown" country bowler distinguishes himself and earns selection for the England visit.

Dick is the farmer son of a British emigrant and farms at Cooma, some 30 miles away from which lives Ruth Sinclair, an orphan, who resides with John Rigg, by whom she had been adopted some years previously. Rigg is shot by David Mendoza and sends Ruth to Abel Tweedie, a shady London solicitor, to gain vengeance. Ruth, now engaged to Dick, sails for England in the same ship as Dick and the Australian cricketers. The whole party stay with Jack and Alice Hartley at Torby Manor, Devon, and Ruth is kidnapped, after which it transpires that Rigg and Mendoza had been members of the notorious Red Hand Gang.

Dick, who owing to a false accusation of theft has left the Tourists and joined Jack Hartley and Nelson Lee in a noted amateur team, the Ramblers, is also kidnapped. Fortunately, Nelson Lee solves the mystery, Ruth and Dick are rescued, the Red Hand Gang is broken up, and Dick resumes his place in the Australian team in time for the decisive Third Test and the opening of the sequel, Bowled Out.

Right from the start of the new serial we find that Dick is really the squire of Fulwood Hall, Kent, and the rest of another finely told story of thrills, sport and mystery is concerned with the efforts of the present squire, the profligate Major Basil Whyte, to prevent Dick and Nelson Lee ferreting out the truth.

Again the cricket "giants" of the period come to vivid life under the clever pen of Maxwell Scott. What a thrill these grand topical sporting yarns must have given the youth of 1909!

And now we come to the Winged Terror, in which Lee and Nipper were working in unison with Sexton Blake and Tinker to prevent the destruction of Britain from the air. This story, in the Boy's Herald from Nov. 1909, to March 1910, followed from the invention of a midget plane by Nelson Lee in the name of Leeson, of Field House, Meadowfield, Surrey.

It was written, said Hamilton Edwards, the editor, to satisfy the demand for more detective tales and to draw the attention of the whole civilised world to the great danger attending the invention of a perfect aeroplane". Prophetic vision?

Our own editor, who is a pronounced Maxwell Scott admirer, writes as follows about this great yarn, which he rightly numbers among his "Stories I Remember".

This serial was a somewhat different Maxwell Scott detective story for, for once, it did not tell of a dispute over vast estates, a missing heir, and a chase through foreign lands. Nevertheless though all the action was confined to

Britain, there was indeed plenty of action.

Another point of interest was that his own favourite detective Nelson Lee worked in harness with Sexton Blake with Nipper and Tinker backing him up. Here is a brief outline of the plot.

John Hansell, once a captain in the British Army had been charged and found guilty of stealing the plans of a new gun, and sent to Blackrock Prison. After serving four years of his sentence, the colonel of the regiment committed suicide leaving a confession that he was the guilty man. Hansell was thereupon given a free pardon and as compensation £200! Even though £200 was a handy sum in those far off days it would not appear the Government was over generous, and one could understand Hansell feeling a little sore.

Anyway whilst in prison Hansell made the acquaintance of another convict, Juan Ruperto, who told him of a vast treasure buried in South America.

On his release from prison Hansell with the help of the £200 goes to South America and recovers the treasure then returns to England to take "his revenge on society" for all he had suffered.

He lost no time. He made the acquaintance of the young inventor of a wonderful aeroplane. - In those early days of flying we talked of biplanes and monoplanes, and this particular one was a biplane of the bigger and more powerful type. Hansell murdered the inventor and stole his machine.

Now comes a good helping of the "long arm". Sexton Blake and Tinker are finishing off a case in a little village in Surrey and whilst there a little monoplane flies over. On investigation they find it belongs to and has, in fact, been invented by none other than Nelson Lee. Lee calls it the "Gadfly". Blake tells his fellow detective that on the following day he is going to see another aeroplane the work of a young inventor Godfrey Blythe. Blake and Tinker do go just as Hansell is getting away with the biplane. The young inventor is dying but he just has time to reveal who the murderer is.

Follows more and more coincidence. It was Nelson Lee who instructed by the War Office ran Hansell down and put him behind bars - first time I've heard of Nelson Lee putting an innocent man there. Hansell intends to take a terrible revenge. A day or two later Nelson Lee flies down to St. Ninian's School where Nipper is having one of his spells of education. It's a great day for the school for the Prince of Wales is there opening some new buildings. Hansell arrives with the intention of making his first blow at society. Consternation reigns as Hansell swoops and takes aim at the Prince with a revolver. Nipper, a member of the school Rifle Corps has a weapon in his hand, takes aim and shoots the revolver from Hansell's hand in the nick of time. The Prince shakes Nipper's hand and expresses his thanks. (You didn't know all that happened to Nipper, you St. Frank's fans, long before he saw your school, did you?) Then Nelson Lee appears in the "Gadfly", chases Hansell, but the villain gets away.

Later Hansell rescues Ruperto from Blackrock Prison. It was Sexton Blake who had put him there. It was not suggested that he, too, was innocent, nevertheless he was out for revenge on the Baker Street man just as was Hansell on Nelson Lee. This in addition to the community in general who hadn't done them any harm.

When I read the story in my youth I thought it was a jolly good yarn. So

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it was seeing it was written for boys, but re-read today one can spot its crudities. It made it evident that Maxwell Scott knew very little about aviation as it was in 1909. Most of his characters took to flying as easily as one learned to ride a bike, whereas the pioneers of those days took their lives in their hands every time they left the earth.

Once Hansell had started his 'campaign against society' the whole country was hunting him yet he managed to keep hidden for quite a time. Maxwell Scott explained it like this. Hansell had his headquarters at Humber Park, near Hull, and each time he set off on a spot of bombing he set off in the dark, set off south, cruised for hours, then made for his target. Damage done he made for home before dawn. All this before Grahame White caused a sensation when he set off just before the sun rose whilst racing Louis Paulham to Manchester for the £10,000 Daily Mail prize.

And, as that favourite author of ours did not know as much about the inside of an aeroplane of 1909 as he did about the innards of his patients he simply explained how his airman kept their machines in the air by saying they "pushed over a lever this way and another lever that way".

Then there were those bombs. They were only little ones about the size of a cricket ball, carried in a padded bag, but my word! they couldn't half cause some destruction. This, in one crisp paragraph, is what he did to Leeds with four of them.

"He dropped two of his bombs on the Town Hall - one of the noblest public buildings in the kingdom - and reduced it to a heap of smoking ruins. He dropped another into City Square, and another on the Parish Church. Then, his dastardly work accomplished, he turned towards the south, with the intention of "flitting about the country" until it was dark enough to return to Humber Park".

Just like that! Atom bombs before their time.

Sheffield Town Hall went the same way as did a couple of London's famous bridges.

But I must not be too unkind in my criticism, for I did enjoy the story way back in 1909.

One part particularly interested me. Nelson Lee and Sexton Blake were in trouble near a village called Escrick a few miles out of York, on the way to Selby. A Lord Lingdale came to their rescue and took them to his residence, Lingdale Manor. Now there happens to be a country mansion in that vicinity called Lingcroft, at that time the home of a well-known county family. In those days, or a little earlier I frequently earned a handy sixpence for delivering telegrams from the village post office just outside York opposite which was my home.

Talking of telegrams that was another curious thing about Maxwell Scott's stories. He seldom thought of the telephone, invariably his characters sent 'a wire'. Even in those days people and places of importance were usually on the 'phone, and a reply would, of course, be obtained more quickly that way, but Maxwell Scott seldom thought of it. But there I am being critical again.

And one must say this for the Yorkshire doctor who wrote stories for boys - he packed as much excitement into one instalment as one finds in the whole length of some modern detective yarns. Nelson Lee and Sexton Blake hardly slept for

weeks, they raced all over the country on foot, by train and car, and through the air. Tinker and Nipper whilst flying a plane fell into the sea, were rescued by Hansell and his gang and imprisoned at Humber Park, from where they made more than one attempt to escape.

Retribution came of course to the villains in the end; it always did in stories written for boys. Ruperto went first, he shot himself, preferring that sort of exit to one by way of the hangman. As for Hansell, in the last instalment after Humber Park had been raided he tried to get away by plan. A soldier who was helping in the raid raised his rifle, took aim and found his mark.

"And when Nelson Lee and Sexton Blake reached the spot where he had fallen, they found John Hansell lying a few yards from the wrecked machine his pallid face upturned to the sky.

So peaceful did he appear that he might have been sleeping. And so he was.

But it was the sleep of death."

Yes, you know, Nelson Lee and Nipper went through some exciting times long before they arrived at St. Frank's, and Blake and Tinker's deeds in the interests of justice were by no means all told in the pages of the S.B.L. and the Union Jack.

Thank you Herbert, for some interesting topical reminiscences, and that reminder of Nelson Lee's and Nipper's activities long before they ever came to St. Frank's.

Out to Win followed, in Boy's Realms 431-445 in 1910, Briscoe, as usual for Realm sporting yarns, being the artist. The serial was reprinted in Boy's Friend Library 437. In this case Nelson Lee helped the Hon. Edgar Bryce, aviator and inventor, and head of the Mornley Motor Engineering Works, to ensure the prosperity of the Mornley Swifts Football Club and their promotion to Division I of the Football League. Here again, the sporting figures of the leading clubs of the period were featured in Scott's usual racy style.

Hero of the piece, in addition to the Hon. Edgar, chairman of the club, is centre forward Fred Forest, an amateur and a member of Jack Hartley's Rambler's cricket team. Hence Hartley and Nelson Lee come into the story at the outset as Lee is staying with Hartley who is having Bryce's works make a new car for him. They are in time to find Forest accused of murdering his uncle, Col. Fairfax - a good old Yorkshire name, of Dale House, Thornley. Briggs, the goalkeeper, knows the truth, but suffers from loss of memory and cannot tell, so Lee becomes a member of The Swifts as the new trainer, Leeson.

Lee keeps the team up to concert pitch, besides solving the case of course, and the Swifts beat Newcastle United for the Cup at Crystal Palace as well as winning promotion on goal average. When Lee's evidence at Highfield Assizes gained Forest's discharge, the judge told him, "For this happy result you owe a lifelong debt of gratitude to Mr. Nelson Lee, who has displayed in this case all those qualities of intellect and courage which have made his name a household word wherever the English language is spoken. For you the case has been a source of the deepest anxiety, no doubt. For Nelson Lee it has been a veritable triumph."

So ended another notable chapter in the sporting detective's case book.

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And now we come to what I consider one of the finest Maxwell Scott stories ever written about Nelson Lee and Nipper, and one which I think has stood the test of time better than the vast majority. It is also one that I would say more than answers Jim Cook's "sparring partner" who made the suggestion some time ago that Nipper lacked breeding.

The serial I am talking about is Long Live the King, which ran in the Boys Friend Nos. 519 dated 20 May, 1911, to 528 dated 22 July, 1911, with illustrations by Val Reading. (The first number is a correction on that given in last year's C.D. Annual.) The background, of course, is the Coronation of King George V, and the opening appears in a Special Empire Number of the Boy's Friend. The cover drawing has a picture of the King inset in an illustration of the incident which begins the new adventure of Lee and Nipper.

The incident is a crash between two London buses, on one of which a passenger is young Prince Alexis, 16-year-old son and heir of the King of Moldavia who was staying at Buckingham Palace as a guest owing to a revolution in his own country. The revolution had been crushed, but the Prince had become such a pal of Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, that he stayed on as a royal guest for the Coronation. Alexis had the normal boy's love of sport and adventure, and was therefore a source of anxiety to his equerry, Col. Sir Harry Langdon, whom he prevailed upon to take him on a bus tour of London.

Balkan spies, Nikolitch and Petkoff, follow them and take advantage of the bus crash to kidnap the Prince, who was stunned. Sir Harry was killed. Alexis is driven to 7, Carson St., home of Count Marcovitch, ex-governor of a large district in Moldavia and prominent revolutionary. The Count wishes to hold Alexis as a hostage to barter for the removal of a sentence of banishment on himself and to regain his confiscated estates.

The next night, Lee and Nipper are among the distinguished audience at Drury Lane for a royal command performance of Money by a cast including Irene Vanbrugh, Sir Charles Wyndham, Winifred Emery, Sir Herbert Tree, Cyril Maude and George Alexander, Laurence Irving and Weedon Grossmith. The King, Queen Mary, and the German Emperor and Empress were also present. At the close of the performance, Nelson Lee is sent for by the King and an historic interview takes place.

"Pray be seated, Mr. Lee," said the King. "It is my wish that all unnecessary formalities should be dispensed with on the present occasion. So for the next half-hour try to forget that I am your Sovereign, and think of me only as a client who is sorely in need of your advice and help."

The King proceeds to tell the famous detective about the kidnapping of Alexis and the scandal which might arise if the news is broadcast that such a fate has befallen a Palace guest. Lee makes the suggestion that Nipper should take up residence at the Palace and impersonate Alexis!

The King rose to his feet and impulsively grasped the great detective's hand. "You're a genius," he cried. "Your plan, as you say, is an audacious one, but I like it none the worse for that! I accept your offer. Bring Nipper here tonight, so that I may introduce him to Prince Edward and the others; and tomorrow he shall make his first public appearance as Prince Alexis of Moldavia."

"And that is how Nelson Lee and Nipper became involved in one of the most thrilling and sensational cases they had ever undertaken."

To say that Nipper was dumbfounded when Nelson Lee told him the news is but feebly to describe his feelings. "Me a prince!" he gasped. "Waited on hand and foot by gilded flunkys! Addressed as Your Royal Highness! Oh, my sainted aunt! Won't I lord it over the giddy menials!"

And so the great impersonation is on, and for the next few weeks Nipper lived and had his being as a prince of the Royal blood, becoming a personal friend of the Prince of Wales with whom he was present at functions in connection with Coronation Year festivities in all parts of the country, including the Prince's investiture at Carnarvon and the Naval Review. On one occasion we find the couple having a quiet sea bathe together. Scott certainly wove the events of the year into a great story, and with Lee searching for the real Alexis into the bargain the youth of Britain in the summer of 1911 must have had a glorious time in their reading material. Lee, too, finds himself frequently in royal company, not only with King George, but later with King Stephen, Alexis's father who arrives in Britain for the Coronation.

The chase ends during the Royal visit to Edinburgh where Lee captures Marcovitch as he tries to shoot King Stephen. Nipper also has a hand in the denouement as he knocks the Count down at the critical moment, prompting King Stephen to observe: "You have saved my life! But for your pluck and presence of mind, he would have shot me through the heart. Never to my dying day shall I forget the service you have rendered me today."

At the State Banquet at Holyrood Palace that night King Stephen gave the assembled guests a toast.

"I ask you to drink with me to the health of Nelson Lee and Nipper," he said, raising his glass. "Nelson Lee, to whom I owe the safety of my beloved son; and Nipper to whom I owe my life. I give you Nelson Lee, the King of Detectives; and Nipper, the Prince of Boy-assistants!"

And the banqueting hall rang with shouts of:

"Long live the King!" "Long live the Prince!" Long live Nelson Lee and Nipper!"

A fitting ending to an outstanding story, and to our own story, for I possess none of the serials which followed so I cannot speak of them at present. However, to conclude, here is a note from Frank Ley on the subject of last year's article.

Further to the article on Nelson Lee in last year's annual, there are a few additions I would like to make for the sake of those others who like myself are interested in tracing the development of Nelson Lee from the early days in the Marvel.

Additions: All Nelson Lee stories.

Pluck 110	No Clue, by Maxwell Scott
" 114	Vengeance " "
" 142	The Mystery of the Old Churchyard
" 158 (Xmas Double No.)	A Xmas Mystery
" 178	One False Step

Correction: Correct title of Pluck 160 is "B.B." A Tale of a London Secret



Society and how it was broken up by Nelson Lee, Detective.

With reference to the list of titles supplied by Mr. Maidment to which he can give no dates, Pluck 174 was entitled Sons of Fire and was a Nelson Lee yarn by Maxwell Scott. It is noted that all the titles he lists are taken from the Detective Library although there were several other titles such as The Aztec Opal, Mystery of the Moor, etc. It seems safe to assume that all the Detective Library titles without exception were rewrites.

There is also one other unrecorded early author of Nelson Lee, namely G.J.B. Anderson who wrote under the name of Melton Whyte. So far I have only been able to trace one story of his where he used the name Nelson Lee, and that was Pluck No. 124 Strange Clues.

The stories of Detective Gordon Gray are also credited to Maxwell Scott by the editor of Pluck and although I have no direct evidence for the statement I am inclined to think that the Scottish detective Derek Clyde was also a creation of Maxwell Scott. Stories of Derek Clyde appeared regularly for many years in the Glasgow Weekly Record but no acknowledgment was ever made to any author but I believe it is known that Scott's relationship with the Amalgamated Press was not always a happy one so that it is quite likely that he would seek other fields. Although as the Glasgow Weekly Record was advertised in the Detective Library I suppose it was an Amalgamated Press Publication. Perhaps our indefatigable Mr. Lofts can help us here. (When I saw Maxwell Scott's son in the summer, I asked him about this, and while he believed it might be true he was unwilling to commit himself definitely at that time. So, over to Bill Lofts - J.W.)

With regard to Jack Wood's reference to the Scout named Nelson Lee, an American Pioneer I remember a very bloodthirsty account of as far as my memory serves, his death at the stake after being tortured by Red Indian in Volume One of Chums.

Correct List of Nelson Lee stories in Detective Library:

1.	The Mystery of Torgreave Hall	M. Scott
2.	The Case of the Kidnapped Engineer	"
3.	The Mystery of the Moor	"
4.	The Aztec Opal a rewrite of Pluck 161.	"
5.	The Vanishing Picture	"
6.	The Jaguars Master	"
7.	The Case of the Six Capsules	"
8.	Sons of Fire a rewrite of Pluck 174	"
9.	The Smoky Pillar	"
10.	The Remarkable Case of the Babylon Brick	"
11.	The Case of the Third Partner	"
12.	The Swinbury Poultry Killing Mystery	"
15.	The House with the Crooked Window	"
17.	The Bogus Butler	"
19.	The Case of the Black Knight	"
20.	The Case of the Horned Frog	"
21.	The Case of Lot "333"	"
22.	The Case of Dr. Man-ling-Su	"
23.	The Man from Sing-Sing	" ?
25.	The Pool of Peril	Sidney Drew

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| 26. The Mystery of the Bottomless Pit                        | ?           |
| 27. Nelson Lee - Circus Hand                                 | Sidney Drew |
| 28. The Mystery of Talgarths Stores                          | ?           |
| 29. Case No. 1. - The Sealed Room                            | E.S.B.      |
| 30. Case No. 2. - The Forged Treaty                          | E.S.B.      |
| 31. Case No. 3. - The Death Chair (Manchester)               | E.S.B.      |
| 32. Nelson Lee in the Potteries (Stoke)                      | E.S.B.      |
| 33. The Affair of the £10,000 Platinum Theft<br>(Birmingham) | E.S.B.      |
| 34. The Golden Football Casket (Glasgow)                     | E.S.B.      |
| 35. Nelson Lee in Lancashire                                 | E.S.B.      |
| 36. Nippers Coup (Hull)                                      | E.S.B.      |
| 29-36 are the Jim the Penman Series.                         |             |
| 37-45 The Brotherhood of the Five Fingers.                   |             |
| 46. Easy Money   | E.S.B.      |
| 47. The Two Signets  | E.S.B.      |
| 48. The Ape's Paw  | E.S.B.      |
| 49. The Three Little Devils                                  | E.S.B.      |
| 50. The Hidden House   |             |
| 35-49 Contain "Nipper at St. Ninians"                        |             |

Sidney Drew is definitely stated to be the author of Nos. 25 and 27. He seems to have been the only author so honoured as to have his name disclosed in this Library.

Further research has just disclosed that The Case of the Kidnapped Engineer Detective Library No. 2 is a rewrite of Pluck No. 178 One False Step so it would appear to be only a matter of time before the others can be traced. Perhaps any readers who may possess early 1/3d Plucks can help.

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