

**VOL. 44**

**STORY PAPER**

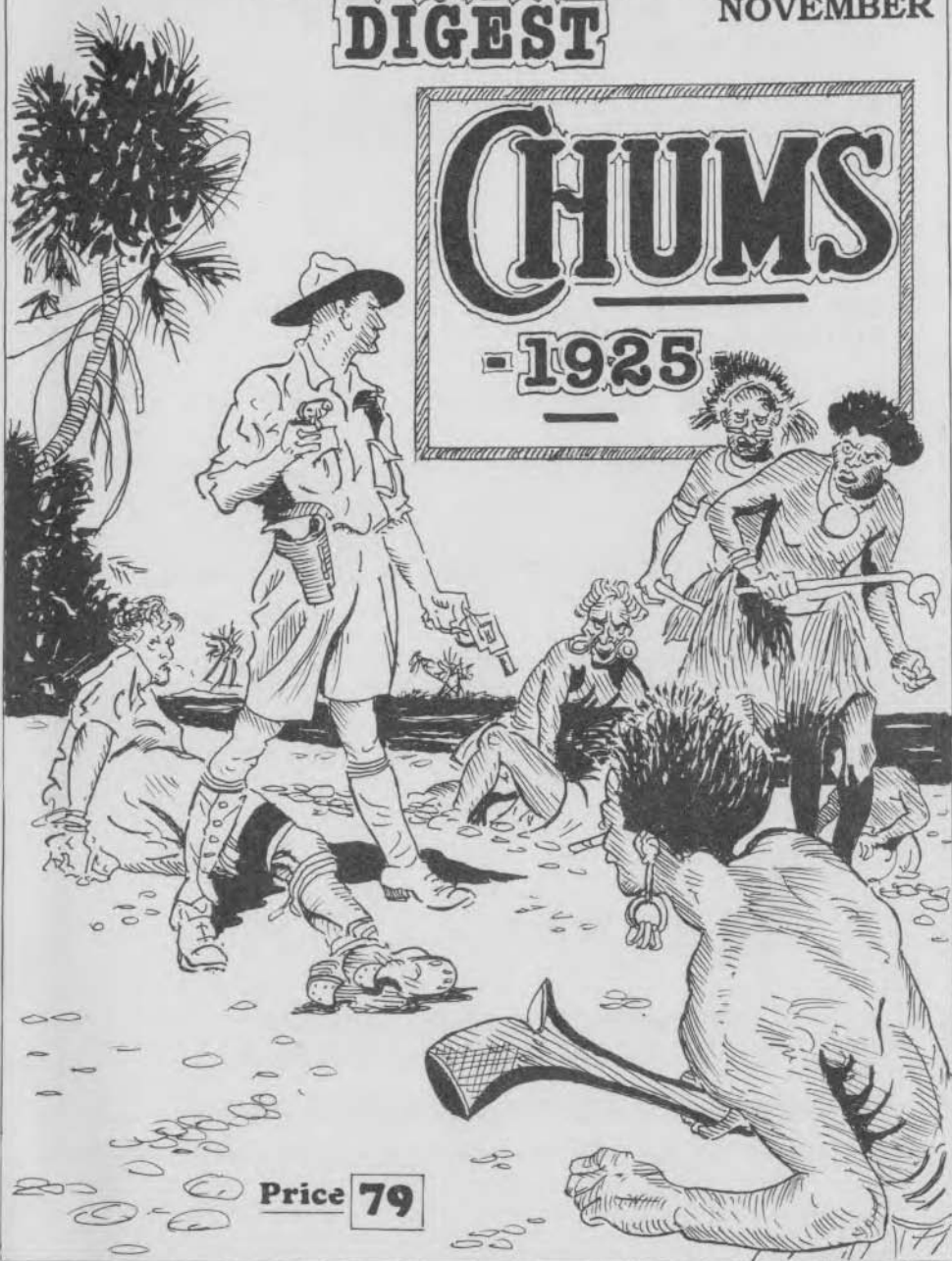
**1990**

**No. 527**

**COLLECTORS  
DIGEST**

**NOVEMBER**

**CHUMS**  
- 1925 -



**Price 79**

**WANTED:** EAGLES, BUNTER HARDBACKS, MONSTER LIBRARIES, S.O.L.s, DETECTIVE WEEKLY, THRILLERS, TRIUMPHS, CHUMS, BOYS OWN ANNUALS, bound volumes, etc.

**IN STOCK:** RED MAGNETS (originals): all HOWARD BAKER FACSIMILES and BOOK CLUB SPECIALS.

MARY CADOGAN books.

HAWK books.

Lots of NELSON LEES, some in bound volumes; also MAGNETS and GEMS.

C.D. ANNUALS, monthly C.D.s.

HAMILTONIA generally, in profusion!

UNION JACKS.

**THOUSANDS OF BOYS PAPERS IN STOCK:** seeing is believing!

Visitors most welcome, but please ring first. If you can't visit, I offer a speedy postal service, but kindly specify wants.

Sorry I cannot issue lists; stocks too large, and change frequently.

**N O R M A N     S H A W**

84 Belvedere Road, London, SE19 2HZ  
Tel. 081 771 9857 (no phoning before 2 p.m.)

Nearest Station: B.R. CRYSTAL PALACE. No tube.

# STORY PAPER COLLECTORS' DIGEST

Editor: MARY CADOGAN

STORY PAPER COLLECTOR

Founded in 1941 by  
W.H. GANDER

COLLECTORS' DIGEST

Founded in 1946 by  
HERBERT LECKENBY

S.P.C.D.: Edited and Published 1959 - January 1987 by Eric Fayne

---

VOL. 44

No. 527

NOVEMBER 1990

Price 79p

---



## *“I Say—”*

---

### FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

During our recent wonderful Indian Summer, I had the very great pleasure of visiting several book clubs where I was able to renew old acquaintances and to meet new members. As always on such visits I was struck by the wonderful spirit of friendship and enthusiasm that inspired events - at the Midland and Northern O.B.B.C. meetings, the W.E. Johns day organized by the latter, and at the Cambridge Club. We are indeed fortunate in our hobby, which seems almost always to produce good fellowship as well as happy reading. I can only echo some words of Charles Hamilton, who described the 'Old Boys' as 'really jolly chaps' and wished that he was more able to get to Club Meetings.

### THE ANNUAL

As November settles upon us, so too does the anticipation of cosy Christmas and winter reading. The C.D. Annual offers its usual feast of nostalgic fare, and, as promised last month, I give you now a further glimpse into its contents. Derek Adley has provided a fascinating article on Charles Hamilton's Jack of All Trades (watch for some interesting revelations concerning these books!); Alan Pratt writes about some of our favourite, quick-on-the-draw cowboys; Marion Waters gives us a lively vignette of that favourite of Secret Societies, the Silent Three; Len Hawkey deals wonderfully comprehensively with The Rookwood Artists; Reg Hardinge writes about the lovely comic, Puck; Desmond O'Leary colourfully describes an adventure of the Hotspur's Red Circle School;



*A Fine School Story Featuring Betty  
Barton & Co.*

By MARJORIE STANTON

Norman Wright contributes a delightful study of the work of the book illustrator Eileen Soper, and your Editor provides a detailed history of, and tribute to, the ever intriguing Tiger Tim and the Bruin Boys. And, as well as this bumper budget of texts and pictures, there is more, which hopefully I shall be able to trail next month.

So - if you have not already done so - please order your copy of the C.D. Annual now. The price is £7.90 in the United Kingdom and £9.50 overseas (both prices include post and packet).

**PLEASE TO REMEMBER...**

Lastly, as this is the month when we recall 'the Fifth of November, Gunpowder, Treason and Plot', I'm illustrating my editorial with the work of that wonderful artist, Leonard Shields. Morcove School hasn't appeared in our pages recently, so I have chosen a scene from one of its Guy Fawkes Day stories. (Other seasonable pictures appear on page 32.)

MARY CADOGAN

\*\*\*\*\*

**OBITUARY - MAURICE HALL**

It is with deep sadness and regret I have to report the death of Maurice Hall. Maurice was aware of his serious illness and wanting to spend some time with his family in the U.S.A.; it was there that he died. The funeral took place in Leatherhead, Surrey, on 18th October.

I first met Maurice in 1976 and immediately felt welcome whenever I was in his company. His enthusiasm and encouragement concerning hobby matters knew no bounds and it was through him that I became even more active and involved.

Maurice was a member of a number of branches of the Old Boys' Book Club, the London Section being on his own patch as it were. In 1983 he was instrumental in founding The Friars' Club in which he held the posts of Chairman and Treasurer from its inception to the very last moment of his life.

His book collection was immense: The Magnet and The Gem were dear to his heart but he had collections of other papers such as Modern Boy and The Thriller and modern day comics too. After many years of pondering and various delays, he published his book "I SAY, YOU FELLOWS" earlier this year and I know that achieving this was a milestone in his hobby life.

I am glad that I had the privilege of knowing Maurice over the years. The hobby will be the poorer without him, and our sympathy and thoughts are with his family.

DARRELL SWIFT

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE BIBLIOPHILE**

by Len Hawkey

When I no longer roam these rooms  
Nor rest in my accustomed chair,  
When books - and records - are dispersed,  
And all the dusted shelves lie bare -  
Some wistful ghost may yet remain,  
To turn the page with tender care  
And hear the music's lilting strain,  
That cheered the soul in yesteryear.  
If not - if parting is complete  
And final - freed from care and pain -  
God grant some other loving heart  
May guard their golden worth again!

\*\*\*\*\*



## FACT AS WELL AS FICTION

by Arthur F.G. Edwards

In his article in the Nelson Lee Column, of the September issue, number 525, Jack Greaves lists alleged 'fictional hamlets, small towns and villages'. Several of those he listed are not fictional but very real. I detected Marks Tey and Shenfield in Essex, and thought Shoeburgness a miss print for Shoeburyness, I then noted that Ripley, Cobham and Esher were in Surrey. If I had time to consult large scale maps of Essex and Surrey I might be able to identify more. Little Haddow may exist, or is it really Little Baddow?

I do not know the context in which E.S.B. set any of the above towns, my Nelson Lee collection has large gaps in it which I am trying to fill, but I am sure that he knew the ones I have listed well, and used them in the right context. Even if and when he created fictional locations, some were thinly disguised adaptations of real ones, Bramley/Bromley, Fleethaven/Thameshaven, Boxvale/Boxmoor, Brentlowe/Brentwood, even Somerton/Somerleyton, and so on.

While writing about a fictional school, E.S.B., like Charles Hamilton and others, had to create an equally fictional environment and location. When characters moved into the real world, real locations were used. When the chums came to London they went to Stamford Bridge and Lords, for example, to have invented locations such as 'Stamcrossing Viaduct' or 'Ladies' would have exposed Brooks to ridicule. If they went to a fictional country then fictional towns could be accepted; if they went to a real country then real towns had to be referred to. I see the use of real locations, when possible, a strength not a weakness.

## A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT THE SAVOY HAVANA BAND

(inspired by E.S. Brooks) by Jack Greaves

After reading Nelson Lee Old Series 512 "*Freed from Bondage*" I was agreeably surprised when the author briefly mentioned The Savoy Havana Band:

"Mr. Pycroft had proceeded into the Modern House for assistance when he had heard noises in the scrubbery. He appeared five minutes later dragging Reynolds and Carlisle with him. The two Prefects pulled forcibly away



from an impromptu foxtrot, the music for which had been supplied by the Savoy Havana Band, via Reynolds' 4 valve wireless set, were by no means overjoyed."

This band first broadcast around September 1923 and became the first dance-band to make regular broadcasts on the B.B.C., relayed from the restaurant dance floor of the hotel itself.

I'm sure many of our older readers will remember the Band in those far off early days of broadcasting, and will have pleasant memories of the many tunes they featured on the air and of course through their many recording sessions.

GOLDEN ERA DANCE BANDS



The Savoy Havana Band first went into the recording studios in 1921 under its original name of The New York Havana Band (at the Savoy Hotel). Its leader, Bert Ralton, had come over to London on holiday with the nucleus of his New York Havana Band which he had been leading in Havana, Cuba, hence its name, and stayed here and several British musicians were added to the personnel.

During 1923 it changed its name to the more familiar Savoy Havana Band and continued recording until about November 1927, and during the period from 1921-27 many popular titles were released. It recorded mainly on two record labels - Columbia, up to early December 1924, and afterwards on the H.M.V. label. It did, however, make quite a number of recordings on other labels, but, when this occurred, pseudonyms had to be used in order, I suppose, not to appear to be breaking their contract with the two main companies.

Here are these pseudonyms:

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Broadway Band              | The Coliseum Dance Orchestra  |
| The Savoy Harmonists           | The Broadway Band             |
| The Sutherland Dance Orchestra | The Corona Dance Orchestra    |
| The Esplanade Dance Orchestra  | The Avenue Dance Orchestra    |
| The Whitehall Dance Orchestra  | The Virginia Dance Orchestra  |
| The Beltona Dance Orchestra    | The New York Casino Orchestra |
| The Guardsman Dance Orchestra  |                               |

Ramon Newton, who played violin under Bert Ralton's and, later, Reg Batten's leadership, was the band's featured vocalist. Ramon, though an accomplished player, often the soloist in the waltz numbers, was chiefly known for his vocal choruses on such song hits as "Show me the way to go Home", "Dream Daddy", "What'll I Do?", "All Alone", "I wonder what became of Sally?", "Valencia", "When you and I were Seventeen", etc., all nostalgic tunes of the 1920's.

Other prominent members during this period were Rudy Vallee on saxophone and pianist Billy Mayerl. Rudy returned home to the States in 1925 and became very popular as a film star and crooner with his own outfit, The Connecticut Yankees.

The Savoy Havana Band together with its contemporary, The Savoy Orpheans, paved the way in those early days of broadcasting to what was the start of a superb period of British Dance Music, which was to last until the commencement of the 1939-45 war. I am indebted to Chris Hayes for his excellent booklet "Dance Music at the Savoy Hotel 1920-7" and to Brian Rust's and Sandy Forbes' book, "British Dance Bands on Record (1911-1945)".

\*\*\*\*\*



## A SEXTON BLAKE HARBACK

by John Bridgwater

From time to time a previously unknown hardback containing stories from the saga comes to light and data about it duly appears in C.D. I cannot remember reading anything about the book described below and so offer it as an addition to the ever increasing list.

This book is bound in red, the binding case similar in colour and material to that used by Hodder & Stoughton for their 2/- Edgar Wallaces etc, with the cover from S.B.L. 2nd series No 329 of 7.4.32 securely glued to the front of the book. A red star-shaped label giving the price of 2/- is stuck on the top right overlapping the skull logo. There is no title on the spine. An Amalgamated Press title page, printed in blue, reads as follows:- "You will enjoy the stories in this fine big volume, and if you would like to read others they can be obtained in any of the following series, published on the first Thursday in each month, priced 4d. each: Boys' Friend Library - Sexton Blake Library - Football and Sports Library - Schoolboys Own Library - Champion Library". Below appears a dagger design and "Published by The Amalgamated Press Limited, The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, E.C.4".

The contents comprise six 2nd series S.B.L.s, No 327 "The Consulting Room Crime" by Mark Osborne, No 328 "Murder in the Air" by Coutts Brisbane (this includes the page iii of the cover which gives the last page of the story), No 329 "The Cup Final Crime" by Lester Bidson, No 330 "The Waiting Room Mystery" by Allan Blair, No 331 "The Fatal Mascot" by Anthony Skene, No 332 "The Secret of the African Trader" by Rex Harding. All these are bound without covers in the order given.

The cover price suggests it was published about the time the contents appeared in their 4d. version, but it was rather unusual for Blake hardbacks to appear in the 1930's. Was there any special reason for the publication of this book? Was it part of an advertising campaign as the title page seems to indicate? Can any of our experts throw any light on this?



The snippet below is from page 8 of *Union Jack* (8th June 1929). No fewer than 6 of the master detective's films were on general release at the same time.

## SEXTON BLAKE on the FILMS

*Various of the series of Sexton Blake 2-reel films, titles as enumerated, are being shown at the following places next week, beginning Mon 27th. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in this list, but in case of occasional alteration of dates, etc., after we have gone to press, personal enunciation at your local cinema is recommended. The figure following the name of the theatre in each case denotes the number of days the film is showing, commencing from the date given. The letter refers to the title of the film, as follows: D—Mystery of the Silent Death; T—Silken Threads; O—The Great Office Mystery; G.—Sexton Blake, Gambler; S.—The One of the Second Gullet; L.—Blake the Lookalike.*

Commencing Monday, June 10th,				Commencing Thursday, June 13th,			
1929.				1929.			
Town	Cinema	Days Showing and Film		Town	Cinema	Days Showing and Film	
Aberystwyth	Palladium	6 O		Aberdare	Palladium	3 G	
Addlestone	Arcadia	3 L		Adwick le St.	Empire	3 L	
Birkenhead	Empire	3 O		Attercliffe	Pavilion	3 O	
Birmingham	Futurist	6 G		Bury	Star	3 O	
Birmingham	Dudley Road	3 S		Darlington	Empire	3 G	
Brecon	Palace	3 S		Didcot	Coronet	3 L	
Carlton	Victoria	3 O		Drogheda	Boyna	3 O	
Cheetham	Globe	2 O		Dumbarton	Pic. House	3 G	
Coventry	Cupid	3 L		Garston	Empire	3 S	
Farndon	Palace	3 D		Herne Bay	Red Lantern	3 O	
Goole	Tower	3 O		Kingswinford	Grand	3 L	
Grimbsby	Oxford	3 O		Kirkby Lonsdale	Cinema	1 S	
Grimbsby	Savoy	3 S		Leeds	Easy Road	3 O	
Hightown	St. James	3 T		Market Drayton	Town Hall	1 D	
Hull	Ritz	3 L		Moston	Adelphi	2 O	
Leicester	Coliseum	2 O		New Ferry	Lyceum	3 O	
Liverpool	Palladium	3 S		Nuneaton	Hippodrome	3 T	
Liverpool	Super	3 S		Selby	Hippodrome	3 S	
Long Eaton	Scala	3 T		Swindon	Central	3 G	
Margate	De Luxe	3 L		Tipton	Regent	3 L	
Moreton	Pic. House	3 T		Totnes	Cinema	3 T	
Morepeth	Playhouse	3 D		Wakefield	Coliseum	3 O	
Pontefract	Playhouse	3 T		Wallasey	Capitol	3 S	
Sale	Palace	2 O		Woodseats	Palace	3 L	
Saltburn	Kosy	2 O					
Sheffield	Heeley Pal.	3 S					
Shiremoor	Palace	3 L					
Stockport	Wellington	3 G					
Sunderland	Pic. House	3 S					
Waltham	Coliseum	3 S					
Commencing Wednesday, June 12th,				Commencing Friday, June 14th,			
1929.				1929.			
Leicester	Olympia	2 O		Leicester	Shaftesbury	2 O	

*The Sexton Blake film will be shown in picture-houses all over the country. WATCH OUT FOR THE NAME OF YOUR TOWN!*  
*N.B.—Copies of the famous Sexton Blake bust may be obtained at most cinemas showing the films, at which application should be made.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**UP TO £20 PAID** for good bound volume of B.O.P. 1921-22 containing 'Treasure of Kings' by Major Charles Gilson. Offers to H. WEBB, 74 Whitland Close, Stoke Park, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9YT.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WANTED** by Collector: Pre-1970 Williams, Bunters, Blytons, Biggles, Brent-Dyers, in dustwrappers. Also Rupert and other Annuals, Comic giveaways, Original artwork, associated Ephemera. High prices paid, or exchanged. JOHN BECK, 29 Mill Road, Lewes, Sussex.

\*\*\*\*\*



## MARTIN STEEL AND HIS TWELVE LADY ASSISTANTS

by W.O.G. Lofts

Believe me, there have been some really remarkable colourful and sensational detectives in our favourite boys and girls papers and comics, some going to the extreme of absurdity by having pets as assistants. Dogs, of course, can be accepted, remember Rin-tin-tin, Valerie Drew's dog, Flash, and our own Pedro in the Blake saga? But to have a gorilla, a parrot, and other animals is stretching it a bit far. More so, when the former, after every successful conclusion of a case is rewarded with a cigar or banana!

And one must not forget that Sexton Blake, in his early days before Tinker, had an assistant named "Griff" who was supposed to be half man, half beast. Until they find the "Yeti" I have my doubts if any such creature does exist.



From out the gloom a weird-looking crystal hand came gliding towards them.

In the unusual and, I suppose, rather quaint category, I would place Martin Steel and his Twelve Lady Detectives as being the most plausible. So quaint were they, that many years ago, in correspondence with the now late Fred Danny (one half of

the famous "Ellery Queen" detective writer combination) I mentioned this series to him. He was most interested in Martin Steel, considering that this was part of the social history of the detective scene when King Edward the Seventh was on the throne. He was toying with publishing a story in his monthly magazine, but in the end the poor literary content of the episodes halted the idea.

Martin Steel first appeared in the white Comic Cuts on the 27 April 1907, in a story entitled 'The Countess of Charmian's Coronet', published anonymously. However, later it was proved that the series had been written by a team, including Fred Cordwell, G.J.B.Anderson, F. Barry and C. W. Masterson.

Steel was a striking man with dark piercing eyes, who smoked cigars, and had a plainly furnished room at his Inquiry Bureau. Round the room were stacks of pigeon holes, ceiling high sets of drawers, and such a thick carpet and underlays that visitors used to leave footprints on the floor! Even suspicious visitors would easily leave their trade-mark! Martin Steel actually employs all the twelve girl assistant detectives at his office to help him on cases. When not active (with him away) they usually occupy a room next door, carrying out general office duties. Steel keeps a photograph of each in a drawer, then selects the most apt for the investigation that is pending. All the girls are beautiful, and aged between 17 and 27. They have their hair in the various styles of 1907, some with the hair all down, and some with it half up; some with it coiled in serpentine clusters around the crown of their well-shaped heads, brunettes and blondes being the most popular colours. Their names are Dolly, Ruby, Edith, Muriel, Marie, Doris, Winifred, Lily, Gertie, Sadie, Evelyn, and Blanche. Indeed, some of the team of writers had great difficulty in remembering all their names, as one used the name of Iris, (though a plausible explanation is that one had left for some reason since the series had started, and been replaced).



As mentioned earlier, the stories were poor in literary content; in fact they were sheer melodrama seemingly outdated at that period. They did run until 1919, but the tales were becoming shorter all the time, till they only covered half a page, with some tales not mentioning Steel's assistants at all!

Curiously, there was another detective named 'Martin Steel', created by Fergus Hume (world famous for his book, "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab") in 1903 in a novel "A Coin of Edward the Second". This one was a small, dapper detective from Scotland Yard.

\*\*\*\*\*



By

ROGER M. JENKINS

No. 236 - Gem No. 201 - "Ashamed of His Sister"

In December 1911, when this story was published, the Gem was well on the way to one of its splendid times when week after week a single story would appear on a completely fresh topic. In Gem 201 the story revolved around Valentine Bishop, a petulant youth rather given to swanking. He was, of course, the sort of character who would appear in one story and then was never heard of again, though no mention was ever made of the fact that he had left the school.

Charles Hamilton seems to have entertained a keen dislike for people who pretended to be better than they really were. Bishop talked so much about his place and his people that the general impression was that he came from a wealthy family. The truth was that his father was growing old and straining every nerve to keep his son at a decent school, his mother had to patch and save, and his sister Maud spent her time sewing to provide her brother with pocket money, her fingers showing signs of long contact with a needle. When Maude arrived to visit her brother at the school with her plain dress "of materials cheaper than those worn by the maids at St. Jim's", Bishop's boasts were clearly seen to be empty and foolish, and of course Levison and Mellish made the most of the situation. It was Cousin Ethel who championed Maud Bishop, and in the end her brother saw the error of his ways.

E.S. Turner in his book "Boys Will Be Boys" quoted a few paragraphs from this story, tongue in cheek one might suggest, for the theme was far from sophisticated, with both Valentine and Maud in tears at times. In those days, Charles Hamilton was prepared to deal with basic human emotions of all kinds, and Bishop's changing moods of resentment, guilt, and sorrow were expertly depicted, with some sensitivity. Later stories about schoolboys who were ashamed of their relatives tended to be more outrageous and even slightly comic at times. In a way, the story of Valentine bishop was treated with more tenderness and compassion than the author accorded to similar stories at a later date.

If there is a valid criticism to be made about tales of boys from poor homes, it is that their parents would, in reality, be far more likely to pay the relatively small fees at the local grammar school than attempt to meet

the enormous expenses of a famous public boarding school. The reason why poor boys like Bishop and Linley appeared in the Gem and the Magnet is that they were designed to increase the appeal of the papers by widening the social spread of boys in the stories, but Bishop, Brooke, and Penfold soon faded into the background, and the author was hard put to it to feature Linley very much. It may be that the Amalgamated Press later discovered that readers did not want to pay their money to read about financial stringency if they were already acquainted with it in their own lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOUIS GUNNIS - AN ARTIST'S LIFE

by Len Hawkey

August of this year marked not only the 50th Anniversary of the writer's recruitment into H.M. Forces (which, of course, spelt the ultimate overthrow of the Third Reich), but, more importantly, the passing of one of the best, and most prolific, magazine artists of the first half of this Century.

Louis Gunnis is not a name as familiar to us as, say, his friend G.W. Wakefield, or that of Leonard Shields, but he certainly deserves to be remembered, working as he did for "Rainbow" and "Tiger Tim's" on the one hand, "The Sketch" and "Illustrated London News" on the other; indeed, from becoming an R.A. in his early 20s, he worked unceasingly for 50 years on periodicals of every description.

His father, James Gunnis, was Musician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria, and Louis, born at Windsor, in 1864, was christened in the Royal Chapel. Educated in London, at St. Olave's, and an engraver's apprentice at 15, he attended Lambeth Art School, winning some prestigious awards. When he was barely 24, the Royal Academy accepted one of his paintings in 1887, and others were accepted and hung for several years after, up to 1897.

In 1898 he married, and within a few years had three daughters. His happy family life ended in 1905, when his wife died suddenly. Determined to provide for his trio of little girls, he concentrated on illustrative work, mostly for the publishers, Hendersons. His quality was already apparent from magazines like "The Quiver", "The Strand", Jerome K. Jerome's "The Idler", etc. He had also contributed to Cassell's

LOUIS GUNNIS



excellent "World of Adventure" volumes, as well as "Chums", and even the "1/2d Marvel". Some of his very best, vigorous illustrations can be found in Henderson's short-lived "Boy's Champion Story-Paper" of 1901-1903.



"Factor sprang upon the Spaniard and brought him to the deck."

### *BOY'S CHAMPION (1902)*

In 1909 he joined the Hulton Press, and with his daughters moved to Manchester. The cartoon of Louis, then in his mid-40s, was done by a colleague of that period. When war broke out in 1914, although too old for active service, he came back to London, and the staff of the Amalgamated Press. Over the remainder of his life he drew in nearly all their periodicals - the writer can account for at least 40 such publications, e.g. "The Boys' Friend", "Dreadnought", "Union Jack", "Young Britain", "Champion", "Rocket", etc. From the mid-twenties, like Arthur White, Louis Smyth, and others, he was switched to children's papers, including Annuals ("Bubbles", "Chuckles", "Playbox", "Sunbeam", "Tiger Tim's", and "Playtime") and even comics like "Lot O'Fun" and "Chips". In many of these he specialised, along with H. Stanley White, Vincent Daniel, etc., in pictorial "strips" and serials of the "Rob the Rover" type. "Puck", "The Rainbow" and "My Favourite" featured these regularly.



"A burly wretch dashed at Guy with a dagger."

### *BOY'S CHAMPION 1902*

In his Henderson years, Louis had worked alongside a young "Billy Wakefield", and now, at Fleetway House, he found one of his colleagues was "Billy's" son, Terry! In 1935, Terry Wakefield, a staunch friend of our magazine until his sad death last year, married Irene Gunnis, one of those three daughters Louis had so ably raised. In an article Terry wrote for another champion of the "old papers", Denis Gifford, he described his late father-in-law as tall, ramrod straight in every way, and as being a popular companion and raconteur, a true "Victorian" gentleman, at all times courteous and well-mannered.

In 1936 this veteran of the old school, who although now 72 was still travelling from his home in Clapham to Farringdon Street, once more submitted a painting to the Royal Academy. In 1938, after a gap of over 40 years, a canvas was accepted! Unfortunately, because of a surfeit of pictures of the previous year's Coronation, his work, like many others, was not hung, but unperturbed he carried on and we are told he was still at work on the day, in August 1940, when a German daylight raider scored a direct hit on his house.



Blake was at the threshold the moment when Shanghai Charlie lifted his foot and drove the sash of the window clean out. There was a crash of glass as the shattered panes tumbled to the ground outside, and then the strangler leaped through the opening without pausing to judge the distance.

UNION JACK 1929

So perished Louis Gunnis, and it was perhaps not without irony that it should have been in that very summer which saw the passing of so many of the periodicals and magazines his pen had embellished for so long a period.

\*\*\*\*\*



**P. MAHONY (Eltham):** The Western Library Amalgamated Press Publications 1950s. I have seven "Lucky Lannagan" stories from the above - written by John Hunter. At least two of them, "The Guns of Lannagan" and "Lannagan Horns In" are excellent stories, well written, strong in character-drawing and intricately plotted. I assume that John Hunter is the same man who wrote many of the Sexton Blake stories.



Could the C.D. organise some research into Hunter and Lannagan? I have tried via the *Book Collector*, and drawn no response.

To start the ball rolling, my information is: WESTERN LIBRARY:-

- No. 3 The Guns of Lannagan
- No. 13 Lannagan's Luck
- No. 15 Go for Your guns, Lannagan!
- No. 22 Look Behind You, Lannagan!
- No. 52 Lannagan versus Trouble
- No. 62 Lannagan Horns In
- No. 101 Lannagan Fights Through

Each volume contains 64 pages, with brightly coloured front covers - same size as old S.O.L.s - original cost 7d, rising to 9d for later ones.

Lannagan also appeared in:

- No. 10 The Trail Leads to Lannagan

and, I suspect, in:

- No. 2 Quick on the Trigger

which is definitely by John Hunter. I do not have either of these copies.

The Lannagan character, a cheerful but deadly saddle-tramp, is strongly drawn and displays a lot of admirable qualities - courage, hardness, common-sense, kindness to **good** women and horses - but there is an ever-present 'fiddling' streak; he generally manages to line his own pockets! He is particularly ruthless with villains and **bad** women - altogether an excellent and interesting character.

It would be of great interest if your contributors could throw some more light on this. Here's hoping!

**BILL LOFTS (London):** In answer to Len Hawkey's query on those 1906 Boys Realm Sexton Blake stories, there were I believe 14 in one run, and several odd ones in 1907. Although anonymous they were penned by William Murray Graydon as far as I know and completely original. The stories introduced two of Graydon's popular characters, Inspector Widgeon and Mathew Quinn the wild beast agent, who also appeared in the Union Jack and Sexton Blake Library.

I greatly enjoyed the article on the Rover Annual by D.J. O'Leary, and at first greatly admired the seaside beach view on page 25, noting the difficult drawing of the deck chair. But then I noticed the almost pitchfork type of hands on the characters. Why is it that so many artists spoil their work by not drawing them properly?

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WANTED:** Modern Boys, bound or singles. Bound vols. of The Gem, Nelson Lee, Biggles and Captain Justice, Boys' Friends Library. Other bound volumes of Story Papers for my collection. Many Howard Baker volumes required. P. GALVIN, 2 The Lindales, Pogmoor, Barnsley, S. Yorks., SY5 2DT. Tel. 0226 295613.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HAMILTONIA ALL TYPES:** WANTED especially Holiday Annuals all years, Howard Baker Press and Club volumes, Dustwrapped Biggles, Bunters, Williams, Enid Blyton, Malcolm Saville, Jennings. Generous prices paid. Contact: COLIN CREWE, 12b Westwood Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Tel. 0268 693735, Evenings 7.15 - 9.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some of the more elusive items of William whimsy are the cards issued by Valentine's during the 1920s in their 'Thomas Henry Series'. As far as is known only two William cards were issued in the series and both of them are now extremely rare. The first, depicting William peeping out from under a sofa, would seem to have been issued in mid 1927. My copy bears the postmark 5th August 1927. The second card, entitled "Expect Me Any Minute", was issued at around the same time. It shows William in typical high spirits sliding down the banister towards a courting couple.

A few days after I found my copy of "Expect Me Any Minute" I obtained a copy of "The William Companion". There on page 190 was an illustration of the picture on my card. It seems that it originally appeared on the cover of "Sunny Mag" for April 1927 and that the postcard rights were granted to a firm called Francis and Mills. It appears that Valentines bought the rights from the smaller firm and added it to their range of Thomas Henry Series cards. They were obviously keen on the item, for my copy was one given free at the 1928 British Industries Fair. Both cards are items that any William collector would be keen to add to his or her collection.



YOU'LL BE SURPRISED TO HEAR FROM ME

EXPECT ME ANY MINUTE

\*\*\*\*\*

If it is indeed true that today's University entrants have to depend so much more than previously on Academic achievements (with other interests only secondary) then I find myself musing over the Greyfriars Remove. 'Going Up' we called it, in my School days - well, who from the Lower Fourth eventually found their way into the Sixth? Anyway, let's take a look, starting at the beginning of the Remove Passage.

Harry Wharton and Frank Nugent from Study No. 1 - no doubt there. Study 2 would have sent along Tom Brown, Hazeldene would at best only have been an 'also ran', and Bulstrode had departed quite a time ago. Russell and Ogilvy most likely would have kept going, as also the two from next door. Studies 3 and 4 well represented, to the full, in fact; Redwing would never have been in doubt and Smithy - well, the Bounder always knew which foot to put forward when it mattered! Study No. 5 - now, who on earth occupied this room? The long-gone Hilary, perhaps - and Oliver Kipps - the latter unlikely to have conjured his way much farther. **Maybe**, Morgan of the 6th Study would have made the grade, but no one else, for Wibley would never have found the 'studying' time and Micky Desmond would have discovered a very hard row to plough; Rake had already left.



In the noted No. 7 Study, Peter Todd, of course, would have 'made it'. Tom Dutton a possible 'perhaps', but rather doubtful. Alonzo Todd was, as so frequently happened, conspicuous only by his absence - and it does not take much reasoning to decide that, if a fat boy ever entered the Sixth Form, it could never be W.G.B.! That 'odd' Study - No. 8 - is believed at times to have contained Elliott (sometimes he was in Bolsover's Study) and the mysterious Smith Minor. Elliott went to the Colonies and Smith MI, 'somewhere'. Monty Newland and Dick Penfold would have carried the flag upwards for Study 9, from which Trevor and Treluce were but memories. Little Dupont and burly Percy Bolsover would merely be recalled as occupying No. 10 and for 'being on the School Register' - no more! As for the 'shades' of No. 11, Skinner and Snoop would have finally passed through the gates

long before the time for the Sixth arrived. Stott - yes, he MIGHT just have made the step.

Mauly and his relative, Jimmy Vivian, would never have graced the Sixth, - and Delarey never had 'belonged' in No. 12 anyway! No. 13 would have been a LUCKY Study in having three out of four enter the Sixth. One does not have to ask if Mark Linely would have been good enough, and Inky was probably far better 'on paper' than in speech. Little Wun Lung would have departed sadly, being "velly solly to leave ole Bob Chelly". What, though, of Bob? Yes, he would have made it - only by the skin of his teeth, in a very uphill struggle. One of the few times in his youth that Bob may not have remembered as 'jolly'. Field and Bull from Study 14 would have taken the necessary strides to 'get there'; it would sure have been 'fierce' if Fishy had also stayed on - what a hope, anyway!

Prefects? - perhaps ten of them, at most. Wharton, of course - Head Prefect, as well as School Captain - and his colleagues in the Prefects' Room? Frank Nugent, Tom Brown, Tom Redwing and Herbert Vernon-Smith; the latter, because determination would see him through. Peter Todd, Newland, Penfold - they would be ideal material; Hurree Singh and Mark Linley would also have fitted themselves well into such places, but again, what of Bob? If he made it to the Sixth - of course he did - would he have made a suitable Prefect? An enthusiastic one, true, so let's keep him there. Johnny Bull and Squiff must be included. Which makes more than ten. Well, can you cut it down?

At which point in my flight of fancy, I have decided it is time to return to earth. Going down!

\*\*\*\*\*

## CLIFF HOUSE DIARY

Edited by Barbara Redfern  
and Margery Woods)

November 1990

I can hardly believe that November is here already. It seems only days since we came back from our exciting holiday on Santos. But now the long dark evenings have that damp chill of impending winter in the air.

The new term started uneventfully, for a change. We had two new girls, both of them for the Third. One of them is a shy, nervy little mite called Tina, the other is a lively imp with black hair and mischievous eyes. I reckon she can take care of herself but Doris, my young terror of a sister, has been warned by none other than Primmy herself that there must be no outrageous ragging of the Tina child. So we were keeping our fingers crossed and a discreet eye on the Third during the Hallowe'en frolics last week.

Mabs says those kids are far too sophisticated now. None of the old-fashioned turnip lantern and candle affair we used to have. Doris must have really wheedled her way round our father for extra pocket money because she emerged after prep on the 31st in a full witch's outfit complete with a really evil looking old crone's mask. It must have cost a mint. And young Madge was capering about like a demented demon in a flowing black cloak, wild locks and a really scary mask with horns. Most of their form cronies were arrayed in equally weird gear, all trying to frighten each other witless. But everything passed off harmlessly, or so we thought at the time, and they giggled their pre-bed hour away while we roasted chestnuts in the

Common-room and swapped ghost stories by the flickering firelight. By the time we began making our way up to the dorm most of us had reached that deliciously shivery state of giggles, and a reluctance to venture anywhere dim and shadowy on our own.

Bessie, as usual, was seeing a ghost in every waft of a curtain and shape of a dressing gown on a peg. She didn't get much sympathy, I'm afraid. After all, she didn't have to scoff our chestnuts and listen to our ghost stories. But the suggestion that she could have stayed in the study with the light on and day-dreamed of vast tables laden with luscious food did not meet with her approval. She clung to Mabs and me like the proverbial limpet, even during teeth-cleaning and ablutions, and eventually subsided into bed. We heard the rustlings into her locker, and then the champing of the Bunter jaws on whatever she had secreted away there---strictly against school rules---until sleep overtook her and the familiar Bunter snores began to reverberate through the dorm. Clara says if you can sleep through Fatima's snufflings and snortings you can sleep through anything.

Peace descended and I seemed to have been asleep for only a few minutes when a frightful shriek had us all bolt upright in our beds, rubbing our eyes and wondering what on earth had happened. Clara, always the bravest, jumped out of bed and ran to switch on the lights. There was nothing to be seen except startled figures sitting up in their beds and clutching sheets to their chins. Except that one ample figure was missing. Mabs sighed, Clara groaned, and we got into our dressing gowns and went in search of our frightened Bess.



By  
HILDA  
RICHARDS



## BESSIE BUNTER'S 'SPECTRE'

We found her down by the study. We also found a great commotion, which wasn't surprising; Bessie's shriek had woken almost everybody in the school. Miss Bullivant, her hair sticking up in funny little knots on her head and her glasses slightly lopsided on her angular nose, was trying to stem the encroaching crowd of girls and quiet them. Bessie was crying that

she'd seen the ghost of the White Lady, and the Bull looked as though she'd like to consign the fat duffer to the mercies of that mysterious spectre. Mabs and I grabbed Bessie and made all the usual soothing noises of reassurance and started to escort her back up to the dorm, and then suddenly we heard a frightened gasp from Doris, who with Madge had crept out of the corridor and along to the landing overlooking Big Hall. I forgot Bessie and ran to Doris, and gasped as I looked down into the shadowy cavern of the staircase. There was the misty white figure, seeming almost to float above the old polished oak treads. The Bull had followed and she caught my arm. "Get the girls back to the dorm, Barbara", she hissed. "On no account must she be wakened."

And now we could understand the Bull's concern. For Bessie's White Lady was the small, sleep-walking figure of little Tina, the timid newcomer to the Third.

Unless by some miracle lapse of memory Miss Bullivant has forgotten this disturbing incident by next year, I'm afraid Hallowe'en celebrations may be banned. Obviously the child's over fertile imagination had been affected by the antics of the Third formers with the result she had wandered abroad in her sleep, something apparently she had been prone to since a bad illness. The Bull proved both wise and understanding, and the child made her way sure-footedly back to the dorm and her own bed, where the Bull put an extra warm covering over her with a gentleness we'd never suspected in that formidable lady.

Of course if the Bull does ban future Hallowe'en celebrations Bessie is much to blame. She had wakened with a fearful hunger, made unbearable by the knowledge that Marcelle had had a gorgeous hamper of luxury French tuck sent by her brother from Paris. So Bessie had decided just to have a look at Marcelle's hamper, so that she would know what to hint about at tea next day. Naughty, but our Bess will never change!

You will notice that we have no contribution from Jemima this month. Our Jemima is slightly put out, and you know that Jimmy rarely gets ruffled. But she has had a lecture from her father, and one from the Charmer, and another from Sarah Harrigan, who fancies herself as a judge of literary merit, about using slang and clichés in her recent Diary jottings. So Jemima has warned me that, as her next contribution will be faultlessly constructed in flawless prose, it will take considerably longer to compose and will also require a great deal of extra column space to accommodate the flowing prose when the lazy short cuts can no longer be used! She reckons it may take as long as a couple of years to polish it up to the satisfaction of her critics. So now you know!

While we await Jemima's belles-lettres the Diary must meet its deadlines, clichés and all! Next month we shall be recalling some of our favourite Christmasses. Till then, be happy. And take care with those fireworks on the 5th!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WANTED:** £20 each offered for "*Boys Friend Libraries*" featuring BIGGLES. £15 each offered for Biggles jigsaw puzzles. £3 each offered for "Happy Mags". £15 offered for B.F.L. no. 204, "Crooked Gold". Original artwork of Bunter, etc., always wanted. NORMAN WRIGHT, 60 Eastbury Road, Watford, WD1 4JL. Telephone: (0923) 32383.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## POSTSCRIPT TO 'BIGGLES AND THE FAIR SEX'

By David Gillard

It may be true - as Jennifer Schofield asserts in her excellent assessment of 'Biggles and the Fair Sex' (CD no. 526) - that 'small boys want action, not soppy stuff'. But this one-time small boy was, at the age of eleven, absolutely riveted by Biggles's first encounter with Marie Janis in 'Affaire de Coeur' (*The Camels Are Coming*). At last - a bit of romance for my hero! I remember the final few paragraphs, in which Marie writes to say 'My last thought will be of you. We shall meet again, if not in this world then in the next, so I will not say good-bye, Au revoir...' and Biggles responds by kissing the letter 'tenderly', bringing a sizeable lump to the throat. Well, it was all very unexpected, a story quite unlike any other Biggles adventure I had read (and I had read most of them).

This was in 1958, seven years before Johns was to engineer their reunion in *Biggles Looks Back*. So I decided to write to him, care of his publisher, asking if Biggles ever did meet Marie again. I enclose a photostat of his reply saying that no, Biggles never saw Marie again. 'Bad luck, wasn't it? But he may meet her one day.'

I've often wondered whether my letter was one of the spurs that led him to bring Biggles and Marie back together after an estrangement of 33 years. At least it would have proved to Johns that some small boys enjoyed a bit of 'soppy stuff' as well as action.

Park House  
Hampton Court Sept. 26.  
Kingston 1511

Dear David:

I am so glad you enjoy the  
Biggles books. No, Biggles never saw  
Marie again. Bad luck, wasn't it? But  
he may meet her one day

Yours sincerely

W.E. Johns

\*\*\*\*\*

# OUR BOOKSHELVES



REVIEWS BY

MARY CADOGAN

## ARTHUR RACKHAM: A LIFE WITH ILLUSTRATION by James Hamilton (Pavilion - £25)

Despite its high cover price this book is wonderful value for its money, as its 199 very large pages are packed with full-colour and excellent quality reproductions of Rackham's wide-ranging works. There is no doubt that Rackham is one of the most popular book illustrators of our century, on both sides of the Atlantic; as well as focussing on this aspect of the artist's work, James Hamilton reveals Rackham's disappointment at not achieving equal recognition as a landscape and portrait painter. Splendid examples of his work in these fields are given in the book, and we see that to an extent Rackham's own tremendous success (as a book illustrator) limited the range of commissions that he was given. Nevertheless we are grateful for the undying power and charm of his pictures for *Wind in the Willows*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, and so many other stories, plays and poems.

I hadn't realized until reading this book how active Rackham had been at one time in illustrating various boys' papers (see his cover for *Chums*, reproduced here), which contrasts vividly with his gothically atmospheric scenes of forests, and the murky aspects of magic, or his gloriously gossamery lighter fairies.

Born in 1867 into a liberal, middle-class home, Arthur Rackham grew up in London as one of a large family. 'His first shilling paintbox was given to him before he could read', and there is no doubt that he put this to good as well as early use. He was unable, despite his dedication to his art, to have full-time tuition, but achieved his training from evening classes. It seemed for some time ('the long years when the office stool was my lot') that Rackham was destined to be no more than a part-time 'hack' painter, but his awesome talents

THE NEW YORK MONEY AND OTHER SPLENDID PRIZES.



THE NEW YORK MONEY AND OTHER SPLENDID PRIZES.





gradually found recognition and acclaim. Rackham married a fellow artist, Edyth Starkie, in 1903 and their only child, Barbara, was born in 1908. It is tempting to describe his life as uneventful, but in this engaging book James Hamilton peeps perceptively under the surface of Rackham's anguishes, aspirations and successes to convey his life, as well as his work, intriguingly.

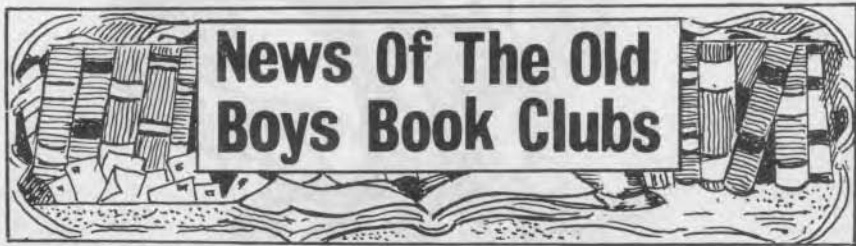


## **GROWING UP WITH JUST WILLIAM** by Margaret Disher (Outlaws Publishing Co. - £9.95)

It is a far but fascinating step from Rackham's fairies and fantasies to the essentially nitty-gritty world of Richmal Crompton's William! The niece of his creator now provides an inside account of her brother, Thomas Disher ('Tommy'). She says rightly that he was an inspiration for the character of William, and, because of this, his independent and slightly eccentric nature is of interest to readers. It has

to be remembered, however, that the original inspirations for the William stories were episodes in the life of Richmal's brother, Jack Lamburn, as the author stated in various B.B.C. interviews and in print. It seems important to remember that she was inspired by events, episodes and attitudes springing from her brother, her nephew, and indeed her great nephew - but I wonder whether it is strictly accurate that any one of these characters is truly the prototype for her wonderful, fictional juvenile desperado who has in so many ways come to epitomize the robustness of boyhood? William is the eternal eleven-year-old, and of course all real-life characters, Tommy Disher included, have to grow up. Margaret Disher's interesting account of her family life suggests that he was reluctant to do so. Her book not only describes her relationship with her brother but with Richmal Crompton, who seems to have been the perfect Aunt in every respect. *Growing Up with Just William* provides welcome side-lights on the author in her centenary year.

\*\*\*\*\*



### CAMBRIDGE CLUB

For our October meeting we gathered at the Lode Village home of Malcolm Pratt.

Using several video excerpts, Malcolm gave us another look at the Art of Comedy from Laurel and Hardy routines.

Later, Tony Cowley utilized his B.B.C. Radio 2 evening magazine show contributor experience to demonstrate their clever editing of his eagle Times Association/Dan Dare Exhibition at Southport recorded interrogation.

ADRIAN PERKINS

### LONDON O.B.B.C.

A smaller than usual attendance for the October meeting at the Richmond Community College. A sad start to the proceedings, with the news that Maurice Hall and Marjorie Norris had died. Our condolences go out to their relatives.

Don Webster gave us a general quiz, followed by the Memory Lane reading by Bill Bradford. After tea, our chairman Brian Doyle gave a short reading on S. Walkey, then Mark Taha reminded us all of what a cad Flashman was! Discussions are always very popular, and we finished the meeting thus, with the film world much to the fore.

Next meeting will hopefully be at Loughton, on the Second Sunday in November. Please consult your newsletter first.

GRAHAM BRUTON

## NORTHERN O.B.B.C.

Our honoured guest for the day was our Co-President Mary Cadogan. It was a cheery party of ten that met for a delicious lunch at The White Horse Hotel, Wakefield on a gloriously sunny autumn afternoon.

After lunch, an informal afternoon at the home of our Secretary, Geoffrey Good. It was a pleasure to have Geoffrey with us again despite his present illness. Again we had the chance to look around his splendid library and a further three members turned up. Vera Good provided a splendid afternoon tea for us all.

Our evening meeting was at our normal venue and Chairman Joan welcomed the 18 present. We were sorry to record the recent death of Maurice Hall - one of our members and one who was well-known in the hobby.

Paul Galvin and David Bradley reported that things were working out well for the W.E. Johns Meeting to be held in Nottingham on 27th October. A special day to mark the centenary of the birth of Richmal Crompton, would be held at her old school in Derbyshire, and Bury Council (the town of her birth) was also marking the centenary.

Mary Cadogan's presentation "Letters to and from Authors" was most interesting. Over the years, various volumes have been published containing letters written to and from well known people. Mary had accumulated quite a number of letters that had been addressed to herself or she had obtained from others. As she showed us these letters, books relating to their authors were passed round for inspection and it was good to see the handwriting of some very famous writers and personalities. Arthur Askey had dedicated a copy of THE ARTHUR ASKEY ANNUAL to Mary, and copies of RADIO FUN and T.V. FUN comics in which he appeared. There was correspondence from Dorita Fairlie Bruce, Arthur Marshall, Angela Brazil, Richmal Crompton, Evadne Price, Lord Northcliffe, founder of The Amalgamated Press, L.E. Ransome (well known as Ida Melbourne), Frank Richards writing to C.H. Chapman and others. It was a fascinating hour in which we learned a great deal.

After refreshments, Mary presented a hobby puzzle quiz - light-hearted, the writer is glad to say! It caused a great deal of fun: Geraldine Lamb was the winner with a book prize donated by Mary.

Again, another fine meeting. Our next gathering will be 10th November, our A.G.M.

JOHNNY BULL MINOR

\*\*\*\*\*

**WANTED: by Collector.** JOHN HAMILTON: Pre-War hardbacks, any title with or without D/W, including the 'Ace Series' 'Airmans Bookcase' 'Flying Thrillers' 'Sundial Mystery' and Adventure Library, and Airmans Bookclub editions in Dustwrappers. W.E. JOHNS: Any Pre-War hardbacks, with or without D/W, and Paperback editions of 'MOSSYFACE' (by William Earle) and any 'BOYS FRIEND LIBRARY' Editions, any condition considered. JOHN TRENDLER, 7 Park Close, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD2 2DE. Tel. (0923) 31608.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Postman Called

**BETTY HOPTON (Burton upon Trent):** I was very interested to see the article on Noel Raymond the detective. I remember how much I enjoyed the stories in the Girls' Crystal. I had piles of Girls' Crystals, but as I left school I regarded them as being superfluous and also far too childish for a grown up young lady and I let my mother burn them. If only I knew their worth and how much I would enjoy them today, but when one is young, one doesn't think much into the future.



"Well—you've got the view perfectly!" Noel said, as he looked through the window. "Except for one extraordinary detail. That old tower you've drawn so clearly at the end of the lawn—it isn't here!"

**JOHN BRIDGWATER (Christchurch):** I was delighted to read Len Hawkey's answers to some of my Marcus Max queries and was very pleased to see it was found interesting in Australia too.

The new C.D. series "Other Favourite Detectives" is most welcome, and has made an excellent start. I look forward to further articles. The

October C.D. is a "cracker" - a real bumper issue. Many thanks for such a splendid number

(Editor's Note: I am happy to say that I receive many letters of appreciation for the C.D., and our October issue seems to have inspired even more than usual approval. It is truly rewarding to receive your kind letters.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOME BEST BUYS FOR CHRISTMAS

by Norman Wright

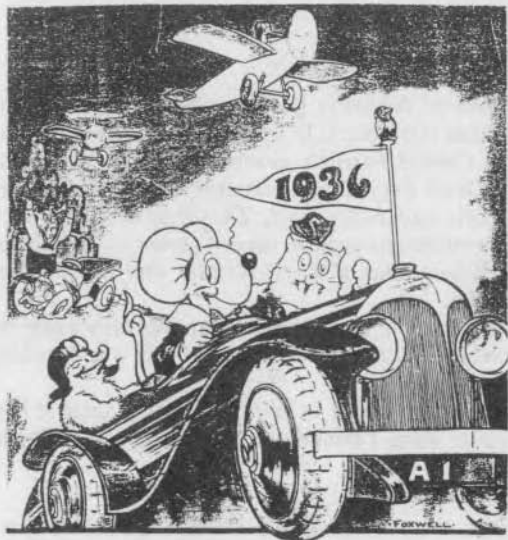
**THE NOSTALGIA COLLECTION** - Published by Hawk Books, each at £6.99, with introductions by Mary Cadogan.

Hawk Books have once again come up with an ideal Christmas present idea suitable for anyone with the slightest touch of nostalgia in their make up. The Nostalgia Collection consists of four volumes, each devoted to a character or series of characters who will be very familiar to practically every reader of the Collectors Digest. "A Dog Called Bonzo" is my personal favourite, and within its pages George Studdy's podgy puppy lives again. The book begins with an interesting short introduction by Mary Cadogan and then it's laughter all the way as the unlucky Bonzo blunders his way through life! The book consists of over two dozen full colour Bonzo plates taken from annuals, cards and other hard to locate sources, as well as seventeen full page Bonzo strips in colour drawn by Studdy for American Sunday 'funnies' sections and, as far as I know, never before reprinted in this country.



The second volume features Teddy Tail, the Daily Mail's knot-tailed rodent. The introduction, again by Mary Cadogan, features the work of the artists most associated with the character - Charles Folkard, Arthur Potts ('Spot') and, of course, Herbert Foxwell. The bulk of the volume is made up of reprinted strips by Foxwell and 'Spot'.

Everybody knows Pip Squeak and Wilfred, The Daily Mirror's trio of trouble-hunting animals, and they are the subject of the third book in the series. Mary's introduction is illustrated with pages of fascinating Pip Squeak and Wilfred ephemera - books, toys, badges and so on. There is



even a board game reproduced on one page! As would be expected the bulk of the work is devoted to the strips, drawn by Austin Bowen Payne, that featured in the Daily Mirror. A wonderfully memorable book.



6.—“I’ll be a gugnuncly dog all the year,” he cried. The others were delighted with his resolution.

The final volume in the series features the exploits of the tough inhabitants of Casey Court, a group of youngsters who featured in Chips for fifty years. Their wild exploits were akin to those enjoyed by The Bash Street Kids in The Beano. This is, perhaps, the least successful of the books lacking the full colour that gives the others such a charm and warmth. Nevertheless they are all winners, with an appeal that will prove popular for old and young alike.

\*\*\*\*\*

### BRIAN DOYLE REPLIES

Whilst thanking Mr. Ian H. Godden, of Australia, for his kind comment about my article, *The March of the Centenarians* (October C.D.), I should like to point out that, while I regret my mis-titling of Gerard Fairlie's autobiography as *Without Prejudice*, instead of the correct title of *With Prejudice*, I certainly did not obtain the information (as he infers) from the Lofts and Adley book *The Men Behind Boys' Fiction* (1970). If I need to check relevant details such as these I prefer to look them up in one of my own books, e.g. *the Who's Who of Boys' Writers and Illustrators* (1964), which contains an entry on Fairlie.

Amusingly enough in this instance, my slip of the typewriter was also made in my book, which gave the title incorrectly as *Without Prejudice* and this was possibly copied by Lofts and Adley into their own book!

I should know that the correct title of this book is *With Prejudice* since it has been sitting on my own bookshelves ever since I bought a copy of the First Edition when it was published back in 1952.

I explain all this 'without prejudice' of course...!

\*\*\*\*\*

# GROWING UP WITH JUST WILLIAM

by his sister

MARGARET DISHER



Paperback - 216 pages - many illustrations and photographs £ 9:95

## THE NOSTALGIA COLLECTION

Four titles in this series:

TEDDY TAIL

BONZO

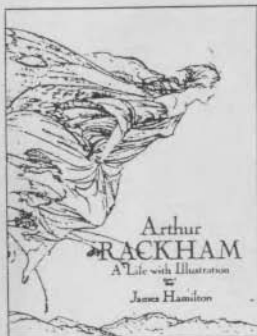
PIP, SQUEAK AND WILFRED

CASEY COURT

Each book in full colour - oblong format

Laminated boards

£ 6:99 each



ARTHUR RACKHAM: A Life with Illustration

by James Hamilton

Here - with the full co-operation of Rackham's family and using previously unpublished documentary and pictorial evidence from British, European and American sources, James Hamilton provides a revealing examination of the artist and his work.

192 pages with 200 illustrations

Hardback with dust wrapper.

£ 25:00

All above prices postage extra. Payment on receipt of goods and invoice.

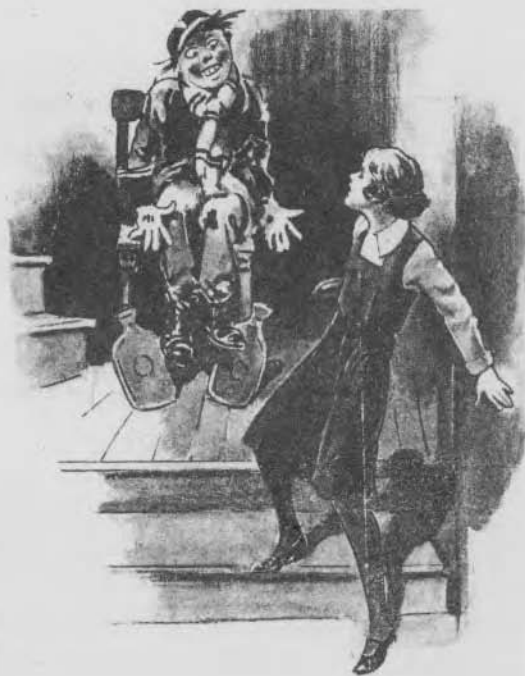
HAPPY HOURS UNLIMITED

37, Tinshill Lane, LEEDS LS16 6BU England



THE OUTLAWS WATCHED, DUMBOUNDED AND AGHAST.

"I SAY," DOUGLAS'S FATHER WAS SAYING, "DO YOU REMEMBER THAT FIFTH WHEN YOU——?"



(COPYRIGHT. This non-profit making magazine is privately circulated. The reproduction of the contents, either wholly or in part, without written permission from The Editor, is strictly forbidden.)

Editor: Mary Cadogan, 46 Overbury Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 2PY.  
Printed by Quacks Printers, 7 Grape Lane, Petergate, York, YO1 2HU. Tel. 635967