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—IN THIS NUMBER—

King of Boys' Story Writers—

Henry St. John v. David
Goodwin

Harry Wharton

“A Born Leader of Boys, and Then of Men”

A. P. Boys' Authors



King of Boys' Story Writers—

Henry St. John v. David Goodwin

—○—
By H. LECKENBY

IN his interesting sketch of dear old Henry St. John ("S. P. C." No. 7) Mr. Harry Dowler claims him as the king of them all. Well, I have still vivid memories of how in the long ago I followed the escapades of Bob Redding and Tim Courtfield in the cover of the school desk, or even, I regret to say, shielded by a hymn book, on the Sabbath, in the chapel pew.

I recollect discussing anxiously with a chum the fate of Charlie Gordon when he disappeared from Bingley College in that famous story "Charlie Gordon's Schooldays" which appeared in the very early issues of the new series "Boys' Friend." For a generation I have longed to read once again that grand sea yarn "In the Service of the King" which thrilled me forty years ago.

At present I am reading "Harry the Horseman" and it interests me just as much as it did in the

days when my father frowned on seeing the pink pages of "The Boys' Realm" in my jacket pocket. "In Nelson's Day!"—"Imprisoned For Life!"—"The New Master!" Yes, verily I salute the memory of Henry St. John for very many happy schoolday hours.

Yet I have another claimant for the throne—David Goodwin! I am writing from memory, but I think I am right when I say that "The Boy Barge-Owners" in "The Boys' Friend" was David Goodwin's first serial. It was destined to be followed by many more brilliant humorous, dramatic, exciting yarns.

Henry St. John was versatile; so was David Goodwin. Both wrote school tales by the dozen. The former penned stories of the sea in Nelson's day; the latter told of the modern navy. St. John wrote amazingly of girls' schools under a woman's name; Goodwin, as John

Tregellis, made our hair stand on end with Germany at war with Britain long before 1914, and told of flying armadas in the days when flight was in its infancy.

Recall those great mill yarns of David Goodwin: "A Lancashire Lad!"—"Clogland!"—"War of the Mills!" I also vividly recall "On Turpin's Highway" and "The Black Mask." Can I ever forget those dashing sea tales "Gunfleet Jim" and "Dave the Barge Boy," and those marvellous adventure stories "Rajah Dick" and "Off to Canada." Oh, and many more.

There was a striking difference between the schools portrayed by the two masters of the craft. David Goodwin made them great schools—stately, hoary piles—schools which made one think of Rugby and Repton, Charterhouse or Cheltenham. The Headmasters were fine, dignified figures—Canon Levison of St. Simeon's, for example.

On the other hand, Henry St. John's schools, such as St. Basil's, usually appeared to be cheerless, almost reformatory-like places, somehow hardly the sort of place a Sir Harry Belton would be expected to go to. Some of his masters—Mr. Snuggs, in "The School Against Him," for instance—seem to be just a

little too incredibly mean.

David Goodwin's humour had a lighter touch. He had a skilful habit of making his schoolboys conceive audacious "japes." He got them into desperate situations at the end of an instalment. One felt sure they were booked for expulsion. The next week came, a winning card was played, and all was well.

Perhaps Henry St. John wrote too much, for his output, as Mr. Dowler testifies, was amazing. He wrote many, many great stories, but sometimes one came across one which seemed to be rather carelessly written. On the other hand, to me at any rate, David Goodwin never appeared to fall from the pinnacle on which I placed him.

Alas! Henry St. John wrote his last word many years ago, and David Goodwin when last we heard was in a distant land. Whoever was king in those days of yore, there is one thing certain—no one has stepped into the breach to take their places.



Another Paper Passes The One Thousand Mark

The latest British boys' weekly—now bi-weekly—to publish its 1000th No. was D. C. Thomson's "Wizard," which did so with its issue dated June 13th last.

"A Born Leader of Boys—
And Then of Men"—

HARRY WHARTON

By T. W. PUCKRIN

FROM 1908 until mid-1940 Harry Wharton & Co., long known as the Famous Five, were the leading characters of the Greyfriars stories in the "Magnet Library." Early readers will no doubt remember that Bulstrode, the one-time bully, was Captain of the Remove Form when Harry Wharton first arrived at the famous fiction school. The wayward and self-opinionated new boy soon found himself in opposition to the old hand, and overcoming the defects in his character became Captain in Bulstrode's place. From then until the "Magnet" ceased publication Harry Wharton has been leader of the tough, hard-hitting Remove.

There was one period when Vernon-Smith, the well-known "Bonder," occupied the stage for a time and engineered the expulsion of the Famous Five. This series of stories culminated in "Bob Cherry's Barring-Out," in which Harry Wharton and his chums fairly come back into their own.

Then there was an earlier period when Bulstrode managed to regain the Captaincy by beating his old rival in a stand-up fight, only to sink into obscurity again.

Despite these and other occasional falls from grace, Harry Wharton has always been the outstanding character in the Greyfriars stories. What is the secret? It cannot be prowess at sport, for there are others who are as good in the all-important "games." Bob Cherry is better-tempered, Frank Nugent more equable in temperament, Johnny Bull more solid and Hurree Singh more genial.

In the opinion of the writer Harry Wharton's long-standing popularity is due to his quality of leadership. In one of the early stories, "The Nabob's Diamond" ("Magnet" No. 9), an old gypsy tells his fortune. Her reading of Wharton's character is "a born leader of boys, and then of men." Most heroes, whether they be boys or men, seem to be a little in front of their fellows.

Wharton takes the leading role, whether it be a raid on the Fourth Form dormitory or the more hazardous task of tackling a burglar.

His toleration of the fat and fatuous Billy Bunter is another point in Wharton's favor. Wun Lung, the Chinese junior, found a ready champion in the Captain of the Remove.

Probably the military tradition in the Wharton family had something to do with this quality of leadership.

Certainly no other schoolboy hero has had such a successful run as Frank Richards' creation, Harry Wharton. Tom Merry of the "Gem Library" can be said to run him a close second, but the more easy-going leader of the Shell at St. Jim's seems to lack the "bite" of the "Magnet" favorite and is inclined to allow himself to be imposed upon.

Possibly with the close of the present war the Famous Five will resume their many adventures at home and in distant lands. If this does happen, no one more than the present writer will welcome back the most famous schoolboy characters that have ever been created.

INTERESTING GLEANINGS FROM LETTERS

— No. 1 —

The "Gem" and "Magnet"

I WONDER what will happen after the war? Will the "Gem" and "Magnet" be revived? I sometimes rather doubt it. They were two remarkable papers. To run successfully for over thirty years with the same characters was an extraordinary achievement, more so when they never grew older. When I first became acquainted with St. Jim's I was not much older than the boys themselves, yet I still read about them when I had a boy who looked upon them as too juvenile. . . .

The question of the famous schoolboys' eternal youth has been the subject of controversy at various times and I believe it was defended on the grounds that the circle of readers was an ever-changing one and that generally the stories only appealed to boys during their schooldays. Thus the fact that Harry Wharton was about fifteen before the last war and the same age in this one, that Tom Merry had had as many adventures in all parts of the world as would be quite sufficient for men of 70 did not really matter very much. Anyway it was a unique record.—H.L.

Amalgamated Press Boys' Authors

By HARRY DOWLER

Robert Hamilton Edwards (1872-1932)—Editor-in-Chief "Boys' Friend," "Boys' Realm," "Boys' Herald," and other A. P. periodicals. A good editor, but a poor writer. Associated with Lord Northcliffe for twenty years; had some serious disagreement (it is rumoured) and severed his connection with the A. P., but (it is said) with a substantial bank balance. Toward the close of his life lost all his money.

Cecil Henry Bullivant (1872-)—Joined A. P. in 1904. Editor "Boys' Herald," 1904-7. Honours: Eng. Liter. Univ. Ext. Oxford, Camb., and London. Expert on English language and literature, and literary adviser. Editor, author and lecturer. Managing Editor of "Captain," "Boys' Best Story Paper," "Scholar's Own," "Tit-Bits Novels," etc. Pen-names: Henry Turville, Maurice Everard, Robert W. Dixon and Alice Millard.

Allan Blair—Identity unknown. Probably Scottish; went to London and worked on the editorial staff. Seemed to know both Scotland and London well. An expert on journalistic matters, and knew shorthand. All his writing bears the imprint of expert literary craftsmanship. Undoubtedly the greatest literary writer on the A. P. boys' papers. Unlike Maxwell Scott and many other A. P. writers he did not use clichés, and his style of writing is rhythmical, well-balanced and terse. Chiefly wrote as Allan Blair but also wrote under the following names: Edgar West, Gilbert Gray, Malcolm Dayle, George Carr, Gordon Carr, Hampton Dene. Real name unknown.

Max Hamilton—Identity unknown, but have it on high authority was a woman. Also wrote under the names Tristram K. Monck and T. G. Dowling-Maitland. Real name unknown.

Jack North—Real name J. N. Pentelow and was an expert on cricket. Editor of "Boys' Realm" for a time. Wrote cricket stories under the name of Richard Randolph. Wrote under other names,

one of which was Armitage Graham, under which name he wrote "Gillingham's Last Term" in "Boys' Herald" Vol. 2. Died some years ago.

William Murray Graydon (1864-)—Born Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, of British origin. Came to England, and for a time lived on the Norfolk Broads. Must have been a remarkably fast writer for his output was simply terrific. Also wrote under the name of Alfred Armitage.

David Goodwin (1878-)—Real name Sidney Gowing. Wrote under the names of David Goodwin, John Tregellis, and John Goodwin, and sometimes under his own name. A remarkably good and clever writer, but not up to the standard of Allan Blair. Must have worked at terrific speed. Has written a fair number of novels which are to be found in most public libraries under the name of John Goodwin.

Reginald Wray (1861-)—Real name W. B. Home-Gall. Sometimes called himself Reginald Drew.

WANTED

The Following Story Papers

"Magnet Library"—See Want List, "S.P.C." No. 7, page 76.

"Boys' Friend" (New Series)—See Want List, "S.P.C." No. 8, page 90.

"Greyfriars Herald" (New Series, 1919-22) later "Boys' Herald"—Nos. 9, 15, 30, to end.

"Boys' Friend 3d. Library"—No. 288, Jan., 1915: "The Boy Without a Name," by Frank Richards.

WM. H. GANDER

Transcona, Manitoba, Canada

Reckless Ralph's DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers of the days when you were a youngster; 8 pages full of fine articles and write-ups. Price 10c per copy or \$1.00 per year. Ad. rates, 1c per word.

Ralph F. Cummings
Dept. S.P.C., Fisherville, Mass.

"The Collector's Guide"—Issued quarterly by A. C. Cleaves Sculthorpe, 82 Lichfield Road, Coleshill, Warwickshire, England. 8d. (20¢) per copy.

An Extract From . . .

“Present Indicative”

The Autobiography of Noel Coward, Actor-Playwright; Published by William Heinemann, Ltd., London, England, 1937.

(Copied from the book by C. F. F. R.)

Page 16:

ABOUT this time* I took a fancy for the most tremendously hearty schoolboy literature. I read avidly week by week “Chums,” the “Boy’s Own Paper,” the “Magnet” and the “Gem,” and loved particularly these last two. The “Gem” appeared on Thursday or Friday, and was devoted to the light-hearted adventures of Tom Merry & Co. The “Magnet” came out on Tuesdays, and dealt with the very similar adventures of Harry Wharton & Co. As far as I can remember the dialogue of the two papers was almost identical, consisting largely of the words “Jape” and “Wheeze,” and in moments of hilarity and pain respectively: “Ha Ha Ha!” and “Yow Yow Yow!”

There was a fat boy in each. In the “Magnet” it was Billy Bunter, who in addition to being very greedy and providing great opportunities for jam-tart fun (“Ha Ha Ha!—He He He!—Yow

Yow Yow!”), was a ventriloquist of extraordinary ability, and could make sausages cry out when stabbed with a fork. They were awfully manly decent fellows, Harry Wharton & Co., and no suggestion of sex, even in its lighter forms, ever sullied their conversation. Considering their ages, their healthy-mindedness was almost frightening.

I was delighted to find in a newspaper shop the other day that the “Magnet” was unchanged, excepting its cover, which used to be bright orange and is now white. I read a little of it with tender emotion. There they all were, Harry Wharton, Frank Nugent and Billy Bunter, still “Ha Ha Ha-ing” and “He He He-ing” and still, after twenty-four years, hovering merrily on the verge of puberty.

“The Collector’s Miscellany”

—The paper for anyone interested in Old Boys’ Books, Type Specimens, Juvenile Theatre, etc. Write J. A. Birkbeck, 52 Craigie Avenue, Dundee, Scotland.

* 1908/9—C. F. F. R.

: : NOTES : :

The efforts of two new contributors appear in this issue, not to mention a third, perhaps a little more famous, who all unknowingly helps provide variety to our pages. I hope this bit of pilfering will be excused! . . . Mr. Leckenby rings the bell twice. His second contribution arrived in time for inclusion, so in it went; this seemed better than holding it three months.

In "S.P.C." No. 4 the question was asked "Who was 'Tommy' Burke of 'Twinkletoes' fame, and what paper was he in charge of for a brief period during the last war?" From Mr. Leckenby comes the answer, provided in advance by a correspondent of

his some years ago: "Were you aware that Thomas Burke was for a short time Editor of the 'Boys' Realm'?" That leaves me wondering who or what was "Twinkletoes" that made Mr. Burke famous.

Just Where IS Greyfriars? Since writing the article which was printed in issue No. 7 under this heading the following reply to a reader's query in "Magnet" No. 390, July 31st, 1915, has come to my attention: "The nearest town to Greyfriars of any size and importance is Ashford." That would locate Greyfriars near the south coast of Kent and the English Channel. —W. H. G.

A Glimpse of the Past . . .

"19th Century Peep - Show"

A Sentimental Monthly Recollection and Review of the One Time Favorite but Now Almost Forgotten Novels and Story Papers, Games, Puzzles, Tricks, Toys, Nicknacks, and Miscellaneous Diverting Entertainments and Amusements of Past Times. \$1 a Year, 10c a copy. Published by

Fred T. Singleton

2000-B S. W. Red Road, Coral Gables, Florida, U. S. A.

The Subject For Discussion Is—

The Twelve Greatest Serials

By H. LECKENBY

SUPPOSING that little band of old boys who are still devoted to the periodicals of their youth could gather together in conference. Suppose further, that the subject for discussion was "The Twelve Greatest Serials." The choice is to be confined to the famous three: the "Boys' Friend," the "Boys' Realm" and the "Boys' Herald," commencing with the penny issues of the first-named.

When the lists had been compiled and scrutinized I guarantee they would make very interesting

reading. They would not agree, of course, for tastes, fortunately, differ. I have a suspicion, all the same, that one or two stories would appear on almost every list.

That meeting, I am afraid, is only a flight of fancy. The little circle of devotees is scattered to the four winds. There is, however, that interesting little journal "The Story Paper Collector," and with the kind permission of the Editor I submit my choice.

Here it is:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Birds of Prey | By Maxwell Scott | B. F. |
| 2. Champion of the World | By Allan Blair | B. F. |
| 3. The Silver Dwarf | By Maxwell Scott | B. F. |
| 4. Barred | By David Goodwin | B. R. |
| 5. The School Against Him | By Henry St. John | B. F. |
| 6. Facing the Footlights | By Atherley Daunt | B. H. |
| 7. On Turpin's Highway | By David Goodwin | B. H. |
| 8. In the Service of the King | By Henry St. John | B. F. |
| 9. Beyond the Eternal Ice | By Sidney Drew | B. F. |
| 10. The Blue Crusaders | By Arthur S. Hardy | B. R. |
| 11. Guy Prescott's Trust | By Craven Gower | B. F. |
| 12. A Lancashire Lad | By David Goodwin | B. R. |

Phew! What about "Shunned by the School," "Pluck Will Tell," "The Great Unknown," "The Iron Hand," and oh!

many more? But what is twelve among so many?

It will be noted that in my list David Goodwin scores three;

Henry St. John and Maxwell Scott two each; and Sidney Drew, Craven Gower, Allan Blair, Arthur S. Hardy, and Atherley Daunt one each. Further, that the "Boys' Friend" leads easily with seven, the "Boys' Realm" scores three, and the "Boys' Herald" two. Well, I think that is a fair proportion. The "Boys' Friend" had the longest run, and I have a suspicion that Hamilton Edwards had a soft spot for his first love. The "Boys' Realm," after the first few years, went in mainly for sport stories. It contained many fine ones, but probably not great ones. As for the "Boys' Herald," after the first two years or so it seemed to lag behind.

Let me give some reasons for my choice. I think that "Birds of Prey," Maxwell Scott's first Nelson Lee serial, was his masterpiece—and that's saying a lot. "The Silver Dwarf," with which we might link up "The Missing Heir," was not far behind.

"The School Against Him" was, in my opinion, the best of all Henry St. John's numerous school yarns. (Perhaps Mr. Harry Dowler will agree with me there.) He also wrote several tales of Nelson's day, and to me the one I have mentioned was supreme.

Perhaps the inclusion of "Facing the Footlights" will surprise some. I know not who Atherley Daunt was; he did not write many stories, but he certainly knew his theatre, and I know I followed the trials and triumphs of Harry Brandon and Shrimp with intense interest.

As for "The Blue Crusaders," I consider that was the first attempt to write a really convincing story of the great game of soccer.

"Champion of the World" just beat "Pluck Will Tell" for a place, and "Guy Prescott's Trust" was a great yarn. Sidney Drew was at his best in the story I have mentioned, and as for David Goodwin—three—well, they all made me long for the next instalments.

Anyway, there they are. Now, Messrs. Dowler, Medcraft, and you other members of the circle, put your memories to work and let us have your choice.

Wanted: Aldine Id. "Dick Turpins," early issues of "Mag-nets," "Gems," "Penny Populars," and Comic Papers, particularly "Chuckles." Also interested in old volumes containing coloured plates of windflowers, butterflies, birds or fishes. Alfred Horsey, 60 Salcombe Rd., Walthamstow, London, E. 17, England.

WANTED : FOR SALE : EXCHANGE

**BRITISH BOYS' PAPERS
WANTED**

Boys' Friend Library—All stories by Martin Clifford, Prosper Howard, Frank Richards, Owen Conquest and Richard Randolph.

Gem Library—Nos. 3, 5, 6, 10, 11 of 1st series. Nos. 1-304, 329, 375, 407, 437-469, 603, 620-699, 781-1462, 1493-1527, 1592, 1604, 1606-8, 1610-11 of new series.

Magnet Library — Numbers 451-777.

Dreadnought — January to June, 1915.

Chuckles (weekly comic)—any issues.

Nelson Lee Library—Nos. 24, 25, final series.

Penny Popular or "Popular"—1st Series: Nos. 1-23, 75-284; 2nd Series: Nos. 1-511.

Pluck Library—Nos. 106-122, years 1906-7.

Empire Library—Nos. 8, 13, 14, 20, 21, 26 of first series.

London and Windsor Magazines—for year 1926.

C. F. F. RICKARD

1512 First Street West, Calgary,
Alberta, Canada.

Wanted — "Magnets," 1909-33; also "Boys' Friend Libraries" with Frank Richards stories. Shaw, 6 Colney Hatch Lane, London, N. 10, England.

Science-Fiction Magazines— "Railroad Magazines" — and most others—write us your Back-Number wants. The School Book Shop, 530 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

British Bloods and Journals

For Sale—Black Bess, Black Highwayman, Blueskin, Charles Peace the Burglar, Nell Gwynne, Gentleman Jack, The Boy Detective, Tom Torment, Handsome Harry, Dashing Duval, Rook the Robber, Boys of England, Young Men of Great Britain, Boys' Comic Journal, and hundreds more. **Exchanges willingly considered.**

Also—Runs of the following post-1900 story papers: Aldine Dick Turpin Library, Invention Library (Frank Reade), Jack Sheppard Library, Claude Duval Library, Henderson's Wild West Library, Union Jack, Marvel, etc.

John Medcraft,

64 Woodlands Road, Ilford,
Essex, England.