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The Story of Ezra Quirke, Schoolboy Magician

IT WAS with great interest that I read in No. 21 of *The Story Paper Collector* the article by H.R.C. entitled "The Nelson Lee Library." This "great little paper" (to use H.R.C.'s expression) had an intense fascination for me as a youngster and I have to confess that when in 1933 I learned that publication thereof had ceased I experienced a strange sorrow. But whilst it is true to say that I was ever intrigued by the adventures of the boys of St. Frank's it was from one series in particular that my greater interest in *The Nelson Lee Library* sprang.

The series to which I refer—Nos. 542-549—appeared in the latter part of 1925 and proved to be truly remarkable. Moreover, they were destined to achieve widespread popularity among St. Frank's enthusiasts, a fact that is borne out by the innumerable requests for a sequel and the eventual compliance on the part of the author and the publishers.

By
LESLIE VOSPER

Ezra Quirke! Truly there was magic in the name.

The Editor introduced the stories to his readers with these words:

"The series which opens with this week's story will undoubtedly rank as the finest that has ever flowed from the facile pen of the illustrious author of our St. Frank's stories. Magic, mystery, humour, sport and detective adventure are all represented in their turn, but the central figure, the mysterious Ezra Quirke, is always lurking somewhere near, and by his magical powers performing strange wonders that influence the whole course of events at St. Frank's during this memorable Winter term."

It was, of course, by no means unusual for the Editor to paint such a brief pen-picture of a new series, nor thus to appraise the author so laudably, but I doubt if quite so eloquent an introduction had ever been used before. Anyway, I have always felt that on this particular occasion at least the words rang with sincerity.

The numbers and titles ran as follows:

- * 542—*The Schoolboy Magician.*
- * 543—*The Mystery of Study 20.*
- * 544—*The "13" Club.*
- * 545—*The Unknown Hand.*
- * 546—*The Haunted Form Room.*
- * 547—*The Cellar of Secrets.*
- * 548—*The Schoolboy*
Conspirators.
- * 549—*The Broken Spell.*

Will it interest you, good reader, if I run through the story briefly? I think perhaps it will.

EZRA QUIRKE makes his debut at St. Frank's as the clock strikes the hour of midnight on a "wild November night," an owl perched upon his shoulder, and in the brief intervals of moonlight looking more like a ghost than a human being. He is observed by only Nipper, Sir Monty Tregellis West, and Tommy Watson, from their bedroom window, and Edwy Searles Brooks leaves us in no doubt that the impression made upon these juniors is immeasurable.

Before the first instalment ends we are able to learn more of this superstitious personality; this occult-believing, magic-producing, crystal-gazing newcomer to the old college. And what is more important, we perceive that already he has succeeded in creating a large circle of believers among the more credulous.

Gradually, his influence in the school makes itself felt. His superstitious warnings inevitably find substantiation, and disaster awaits those who deliberately flout them. The "13" Club, formed by Nipper & Co., in direct opposition to Quirke, learn this to their cost. The schoolboy magician's crystal, too, constantly forewarns one individual or another of events yet to happen, and it is here that the Hon. Douglas Singleton comes into the picture.

With the Hon. Douglas as his most distinguished sitter yet, Quirke "sees" in his crystal a cut finger and a badly gashed hand which somehow both become miraculously healed. Before long Singleton stumbles upon Professor Tucker's wonderful healing apparatus and witnesses the healing of the cut finger and the gashed hand. The Professor has no alternative but to take Singleton into his confidence.

Meanwhile Ezra Quirke's circle has grown out of all proportions, and the schoolboy magician now holds his meetings in one of the huge cellars under the school. Repeatedly this chamber of mystery is examined before and after the meetings, but Quirke goes serenely forward from triumph to triumph with his demonstrations of magic becoming more and more baffling. Unbe-

known to Quirke, however, a new body, "The Compact of Ten," led by William Napoleon Browne of the Fifth, and backed by Nipper, Pitt, Handforth, and other stalwarts, are working secretly to solve the mystery.

To return to Professor Tucker and his invention for a moment. Further healing demonstrations serve to convince Singleton that the apparatus is a modern surgical wonder, and he insists on financing the old schoolmaster's work. By different means he obtains the colossal sum of twenty thousand pounds which the Professor agrees to accept.

What a thrilling climax No. 549, "The Broken Spell," turns out to be!

At a vital challenge meeting the schoolboy magician is unable to produce any phenomena, and is proclaimed a fraud. The reason for his failure lies in the fact that he has been making use of not one cellar as has been popularly supposed, but two. The first solid and unprepared and so often thrown open for investigation; the second, in which he has been accustomed to display his magical powers, faked to the hilt.

How could it be so? A cleverly constructed sliding door is able to become the entrance to either apartment; thus Quirke is able to use whichever serves his pur-

pose. The Compact of Ten, having discovered this important secret, ensure that on the fateful night the schoolboy mystic finds himself in the wrong cellar and is forced to admit "the forces of the occult will not assist me!"

Then follows the unmasking of "Professor Tucker," alias James Roach, criminal and trickster, who, it transpires, is Ezra Quirke's uncle. Of course, the "invention of the age" is a fake, and the whole thing from beginning to end is the old confidence trick designed to rob Singleton of a nice little fortune. The real Professor Tucker turns up and comes face to face with his impersonator, boils with indignation, but in a few moments is pottering about as usual with his telescopes.

Roach is arrested, but Quirke, to the inward satisfaction of all, escapes. And unbeknown to everyone Nelson Lee has been working on the case from the start.

IN MY OPINION the stories of Ezra Quirke showed Edwy Searles Brooks at his best, and perhaps in a future issue I may be permitted to say a little more on this subject.

My search for these eight *Nelson Lees* became crowned with success when H.R.C. presented me with the complete set from

his collection. Now, beautifully bound in brown morocco leather, suitably embossed and titled in gold, and gilt edged, they occupy an honourable place amongst my collection of magical volumes, for these stories have had a big influence on my adult life.

Twenty years ago they fired my youthful imagination with a strange ambition, and today I

myself can claim to be a magician of some ability—not the occult brand like Ezra Quirke, of course, but a conjuror of the concert platform. I take pardonable pride in saying that I believe I have brought a wealth of happiness to large audiences of both young and old alike. It is for this reason, chiefly, that *The Nelson Lee Library* holds for me such a profound attraction.

The Passing of "Burt L. Standish"

WE are all hurt by the "passing on" of a friend, and so it was that the news of the farewell to us all of dear Gil Patten has left a deep void in our ranks; as it is, the old landmarks are so few and far between.

How many oldsters were shocked by this grievous news it would be hard to figure out, considering that the Frank Merriwell stories in *Tip Top Weekly* began in 1896, 49 years ago, continuing, week by week, until about 1907, when Dick Merriwell was the star of the series; then followed by Frank Merriwell Jr.

Patten's production of tales was prolific, so we must agree that night after night he was forced to burn the candle at both ends: his T. T. production in all amounting to a total of about twenty-five million words.

"A genius," did I hear you say? Yes, a genius indeed; a gem of the "first water," so to speak. His lifetime production, including other stories, totals about forty million words, so it seems that he ignored a lot of the pleasures of the world in making that marvelous record.

Patten was a "friendly" man. I do not say that from hearsay, but from actual experience. I never had the pleasure of meeting him "face to face," but through correspondence, and I have in my possession a large photo, autographed "Burt L. Standish' (Gil Patten), to my friend Bob Smeltzer." . . .

Lastly, I say "Requiescat in Pace," pard of us all. May your soul now be in the "Halls of Valhalla." . . .

—Robert H. Smeltzer, in *Dime Novel Roundup for March, 1945.*

“Down Under” Devotees Of Bunter & Co.

AUSTRALIA pays its respects and makes due obeisance to the memory of William (better known as Billy!) Bunter and his Greyfriars gang of effervescent lads, Harry Wharton & Co.

Bunter's passing, after thirty-three years of what seemed to be eternal youth, came as a grievous blow to Australian enthusiasts and regular readers of English boys' weeklies.

Bunter's adventures were not entirely the prerogative of English schoolboys—and plenty of older boys, like my confrere of the amateur press, Wm. H. Gander, who continue to collect and hoard files of these papers with the keenness of a 12-year-old!—his popularity was as world wide and as far flung as the British Empire itself.

There is hardly an Empire possession, carrying a white population of respectably large proportions, in which it was not possible to purchase these juvenile weeklies, or at least numbered amongst its residents a reader or two when copies came their way.

Speaking for Australia, it has always been possible to indulge in weekly literary “carousels”

amidst the numerous British boys' periodicals selling readily in all our bookshops, by newsagents, and on railway bookstalls.

In my more youthful days I was an ardent and constant devotee of the exciting or humorous escapades of the central figures in the steady stream of stories found within the covers of *The Gem*, *The Magnet*, *Nelson Lee Library*, *Pluck*, *Popular*, *Champion*, and the rest.

Latest issues were released on Wednesdays in Australia. This always meant a restless and thrilling pilgrimage to, in my case, the leading wholesale newsagent distributors. At that time I was resident in the State of South Australia. I was eleven years of age at the time, and my parents conducted a bookshop in the capital city, Adelaide.

I was denied the service of having these boys' papers delivered to our shop as my people, while tolerant enough to my reading them, did not stock anything like such juvenile literature. No! It was not on *their* sales

By

LEON STONE

lists! Hence my weekly trip to the wholesalers to have the trembling delight of picking up brand new copies of the latest *Gem*, *Magnet*, etc., as they lay piled up on the counters with dozens of other overseas periodicals and magazines.

Thereby hangs a tale!

WHEN the bookshop had passed out of my people's hands my father, a printer by trade all his life, was working as a compositor for a leading Adelaide printing firm. The time was the middle of winter. In the bitterly cold weather (minus, though, the snow and ice of English or Canadian winters) it was the practice of either my mother or myself to carry a thermos or bottle of hot tea down to the works.

This was parked behind the works door each mid-morning in a carrying case, as we were not, of course, officially permitted inside. At a suitable opportunity my father or workmate would sneak out, grab the case, and take it back to the work-room, where it would be shared with appreciation by the print-room staff. Those were days long before it had become the habit to serve morning and afternoon tea to employees, who now demand it, anyway!

The hot drink was a wonderful "pick-me-up" for my father

and his mates, who had been from an early hour, all morning long, endeavouring to set type with stiff and frozen fingers; to say nothing of numbed arms, legs, and feet.

One fateful morning, though my father kept making surreptitious trips behind the works door, the bottle of hot tea was not there at the appointed time. In fact it was very much behind delivery schedule. I was on the "run" that morning.

Here I might interpolate the fact that the aforesaid wholesale newsagency was located in a street en route to my father's place of employment. The day was *Wednesday*. Need I say more?

The weekly thrill of getting those new issues of my favourite weeklies had proved too alluring and seduced me from the path of duty. Instead of first delivering my precious "cargo" for the succor of the freezing printers, I must, with the sublime irresponsibility of youth, *first* call at the newsagency and dally with the coloured covers of the ever fascinating British boys' weeklies.

It was half an hour late when my fuming father and his friends got their eagerly awaited morning tea. No, I was not (having long-suffering and indulgent parents) physically chastised; but I did *not* forget in future to

leave the anticipated delights of Bunter & Co. until after delivering the tea.

WHILE never figuring as a collector of old boys' papers and "bloods"—Amateur Journalistic collecting carrying pre-eminent appeal—I have always had a keen interest in the activities of, and publications and articles on the subject by, the Old Boys' Bloods fraternity (plus the lighter and less gory exploits of Billy Bunter), through the pages of such specialist hobby magazines as *Vanity Fair*, *Collector's Miscellany*, *Dime Novel Roundup*, *Story Paper Collector*, *19th Century Peepshow*, etc. These also, apart from their reading interest, are gladly filed and

preserved in my Australian Library of Amateur Journalism.

It should be of interest to readers of *The Story Paper Collector* to know that on the Australian market such papers as *The Magnet* and *The Gem* sold for—as I remember—three pence a copy. I had scores of all issues on hand for many years before finally disposing of them.

I readily recall the sight of piles of them—well thumbed and dog-eared!—crowding the counters of Australian secondhand booksellers at one penny and twopence a copy. What wouldn't my collector-friends give for these probably "wanted" numbers for their collection files? Why didn't I keep all I had!

INTRODUCING LEON STONE

THIS issue brings the first appearance in our pages of Leon S. Stone, of Gordon, N. S.W., Australia. Mr. Stone tells us of British boys' weeklies "down under" and his youthful interest in them. Later his interest and activities were turned to Amateur Journalism, which was but natural, seeing that he is the son of Hal E. Stone, who issued in June, 1892, one of Australia's first two amateur journals. Leon Stone began his amateur journalistic career by publishing *Odd Magazine* in 1919, when eleven years of age, and since then has been responsible for *Austral Boy* (1921-22), *Moon* (1923-24), *Australian Amateur* (1925-27), *Kooraka* (1923-29), and, to date, two issues of his new magazine, *Koolinda* (1943-44). During these years Mr. Stone has been building up the Australian Library of Amateur Journalism, until it now includes 10,000 amateur papers, 200 books, 150 photographs, and 500 relics.

LONG & SHORT CAREERS

A Record Of Success And Failure

AS I WRITE I have before me a list of boys' papers published since 1863, with their starting and stopping dates and their publishers. In some instances certain dates still require to be filled in, and I do not claim that it includes all papers which have seen the light since that far-off year of Victoria's reign. But I think it is as comprehensive as it is possible to make it.

It does not include those papers such as *Wild Boys of London*, *Black Bess*, and the like, published by Harrison, Brett, and Hogarth House, and which, perhaps, were responsible for the coining of words like "bloods" and "penny dreadfuls." To compile a list of those thrillers with their start and stop dates would be an almost impossible task at this time of day. Though maybe there is just one member of our circle who might grapple with it.

Neither does my list include the "Libraries," such as *Boys' Friend*, *Sexton Blake*, *Aldine Dick Turpins* and *Robin Hoods*, which were published monthly or at irregular intervals. They come under a different category. There is no mention, either, of the "comics," like *Chips* and *Comic*

Cuts, but just those papers which were published weekly with the hope and intention of appealing to the boys of their day.

For the fact that this record is as complete as it is I have to thank in great measure those veteran members of our circle, Mr. F. N. Wearing and Mr. Henry Steele, who supplied many details of the papers of their day, and the late Mr. Walter Dexter, whose tireless researches in the British Museum helped to fill in many dates.

For the purposes of this article I have prepared two tables, one showing the outstanding successes, the other a list of those papers which could only be ranked as failures. I have called a success a run of ten years or more; a failure a venture which struggled on for a year or so and then passed on to the graveyard of forgotten journals. The contrasts are striking and give much food for thought.

In passing it must be remembered that if it had not been for the war and the consequent

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By

HERBERT LECKENBY
.....

paper crisis some of the papers which came to a sudden end, such as *The Magnet*, *The Gem*, *The Thriller*, and others, might have been running still.

LOOKING at the list of successes one is struck by the fact that some of the papers at the top were of very different types. *The Boys of England*, for instance, changed very little, I believe, in appearance or contents throughout its long run. The type and general make-up of the last number were almost identical with the first. It relied to a great extent on the old time story and made no attempt to be topical. A remarkable feature of this paper was that for a number of years two editions were running at the same time. The second started in 1874 and ran stories which had already appeared in the older paper. It must have been a real success and there does not appear to have been any other instance of the kind. It will be noted, however, that in 1906 a third *Boys of England* appeared. This was after the demise of *Boys of the Empire*. This met with a very different fate as a reference to the other table will show.

Then take that grand old paper *The Boys' Friend*. It was faithful to its green tinted paper and page size throughout its run, but it did introduce new type from

time to time, and it changed its make-up in its later days. What is more, its stories were certainly topical, in fact sometimes in advance of time, when one thinks of those famous war-of-the-future serials by "John Tregellis" and others.

Those twins, the *Aldine Half-Holiday* and *Cheerful*, are in the picture, but they too made no attempt to keep pace with the times. There were no bright ideas in their make-up; just one long story which filled the space from title-heading to imprint, and stories at that which were mainly American reprints. The *Half-Holiday* ran for eighteen years, nevertheless, so apparently the readers and the publishers were content.

The Magnet! That is a very different story. It frequently changed its appearance, sometimes inevitably when the drums of war were beating. But it set a record which probably never will be surpassed, for the characters who made their bow in No. 1 did not say farewell until the last page of No. 1683 was written, and they played a part in every scene between.

The Gem, which was the companion of *The Magnet* for over thirty years, just missed that record, owing to a handful of non-school stories at the very beginning. But as its life was

a few months longer maybe its achievement was quite as astonishing.

TOP of the list is *The Union Jack*. In several ways its record was similar to the two just mentioned. Its appearance changed frequently and for the greater part of its career it relied upon one set of characters—Sexton Blake and his assistant, Tinker, of course. But this did not come about until it had been running for two years at a penny, with over eight years at a halfpenny before that. A run of over 2000 is impressive indeed, but even then it really only changed its name and continued under what was considered the more appropriate one of *The Detective Weekly*.

Harking back for a moment to *The Magnet* and *The Gem*, it will be remembered by some "old-timers" that in 1910 a companion, *The Empire Library*, joined them. It was almost identical with them, and at first the stories told of a neighbouring school to famous St. Jim's. But its record does not appear in the list of successes. Far from it, for it will be found in the other table. There were sixty-four issues in all, and even then there was a drastic change after thirty-six. Why this failure? Was it a case of three being too much of a good thing? Or was it, maybe,

because the hand of the master was not at work? Faithful Gemites and Magnetites will know what I mean by that.

This question of trios, by the way, gives some opportunity for reflection. There was *The Boys' Herald*, younger brother of *The Boys' Friend* and *The Boys' Realm*. It only just gets a place in the "success" list, for despite a promising early career it did not stay the pace like the others. It was supposed to carry on as *Cheer Boys Cheer*, but that was to all intents and purposes a new paper.

Then again there was *Pluck*, third of the *Marvel/Union Jack/Pluck* trio. It was by no means a failure and is well up the list, but somehow it never seemed as settled as the other two. It ran several really good character-series but for some reason they did not catch on. One cannot help wondering what would have happened to *Pluck* if the St. Jim's stories had not been transferred to *The Gem* in 1907.

A later instance of a trio was when the great success of *The Champion* brought about its companions, the other *Pluck* and *The Rocket*. They were very similar to *The Champion* but they had a very short existence.

NOW let us have a look at the reverse side of the picture. What a dismal record of

wrecked hopes! One can visualize some harassed editor, pacing up and down his sanctum, tugging at his beard with one hand, the circulation figures for No. 4 of his cherished new paper in the other, worriedly wondering if there would ever be a No. 7, and muttering maledictions about the hard-to-please English youth.

Look at the remarkable instance at the top of the list. There is another record that will never be broken! One would like to know the story behind that one. It could not be altogether that "Our Boys" of the day would not look at it at any price for in the ordinary event later numbers would be in print by the time No. 1 was on sale. Was it a case of empty coffers? In checking my notes Mr. Dexter added Aldine's as the publishers, but as I cannot credit that once flourishing concern being responsible for such an abject failure I have given it a query.

Another interesting feature is the number of times the name Guy Rayner appears in the publishers' column. What an optimistic, never-say-die individual he must have been, what a leader of lost causes! Evidently the "Boys and Girls" soon grew tired of the paper addressed to them, and the "Bonnie Boys of Britain"

tired of the one bearing that title after just six months.

E. J. Brett, too, had his failures as well as his successes: *The Boy's Coloured Pictorial*, for instance, was not colourful enough for the boys of 1902, for it only ran for sixteen weeks. And why was it the firmly established House of Newnes could not get going with a boys' weekly? *The Boy's Best Story Paper*, despite its title, faded out with No. 37, and they only managed to make *Boys' Life* one of twenty-five weeks.

In 1906 a publisher named Blogg launched a paper with the title *The New Boys' Paper*. Why give a paper a name like that? It doesn't seem to show much foresight, for supposing it grew old! Anyway, this one didn't, for No. 30 was the last. There was another, by the way, with the same title in 1886, edited by Ralph Rollington. It did somewhat better, as it continued for seventy-four weeks.

IT WILL be noticed that a *Boy's Friend* appears among the failures. This was actually a monthly but I have included it as a contrast to the better known Amalgamated Press paper. There was another *Union Jack*, too, edited by G. A. Henty, but as this ran for two years, 1880-82, it escapes inclusion in the short careers list.

It may be noted that no men-

tion of *The Boy's Own Paper* or *Chums* appears in the record of successes. This is because for a considerable period they were not weeklies. For the benefit of those interested I may say that the B.O.P. started on January 18th, 1879; and *Chums* first saw the light of day on September 14th, 1892. *The Boy's Own Paper* is still published, though it is but a shadow of its former self.

I COULD go on browsing over this fascinating subject indefinitely but I must leave room for something else. Should, however, any reader of *The Story Paper Collector* wish to ask any questions about papers—the in-betweens which do not appear in my two lists—I would be happy to answer them if I can.

I would, too, be glad of the start/stop dates of a few papers such as *Boys' Realm Sports Library*, *Nugget Library* (A.P.; stop only), *Boys' Magazine* (stop only), *Pluck* (1922; stop only), *Rocket* (stop only), *Startler* (start only), *Bulls-eye*, *Surprise* (stop only), *Fun and Fiction* (stop only), *Scoops* (stop only), *Sports Budget* (stop only), *Pilot* (stop only), and *Wild West Weekly* (stop only).

For reasons which the powers that be call "security" I am unable to give the address from which I usually write these rambling recollections of mine, but letters addressed to me c/o 8 Lawrence Street, York, England, will be passed on to me.

With these dates in my possession my records I believe would be almost complete.

LONG CAREERS

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Union Jack (½ d.)	Apr. 27, 1894-Oct. 10, 1903	494	Amalgamated
“ “ (1d. etc.)	Oct. 17, 1903-Jan. 29, 1933	1523	Press
		Total 2017	
Boys' Friend (½ d.)	Jan. 29, 1895-June 8, 1901	332	Amalgamated
“ “ (1d. etc.)	Jun. 15, 1901-Dec. 31, 1927	1385	Press
		Total 1717	
Gem Library (½ d.)	Mar. 16, 1907-Feb. 8, 1908	48	Amalgamated
“ “ (1d. etc.)	Feb. 15, 1908-Dec. 30, 1939	1663	Press
		Total 1711	

(Continued on Next Page)

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Boys of England (orig.)	Nov.27,1865-Jun.30,1899	1702	E. J. Brett
Magnet Library	Feb.15,1908-May18,1940	1683	Amal. Press
Marvel ($\frac{1}{2}$ d.)	Mar.15,1893-Jan.23,1904	533	Amalgamated
“ (Id.etc.)	Jan.30,1904-Apr.22,1922	952	Press
		Total 1485	
Young Folks	Jan.12,1871-Sept.11,1896	1353	James Henderson
Boys' Realm (1st series)	June 14,1902-Mar.25,1916	717	} Amal. Press
“ “ (revival)	Apr. 5, 1919-July 16, 1927	432	
“ “ (small series)	July 23, 1927- :: :: approx. 80		
		Total approx. 1229	
Young Men of (1st series)	Jan.29,1868-Apr.16,1888	1056	E. J.
Great Britain (2nd series)	Apr.23, 1888-July 1, 1889	66	Brett
		Total 1122	
Pluck Liby ($\frac{1}{2}$ d.)	Nov. 24, 1894-Oct.29, 1904	518	Amal. Press
“ “ (1d.)	Nov. 5, 1904-Mar. 18, 1916	595	Total 1113
Boys' Cinema	Dec. 13, 1919-May 18, 1940	1063	Amal. Press
Boys of England (re-issue)	Apr.20,1874-Apr.1,1894	1040	E.J.Brett
Nelson Lee Liby (1st series)	June12,1915-Apr.23,1926	568	Amal-
“ “ “ (2nd series)	May 1, 1926-Jan. 18, 1930	194	gam-
“ “ “ (3rd series)	Jan.25, 1930-Feb. 18, 1933	161	ated
“ “ “ (4th series)	Feb.25,1933-Aug.12,1933	25	Press
		Total 948	
Penny Popular (1st series)	Oct.12,1912-Mar.30,1918	286	Amal.
“ “ (2nd series)	Jan. 25, 1919-Feb. 7, 1931	628	Press
		Total 914	
Aldine Half-Holiday	:: :: 1892-Jan.6,1910	904	Aldine Pub. Co.
Boy's Standard (1st series)	Nov.6,1875-May 7, 1881	288	W. Lucas
“ “ (2nd series)	May 14,1881-Jun.18,1892	580	Chas.Fox
		Total 868	
Boys of London & N.Y.	Jan.7, 1882-Dec.30,1899	835	:: ::
Aldine Cheerful Liby	:: :: 1894-May 5,1911	822	Aldine Pub.Co.
Boy's Comic Journal	May 17, 1883-Nov. 28, 1896	716	E. J. Brett
{ Comic Pictorial Nuggets	May 7,1892-Nov. 19,1892	29	James
{ Nuggets	Nov.26,1892-Mar.10,1905	641	Hen-
		Total 670	erson

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Halfpenny Surprise —	Nov. 2, 1894-Sept. 12, 1906—	614—	E. J. Brett
Big Budget —	June 19, 1897-Mar. 20, 1909—	611—	Pearson's
Modern Boy (1st series) —	Feb. 6, 1928-Feb. 12, 1938—	521—	Amal.
“ “ (2nd series) —	Feb. 19, 1938-Oct. 14, 1939—	87—	Press
		Total 608	
Thriller —	Feb. 9, 1929-May 18, 1940—	587—	Amal. Press
Skipper —	Sept. 6, 1930-Feb. 1, 1941—	543—	D. C. Thomson
Boys' Herald —	Aug. 8, 1903-May 18, 1912—	461—	Amal. Press
Adventure —	Sept. 17, 1921-Still running—		D. C. Thomson
Champion —	Jan. 28, 1922-Still running—		Amal. Press
Rover —	Mar. 4, 1922-Still running—		D. C. Thomson
Hotspur —	Sept. 2, 1933-Still running—		D. C. Thomson

NOTES

Aldine Half-Holiday and *Cheerful* had other series with short runs which are not included.

In some instances, such as the earlier issues of *The Marvel*, *The Union Jack*, *Pluck*, and *The Boys' Friend*, the publisher, though given as The Amalgamated Press, would actually be one of the predecessor companies to The A.P.: Answers Limited, Harmsworth Bros. Limited.

SHORT CAREERS

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Our Boys —	July 21, 1897—	1—	::
Boy's Story Teller —	May 4, 1897-June 8, 1897—	6—	::
Every Boy's Journal —	Apr. 12, 1884-June 7, 1884—	9—	E. Maurice
Boy's Half-Holiday —	May 7, 1887-July 16, 1887—	9—	Chas. Fox
Every Boy's Paper —	June 14, 1884-Aug. 16, 1884—	10—	E. Maurice
Boy's Athenaeum —	Jan. 1, 1875-Mar. 5, 1875—	10—	Ward, Lock
Boys of the Isles —	Jan. 22, 1889-Apr. 9, 1889—	12—	Guy Rayner

(Continued on Next Page)

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Boys of the Nation —	Sept. 5, 1895-Nov. 12, 1895—	13—	Chas. Fox
Boy's Own Reader —	Jan. 1, 1866-Mar. 25, 1866—	13—	: :
Boys of England (3rd) —	Sept. 22, 1906-Dec. 22, 1906—	14—	E. J. Brett
Pals —	Oct. 8, 1895-Jan. 22, 1896—	16—	Chas. Shurey
Boy's Coloured Pictorial —	May 24, 1902-Sept. 6, 1902—	16—	E. J. Brett
Boys and Girls —	July 30, 1887-Nov. 19, 1887—	17—	Guy Rayner
Jack Harkaway's Journal for Boys —	Apr. 24, 1893-Sept. 7, 1893—	20—	E. J. Brett
School and Sport —	Dec. 17, 1921-May 1, 1922—	20—	Popular Pubs. (H. A. Hinton, Editor)
Boys of the United Kingdom —	Nov. 26, 1887-Apr. 21, 1888—	22—	Guy Rayner
Boys' Life —	Apr. 27, 1907-Oct. 12, 1907—	25—	Newnes
Bonnie Boys of Britain —	Oct. 18, 1884-Apr. 11, 1885—	26—	Guy Rayner
New Boys' Paper —	Nov. 12, 1906-June 3, 1907—	30—	E. J. Blogg
Boy's Companion and British Traveller —	May 15, 1865-Dec. 23, 1865—	33—	: :
Boys Broadcast —	Oct. 27, 1934-June 29, 1935—	36—	Amal. Press
Boy's Best Story Paper —	Oct. 7, 1911-June 22, 1912—	37—	Newnes
Boy's Friend (monthly) —	June, 1864-Aug., 1867—	38—	Henry Lea
Young Briton's Journal —	June 16, 1888-Mar. 2, 1889—	38—	Guy Rayner
Lads of the Village —	July 18, 1874-Apr. 17, 1875—	40—	Hogarth House
Boy's Favourite —	Nov. 11, 1870-Sept. 1, 1871—	41—	E. J. Brett
Boy's Popular Weekly —	Apr. 21, 1888-Jan. 19, 1889—	41—	Guy Rayner
Boys' Stories —	Mar. 27, 1898-Jan. 23, 1899—	44—	: :
Garfield Boy's Journal —	Sept. 26, 1894-July 31, 1895—	45—	Aldine Pub.
Detective Library —	Aug. 2, 1919-July 10, 1920—	50—	Amal. Press
Boy's Graphic —	Mar. 8, 1890-Feb. 28, 1891—	52—	Guy Rayner
Red Arrow —	Mar. 19, 1932-Mar. 18, 1933—	52—	D. C. Thomson
Boy's Jubilee Journal —	May 3, 1887-June 6, 1888—	54—	Guy Rayner
Robin Hood Liby* —	Apr. 15, 1919-July 10, 1920—	56—	Amal. Press

*First few issues two a month only.

Name of Paper	Start-Stop	No. of Issues	Publisher
Prairie Library*—	Apr. 15, 1919-July 10, 1920—	56—	Amal. Press
Rover's Log—	Mar. 11, 1872-Apr. 12, 1873—	57—	Geo. Emmett
Boy's Illus. News—	Apr. 6, 1881-June 8, 1882—	61—	Cassell's
Empire Liby (1st series)	—Feb. 19, 1910-Oct. 22, 1910—	36—	Amal.
“ “ (2nd series)	—Oct. 29, 1910-May 6, 1911—	28—	Press
		Total	64

*First few issues two a month only.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the two tables of start and stop dates and number of issues presented in these pages Mr. Leckenby has done a good job, and one that needed doing. However, as anyone will know who has tried to work out dates, with or without the aid of calendars, it is very easy to make mistakes; therefore it is not claimed that these lists are entirely correct. In a few instances where the figures could be checked with my own collection or records changes were made—correctly, it is hoped. It may be that some day it will be possible to publish a revised and complete list of the many weeklies that have been issued with the hope of charming their pennies from succeeding generations of British boys.—W. H. G.

“THE WONDER”

THE article on *The Wonder* (S.P.C. #20) was of particular interest to me . . . but it was news to me that it had a new series in 1893—that, with the note on the discrepancy in the list, completely upset the record I had kept of it . . .

I immediately wrote to the publishers about it and had a

reply that the second series was from No. 1, February 4th, 1893, to No. 325, April 22nd, 1899. Then another series started: No. 1, April 29th, 1899, to No. 109, May 25th, 1901. It is odd how they seemed to like to have new series so often, or change the title; it is very misleading.

—ARTHUR HARRIS.

Since the last issue of *S. P. C.* was published

V.E. Day has come and gone; these notes are being written one month later. With the passing of the convoy system in the North Atlantic mail should be speeded up, with the result that copies of our little magazine will be received sooner after being printed than has hitherto been the case.



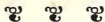
In due course, though probably not for some time, the newsstands will doubtless again be flooded with new and revived boys' weeklies, as was the case in 1919. Most of us will view these with interest, but as from the sidelines, so to speak. More particularly, however, we will be on the lookout for the proposed new paper in which will appear Frank Richards' new series of Carcroft School stories, and also for a revived *Magnet* and *Gem*. But it is unlikely that we will see anything the equal of *The Champion* of 1922-23.



This observer of the passing scene in Britain, as viewed from the distance of Western Canada, is going to watch for the emergence of magazines of the so-called "comic" variety that have become so extremely popular here and in the States during

S. P. Comment

the past decade, almost to the elimination of all other juvenile periodicals. In North America they are now by far the largest-selling group of publications.



Manitoba is not exactly a happy hunting ground for those looking for odd trifles in the line of old boys' books, but occasionally something of interest turns up. Thus, lately, we found in Winnipeg bookshops Vol. 27 of *Chums*, for 1918-19, and forty *Modern Boys* for 1930-33. Not to be compared with a *Wild Boys of London* (hope we've chosen a rare one as an example) or a *Boys' Friend* or *Big Budget* volume, but all the same an encouragement to go on looking. At the same time an opportunity was passed up of acquiring six *Boy's Own Volumes* of 1864-66, as being rather out of our chosen field, and a little too expensive for their dilapidated condition.

—W. H. G.

The Geographical Magazine

(London)—Wanted: 3 copies of February, 1942, issue. Wm. H. Gander, Transcona, Canada.

✎ I would like to hear from J. Bradford Smith (U.S.A.), formerly of *The Collector*.—C. Sculthorpe, 82 Lichfield Road, Coleshill 10, England.***

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“**Boys' Friend**” (New Series)—List supplied on request.

“**Greyfriars Herald**” (New Series, 1919-22) later “**Boys' Herald**”—Nos. 9, 30 to 36, 38 to 43, 46 to the end.

“**Empire Library**”—1st series.

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WM. H. GANDER

Transcona, Manitoba, Canada

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