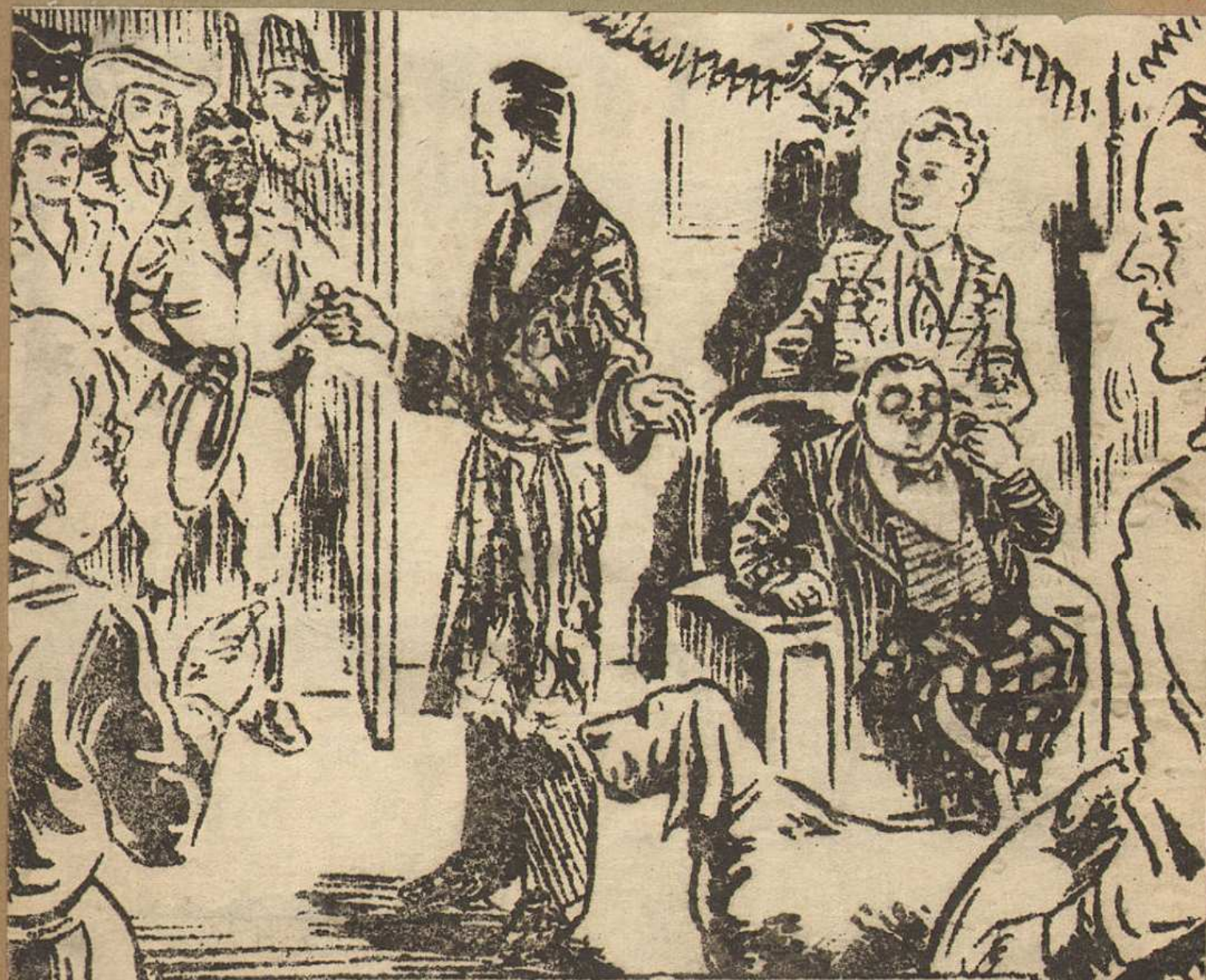


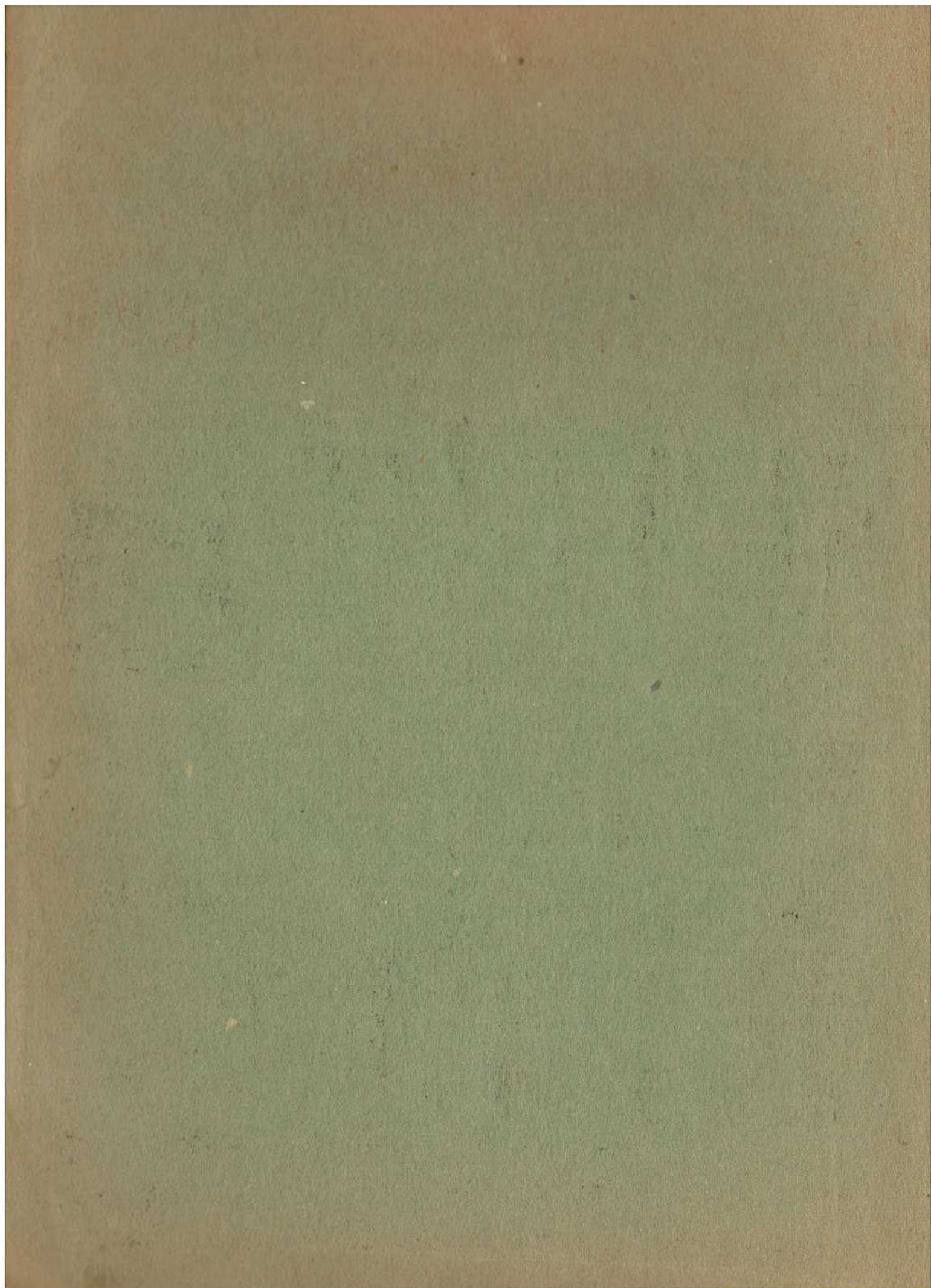
COLLECTORS' DIGEST 6/-

1947 Xmas Annual - N° 1.



A Guide for all Story Paper Collectors.

NEHO



The Collector's Digest Annual

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Fellow Collectors,

We proudly present the first issue of "The Collectors' Digest Annual". We are writing this, of course, before we actually see the result of our labours. It may be that we shall not find it fit quite as perfectly as a complicated jig-saw puzzle. If that be so we are sure you will take into account the conditions under which it has been produced, paragraphs written in the midst of our business duties, research oft times by the aid of midnight oil. Anyhow, even with a few possible imperfections, we can, without conceit, claim that nothing of the kind has been attempted before and we have endeavoured to make it to story paper collectors' something as useful as 'Wisdens' is to cricketers. If some little query arises we want you to say "let's see what the C. D. Annual says" and hope that you will find therein the answers.

But hard as we have worked, our efforts would have been futile had it not been for the invaluable help we have received from a host of friends by way of articles, sketches, suggestions, advice. To each and every one we say, from the bottom of our hearts, "thank you".

We must say a special word about our cover design. When it first catches your eye we have an idea that you may jump to the conclusion that we had been able to engage the services of that brilliant artist of the Sexton Blake publications, Eric R. Parker. That wasn't so of course, though you might be excused for thinking so. It was drawn for us, however, by a professional artist who is a member and a real friend to our little circle. He prefers to sign himself "Nemo", and "Nemo" he must remain. If your verdict is that the contents live up to the cover we shall be content.

In conclusion we may say we are sufficiently optimistic to be already taking time by the forelock and preparing "Collectors' Digest Annual" No. 2.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Leckenby.

H. Maurice Bond.

The Collector's Digest "Who's Who"

by Herbert Leckenby.

Introduction

Even though this list covers several pages it is not suggested it is in any way complete. Despite our appeals a number of collectors already members of our circle have not sent us details about themselves. Where possible I have compiled a few lines from their letters - written from time to time. Then of course, there must be quite a No. who have not as yet joined our ranks. This is evident because almost every week we do add to our numbers. Should any of our readers know any whose names do not appear in our list we should be grateful if they would introduce them. We may then publish additional lists from time to time in the monthly C.D.

Complete or not we are confident it will be agreed the "Who's Who" will be of the utmost value. Collectors wishing to buy, sell, or exchange will have before them the names of those best able to help them. In passing we might mention that since we started the C.D. the only criticism we have received is that we give too much space to the "Magnet", "Gem", "Union Jack" and others of the "modern" papers. We trust a glance at our collectors various interests will justify our policy.

When reading this record as a whole it should be remembered that although it appears alphabetically it has been compiled as details came in, thus here and there it may have a cart before the horse effect as it were. This has been unavoidable.

In conclusion may I say that compiling it has been a lengthy but pleasant task. As I set my eyes on what some of my fellow collectors possess it made me wish I could set off on a months tour to browse over some of them. I could for instance spend many days in the amazing library of Mr. John Medcraft and then come away, like Oliver Twist - longing for more. It is certainly astonishing that so many tens of thousands of papers have escaped the salvage collectors and the ravishes of time.

COLLECTORS' DIGEST "WHO'S WHO".

ALLEN. Leonard M. - 3, Montgomery Drive, Sheffield 7.

A staunch member of the E.S. Books' group. Has about 300 Nelson Lee Libraries and all the St. Franks' stories in the Schoolboys' Own Library. Also 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly vols Captain, and school stories by Hadaith, Cleaver, Bird, Wodehouse, etc.

ADLEY. Derek - 19 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Interested in Gens, Magnets, Nelson Lees and various other A.P. Papers. The writer has not heard from him recently but believes Mr. Adley is still keen.

ARMITAGE. Thomas - 205, Batley Road, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, Yorks.

Does not actually collect but as readers of the C.D. know from his interesting articles knows a lot about the papers of 20 - 30 years ago. writes entirely from memory and seldom makes a mistake.

BAGULEY. Joseph - "Moorings", Pensilva, Cornwall

In a useful collection Mr. Baguley has a good proportion of "Nelson Lees" and early "Schoolboys Own Libraries", an almost complete run of "Boy's Friend 4d Libraries" from 1924; many "Magnets", "Gens", and "Young Britains". He is 34 years of age, 5ft. 11ins in height and turns the scales at 14 stone 10 lbs.

BAWDEN. William L. - No.7 Penryn St., Redruth, Cornwall.

Another with an enviable "Magnet" and "Gem" collection, nearly 800 (eight hundred) of each. "Magnets" complete from No. 1178 to the end. Also has about 400 (four hundred) "Schoolboy's Own Libraries" and 14 (fourteen) "Holiday Annuals".

BARTLETT. Henry J.H., Peas Hill, Shipton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset.

Interested in all boy's papers particularly to older ones. Is anxious to get a complete set of Dreadnoughts.

BENNETT. R.V. - 64, Dudley Rd., Tipton, Staffs.

Has a splendid run of Magnets from 906 to the end with the solitary exception of No.981. Can anyone oblige Mr. Bennett? A typical example of the motive for this Who's Who. In addition has about 600 Gens and several dozen Nelson Lees, Sexton Blake's, Populars.

Postscript: Mr. Bennett has now obtained 981! Nice work!

BURROW. R. - 1 Albert Square, Annley, Leeds.

Puts "Nelson Lees" first of all. Started collecting in earnest in 1937, at one time had nearly a complete set, but at present possesses about 400, including 1 - 112 of the first series. Has also about 300 "Magnets" and 350 "Gens".

Why not Advertise in The Collector's Digest ?

BAXENDALE. VINCENT A. No. 1 Vincent Street, Openshaw, Manchester 11.

One of the younger generation, and like many more of his time puts "Magnets", "Gems", "Union Jacks" and "Nelson Lees" first and has a fair number of each. Also collects others of the moderns not so much in demand, such as "Pilot", "Ranger", "Champion", "Bullseye", "Modern Boys" etc.

BRYANT. James W. - 151 Methilbrae, Methil, Fifeshire, Scotland.

Is specially interested in Nelson Lee Xmas numbers, also Xmas numbers of all old boy's papers, magazines and comics. Mr. Bryant is a Chief Cinema projectionist, 41 years of age and has been collecting since 1912

BOND. Herbert, Maurice, Charles - 10 Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, S. Wales

Collector of all publications dealing with Sexton Blake. Also interested in all Amalgamated Press publications especially "Magnet", "Gem", "Nelson Lee", "Popular" and the "fourpennies". Collection includes 1,100 "Union Jacks" of the second series (1903-1932). Has a complete run from No.1000 to the end with the exception of 10 issues. Most copies in good condition many mint. Volume 1 of the "Union Jack" (original series 1894 - 1903) bound. 10 Boy's Friend Libraries containing Sexton Blake stories excluding three copies bound as the original editorial file copies. About two dozen "Detective Weeklies" (all early copies). 130 of the 382 "Sexton Blake Libraries" First Series, 320 of the 744 "Sexton Blake Libraries" Second Series. 158 (complete to date) of the "Sexton Blake Libraries" Third (current) Series. All four of the published "Sexton Blake Annuals". A Sexton Blake Bust. Various other items including the Arthur Jones portrait of Blake presented with the thousandth issue of the "Union Jack". Bound volume of No's 1 - 25 William Gander's "Story Paper Collector". Favourite authors are George Hamilton Teed, Anthony Parsons, Gwyn Evans, Robert Murray and John G. Brandon. Favourite U.J./S.B.L. characters include Dr. Huxton Ryner (Teed), George Marsden Plummer (Osborne and Teed), Dr. Satira (Murray), "Splash" Page (Evans), Roger Sturges Vercker Purvale (Brandon) and Gunga Dass (Hill, Brisbane and Parsons). Favourite artist - Eric R. Parker. Favourite (purple) period - the 1920's. Favourite Blake story "The Case of the Bogus Monk" with "The Harem Mystery" a close second.

Age 35, height 6ft. married with two children both of whom he hopes will grow up to love the greatest character in juvenile (or any other for that matter) fiction. Is the owner of a private circulating library, a member of the British Amateur Press Association and The Publishers Association. Fond of Classical music.

If its Magnets and Gems you're after, send your numbers required along to WILLIAM MARTIN, 93, Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London, N.W.10., 'phone - Willesden 4474. Always a large selection in stock - both early and late numbers. Prices upon application. If I have not got what you want, names are put on a waiting list, and dealt with in strict rotation. Satisfaction guaranteed.

BOTTOMLEY. Fred - 48 Downhills Park Rd., Tottenham, London N.17.

Favourite paper "The Magnet" of which he has six hundred between 1912 - 40. Also 250 "Gems" (1917 - 39), 120 "Penny Populars, 200 "Schoolboy's Own Libraries". Has been collecting for 25 years. Mr. Bottomley has often copies of the more popular 20th Century papers for sale or exchange.

BRETHERTON. T.P. - Heskin, Near Chorley, Lancashire.

Interested in the Amalgamated Press and Pearson Papers of the early years of the century. Boy's Friend, Boy's Leader etc. and is always on the look out for additions to his collection.

BRYAN S.F. - 6 City Road, Peterborough.

Has only been re-collecting a few months but has already got together about 100 "Magnets" (his favourite). 100 "Gems" and about 60 "Schoolboy's Own Libraries".

BLYTHE. Robert - 81 Alsen Rd., Holloway, London N.7.

Here is something really unique. Mr. Blythe is the proud owner of a complete set of the Nelson Lee Library, believed to be the only one in existence. He can naturally claim to be an authority, and is always willing to assist other Lee collectors on any matters concerning the stories. Mr. Blythe has also about 800 "Magnets".

CHILD A. 64 Gilderstone Avenue, Birmingham 26.

One more loyal admirer and collector of Nelson Lees.

CLOUGH W.H. - 3 Fonthill Grove, Sale, Manchester.

Has been collecting about three years, starting with the Aldine "Dick Turpins" of which he is now about sixty. Has also about the same number of "Boy's Friend Threepenny Libraries", and 100 assorted "Gems", "Magnets", "Union Jacks" etc. Is desirous of getting together a representative collection of papers issued between 1901 and 1916.

COLCOMBE. William H. - 256 South Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

First started collecting in 1940 and in the interval has built up two fine collections of Sexton Blake Libraries and Union Jacks, and through unavoidable circumstances disposed of them. Is now in process of forming a third and succeeding very well for he has one hundred S.B.Ls. of the first series. Also has 500 Union Jacks and 50 Detective Weeklies. Has also started collecting Magnets and obtained 200 so far together with some 50 or so Schoolboy's Own Libraries. Mr. Colcombe puts the S.B.L. above all and has written some interesting articles for the monthly C.D. He was born and bred in Southend, is 26 years of age, and is employed on the security council staff of local factory.

WANTED: Odd numbers of Boys Books. Please send Lists.

A

All letters answered. Henry J.H. Bartlett, Peas Hill Ship-ton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset.

COOK J.W. - 178 Maria Street, Denwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A loyal member of the "Nelson Lee" group, and through tireless effort has got together a fine collection. About three hundred of the first (small) series from 1926 to the end, a complete set with the exception of about sixteen. Has also about two hundred of the later "Magnets" and a similar number of "Gems" one hundred "Schoolboy's Own Libraries", one hundred "Boy's Friend Libraries" (4d series) and a number of "Sport's Budgets", "Jack's Paper", "Union Jacks" etc.

COX. Herbert Reginald - 73 Chelston Rd., Ruislip, Middlesex.

He has been guide, councillor and friend to many. Has had more than one good collection but at present hasn't any of the story papers. Does, however, quite a lot of writing on the hobby, his greatest success so far being his "Sexton Blake File in Hutchinson Saturday Book for 1947".

CHIDWICK. Ronald - 96 Morehall Avenue, Folkestone.

Here we present the youngest member of our clan for Ronald is only 14 years of age. Recently discovered Sexton Blake and looks like developing into one of his keenest admirers. Would be grateful of any help in building up a collection.

CORBETT. J. - 49 Glyn Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham.

Is a "Magnet" fan first and foremost. Began re-collecting in 1940 and has now about a complete set between 1929 - 1940. Has also "Holiday Annuals" 1925 to 1930 and a few "Gems". Is anxious to obtain "Magnets" between 1922 - 29. Mrs. Corbett is almost as keen a reader of the "Magnet" as her husband. Lucky Mr. Corbett! There are some collectors who are not so fortunate in have such understanding wives. Mr. Corbett is also greatly interested in classical music and possesses eight hundred first class records.

DANIEL. Charles W. - 268 Tomswood Hill, Ilford, Essex.

Mr. Daniel calls his collection small; its certainly good and to be envied, especially by the veterans. Mr. Daniel was born in London on September 14th 1884 and has been a keen collector since about 1914. His most prized item is a complete set of the very scarce "Ching, Ching" stories. He has complete runs of the shorter lived journals such as "Boy's Monster Weekly", "Boy's Jubilee Journal", "Boy's Graphic (1902 - 3) etc. Selections of "Boy's of England", "Boys of the Empire", "Boy's Comic Journal" etc. Volumes of "Boy's Herald", "Nelson Lee Library", "Gem", "Magnet", "Marvel", "Pluck", "Vanguard", (Trapps Holmes). Representative collection of Aldines and Hendersons, a few Lloyds and others of the early "bloods". Yes, a very interesting collection. Mr. Daniel likes stories with a humorous touch, school stories with a plot, detective and wild west yarns but has no interest in sport or war stories.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all Readers

DOWLER. Harry - 86 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester.

In a cosy den specially allotted to the purpose Mr. Dowler has the following interesting collection. Volumes 1-17 of "Chums", Volumes 1-3 "Boy's of our Empire" (Melrose), Volumes 1-30 of "Captain", four volumes "Boy's Own Annual", Volumes 1-30 Strand Magazine, Volumes 1 & 2 "Harnsworth Magazine", numbers 1 to 26 of the "Boy's Herald", numbers 1 - 26 of "The Boy's Realm". The above are all bound. Also has 100 loose copies "Boy's Friend" (early) 100 assorted boys papers, and three reference books with valuable information on the hobby.

DOLPHIN. Rex C. The Wicket, Hyde Heath, Amersham (Ducks).

Mr. Dolphin has been a devotee of Sexton Blake for twenty years. His collection is not as large as it used to be but he has at present about two hundred "Union Jacks" and one hundred and fifty "Sexton Blake Libraries". His favourite authors are, (a) Anthony Skene, (b) Gwyn Evans, (c) Coutts Brisbane, (d) Donald Stuart and (e) E.J. Murray.

EDWARDS W.E. - Ivydene, Solidlane, Doddinghurst, Essex.

Has for many years been interested and a collector of Magnets.

FAYNE. Eric - The Modern School, Grove Rd., Surbiton, Surrey.

Mr. Fayne, after several years of patient search and extensive advertising has deservedly got together one of the "star" collections, the main items of which are:- "Gems", "Magnets" and "Poplars" complete all but a few dozen; "Schoolboy's Own Libraries" complete, 400 "Boy's Friends", 200 "Union Jacks", first "Greyfriars Herald's" complete with one hundred of the second series, "Holiday Annuals" complete, all the "St. Jim's, Greyfriars and "Rookwood" stories in the "Boy's Friend Library", 60 "Sexton Blake Libraries" and 200 "School Friends". A feast of reading indeed, and in addition there are about 2,000 duplicates.

FENNELL. Hugh W. - 4, Dixon Rd., South Norwood, London S.E.25.

The real "bloods" for Mr. Fennell. He has been a collector for a great many years selling his first collection the year Signorinetta won the Derby as he puts it. Let's see, that would be about 1910 wouldn't it? He has some rare items in his present collection but lacks "The Wild Boys of London". Among Aldines he is especially keen on the "Invention Library" (Frank Reade).

FOSTER G.C. - 26 Kelse Place, London N.8.

At one time possessed a special collection of "Gems", "Magnets" "Boy's Friends", "Empires" and other G.P. papers, but at present has only a few Jack, Sam and Pete Boy's Friend Libraries and the early St. Jim's and Greyfriars stories published in that library. Has come across the papers in all sorts of unexpected places whilst serving overseas. Is an author himself having about 30 popular novels to his credit, also writes as "Seaforth".

Have you ordered your Next Year's copies of The Collector's Digest yet ?

FORD. Derck - 42 West Bond St., Macclesfield.

An enthusiastic Sexton Blake collector. Possess about 100 issues of the 1d "Union Jack", a volume of the ½d issues containing one Blake story, a nearly complete set of "Detective Weeklies", a good collection of the 1st and 2nd series of the "Sexton Blake Library" and all the third series.

GANDER. William H. - P.O. Box 60 Transcona, Manitoba, Canada.

This little Canadian town of Transcona houses a grand collection for Mr. Gander is the fortunate owner of, among others, a complete set of "Magnets" with the exception of 49 and he has read every one of them! Can anyone help him to get those 49? In addition he has about half the "Gems" and nearly all the "Empire Libraries" (his first love), all the eighteen 1st issues of "The Greyfriars Herald" and 1-30 of the 2nd, the ½d series of "The Boy's Friend" complete, of the 1d series 20 or more vols; Boys Realm (new series 1-104 and odd copies of many other papers. Yes, a grand collection.

GEAL J.W. - 60 Fleetwood Rd., Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr. Geal collects "Magnets" only and started in 1942. He now has over 600 between No. 850 and the end. Just after he started he was offered over 200 for One Pound - and the offer was genuine! Mr. Geal is now anxious to get any prior to No.850.

POCHER John. W. Junior, Victoria Cottage, Constitution Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk.

John is one of the younger generation so naturally prefers the papers of the not so long ago. Has practically all the Sexton Blake Libraries 3rd series and a good many of the 2nd. Interested also in "Triumph", "Champion", "Champion Library", "Chums", "Thriller" and "Detective Weekly". Favourite authors are Gwyn Evans, Gilbert Chester, Herbert Macrae, Clifford Gates and W. Murdoch Duncan.

GRAINGER. George P. - Alexandra Rd., Faynters Lane End, Redruth, Cornwall.

Here's a huge and grand collection, enough to make the mouths of the veterans water. Some of the main items are: "Boy's Standard" - three volumes; "Boy's Leisure Hour" - ten volumes; "Young Folks Budget" (and Paper) - 42 volumes; "Boy's Champion Story Paper" (Hendersons) - 3 vols; "Boy's of England" - 17 vols; "Young Men of Great Britain" - 14 volumes; "Boy's Comic Journal" - 24 volumes; "Boy's of the British Empire" - 4 vols; "Boys of the Empire" - nearly a complete set; "Boy's Friend" - 24 vols (52 per volume); "Boy's Herald (A.P.)" - 2 vols; "Union Jack", "Pluck" and "Marvel" - 2000 copies and later series. "Detective Weekly" - complete set; "Wild West Library" - 160 No's. "Hanson's Black Bess" - complete; Hogarth House Complete Tales, 7 short of complete set.

Aldines, 350 First Rates, 3000 O'er Land & Sea: Detective Tales, 30 short of complete set; 200 Invention Library. Tip top - complete set; Half Holidays - 24 volumes. Cheerful Library - 20 volumes; Robin Hood - complete set. In addition numerous Nuggets Library, Boys Magazine, True Blues, Bullseyes (Aldine) Diamonds, British Boys, etc., etc.

Truly a collection to be envied.

GALLOWAY. R. - 25 Westbourne Avenue, Gateshead.

Interested in and has a good collection of Captain, Chums and B.O.Ps.

HARRIS. Arthur - Caynton, Llanthos Rd., Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno.

A very unique collection here for it consists entirely of "comics" or those serial story papers devoting a number of pages to comics, like "The Big Budget". Mr. Harris possesses nearly 2,000 of them from "Comic Cuts", "Chips", "Worlds Comic" "Comic Home Journal" etc. of the 90's onwards.

HARRIS. A.K. - 20 Battenhall Rd., Worcester.

An ardent "Gem" collector and his daughter is as keen as he is. In a comparatively short time has got together about two hundred copies.

HALL. Maurice - "Woostenholme" 21 Grasscroft Avenue, Merton Park, London SW.19.

Started collecting in 1939 but did not really get going until 1945. He has now over 1000 assorted papers. Mr. Hall puts the "Magnet" first, followed by "Gem", "Pluck", "Popular", "Schoolboy's Own Libraries", "Union Jack", "Monster Library" and "Modern Boy".

HEWITT. H. - 14, Wood View Lane, Gawber, Barnsley.

Has a small but interesting collection of Amalgamated Press and Aldine papers mainly "Magnets" and "Gems" (including a few early ones of the former) "Union Jacks", "Nelson Lees" "True Blues" etc. ?

HORSEY. Alfred L. - 60 Salcombe Rd., Walthamstow, London N.17.

For many years has been well known to collectors and has helped them substantially to build up their collections. He himself has been concentrating on the very early "Magnets" and "Gems" of which he has fairly large collection and sets more value on them than the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London - the "Magnet" being his favourite. In addition he has many of the early threepenny "Doy's Friend" "Firefly" "Sports" and "Fun and Fiction". Libraries, Aldine and Bretts. Mr. Horsey also collects old theatrical weeklies such as the "Encore" "Performer" "Era" and "Stage" etc. and his write-ups on the shows at his local music-hall the Walthamstow Palace have featured prominently in the "Stage" on and off for some years past, and brought him in contact with some of the B.B.C. stars. In this connection it may be of interest to readers of the C.D. to know that the Editor first met Mr. Horsey when he made a flying trip to York in 1945 and after a very enjoyable day, chatting and touring the ancient city and taking a peep inside the stately York Minster, they celebrated the happy meeting by a visit to the York Empire. Mr. Horsey is always grateful for any collectors who can send him music-hall programmes from their own Cities and Towns.

FOR SALE: Magnets Gems Schoolboys Own Libraries, Sexton Blakes (present series), Holiday Annuals. Stamp for List, please. F. Bottomley, 48, Downhills Park Road, Tottenham, London, N.17.

HOLGATE. Alfred - 81, Fairlop Rd., Leytonstone, London.

Started his present collection in an interesting way. He read the famous interview with Frank Richards in "Picture Post" and it gave him a longing to renew acquaintance. He began to haunt the second-hand bookshops, needless to say without success. Then he had an inspiration - he wrote to Frank Richards. A prompt reply suggested "Exchange and Mart". This put him on the track with the result that he has now not only a nice little collection of "Gems" and "Magnets" but also "Union Jacks", "Marvels" "Plucks" and others.

HUDSON. Reginald A. - 5 Throstle Row, Leeds 10.

Is still another of those who renewed acquaintance with the papers of his boyhood when the revelation about Charles Hamilton was made public. He puts the "Gem" first of all. Has a fair number of issues of that paper and the "Magnet". Has a son who is as keen on the stories as he is himself. Mr. Hudson once gave a talk entitled "Charles Hamilton" to his works discussion group and was much gratified by the interest it aroused. A large proportion of his audience had been readers themselves.

HUMPHRIES. K. - 61 Long Hill Rise, Hucknall, Notts.

One more of the numerous Nelson Lee group. Wonders if Mr. E.S. Brooks realises how many loyal fans he has. Mr. Humphries is also interested in "Gems" and "Magnets".

HUNTER. J.V.B. Stewart - 4 Lulworth Rd., Mittingham, London.

Now in his late forties Mr. Hunter has always been interested but started assembling his present collection only about four years ago. He is chiefly interested in the downright "bloods" of the early Victorian era, preferably the adult type as published by Lloyds. Has about 300 volumes including a complete set of Reynolds and many addments. Has had one or two interesting and unexpected finds. Came across a pile of about seventy Aldine Dick Turpins in a shop one day, and in a small country town spotted the third and last volume of a paper of which he had the other two. Mr. Hunter writes fiction himself and it hasn't all come back through the letter box with a dull thud!

JENKINS. Roger M. Calpe. 2 Town Hall Rd., Havant, Hants.

Mr. Jenkins favourite, needless to say, are the Hamilton Group of papers, and since 1932 he has succeeded in getting together some 800 "Magnets", 400 "Gems", 350 "Schoolboys Own Libs";. 300 "Populars" and 80 "Greyfriars Heralds".

KIRBY. Gordon J. - 55 Forest St. Dendigo, Victoria, Australia.

Interested in anything ever written by Charles Hamilton particularly keen on the Cliff House stories. Is also anxious for any information concerning the artists.

UNION JACKS, DETECTIVE WEEKLIES, SEXTON BLAKE'S
Wanted. D. Ford, 42, West Bond Street, Macclesfield.

LANDY. Eric R. - 4 Nuncaton Place, Dagenham, Essex.

Mr. Landy once had a fine collection of Aldine Libraries but had to part company with them during the war. He has now started rebuilding and has succeeded in getting together about one hundred and thirty Dick Turpins and a few Claude Duvals, Spring Heeled Jacks, etc. He also possesses that "millions of word" story Harrison's "Black Bess".

LAWSON A.W. - 11 River Street, Clerkenwell, London E.C.1.

Here we have probably the oldest member of the clan for he places even Jack, Sam and Pete amongst the "moderns". His collection is, to say the least, an impressive one, second only to that of Mr. John Medcraft probably. Here is a selection: Vickers "Boy's Journal" 10 vols: "Boys Comic Journal" 21 vols: Boys of England 60 volumes, Boys of the Empire - two complete sets; Young Men of Great Britain - 58 vols: Young Folks Paper vols: 13 to 43; Young Englishmen 6 volumes; Young Briton 4 volumes; Boys Standard No.1 to 116; Boys Leisure Hour 6 volumes; Garfield Boys Journal 2 volumes; Boys Herald (Dicks) 4 volumes; Our Boys Paper - 117 numbers, Boys World 6 volumes; Boys of the World 2 volumes; Aldine Half Holiday 7 volumes; Cheerful Library 30 volumes; Our Boys Journal 10 volumes; London Journal 70 volumes; London Herald - complete; Family Herald 60 volumes. As I have said "that's only half of it".

LECKENBY. Herbert - Telephone Exchange, c/o Central Registry, Northern Command, York.

Has been in succession admonished by parents, wife, son and probably ere long by grandchildren for being so interested in "these old papers". But he is unrepentant, for, due to his devotion he usually feels he is invigorated by doses of the Greyfriars elixir of youth. As to his collection it is continually changing, and growing. Seldom has time to read any of it and has only a hazy idea of what he actually possesses. However at random he can think of Vols. 1 to 6 of the "Boy's Friend" new series (his first love) and a few $\frac{1}{2}$ d issues. Four vols and odd copies of the "Boy's Realm", about 100 "Boy's Heralds", two vols "Boy's Leader", two vols "Big Budget", about 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ d "Union Jacks" "Plucks" "Marvels", some Hogarth and Brett romances and odd copies of about 50 Victorian journals. A number of Aldines, Champions, Magnets, Gems, Boys Friend Libraries, Sexton Blake Libraries, Thrillers, Chums, Robin Hoods, Claude Duvals, Dick Turpins, True Blues, Cheerfuls, Half Holiday, in fact Jack of all papers and master of none. Ploughed a lonely furrow for many years but now corresponds with about one hundred jolly good fellows in this country - and thoroughly enjoys it. Has worked in a military telephone exchange for over 30 years, taken millions of calls, many dramatic, some tragic, quite a number amusing. If he lives to be one hundred, he hopes to spend the day preparing a number of the "Collectors Digest".

Greyfriars Greetings from: Harry Wharton, Esq., Form Capt.

Here's to us and everyone,
May we all enjoy the fun
Of good old Christmas while it's here
And friendship through the coming year !

MACHIN. Herbert - 38 St. Thomas Rd., Moor Park, Preston, Lancs.

Here again we have a fine collection of Hamilton papers, for Mr. Machin possesses 60 red covered "Magnets" and No.960 to the end with only two missing. $\frac{1}{2}$ d Greyfriars Herald complete and the scarce "Boy's Friend 3d Library, School and Sport and "Rivals and Chums".

MAIDMENT. Stanley - Twmpath, Gobowen, Oswestry, Salop.

Another unique collection here consisting of stories by Maxwell Scott only. Mr. Maidment is particularly interested in the detectives created by that popular author when the "Big Budget" and "Boy's Friend" were in their hey-day.

MURTAGH. J.R. - 509 Selwood Rd., Hastings, New Zealand.

Far away "down under" there is stored a collection which rivals the great majority in this country. Mr. Murtagh is a great admirer of Edwy Searles Brooks and only requires about 60 numbers of the first series to complete a set of "Nelson Lee Libraries". He has, in addition, complete sets of "The Monster Library", "Robin Hood" (A.P), "Detective Library" and "Scoops". Also about 600 "Union Jacks", 350 "Schoolboys Own Libraries" and a good selection of "Thrillers", "Boys Friends", "Boys Realms" etc. On top of this has a huge quantity of more adult fiction and $1\frac{1}{2}$ million cigarette cards.

MARTIN W. - 93 Hillside, Stonebridge, Park, London N.W.10.

Is usually in a position to supply collectors. Specialises in "Magnets" and "Gems". Is always willing to help with particular numbers required to complete runs.

MEDCRAFT. John - 64, Woodlands Rd., Ilford, Essex.

The mightiest collection of all. We will let it speak for itself. Range of Collection 1836 to 1916. About 2,500 to 3,000 items the majority bound complete or in yearly, half yearly and quarterly volumes or similar format.

Earliest books are "Legends of Terror" 1826, "The Terrific Register" 1826 - 7, and "The Calendar of Horrors" 1836.

The Edward Lloyd section contains 150 of the 200 or more 1d bloods issued by this publisher and includes rarities like "Varney the Vampyre" "The String of Pearls", "Three Fingered Jack" and "Pickwick in America". All of the romances issued by George Purkes are included and the majority of those by contemporary publishers. W. Caffyn, J. Dicks, G. Vickers, W.M. Clark, H. Lea, T. White etc. Noteworthy examples being "Charley Wag the New Jack Sheppard", "Merry Wives of London" "Nightshade" "Colonel Jack the Highwayman" and "Tyburn Tree". All G.W.M. Reynolds romances and the early works of Pierce Egan the younger. From 1860-70 the Newsagents Pub: Co and Temple Pub. Co. issued many lurid romances which really did deserve the name of penny dreadfuls and the majority of these are present including "Wild Boys of London" "Dare Devil Dick" "The Shadowless Rider" "Starlight Nell" "Moonlight Jack" and "The Dance

WANTED: Aldine Turpins, Duvals, Robin Hoods, etc., -
Landy, 4, Nuneaton Road, Dagenham, Essex.

of Death". Also "Black Bess" or "The Knight of the Road" the longest Romance in the English language, "The Black Highwayman" "Blueskin" "Gentleman Clifford" "Jessie the Mormon's Daughter" and others published by E. Harrison. The whole of the enormous output of Edwin J. Brett comprising all the romances and complete sets of "Boys of England" 66 vols., "Young Men of Great Britain" 44 vols, "Boy's Comic Journal" 31 vols, "Boys of the Empire" 11 vols, and all other journals excepting "Jack Harkaway's Journal for Boys" and "Rovers of the Sea". All the Hogarth House (Ernett) complete romances and long runs of the rare journals including "Sons of Britannia" "Young Britain" "Young Englishmen" and "Young Gentlemen of Britain". All the Allingham (Ralph Rollington) journals complete - "Boy's Worlds 9 vols. "Our Boys Paper, 3 vols, and "New Boys Paper " 74 no's. A nearly complete run of Fox's "Boy's Standard" both series also "Boys Leisure Hour" 10 vols, "Boys Champion Journal" and "Boys Half Holiday" plus most of the complete romances including "Sweeney Todd, "Spring Heeled Jack" "Turnpike Dick" ~ "Cartouche" "Broad Arrow Jack" "School on the Sea" and "Poor Boys of London". All the rare short lived journals of Dacre Clarke (Guy Rayner) excluding only "Young Britannia". Henderson's "Young Folks Budget" 49 vols, complete, the majority in fine original publishers cloth. "Ally Sloper's Half Holiday" vols 1 to 13 inc., originally the property of and signed by, Gilbert Dalziel. A complete file of "Ching-Ching's Own" all series and all of E. Harcourt Budge's stories that were published in book form. The Modern section 1895 to 1916 includes Henderson's "Nuggets" 724 nos., "Varities" "The Ger Land" and "Boys Champion Story Paper" all complete files. "Wild West Lib: 204 nos. (minus 9 Nos.) "Nuggets Library" first 150 nos (minus 5 nos) "Rob Roy" and "Lion Library" both complete. "Lot o' Fun" a 6 years run. The Aldine section includes "Invention Library" (Frank Reade) 276 nos. "Robin Hood" 88 nos. "Dick Turpin" 182 nos, "Claude Duval complete sets, "True Blue 238 nos, the large coloured cover series complete, "O'er Land and Sea" first 280 nos, "Boys First Rate Pocket Library" first 340 nos, Long runs of "Detective Tales" and "Tip Top Tales". All original 1st series. The Harmsworth (later Amalgamated Press) series includes "Boy's Friend" halfpenny series complete and first 16 yearly vols of new series. "Boys Realm" 14 vols. "Boy's Herald 8 vols both 1st series and complete, "1/2d Marvel" complete and first 340 nos of new series. "Pluck" 1d series Nos. 1 to 210 inc. and "Union Jack" 1d series Nos. 1 to 360 inc. The majority of the 1st three items are in half yearly volumes from the original editorial files. "Gem" 1/2d series and Nos. 1 to 1000 inc of main series. "Magnet" Nos. 1 to 850 inc. "Big Budget" 24 vols complete, "Boys Leader" 4 vols complete, "Jester first four years, "Chips", nearly a complete run for years 1896 to 1908 incl. "Puck" first 10 years. Addenda "Boy's Friend 3d Library" first 160 nos. Henderson's "Young Folks' Tales" the first 120 nos. Mr. Medcraft needs "Lot-o'-Funs" Nos. 1 to 100 inc, badly, or any.

McGREEVY. D. - 17 Edwards St., Lurgan, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland.

Interested in "Magnets" and "Schoolboy's Own" and has been collecting since 1941.

Fellow Greyfriars Enthusiasts! Will you please loan me some Magnets or S.O.L's. Payment offered. Few Magnets for Exchange. W.E.Edwards, Ivydene, Solid Lane, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex.

McPHERSON. E. 80, Benedict St., Glastonbury, Som.

Enthusiastically interested in "Gems" and "Magnets" and anything from Charles Hamilton's pen. Has put together a good collection.

MULHALL Patrick - Castlecomer, Co. Kildare, Eire.

Collector and real authority on the real Victorian bloods. Some time ago disposed of a quantity which were greatly welcomed by the veterans.

NEATE W.H. - "Wenlock", High St., Burnham, Bucks.

Member of the Hamilton group. Is often in a position to supply other collectors with "Magnets", "Gems" "Union Jacks", and various other papers.

PETTINGELL. Frank - Highfield Lodge, Wise Lane, London N.W. 7.

A grand collection here for the old timers to browse over and envy. Mr. Pettingell is, of course, the well known West End actor of "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Fifty Fifty" fame. Has appeared in numerous films and you have often heard his voice on the radio. He has been a collector for many years. Here's his list:- ALDINE. Complete sets of "Dick Turpin", "Claude Duval", "Jack Sheppard" and "Spring Heeled Jack". No's 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 of "Red Rover". 18 volumes of "True Blue". 10 volumes of "Boy's Own Library", 84 numbers of "Robin Hood" and 18 numbers of "Black Bess". Many odd "Duvals", "True Blues", "Spring Heeled Jacks", Turpins, "Diamond Libraries" and "Cheerfuls". AMALGAMATED PRESS. Volumes 1 to 4 of "The Boy's Realm". Volumes 1 to 9 of "The Boy's Herald". No's 261 to 308 of "The Boy's Friend" (halfpenny). No's 1 to 6 of "The Boy's Friend" (penny series). 300 halfpenny "Union Jacks". 50 "Union Jacks" (penny series). 40 halfpenny "Marvels" and 146 penny "Marvels". 106 halfpenny and 89 penny "Plucks". CHUMS. Volumes fourteen. The Boy's Comic Journal - 7 volumes "Boy's of the Empire" - 3 volumes. Many Skelt's Dramas (Juvenile theatre). One volume of "Comic Cuts". No's 1 to 101 of "The Boy's Leader". (five missing). Two volumes of "The Big Budget". "The Boy's Champion" complete. Two volumes of "Nuggets". Seven numbers of "Rob Roy Library". Nos. 1 to 11 of the "Pocket Budget Lib:", Many volumes of the following "Boy's of the Empire", "Boy's of England", "The Captain" and "The Boy's Own Paper".

PRIME. Bernard - 43, Mayfield Rd., Sanderstead, Surrey.

Still one more who started re-collecting recently. Has now about 60 "Magnets" (including a few early ones) and a few "Gems". He likes the "Magnet" best.

READ E.C. - 2 Grove Rd., Chatham, Kent.

One more loyal member of the Hamilton Group. Has a fine collection of "Magnets" and "Gems" but anxious for more.

ROBYNS. 41 Friar Rd., Brighton 6.

Belongs to the Hamilton group, but as he only started re-collecting recently, has only a small collection of "Magnets".

WANTED: Magnets between 1925-29. Good Condition essential. Please state price. John W. Gocher, Junr., Victoria Cottage, Constitution Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OSDORN. Frank - 24, Harper Street, Bedford.

Has a fine collection which will be of particular interest to older members as will be seen from the following examples: 22 volumes of "Chums" including the first. 17 volumes of the "Boy's Own Paper" including the first. 900 "Gems", 397 "Schoolboy's Own Libraries". 200 "Boy's Friend Libraries" (3d series). 40 "Boy's Own Libraries" (Aldine). 4 "Plucks" containing the first "St. Jim's" stories. Harrison's "Black Bess" complete.

PARKS Joseph - 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea (Yorks)

Though not of great proportions Mr. Parks collection contains some much prized items including among the Aldines, a complete set of Claude Duvals, Nos. 1 to 12 of the "Invention Library" and a nice lot of "True Blues" and "Boy's Own Libraries". He has a number of volumes of "Boys of England" and "Boys of the Empire" and a goodly number of popular Hogarths. He is lucky enough to have the opportunity to read, when he has time, several of the early volumes of "Boy's Friends", "Boy's Realms", "Boy's Herald's" "Plucks" etc and, of course, he has complete sets of his own "Vanity Fair" and "Collectors Miscellany" invaluable to collectors of the real "bloods",

FICK. Robert - 3 Stonegate, Grove, Leeds 7.

At present has only a small collection of "Gems" and "Magnets" but has been a great admirer of the two papers for many years.

PUCKRIN. Henry A. - 12 Osborne Rd., Middlesbrough.

Does not actually collect these days but is greatly interested in the hobby. Started reading the papers about 1912 and has an amazingly vivid recollection of them. Can write articles particularly about the A.P. papers purely from memory and with hardly a single error.

PUCKRIN. Thomas W. - 16 Willows Rd., Middlesbrough.

Brother to the above. They might be twins for he has the same extraordinary memory and writes also with the same precision. His favourites are the Aldines Robin Hood's original edition.

RICKARD. Cedric F.F. - Room 5, Burrard Dry Dock Co. Ltd., North Vancouver D.C. Canada.

Backs up the "Gem" through thick and thin. Has written several articles singing its praises. Possesses nearly 200 blue covered ones and 450 others - 650 in all. Also about 100 "Magnets" First number of the "Gem" he bought as a boy was No. 499. Is a great admirer of Warwick Reynolds Junior, artist associated with the "Gem" during the first World War. John L. Pentelov (Jack North) was a writer for whom Mr. Rickard has a lot of affection.

WANTED: Early Magnets. Gems, Pluck; would buy or exchange; 5s.0d each offered for Pluck containing St. Jim's stories, and Gems Nos. 16 and 22. John R. Shaw, 4 Brunswick Park, London, S.E.5.

SHAW. John R. - 4 Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London S.E.5.

Mr. Shaw has only been collecting since November 1942 yet possesses almost a complete set of "Gems" and "Magnets", all the "Holiday Annuals", all the Rookwood "Schoolboy's Own Libs:", over 100 "Greyfriars Heralds" and numerous other papers. He puts the "Gem" first, "Magnet" second followed by "Holidays Annuals" then any other papers containing stories by Charles Hamilton. "Pluck", "Chuckles", "Greyfriars Herald", "Boy's Friend Libraries" etc.

SHEPHERD. James - 3 Priory Place, Nether Edge, Sheffield 7.

Has quite a nice collection of "Gems" and "Magnets". "Gems" - 90 copies between 1909 and 1918 and a few later ones. In addition 75 "Schoolboy's Own Libraries" early issues, and a few "Marvels", "Union Jacks", "Boy's Friend Libraries" and "Holiday Annuals". All these since starting to re-collect about three years ago. Once bought 180 "Gems" and "Magnets" for $\frac{1}{2}$ d each, but needless to say that wasn't yesterday.

SUDBOROUGH. Roy. W. - 27 Milton St., Higham Ferrars, Northants.

A staunch "Magnetite". Considers the characters therein far superior to those in "Gem". Has written a Greyfriars yarn and submitted to A.P. It was highly commended but the firm did not hold out any hope of any revival or new publication at present. Is now trying his hand at a Sexton Blake yarn. Possesses 546 Magnets between 1024 and 1683, 23 S.O.L's and about a dozen S.B.L's. He is 29 years of age.

SMITH P. - The Stores, Mumby, Nr. Alford, Lincs.

Has been a collector a great many years, and has a splendid collection of Aldines A.P., Henderson and other papers of the early years of the century.

STONE. Leon - Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., Australia.

One of the staunchest of all Mr. Hamiltons supporters. Some years ago took a prominent part in a controversy which raged in an Australian journal concerning the identity of Frank Richards. Has also a wonderful collection of amateur papers. Takes a great interest in cricket - has a fine library of books on the game.

STOWE. Dennis E. - 695 Quedsted Rd., Birmingham 22.

Keenly interested and has a good collection of the stories. Is greatly interested in the various authors.

SYKES A.L. - Coton Lane, Tamworth, Staffs.

A devoted of the older papers, particularly the Big Budget and Boy's Friend. Is anxious to obtain certain $\frac{1}{2}$ d numbers of the latter. Interested in the stories by Henry Farmer.

WANTED: Magnets 1 - 800 and various numbers to 1,400. Lists gladly sent. Also Gems containing early Greyfriars yarns.
J. W. Geal, 60, Fleetwood Road, Kingston, Surrey.

SIMPSON. Clive - "Nidd Ville", 36 Boroughbridge Rd., Knaresborough, Yorks.

Started to re-collect in 1941 and with considerable success as will be seen. Nelson Lee Libraries, 283 of the small series including No's 1 to 8, 1st new series all except No. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 47, 48, 74, 120, 123. 2nd series, all except No.156. Third series, all except No's 6 and 7. Total: 653. Monster Libs: 10 number, "Union Jacks" 400, Sexton Blake Library 90, "Magnets" 300, "Gems" 250, "Thrillers, nearly 500, "Holiday Annuals" 7, Miscellaneous papers 100, many duplicates for exchange. Mr. Simpson is a staunch Leeite and puts the "Nelson Lee Library" ahead of all others.

SMITH H.A. - 13 New Rd., Scole Diss, Norfolk.

Has just started re-collecting Nelson Lees and has so far about 120 of the first series. Would be pleased to receive offers and any of the three large series. He also deals in postage stamps.

SINCLAIR. Tom - 9 Branston Terrace, Leeds 10.

About four years ago saw a story of the several identities of Charles Hamilton in a Leeds paper. Wrote a letter to the editor paying tribute. As a consequence the writer of these notes got in touch with him with happy results for both. Mr. Sinclair still remembers the thrill he got when he opened a packet one breakfast time and found a "Magnet", the first he had seen for years. Has now a modest collection of both "Magnets" and "Gems". He has a preference for the former.

SNELL. Frank - "Rathgar", 6 Chingswell St., Bideford, Devon.

Like many others Mr. Snell got the urge to re-collect when the news about Mr. Hamilton's several identities was revealed. Actually started reading the stories about 1912. He puts the "Magnet" first of all and has a goodly number of these. Also has 16 volumes of "Gems", 997 to 1663 abound with the covers in blue cloth. These he would exchange for a similar number of "Magnets". Had many more "Gems" which he lost in an unfortunate deal (see C.D. No.3a). In addition has a few "Schoolboy's Own Libraries" and "Nelson Lee Libraries".

STEELE. Henry - 204 High St., Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex.

A real authority on the Victorian "bloods", especially those published by Charles Fox. All the veterans and many of the younger collectors have been entertained by his reminiscences. Only collects the papers he knew in his youth, consequently his collection is a modest one. It includes "Boys of the Empire", volume 1, 2 and 3. "Boy's Standard", two volumes. 1½ volumes of "Boy's Comic Journal", two vols. "Boy's Champion", one volume of "Every Boy's Favourite" (Fox), two vols: of "Boys of England", incomplete copies of "Black Bess" and "Blueskin", eighteen numbers of "Aldine Jack Sheppard". Has been interested in a collection since 1915.

Top Prices Paid for Blue-covered Gems and Red-covered Magnets. Have some for exchange. Good condition preferred.
T. Satchell, 84, Ankerdine Crescent, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, London, S.E.18.

THOMPSON. Gordon - 85 Deerpark Rd., Belfast

"Magnets" a complete sun cor No. 1200 to the end and numerous earlier papers.

THOMPSON W.H. - 114 Handley Rd., New Whittington, Chesterfield.

There is an interesting circumstance concerning Mr. Thompson. He is an admirer of the Hamilton stories, nothing unusual in that of course, but he puts those of Rookwood before even those of Greyfriars and St. Jim's. He is now 39 years of age and has had a mania for collecting, as he puts it, ere since he can remember. He has had to part company with those he collected in his early days, but starting again about 15 years ago has succeeded in getting together quite an impressive assortment. These include over 100 "Boy's Friends" (Rookwood period), 150 "Boy's Cinemas" (No.187 specially wanted), 100 Aldines 2d and 4d "Buffalo Bills" 10 Holiday Annuals, 23 vols "Chums", 8 vols B.O.P., 3 vols Scout annual, 4 vols "Captains", 100 Popular Weeklies, 32 Libs. & Libraries, also numerous books by Henry, R.A.H. Gbedjean, Stables, Strang, etc. Mr. Thompson is an artist of no little merit, though he only treats it as a hobby.

VOSPER. Leslie - 13 Kinlet Rd., Shooters Hill, S.E.18.

An ardent Nelson Lee fan. His most treasured possession is "The Schoolboy Magician series Nos. 543 to 549, bound in brown morocco leather. Has also several other bound series. In addition has "Holiday Annuals" from 1920 to 1928. The first vol: of Mr. W. Gander's Story Paper Collection

WHITPER. Robert - 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Lane, London.

Is the fortunate owner of about 700 "Magnets" (including the first and the last) and a similar number of "Gems"

WHORWELL. Richard - 29 Aspinden Rd., Rotherhithe, London S.E.16.

Has been a collector for many years. Interested mainly in early A.P. papers, especially "Magnets", "Gems" and "Boy's Friend Libraries". Also keen on the Victorian "bloods". Is often able to help other collectors.

WALKER. Peter A. - Chelsea House, Wick, Bristol.

Is one more of the "Gem" - "Magnet" group. Once he possessed the first 500 of each but at present has about 100 prior to 1918.

WAINE. Granville T. - 3 Croft Lane, Hollins, Whitefield, Lancashire.

Concentrates mainly on papers issued in the first few years after the First Great War, his purple period. Has about 400 copies of "Nelson Lees" 1st series, 150 Champions, 100 "Plucks" 130 "Union Jacks", 100 "Young Britains", 50 "Boy's Friend Libs:", 100 "Marvels", 18 volumes of "The Holiday Annual". Also a large number of "Frarie Libraries", "Robin Hoods" (A.P), Nugget Weekly, Pioneer, Detective Libs:, etc. etc. Has also every story written by Charles Hamilton since 1945, under his several pen names.

WANTED: Magnets between 1,000 - 1,200. 1s.0d each. Also St. Franks, Boys' Friend Libraries, Kinema Komics, Film Fans, 1920-1924. G. Thompson, 85, Deerpark Road, Belfast.

WESTON G. Neville - "Hollywood", Short Heath, Comberton, Rd., Kidderminster.

Mr. Weston's collection is rather unique for he is interested only in stories and articles with a boxing interest and is always pleased to hear from anyone with stories to offer by Arthur S. Hardy, Malcolm Arnold, Trevor Wignall, Andrew Soutar, Andrew Groy, C.C. Bartlett, etc. etc.

WAREING. Robert J. - 65 Wimborne Rd., Fallings Park, Wolverhampton.

Had at one time a large collection, including almost everything written by E.S. Dooks. At Present has 9 volumes "Chums", 7 volumes D.O.F., 50 early "Champions", 40 "Schoolboy's Owns", 25 Boy's Friend Libraries and 20 stories by Hylton Cleaver. Is specially interested in "The Champion".

WHEN IT'S YULETIDE IN BAKER STREET

A glimpse into the past consisting of excerpts from some of those "Gwyn Evans Christmasses" referred to in this month's "Round Table".

"Christmas is coming", said Tinker, Mr. Sexton Blake's astute young assistant as he neatly decapitated his second breakfast egg.

A grunt emerged from behind the columnous pages of the "Times" on the other side of the table; that, and the emergence of a lean, sinewy hand groping absently for the tea-cup, were the only indication of Mr. Sexton Blake's presence in the dining room.

"Christmas is coming - good egg!" repeated Tinker, with an infectious chuckle.

The pages of the newspaper were lowered and the detective gazed solemnly at the lad.

"Your glimpses into the obvious are most refreshing, my dear Tinker. Am I to presume that the latter part of your sentence refers slangily to the approach of the festive season, or is merely an appreciation of the calcareous ovum you are sampling?"

"Eh, what's that, gov'nor?" gasped the startled Tinker. "I don't quite get the hang of the last bit."

Blake's shrewd eyes twinkled.

"My dear chap, that is about the twentieth time in the last few days you have announced the imminent arrival of Christmas. It is apt to become monotonous. Are you practising a variant of Coucism - hoping to hurry the advent of

Continued on Page 35

100 years of Boys' Weeklies

by Herbert Leckenby.

Although this list of boys weeklies is of considerable length it is not claimed that it is a complete record of those published over a century of years. To complete such a record would be well nigh an impossibility, for after all there were more failures than successes and it is not easy to find data of some obscure venture which ran for a few short weeks, say in the far off '70s'. Curiously enough though, it has been just as difficult to get details of some which ran at a much later period, and I have an idea that some are missing which appeared on the bookstalls for a short time between the two world wars. For the fact that the pre-1914 period is as complete as it is thanks are due to Mr. John Medcraft, who checked the figures and also supplied me with details of several additional papers. The late Mr. Frank Wearing also gave me much invaluable help.

Examining the careers of these two hundred odd journals, one is struck by the fact that running a paper for boys was a hazardous sort of job, for one finds that something like a third ran less than a year, thirty or so of them actually less than six months. Of the publishers who had this unhappy experience, none could beat the record of Guy Rayner (S. Dacre Clark). If ever there was a leader of lost causes it was he. His papers fell like ninepins and we must say he was asking for trouble when he started one with the title "Dad Boy's Paper". It lasted 21 weeks. His biggest success in length of run seems to have been "The Boys Jubilee Journal" which reached No. 61.

On the other hand there were some 30 papers which ran over ten years, about a dozen of them passing the 1000 mark.

Looking over the papers of the Victorian era one cannot help being struck by the patriotic touch about the titles; "Boys of... England", "Young men of Great Britain", "Young Britannia", "Young Englishman", "Sons of Old England" for example. Alfred Harmsworth, had the reputation, and rightly, of being a great patriot, but when the firm bearing his name became a power in the land there was little attempt of appealing to the youthful reader in this way, the "Union Jack" only having any suggestion of flag-waving in its title, and much later on "Young Britain".

During the period under review, there were, of course, numerous other publications for boys, the penny and halfpenny romances published by Lloyds, The Newsagents Publishing Co., E.J. Drett, Hogarth House and others, the real honest-to-goodness "bloods". Again the "Libraries" published usually four at a time at intervals notably the Aldines and later the long lived "Boy's Friend" and "Sexton Blake" Libraries, the latter still with us of course. Thirdly the "comics". All these, however, came in different categories, each worthy of being put on record separately.

THE BOYS' LEADER

"EVEN PAIRN A BOY CAN TAKE HOME"
Vol. 1, No. 1. Week Ending Saturday, September 13, 1903. Price One Penny.

Winning His Spurs

A Story of the Bent Back Fence
By Henry T. Johnson
Illustrations by [Name]



A STORY OF THE BENT BACK FENCE
The story of the Bent Back Fence is a tale of adventure and heroism. It is a story that will interest all boys and girls who love to read of brave deeds and exciting events. The story is full of action and is sure to hold the reader's attention from beginning to end. It is a story that will give the reader a new and interesting view of the life of a soldier in the field.


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NEILSON'S LIBRARY



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THE MYSTERY OF THE HOUSE OF TRACED

Title	From	To	Total	Publishers	See Not
Youth's Miscellany (Monthly)	1.2.1822	1.7.1823	17	Sherwood Jones & Co.	
Boys & Girls Penny Mag.	11.9.1832			W. Howden	
Boys Penny Novelist	1843				
Boys Charm (Monthly)	30.4.1852	Apr 11 1853	12	Adey & Co.	
Boys Man's Monthly	2.5.1853	-	-	Sampson Low & Co.	1
Boys Own Magazine	-1.1.1855	1874	-	Deeton	
Boys Own Journal	14.6.1856	1.1.1857	-	"	2
Boys & Girls Companion	4.4.1857	9.1858	-	Houkston & Wright	
Boys Union for Youth	-10.1858	12.1861	38	W. Kent & Co.	
Boys Instructor	-1858	1859	9		
Boys Own Times	-1.1859.	12.1859	12		
Boys Stons Mag for Boys (Monthly)	-11.1859	-2.1863	40	Harrison	
Boys Boys Magazine	-2.1862	-9.1888	319	Rotledge	3
Boys Penny Magazine	-1.1862	-1866	-	Deeton	
Boys Miscellany	7.3.1863.	30.7.1864	74	E. Harrison	4
Boys Journal (Monthly)	1.1863	-1871		Vickers	
Boys Friend (Monthly)	6.1864	8.1867	38	H. Lea	
Boys Companion & British Sweller	15.5.1865	23.12.1865	33	Newsagent's Publishing Co.	5
Boys Own Reader	2.1.1866	5.6.1866	23	do.	
Boys of England	27.11.1866	30.6.1899	1702	E.J. Brett	
Boys Englishmans Journal	13.4.1867	9.3.1870	154	W.R. Emmett	
Boys Men of Great Britain	29.1.1868	17.6.1889	1117	E.J. Brett	6
Boys Gentlemen of Britain	24.10.1868	16.4.1870	78	W.R. Emmett	
Boys Book of Romance	20.4.1868		24	Chas. Stevens.	
Boys Briton	18.9.1869	20.10.1877	433	W.R. Emmett	
Boys of the World	21.9.1869	16.11.1870	62	E. J. Brett	
Boys Gentlemans Journal & Boys Miscellany.	1.11.1869	12.9.1872	150	Harrison	
Boys Home & Abroad	23.2.1870	21.12.1870	44	H. Lea	
		(last Known ran longer)			
Boys of Britannia	14.3.1870	15.7.1877	394	W.L. & G. Emmett	
Boys of Albion	22.5.1870	19.12.1870	31	W. Williams	
		(last known ran longer)			
Boys Favourite	11.11.1870	15.9.1871	41	E.J. Brett	
Boys of Britain	22.11. "	approx	45	W. Williams	
Boys Folks	12.1.1871	13.10.1896	1353	J. Henderson	
Boys of Britain	1871	approx	20	Ritchie	
Boys vers of the Sea	11.3.1872	1873.	72	E.J. Brett	
Boys vers Log	11.3.1872	12.4.1873	59	W.L. & G. Emmett	
Boys Englishmen	19.4.1873	6.9.1879	336	do.	
Boys of England (re-issue)	20.4.1874	14.4.1885	574	E.J. Brett.	

Lads of the Village	18.7.1874	17.4.1875	40	Hogarth House
Young Man of Great Britain (re - issue)	4.11.1874	30.1.1883	430	E. J. Brett
Boys	1.1.1875	5.3.1875	10	Wardlock & Tyler
Boys Standard (1st series)	6.11.1875	7.5.1881	288	Chas Fox
Boys Standard (2nd series)	14.5. 1881	18.6.1892	580	do.
Our Boys Journal	30.8. 1876	12.1882	330	E. J. Brett
Boys Herald	6.1. 1877	30.11.1878	100	Dick
Champion Journal for Boys	22.9. 1877	24.7.1880	147	Ritchie
Boys Halfpenny Journal	19.10.1878	27.9.1879	50	J. Dicks
Boys Sunday Reader	8.1. 1879	title changed at	53 to	
Boys Weekly Review	ending at	21.3.1883	216	E. J. Brett
Boys Own Paper	18.1. 1879	still in progress	monthly	Religious Trust
Boys Library	28.2. 1879	5.1879	12	E. J. Brett
Boys Favourite	24.5. 1879		10	Ritchie
Boys World	12.4. 1879.	27.12.1886	404	Ralph Rollington
Union Jack	1. 1. 1883	25.9.1883	191	
Our Boys Paper	18.11.1880	31.1.1883	117	do.
Boys Newspaper	15.9.1880	26.7.1882	98	Cassells
Boys Illustrious News	6.4.1881	8.6.1882	61	"
Boys Leader (½d)	1881	1882	52	H. W. Jackson
Boys of the British Empire	9.5.1882	29.4.1884	104	E. J. Brett
Young Englishman	21.7.1882	8.9.1883	59	G. Emmett Jun.
Boys of London & New York	7.1.1882	30.12.1899	835	H. W. Jackson
Boys Comic Journal	17.3.1883	9.4.1898	787	E. J. Brett
Boys Own Journal	17.5.1883	do.	30	G. Emmett Jun.
Sons of Old England	26.8.1883	1884	26	"
Every Boys Journal	12.4.1884	7.6.1884	9	E. Maurice
Every Boys Paper	14.6.1884	16.8.1884	10	"
British Boys	1883	-	26	G. Emmett Jun.
Boys Leisure Hour	23.8.1884	21.11.1891	379	Chas Fox.
Bonnie Boys of Britain.	18.10.1884	11.4.1885	26	Guy Raynor
Young Britannia	11.9.1885	7.8.1886	50	"
Boys Champion Paper	26.9.1885	11.9.1886	51	"
Conrades	18.9.1886	9.4.1887	30	"
New Boys Paper	2.10.1886	25.2.1888	74	R. Rollington
Boys Half Holiday	30.4.1887	18.7.1887	12	Chas Fox
Boys Novelist	18.1.1887			
Boys & Girls	30.7.1887	19.11.1887	17	Guy Raynor
Boys Jubilee Journal	16.4.1887	9.6.1888	61	"
Boys of the United Kingdom	26.4.1887	21.4.1888	22	"
Boys of the Empire	6.2.1888	22.5.1893	277	E. J. Brett
British Boys Paper	3.3.1888	19.10.1889	86	Aldine to 45
Boys Popular Weekly	21.4.1888	19.1.1889	41	Guy Raynor
Young Britains Journal	16.6.1888	4.5.1889	47	"
Ching Chings Own	23.6.1888	17.6.1893	261	E. H. Durrage
Boys Guide, Phil. & Friend	27.10.1888	21.3.1889	19	E. J. Brett
Boys Champion Journal	1.4.1889	28.12.1891	144	Chas Fox
Bad Boys Paper	5.10.1889	1.3.1890	21	Guy Raynor
Boyhood	29.3.1890	21.6.1890	13	"
Boys Graphic	8.3.1890	28.2.1891	52	"
Boys of the Isles	22.1.1889	28.9.1889	36	"

Nuggets	7.5.1892	10.3.1906	724	James Henderson	
Aldine Half Holiday	6.9.1892	6.1.1910	904	Aldines	
Chums	14.9.1892			Cassells	
Every Boys Favourite Journal	17.1.1892	10.1892	43		
Boys	15.10.1892	13.10.1894	104	Sampson Low	
Boys Weekly Novelties	26.6.1892	14.9.1895	169	Chas Fox	
Comrades	14.7.1893	1.10.1895	142	Chas. Shurey	11
Jack Harkaways Journal for Boys	24.4.1893	22.8.1893	18	E.J. Brett	
Bits for Boys	24.6.1893	9.9.1893	12	Best for Boys Co.	
The Prince	16.9.1893	25.11.1893	11	do.	
Brave & True	7.10.1893	30.6.1894	43		
Marvel (½d)	15.11.1893	23.1.1904	533	Anal. Press	
Marvel (new series)	30.1.1904	22.4.1922	952	" "	
Varieties	12.5.1894	25.7.1896	116	James Henderson	12
Union Jack (½d)	27.4.1894	10.10.1903	437	Anal. Press	
Union Jack (new series)	17.10.1903	13.2.1933	1531	Anal. Press	13
Cheerful (1st series)	17.2.1894	31.7.1895	76	Aldines	
Cheerful (Main series)	7.3.1895	5.1911	349	"	
Lads & Lassies	6.3.1894	11.10.1894	23	E.J. Brett	
Halfpenny Surprise	2.11.1894	12.9.1906	614	" "	
Pluck (½d)	24.11.1894	29.10.1904	513	Anal. Press	
Pluck (new series)	5.11.1904	13.3.1916	594	" "	
Garfield Boys Journal	26.9.1894	31.7.1895	45	Aldines	
Boys Friend (½d)	29.1.1895	8.6.1901	332	Anal. Press	
Boys Friend (new series)	15.6.1901	31.12.1927	1385	" "	14
The Garland	1.8.1896	26.7.1900	209	James Henderson	
Pals	7.10.1895	6.1896	31	Chas Shurey	
Boys of the Nation	5.9.1895	25.11.1895	13	Chas Fox	
Boys Leader	11.9.1895	14.2.1900	229	H.W. Jackson	15
½d Standard Journal	13.3.1896	20.10.1897	35	Chas Fox	
British Boys	12.12.1896	3.12.1893	104	Newnes	16
Boys Story Teller	4.5.1897	3.6.1897	6	W.M. Stevens	
Big Budget	19.6.1897	20.3.1909	611	Pearsons	
Boys Welcome	21.7.1897			Aldines	
Our Boys	21.7.1897		1		
School & Playground	12.1.1893			Chas Fox	
True Blue (½d)	15.1.1893	16.7.1900	133	Aldines	17
Bullseye (½d)	23.2.1893	11.12.1899	94	"	
Boys Stories	27.3.1893	23.1.1899	44	F.H. Roberts	
Comrades (2)	16.2.1893	20.2.1899	52	Chas Shurey	18
Boys Monthly Weekly	21.2.1899	1.1.1900	45	" "	
Up to Date Boys	30.6.1899	23.6.1901	104	E.J. Brett	
True Blue	5.2.1900	30.5.1906	330	Aldines	
Boys of the Empire	20.10.1900	15.9.1906	311	E.J. Brett	19
Boys of our Empire	27.10.1900	10.1903	153	Mcrose	
Boys Champion Story Paper	16.12.1900	25.4.1903	120	James Henderson	20
Boys Realm	14.6.1902	20.3.1916	717	Anal. Press	
Best Budget.	15.3.1902				

Boys Coloured Pictorial	24.5.1902	6.9.1902	16	E.J. Brett	
Boys Graphic	11.10.1902	13.12.1902	10	Chas. Strong	
Boys Herald	1.8.1903	18.5.1912	511	Anal. Press	21
Boys Leader	18.9.1903	12.3.1905	101	Pearsons	22
Boys Peep Show	1905	1906	26	Chas Strong & Co.	
Boys World	30.5.1905	6.3.1906	41	Cassells	
New Boys World	13.3.1906	30.3.1907	55	"	
New Boys Paper	12.11.1906	3.6.1907	30	E.J. Brett	
Boys of England	22.9.1906	22.12.1906	14	"	
Boys Star	1906	short run		Chas. Strong & Co.	
Fred Leslie's Journal	1906	" "		" " "	
Vanguard (½d)	4.5.1907	9.1909	120	Trapps, Holmes & Co.	
Gem (½d)	16.3.1907	3.2.1907	43	Anal. Press	
Gem (New series)	15.2.1908	30.12.1939	1663	" "	
Boys Life	27.4.1907	22.10.1907	25	Cassells	
Magnet	15.2.1908	11.5.1940	1633	Anal. Press	23
Scout	18.4.1908	still running			
Boys Realm Football & Sports Lib:	16.9.1908			Anal. Press	
Empire Library.	19.2.1910	6.5.1911	64	" "	
Boys Best Story Paper	7.10.1911	22.6.1912	37	Newnes	
Fun & Fiction	12.10.1911	1914		Anal. Press	
Cheer Boys Cheer	25.5.1912	5.9.1913	68	" "	24
Dreadnought	9.3.1912	12.6.1915	159	" "	25
Penny Popular	12.10.1912	30.3.1918	276	" "	
The Wonder	4.1.1913	21.3.1914	64	" "	
Boys Journal	12.9.1913	9.1.1915	72	" "	26
Greyfriars Herald (1st series)	20.11.1915	13.3.1916	18	" "	27
Firefly	20.2.1914	31.3.1917	161	" "	28
Nelson Lee Library	12.6.1915	12.8.1933	943	" "	29
Boys Realm (2nd Large series)	5.4.1919	16.7.1927	432	" "	
Boys Realm (small ser.)	23.7.1927	26.1.1929	80	" "	30
Robin Hood Library	10.7.1920	10.7.1920	56	" "	31
Prairie Library	15.4.1919	10.7.1920	56	" "	32
Cheerio	17.5.1919			" "	
Detective Library	2.8.1919	10.7.1920	50	" "	33
Young Britain					
1st Series	11.6.1919	17.11.1923	232	" "	34
2nd Series	24.11.1923	5.7.1924	33	" "	
Boys Cinema	13.12.1919	18.5.1940	1063	" "	
Greyfriars Herald (2nd Series)	1.1.1919	1922		" "	35
Penny Popular (2nd series)	25.1.1919	7.2.1931	623	" "	
Sports for Boys	9.10.1920			" "	
Nugget Weekly	17.7.1920	5.3.1921	34	" "	36
Adventure	17.9.1921	still running		D.C.Thomson	
School & Sport	17.12.1921	21. 5.1922	20	Popular Publication	

Champion	23.1.1922	still running		Anal. Press	
Sport & Adventure	29.4.1922	21.10.1922	26	" "	33
Rover	4.3.1922	still running		D.C. Thomson	
Boys Magazine	27.2.1922			E.Hulton later A.P.	39
Jacks Paper	10.1922	3.1923	20	Pearsons	
Pluck	23.19.1922	30.8.1924	97	Anal Press	
Rocket	14.2.1923	16.8.1924	79	" "	
Vanguard	15.10.1923	22.5.1926	136	D.C.Thomson	
Triumph	6.9.1924	25.5.1940	314	Anal Press	40
Modern Boy (1 series)	6.2.1928	12.2.1938	521	Anal Press	
Modern Boy (2 ")	19.2.1938	14.10.1939	87	" "	
Boys Favourite	4.5.1929			" "	
Thriller	9.2.1929	11.5.1940	537	" "	
Skipper	6.9.1930	1.2.1941	543	D.C.Thomson	
Pioneer		7.1934		Anal Press	
Ranger (small series)	14.2.1931	29.7.1933	125	" "	
Range (large ")	5.3.1933	23.9.1935	112	" "	
Startler		13.2.1932		" "	
Bullseyes	24.1.1931			" "	
Surprise	25.2.1932	1934		" "	
Red Arrow	19.3.1932	18.3.1933	52	D.C. Thomson	
Hotspur	2.9.1933	still running		" "	
Scoops	10.2.1934	23.6.1934	20	Pearsons	
Boys Broadcast	27.10.1934	29.6.1935	36	Anal Press	
Sports Budget	1.3.1935			" "	
Pilot	27.9.1935			" "	
Wild West Weekly	12.3.1938			" "	

NOTES: 1. Only one in British Museum. 2. Incorporated in "Boys Own Magazine".
3. Incorporated in "Boys Own Paper. 4. Considered first of the "dreadful journals".
5. Incorporated with Boys Own Reader. 6. Plus two supplements in "Boys of England".
7. Edited by G.A. Henty and W.H.G. Kingston. 8. May have run a little longer.
9. Plus one supplement with "Boys Leisure Hour". 10. Changed to "Boys of the Isles".
11. Title changed to "Pals". 12. Title changed to "The Garland". 13 Title changed
to "Detective Weekly". 14. Amalgamated with "The Triumph". 15. Halfpenny, with
American reprints". 16. Halfpenny weekly, 12 pages. 17. Amalgamated with "True Blues"
old, No. 26. 17(a) Amalgamated with "True Blue" ½d, No.101. 18. Changed to "Boys
Monster Weekly". 19. First 26 were ½ds changed to "Boys of England". 20. First 46
were ½ds, changed to "Pocket Budget". 21. Title changed to "Cheer Boys Cheer".
22. Amalgamated with "Big Budget". 23. First 105 were ½d½. 24. Title changed to "Boys
Journal". 25. Amalgamated with the "Boys Friend". 26. Amalgamated with "Dreadnoughts"
27. Price ½d. 28. Continued as a "comic". 29. Amalgamated with "Gem". 30. Title
changed to "Boys Realm of Fun and Fiction". 31, 32, 33. Amalgamated and title change
to "Nuggets Library". 34 Amalganted with "The Champion". 35. Title changed to "Boy's
Serald" in last year. 36. Amalgamated with "The Marvel". 37. Edited by E.A. Hinton.
38. Successor to "Marvel". 39. Amalganated with "The Champion". 40. Amalgamated
with "The Champion".
41. The Amalgamated Press was known in the early days as "Answer's Limited and
Harmsworth Bros. Limited".

The Origins of the Greyfriars & St. Jim's Stories in the Schoolboys' Own Library and Holiday Annuals.

By John R. Shaw and Roger M. Jenkins.

The following list have been compiled in order that collectors, who purchase books merely by referring to serial numbers instead of titles may avoid duplicating their collection by ordering reprints of stories they already possess in another form. In point of fact, certain stories by Charles Hamilton were reprinted as many as four or even five times by the Amalgamated Press, but we have confined our attention here exclusively to the origin of stories in the Schoolboys' Own Library and Holiday Annuals, which are the form of reprints most common on the market today.

The Schoolboys' Own Library.

The Greyfriars and St. Jim's reprints in the Schoolboys' Own Library were confined in the main to stories by Charles Hamilton. The Following St. Jim's stories, however, were reprints of stories by substitute writers:

Schoolboys' Owns Nos. 130, 136, 200, 203, 224, 240, 274, 276, 350, *
359, 401

Their Gem origins may be found in the list below No.15 is the only Greyfriars story not by Charles Hamilton, and to the best of our knowledge it was written specially for the Schoolboys' Own Library. It certainly never appeared in the Magnet, at any rate. With the exception of the dozen nos. mentioned above, all the stories in the list below are by Charles Hamilton.

The Schoolboys' Own Library was in many ways unsatisfactory as a medium of reprinting to the mind of the purist collector, at least. As it may be seen, one copy of the Library was reprinted from as few as one to as many as five Gems and Magnets. This naturally led to some drastic curtailing, and even alterations were made in the text. For instance, No.239 contains in the last part of the book the reprint of Magnet No.1257 relating the method in which the Bounder attempted to gain the captaincy of the Remove, but was foiled by a tie in the voting. He actually succeeds in a subsequent election as Magnet No.1258 describes, but for the sake of brevity this reprint combines the last chapter of Magnet No.1258 with the bulk of No.1257. An even more flagrant case of interpolation is instanced in School boys' Own No.340 which is the last of the series dealing with Harry Wharton's feud with Mr. Quelch (Autumn 1932). Magnet No.1296, which relates Wharton's reconciliation with his friends and his form-master is omitted in entirety and in its place is substituted a weak, bathotic ending, conceived no doubt by the office boy, and which serves only as a futile anti-climax. As Charles Hamilton has remarked in this connexion,"sometimes a bit here and a bit there cobbled together by a careless hand, and even bits added in odd spots by some cheeky ass who had not sense enough to leave things alone".

* FOOTNOTE. This list of stories by substitute writers may be taken as a supplement to the incomplete one I gave on page 24 of No.1 of the C.D..

No. 1. NEW COMPLETE ADVENTURE STORY PAPER. No. 1.

THE GEM LIBRARY $\frac{1}{2}$

Out March 14th.

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No. 1. No. 1.

JACK SAMUEL'S ADVENTURES IN AFRICA

PETER'S ADVENTURES IN THE SOUTH

BIRDS OF PREY

NELSON LEE DETECTIVE

3

As it has been remarked elsewhere the reprints were done in no recognisable chronological order. Even the tales in one copy were often arranged somewhat clumsily, like those in Schoolboys' Own No.583 which is composed of Gems Nos. 842, 413, 1220 in that order with a gap of sixteen years between the original appearance of the second part and the third. Apart from anomalies like this, there are no other reasons for asserting that Schoolboys' Owns are not real substitutes for Gems and Magnets. For example, No.17 contains only two chapters from Magnet No. 682, and No.207 contains only a few from Magnet No.1042, although these latter chapters were incorporated into the rest of the issue to make rather more coherent reading than usual. It can thus be seen that just because a certain number of the Gem or Magnet is quoted below it does not necessarily follow that that number was reprinted in its entirety., but it can be assumed that every component of every story is quoted. If the same origin is quoted twice, it may be taken that the story was unavoidably split when reprinted. For instance, Magnet No.1217 was reprinted practically in full, the first chapters appearing at the end of Schoolboys' Own No.313, and the last chapters appearing in the beginning of Schoolboys' Own No.316. There are only two exceptions to this rule and these concern Magnets Nos.996 and 1034 No.996 -"Billy Bunter's Brain - storm" is the classic story of how Bunter ordered food from Chunkleys in Mr. Quelch's name, and thoroughly deserved its two reprints in School - boys' Owns Nos. 209 and 237. The other, Magnet No.1034 was made to serve as the ending for both Schoolboys' Owns No.179 (a Greyfriars story) and No.365 (a St. Jims tale).

Not all stories in the Schoolboys' Own Library were reprinted from amalgamated Press publications No.136-"Who shall be Captain" is a story by Charles Hamilton reprinted from an ill fated paper called School and Sport which was started by an ex-editor of the Magnet. * But it has not been found practicable to include numbers like this in the lists; Book-wood stories as well, have had to be omitted. We regret also that we have not had the opportunity of tracing the origins of the following School-boys' Owns:

St. Jims stories - S.O.L. Nos.2.26.34.38.62.148.160

Greyfriars stories - S.O.L. Nos. 29.33.

If anyone could give us information about these, or would care to lend us his copies for checking against Gems and Magnets, we would be greatly obliged.

Finally, we must explain that where another number appears in brackets after a Gem number, this is intended to refer to the story's second appearance in the Gem after the policy of reprinting had been decided upon in 1931. With regard to Schoolboy's Own No.149, we are certain that it is a reprint of some, if not all, of Magnets Nos.749, 752. But as we are uncertain exactly which of these were reprinted, this story also is omitted from the list. This concludes the somewhat lengthy but necessary notes to our list.

* FOOTNOTE. Nos. 64, 70 and 188 also were reprints from this paper.

GREYFRIARS STORIES.

Schoolboys Own No.	Title	Magnet Origins.
1.	The Greyfriars Players	374 (Double Number)
3	The Greyfriars Business Man	383, 381
5	The Schoolboy Caravanners	704, 705, 707
7	The Kidnapped Cricketers	437, 438, 439, 490
9	A Schoolboys Honour	660, 661, 662, 663, 664
11	The Duffer of Greyfriars	125, 137. Rest of 125)
13	The Tyrant of Greyfriars	501, 502, 503, 504, 505
17	Surprising the School	632, 640, 364.
19	The Taming of Harry Wharton	1, 2.
21	The Greyfriars Journalists	153, 159
23	The Schoolboy Balloonists	111, 126
25	The Invasion of Greyfriars	68, 69, 70
31	A Mill Lad at Greyfriars	45, 38, 39, 90
35	The Boy from China	36, 37, 38.
37	The Outsider of Greyfriars	29, 30, 31
39	Aliens at Greyfriars	33, 34, 40
41	Billy Bunter's Christmas Pudding	95, 98
43	The Scapegrace of the School	43, 46
45	Boss of the Study	141, 142
47	The Greyfriars Hustler	150, 153
49	Rolling in Money	154, 156
51	Harry Wharton's Downfall	170, 176
53	Driven from the School	173, 174
57	Barred by His People	177, 178
59	The Greyfriars Sailors	52, 53, 56
61	Wingate's Chum	162, 167
63	The No-Surrender Schoolboy	297, 298
65	The Schoolboy Millionaire	184, 283
67	The Captain's Minor	265, 269
69	A Disgrace to the School	147, 149
71	The Outlaws of the School	190, 203
73	The Man from South America	114, 115
75	Taming a Bully	103, 123
77	Alonzo the Great	129, 132
79	Schoolboys Abroad	123, 124
81	Cock of the Walk	182, 195
83	The Fool of the School	134, 136
85	A Traitor in the School	220, 222
87	The Schoolboy Cup-Fighters	199, 300
89	Harry Wharton & Co's Xmas No.	206, 306
91	The Schoolboy Ventriloquist	140, 304

Nelson Lees (New Series) exchanged for Old Series
 Nelson Lees, Magnets, Gems, Populars, etc. Send for List of
 Numbers. Frank Keeling, 93, Aldridge Avenue, Stanmore,
 Middlesex.

95	The Get Rich Quick Schoolboy	234, 242
95	Wibley's Wonderful Wheeze	322, 419
97	The Greyfriars Clown	164, 169
99	The Bounder of Greyfriars	166, 168
101	Not Wanted at Greyfriars	329, 330
103	The Tyrant Head	171, 172
105	Just Like Coker	325, 327
107	Bunter the Blade	366, 474
109	The Schoolboy Juggler	268, 475
111	The Impossible Four	271, 286
113	The Shylock of Greyfriars	272, 237
115	The Kidnapped Schoolboy	117, 318
117	War with Highcliff	311, 138
119	The Boy from New York	328, 320
121	The Greyfriars Hypnotist	157, 294
123	Rival Japers	223, 229
125	The Schemer of the Remove	196, 274
127	The Fighting Form-Master	324, 331
129	Barred by the School	194, 277
131	The Moonlight Footballers	292, 298
133	That Guy Fish	290, 465
135	The Bounder's Feud	613, 614, 615
137	The Complete Outsider	546, 547, 548
139	The Broken Bond	553, 554, 555, 556
141	Stand Firm, the Rebels	743, 744, 745
143	Billy Bunter's Barring-in	956, 957
145	The Nabob's Peril	964, 965, 966
147	Harry Wharton & Co. in India	967, 968, 969
151	The Joker of the Remove	994, 995
153	Black Peter's Treasure	1017, 1018, 1019
155	The Rival Treasure-Seekers	1020, 1021, 1022, 1023
157	The Greyfriars Castaways	1024, 1025, 1026
159	The Fool of the Fifth	981, 982
161	Coker's Christmas Party	983, 984
163	Barred by the Form	975, 976, 977
165	Nobody's Chum	978, 979
167	The Bruiser of Greyfriars	985, 986, 987
169	The Call of the Ring	988, 989, 990
171	Condemned by the Form	997, 998, 999, 1000
173	The Bounder's Lesson	1001, 1002, 1004
175	One Against the School	1007, 1008, 1009
177	The Cruise of the Silver Scud	775, 776, 777, 778, 779
179	The Toad of the Remove	1031, 1032, 1034

WANTED! Magnets in perfect condition in complete volumes for binding. No. 1223, 1225, 1226, 1228, 1230 to 1233, 1242, 1245, 1250, 1268, 1287 to 1290, 1295, 1383, 1384, 1577.

Roy W. Sudborough, 27, Milton Street, Higham Ferrers, Northants.

181	The Gipsy Schoolboy	319, 320, 321, 322, 323
183	The Boy with a secret	781, 782, 783, 784
185	The Phantom of the Highlands	828, 829, 830
187	His Majesty, King Dunter	768, 770, 771, 772, 773
189	The Schoolboy Hypnotist	1050, 1051, 1052
191	The Greyfriars Rebellion	1043, 1044, 1045
193	The School without a Master	1047, 1048, 1049
195	The Foe from the East	1059, 1060, 1061
197	The Schenar of the Remove	1062, 1063, 1064
199	Rivals for a Fortune	1065, 1066, 1067
201	Billy Dunter's Circus	1069, 1070, 1071
203	Billy Dunter's Bodyguard	1073, 1074, 1075
205	The Joker of Greyfriars	1079, 1080, 1081, 1082
207	Who punched Prout?	1042, 1084, 1085
209	Dunter the Benevolent	996, 1036, 1037
211	Billy Dunter's Convict	1039, 1040, 1041
213	The Secret of Pengarth	810, 811, 812
215	Harry Wharton & Co. in New York	1092, 1093, 1094
217	From School to Hollywood	1095, 1096, 1098
219	Billy Dunter on the Films	1099, 1100, 1101
221	The Schoolboy Sheik	1102, 1103, 1104
223	A Film Star's Vengeance	1105, 1106, 1107
225	The Tyrant Prefect	1113, 1114, 1115
227	The Trial of the Trike	1118, 1119, 1121
229	The House of Terror	1122, 1123, 1125
231	The Boy Without a Friend	1126, 1127, 1128
233	The Phantom of the Cave	1087, 1088, 1089
235	Coker Comes a Cropper	1129, 1133, 1134
237	Dunter, the Bad Lad	996, 1137, 1016
239	The Shylock of Greyfriars	1110, 1161, 1162
241	Kidnappers at Greyfriars	1163, 1164, 1165
243	Pop o' the Circus	1166, 1167, 1168
245	Down with the Tyrant	1169, 1170, 1171
247	Victory for the Rebels	1172, 1173, 1174
249	The Call of the Desert	863, 864, 865, 866
251	Foes of the Sahara	867, 868, 869
253	Ragged Dick	906, 907, 908, 909
255	The Star of the Circus	945, 946, 947, 948
257	Dunter, the Mischiev-Maker	879, 880, 881
259	The Rebel of the Remove	882, 883, 884
261	The Downfall of Harry Wharton	885, 886, 887, 888
263	The Boy without a Name	1195, 1196, 1197
265	The Voice of the Tempter	1198, 1199, 1200
267	The Amateur Rogue	1201, 1202, 1203
269	The Menace of Tang Wang	1175, 1176, 1177
271	The Terror of the Tong	1178, 1179, 1180
273	The Mandarin's Vengeance	1181, 1182, 1183
275	The Beggar of Shantung	1184, 1185, 1186
277	The Scallywag of the Third	923, 924, 925.

200	Captain and Tyrant	926, 927, 928
203	The Worst Form at Greyfriars	929, 930, 931
206	Billy Dunter Gets the Boot	874, 875, 876, 877
209	Harry Wharton's Rival	1255, 1256, 1257, 1258
202	The Swot of the Remove	1259, 1260, 1261
205	The Fugitive Schoolboy	793, 794, 795, 796
208	The Boy with a Bad Name	796, 797, 798, 799
301	Bunter of Dunter Court	910, 911, 912
304	Goodbye to Dunter Court	913, 914, 915, 916
307	Coker the Champion Chump	1209, 1210, 1211
310	The Schoolboy Cracksman	1212, 1213, 1214
313	The Boy who Knew Too Much	1215, 1216, 1217
316	The Boy From the Underworld	1217, 1218, 1219
319	The Phantom of the Towers	1244, 1245, 1246
322	The Terror of the Form	1247, 1248, 1249
325	Dold, Dad, Dunter	1250, 1251, 1252
328	Detective Dunter	1253, 1254
331	The Downfall of Harry Wharton	1285, 1286, 1287
334	Harry Wharton Declares War	1287, 1288, 1289
337	The Worst Boy at Greyfriars	1290, 1291, 1292
340	Nobody's Pal	1292, 1293, 1295
343	Harry Wharton & Co's African Adventure	1228, 1229, 1230
346	The Slave Trader's Vengeance	1231, 1232, 1233
349	The Schoolboy Slaves	1234, 1235, 1236
352	The Boot-boy's Lucky Break	1239, 1240, 1238
355	Billy Dunter's Christmas	1140, 1141, 1142
353	The Mystery Master	1143, 1144, 1145
361	The Master from Scotland Yard	1146, 1147, 1148
364	The Greyfriars Cracksman	1149, 1150, 1151
367	Billy Dunter's Cruise	1312, 1313, 1314
370	The Greyfriars Tourists	1315, 1316, 1317
373	The Fighting Form-Master	1321, 1322, 1323
376	The Greyfriars Hikers	1331, 1332, 1334
379	The Kidnapped Hiker	1335, 1336, 1337
382	The Secret of the "Holiday Annual"	1338, 1339, 1340
385	The Tough Guy of Greyfriars	1344, 1345, 1346
388	The Schoolboy Samson	1347, 1348, 1342
391	The Mystery of Wharton Lodge	1349, 1350, 1351
394	A Dupe of the Underworld	1297, 1298, 1299
397	The Schoolboy Forger	1300, 1301, 1302
400	The Boy with a Past	1303, 1304, 1305
403	The Man from the Sky	1306, 1307, 1311
404	The Secret of the Silver Box	1159, 1157, 1158
406	Southward-Ho!	1277, 1278, 1279
407	The Mystery of Study No.1	1271, 1272, 1273
409	The Lure of the Golden Scarab	1279, 1280, 1281
410	Hidden Loot	1273, 1274, 1275

St. Jim's Stories (Stories not by Charles Hamilton marked thus - XXX)

Schoolboys' Own No.	Title	Gen Origins
8	His Brother's Burden	494, 495, 496
14	The Outcast of St. Jims	438, 439, 439
13	The Millionaire Doot-boy	145, 147 (1344)
22	D'Arcy of St. Jims	139(1373), 144(1343)
30	Tom Merry's Trust	82(1321), 83(1322)
46	School House versus New House	261, 262(1450)
50	Tom Merry's Enemy	159(1393), 160(1394)
55	A Rank Outsider	129(1367), 130(1368)
66	The Eastwood House Mystery	302(1504, 1505)
72	The Swell of the Circus	106(1333), 107(1334)
80	D'Arcy's Cricket Week	123(1374), 124(1375)
83	The Cockney Schoolboy	304(1459), 305(1460)
90	The Ghost of St. Jims	41(1296)
93	Tom Merry & Co. in Monte Carlo	111(1336), 112(1337)
102	The Schener of St. Jims	278(1465) 279
106	The Rival Patrols	76(1313) 78
110	The St. Jims Inventors	64(1309), 60(1320)
116	Smuggled to School	60(1307), 61(1308)
122	St. Jims at Sea	30(1281), 31(1282)
126	Glyn's Mechanical Marvels	220(1430), 132
130	No Surrender	211(1405), 212(1406)
134	True Blue	213(1407) 214(1408)
140	Kicked out of School	221(1417), 222(1418)
144	Saints versus Grammarians	200, 195(1402)
152	Seven Schoolboys and Solomon	698, 699, 700, 701
164	Rivals on the Warpath	713, 714, 715
168	The Cardew Cup	768, 769, 770, 771, 772
172	The Trial of Vengeance	657, 658, 659, 660, 661
176	Gussy, The Runaway	753, 754, 756, 757, 758
180	XXX Chums Afloat	966, 967, 968
186	XXX The Secret of Drere Manor	932, 933, 934
190	The Boy from Dootleg Ranch	677, 678, 680, 679, 683
196	A Schoolboy's Sacrifice	906, 907, 908, 909
200	XXX St. Jims in the Soup	1001, 1002, 1003
204	The Missing Schoolboy	919, 920, 921
208	XXX The Siege of St. Jims	998, 999
210	The St. Jims Ghost Hunters	92(1555), 93(1556)
214	The Toff's Sacrifice	988, 989, 990, 991
218	Cousin Ethel's Chum	951, 952, 953, 954
222	The Boy Who Hated St. Jims	1070, 1071, 1072
224	XXX Handforth at St. Jims	1059, 1060, 1062
228	Seven Boys in a Boat	812, 813, 814, 815
230	The River Adventurers	816, 817, 818, 808

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234	A Christmas Barring-out	776, 777, 778, 779
236	The Rebels of St. Jims	780, 782, 783, 784
240 XXX	Tom Merry's Enemy	935, 936, 937
244	The Trail of Adventure	1014, 1015, 1016
246	The Secret of the Lone Pine	1017, 1018, 1020, 1021
250	The St. Jims Hikers	864, 865, 866, 867
253	Captain and Slacker	824, 825, 826, 827
260	The Stick-at-Nothing Schoolboy	828, 829, 830, 831
264	Daggy Trimble's Reform	1000, 927, 928
270	Japers of St. Jims	844, 845, 846, 847
274 XXX	Camp and Caravan	914, 915, 916
276	Nippy from Nowhere	917, 918
281	St. Jims in Revolt	858, 720, 721, 722
287	Tom Merry & Co. Declare War	729, 730, 731, 732
293	For Honour's Sake	836, 837, 838, 839
302	Raising the Wind	748, 749, 750, 751
311	The Boy who Wanted the Sack	970, 971, 972
314	The Schoolboy Airman	973, 974, 976
320	A Lion at St. Jims	708, 709, 710, 711
326	Harry Manners' Feud	882, 883, 807, 822
332	The Mystery of Holly Lodge	895, 897, 898, 899
333	The Price of Loyalty	1006, 1007, 1162
344	The Saving of Selby	797, 923, 924
350 XXX	Grundy Takes the Lead	1026, 1027
355 XXX	The Shanghaied Schoolboys	1144, 1145, 1146
365	The Boy Who Came Back	1031, 1034 Magnet 1034
374	The Boy They Couldn't Trust	852, 853, 855, 856
413	The Great Grundy	842, 413, 1220
417	Put to Test	766, 767, 733, 774
453	A Gunman at St. Jims	1192, 1193, 1197
461 XXX	Cock of the Walk	1151, 1152, 1153, 1154

The Holiday Annuals

Do believe the following list comprises all the Greyfriars and St. Jims stories that were reprinted from the Magnet and Gem respectively. With regard to Greyfriars and St. Jims stories other than those listed below, it can be taken as a rough guide that most, if not all the short stories were by imitation and that all the longer stories were originals by Charles Hamilton. In the latter case, the words "Specially written for the Holiday Annual by Frank Richards" were usually inserted.

It is our opinion that the current prices for Holiday Annuals are inflated because of the reason when it is realised that the actual reading matter by Charles Hamilton did not exceed the length of two Schoolboys' Owns. If this list does no more than reduce prices to a comparatively reasonable level, it will have been of some value. Naturally, however, this censure is not meant to apply where the early Holiday Annuals are concerned, as it was in these volumes that most of the stories specially written by Charles Hamilton made their sole appearance.

Union Jacks, Detective Weeklies, Sexton Blake's wanted.
Ford, 42 West Bond Street, Macclesfield.

Year	Title	Origin
1920	Fighting for His Honour	Magnets 173, 174
1921	The Master's Secret, or How Tom Merry came to St. Jims.	Gems($\frac{1}{2}$ d series) 11, 13, 14.
1922	To Save His Honour	Gems. 361, 363, 36
1923	Captain of St. Jims	Gems: 317, 318
1924	The Schoolboy Treasure Hunters	Gems: 173, 174, 17
1925	The Dishop's Medal The Rival Editors	Gems 313 Magnet 306
1926	Grundy's Great Ideal The Form Master's Substitute	Gem: 465 Magnet: 339
1927	Lord Eastwood's Experiment Nugent Minor's Dad Start	Gem: 127 Magnet 100
1928	How Horace Coker Got His Remove	Magnet 145
1929	When Billy Bunter Forgot Tom Merry's Minor.	Magnet 160 Gem. 296
1930	The Greyfriars Adventurers	Magnet 179
1931	Mark Linley at Crossroads Troublesome Tom.	Magnet 180 Gem ($\frac{1}{2}$ d series):5
1932	The Vanished Eleven	Magnet: 338
1933	A Yankee at St. Jims Saved From the Sea.	Gem: 294 Magnet 301
1934	A Schoolboy's Honour Spoofed	Magnet 303 Gem: 799
1935	The Footprint in the Sand The Stony Seven	Magnet 992 Gem: 751
1936	The Spoofer Billy Bunter's Dust up	Gem: 765 Magnet: 148
1937	Squiff of the Remove	Magnet 343

*FOOTNOTE A cert ain amount of rewriting was done here.

1938	Mutiny on the Spindthrift The Shadow over Eastwood House	Magnet: 267 Gem: 724
1939	Billy Dunter's Fearful Affliction The Mystery of the Christmas Candles Grundy's Gunpowder Plot	Magnet: 715 Magnet: 723 Gem: 717
1940	Fighting the Flanes Sir Fulke's Warning	Gem: 695 Magnet: 776
1941	Billy Dunter's Busy Day Skimpole, the Star Gazer	Magnet: 942 Gem: 976

Continued from Page 19

December the 25th? I would solemnly warn you against the peril of over suggestion. The case of that industrious scientist Herr Offenbach, occurs to me --"

Blake paused, and toyed idly with his tea spoon. His face was perfectly grave, but there was a mischievous twinkle in his eyes as he continued.

"The unfortunate professor was afflicted by the deformity commonly known as knock-knees. A firm believer in auto-suggestion he repeated daily the famous formula: 'Every day my legs grow straighter and straighter'. Unfortunately, his zeal overshot the mark and he awoke one morning to find he was bow-legged."

Tinker choked into his tea-cup. It was rarely that Sexton Blake jested, and the lad realised that his leg had been successfully pulled.

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WANTED URGENTLY: Gems 485, 999, 1032, 1037, 1057, 1089. Magnets 451, 681, 692, 903. Will pay for typewritten copies if you can't part with them. E.B. Flinders, Roseview, Gosmore Road, Near Hitchin, Herts.

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WANTED: Nelson Lees, Old Series, particularly Nos. 102, 103, 220, 230, also about 80 issues between Nos. 1 and 271. Name your own price. Have hundreds of duplicate copies for exchange. J. Murtagh, Selwood Road, Hastings, New Zealand.

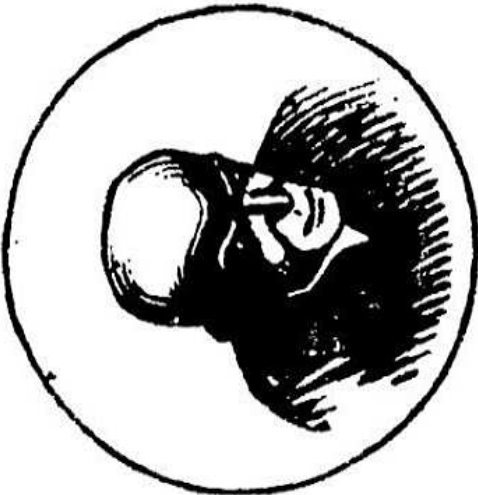
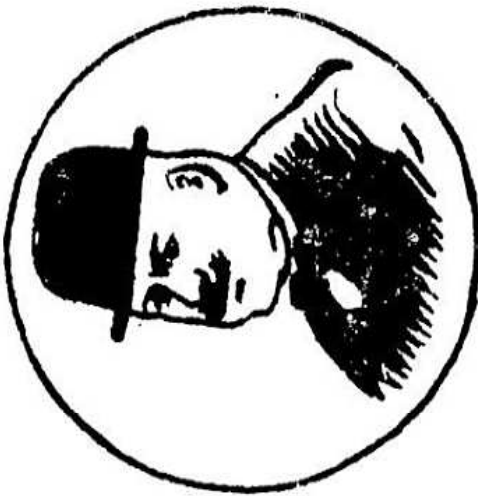
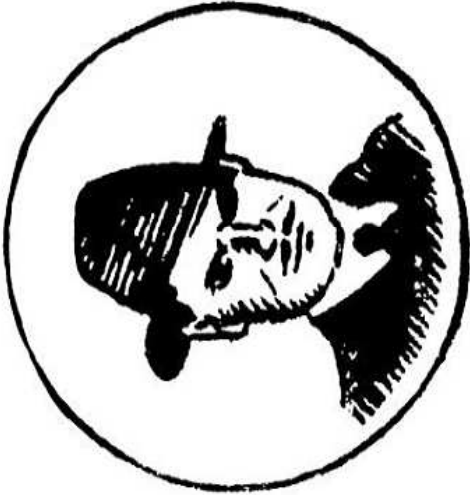
Characters in Sexton Blake Stories

By H.M. BOND.

A review of the major characters who fought with and against the Man from Baker Street since his first appearance in 1895. It is not claimed that this review or the alphabetical list accompanying it is either complete or strictly accurate. In many cases it has been found impossible to give exact dates of first appearances etc but we feel sure that all readers, Sexton Blake enthusiasts in particular, will find the information supplied of a most interesting nature.

Many articles have been written in the pages of the various amateur papers dealing with the collection and preservation of old boys papers about the most famous of all fictional detectives, Sexton Blake. We have been told that he is the most written of character in the whole world of literature, a fact which seems conclusive when one looks at the records of the stories about him which have been published by the Amalgamated Press. Certainly Blake enjoyed great popularity throughout the years, not only through the medium of the printed page but also on stage, screen, and radio. And his popularity was not confined to the young, for "boys" from seven to seventy read about his adventures with equal avidity. But although Sexton Blake became a household name, I think it certain that his rise to fame would not have been so great had it not been for assistance from the many characters both for and against him. These characters, created by some of the hundred authors of whom Herbert Leckenby wrote in a recent issue of "The Story Paper Collector", were, in some cases, as much looked forward to as the great man himself, in fact on many many occasions readers have been thrilled to know that a new series featuring a certain popular crook character would soon be "in their hands". The weekly and monthly appearance of Blake were taken for granted, but the occasional appearance of say Huxton Rymer of Monsieur Zenith was something to look forward to, although I doubt if any of them would have lasted long had Blake been erased from the stories and another sleuth substituted. Be that as it may, Blake does owe a lot of his fame to those grand characters who have appeared within the many pages of the "Union Jack", "Sexton Blake Library" and "Detective Weekly". I have spent many hours of late going through the piles of old numbers that form my collection and I have discovered no less than one hundred and thirty five what I call "major" subsidiary characters. Many of these characters made

Wilfred
Dorwin '47



but brief appearances on the Sexton Blake stage while others came to stay, at least until Adolf Hitler came along to shatter our quiet lives. I could fill many pages of this Annual telling you of the innumerable clashes Blake has had with these characters but I am afraid that the paper situation will not allow of this so I must be content to mention some of the most important ones and leave the minor ones to the list which accompanies this article.

I think it will be agreed that the most important criminal character with whom Blake fought was George Marsden Plummer. So many stories have been written around this ex Scotland Yard man that it would be almost an impossibility to state the exact number, but it will suffice to say that Plummer is the ONLY criminal in Blake fiction to have been featured in all three Blake publications, i. e. U.J. S.B.L. and D.W. and on stage and screen as well. Yes, Plummer appeared in a pre-1914 stage play "The Clue of the Wax Vesta" and was featured in several of the shorter Blake films produced in the late 1920s. Created by Mark Osborne and later adopted by George Hamilton Teed, Plummer was rarely absent from the pages of the U.J. or S.B.L. for longer than a few weeks and during his adventurous career he met many of the other characters who also played a big part in the Blake saga, notably Dr. Huxton Rymer. His association with beautiful Vali-Mata-Vali created great interest, but it seems to me that he was a much more sophisticated character in the hands of Teed than when he was handled by his creator Osborne.

It is difficult to say who comes next in the list of the most important sub-characters. If one favoured the work of Mr. Teed I suppose one might say that Huxton Rymer should take that position, but we must try and view the whole Blake scene impartially, for it is obvious that every one of the 135 characters I have unearthed have been favoured by some reader or other. I know of one Blake fan for instance who thinks that Olga Nasmyth was the finest character of all. Well, Olga only appeared in the pages of the old U.J. on three occasions, the three stories being parts of one series. It is the same with authors. Mr. John Gocher tells me that one of his favourite Blake authors is Clifford Gates. To my knowledge, Mr. Gates has only written one Blake yarn, but you see that one yarn did the trick as far as John was concerned. He would, even after some years, feel very excited were he to see the name Gates on the front of a 1947 S.B.L. So, if we forget "favourites" I think I should not be far wrong in saying that after Plummer the most popular crook was Monsieur Zenith. Maybe the interest in this peculiar individual was due to his being of an entirely different nature to all the others. For a start he was a polished crook a crook who cared not whether he lived or died. He knew no fear and always played the game even when faced with capture or death. You will get a most adequate picture of this unique character, who, incidentally, was created by Mr. Anthony Skene, if you turn to the November 1947 issue of the C.D. I think Rex Dolphin's article on him will tell you all you want to know. After Zenith one could

think of many who could qualify for third place. Waldo the Wonder Man was very popular, but what about Leon Kestrel, Mr. Reece, Yvonne, Wu Ling, and others. There is no doubt that Mademoiselle Yvonne was the "tops" as regards women characters in Blake fiction. Not only was she a fascinating creature in every respect, but she was the first woman to cause Blake to realise that there was such a thing as love, and although he later had many romantic experiences with Marie Galante, Olga Nasmyth and Mademoiselle Roxane, there is no doubt that Yvonne took pride of place in his heart, that is if a fictional character CAN have a heart. Personally I think that the Kestrel stories were of an exceptionally high standard, but others would favour the Confederation series. This amazing series featured many of the sub-characters all of whom were extremely well drawn. Mr. Reece, Professor Jason Reece, Sir. Philip Champion, Ysabel de Ferre, Dirk Dolland (The Bat) amongst others took a prominent part. Incidentally Yvonne appeared in quite a few of the Confederation stories, this being a case of an author borrowing a character from one of his colleagues, probably because the said character was, at the time, high in the estimation of the majority of readers. It might have been easy for Robert Murray to create another woman character to take the place of Yvonne, but it was a safer bet that an already established adventuress would draw the public better than a new and unknown one. Dr. Satira, Paul Cynos, King Karl, and Peter the Spider were all grand characters too. The more I think of all these fictional people the more I wonder at the amazing complexity of the history of Sexton Blake. It is indeed amazing that one imaginary being should have been responsible for the birth of so many others of so many varying qualities. The reader who has just been introduced to the Blake story cannot have any inkling of the tradition and background of this wonderful achievement, this building up of a family of characters all dependent upon the name of one man. Yes it is truly astounding and I doubt whether it will ever be surpassed. I will now leave you to browse through my list and hope that it will recall many memories for the older reader and encourage the novice to attempt to obtain as many old copies as he or she can in order to share the joys that so many of us have shared in the past.

The following list of characters featured in Sexton Blake stories over a period of nearly thirty years has been compiled almost completely from my own collection and although every care has been taken to assure accuracy it is possible that there are slight deviations from actuality. Furthermore it has not been possible to give the exact issue wherein some of the characters made their first appearance and in these cases I have inserted the publication and number of same in which the character concerned appeared for the first time in my records. An asterisk indicates actual first appearances. If any reader can supply information to further the completion of this list I should be very pleased to hear.

Character(s)	Author(s)	Appeared in:-
Ah Wo	Reid Whitley	U.J. No. 1352 *
Bierce. Fifette	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No. 815 *
Bierce. Father	" "	U.J. No. 815 *
Beaudelaire	" "	U.J. No. 929 *
Beaumaron Count	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 555 *
Brand K.C. M.P.		S.B.L. (a) 79 *
Brim. Peter (Spider)	Ladbroke Black	U.J. No. 1212 *
Bennett. "Punch"	Maurice B. Dix	S.B.L. (b) 661 *
Barry	Allan Blair	S.B.L. (b) 571
Bonalli. Count (The Owl)	Andrew Murray	U.J. No. 863
Begge Humble	Andrew Murray	U.J. No. 624
Black Eagle. The	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 1048 *
Black Trinity. The	Anthony Skene	U.J. No. 1228 *
Belford. Sgt.	Anthony Parsons	S.B.L. (c) 2
Black Rat. The	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 701
Bardoll. Mrs. Martha		U.J. No. 1210
Camille. The Girl		U.J. No. 715 *
Cartier. Yvonne	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 498
Chanways. Lord Montague	John G. Brandon	S.B.L. (b) 397
Carlac. Count Ivor	Andrew Murray	U.J. No. 468 *
Cynos. Paul	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 1289 *
Creed. Laban		U.J. No. 410
Christmas. Captain	Stacey Blake	U.J. No. 1247 *
Cavendish Eustace	Edwy Searles Brooks	U.J. No. 1354 *
Charon. Bertrand.	Pierre Quiroule	U.J. No. 1036
Council of Eleven. The	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 555
Coutts. Inspector		
Confederation. The	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 806 *
Crime Minister. The	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 1408 *
Council of Nine		S.B.L. (a) 142
Champion. Sir Philip	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 829
Cranston Bliss M.D.		U.J. No. 657 *
Dene Gloria	Anthony Skene	U.J. No. 1307
Delisle. Claire	F. Addington Symonds	U.J. No. 904 *
Death. Miss	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No. 1323 *
Dass. Gunga	Hylton Gregory (i)	U.J. No. 1006
Dolland. Dirk (The Bat)	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 698
Dack. Captain	John Hunter	SBL. (b) 662
Dexter. Aubrey	Mark Osborne	U.J. No. 551
De Ferre. Ysabel	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 910
Flanagan. "Big" Ted	Warwick Jardine	SDL. (b) 673
Fortune. Julia	Anthony Skene	U.J. No. 1038

Do not miss the January issue of The Collector's Digest
It's better than ever

Fane Hamilton		SDL. (a)	126 *
Fetherston. Reggie	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	977 *
Ferraro. Dr.	Coutts Brisbane.	SDL. (a)	185 *
Fairfax. Sir Henry			
Fawn Fenlock		U.J. No.	170 *
Grey Panther. The		U.J. No.	516 *
Furg. Jim (The Fur Man)		U.J. No.	1257 *
Gale. "Glory"		SDL. (a)	47 *
Graves. "Uncle"	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	498
Garrock. Henri		U.J. No.	527
Galante. Marie	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	710 *
Grant. "Granite"	Pierre Quiroule (ii)	SDL. (a)	110 *
Gargoyle. The	Anthony Skene	U.J. No.	1331 *
Harmon. Joe	Stanton Hope.	SDL. (b)	713
Hong Leo Soo .	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	1305
Harfield. Roxane	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	1378 *
Hanson. Ruff	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No.	1173 *
Hale. Gilbert	Gilbert Chester	SDL. (a)	332
Hale. Eileen	Gilbert Chester	SDL. (a)	332
Harker. Inspector	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No.	641
Hoang Ho.	Robert Murray	U.J. No.	946
Julie. Mademoiselle	Pierre Quiroule	SDL. (a)	125 *
Jansson (The Moonslayer)		U.J. No.	950 *
Kurtin. Eldred		SDL. (a)	134
Krantz. Frau	Anthony Skene	U.J. No.	1038
Karl. King	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No.	1233
Kestrel Leon	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No.	641
Kew Professor	Andrew Murray	U.J. No.	511
Kelk. Krock	Arthur Patterson	U.J. No.	1288 *
Lepperman. Dr.		SDL. (a)	100
Lord. Ferrers	Sidney Drew	U.J. No.	742
Lobangu	Cecil Hayter (iii)	U.J. No.	565
Losely. Sir Richard	Cecil Hayter (iv)	U.J. No.	565
Lawless. John	Andrew Murray	U.J. No.	550
Lipton. Sir Thomas		U.J. No.	569
Madrano. Fifito	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No.	689 *
Marinotte	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No.	929 *
Maitland. Kathleen	Mark Osborne	U.J. No.	671
Marl. Muriel (Gang Girl)	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	1458 *
Menes. Prince	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No.	722 *
Mist. Mr.	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No.	1277 *
Maitland. Ezra Q.		U.J. No.	572 *
Maitland. Kate (Broadway Kate)		U.J. No.	572 *
Marsh. John.	Mark Osborne	U.J. No.	322
Martin. Inspector		U.J. No.	567
Men Who were dead	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No.	1360 *
Nihil	Anthony Skene	U.J. No.	919 *

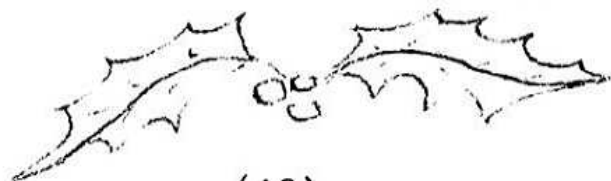
Nantucket. "Trouble"	Andrew Murray	SBL. (a) 102 *
Nirvana	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 1149 *
Nasmyth. Olga	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No. 1269 *
Nelson Lee	Maxwell Scott	U.J. No. 688 *
O'Flynn. Mike	Stanton Hope	SBL. (b) 713
Oyani	Anthony Skene	U.J. No. 837 *
Owl. The (see Bonalli)	Andrew Murray	U.J. No. 863
Onion Men. The	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No. 1481 *
Potter. Jim	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 697
Preece. Gideon		U.J. No. 515
Pedro. (The Bloodhound)	Wm. Murray Graydon.	U.J. No. 100 *
Plummer. George Marsden.	Mark Osborne. (v)	U.J. No. 222 *
Palmer. Hammerton.	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 616
Pherison. Archie	G. Hamilton Teed.	U.J. No. 977 *
Page. Derek "Splash"	Gwyn Evans	U.J. No. 1167
Purvale. Hon. R.S.V.	John G. Brandon	SBL. (b) 397
Rymer. Dr. Huxton	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 526
Reece. Mr.	Robert Murray	SBL. (a) 41
Reece. Professor Jason	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 368
Raven. The	F. Addington Symonds	U.J. No. 904 *
Rifant. Dr. Garlax		U.J. No. 1055 *
Semirenis	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No. 890 *
Saddler. Sir Gordon.	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 1023
San.	G. Hamilton Teed.	U.J. No. 507 *
Steele. Adrian		U.J. No. 1019
Severance. June	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 1305 *
Somerton. Algy	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 977 *
Satira. Dr.	Robert Murray	U.J. No. 1206 *
Spearing. Will	Mark Darran	U.J. No. 105 *
Scorpion. The	Maxwell Scott	U.J. No. 321
Shanghai Jim.	Lewis Jackson	U.J. No. 641
Trent. Mary	G. Hamilton Teed	SBL. (a) 219
Tench. Sam	John Hunter	SBL. (b) 662
Thomas Inspector	G. Hamilton Teed	
Twyford. Cora	Cedric Wolfe	U.J. No. 303
Tinker (Smith?)	Herbert Maxwell	U.J. No. 53 *
Vali Mata-Vali	G. Hamilton Teed	SBL. (b) 77
Venner. Superintendent	Anthony Parsons	SBL. (b) 617
Von Kravitch	G. Hamilton Teed.	D.W. No.
Wicketshaw. Basil	W. Murray Graydon	SBL. (a) 162
Wu Ling	G. Hamilton Teed	U.J. No. 507 *
Withers. "Big Bill"	John G. Brandon	SBL. (b) 397
Wibley. "Flash" George	John G. Brandon	SBL. (b) 397
Waldo. Rupert	Edwy Searles Brooks	U.J. No. 794 *
Widgeon. Inspector	W. Murray Graydon	
Wu Fong		U.J. No. 727
Zenith the Albino	Anthony Skene	U.J. No. 837 *

Notes:-

- (i) Although the creator of Gunga Dass was Hylton Gregory, or H. Gregory Hill to give him his real name, the character was also used by Coutts Brisbane and Anthony Parsons (see "Master Crook of the Orient" by William Colcombe, page, 170 of Volum 1 of "The Collector's Digest").
- (ii) "Granite" Grant, King's Spy, created by Pierre Quiroule (W.W. Sayer) has also been featured in two stories by Warwick Jardine (a) "The Crime in Park Lane" S.B.L. 2nd series No. 403 and (b) "The Man from Tokyo" S.B.L. 2nd series No. 409.
- (iii) Lobangu, chief of the Etbia tribe, created by Cecil Hayter has also been featured in many stories by Rex Hardinge.
- (iv) Sir Richard Losely, H.M. District Commissioner and schoolmate of Sexton Blake, created by Cecil Hayter has also been featured by Rex Hardinge.
- (v) Although George Marsden Plummer (and his daughter !) was created by Mark Osborne most of the stories featuring him were by George Hamilton Teed who developed the character with whom we are all most familiar. It was Teed who linked Plummer with Huxton Rymer, Vali-Mata-Vali, Muriel Marl and others, and it was he who related the famous "Hawk of the Peak" series in which G.M.P. took the part of an Arab chieftan.

Although the foregoing list deals with each character separately it must be stated that in many cases two or more of them appeared together in various stories. The following notes are compiled mainly for the benefit of the comparative newcomer to the Sexton Blake circle and give details of the most important combinations :-

1. Leon Kestrel, the American actor - crook known as "The Master Mummer and organiser of the "War Profits Liquidation Syndicate" had the co-operation of Fifette Bierce (known as "The Princess Pretence"), her father (Father Bierce), Madrano the steeplejack, Shanghai Jim, Semitanis the Greek and Marinotte. Also featured in many of the Kestrel yarns was the hunch back Beaudelaire, often supplier of information about the Syndicate to Sexton Blake.
2. Gilbert and Eileen Hale nearly always worked together, being husband and wife.
3. Archie Fherison, Algy Somerton and Reggie Fetherston always worked as a trio. They were popularly known as "The Three Musketeers".
4. The Baron de Deaumaron was leader of "The Council of Eleven" and often worked side by side with Dr. Huxton Rymer.



5. Huxton Rymer, although essentially a "lone wolf" had the assistance of many of the other Teed creations from time to time, notably George Marsden Plummer, Hammerton Palmer, and his woman accomplice Mary Trent. He was known in scientific circles as Professor Andrew Butterfield and was the owner of Abbey Towers, a large residence somewhere in the South of England. He also was involved in a few intrigues with the notorious Hayti Voodoo Queen, Marie Galante.
6. Barry. This character was created by that fine author Allan Blair, who, strangely enough, although having written countless Blake stories right through the period when "characters" were the order of the day wrote each one with a "straight detective background. Barry was the only oft used character he created and was featured as an extra assistant to Blake.
7. Superintendent Claudius Verner and his "handmaiden" Sergeant Belford always work together as can be observed from the pages of many Anthony Parsons stories in the current SDL series.
8. Mademoiselle Yvonne Cartier, adventuress and owner of the yacht "Fleur-de-Lys" often had the help of her uncle, known to U.J. readers as "Uncle Graves". Jim Potter was also featured in some of the Yvonne series.
9. The Confederation series featured many of the most popular characters. Mr. Reece, Professor Jason Reece, Sir Philip Champion, Dirk Dolland, John Fade (not mentioned in the list above) and "Mr. Smith" to say nothing of Ysabel de Ferre and the Chinaman Hoang Ho.
10. Count Ivan Carlac and Professor Kew were featured together in many stories, especially in the S.D.L. 1st series.
11. Captain Dack of the "Mary Ann Trinder" had, for his chief henchman (and Mate), Sam Tench.
12. Joe Harmon and Mike O'Flynn have always appeared together as "the two raggies" in all Stanton Hope's Blake stories.
13. Oyani was the Japanese manservant to Monsieur Zenith the Albino and was always featured in the later stories of this series.
14. Sir. Gordon Saddler most appeared in the Wu Ling series, and was known as "The Mystery Man of Frisco". The character San incidentally nearly always appeared in this series for he was the next in command after Wu Ling in "The Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle".
15. Julius Jones, the Welsh editor of "The Daily Radio" appeared in most of the Gwyn Evans "Splash" Page series.

Appendix.

In the characters list, when dealing with the S.D.L. (a) indicates the first series of the library, (b) the second series, and (c) the third and current series.

Friends at the Yard

by Rex Dolphin.

The editor of the U.J. once received a letter from a reader complaining of the "impossibility" of most of the Blake characters, and ending up, "Coutts is the most natural character of the lot".

With that last remark I emphatically agree, Detective Inspector Coutts is a typical averagely-good man who plods steadily along with no flashes of brilliance, doing a difficult job to the best of his ability, assisted by nothing more extra-ordinary than commonsense and training. One of Blake's oldest friends from the Yard, Coutts has worked many hundreds of times in harness with the famous private investigator, and there is a warm comradeship between these two utterly contrasted men.



There was a time, perhaps, when Coutts would enlist Blake's aid reluctantly. But he has got over that false pride now, and when he finds himself with a sticky problem, it is his natural reaction to go and chat with Blake and smoke one of Blake's cigars, and sooner or later come to the point. After all, two heads are better than one even when one of those brains is one of the world's most brilliant.

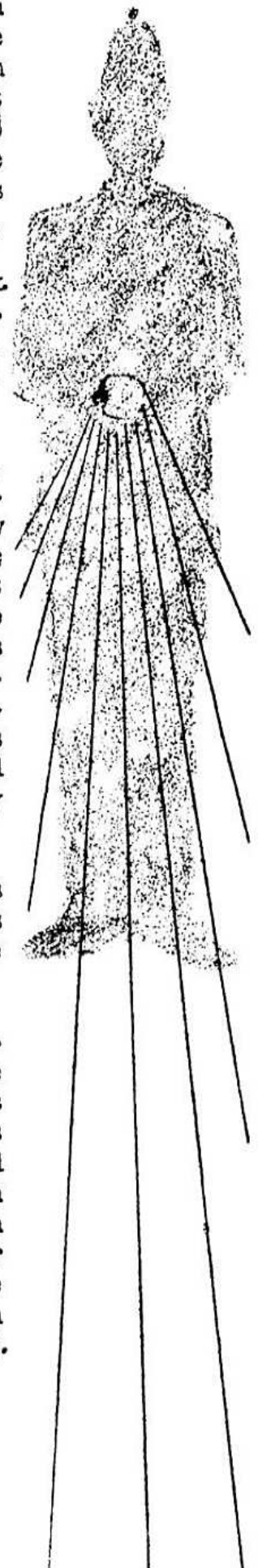
Coutts knows how much he owes to Blake, and though he often gets the official credit for Blake's work, very often openly admits that he would have got nowhere without the private 'tec. The classic occasion of this was when they had finally smashed the infamous Criminals' Confederation. Coutts, in the full hearing of the Commissioner and other important people, proposed a knight-hood for Sexton Blake.

One of the Yard's most capable officers, Coutts, when at work, is practical, level-headed, and despite the fantastic cases in which he has been involved, a firm disbeliever in the "romance" of crime. To him it is just a job of work, and where there is an obvious solution to a case, Coutts is not one to go delving below the surface in search of anything more subtle. Consequently he has often picked on the wrong man in a murder case, and Blake, with his more imaginative outlook, has had to help him out and put him firmly but gently on the right track. This has happened many times, but Coutts still gets bewildered at the speed of Blake's thinking and strategy, and often pooh-poohs Blake's more "fantastic" theories. "You suffer from too much imagination," he says.

When conducting a routine investigation, though, Coutts is at his best. His famous black official notebook is much in evidence. He lets his victims know straightaway that he is the man in authority. Perhaps he enjoys "throwing his weight about", but he has found that this technique gets results. The aggressive, brusque attitude, with its touch of sarcasm, the observant eyes and stern mouth, give his listeners the immediate impression that here is a man who won't be trifled with. Habitual criminals especially have learnt to fear him. But his attitude is often relaxed when he deals with women and others deserving of sympathy, for he is a genuinely kindly man, and there are times when he hates his duty.

Like all police officers, he is an expert on cars and tyre-tracks. Again, he often uses "marks", but despises them at the same time. And of his personal courage, there is no doubt.

The various portraits, notably Eric Parker's and pen-pictures of Coutts, give an easily recognisable picture of him. The first thing that strikes you about him is his bulk. Perhaps an inch less tall than Blake, he is much broader, with wide heavy shoulders and a well-padded chest and abdomen. Where Blake weighs around thirteen stone, Coutts is nearer fourteen. He has often been described as wearing a hard felt hat (in which, rumour has it, he eats and sleeps too) at an aggressive angle and a "double-breasted blue reefer jacket which seems on the point of bursting at the seams as usual." (Gwyn Evans).



The next most noticeable feature is his brick-red complexion and his bristling red moustache. Different authors have described that moustache in different ways ---- "bristling", "scruffy", "straggling", and even "toothbrush", but all are agreed that it is "sandy", "red", or "ginger". Very probably the attitude of that moustache varies with the progress of a case, acting as a kind of barometer! For the rest of his face, he has a heavy, bulldoggish chin, which is often bristly with razor-defying stubble. The colour of his eyes has been given by Robert Murray as "pale blue", and Gwyn Evans has credited him with "prominent ears". His hair is short and bristly, red now turning grey.

His Christian name is a source of mystery. The only author who seems to have mentioned it is Gwyn Evans, and he has given it variously as "William", "George", and even "Charlie". In any case, it seems only natural that such a plain John Bullish character should have a good plain name of this type. "George", in my opinion, suits him best.

Sexton Blake and George Coutts often argue about the merits of different tobaccos. They seem to see eye-to-eye only about Blake's choice cigars, to which Coutts absent-mindedly helps himself while chatting in the consulting room. For the rest:

"Have a pipe of 'bacca, Coutts?"
The inspector laughed. "Not much.
I had a pipe of your 'bacca once,
Blake, and once is enough. I can
smoke anything from brown paper
to cut plug, but that stuff is only
suitable for drain testing."
(Anthony Skene)

Coutts' favourite smoke is indeed a good cigar. But he seems incapable of choosing a decent brand for his everyday smoking. He once offered Blake one --- but Blake refused gently, saying he had just loaded his pipe. "Coutts' taste in cigars was notorious --- very long, very yellow, very evil smelling."

(Robert Murray).

The Inspector, though always at variance with Tinker and Splash Page, doesn't really mean it. They know the good humor that lies beneath his aggressive exterior. To hear him reprimand Tinker for disrespect: "Not so much of the 'old man', young fellow!" or say to Splash Page: "You newshounds are a blooming nuisance!" one might get the

Impression that he is surly-natured, but he is really the best of pals. Splash, especially, knows how to handle him with a little adroit flattery.

In his way too, he is fond of Mrs. Bardell, although he is never quite sure what to make of her.

Coutts stared at her undecidedly. He knew of her wonderful treatment of the English language, but could never be sure whether she was putting it on or not.

"My rank is Detective Inspector, not Defective Suspector," he ground out. "Please try to remember it in future."

"I stand collected ---- Mr. Scoots," replied Mrs. Bardell.

"Pah!" growled Coutts, and stumped past her up the stairs.

(Robert Murray).

However, there is now a firm friendship between the two and during the Gwyn Evans Christmas romps, Coutts often finds himself partnering the worthy housekeeper. It takes a lot to get him to relax his official dignity, but when he does, he joins in the revels with a good heart.

And he'll never forget the comfort that Mrs. Bardell gave to his wife during the bitter period when he was "Suspended from Duty". A crooked colleague framed him on a charge of accepting bribes from a night-club queen and it took the combined efforts of Blake, Tinker, Splash Page and himself to prove his innocence. The full story is told by Gwyn Evans in U.J. No. 1519. We are also indebted to Gwyn for revealing in this story some previously unrecorded details of Coutts' background: the Edwardian villa in Brixton; the neat garden, which, being a keen gardener, he tends himself; his pleasant homely wife, "a Shropshire lass whom he courted as a young constable."

He was, I believe, first introduced to the Blake-reading public by Robert Murray, and his most successful portrayers are Murray, Evans, and Skene. He has also appeared, in the cases recorded by Gilbert Chester, Donald Stuart, Rex Hardinge, John G. Brandon, R.L. Hadfield, C.M. Hincks, and others, but none of these has made any attempt at characterisation.

Coutts is one of the veteran Yard men in Blake lore. He has been appearing without a break since the 1914-18 war, and is still in harness with Blake today.

Next among Blake's official comrades is Detective Inspector Harker, who has probably been working with him even longer than Coutts. But he comes second to Coutts because his characterisation has been less detailed, and because he has been described by two or three authors only. The two chief authors are Lios Jackson, who first discovered him, and Coutts Brisbane (alias Reid Whitley). He still features in Jackson's stories today.

For a general picture, I can hardly improve on Lewis Jackson's own description, taken from U.J. No. 961.


"The famous C.I.D. man presented, with Blake, an interesting study in contrasts. He was a little taller than Blake, but of a broad square build. There was nothing of the ascetic about Harker. He had the appearance of a man who lived well, who let the cares of his profession sit lightly, and who kept himself pretty fit; his eyes sparkled good humour.

"It was obvious that he had not the great mental force the relentless logic, nor the minute observation which were the peculiar faculties of Sexton Blake. But, on the other hand, he had traits of singular determination, vast experience, and the somewhat rare gift of sheer common-sense, the combination of which ----- with the friendly help of Blake ----- had won him fame at the Yard.

"Edward Harker was never without his own personality. He could never have been a mere satellite or a shadow. Yet he had a tactful way of acknowledging Blake's mastery, and a ~~little~~-expressed but very real admiration for the great criminologist which made the ties which bound them much stronger than those of mere professional acquaintanceship.

"It is said that the proof of real friendship amongst men is the ability to be rude to one another without fear of giving offence. Blake and Harker seldom met without the passage of good-humoured banter."

Quoting Lewis Jackson again, this time from a presentday story, S.B.L. 3rd Series No.139:-



"A big, bluff man with an enormous capacity for work, the detective inspector groused continually about his long hours and the interminable drudgery of his job. Yet Blake knew as well as the Commissioner that Harker's work was his sole and dominating preoccupation, and that retirement for him would have been just a mild form of creeping paralysis.

"This evening, the Yard man took his seat at the table with undisguised gusto, and devoured a huge meal with an appreciation which set Blake's elderly housekeeper purring like a cat. In the opinion of Mrs. Bardell who was not without experience, the police could be divided into two distinct categories which she defined as "the new lot", and "the old sort". The former she dismissed contemptuously as being finicky, nervy, and not worth catering for. The latter she embraced, metaphorically, as being manly men who enjoyed their victuals. The inspector was one of these."

Harker is of a cheerier disposition than Coutts, but an equally efficient officer. He is, too, less affected by the ups and downs of a case. He is a good organiser, a good hand-to-hand fighter, and would have made a good army officer. He likes to conduct an investigation in an orderly painstaking way, shrewdly interrogating witnesses, and above all likes "facts, as opposed to theorising." He knows well the value of "information received" from marks and never despises this avenue. He has, however, an almost superstitious belief in Blake's intuition in criminal matters, and once expressed a wish that Blake should join him at the Yard. But he has learnt now that Blake would never submit to the irritating restrictions that cramp the official detective.

It is rather a coincidence that Lewis Jackson should, like Gwyn Evans, be doubtful as to his protegee's Christian Name. For while he has given it as "Edward", he also once described him as "Bill" Harker.

Other authors have their favourite Yard men, but in general, have not taken much trouble over their characterisation. There is E.S. Brooks' Chief Inspector Lennard, a burly, square jawed officer, who is quick-witted, patient, & a relentless questioner of witnesses. Continually at enmity with Waldo, Lennard nevertheless has a real respect for the Wonder Man. G.H. Teed's Detective Inspector Thomas, astute, sympathetic, tactful, and like Coutts, a lover and borrower of Blake's cigars. Hylton Gregory's Detective Inspector Rollings, a deep-chested, sandy-complexioned man with twinkling

blue eyes and a sarcastic manner. W.M. Graydon's Detective Inspector Widgeon, a tall man with a big fair moustache - who dislikes Blake's "high-handed methods." And Pierre Quiroule's Branley,

The newest of Blake's friends at the Yard are Supt. Claudius Venner and Detective-Sergeant Belford. They are the exclusive property of Anthony Parsons, who has portrayed in Venner perhaps the most brilliantly characterised official of them all.

Venner has many weaknesses and many good points. One of his weaknesses is his love of sartorial splendour. He never appears in public without being well-shaved and almost disgustingly well-dressed. His usual outfit is a grey homburg hat, a Savile Row suit, gleaming Lobb shoes, and yellow doeskin gloves. A poseur, he loves the limelight like a stage actor, and beams broadly when he is the central figure. Boastful, conceited, self-centred, that's Claudius Venner.

According to Venner, Venner is the only officer at the Yard worth his salt. He has all the necessary brains, resource, and intuition. He reproves Blake for being all test-tubes and theory. Facts and brains are what's wanted and I've got 'em!"

When he has made an original discovery, he likes to demonstrate it like a conjuror producing rabbits from a hat, basking in the admiration of his audience.

Although he professes to despise theories, he's always making them, but they are usually worked out too swiftly and loosely to be of much use. He'll work on a case, convinced that his theory is correct, yet at the same time have Blake tailed to see if the private detective discovers anything else. And then, brazenly, he'll claim the credit for Blake's discoveries, adapt them to fit his own theory, and be convinced that it was his own idea all along. A man, with no sense of shame --- but he doesn't succeed in bluffing those who know him.

His attitude is genial, blustering, sarcastic, by turns according to whether he wants advice, is giving it, or is questioning people.

Tinker loves to bait him, and Mrs. Dardell can't stand the sight of him. "'In!" she says, sniffing, when announcing him to Blake.

Not only does he pick Sexton Blake's brains, but also those of his "handmaiden", Detective Sergeant Belford.. For it is Belford, that tall, shuffling, seedily-dressed man, the perfect foil for Venner, who is the brains of the partnership. But Belford doesn't worry. He lets the credit go. He knows his boss --- and his place.

I must hasten to balance all this with some of Venner's good points. Let me quote Mr. Parsons:

"In spite of his boastings and his swashbucklings, and his bull-at-a-gate methods generally. Superintendent Venner had been a stout friend of Sexton Blake over many years, and his position at the Yard enabled him to render the private detective many services which would other-wise, not have been at his disposal. Moreover, there was a genuine liking between the two, for in spite of his manifold weaknesses in the brains department, there was nothing wrong with the snocper's heart. While when it came to cold-drawn personal courage, there was no one Blake would rather have at his back in a rough-house than Superintendent Claudius Venner."

Finally, but simply because he is in a different Category, we have the Chief himself, Sir Henry Fairfax, Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

Sir Henry is an ex-Army man, holds the K.C.B. and still retains in his rather precise speech some of that accent acquired at Sandhurst and in the Punjaub. One author has described him as tall, another as short, but all are agreed that he is an elegant middle-aged man with a neatly cropped Vandyke beard. He also affects, sometimes, a pair of eye-glasses on a silken cord.

His dress is as neat and precise as his accent. He wears a black jacket, striped trousers and spats, and a bowler hat, and carries an umbrella.

He is a very fussy man, with a high opinion of his own capabilities, which are very considerable. He likes to represent the Police Force as infallible, but the existence of certain master crooks forces him to admit that it isn't. And he knows perhaps better than anyone how much the Yard owes to the unselfish help given by Sexton Blake, the world's greatest detective.

For, apart from rare occasions, Blake and the Yard work together in perfect harmony. Which is at it should be.

Serials in the Union Jack Library (2nd Series)

By H. Maurice Bond.

The Second series of the "Union Jack Library" which ran for nigh on thirty years, offered many unique features to its readers young and old, and there is no doubt that in its heyday it was an immensely popular weekly. It is doubtful, however, if its record of serials can be beaten. Seventy-five of them appeared in twenty nine years constituting just over two per year, although there were periods when serials were dropped in favour of longer Sexton Blake stories or because of paper shortages etc. Serials of all types found their way into U.Js pages and both famous and unknown authors contributed to them. Allan Blair, who started the ball rolling in 1905 was destined to become a prolific writer of Blake stories but never contributed a second serial to the pages of Sexton Blakes Own Paper. Patriotic and school yarns predominated during the early years of the U.J. and it is interesting to trace the list accompanying this article, for in so doing one can almost see the change in popular taste and can observe how, in the end, the crime story serial came into its own.

Some of the early school yarns by Henry St. John, were, of course, reprints and ran, in one or two cases, for very long time hundreds of instalments in fact. Our list of titles shows, however, that serials of practically all types appeared from time to time. Yarns of highwaymen, pirates, cowboys, soldiers, sailors, yes, and even airmen adorned the pages of the old U.J. and many of those dealing with more up-to-date subjects were strangely prophetic of the future. One, in particular, "The Atom Smasher" by L. H. Robbins, which appeared in 1924, strikes a familiar note with life today.

Several famous books and films were serialised too. As far back as 1914 we find "Orders Under Seal" instalments of which were illustrated by scenes from the film then being shown throughout the country. Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island", and Rafael Sabatini's "Captain Blood" were distinguished examples of the "classic" serials featured, and in the case of the latter the instalments were again illustrated by scenes from the old silent film version. An echo of the past recently occurred in connection with "Captain Blood". The actor taking the leading role, Warren Kerrigan, died in Hollywood at the age of 65.

Some years later other books, plays and films were serialised in U.J. One, "The Four Just Men" by Edgar Wallace, became world famous. Another, "The Silent House" was a very successful West End Stage Play and was later filmed. This was by John G. Brandon, another author destined to become a leading chronicler of Sexton Blake.



Greetings from our Storytellers

"Unaccustomed as they are to public speaking," these hitherto anonymous authors of ours say "a few well chosen words."

Heartly greetings to all friends of UNION JACK who, by the link of Sexton Blake, are friends of mine and in my thoughts this Christmas.

Gilbert Cheston

May Sexton Blake help you to track down and arrest all thoughts of criminal gloom and worry this festive Yuletide season.

Gilbert



Here's wishing you a hilarious Xmas (with the accent on the X when there's mistletoe about).

Guyton Evans

"The good reader makes the good book," said the poet Emerson. To all you "good readers" who are responsible for "U.J.'s" popularity year by year, my sincerest greetings.

Guyton Evans



Again, Christmas! But this time with a difference for me—the chance of greeting "U.J." readers with my most sincere compliments of the season.

Anthony Skene



Thousands of words have I written for you in the past; in the present I write these words to you, and with even greater pleasure: "A very happy Xmas."

Robert Murray



The following list shows that the U.J. serial firmament was indeed studded by star writers. Even non - U.J. and SBL readers will recognise such names as Frank L. Packard, Gerald Verner, Gerard Farlie (now doing good work in the steps of the famous "Sapper") and Margery Allingham, while U.Js own special writers like George Hamilton Teed, Gwyn Evans, Lewis Jackson, Gilbert Chester and Anthony Skens all did their share. It is significant that some of the serials contributed by the lesser known writers eventually found their way into the "bound volume" sphere. For example "Hercules Esq" by Gwyn Evans became a striking success.

Comparatively few Sexton Blake serials were featured, but those which did were of a very high standard. George Hamilton Teed's "The Black Abbott of Cheng Tu" is still considered by many to be his best work, and "The Fox of Pennyfields" by Lewis Jackson was definitely outstanding. From 1918, when the serial version of Cecil Hayter's "In the Hands of the Head Hunters" appeared, until 1927 when "The Striking Shadow, came upon the scene, Sexton Blake was completely absent from the serial pages of the U.J. although Tinker had one appearance in "Tinker's Boyhood." Strange that two more Blake serials should immediately follow "The Striking Shadow", i.e. "The Fox of Pennyfields" and "The Black Abbott of Cheng Tu" and then another long spell until 1932. The next one to appear was the famous "The Next Move" jointly written by Robert Murray, Anthony Skene, G.H. Teed and Gwyn Evans and setting a new style in thriller serials. This story was the last of the seventy five mentioned and concluded a few weeks before the U.J. became "Detective Weekly".

One outstanding serial was "The Adventure of Ralph Rashleigh, which created quite a stir in literary circles. Several editions of this anonymous work have appeared since 1930 when it was published in the U.J.

There is no need to say more, for I think our comprehensive list paints a very adequate picture of the scope and variety of the great serials which used to thrill us each week in the old days, and proves that the U.J. was equally famous in the serial field as it was in presenting us with the adventures of the greatest detective of all time.

MORE GWYN EVANS:

"That dratted varmint of a telegraft boy 'ad the cheek to demand 'is Christmas box," exclaimed the worthy Mrs. Bardell. "Which it's a week afore Boxing Day - though, if I 'ad my way with the young limbs, the way they work the bell, I'd box 'em on the ear-'oles. Calls 'emselves civil servants. Why, a more uncivil lot 'o"

SERIALS IN "THE UNION JACK LIBRARY" SECOND SERIES 1903-1932

1903	The Chums of Ashbourne School ..	Allan Blair ..
1904	With the Colours ..	Reginald Wray
1904	Captain of the Guard	Henry St. John
1905	The Streets of London ..	Max Hamilton ..
1905	Ned Kelly	Cecil Hayter ..
1905	Trooper and Dushranger	Cecil Hayter ..
1906	The Pride of His School ..	Cecil Hayter ..
1906	Spy and Conspirator ..	
1906	The Black Assegnai	Singleton Pound ..
1907	The Hidden City	Beverley Kent ..
1907	The Slapcrash Boys ..	E. Harcourt Burrage.
1907	Ching Ching at School ..	E. Harcourt Burrage.
1908	Ching Ching Abroad ..	E. Harcourt Burrage.
1908	Battle and Breeze	Henry St. John ..
1908	For England, Home and Beauty	Henry St. John
1909	Sentenced for Life	Allan Blair ..
1909	Convict 99	
1909	The School Against Him ..	Henry St. John
1912	Charlie Gordon's Schooldays	Henry St. John
1913	Dick of the Highways	David Goodwin
1913	The Tragedy of the "Oklahoma"	Cecil Hayter ..
1913	Mike Langton's Vow	Cecil Hayter
1914	Orders Under Seal	Lewis Carlton
1915	The Bogus Policeman ..	Mark Darren ..
1915	The Diamond Dwarfs	Henry St. John
1916	His Little Lordship ..	
1916	The Boy who wasn't wanted	David Goodwin
1916	The Sea Whaif	David Goodwin ..
1917	The Aristocrat of the School	Andrew Gray and Ambrose Earle.
1917	In the Hands of the Head Hunters	Cecil Hayter
1918	The Red Raiders	
1918	A Conspiracy at Sea	Maxwell Scott
1918	The Headless Robin	Maxwell Scott
1918	The Professor's Gold	Maxwell Scott ..
1919	From School to Sea	Charles Hamilton
1919	A dead Man's Secret	Maxwell Scott
1919	King of the Bush	Maxwell Scott ..
1919	The Red Raider	Arthur S. Hardy ..
1919	The Cinema Athlete	Walter Edwards..
1920	The Four Shadows ..	
1920	Curtis of the Fifth	Edway Searles Brooks
1920	The Fighting Scot	Walter Edwards
1921	The Luck of the Cup	William E. Groves ..
1921	The Worst House at St. Walstans.	Edway Searles Brooks

1922	The Vengeance of the Tong	G.H. Teed	..
1922	Tinker's Boyhood		..
1923	Treasure Island	R.L. Stevenson	..
1923	The Wire Devils	Frank L. Packard
1924	The Atom Smasher	L.H. Robins	..
1924	Slave Island	Gilbert Chester	
1924	The Mystery of the Marshes	H.W. Twyman	..
1925	Captain Blood	Rafael Sabatini	
1926	A Son of the Flains	Arthur Patterson	..
1926	From Prisoner to President	Stacey Blake	..
1926	The Three Just Men	Edgar Wallace	
1927	The Striking Shawow		
1927	The Fox of Fennyfields	Lewis Jackson	..
1927	The Black Abbott of Cheng Tu	G.H. Teed
1927	Dead Man's Rock	Sir Arthur Quiller Couch	
1928	The Silent House	John G. Brandon	..
1928	The Devil's Mantle	Frank L. Packard	..
1928	Hercules Esq.	Gwyn Evans	..
1928	The Isle of Strife	Stacey Blake	
1929	Scissors Cut Paper	Gerard Farlie	
1929	The Sevan Sleepers	Francis Beeding
1930	The Adventures of Ralph Rashleigh	Anon	..
1930	The Crooked Billet	Draycot M. Dell	..
1931	Chains of Fate	Phyllis Lewis	..
1931	The Blue Envelope Mystery	Frank L. Packard	..
1931	Death on the Air	Herman Landon	..
1932	The Lives Between	Phyllis Lewis	
1932	Five Dead Men	Anthony Skene
1932	The Gyrth Chalice Mystery	Margery Allingham	
1932	The Next Move	Murray, Teed, Skene	..
		Evans.	

MORE GWYN EVANS:

Christmas in a hotel, Tinker? echoed Sexton Blake. "I trust I am fairly progressive, but this modern, 'new fangled' idea of a Yuletide at a West End hotel, with jazz bands and cocktails, is to me disgusting. Xmas is essentially a private affair - where there is a re-union of old friends to yarn over old times. I'm afraid there'll be little of peace on earth and good will at the Hotel Stupendous, with its cosmopolitan crew of multi-millionaires and dyspeptic dowagers."

* * *

Reprinted Stories of St. Franks

by Jack R. Murtagh.

As was the case with many other school stories of the period, many of the early St. Franks stories were later reprinted, and believe me they were well worth repeating. Publishing firms do not reprint stories that are inferior, so the fact that these did appear more than once speaks for itself. The circle of Nelson Lee admirers are generally of the opinion that "The Monster Library" contained some of the finest boys yarns that were ever put out by The Amalganated Press and it is significant that the stories appearing in this outsize in "Libraries" were all reprints of those originally published in "The Nelson Lee Library". It seems a great pity that only nineteen numbers of "The Monster Library" were published. Mr. Tom Armitage, who contributed an excellent article on this series in "Collectors Digest" No.1 was, if he will pardon my correcting him, incorrect in his statement that the entire contents of all nineteen of "The Monster Library" were later reprinted in "The Schoolboys Own Library". In actual fact the first seven stories in the former publication did not appear again in the latter, although all that is "by the way". From my own collection I have compiled the list which follows these notes, and a careful study of it will show that, in some cases, some of the yarns in the original series of the N.L.L., never appeared in the M.L. (see 13 and 14). Then some of the reprints in the S.O.L. contained some of the N.L.L. stories which never appeared in the M.L. and did not contain some that did appear therein (see reprints in S.O.L. from M.L. No's 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19). Truly the ways of editors are at times somewhat very strange. Many of the original stories were cut down considerably to enable them to appear in the S.O.L. for it will be observed that while some contained stories from three issues of the N.L.L. others contained the equivalent of four. It will also be observed that the numbers of the M.L. do not follow in the same order as the N.L.Ls.

EXCITING XMASES:

Mr. Prout: Christmas, 1886, found me in the Rocky Mountains. I had trailed a grizzly bear to a narrow defile between two rocky crags, when it suddenly turned. And at that moment I realised my gun was jammed. Figure the position yourself. What did I do?
(A Bunk! - Ed.)

Monster Library	Nelson Lee Library	Schoolboys Own Library.	Nelson Lee Library
1. contained	158 to 165		
2. "	170 to 177		
4. "	178 to 185		
3. "	187 to 194		
5. "	195 to 204		
6. "	205 to 212		
7. "	213 to 220		
8. "	221 to 228	279	contained 221 to 224
		282	" 225 to 228
11. "	229 to 236	285	" 229 to 232
	See Note (i)	288	" 233 to 236
10. "	240 to 249	291	" 240 to 242
	See Note (ii)	294	" 243 to 246
		297	" 247 to 249
12. "	256 to 263	300	" 256 to 259
		303	" 260 to 263
13. "	265 to 272	306	" 264 to 267
	See Note (iii)	309	" 268 to 270
		312	" 271 to 274
15. "	275 to 283	315	" 275 to 279
		318	" 280 to 283
14. "	284 to 290	321	" 287 to 290
	See Note (iv)	324	" 291 to 293
16. "	294 to 303	327	" 295 to 298
		330	" 299 to 301
		333	" 302 to 304
17. "	304 to 311	336	" 305 to 308
		339	" 309 to 311
9. "	312 to 319	342	" 312 to 315
		345	" 316 to 319
18. "	320 to 327	348	" 320 to 323
	See Note (v)	351	" 324 to 327
19. "	338 to 348	354	" 338 to 340
		357	" 341 to 343
		360	" 344 to 346
		363	" 347 to 349
		366	" 350 to 352
		369	" 353 to 355
	See Note (vi)	372	" 360 to 362
		375	" 363 to 365
		378	" 366 to 368
		381	" 369 to 371
		384	" 372 to 374
		387	" 375 to 377

Monster Library	Nelson Lee Library	Schoolboys Own Library.	Nelson Lee Library
		390 contained	378 to 380
	See Note (vii)	393 "	392, 394, 395
		396 "	398 to 400
		399 "	402 to 404
	See Note (viii)	402 "	405 to 407
		405 "	415 to 417
		408 "	418 to 420

Notes:-

- (i) N.L.Ls. Nos. 237, 238 and 239 were Xmas issues and were not reprinted.
- (ii) N.L.Ls. Nos. 250 to 255 were a series "no servants at St. Franks" and were not reprinted.
- (iii) This series ran from No.264 to No.274 in the N.L.L.
- (iv) This series ran from No.285 to No.293 in the N.L.L.
- (v) N.L.Ls. Nos. 328 to 335 were a football series and were not reprinted.
- (vi) N.L.Ls. Nos. 356 to 359 were complete stories and were not reprinted.
- (vii) N.L.Ls. Nos. 381 to 397 were all complete stories. However Nos. 392 , 394 and 395 appeared together as one story in S.O.L. No. 393.
- (viii) N.L.L. 401 although one of series in N.L.L. did not appear in S.O.L.

In addition to the above, Nelson Lee Libraries Nos. 381 and 382 were reprinted as one story in S.O.L. No.54 and N.L.L. Nos. 386 and 388 appeared as one story in S.O.L. No.56 .

St. Franks stories appeared in five other S.O.Ls. that can be traced, Nos 4, 120, 27, 212 and 216. It cannot definitely be stated if all of these were reprints as all copies are not available to the compiler but it is believed that S.O.L. No. 216 was a reprint (in a very condensed form) of the "Schoolboy Magician" series which appeared in N.L.Ls Nos.542 to 549 of the old series, and it seems likely from the title that S.O.L. No.212 which contained "The Bootboy Baronet" was a reprint of "The Bootboy Baronet" series which appeared in N.L.Ls Nos. 90, 91, 92 and 93 of the first new series. As for Nos. 4, 27 and 120 of the S.O.L. the writer is unable to say whether or not these were reprints, but any collector in possession of copies might be able to advise. A very few of the N.L. stories were reprinted in later issues of the same weekly, as follows:-

Have you any friends who are interested in Collecting. If so, do they get The Collector's Digest ? The more distributed, the more interesting will become the magazine!

N.L.L. 3rd New Series		N.L.L. First Series.	
No.1	reprinted from	No. 112	
" 2	" "	" 114	
" 3	" "	" 116	
" 4	" "	" 118	
" 5	" "	" 120	
" 6	" "	" 122	
" 7	" "	" 125	
" 9	" "	" 143	
" 10	" "	" 149	
" 11	" "	" 150	
" 12	" "	" 151	
" 13	" "	" 152	
" 14	" "	" 153	
" 15	" "	" 154	
" 16	" "	" 155	
" 17	" "	" 156	
" 18	" "	" 157	
" 23	" "	No.12 First New Series	
" 24	" "	" 13 " " "	
* " 25	" "	14 " " "	
" 19	" "	" 8 " " "	

It will be noticed that the first few numbers of the First (Original) Series were not consecutive. This was because Detective stories appeared in between the school stories.

* No. 25 of the 3rd New series was the last N.L.L. published and the reprint "China" series then running was completed as a serial in "The Gem".

A serial about St. Franks appeared on the backs of N.L.Ls numbered 143 to 155 in the Second New Series. This was a reprint of the stories which appeared in N.L.L. Nos. 21 to 25 in the First New Series. Some of the St. Franks stories on the back of the "Gem" were reprints from N.L.L.

Handforth, Gost Hunter in "Gem" Nos. 1399 to 1404 was reprinted from N.L.L. Nos. 34 and 35 of the First New Series.

The Secret World starting in "Gem" No. 1405 was reprinted from N.L.L. Nos. 36 to 43 of the First New Series. The latter series, known as "the Northestria series" had a sequel in another series, about a return visit to Northestria. This sequel was contained in N.L.Ls. 165 to 170 of the Second New Series.

Mystery Mill, starting in "Gen" No. 1432 was a reprint of N.L.L. No. 102 (First New Series) entitled "The Mystery of the Poisoned River".

Other serials which appeared in the "Gen" about St. Franks were "White Giants of Eldorado" - "Treasure Isle" - "Ghost River Ranch" "The School from Down Under" and "Ten Talons of Taz". It is believed that these are all original setories, although there were some with similar plots which appeared in the N.L.L.

MORE GWYN EVANS:

Attached to the lapel of a dressing gown of riotous colouring was a card on which were depicted three red robins perched insecurely on a piece of mistletoe. with the following words:

"To Mr.Blake, with the Condiments of the Season. Rose is red, violets blue - until I'm dead, then I'll serve you. Yours trewly, Martha Bardell."

"Gosh, a dressing gown!" said Splash Page (who hadopened the parcel containing the dressing gown.) He shaded his eyes from the scintillating shot silk.

"A dressing down is what you'll get" exclaimed Mrs.Bardell tartly. "I meant this as a surprise for Mr.Blake.

Sexton Blake had done many brave things in the course of his career. He did another now. He strode over to Mrs.Bardell and kissed her plump fingers with a gallant gesture.

"A splendid present, Mrs.B." he remarked, with twinkling eyes. "I shall wear it now. I'm lost without a dressing gown".

Deliberately he donned that chromatic garment and from the minstel gallery the improvised jazz band blared out the strains of"

"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow!"

* * *

TWO NELSON LEES OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

We are sure all Nelson Lee admirers will be interested in the following extract from "Answers to Correspondents" in "Reynolds Miscellany" 1849. It was kindly passed on to us by Mr. Hugh W. Fennell, 4, Dixon Road, South Norwood, London S.E.25.

"DRAMATICUS. - Nelson Lee is indisputably the best & most prolific pantomime author of the present day, rapidity of action, and drollery of the most genuine description are his stock in trade, and he discloses liberally of it at Christmas time to the delight of thousands, both old and young. The name of Nelson Lee is considered by every schoolboy as a certain forerunner of a really funny pantomime, and we are delighted in being able to announce to our juvenile friends that no less than five of these popular performances will be written and arranged by their old favourite at the following theatres: The City of London, Surrey, Olympic, Astleys and Marylebone."

Now for a strange coincidence. A few days ago I had written the above a number of ancient American boys' papers came into my possession. Glancing through one of them of a date in 1885, I pulled up short when this caught my eye:

"Heroes and Outlaws of Texas. Nelson Lee's Escape!"

The article is too long to publish in full but it explained that Nelson Lee was a scout, and the adventure related took place in 1842. Here is a paragraph:

"Nelson Lee was the Scout who carried the dispatched to the Rio Brazos, when General Somerville was given command of the volunteer army who were ordered to rendezvous at San Antonio and pursue the enemy into Mexico".

Later it described:

"Although his revolver was empty, Lee determined to capture these men. His position was most desperate. Without hesitation he drew his harmless revolver and bowie-knife, and with one of these in each hand rushed, with a terrific yell, upon the two herders, cutting them off from their guns. They dropped to knees in abject terror and screamed for mercy".

It would appear that this actual Nelson Lee had the same exciting sort of time as the fictitious one created by Maxwell Scott just over fifty years later.

Our Second Long, Complete Story.



Jack Blake of St. JIM'S

By CHARLES HAMILTON.

An Historic Story

by Herbert Leckenby.

On this page we have been able to reproduce the title heading of an historic story, the story which gave the school of St. Jim's to the world, destined to become one of the two most famous schools in juvenile fiction. It, "Jack Blake of St. Jim's" appeared in "Pluck" yellow covered popular paper of the day on November 3rd, 1906. Announcing the story the previous week the editor wrote:

'Your second complete story will be from the pen of Mr. Charles Hamilton, our popular school story write. Readers of his tale in this No. "The Lyndale First" will, without doubt, be more than pleased we have another story from his pen to follow so soon.

His story for next Saturday's "Pluck" will be entitled "Jack Blake at St. Jim's and I will ask you to read it carefully for this reason. It will form the first of a series of school stories written around Jack Blake who I have not the slightest doubt will speedily make himself one of the most popular characters who have ever appeared in "Pluck".

Well, editors' often exaggerate don't they? But I do not suppose that editor, in his wildest dreams, could visualise Jack Blake going strong over 30 years on, even if he was a little overshadowed by characters just a little younger.

I had the pleasure a short while ago of sending a re-production of the beginning of "Jack Blake of St. Jim's" to the man who wrote it. In a very interesting reply he said:

'Thank you for the "Pluck" reproductions which interested me very much. I never thought I should ever see the first number of St. Jim's again. It awakens a lot of old memories. Tom Merry had not been thought of when it was written, neither had Arthur Augustus D'Arcy, though the latter appeared a few numbers later I remember, but the editor, H.J. Garrish asked me to introduce a character somewhat on "Beau Drummel" lines, and was modelled on a young sub-editor who was a sort of "arbiter elegantiarum". Tom Merry did not come along till the "Gem" came into existence. Forty years on - since then. Quite a lot of things have happened in those four decades, a couple of wars amongst other things! Yet, when I looked at the pictures it all came back as fresh as if I had written it the week before last. It was typed on a No.7 Remington - the "visual" Remington was not then in existence. I was living in London then, in those days seeming to me the brightest and jolliest place on earth, and Fleet Street the brightest and jolliest spot in it. We used to dash around in hansom cabs at a great rate and feel tremendous speed-merchants. In those days you did really get a real "quid" pro quo, the days of "blest paper credit" had not yet come. One of the early Jack Blake stories in "Pluck" turned on a missing half sovereign. They are all missing now! I had been writing for only about 15 years or so when that story saw the light. I remember feeling very pleased when Garrish decided that it should be the first of a series which he thought would prove popular. A Daniel come to judgement! It did prove very popular indeed, though it had to take second place when Billy Dunter came along in the "Magnet", though Dunter was really the firstborn of the whole happy family, for he dates actually from 1899 though he had to remain in cold storage till the "Magnet" happened.

Well, I am sure that all who read this will vote these recollections from the maestro himself very interesting and maybe someday he will tell us more about the Dunter of 1899.

One might mention, too, that H.J. Garrish the editor referred to, is still with the Amalgamated Press, or at least he was a year or two ago when he celebrated his jubilee with the firm.

One wonders what he thinks about it all, and the possibility of Jack Blake re-appearing once more in the year of grace 1943! - Twelve stories of St. Jim's appeared in "Pluck" here are the details:

106. "Jack Blake of St. Jim's (November 10th 1906).
108. "Our Captain".
110. "The Rivals" (illustrated by G.M. Dodshon).
112. "The Swell of St. Jim's" (arrival of D'Arcy).
114. "Staunch Chums of St. Jim's.
116. "The Milverton Match".
118. "The Mystery of the House Master".
120. "Mutiny at St. Jim's".
123. "Missing".
125. "Misadventures of Marmaduke".
129. "The Reformation of Marmaduke".
132. "The shadow of a Secret".

All these stories, with the exception of No.110 were illustrated by Leonard Shields destined later to be closely associated with "The Magnet".

In March 1907, the "Gem" was born, for a number or two with a non-school story, then with Tom Merry at Clavering. A short stay there and he moved on to St. Jim's to stay for - well, you know how long? Or do you? Isn't there a possibility he may STILL be found there in 1943. However, in "Pluck" No.139, June 29th 1907, the following appeared:

Special Notice: The famous Jack Blake, Augustus and Figgy & Co. are now appearing in the "Gem" price one halfpenny every Thursday.

And so, they, the first of the famous characters of St. Jim's disappeared from the pages of "Pluck". One cannot help wondering if the "Gem" had never been born and they had continued therein, whether that yellow backed paper would have had a much longer life than it had, or whether stories of the boys of St. Jim's would have ended long ago only to be remembered by those with grey in their hair. Fortunately it didn't happen so.

WANTED:

Odd numbers of Boys Books. Please send lists.
All letters answered.

Henry J. H. Bartlett, Peas Hill, Shipton
Gorge, Bridport, Dorset.

Milestones of some of the more Popular Boys Weeklies

1. "The Magnet"

- No.1 published on February 1st 1908 price $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
- No.106 was the first 1d number
- No.397 saw the colour of the cover changed from cerise to white.
- No.410 the pages were increased to 20.
- No.529 the price was increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.
- No.770 another price increase, this time to 2d, with a change in cover illustrations, two colours being used for the first time.
- No.1553 saw the cover again changed, this time to salmon coloured paper.
- No.1683, May 11th 1940, final number.

The number of pages varied between 16 and 28, plus covers.

2. "The Gem"

- No.1 published on March 16th 1907. 16 pp price $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue covers.
- No.48, February 8th 1908. Last $\frac{1}{2}$ d number (of this series six of the first 10 were not Tom Merry stories.)
- No.1 published on February 15th, 1908. 1d series. 28 pp.
- No.437 Number of pages reduced to 16.
- No. 529. Price increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d
- No.610. Pages increased to 20.
- No.770. Nov. 11th 1922. Price increased to 2d, pages to 28 and cover illustration in two colours.
- No.1557. Dec. 18th 1937. Page size reduced to 11" x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " number of pages increased to 36 and cover printed on buff coloured paper.
- No.1663. December 30th 1938. Final number.

3. "The Boy's Friend"

- 1st Series. Price $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Eight Pages. Green Paper.
- No.1 on January 29th 1895.
- No.332 on June 8th 1901. Final $\frac{1}{2}$ d number
- New Series Price 1d.
- No.1 on June 15th 1901. 16 pages. Green Paper
- No.575-579 - June 8th to July 13th 1912. Somewhere between these numbers Mr. Hamilton Edwards seemed to have relinquished control.
- No.715 on February 20th 1915. Rookwood story. Mr. H.A. Hinton probably took control with this issue.
- No.887 on March 30th 1918. Price increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.
- No.1119 on November 18th 1922. Price increased to 2d.
- No.1298 on April 24th 1926. Last of 584 Rookwood stories.
- No.1385 on December 31st 1927. Final number.

4. "The Union Jack Library".

1st series. $\frac{1}{2}$ d issue.

No.1. April 27th 1894.

No.2. May 4th 1894. First Sexton Blake story.

No.494 October 10th 1903. Last issue.

Note: After No.2 Sexton Blake stories appeared at irregular intervals in this.

2nd series

No.1 October 17th 1903. Pink covers. Price 1d.

No.51 First Sexton Blake story in series.

No.53 First Tinker story "Cunning Against Skill".

No.100 First Pedro story "The Dog Detective".

Note:- From 1903 to 1914 the number of pages varied between 28 and 32. Between 1914 and 1917 pages were reduced to 20 to 28 pages.

No.697 Pages reduced to 16.

No.755 Price increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d

No.836 Pages increased to 20.

No.886 Price increased to 2d. Coloured cover introduced. Pages increased to 24.

No.969 Pages increased to 28. Introduction of the popular "Detective Magazine Supplement".

No.1523 January 29th 1933. Final number.

5. "The Nelson Lee Library".

No.1. published June 12th 1915. price 1d. 56 pages 7" x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".

No.16 September 25th. First story by E.S. Brooks "The Crystal Urn".

No.41 March 18th 1916. Pages reduced to 44.

No.96 April 7th, 1917. Pages reduced to 32.

No.112 August 28th 1917. First St. Frank's story.

No.116 Continuous run of St. Frank's stories started.

No.141 February 16th, 1918. Pages reduced to 28,

No.147. March 30th 1918. Price increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d

No.228 October 18th 1919. Pages increased to 36.

No.338 Nov. 26th 1919. Pages increased to 44, price to 2d. "Nippers" Magazine introduced.

No.568 April 23rd 1926. End of "small" series.

No.1 First large series. May 1st, 1926. Size $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " 44 pages.

No.194 Jan.17th 1930. End of 1st large series.

No.1 Second large series January 25th 1930.

No.161 Feb. 18th 1933. End of 2nd large series.

No.1 Third large series. Feb. 25th 1933.

No.25 Aug. 12th 1933. Final number then amalgamated with the "Gem". All but 20 - 22 were reprints.

The Grisly Terror of the Grisly Marshes

An Old-time Penny Dreadful.

By G.W. Daniel.

Our story opens in the year 1629 and the scene is the Great West Road. 'Tis pitch dark, and overhead the full moon is shining down on the picturesque little village nestling in the Grisly Marshes.

The wind moans, for dark deeds are afoot. Pacing with measured steps, fourteen inches to each night have been seen, and probably were, two sinister figures, drest in slouch hats, and long cloaks.

In the hand of the leader is a naked sword. In the other hand he carries an undressed pistol, whilst clenched between his teeth is a nude dagger. They halt beneath the shadow of a clump of raspberry canes, and are speaking.

"Hist!" mutters the first.

"Hist!" replies his henchman, who bears in one hand a brown-paper parcel, and in the other a ship's anchor. "Doth she come?"

"No, she dothn't."

"Twere the time. Hist!"

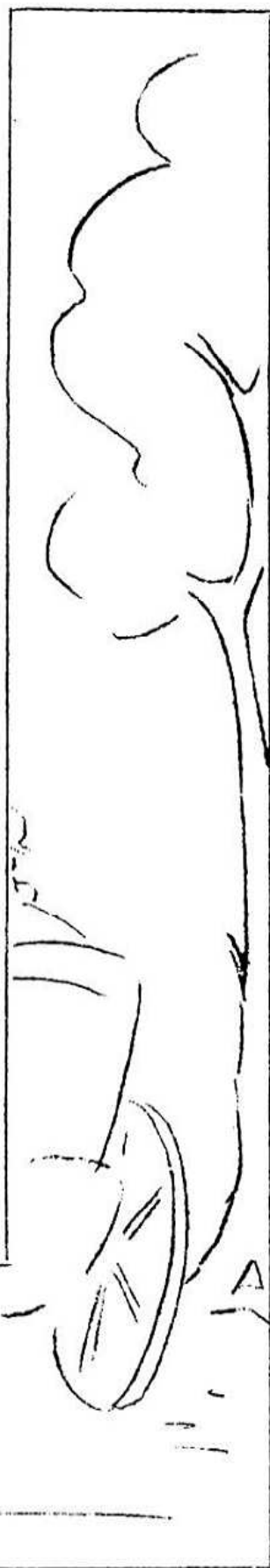
Slowly, with solemn majesty, the church clock booms forth the hour. The henchman grabs a handful of rocks and places one down in front of him as each stroke dies on the air. As the last boom issues he counts them.

"Eighteen. Nine o'clock, double summer time," he murmurs.

"Hist! She cometh," says his companion. They retreat into the deep shadows. "Speak not," continues the leader, "or she may spot us," and throwing his sword to the ground, draws forth a cigar and lights it with a match.

Blithesomely adown the road advances a fair blithesome maid, singing a blithesome madrigal. 'Tis an old folk-song, so dear to our forefathers. Shall we pause and listen? Yes. Well, come over here.

The sweet words come in charming cadences from her rose-bud lips.



"We all got drunk last Sunday,
Had a ripe rip-roaring time,
We fought the copper
and knocked him flat,
Punched him on the boke,
and left him on the mat,
The boak next morning said,
'You shouldn't do that,
Tho' you may get drunk on Sunday."

How little dreamed this maid of the awful doom awaiting her. Well for her would it have been had she heeded her father's behest, ere she quitted the Towers that afternoon.

"Where be going, slut?" he had asked, as he sat by the fire with his feet on the mantelpiece.

"Know thee not that I have a date at the pictures, Pop?" she had answered, with a blush.

Her father reached for the poker. "Dang the pictures! Go feed the swine," he had remarked.

The maiden blushed once more. "Go feed the dirty swor-pigs yourself," she had replied, dutifully, as she skippel from the room, just missing her father's blessing.

Her pop surveyed the damaged wall. "Another job for the decorator," he murmured, gloomily.

Ah no! Ah you! Ah both of us! So, all unwittingly she adventured to her fate

"Is the lugger ready?" whispered the henchman.

"Yea. 'Tis moored on the banks of the Yeo."

"Yo, Ho, Ho, and a bottle of rum," quoth the man, snacking his lips. And right well did they deserve smacking, for allowing such words to pass.

The maiden approacheth; and then, with one wild bound the villain has her in his grip. Ha, ha! he cries, "At last I have thee, Gertrude May Butterbump heiress of Yotton Towers."

Does the maiden shrink? Does she turn pale? Does she shake? Not 'alf she doesn't.

"Well mayst thou tremble, for thou shalt be mine." continues the vile scoundrel."

"No, no! A thousand times no!"

"I have said yes, and thou knowest me to be a man of my word."

For all matters concerning Sexton
Blake, write to H.M.Bond, 10 Erw Wen,
Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

"I know thee not. Thou art a perfect stranger to me, Cuthbert Fitz-Albert Vavasour Claud Fitzffitz base userper to the earldom of Toad-in-the-Hole."

"She knows me not, but still she shall be mine" mutters he. He takes the dagger from between his teeth.

The maid shrinks.

He replaces it.

The maid unshrinks.

What wild thoughts run through the mind of this fair girl, just verging into womanhood? Never more will she see her native Alleghany mountains, never more roam the steep slopes of the Catskills, or climb precipitous crags of Slippin-in-the-Mud, and Wapping Old Stairs. All is lost, with none to help, Frail, timid, defenceless, she steps forward in a supplicating way, and lands the villain one on the snitch that makes him see double.

"Take that, you rat-faced son of a weasel!" she pleaded. "'Tis not much but you can have some more from the same bucket, if you wish," she concludes, sobbingly.

She has touched Cuthbert on his tenderest spot. He holds his nose, and tears run from his eyes.

"Marry me," he begs, "an' thou shalt be rich. Twenty-two feet beneath my castle moat lies a sack of golden guineas. Wed me and they shalt be yours."

"Hope revives in the maiden's heart. "How big is the sack?" she asks.

"'Tis one I swiped from the coalman."

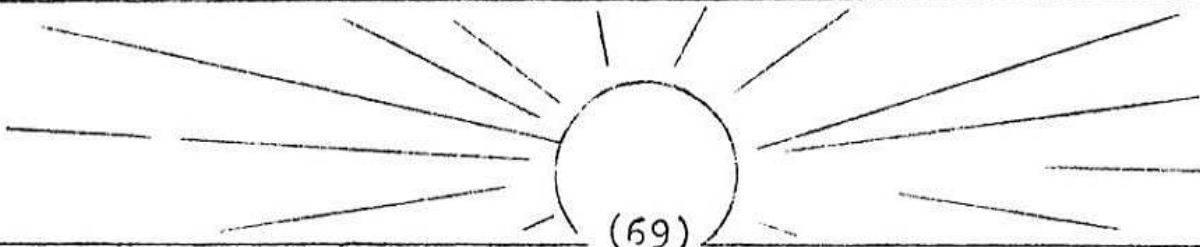
The maiden falls in his arms. "This is what I have been waiting for, I am thine."

But at this moment comes a sibilant voice. 'Tis that of the henchman, a Spaniard, named Rudolpho.

"Say Doss," he observed, speaking in his native tongue, and poking his anchor into the ribs of Cuthbert. "What's dis - Ain't we going to pinch the skirt? T'ought we was going to ransom her for a t'ousand grand!"

That double-dyed villain, Fitzffitz, pauses. An idea strikes him, another, he sees a third one coming and dodges it, then staggering back he pushes the maid away from him. She sits upon the ground with a yelp that sets the near-by church bells ringing.

"'Tis well you reminded me. We will away to the



lugger, " he mutters between set teeth, and taking a handful of the maiden's hair, he lifts her tenderly to her feet.

"Ha, ha! he laughs, in his grim, detestable way.

"Ha, ha! comes in answer, as lightly bounding over the eight feet hedge, Harry Stoutheart, our hero arrives upon the scene. Without hesitation he draws his trusty blunderbuss, and not pausing to take aim, shoots the villain through the heart.

The coward turns pale. "This is too much," he cries. He had never been treated in this way before, and it hurt his dignity. "'Sdeath! he hisses, and blinded with rage, runs his sword through the nearest person.

"Go easy be," gasps Rudolpho. "Another one like dat, an' you'll put me out for keeps."

"Sorry, my mistake," apologises Cuthbert, and turns to our hero. The battle that ensued defies description, so we will not describe it. Suffice to say Rudolpho picked up one or two bullets where they did most good, whilst Fitzfritz received two fatal wounds, which in the excitement of the moment he did not notice. As for our hero, he fired round after round without stopping to reload. Bullets rained around him, but he flicked them aside contemptuously. How long the fight would have raged we do not know. Harry had just paused to light a cigarette, when a blood-curdling shriek rent the air. Four pairs of eyes turned in the same direction.

There, seated cross-legged upon the hedge was a skeleton. Green light shone from its eyes, and it had quite a boney appearance. Slowly it descended, and advanced in a crouching attitude, with its long arms extended. It looked most unattractive. Then, from its gaping jaws came a tongue of scarlet fire.

With one cry, "'Tis the Gristly Grinning Gaping Terror of the Grisly Marshes," the two cowardly scoundrels turned and fled.

Our hero and his maid also proceeded on their way. There was nothing to stop for. Some half mile down the road, they paused to get their breath, for they had been walking rather fast.

"What hast thou in that parcel, Gert," asked Harry.

EXCITING CHRISTMASSES:

Harry Wharton: One year at Manly's place, we sat up on Xmas Eve to watch for a ghost and caught a burglar. Next time we'll watch for a burglar, and perhaps we'll catch a ghost!

"I knoweth not, 'Twas left by that Spanish duck,
but 'tis passing heavy, an' methinks I'll take a peek!"
To pull out her Dowie, and cut the string, was but
the work of a moment.

The paper unrolled, and they started back. A heap
of guineas was revealed to their astonished eyes.

"Come, my lass, let us go," said the man. They pro-
ceeded. "Wilt marry me?" he asked.

The girl turned pink.

"This money will pay off the mortgage on my farm."

The girl turned red.

"An' thou shalt help feed my pigs," he concluded,
persuasively.

The girl turned blue.

Came they to the bridge spanning the mighty river Yeo.
Go not near, the parapet is broken," warned our hero.

A ship was floating towards them on the tide.

"'Tis Cuthbert's lugger, an' 'twould be a good
deed to sink the foul ship, said she, virtuously.

"A right worthy deed," he agreed, and stooped to
shift a loose granite block.

It was a great height, and the maid drew back
nervously. "Tell me when it is beneath, she said
looking with admiration at her handsome, stalwart,
lover, and then at the parcel at her feet. There was
love-light in her eyes.

"Now," said Harry, balancing the stone upon the
brink. It was a parlous business. But a slight touch
was needed to send him hurtling to the depths beneath.
She lifted her foot, and supplied the need. There came
a crash as two heavy weights struck the deck below.

She peered over. "Me, feed pigs, forsooth," she
sniffed.

Far below, a few bubbles marked the spot, where a
moment before a gallant vessel had floated.

She turned, and lifting the parcel to her shoulder
gaily wended her solitary way homeward.

ERIC FAYNE - The Modern School, Surbiton:

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and Sport, Early Girls' Papers, etc, and Boys'
Friends.

The Careful Murder Case

by Jack Cook.

A short interesting tale of Nelson Lee and Nipper.

"Here's the spot, guvnor," said Nipper breezily... Stone Lodge is an eerie old place - just as Detective Inspector Lennard said. If a murder hadn't already been done here I'd say it was the ideal place.

"Unfortunately young un a murder has been committed," said Nelson Lee dryly. "Ah - there's Lennard at the French windows - perhaps we can cautiously make our way through the shrubbery without disturbing any footprints."

"Righto, guvnor," nodded Nipper. "I say, isn't this soil soft? Just right for footprints."

The famous detective and his young assistant reached the French windows to be greeted by their old friend, Det. Inspector Lennard who had been with them on many cases.

"I'll show you the body of Sir Henry Patton," said Lennard. "Here, through the window - not a pretty sight."

"Stay outside, Nipper," said Lee briefly as he knelt beside the body.

Lee observed that the bullet had entered the brain; death must have been instantaneous. He took in the fragments of glass lying beside the body. He looked up at the broken window and frowned. His gaze wandered around the room. Something seemed to be worrying the detective.

"Nipper!" he called through the open window. "Search near the window and let me know what you find."

"I've already looked, sir," replied Nipper. "There's the imprint of size nine shoe - a bit ragged at the edge I should say. Something to go on, eh?"

"The best of clues have a habit of going wrong," murmured Lee.

"Got on to something, Lee?" Inspector Lennard was eager, anticipating.

"Wait a while, Lennard," said Lee smoothly. "First, I'll interview Sir Henry's staff - who are they, by the way?"

"His aged butler, Mannering," said Lennard. "A house-keeper named Mrs. Fawcett, and his nephew James Archer who is a regular visitor to the house. I learned from Mrs. Fawcett that Archer and Sir Henry had a bitter quarrel last night. It was Mannering who discovered the body this morning."

"Didn't the sound of the shot awaken either of them?"

"They say they never heard a sound," said Lennard. "Here comes old Mannering now. Mannering, Mr. Lee wants to talk with you."

"What sounds did you hear during the night?" asked Lee of Mannering.

"I never heard a thing, sir!" panted the old man "And I'm a very light sleeper."

"I too am a light sleeper," put in a quiet voice from the doorway.

"I suppose you're Mrs. Fawcett?" queried Lee of the tall, dark woman. "And you say you heard nothing?"

"I'm a most meticulous person, sir," frowned the housekeeper. "And if I'd heard any strange noise I would have got up to find out. Now if you had asked me about the scene between Sir Henry and that fellow, Archer -"

"I already know of that," said Lee. "I'll call you when you're needed."

"Very well, sir," murmured Mrs. Fawcett, and she glided from the room.

"Don't like the woman!" snapped Lennard. "There's something about her -."

"Officers of the Law shouldn't allow personal feelings to influence them," Lee reminded him. "Both, Archer and Mannering are capable of murder - why, what's wrong, Mannering?"

"It - its nothing, sir," murmured the old butler.

Lee shot the old man a keen glance. Out of the corner of his eye he too had seen the watcher at the window.

"Let me go, hang you!" the voice from outside was vibrant with fear. The next minute a police officer who had been patrolling the house came in by the window. A slim young man was held firmly in his grasp.

"Prowling around he was, sir," growled the police man.

"What's going on here?" demanded the young man. "I'm James Archer and -" his voice trailed away as he caught sight of the still figure near the window.

"Your uncle has been murdered, Archer," Lee told him. "What can you tell us about it?"

"Nothing - nothing!" panted Archer. "I was here last night and we - we had words - I came back to apologise - you - you don't think I killed him?"

"No, Archer, you didn't kill your uncle," said Lee. "But I fancy I know who did!"

"Lee ! You know the murderer ?" gasped Lennard.

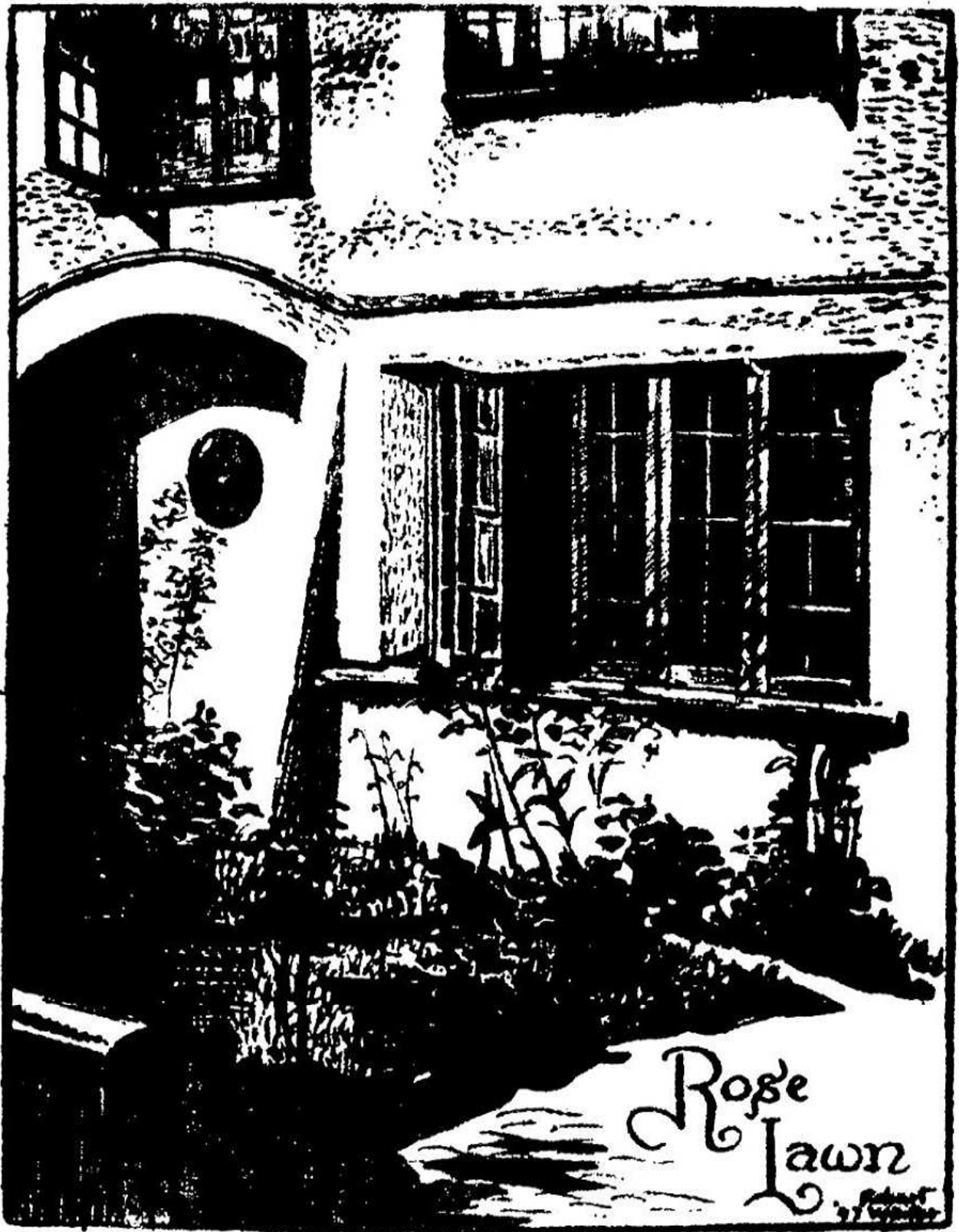
"Not long ago," said Lee, "Nipper and I came across the soft garden and the footprints of size nine shoes led up to the window - yes, yours, Archer - but no prints led away. and I suppose you're in the habit of coming and going that way?"

"That's right, sir" gasped James Archer, "But you know how it is after a quarrel ? You're mixed up and so I didn't go out that way but by the front door - to give myself the pleasure of banging the door behind me."

"Not the action of a murderer," smiled Lee. "If you had killed your uncle you would have left in a hurry and by the window so as not to meet anyone. No, our murderer was a very precise person - cunning too!"

"What do you mean, guvnor ?" said Nipper from the window. What clues have we missed ? The bullet was fired from outside - see, the fragments of glass are lying inside the room. If the bullet had been fired from inside then the glass would be lying here on the path.

"Not unless the broken pieces had been carefully swept up and deposited inside the room," said Lee grimly. "I noticed the faint marks of a handbrush on the path this was done to give the impression that Sir Henry had been shot from outside. Our careful murderer was too careful - even placed the broken fragments beside the body in a neat pile. A genuine shot would have scattered the fragments all over the room, and its more than possible that some would have dropped outside. As you know there was none. A silencer was used which accounts for no sounds being heard. If Sir Henry did see the killer he only saw someone he already knew and so made no outcry. This person had a motive of revenge - investigations will prove they were trying to cut everyone else out of Sir Henry's will. No doubt Archer comes in for the bulk - hence the jealousy and endeavour to incriminate Archer. With Archer out of the way I have no doubt the contents of the will would have been shared by Mannering and Mrs. Fawcett - you'd better stop her, there she goes, bag in hand. I think you'll find she's the guilty one. Mannering is slightly deaf, so he wouldn't hear the sound of breaking glass. Catch her before she makes her get away."



Where "Billy Bunter of Greyfriars School" was written. Drawn by Robert Whiter.

An Astounding Adventure

by Jack Corbett.

About late February, my wife and I were discussing the holiday plans for July, and were sitting around a meagre lump of sulky coal on a windy snowy night when icy cold blasts seemed to penetrate through all sorts of unexpected places.

After looking over a guide book of Broadstairs, we finally made up our minds to visit this old and fascinating place, influenced to a large degree by the fact that between there and Ramsgate much of the "Greyfriars" scenery was suggested to Mr. Frank Richards - it's famous author. So plans were laid, and now as I write about one of the most novel and amazing happenings of my life, we are happily enjoying our holiday with blazing sunshine, about mid July of this year, of course.

The cause of my writing now began one day when I asked my wife if she would mind looking after our two kiddies while I toured around the country lanes between Broadstairs and Peggwell Bay to pick up actual places, or at least places and landmarks which made up our "Greyfriars" - geography. Well, one morning I wished my family "Cheerio", and decided to take the bus into Ramsgate, and from there go to Peggwell Bay (this actual bay is the real name for Pegg Bay, so often associated with our dear "Greyfriars" chums).

Well the large cream and red bus purred on into cheery Ramsgate, and I was not sorry to leave the happy but rather noisy water front for the bay, after walking through pleasant Kentish scenery so like that described over years in the "Magnet", and espying leafy lanes, the image of places such as "Oak Lane" and others in the stories. At last Peggwell Bay was reached, and quite frankly I was intrigued by the quiet and rugged cliff line of this part. One was reminded of the "Shoulder" (or what seemed to me like it) around which the "Famous Five" had so often navigated a boat, and round the bend, from my point of vantage, a tiny cottage rose into view, which I satisfied myself was Tom Redwing's father's "humble abode", around which many a fine yarn had been woven.

Further back from the peaceful rugged bay over green-luscious pastures, I noticed some old ruins that may have inspired the old "Priory"; while a small dense cluster of leafy, ancient trees, bordered by a footpath and stile, reminded me of "Friardale Wood", and the old stile where many a Remove man had sat at ease on half-holidays. I went on and reached a delightful small cafe where my appetite, healthily increased by the rich sea air, was adequately dealt with.

Leaning back in one of the very comfortable wicker chairs I commenced a carefree smoke, and idly recalled "Greyfriars" stories and characters at random, through the lazy coils of tobacco smoke.

Casually looking round the small room, now practically unoccupied, my eyes beheld a gentleman, who had recently entered, sitting in a little corner seat at the end of the room. He was fairly tall and very angular, with a suggestion of what we now call "side-boards", and had a thin but not unkind mouth. As is often the case, my gaze seemed to make itself felt on the stranger, and lowering his cup to the table, he turned and met my gaze with his. Suddenly I realised, if ever the case of a double was apparent - here it was to be sure! My senses seemed to burn with the realisation that here was almost the double of Mr. Quelch - yes, Mr. Quelch of "Greyfriars", sitting in a small cafe, around where only that very morning I had been living in the imaginery world of the famous old Kentish school!

Well, fellow reader, with a quick sense of tact, I gave the gentleman a half smile, and felt warmed in heart to have it returned in polite fashion, after which he pulled out a small book from his pocket and commenced to glance through the neatly bound volume. Sipping my coffee, my gaze settled on that gentleman once more. Yes, even to the butterfly collar, quiet dress and neat shoes, the impression of Mr. Quelch (as portrayed by Mr. Chapman) seemed to relive in the flesh. Possibly my impression was coloured by the fact that only a few seconds before I had been thinking deeply of the Remove Master, just prior to my catching sight of this rather angular gentleman. Again, as though the stranger felt my mental concentration on him, he met my eyes, as the little book lay open before him. Obviously he had been very conscious of my attention on him, and a feeling of vexation came over me for having caused any one discomfort or embarrassment. Feeling bound to offer some apology, but not being able to disclose the truth of my behaviour, I quickly stepped from my table and approached the corner seat. "Excuse me", I said rather quietly, "but I am sorry if - er - I appear to have stared rudely at you, but ----", then came that dreadful pause. I stood awkwardly resting one hand on the little round table, and then continued:- "you - er - see, I thought you were someone with whom I was acquainted some years ago in my home town - I am sorry, only - well, I was deeply impressed by the likeness. Please accept my apologies". Sharply I turned to go and resume my seat, catching my foot in the table leg, as I did so - making a loud clatter, which only added to my discomfort.

Just then, however, I felt a light touch on my arm, and turned to find that Mr. Quelch's "double" had leaned forward, and was half smiling in a genuine, yet dry kind of manner at me, and feeling much easier in mind, I sat on a chair facing the tall gentleman. Putting his little book away he spoke, "Pray, do not object to my speaking, but I feel extremely interested in what has occurred: one does not meet doubles every day, and I should be most charmed to hear a little more if you would care to tell me." Well, if I had not seen this person, and only heard the voice, the impression of Mr. Quelch would have come to my mind with startling realism; never would I have believed that in speech and looks was there a likelihood of actually meeting "Mr. Quelch"; the kind, dry, yet rasp like voice, the genuine politeness the precise, yet unaffected voice, were all startlingly apparent.

Almost in a whirl, I faced my partner, answered, as calmly as I could:- "Well, sir, it is not really a double in the true meaning of life, but you see, to my mind, a well known character in a favourite work or series of stories, over which I am intensely enthusiastic". I added rather hastily - "quite a noble, and - and noteworthy character, I assure you". I left off a little shortly, and noted a gleam of interest and mild amusement in those bright penetrating eyes, and sat more easily in my chair as I experienced a feeling of calm, doubtless inspired by the like attitude of Mr. Quelch. The sharp, yet kind voice continued "Quite remarkable, my dear sir, may I enquire as to the nature and vocation of this personage?".... "Well", I replied, now really keen to discuss my favourite topic. "He was a much liked, yet, er - , rather severe, yet quite - no - I should say very popular school master in those grand stories of "Greyfriars" School supposedly situated around here in Kent".

Now quite frankly, I had expected a possibly surprised, if not keenly interested expression to dawn on the face before me, but only a more pleasant smile than ever lit up the rather knarled, elderly face - a sort of look as though he "knew all about it" style. There was a pause - then I received the unexpected question "Which master at "Greyfriars" does my appearance remind you of then". "At Greyfriars" !! - why the gentleman spoke as if he himself were well schooled in this Mecca of such establishments, but I answered quickly and eagerly; "Why, Mr. Quelch". The "double" then leaned forward and drummed his fingers on the arm of his chair. "Well, - well", he said, "thank you my good fellow - I truly appreciate it, but, let me see - was not this person sometimes referred to by some boys as being "just a beast", but a just beast"? I just looked words would not come. "Then," I managed to stammer, "you - you know "Greyfriars" very well". Really, it was hardly complimentary to tell a man that he was a "double" to someone referred to as "just a beast, but a just beast". My face evidently showed mental distress, for my companion seemed to read my mind. "Come, come" he said

--reassuringly, that is only my manner, I fully understand your meaning". "Still", he went on with that sharp dry laugh, "from a school boy it is to be sure a compliment. After all, boys are candid, if not exactly grammatical in their observations.

I laughed too, then, and really, fellow reader, I felt quite at home by now; it seemed that "the ice was broken", "Would you have another coffee with me, sir?" I asked, and receiving a pleasant nod, called the girl, who ultimately brought two steaming cups of that savoury smelling beverage, and with a musical "clink" set them before us.

"Tell me", I said, "what is your knowledge of Mr. Richard's stories, and are you, too, an enthusiast?" My friend nodded emphatically - "I am, indeed, sir", he said, "Nothing has ever been written like these stories, and I am confident nothing ever will be. There is no doubt", he went on, "not a shadow of doubt that the author is a man of great understanding, and quite a storehouse of boys ways & customs, but it is singular that while this is a fact, he never was blessed with sons of his own - very singular, my dear sir, but never the less true". I nodded assent; all this I knew and more, but to find not only a "double" from F.R.'s. many stories, but also to learn that he was a keen "Bunter" fan was amazing! "I suppose you have read quite a lot about Mr. Richards?", I queried, and in answer, my companion produced a recent copy of the "Story Paper Collector", together with a "Collectors Digest". I could only stare dumbfoundedly.... "Good heavens", I said at last, "This really is an eventful day for me, sir. By the way," I added, toying with the two little books, "May I ask your name; here is my card, sir." "Thank you", said my new found acquaintance, my name is Croft, Henry Croft, not, unfortunately, "quelch". We both laughed, and I observed that this would have been a coincidence to be sure.

Mr. Croft looked at his watch. "I am afraid, Mr. Corbett, we shall be outstaying our welcome", he said, pleasantly; "but as today is giving us such glorious weather, perhaps you would care to stroll along the cliffs for a while?". Gladly I assented, and settling our bills, we left the quietude of the cafe and walked to the cliff path where the gentle lapping of the sea, shimmering in the sunlight, - blended with the warm July day.

I explained what had brought me to this part of the coast to day, and told of my very enjoyable morning spent in "reconstruction". Walking and talking thus, we came at length to a stile, and then Mr. Croft spoke:- "The thought has just occurred to me that you may like to take afternoon tea with me, Mr. Corbett", he said, "it is not my custom to ask a comparative stranger to my home, but under the very novel circumstances - "; Here my companion tapped his pocket containing the "S.P.C." and "Digest" significantly. "We have a bond of fellowship I think that calls for such an invitation". "That is

he added, "if tea with "Quelch" has more attraction for you than for a Remove boy". I simply roared at this good joke, and then Mr. Croft's face took on an intent expression. "Mr. Corbett, he said, resting one hand on the stile, "it is only fair to tell you a certain fact, if only in return for your kind interest and feeling for Mr. Richards - a gentleman whom I uphold as a splendid author, and as a personal friend whom I invest with the highest esteem and affection". In short, we are great, great friends, and, of course, on learning your name, I realised, my dear sir, that you were the writer of those interesting articles on his life and customs, which appeared in Mr. Gander's and Mr. Leckenby's excellent papers, another reason for my wishing your company". My friend then turned and like a fellow in a dream, I followed him over the stile, and, looking at him as he stepped out briskly along the winding path, again received the impression of Mr. Quelch's familiar gait, when on his rambles a round the school. Collecting myself after this "bombshell" of information I gladly accepted, and chatting on different matters we at length arrived at a little house by a neat garden flanked by a small by-pass road; with beautiful stately trees forming a rich background. We proceeded up the neatly paved flower bordered path to the homely porch, where Mr. Croft felt for his key, and opening the door, bade me enter into a cosy square hall, not lavishly furnished but in neat and good taste with a bowl of luscious plants set on a little white wooden table. Hanging up my coat, Mr. Croft piloted me to a door and turning to me, motioned me to enter. "This is my study", he said, "but I am glad, my dear sir, that I do not have lines to correct tonight". We laughed, and passed into the "den", and what a den it was. If you can conjure up a mental picture of Mr. Quelch's study at "Greyfriars", with its square large flat desk with drawers, down each side, the diamond paned bookcase, the armchair across one corner the large screen, and, would you believe it, a mortar-board lying on a little corner shelf! Again, seeming to read my thoughts, Mr. Croft spoke, "Yes, I am now a retired schoolmaster, but it is long since I was at Repton, and sometimes for sentimental reasons I don my mortar board - it makes a comfortable smoking cap at least."

My new found friend now sat behind the desk, and I sat at ease in the study armchair. For a good hour we talked of "Bunter", of old stories, of new F.R. books to come, and then Mr. Croft leaned back in his swivel chair and, after offering me a gigarett, spoke very quietly. "You know", he said, "a schoolmaster sees life much as one sees a panorama of pictures; my hobby of boys books has been greatly helped by my knowledge of all types of boys, just as you have read, my boys, in the "Magnet". I have taught boys similar to Skinner; boys upright and noble like Nugent and Wharton, yes, even fat ones like the redoubtable Bunter - in fact - ", Mr. Croft now watched me.

closely, his eyes taking on that penetrating look "my description of many boys has been used by Mr. Richards for his "Greyfriars" characters in many cases; while some of my own mannerisms and habits have, Mr. Corbett, been responsible for the Remove Master - yes, amazing as it is, Mr. Quelch of the "Greyfriars" stories. Well, at first I could not, simply could not believe it, but there was no mistaking the quiet sincerity of Mr. Croft, and after all, what better model could F.R. have chosen; I asked myself how could this be when the "Magnet" came out over thirty years ago. I put this to Mr. Croft, and he smiled. "Yes, it seems strange, but, remember, Rome was not built in a day, my good fellow, and considering that I am now in my late sixties, I was not out of the picture when Mr. Richards, unknown to me at the time, singled me out for his model, but, of course, Mr. Richards is always striving after pure realism and life in his stories and possibly several or many different people have inspired various characteristics but I understand that - ", here Mr. Croft laughed in his dry yet genuine fashion, "Mr. Richards has held me as his main theme "in later years". I appreciated this interesting explanation, and then Mr. Croft told me wonderful accounts of how he had met boys like our "Greyfriars" chums, and after came the crowning story of, perhaps, the "Magnets" most virile character - "The Bounder".

"You know", my companion said, as we smoked, "both Mr. Richards and myself knew a boy at my school who fitted in every way Vernon Smith, if not in actual looks as Mr. Chapman portrays, but many a time and oft' have I feared for this boy's future - his real name was "Wilmott-Ley". Mr. Croft resumed, "In sterling qualities he abounded; in good deeds that boy did his share, but - ", here Mr. Croft's face assumed a very grim expression; so like Mr. Quelch that I barely suppressed a smile; but for impudence and cool cheek, never in all my experience was it so pronounced as in that boy, yes, a Repton scholar, by the way." Then I said eagerly, "Was he really a bounder in the way we used to read of, and was he - " here I stopped myself, being about to ask Mr. Croft about the "smokes" or "little flutters", but these questions seemed rather out of place in conversation with a man so like the Remove master. "Everything about that lad I knew" interposed Mr. Croft, "and I did catch him smoking when in reckless mood". Here the speaker's countenance grew quite stern, and I felt a little uneasy. Trying to turn matters into other channels I asked "Do you hear of him or other boys now, sir?" Mr. Croft relaxed in his chair, and a polite, rather kind look, returned to his face once more. "No", he said quietly, "At least, not from Wilmott-Ley, that - that is not possible". This reply, so unexpected, quite confounded me, and a long, long pause followed. Then the Repton master unlocked a small drawer in his desk, and drew out a newspaper. Scanning the pages he singled out a column with a blue pencil cross at the side and passed it on to me. "Thank you", I said, as my vision rested upon the following heading, after noting the paper was dated 1917.

"DISOBEYED COMMAND TO SAVE HIS COMRADES".

During a recent encounter on the Western Front, Cpl. Wilmott-Ley gave his life in taking single handed a small hill from where an enemy machine gun post was situated. Accurate firing had been intense, and with our patrol now only a few in number, orders were given to retire. Ignoring this command, Cpl. Wilmott-Ley crawled through long grass and scrub to within a few yards of the enemy, and then hurled a hand grenade fairly on the post, killing three of the foe. He then attacked with fixed bayonet, killing two of the gunners, and wounding the survivor, not without sustaining severe wounds himself. Hearing the explosion his senior officer, Lt. S. Horton, rushed back towards the hill, where he found Cpl. Wilmott-Ley who was just able to make known what had occurred. The surviving gunner was taken prisoner and confirmed Ley's last words, paying tribute to his courage and daring. Later, as a result of this brave deed, a fresh patrol occupied this hill, enabling our troops to make an important advance into the valley later in the day.

In silence I handed the folded paper back to Mr. Croft, and he carefully replaced it in his little drawer. "Yes", he almost whispered, "even to the last this lad loved to defy authority. He was his own law, but in this case, who shall dare question it - deeds like that have given us our homes and freedom today". I nodded - really words seemed useless just then.

A slight mist had rolled in from the sea, and the quiet study was slightly dusky as if in gentle memory of that brave boy. Mr. Croft stretched out his hand and turned on a small table lamp, shedding a gentle orange gleam over the restful room. He resumed his seat, cupping his hands on the desk and smiled rather sadly. "A wonderful lad" he said, adding, "Of course, do not be saddened should you read of the "boulder", as you term him, in any "Magnets" you possess. You comprehend that this character was already living in "Greyfriars" life, long before I met him at Repton. It so happened that Wilmott-Ley was so like Mr. Richards' creation that I often told him of this lad, both of us in time pictured him as the Vernon Smith we knew in "Greyfriars" stories.

Just then came a tap at the door, and a silver haired little lady entered and spoke in a soft countryfied voice, "Will you have tea yet, sir, or a little - ". She saw me sitting there, and broke off in surprise. Mr. Croft leaned back and smiled - "This is Mr. Corbett", he said, "a fellow collector of "Magnets", and we shall be happy to have tea for two, Mrs. Lamb, if you please". The frail oval faced little lady gave me a pleasant nod, "Well, well", she said, then beaming at her master, "That will please you Master, to be sure - tea you shall have right away, sir, and, if I might say so, hadn't you

better switch the fire on with this damp mist about, sir, you know than 'orrible rheumatics do trouble you so" Mr. Croft coughed and went a trifle pink. I had to smile at the way the motherliness of Mr. Lamb obviously embarrassed my new found friend. "Yes, yes, thank you Mrs. Lamb", he said rather hastily, and crossing to the hearth switched on the fire.

Well, fellow reader, space does not permit me to describe that pleasant tea; many questions I asked Mr. Croft, including if he knew anyone like Dr. Locke and other characters of "Greyfriars", but he had not, he said, met in person other folk of the "Magnet"; although Dr. Locke he loved as a character, and often longed for him as his chief. Mr. Croft was writing history of Repton, and confided to me that he had from sentimental reasons made his little "den" rather like a master's study¹

Then after looking over Mr. Croft's plain, yet pleasant cottage home, I left that haven of "Greyfriars" memories, and concluded my visit with a strong handshake with Mr. Croft at the little cottage gate, I walked briskly through the misty lanes and woodland, to the road where I reluctantly caught a bus back to Broadstairs.

Arriving at my digs, I went into the lounge, where my wife, Madge, was busily engaged in knitting. "Listen", I said, my voice trembling with excitement, "Wonder of wonders, I have actually met Mr. Croft, a fellow who knows all about "Greyfriars". He is -". Madge looked up half smilingly, "You are three hours later than you said you'd be", she said briefly, her pins clicking away. I stared at her, then laughed out loud. Really the practical instinct of woman was absolutely astounding! "Hum", I said, "Sorry dear, but do listen; Mr. Croft, a man who knows all about Mr. Richards, and - ". My wife put down her pins and looked at me, smilingly. "Alright", she said, "but tell me in the morning, you look so tired. I'll ring for our cups of tea before bed". Well, friends, I just gave my wife a long expressive look, almost pitying, and took her advice.

In conclusion, Madge did enthuse over my wonderful experience when I told her next day, and then hurled the challenge at me "whyever, didn't you tell me last night?" - Well, isn't that just like a woman,

ERIC FAYNE

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Will pay top prices for Magnets and Gems between 1907 and 1930.

Also Wanted: Populars, Dreadnoughts, School and Sport, Early Girls' Papers, Boys' Friends, etc ..

The Hobby

by Reginald Cox. (H.R.C.)

"There's one thing - you'll never be stuck for words!" A London theatre magnet said to me recently. He was wrong. I have just sat here for fifteen minutes juggling with my title and opening paragraph. I continue, knowing full well that the title is a poor one, yet an editor once told me (and this is a point of much doubt) 'Never mind the title - its what follows that counts.' However, we'll see what kind of a show I put up - and I'll come back to the title later.

Lord Baden-Powell, founder of scouting, maintained that a man with a hobby was a happy and contented soul, and Frank Richards once wrote, 'I cannot understand people who have time to kill' a small observation to which all Story Paper Collectors (when are we going to find one word for our hobby) will reply, 'Neither can we Frank Richards.'

A boy's best friend is his mother, and the best time of his life - his school days. I had two worries at school, searching for the lowest common factor, and finding enough money for my weekly visits to Mrs. Chapman. The right-hand section of our big side-board was my world, and the lady newsagent - well, she came next to 'mum'. But about this 'world', let's unlock its rough door, an action, I remember, - carried out with reverence. I'm getting into my stride now. I refer to the term describing the serious ceremony - 'reverence'; you see, my dictionary explains the word:- A feeling of deep respect and esteem mingled with affection; and doesn't that sum up our hobby? THE HOBBY. I play on my humble title a bit now for I am reminded of Granville Waine; I'll give him no introduction - he requires none. Waine, - I can afford to write in familiar strain for we are firm friends - during the course of our many talks, talks involving the splendid work of Wm. H. Gander and his paper 'S.P.C.', Joseph Parks and 'C.M.', 'C.D.', and the efforts of Herbert Leckenby and Maurice Bond, always says 'The Hobby'. Say it quickly, or casually, and you have to say, 'The 'obby' - but the sincerity's still there. It tends to imply that there is only one hobby - shall I leave it at that?

But the stained door of the 'safe' is open; what about the contents? Rough idea? Of course you have. Gems; Magnets; Union Jacks; Marvels; Populars; Boys' Friends; Nelson Lees; and Realms. Others? Fun and Fiction; Dreadnoughts; Cheerio; Nugget Weekly; Tubby Haige; Turpin; Buffalo Bill; Robin Hood, Football Favourite; All Sports; Nick Carter; Greyfriars Herald; Penny Pictorial; and Young Britain. A host of others could be added, but I'll repeat myself saying, 'Shall I leave it at that?'

Don't ask me how it happened, I don't remember. Somehow the scene changes. I'm in another world, a different world, an imperfect one. How different to the one at Greyfriars, St. Jims, and Rookwood? A great deal - a very great deal. Nelson Lee, Nipper, and Lord Dorrinore had set me certain examples; they were clean and straight. Wasn't it the same with Bob Cherry & Co? Act the goat and it was the fountain. Smoke and play cards and it was still the fountain. In Wharton and Vernon Smith, Charles Hamilton taught us right from wrong; he knew his job. The highest honour we can place upon him is to call him the MASTER; I expect no disagreements

It is real life now. Working for a living, responsibilities of marriage, some unemployment, money troubles, fighting for a fair status in ones industry, war, fire-watching, bombs, and crisis. A puzzling real life with some teaching "Honesty is the best policy - after you've tried everything else." The co-editor of this book had the answer when he quoted of Sexton Blake, "He acted towards the poorest as he would the richest." If every one could live up to that ideal.....

Then one day, while ambling through an old market, I came upon a small pile of Nelson Lee Libraries. Chance? Well, in 1940, I should say, 'one in a million'. Amid the hustle and bustle of that market setting, though I knew it not - I had just been initiated into THE HOBBY. Then followed my contact with 'Exchange & Mart' Bob Blythe, the 'Lee' expert, Dill Gander, Henry Steele, Herbert Leckenby, Maurice Bond, Alfred Horsey, and Les Vosper. I want to add others but I've one eye on my word-length for space is short; John Gocher. Vin Baxendale, John (Magnet) Shaw I owe them much. Exchange of letters, papers, ideas, confirmations, visits comradeship, understanding, and my tribute to them is simple, they are jolly good fellows. I ran a duplicated paper called 'The Bulletin - some will remember it. I have hampered collectors, I have helped them. I have worked far into the night, built up collections, then sold them again. Old hands at 'the hobby' require no advice from me; I'm still in the fourth. To the newer members, and you'll agree there are many, I'm going to say this:- Take your collecting seriously but take it slowly for there's plenty of time; - those 'wants' will come along. I rushed my fences - I fell. Failure is a good teacher. Today, my main hobby is writing, it's been hard going but 'I am getting into print every week'; this time slowly but surely. Over indulgence in anything is dangerous. 'Daily Mirror' head lines for October 26th, 1946 ran:- "STAMP COLLECTING MY CURSE SAYS A HUSBAND. It upset his wife. A man who annoyed his wife by talking stamps at the breakfast table and threw his breakfast to the ceiling when she complained, later offered to give up stamps."

The man lost his wife. Where? In the divorce court. I work for five days each week. Saturday I spend taking out my family; Sunday is my day - hobby day. I stick to this routine, it's fair and works out well; and I still have my wife - I'm a lucky man.

In offering me eight hundred words in the 'C.D. Annual' Leck ' - all things considered - has been kind. Why don't I write for C.D. itself? Because the chaps in the fifth and sixth are doing a good job and they're stickers. I wanted to be in the ANNUAL, I'm in. It's a privilege, I'm satisfied, and hope that you'll enjoy my chat for it is little more. I am at the point where we came in - floundering for more words - there is so much that I would like to touch upon, yet . . .

The Hobby is a great adventure, go to it. Enjoy the receiving of 'C.D.', this ANNUAL, give the editors a ton of support, and - again to the newer members - no over indulgence. What I'm trying to say is, "Don't ever consider swapping your wife for 500 'GEMS' - it won't come off." Then having said all that, I'll shut up.

GREY FRIARS GREETINGS:

From: Fisher Tarleton Fish, Esq.,
Of New York, U.S.A.

Say, you guys, a merry greeting,
Happy Christmas and the rest,
May your Christmas fun want beating,
May it be the very best!

Sure, you're pretty safe in betting
This child's being paid to write,
Twenty cents a line I'm getting,
And I'm working here all night.

(The remaining 848,366 lines of this greeting have been omitted owing to lack of space. Ed.)

* * *

From: Thomas Dutton, Esq., Remove Form:

What's that? Eh?
What did you say ?
Oh, go away !

The Quintness of Mr. Edward Lloyd

by HERBERT LECKENBY.

Edward Lloyd, of course, was as responsible as any man for the expression "blood and thunder", "penny dreadfuls" etc., becoming part of the English language. Just 100 years ago the stories he published were in great demand. There was nothing pink about them, they were downright hundred per cent red blooded tales of dreadful deeds, devastation and death. It was he who demanded from his authors "blood and then more blood" and to those who made the wood-cuts "the pictures must show sheir eyes sticking out of their sockets". But Mr. Lloyd must, in addition, have had an impish kind of humour, he was also a pioneer in the art of camouflage". Here are a few extracts from Chapter 55 of a story published in Lloyds Penny Weekly Miscellany in 1844.

'With a savage howl the ruffian who was so partial to the knife, rushed forward, but at the instant that he sent his foot within the cabin down came the cutlass which Charles had prepared with such tremendous force that, unprotected as was the fellow's head by anything but a woollen nightcap, the blade sunk deep into his skull and with one gasping groan he fell dead upon the threshold. Charles nearly fell over him and before he could recover he was rushed upon by the captain who, clutching him by both arms shouted:

"Put down the light and take the cutlass from him d--n him, he's done mischief enough - wrench it from him!"

The other did so, and then he made a slashing cut at Charles head, but the Captain pulled him on one side saying:

"D--n it, don't kill it, it's too easy. We'll make him walk the plank yet and be cursed to him. Curse him! Well, bind his hands - yet stay a minute - drag him on deck and get a plank ready, we'll have an execution in less than a quarter of an hour. So Steve and his knife are settled at last, and a d---n mess he's making in my cabin. There's a lot of blood to come out of one fellows head".

Charles gave himself up for lost and he exclaimed: "Villians, God sees this act and a day of contribution will come".

"You may talk and amuse yourself by it as much as you like" said the captain, "but overboard you go for all that. Now come on with you. Take the cutlass and give him a cut or two if he don't follow". The Captain then took a clutch of Charles' neck which very nearly strangled him, while the other ruffians followed, inflicting in pure wanton-ness several flesh wounds on his arms and shoulders. Then they reached the deck and poor Charles cast one anxious agonised glance around him, but no help was near. He was alone on the wide waters, at the mercy of barbarians who knew not such a heavenly quality. Death was before him in all it's terrors. He trembled violently and one convulsed sob came from his throat. With a loud jeering laugh the Captain cried out to his man: "Here's a joke! He's going to blubber" but Charles cried: "No! You may murder me as by brute force you have conquered me, but its you who should weep for the consequences of your crime".

A terrific struggle follows then: Bleeding, exhausted, terrified and confused, Charles paused and cried aloud: "Mercy! Mercy!

"Hurrah" shouted the Captain "the fun's beginning. I told you so my men. Hurrah! Go it again - the fun's beginning".

"And thus it ends" cried Charles, as with strength lent him by his madness of despair, he seized the captain by the neck, and plank and Captain and Charles Hargrove, with one awful plunge went down into the sea.

To be continued under our next.

Well, unfortunately I have not the next instalment so I shall never know what became of poor Charles. Now what do you think would have been an appropriate title for a story like that? "The Buccaneer's Doom"? - "Blood upon the Deck" ? - "Under the Skull and Crossbones"? You wouldn't have guessed it in the hundred years which have passed since the story was written for it was entitled "LOVE" or THE THREAD OF DESTINY" a domestic romance.

Yes, of a truth, the quaint Mr. Lloyd.

