

Fourth Year

Christmas 1950

Authors Who Thrilled You



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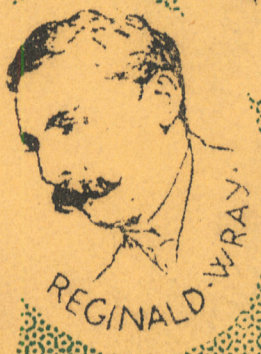
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ALLAN BLAIR

THE COLLECTORS DIGEST ANNUAL

Artists You Admired



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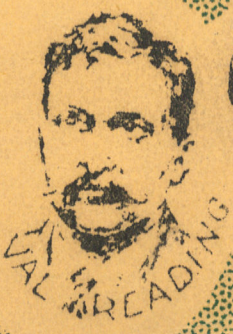
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VAL READING



E.E. BRISCOE

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Collectors' Digest Annual

Christmas 1950

No. 4

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F O R E W O R D

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Another year has sped on and once again we are looking forward to dispatching our Annual to all corners of the earth. Once again a loyal band have contributed fascinating articles and admirable sketches so much so that this year's edition is bigger than ever. One of our new chums says in the "Who's Who" that he considers the collectors of old boys papers a grand lot of fellows and the hobby the best of all. We who are at the heart of things could not agree more.

We estimate that our four Annuals contain a total of nearly a quarter of a million words; an impressive achievement we are sure all will agree. But there's plenty more to tell, and soon we shall be laying plans for the Annual of 1951.

Last year's voting contest proved very interesting and instructive and we propose to repeat it. We want all of you to return the form as soon as you have thoroughly digested the fare provided.

In conclusion the old, old wish - A Happy Christmas, a Prosperous New Year, and good hunting.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Leckenby.
H. Maurice Bond.

Rookwood Review

By Wm. H. Gender

Rookwood has been referred to as the Cinderella of Charles Hamilton's schools, and much of the reason for its neglect must lie in the fact that the Rookwood stories had a short run in "The Boys' Friend" as compared with those of St. Jim's in "The Gem" and Greyfriars in "The Magnet." While stories of the latter two schools appeared regularly for around thirty-two years, Rookwood was not established in "The Boys' Friend" until early in 1915 and finished in that paper early in 1926, a run of eleven years. A respectable run, indeed, but short when measured against those of St. Jim's and Greyfriars.

But for some readers of Mr. Hamilton's inimitable tales of school life Rookwood must come first. It is so in my own case, for I read of Rookwood in the "B.F." for years, while I turned to "The Gem" and "The Magnet" only for short periods. Recently the balance has been more favorable to Greyfriars, but again I turned to Rookwood and read once more all the stories in my "Boys' Friends".

From this new reading of them I have found that it would be much more difficult to write anything about Rookwood that would compare with "Dwellers in the Greyfriars Remove" in the 1948 "Annual." This for two reasons: one becomes well-acquainted with fewer characters at Rookwood, it seems, than at Greyfriars, and my set of "The Boys' Friend" is sadly incomplete for the year 1915 and the first half of 1916. It is during this period that one would expect first to meet most of the players on the Rookwood stage.

For the purposes of this article, therefore, I propose not only to tell of Rookwooders met in the pages of "The Boys' Friend," but also to touch upon some of the more outstanding stories.

The first intimation we have of Rookwood being given to the reading public is found in "Magnet" No. 357, where we are told that Bob Cherry saw the Rookwood junior football team practising while he was on a bike ride -- a bike ride from Kent to Hampshire -- one afternoon. In "Boys' Friends" Nos. 712, 713, and 714, January and February, 1915, word was given of the grand new series of school stories soon to commence, in No. 714 additional information being given that they would begin in the next week's issue, No. 715, (February 20th, 1915), the title of the first one being "The Rivals of Rookwood," and the author Owen Conquest.

The central character of the stories, playing the part that Harry Wharton does in the Greyfriars stories and Tom Merry in those of St. Jim's, Jimmy Silver, celebrated his arrival as a new boy by taking the reins of a brake-load of Classics and beating a similar load of Moderns in a race from Coombe Station to the school. The fact that the brake was intended for the use of the Modern House prefects added to the thrill.

Also met in the opening story were Tommy Dodd, with "curly hair and a prominent nose," leader of the juniors on the Modern side of the school, and his special chums Tommy Cook and Tommy Doyle -- the three Tommies of the Fourth Form. "And you're coming to Rookwood with a

name like that?" Tommy Cook inquired of Jimmy Silver. Jimmy proved to be a wide-awake youngster, very likable. His "leg was pulled" once or twice, but he soon "caught on" and was no longer easy prey for the practical jokers.

Among the rest met in that first story were Arthur Edward Lovell, George Raby, and Arthur Newcome, known as the Fistical Three until joined by Jimmy Silver, when they became the Fistical Four. Jimmy was placed in the "end study," which had been shared by the Fistical Three, who objected strenuously to admitting him as a fourth occupant. The end study being a very desirable one, Jimmy persuaded the trio to accept him into it by tying the study door closed just on call-over, and refusing to release them until they had promised to make it "pax."

Still others with whom we become acquainted were George Bulkeley, Captain of the school, Cecil Knowles, Captain of the Modern House, Townsend (a "slacker"), Jones minor, and Hooker, all three of the Classical Fourth, Lacy of the Modern Fourth, Mr. Bootles, Master of the Classical Fourth (later he inherited a fortune, retired from Rookwood and was replaced by Richard Dalton), and the Headmaster, Dr. Chisholm -- the Rev Henry Chisholm, D.D., M.A., in the 1923 "Holiday Annual". Dr. Chisholm witnessed the unprecedented occurrence of the driving of a brake through the school gates and right up to the School House doorway. Being a new boy, Jimmy Silver got away with a mild "wiggling" for this exploit.

One other Rookwooder -- using the term in its widest sense -- was introduced to us in the first yarn. He was "old Mack," school porter and counterpart of Gosling of Greyfriars and Taggles of St. Jim's, and like them a crusty individual who took a dim view of boys.

The second story, "Jimmy Silver's Ruse," in "B.F." No. 716, continued the account of Jimmy's first day at Rookwood, it also being first day of term. "There was one new boy, however," we were told, "who did not bear the remotest resemblance to a lost sheep," as did other new boys. That one was Jimmy Silver. Jimmy was "japed" by the three Tommies, but paid them back by trapping them when they raided the Classical Fourth dormitory after lights out. An election was held to determine who should be captain of the junior club for the new term, and the Classical and Modern voters being equal in numbers, Jimmy Silver's was the deciding vote and Adolphus Smythe of the Classical Shell was elected. Adolphus was a swanker "with an eyeglass," and was fated soon to be replaced by Jimmy Silver.

The third story, "Healing the Breach," told of how Jimmy and the Fistical Three did not "pull" well in the end study, they deeming him too cool and self-possessed for a new boy. After some ructions when they endeavoured to persuade Jimmy to move out of the study, the "breach was healed" when Lovell fell into Coombe Quarries and was rescued by Jimmy Silver.

In the fourth story, "The Fistical Four", "Boys' Friend" No. 718, the following juniors are listed in the Lower School football team list: Selwyn, Chesney, and Howard, of the Shell, Lake, Morton, and Wilton, of the Classical Fourth, and Tracy, of the Modern side. The three listed as of the Classical Fourth appear to have vanished later, for they are not in "Who's Who at Rookwood" in the 1923 "Holiday Annual." Other juniors

met in this story were Hooker of the Classical Fourth and Webb and Towle of the Modern Fourth. In one paragraph we read of "Cook and Doyle and Topping," but I am assured that it should read "...are topping," for I have never heard of anyone at Rookwood named Topping.

In these early stories we were told that the Modern side, though of comparatively recent origin, had grown until it out-numbered the Classical side, but the relative strength of the two houses was reversed later through the arrival of new boys in the Classical house.

Nos. 719, 720, 721, and 722 were special "bumper" issues with color-printed white-paper covers and free "plates". I have copies of the plates, but haven't seen these issues since purchasing them in 1915. In No. 719 was "The Rebels of Rookwood," presumably the first of several "rebellion" or "barring-out" stories.

"The Slackers of Rookwood" No. 723, introduced us to Howard of the Classical Shell, a pal of Smythe. In this yarn this is found: "We'll bike it" (to Greyfriars), said Jimmy Silver. "It's a long ride," said Jimmy a little later. "Over twenty miles to Greyfriars," we read. "Over" is right! In this story Smythe took a team of his pals, all "duds", to Greyfriars for a cricket match, and they were licked by an innings and eighty-six runs. They had been threatened with a "ragging" if the match was lost by an innings, and a ragging they got.

In "B.F." No. 737 Bagshot School was brought into the Rookwood story. "Pankley's Picnic," when a dozen juniors from nearby Bagshot, including Pankley and his friends Poole and Putter, stayed for a time at Rookwood, due to an epidemic of influenza at their own school. Jimmy Silver & Co. were "dished" by Pankley & Co. over the latter's picnic, but succeeded in turning the tables on their rivals and "snaffling" the picnic supplies for themselves. In this story Flynn of the Classical Fourth was met, though he and Pankley & Co. might have appeared in earlier stories that I do not have.

By "B.F." No. 742 Tommy Dodd had become junior cricket captain, Jimmy Silver vice-captain. In a series of stories, Nos. 746-748, Robert Gunter, nephew of Dr. Chišholm, came from the United States and made himself well disliked as a junior. Being "sacked," he barricaded himself in the clock tower and was got out by J.S. & Co. He proved to be an imposter, Sam Barker, who was raised on the Gunter ranch, and who had persuaded the real Robert Gunter to let him take his place at Rookwood. In No. 746 is found Dick Oswald, of the Classical Fourth -- apparently not his first appearance, for we are told that he had had a hard time, but had been "backed up" by Jimmy Silver.

About this time the Editor of "The Boys' Friend" launched the "Boys' Friend" Anti-German League. To become a member one promised not to purchase any articles "made in Germany." Much space on the editorial page was devoted to this theme for some months, then the great Anti-German League faded away and was forgotten, following in the wake of the "League of Boy Friends" of earlier years.

John Silver, ne'er-do-well uncle of Jimmy, came into the Rookwood stories in "Boys' Friends" Nos. 752-756. Through him Jimmy fell out

with his pals because of his meeting his uncle at the disreputable Ship Inn. In the last story of the series, "B.F." No. 756, John Silver atoned for the past by enlisting in Kitchener's Army.

By No. 760 Jimmy had become junior skipper, but I haven't the issue in which this achievement is related. No. 764, January 29th, 1916, was the 21st Birthday Number, with extra pages, a color-printed cover, and a free "plate." In this issue we met Dolly Chisholm, daughter of the Headmaster.

"The Duffer of the Fourth," "B.F." No. 766, and the following week's story, "Curing the Duffer," introduced Dickinson minor, brother of Dickinson major of the Sixth. Dickinson minor was very keen on American "dime novels" ("Blood-stained Bill, or Barrels of Blood!"), and Jimmy Silver & Co. took drastic steps to cure him of that weakness, whereupon Dickinson minor proved to be quite a decent youngster.

Cousin Phyllis visited Rookwood in "Caught Napping," "B.F." No. 768. This Cousin Phyllis is Jimmy Silver's, by the way. Nos. 769 to 772 featured Tom Rawson, scholarship boy. The "nutty brigade" was shocked to learn that a scholarship boy was coming to Rookwood -- why, his father worked for a living! They tried to make life miserable for Rawson, but the latter, a somewhat rugged, burly fellow, proved capable of handling them, and was soon well-established at the school.

Tubby Muffin, Rookwood's Billy Bunter, I first noticed in "B.F." No. 771, but his arrival was probably recorded in an earlier issue. With this issue, No. 771, the pages of the "B.F." were reduced from 16 to 12, due to increasing paper shortage the date of it being March 25th, 1916.

Cyril Peele, of the Classical Fourth, proved his ability as an actor in B.F. No. 773 by impersonating Mr. Bootles and making a bet with Joey Hook, local bookmaker. Eventually Peele was "bowled out" and ejected from the Amateur Dramatic Society.

Valentine Mornington, destined to play a part somewhat similar to that of Vernon-Smith at Greyfriars, arrived at Rookwood in "The Wrong Sort," "B.F." No. 774. Mornington was no carbon copy of Smithy, however, though he shared with the latter a tendency to defy authority and follow his own inclinations. For a time these inclinations lead him to become an associate of Townsend, Topham, Smythe, and other "bad-hats" of the Classical side. After a while, even before he lost his inheritance to 'Erbert, the lost cousin whom Morny found, it appeared that Owen Conquest had stripped him of his noble title, for he was Lord Mornington when he first came to Rookwood, but later became plain Valentine Mornington. He was featured in many stories in which he was "up against" Jimmy Silver & Co. Then, after the arrival of Kit Erroll Morny stayed closer to the path of rectitude, but not without some backsliding. He played the leading role in No. 774 and 775, the latter story, "A Disgrace to Rookwood," ending with him being flogged for his misdeeds -- not a good beginning, to be sure.

In "B.F." Nos. 781-783, Dr. Chisholme was dismissed temporarily pending an investigation of his flogging of Mornington, and a Mr. Scroop took his place. Being an obnoxious individual, trouble followed and

lower school revolted. This affair ended with Mornington leaving Rookwood for a spell.

Alfred Higgs came into the Classical Fourth in "B.F." No. 785, played the bully for a while, dropping that role after having the advisability of doing so properly impressed upon him. In the story in "B.F." No. 793 Billy Bunter visited Rookwood, and what happened can easily be imagined, while Dick Van Ryn arrived in the Classical Fourth in No. 798 from South Africa. Van Ryn being a ventriloquist, it is too bad he wasn't at Rookwood when Bunter paid his visit -- there might have been some fun with two boys throwing their voices around!

No. 802-805 brought a series of Jimmy Silver vs. Mornington yarns, Mornny engineering Jimmy's expulsion from the school, but the truth coming to light, Mornny was expelled. However, he became the "hero of Rookwood" in a fire and was allowed to stay on. It was in "B.F." No. 809 that Mornington picked up a waif on the road and brought him to Rookwood, where he was allowed to stay. Later, in "B.F." Nos. 844-848, the waif, known as 'Erbert, was proved to be the missing heir to the Mornington estate, displacing Valentine Mornington.

No. 810 of "The Boys' Friend" was the Christmas Number for 1916. The Rookwood story in it was "Jimmy Silver's Christmas," which, we were told, was written by Owen Conquest "in collaboration with those world-famous authors, Frank Richards and Martin Clifford." Boys from all three schools -- Rookwood, Greyfriars, and St. Jim's, played parts in this story, which, when reprinted in abridged form in later years, was "by Owen Conquest" without any help from his alter egos.

Charles Pons arrived at Rookwood in "B.F." Nos. 811-813, and Kit Conroy in Nos. 819-821, Pons being from Canada and Conroy from Australia, both going into the Classical Fourth.

Now I raise an interesting point. It has been the impression that the "substitute writers" kept their hands off the Rookwood stories, but I have found several which I am sure were not the work of the genuine Owen Conquest. There are, in fact, fifteen of them, plus four others of which I am not so sure. There may be others which I do not have. For the benefit of anyone interested, these are the issues of "The Boys' Friend" in which are Rookwood stories that are, in my judgment, not "genuine": Nos. 823, 828, 856, 881, 888, 913, 916, 917, 934, 942, 943, 952, 957, 970, and 1010. The four of which I am not certain are in Nos. 950, 967, 975, 976.

Clarence Cuffy, simple-minded member of the Modern Fourth Form, arrived in "B.F." No. 829, to be the victim of many a jape, while Kit Erroll came to Rookwood in No. 833. Kit took the spotlight in Nos. 834 to 837. A member of a gang of cracksmen, Kit after a hard struggle got on to the right path and became a virtuous member of society. Jimmy Silver's cousin, Algy, came to Rookwood in No. 863, proving to be quite disposed to go his own way, whether that way be good or bad for him.

Mark Lettrey, a very bad "egg" indeed, blinded Mornington with a blow across the eyes in "B.F." No. 865; the Head could not expel Lettrey because of a hold the latter's father had over him (the Head)

the Rookwood Fourth Form revolted in protest; Lattrey left the school; Lattrey rescued Mornington in a train wreck; Mornny recovered his sight; Lattrey stayed at Rookwood -- all this was told in "B.F." Nos. 865 to 878. With No. 877 the price of "The Boys' Friend" was raised to three-halfpence, the pages having been further out to eight with No. 865, January 5th, 1918.

By now most of the lower school characters had come into the stories, wither with a "splash" or otherwise, and I have notes of only two or three more: Edward Grace, known as "Putty", "B.F." No. 929, and Teddy Lovell, Arthur Edward's younger brother, "B.F." Nos. 960 to 965. The war being over, the pages of the "Green 'Un" were increased from eight to twelve with No. 941, June 21st, 1919. Now well into their fifth year and well-established, Rookwood looked like going on for ever, and from here on it will be necessary only to touch upon two or three series of stories. One brought, temporarily, to the Classical Fourth Arthur Beresford Baggs, whom one remembers as newly-rich, with poor relations, or something of that sort.

The stories in "B.F." Nos. 1026 to 1029 told of the inheriting by Mr. Bootles, Classical Fourth Form-master, of a million pounds. This event brought Mr. Bootles some startling adventures, which probably almost made him wish he hadn't become an heir to a million. Upon his leaving Rookwood his place was taken, as already stated, by "Dicky" Dalton, but not before the Fourth had been troubled by other masters whose stay proved short. Mr. Dalton, having formerly been a professional boxer, encountered troubles of his own for a time, as told in "B.F." Nos. 1037-1040.

In "B.F." Nos. 1043-1051 Cecil Cuthbert Montmorency, formerly George Huggins, came to Rookwood for a brief and inharmonious stay, while in No. 1088 Peter Cuthbert Gunner came into the Fourth to stay. The year 1923 brought a notable series of stories in which were told the adventures of Jimmy Silver & Co. in Alberta, where they were the guests of Jimmy's cousin, Hudson Smedley -- Nos. 1140 to 1174. In "B.F." No. 1253 and succeeding issues were tales of "Rookwood's Rival," in which we read of the master of the Rookwood Fifth Form, Horace Greely, setting up a rival scholastic establishment in the vicinity of Rookwood, after falling out with Dr. Chisholm over Edward Hansom of the Fifth. The wherewithall to found the school at Manor House was found by Hansom's father, but Mr. Greely proved inadequate to fill the position of headmaster of a school.

The last-mentioned series was in "The Boys' Friend" in 1925, when the Rookwood yarns were nearing their finish. It came in No. 1298, April 24th, 1926, the title of the last story being "Tubby the Protector," this being the 584th yarn in the Rookwood series. "The Boys' Friend" continued, "entirely reconstructed to meet the present-day tastes and needs of the boys of the British Empire," until the end of 1927 when, those boys having apparently failed to appreciate all that had been done for them, the good old "Green 'Un" faded out quietly by being combined with that "really live paper," "The Triumph," the last issue being No. 1385, dated December 31st, 1927.

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Serials from Victorian Boys Journals

By John Medcraft

The many boys' journals of the Victorian era, scathingly termed Penny Dreadfuls by biased parents and bigoted schoolmasters who never deigned to peruse them, contained a wealth of fine hearty stories reflecting a spirit of Britain sturdy and strong. From the first number of "Boys of England" in 1866 for nearly 40 years scores of boys' journals, many of which enjoyed long runs and immense popularity, were issued by Edwin J. Brett, the Emmetts, Charles Fox, Allingham, Ritchie and other publishers, and these contained many hundreds of serial stories set in almost every clime and period. Through all ran a strong current of patriotism, sometimes over emphasised or theatrical but always sincere as instanced by Brett's "English Jack amongst the Afgans; or, the British Flag - Touch It Who Dare". Robust stories all, forceful in theme and action with dark deeds committed and countered and blood flowing freely, nevertheless, the moral tone was good and virtue, in the form of hearty British lads and winsome lasses, invariably triumphed in the end.

Historical and sea stories, all exuding national fervour, were prime favourites with the lads of the period and judging by the correspondence columns of the various journals the majority aspired to serve their great Queen on sea or land. As befitting a maritime race the sea was first in favour and "Captain Tom Drake; or, England's Hearts of Oak" by W. L. Emmett, "Midshipman Tom; or, the Cruise of the War Cloud" by G. Emmett, and "For Honour; or, the Young Privateer" by Harcourt Burrage, were of the type that pointed seaward. True, these youthful heroes found promotion to the quarter deck surprisingly easy no matter whether they entered the service before the mast, as a middy or via the Black Flag.

Historical stories carried Victorian youth on the crest of the wave of national fervour through all the phases and byways of Britain's evolution as a great power, but not always, it must be admitted, strictly in accordance with known facts. Vane St. John and Justyn Lambe wrote some fine stories of the Middle Ages with noble apprentices and swashbuckling gallants and nefarious doings in the old Mint and that sanctuary of evildoers, Alsetia, now so harmless and law-abiding. Adventure stories set in every country and period were many, but school tales were less numerous and of a different type to those of the present day. After schooldays the hero and his friends would adventure abroad on a mysterious quest with the school bullies graduated as adult opposition. Some of the most popular stories ran to great length, "Jack Harkaway", for example, followed up his schooldays and a spell at Oxford with adventures in Italy, Greece, China, Australia, America and the South Seas, and was followed in turn by a son and grandson. "Ned Nimble", "Ralph Rollington", "Guy Rayner" also followed schooldays with varied adventures, while "Tom Wildrake" and "Ching-Ching" both had sons following in their footsteps. This of course, was the Victorian equivalent to the Peter Pan serial characters of the present day.

When a popular serial had run its course in a journal it was usually reissued in separate penny weekly numbers and, later, complete in paper-covered volumes with picture wrappers or in the supreme dignity of

original publisher's cloth. Only a proportion of these serials were thus re-issued, many others seemingly of equal merit and popularity were ignored and can now only be obtained in volumes of the journals in which they originally appeared. To furnish details of all these serials would fill the Annual several times over, so only a few of the best and most interesting will be enumerated here.

Pride of place must be accorded to the first serial in No.1 of the pioneer journal "Boys of England" written, appropriately, by its first editor, Charles Stevens. This was "Jack Rushton; or, Alone in the Pirate's Lair" with the first illustration captioned "The pirate emitted a deep, fierce growl" and showing Jack in the act of extracting a pistol from the belt of a sleeping buccaneer. This story was immortalised by "Punch" in a humorous drawing of a slothful errand boy oblivious to everything but the adventures of Jack in the current number of the story.

Vane St. John, a wayward genius and versatile writer of boys' stories, but happiest in those of Irish life, wrote "The Night Guard; or, the Secret of the Five Masks" for the first volume of "Young Men of Great Britain" of which he was for a time editor. Later he wrote "By the Queen's Command; or, the Mystery of the Seventh Stair", "Pat O'Connor's Schooldays", and "The Headsman of Old London Bridge". The office of headsman under Good Queen Bess apparently changed hands frequently, for all of the many romances of this popular period in history nominated a different custodian of the Axe.

James Greenwood, the Amateur Casual, who pungently denounced the Penny Dreadful in his "Seven Curses of London" and other books on London life, was not above writing for them on occasion, and his record for Brett includes "The Ghost of Paul Priestly; or, the Mystery of Haggard Hollow", "Dark Corners of London" and "Blood Money; or, a Strange Secret". Captain Mayne Reid was another well known author whose stories appeared in the Brett journals and the early volumes of "Boys of England" contained "The White Squaw", "The Fatal Cord" and "The Planter Pirate". Charles Stevens, one of the best and most prolific writers of full-blooded stories for boys, left Brett to enter the publishing field on his own account, but lacked the essentials necessary for success, and after the failure of his "Boys Book of Romance", he threw in his lot with the Emmett brothers for whom his best stories were written. A versatile writer with a flair for historical tales, Stevens excelled in those centred in Ancient Rome and Greece, one of the very best being "The Sentinel of Pompeii" despite the fact that it owed something to Lytton. For the various Emmett journals he also wrote "The Master of the Lions; or, the Three Gladiators", "Caredoc the Briton", "Spartacus; or, the Revolt of the Gladiators", and "The Young Spartan; or, the Heroes of Thermoplae", all of which were reprinted in later journals. Of different periods but equally good were "Bonnie Dundee; or, the Cavaliers of King James" and "Paul Avelon the Huguenot Captain".

One of Charles Stevens' achievements was the discovery of Harcourt Burrage as a writer. Burrage had come to Fleet Street with artistic rather than literary hopes, but found little scope and less money.

Discouraged and almost destitute, he was on the point of returning home when Stevens urged him to try his hand at writing. With misgivings Burrage did so, but after a delay his first effort was accepted and from then onwards never looked back.

The Emmett brothers (George Emmett, William Lawrence Emmett, Henry C. Emmett and Robert Emmett) were all prolific writers and their stories naturally appeared in the journals controlled by the two first named. . . George Emmett, an ex-cavalry officer who had taken part in the famous charge at Balaclava, wrote the Shot and Shell stories of military stories comprising "Captain Jack", "The King's Hussars", "For Valour", "Death or Glory", "Karl the Uhlan" and "Shaw the Lifeguardsmen". Under the pseudonym of Silvershot he wrote "My Adventures amongst Prairie Indians", better known by the reissue titles "Tomahawk and Rifle", "Red Hugh the Backwoodsman", and "Whip the Wind". In an earlier "Island School" George Emmett introduced a quaint character in Captain Cross Jack, a wooden legged seaman and his stern pole. The latter was a square of planking with a spike attached to form a one-legged stool, permanently fixed during waking hours to the captain's posterior for rest and security during rough weather. Although not an outstanding story mention must be made of "Tom Merry's Schooldays" which appeared in the Aldine "British Boys' Paper". A much better yarn was "The Golden Creek; or, Lost in the Bush" with Sancho's misadventures amongst the "jiggered kangeroos" and aborigines as the highlight of humour, while in a romantic South Seas setting came "Crusoe Jeck, the King of the Thousand Islands". To bluff George Emmett all credit for writing the pioneer of all school stories, "The Boys of Birchem School", which was followed in "Sons of Britannia" by the almost classic "Tom Wildrake's Schooldays", both of which preceded the Herkeways. Although he is credited with the latter story, George Emmett wrote only the early part and the Indian Mutiny sequence, Burrage who completed the story sold his share of the copyright to Emmett for a mere £5. The sequels, "Young Tom Wildrake's Schooldays and adventures" were written entirely by Burrage.

The other three Emmett brothers wrote occasionally under their own names, but more often as W. E. Lawrence, Charlton and Ernest Brent. Their best stories include "Follow My Leader"; or, Lionel Wilful's Schooldays" which helped to establish the "Boys' Standard" "Green as Grass", "Frank Fearless; or, the Cruise of the Firebrand", "Will Dudley; or, the Phantom Rider of Hounslow Heath", "Dick Dauntless, the Boy Privateer", and "Dashing Duke; or, the Mystery of the Red Mask". W. L. Emmett's "Captain Tom Drake" had an amusing anti-climax, for the death of the hero in the last number aroused such a storm of protest amongst the subscribers that the author resuscitated him in a four-number sequel entitled "Admiral Tom" with a conventional happy ending. During the life of the "Boys' World" and "Our Boys' Paper" the editor, H. J. Allingham, gathered around him a number of popular writers, chief of whom were the indefatigable Vane St. John and his close friend Walter Viles. Viles, brother of the author of "Black Bess", was an ebullient little man who wrote under the names of Brenchley Beaumont and Frank Mercer stirring stories of English chivalry, including "Warwich; or, the Flower of Chivalry", "Magna Charta", and "Harry Hotspur; or, the Days of Chivalry". In his History of Old Boys' Journals, Ralph Rollington

comments on the incongruity of such a small and insignificant man writing heroic stories. Vane St. John wrote for all the prominent boys' journals of the period and one of his best stories was "The Link Boy of Old London" which introduced Sweeney Todd as a secondary character followed by "Jack o' the Mint; or, a Hundred Years Ago", "Tim Ne'er do Well" and "The Haunted School; or, the Secret of Gayford Manor", while his many Irish stories included "That Larry of Ours; or, the Brave Boys of Leitrim", and "Pat o' the Hills; or, the Wreckers of Bantry Bay". Like the majority of the knights of Victorian Fleet Street, he lived carelessly and died penniless, only a whip round amongst his old associates saved him from a pauper's burial.

Percy B. St. John, brother of Vane, is chiefly remembered for his very worst story, "The Blue Dwarf", a tale of Dick Turpin, but all others are of a much higher standard, particularly the Crusoe stories, "Sailor Crusoe", "Arctic Crusoe", and "Cannibal Crusoe".

In writing "Ralph Rollington's Schooldays" and the varied sequels, H. J. Allingham created the name by which he became generally known in much the same way that Charles Hamilton is known as Frank Richards. Of his many other stories I rate "Pater Podger and Sam Slocum" as the best.

In 1871, Bracebridge Hemyng followed the lead of George Emmett and wrote "Jack Harkaway's Schooldays" which rocketed the circulation of the "Boys of England". Sequels followed as a matter of course, first "Jack Harkaway After Schooldays", then "Harkaway at Oxford" and "Harkaway Amongst the Brigands". Hemyng then went to U.S.A. at the invitation of Frank Leslie, for whom he wrote more Harkaway stories. Left in the lurch, Brett acted quickly and carried on with further Harkaway serials purporting to be written by Hemyng viz: "Jack Harkaway and his Son's Adventures Round the World", "Harkaway in China", "Harkaway in Greece", "Harkaway in Australia" and "Boy Tinker", finishing with what Brett blandly termed his American series. It is possible that Hemyng did write these serials but, more probably, they were the work of substitute writers copying his style. The true facts may never be known, for all concerned in the matter have long since passed on and only opinions prevail. Years later Hemyng returned to write the Harkaway the Third series for Brett and followed with "Jack Harkaway in the Transvaal" and "Jack Harkaway's War Scouts" for "Up to Date Boys". The last Harkaway serial was "Jack Harkaway in the Life Guards" for Newnes "British Boys". Hemyng wrote many other stories for Brett and Emmett including the "Ned Nimble" and "Scapegrace" series, while all the Harkaway stories he wrote in America were reprinted in the Emmett journals. His scarcest story is "Jack Harkaway and the Secret of Wealth" which appeared in the "Young Briton", but not in book form. There are, however, two sets of proof sheets in existence, one held by the Amalgamated Press and the other in U.S.A.

Although primarily a Henderson writer, George Manville Fenn wrote occasionally for other journals and one of the best was "Gold; or, the Treasures of Tehutlan" which appeared in Harrison's "Gentleman's Journal" and later in book form under the title of "The Golden Magnet". For this paper Charles Stevens wrote "King Arthur; or, the Knights of the Round Table"

and "Zasco the Corsaid; or, the Lord of the Golden Island", both finely illustrated by W. Boucher.

The many journals of Dacre Clarke contained their quota of serials, the foremost being "Guy Rayner's Schooldays" and sequels, "Mat Marchmont's Schooldays", and "Venoc; or, the Gladiators of Old Rome" by J.N. Pentelow (Jack North). As with Ralph Rollington, Dacre Clarke is more generally known by the name of his own creation - Guy Rayner.

Although his identity was unknown for several years owing to Brett's peculiar aversion to revealing the names of his authors, Justyn Lambe ranked with the best in Victorian boys' literature. His many fine historicals in the Brett journals were immensely popular and only a proportion were re-issued in book form.

A general favourite was "The Armourer's Son; or, the Mysteries of the Rower of London", and then came that grand story which appeared in the coloured "Boys of the Empire" Vol. I, "The Master of the Sword; or, the Brother Apprentices". "The Bravos of Alsatia; or, the Fortunes of Felix Ferdinand" told of daring deeds in opposition to Captain White and his swashbuckling bravos. Another which told of London in the grip of the Great Plague and the Fire and of Captain Blood's attempt upon the Crown Jewels was the popular "Dark Deeds of Old London". Justyn Lambe had a big following and his stories read well to this day.

Edwin Harcourt Burrage, the greatest of the old Victorian boys' writers, started a long career with a poem entitled "John Brown, Ye Modern Knight" in Emmett's "Young Gentlemen of Britain" of 1869, and ended as a Councillor of Redhill highly respected by all who knew him. His first serial for boys was "Harry Power the Wanderer; or, over Earth and Sea in a Balloon" in the "Young Britain" of the same year, and thereafter his pen was kept busy. In writing "Spangles and Gold", a tale of strolling players, Burrage initiated a new and immensely popular story which was re-issued many times in the Emmett and later boys' journals. Then followed "Rags and Riches", "Charley and Tim at Scarum School", "An Ocean of Ice", "Happy Jack the Rover", "The Brave Boy of the Basilisk", and many other fine stories for the Emmett journals. After a period of illness he found himself deposed as editor of the "Young Britain" and turned to Fox who had just started the "Boys' Standard". It is fitting that Burrage should commence this association with his greatest story, "Handsome Harry of the Fighting Belvedere" which introduced to a rept world of boys the immortal Ching-Ching, Samson the negro and Eddard Cutten the disgruntled cook. Sequels were inevitable and "Cheerful Ching-Ching" was successively followed by "Daring Chin -Ching", "Wonderful Ching-Ching", and "Young Ching-Ching". These did not exhaust the output of Burrage's busy pen, and "Broad Arrow Jack" on his mission of vengeance, the "School on the Sea" with Beetles and Chops at loggerheads with all and sundry, "The Troublesome Twins" and other great favourites of their day. A regrettable factor in most of the Victorian boys' papers was the use of inebriates and cripples as stock humorous subjects. In his "Ruin of Fleet Street" Burrage admitted with regret the use of drunkenness as a form of humour in his own stories, but omitted any reference to cripples. Yet he was

equally an offender in this respect and went to the extreme limit in "The School on the Sea" with Beetles the old sailor who had two hooks for arms and two wooden legs. Most of the old writers offended similarly, but it must be remembered that to the Victorian drunkenness was commonplace and a not unpleasant vice, while cripples were regrettably too numerous to excite much comment or sympathy.

After leaving Fox, Burrage launched "Ching-Ching's Own" for which he wrote practically all the major stories, and it is in this journal that the modern school and sport story really originated. Inevitably the road was open to further "Ching-Ching" stories and these included the "Wild Adventures of Jam Jossier and Eddard Cutton", "Ching-Ching on the Trail" and "Ching-Ching Mystery", while Young Ching is introduced into "The Slapcrash Boys" and "Our Boys Abroad". Many of these serials were of considerable length and how Burrage managed his editorial duties while writing "Dick Strongbow the Diamond King" and "Tom Tartar at Home and Abroad" is a mystery. His editorial column revealed considerable insight and knowledge of boyish character and his kindly and helpful advice proved invaluable to many on the threshold of manhood and is still treasured today. Of "Hardiboy James; or, Chums and Chappies", "Tom Terrybell the Leader of Langton School", "The Veiled Captain; or, the Hero of Eagle Craig", "The Bangwell Boys", "Jack of the Golden Belt" and a host of other grand yarns, many of us still have fond memories.

Burrage finished his writing career in control of the competition section of the Harmsworth papers and it must have given him considerable moral satisfaction to see so many of his stories reprinted in the "Boys' Realm" and other Harmsworth papers by the very man who mercilessly slated the alleged Penny Dreadful in his first editorial in No. I of the "Boys' Friend". From memory I recall that "Handsome Harry", "Tom Tartar", "Slapcrash Boys", "Jack Jaunty" and "Dick Stornaway" were amongst those reprinted. So much for the sanctimonious Hamilton Edwards.

There is a wealth of characterisation in the Burrage stories and all who knew them as boys and after will not readily forget the great Ching-Ching (eber de same, Chingy) and Eddard Cutton the old sufferer; Fontenoy Snicker the illiterate schoolmaster, Penny Bun and Bob Stockton the prince of politeness; Von Bunk the imperturbable Dutchman, Wooden Jerry (I can't answer questions on my wages), Dabber the fren' o' Nelsing, and a host of others.

We shall never see their like again.

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That Popular "Popular"

By Eric Fayne

In some ways, the Popular was the most remarkable periodical which ever appeared, mainly because, with few exceptions, the stories which it contained were re-prints of yarns which had previously appeared in other publications.

For well over twenty years it was "popular" with the young and the not-so-young, and, even though its circulation may never have been gigantic, it must have been a profitable enterprise for the Amalgamated Press.

THE PENNY POPULAR

It was on Friday, October 11th in the year 1912, that the "Penny Popular" first graced the bookstalls. It contained three stories, and one cannot but feel, at first sight, that they made curious bed-fellows. One can safely assume that the three stories were of the three most popular characters which the A.P. handled at that time, but these three characters must have appealed to three entirely different classes of readers.

Tom Merry of St. Jim's, Sexton Blake of Baker Street, and Pete, of Jack, Sam, and Pete fame. Tom Merry obviously appealed to the schoolboy; Sexton Blake would appeal more to youths in their later teens; I cannot determine at all to what class of reader Jack, Sam, and Pete appealed. I cannot think, however, that the Tom Merry fans found much to their liking in Sexton Blake, or that the detective enthusiasts cared much for the school stories.

Be that as it may, the policy was obviously successful, for the Penny Popular carried on in this style for several years.

For any reader who found that his taste included all three tales, - and I doubt if there were many, - the Penny Popular offered grand value for money. Printed throughout on green paper, it contained 32 pages, and as it carried very few illustrations or advertisements and was printed in neat, small, but easily readable type, it presented a wealth of reading matter.

In Number One was "Tom Merry - New Boy". Here we have clear proof that the "Gem" was a more popular paper than the "Magnet" in 1912. It is not surprising. In the Gem in 1912 Mr. Hamilton was writing some of the finest Tom Merry stories of his career, and the Magnet was ploughing along in the wake of the Gem.

In "Tom Merry - New Boy", Tom's form-master at Clavering was Mr. Quelch; the Captain of Clavering was Wingate; and Wingate's pal was the prefect, North. Mr. Hamilton often duplicated the names of his characters in those days, but one cannot but feel that they would have been suitable altered in "Tom Merry - New Boy" if the Greyfriars following had been particularly large.

Sometimes they used old illustrations, - often very dated, - in the Penny Popular, but Macdonald drew a new set of illustrations for the

Tom Merry stories. Though, in 1912, that fine artist had not been illustrating the Gem for many years, his work had become irrevocably associated with Tom Merry.

The first Penny Popular cover bore three pictures, - one from each story, - and this policy was followed for a considerable time. Editors were particularly conservative with their papers in those days, and it may have been the unchanging style of the papers which endeared them so to old readers.

"Tom Merry - New Boy" was a re-print of "Tom Merry's Schooldays" in No.3 of the Gem. The Jack, Sam, and Pete story, by S. Clarke Hook, was "Volcano Island", probably reprinted from the "Marvel". The Sexton Blake yarn was "The Case of the Treasure Hunters", and one assumes that this came from the "Union Jack". Perhaps Mr. Bond, that authority on Blake, can verify or refute this.

THE FIRST XMAS NUMBER

No.11 was something of a Christmas Number, though the only tale introducing the season was the Sexton Blake item, called "The Order of Release".

HARRY WHARTON ARRIVES

Unheralded and unannounced, a new serial started on page 30 of Number 18. This was "Harry Wharton's Schooldays". It was a serialised version of the first story in the Magnet. This ended in No.23, and Harry Wharton departed.

POPLETS

With No.31, a competition called "Poplets" started. Though the prizes were very small by present standards, this competition was apparently popular, for it ran, off and on, for a long time in the paper.

A CURIOUS COVER

No.34 carried its three-picture cover on the last page. On the front was a re-production of Answers 25th birthday Number, published on June 7th 1913.

WHERE IS HE NOW?

In No.36 was published the result of the 1st Poplets Competition. The winner of the first prize of 20/- was J.E.Jones, of 37 Stanwell Road, Penarth, near Cardiff. I wonder if he is still living, and what he thought of the Penny Popular.

NUMBER FIFTY

With No.50 the style and make-up of the Penny Popular had not changed in the smallest detail. There were still 32 green pages, with the three-picture cover. In this issue the Sexton Blake story "Hunter and Hunted Too" was placed first in the paper. The Tom Merry tale "The Bogus Eleven", came second, and third was "A Leap for Life", the Jack, Sam, and Pete tale.

XMAS 1913

This year, Christmas was not observed at all in this unique paper. Tom Merry, in fact, was away at sea, with St.Jim's afloat on the

S.S.Condor. Actually, this was a summer series, but they never bothered about seasons in those early Penny Populars.

COVER CHANGE

With No.71 came the first slight change in the Pop. The three-picture cover was dropped from now on. No.71 had a full-page illustration by Macdonald, showing Gussy working a diving apparatus, in his efforts to salvage the wrecked "Condor".

BETWEEN OURSELVES

In No.72, for the first time, the Editor had a chat column, under the heading "Between Ourselves". He drew, therein, attention to the cover innovation, and mentioned that Harry Lane had drawn that week's full-page illustration to the Sexton Blake story. From this time on, for some considerable time, Macdonald drew all the covers, alternating Tom Merry with Sexton Blake. No.99, however, had the reproduction of an old Gem illustration, drawn, I believe, by J.A.Cummings.

THE WAR

No.101, published September 11th 1914, had on the cover a picture of Sexton Blake face to face with the Kaiser. The story was "The Imperial Spy", which seemed up-to-the-minute, but was probably an old Blake story adapted.

And now the number of pages was reduced to 28, and the covers were frequently war pictures, drawn by our old friend Chapman. But, with No.114, the pages were increased to 32.

THREE YEARS OLD

No.156, October 1st 1915, bore the heading "Three years old to-day, - and still the best complete story book". It still had 32 pages, and the three complete stories. But the Editor, in "Between Ourselves", stated that his paper's circulation sometimes gave cause for "grave alarm". He commented "It is high time that our circulation leaped ahead." Which looked ominous for the existing policy.

With No.207, the number of pages dropped to 24. But Sexton Blake, Tom Merry, and Pete carried on until No.221.

CHANGE OF POLICY

With No.222, Greyfriars came into the picture. To celebrate the change, a Presentation Plate "The Chums of Greyfriars" was given away free. And it was Sexton Blake who fell by the way. No.222 contained "The Making of Harry Wharton", the first tale in the Magnet, and the one which had been serialised so casually in the Pop, three years before. In this issue was "With Pick and Lamp", a Pete story, and the Tom Merry tale was "Tom Merry's Cinema". And each story now carried the old and original illustrations.

With No.227, the number of pages was reduced to 20.

JIMMY JOINS UP

With No.236 it was announced that "On Friday next Jimmy Silver & Co of Rookwood will make their appearance in the Penny Popular". So, with No.236, Jack, Sam, & Pete said good-bye for ever to the Popular. Their final tale was entitled "Pete's Motor Bike".

No.237 bore the announcement on the cover "The All-School Story Paper!" For some unknown reason the Rookwood series did not begin with the first Jimmy Silver story, but with a rather feeble yarn called "The Rookwood Waxworks".

A STRANGE COVER

And so the Popular continued with St.Jim's, Greyfriars, and Rookwood. For several months the covers alternated with re-prints of old Gem and Magnet illustrations.

But the cover of No.267 was extremely unusual. It purported to illustrate the Rookwood story "The Terrible Thomas", and represented a bedraggled Smythe raising his topper to Dr. Chisholm. But that picture had appeared in "PLUCK" in 1906, illustrating an entirely different tale, long before Rookwood was thought of. Why it was used, eleven years later, to illustrate a tale in the Popular is a mystery.

CHRISTMAS 1917

No.269 was the first real Christmas Number of the Penny Popular, and the only Double Number in the history of the paper. The Pop was now printed on rather poor quality paper throughout, and the cover showed Billy Bunter gazing at a ghostly Christmas pudding. The issue consisted of 32 pages, cost 2d, and contained "Billy Bunter's Christmas Dream"; "Christmas at Cliveden", a story of Cliveden School, by Charles Hamilton; "The Ghost of St.Jim's", an old Gem Christmas story which shared with one other St.Jim's tale the distinction of being the story most often re-printed, and finally a Rookwood tale "Snowed Up". It was a tip-top Christmas Number.

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

With the following issue, No.271, the Pop was reduced to 16 pages, and the print was so small that eye-strain was inevitable.

In 286 it was announced that, owing to the paper shortage, the Penny Popular would be incorporated with "The Boys' Friend", but that when conditions improved, it would appear again. So, on March 29th 1918, five and a half years after its initial appearance, the Pop disappeared until happier days.

NEW SERIES

Less than a year later,-- on Friday, January 24th 1919, the "Penny Popular" was back on the stalls. In appearance and lay-out it was exactly the same as when it had temporarily retired. The name was still "Penny Popular", though the price was now 1½d. No.1, New Series, had a cover picture showing Bunter with his postal-order,-- an old Magnet illustration by Arthur Clarke. The pages numbered 16, and the print was still far too small. The opening yarns were "Billy Bunter's Postal-Order"; "The Rivals of Rookwood"; and "D'Arcy's Delusion:"

With Number 1 was given a "Magnificent Art Plate of Billy Bunter", by Chapmen. With No.2 came a free Art Plate of Gussy, by Macdonald.

THE SUBS TAKE OVER

One can assume that the resurrected Pop was not too successful, for in No.17, New Series, it was announced that from henceforth the paper would contain THREE ENTIRELY ORIGINAL Stories of the three

famous Schools. They did! And they proved to be completely feeble efforts from "sub" writers. A long and boring series of Greyfriars stories told of how the chums toured the counties playing cricket. With No.32 a character named Dennis Carr made his appearance at Greyfriars. He played the lead in these "Pop" Greyfriars stories for several months and he even became Captain of the Remove. By the time No.52 was reached, early in 1920, the "POP" had increased to 20 pages. Dennis Carr still led the chums of Greyfriars, but Tom Merry now left the paper, and he was replaced by a serial "Mick of the Movies". With two sub stories of Greyfriars and Rookwood respectively plus a serial, the "Pop" programme at this time would not seem to have been very attractive.

A CHANGE OF NAME

With No.84, New Series, the Penny dropped from the title, and the paper became "The Popular". By this time, the early adventure Rookwood stories had returned, but the new Greyfriars tales still continued, with Dennis Carr in the lead. This No.84 contained a new serial "The Sword of the Temples" by Edmund Burton; the Greyfriars story was "Dennis Carr's Compact"; a second serial was "The Exploits of Ferrers Locke, Detective" by Maurice Everard; a third serial "Fighting for Fame", being the life story of film star Eddie Polo; the Rookwood re-print was entitled "Tommy Dodd's Mistake". Altogether, not a very attractive bill of fare.

RETURN OF THE EARLY GREYFRIARS YARNS

No.101 contained "Christmas at Bunter Court", the last of the new Greyfriars stories featuring Dennis Carr. The old Greyfriars yarns were back in 102, the opening story being "The Head's Secret", the story which told of the finding of the Head's daughter, Rosie Locke.

BILLY BUNTER'S WEEKLY

With No.107, "Billy Bunter's Weekly" made its initial appearance. This new supplement was to run, off and on, for some years in the Popular. Though it really bore little resemblance to any genuine school magazine, Bunter's Weekly had a definite charm of its own, and it certainly made the Popular programme more attractive. Popular No.109 had a famous cover, taken from an early Magnet, showing Bob Cherry holding his red scarf over the railway signal to save a train from crashing into the car of Mr. Vernon Smith. By now, the Pop was assuming the form which was heralding the heyday of the paper. The mass of serials had been dropped and this issue contained "Saving the Head", an early Greyfriars yarn; "The Colonial Co in Trouble", an early Rookwood yarn; Billy Bunter's Weekly Supplement; a Ferrers Locke serial "A Marked Man"; and a gallery column of the main characters, this particular week's dealing with Jimmy Silver. The old Poplets competition returned, too.

CHRISTMAS 1921

The Christmas Number of that year found the Popular continuing with this policy. This issue contained a Christmas story of the Rookwood chums "The Traitor Guest"; "Coker's Short Reign", a re-issue of Coker as Captain of the School; the Grand Christmas Number of "Billy Bunter's Weekly"; an instalment of "The Invisible Raider", a Ferrers Lord serial by Sidney Drew, and the 47th edition of the new Poplets competition.

A BIG CHANGE

No.161, New Series, marked a new and prosperous phase in the life of the Popular. The paper was increased to 28 pages, and the price became 2d. For a number of weeks, free coloured art plates of Railway Engines were given away. Let us have a peep at the programme in this Popular No.161, in its new enlarged form. The Frank Richards' Schooldays at Cedar Creek stories now started, re-printed from "The Boys' Friend". For some reason the first story was omitted, and the Popular started with what was really the second story of the series, "Westward Bound". The Greyfriars story was "Vernon-Smith Declares War", the opening of the famous old series in which the Bounder caused all the Famous Five to be expelled, one after the other. Tom Merry was back, described as the most popular schoolboy in the world. The story was "The St.Jim's Auto-Suggesters", the first of a very poor series of St.Jim's tales by hack writers. These new St.Jim's tales compared very unfavourably with the excellent re-prints of the other two schools. "Billy Bunter's Weekly" still occupied the centre pages. "Holding the Fort" was the Rookwood story of an early rebellion at the famous school. There was a painting competition, in which readers were invited to paint Morningson's fancy waistcoat. The attractive new programme was completed by a new Sidney Drew serial "Gen Wags's Island". So, one imagines, the Pop carried on, with ever-increasing circulation. In No.179 appeared the world-famous old story "Bob Cherry's Barring Out", and the Pop carried the well-known picture from the old Magnet cover.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Number of 1922 had little, if any, Yuletide flavour. The programme was still re-prints of Greyfriars, Rookwood, and Cedar Creek, and a new hack-written St.Jim's story, plus Bunter's Weekly. The serial was now "The Rival Sportsmen" by Victor Nelson. None of the stories had a Christmas setting.

With No.207, and for several weeks after, glossy photographs of "Famous Sportsmen" were given away.

THE OLD-TIME SERIALS

For a long time, the Popular presented serials in old-time settings. The first of these, "Stand and Deliver" by David Goodwin, started with No.212. This was followed by "The Outlaw King" by Morton Pike, which commenced with No.223. After this came "The League of Seven", also by Morton Pike, starting in No.234. Then came "Morgan o' the Main" by J.R.Stenner, starting in 249.

THE GHOST STORY AGAIN

From No.161, when the "Tupenny" Popular had started until No.255 there was no change at all in the policy of the paper. But with No.256 the hack stories of St.Jim's had ended and the re-prints began again. The first one was no other than that famous Christmas yarn "The Ghost of St.Jim's" which had been re-printed before in the Popular Christmas No. of 1917. This time it was actually divided into three separate stories for three consecutive weeks. The titles were "The White Monk of St.Jim's", "Mr. Selby's Mysterious Guest" and "The St.Jim's Ghost Hunters".

CHRISTMAS 1923

Another Christmas Number found the Popular much more Christmassy. "The Night Rider" by Morton Pike was now the old-time serial.

The St. Jim's story was the one last named in the previous paragraph. Rookwood gave "The Phantom Abbot". Billy Bunter's Weekly was replete with snow, holly, and Christmas puddings. The Greyfriars tale was not seasonable. - "Down in the Depths", a Vernon-Smith yarn. The Cedar Creek tale, "Chunky, the Spoofer", was also out of season. Still, it was a first-rate Christmas issue, all told.

ANOTHER CHANGE

With No.271, the covers were attractively printed in blue instead of black ink, and for a considerable time the Popular was distinctive with its blue and white covers.

No.272 had an attractive picture on the front, drawn by Macdonald, to illustrate the re-printing of the famous St. Jim's tale of "The Mysterious X". This story which had occupied two issues of the Gem about 1912, was extended to three stories for the Popular.

AND SO ON

When the 300th number, new series, was reached, the magnificent programme was unchanged, and one can assume that the Pop was in its heyday. With No.305, a Hobby Supplement was introduced, and this appeared alternately now with Billy Bunter's Weekly, though it is probable that most readers preferred the Weekly.

CHRISTMAS 1924

Once again the Rookwood title was "The Phantom Abbot", though it was a different abbot this time. Abbots were well sprinkled over the Rookwood years, I fancy. "Coker's Infatuation" told of Coker in love. The Hobby Supplement was in the centre of the paper. "A Christmas Adventure" was the re-print of a hack-written Talbot tale. The Backwoods tale was "The Cedar Creek Treasure-hunt", and the old-time serial was now "Dick o' the Highway" by David Goodwin.

So 1924 passed on its way, with no change in the general programme of the paper, though the publishing day was now Tuesday instead of Friday.

In passing, the Rookwood story in No.360 was once more entitled "The Phantom Abbot" for the third year in succession. Somebody seemed to be lacking in imagination.

CHRISTMAS AGAIN

In No.361, the Christmas Number for 1925, good-bye was said to the Cedar Creek stories. As a Christmas Number, this issue wasn't! With No.362 a series of Robin Hood tales commenced. They were probably re-prints, though where they came from I cannot say. In 366 a David Goodwin story commenced its run, "The Schoolboy Mill-owners".

RED, WHITE, and BLUE

With the advent of the red, white, and blue cover, - and very attractive it was, - in No.391, yet another stepping-stone was reached in Popular history. This issue was published on July 24th 1926, and the first of a set of cut-out figures of cricketers was presented. The stories were "A Call for Help", the re-print of the first of those very far-fetched Levison-Dirk Power yarns; then came "Peter Todd's Peril"; the serial, under the name of cricketer Patsy Hendren, was "The Test Match Kid";

F. St. Mars gave a fine nature tale: "Lovell's Business Deal" was well up to the usual Rookwood standard; the Robin Hood yarn was "Sir Brian's Cartel"; and the programme was completed with an article on "Bowling". A fine summer number.

ROUND THE YULE-LOG

This was the title of the Editor's Chat in the Christmas Number for 1926. This heading was reminiscent of the old Dreadnought. Can you guess the title of the Rookwood tale in this issue? After "The Phantom Abbot" for three years running, they now gave us "The Phantom Prior". What a burst of originality! G.E.Rochester's serial "The Freak of St.Freda's" was now going strong. "Harry Wharton's Triumph" took place at the home of Kerr of St.Jim's; F. St.Mars' nature tale was "The Great White Terror", the story of a polar bear; "The House of Peril" was Eastwood House, with Wildrake in the lead; the Robin Hood yarn was "Norman against Saxon". I wonder who wrote these old-time masterpieces.

SEXTON BLAKE'S RETURN

Now, after a lapse of 12 years, Sexton Blake returned to the Popular, replacing the Robin Hood series. The first story "The Helderstone Pearls" appeared in No.434, and as Tinker did not appear in the series, they were, presumably, very old yarns. At this time, the very long series of Rookwood in the Wild West was going strong.

CHRISTMAS 1927

As usual, with the Popular, the Christmas Number was not particularly seasonable. The ghostly prior was once more in evidence in the Rookwood story, though the title this year was "Texas Lick's Ghost Hunt"; "Cardew, the Good Samaritan" had no Yule-tide flavour; Ferrers Locke and Jack Drake, re-printed from the Boys' Herald, had replaced Sexton Blake, and were "Dogged by Danger"; Billy Bunter was king of the Cannibals on the Congo, and a serial by Morton Pike, "Two Swords for Cromwell", completed this rather unseasonable fare.

THE RIO KID

And now, in No.469, a brand new character joined the Popular, - one of the few original attractions in the Pop's 20 odd years. The Rio Kid! This series, which ran for a long time, was specially written for the Popular, by Charles Hamilton, under his new pen-name Ralph Redway. Nothing better ever appeared in the Popular or in any other paper for that matter. The Rio Kid stories were grand. Completely convincing, geographically correct to the last detail, original in plot, and full of thrills, these Wild West tales had unforgettable charm. I hope, one day, to persuade the Editor of the C.D. to allow me to completely "cover" this superb character. For several years "The Rio Kid" rode the ranges in the good old Pop.

ST. FRANK'S

In No.489, the St.Frank's stories joined the Popular programme, replacing the Ferrers Locke stories.

CHRISTMAS 1928

The 1928 Christmas Number was moderately seasonable. "Lovell's Christmas Adventure" was the Rookwood offering. "The Downward Path" featured Rushden of St.Jim's, but it had no Christmas setting.

"The Rio Kid's Christmas" found the Kid in the snows of the Huecas, - a tip-top Christmas story. "Levison's Enemy" was the Greyfriars tale. "Saved by his Chum" was the St. Frank's adventure.

ST. FRANK'S DEPARTS

St. Frank's fell from the Popular stage in No. 542, and their place was taken by a series of tales of the Pacific, featuring the Four Adventurers, led by Dick Polruan. This series ran until No. 567.

CHRISTMAS 1929

The Christmas No. of 1929 was No. 568. It contained a one-week old-time tale entitled "Champion of the Arena"; "Lovell Gets that Christmas Feeling"; "The Greyfriars Cavalier"; the pick of the bunch was a delightful Rio Kid story "The Trail in the Snow"; and a St. Jim's tale "Catching a Tartar". With this story, St. Jim's dropped from the Popular picture for the last time.

FERRERS LOCKE AGAIN

In the next issue, Ferrers Locke was back in extra-long detective stories. Though he had, in support, Greyfriars, Rookwood, and the inimitable Rio Kid, the Popular seemed to have lost something with the departure of Tom Merry.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Though there were still many months of life before the Popular in April 1930, one sensed somehow that all was no longer well with the old paper. There was a lack of consistency in the programmes presented, the lay-out lacked its old charm, and even the illustrations lacked quality. It is my opinion that about this time the Popular passed under new editorship.

In No. 585 a series of Calcroft tales began, - an old series written long before by Sidney Drew. For a time these stories ran intermittently with the Rookwood tales. Comic strips were introduced, and an unfunny page by Willie Wangle, the Schoolboy Wizard. Even the editor became facetious in a page headed "A Chinwag with your Editor".

EXIT THE KID

With the departure of the Rio Kid in No. 587, the glory departed from Israel with a vengeance. With No. 588 a series of scouting stories of the Popolaki Patrol commenced, and, though these were early stories by Charles Hamilton, they failed to ring the bell in this less popular Popular.

THE KID'S RETURN

In No. 600, the Rio Kid was back in a further new series, probably as a result of popular demand. In that issue a motor-racing series by Alfred Edgar commenced. Bunter was there in that famous Bunter Court series. And lo, and behold, the old Cedar Creek series was re-started. Rookwood was on the bill, too. The editor was trying to revive the old paper, but it was a losing battle. In No. 612 the Rio Kid said good-bye to the Popular for the last time. (Years later, that grand character appeared in a series in the Modern Boy, though the stories were not of the same high quality as those which had appeared in the Popular).

CLOSING WEEKS

The Popular was dead, but for a few weeks it would not lie down. No.613 contained a hotch-potch of short stories, and only Rookwood remained of the bright programme of yester year.

The Greyfriars chums returned to support Rookwood with No.621, and a Greyfriars yarn called "Poor Old Mossos" ran as a serial for several consecutive weeks. Poor old Popular!

THE END

It was notsurprise when, in No.628, dated February 7th 1931, it was announced that the Popular was to be re-named the Ranger. It was obvious to everybody that the Pop was closing down and the Ranger was to take its place. Of the old favourites, only Greyfriars and Rookwood were with it at the finish. In its old age, the Popular was completely enfeebled, and few could have cared when it disappeared from the stalls. I wonder how many of the old supporters saw it through to the bitter end.

The most amazing thing in the Popular history was its rapid deterioration. In a few short months it changed from a popular periodical to a third-rate also-ran. It is sad to think that a paper which clearly had a wonderful history should have faded out. But we who remember the hey-day of the grand old Popular will always reserve for it one of the softest spots in our sentimental hearts.

THE CLAUDE DUVAL LIBRARY

Notes:- 48 issues only. (1st 4 Nos.
Charlton Lea probably wrote all the stories.

- 1, 4.10.1902. The Sword of Vengeance, or How Claude Duval and Prince Rupert became Friends.
- 2, " " " Strike for the King, or The Black Masked Cavalier.
- 3 " " " In the Track of Death, or Claude Duval's Fight for the Royal Standard.
- 4 " " " The Fall of the Axe, or Claude Duval takes to the King's Highway.
- 5, Sentenced to Death, or The Mystery of the Arched-Roof Dungeon.
- 6, The Armed Men of Alsatie, or Under the Young King's Banner.
- 7, The House of Mystery or The Story of a Hidden Treasure that Came to Light.
- 8, At the Point of the Sword, or Face to Face with Colonel Blood.
- 9, The Doom of a Spy, or The Fugitive of Bestwick Grange.
- 10, A Midnight Crime, or An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth.
- 11, In the Nick of Time, or In the Shadow of Death.
- 12, The Justice of Revenge, or Judge Jeffreys in a Trap.
- 13, Three Fighting Heroes, or Uneasy Lies the Head that Wears a Crown.
- 14 In the Midnight Hour, or The Victim of a Base Conspiracy.
- 15, A Ruthless Foe, or Claude Duval in the Toils of His Enemies.
- 16, Left to His Fate, or A fight Against Fearful Odds. 17, The Black Death, or A Story of the Plague. 18, Haunted Treasure, or How Claude Duval Braved Terrible Dangers. 19, Caught and Caged, or Claude Duval's Desperate Extremity. 20, Kidnapping a King, or Alsatie to the Rescue. 21, The Scarlet Shoe, or Claude Duval's Dive. 22, The Emerald Snake, or In Rochester's Grip. 23, The Weir of Death, or The Doom of the Wolf.

(Cont'd on p. 33.)

Arrivals at St. Jim's

By Leonard Packman

(With thanks to John Shaw to whom I am indebted for supplying much of the "key" data.)

(NOTE. In compiling the following, it is to be assumed that all the other Central Characters at St. Jim's were already at the school from the date of its inception. Characters who "arrived" at St. Jim's for but one or two issues of the Gem Library and were, therefore, not permanently resident at the school, are not included.)

<u>Character</u>	<u>Original No. & Title</u>	<u>Reprint No. & Title</u>
<u>Tom Merry</u>)	(1 st series) 11, Tom Merry at St. Jim's.	1224. Goodbye Clavering - Hullo St. Jim's.
<u>Harry Manners</u>)		
<u>Monty Lowther</u>)		
(The "Terrible Three", late of Clavering College, arrived together.)		
<u>Wally D'Arcy</u>	36, (new series) "D'Arcy Minor"	1287, "The Fighting Fag".
(Third-Former. Gets out of scrapes as quickly as he falls in them.)		
<u>Buck Finn</u>	51, "The Ragging of Buck Finn"	1302, "The Cowboy of St. Jim's."
(American. Arrogant at first but soon climbed down.)		
<u>Clifton Dane</u>	57, "The Feud of the Fourth"	Not reprinted.
(Canadian. Full of life and fun.)		
<u>Bernard Glyn.</u>	64, "The St. Jim's Inventor"	1309, "The Schoolboy Inventor"
(A Liverpool Lad and an inventive genius.)		
<u>Harry Noble</u>	69, "A Son of the Empire"	1312, "The Coming of Kangaroo"
(Australian. A splendid sportsman.)		
<u>Jerrold Lumley-Lumley</u>	129, "A Rank Outsider"	1367, "The Boy Who Couldn't Be Sacked"
(American. Once known as the "Outsider" but now completely reformed.)		
<u>Ernest Levison</u>	142, "The New Boy's Secret"	1386, "The Boy Who Came Back"
(Formerly at Greyfriars. A cad for many years but, thanks to the influence of Levison Minor and Talbot, now one of the very best.)		
<u>Joe Frayne</u>	154, "Tom Merry's Return to St. Jim's"	1351, "The Boy from the Underworld"
(Formerly a street arab. A simple and affectionate-natured Third-Former.)		
<u>Dick Redfern</u>)	211, "The New Firm at St. Jim's"	1405, "The New Firm of St. Jim's"
<u>Edgar Lawrence</u>)		
<u>Leslie Owen</u>)		
(Three scholarship boys. Popular New House characters.)		
<u>Koumi Rao</u>	297, "A Disgrace to His House"	1463, "The Boy from the East"
(Indian. A fine chess player. Would go through fire and water for G. Figgins.)		
<u>Harry Hammond</u>	304, "The Cockney Schoolboy"	1459, "A Cockney at St. Jim's."
(Shunned at first on account of his accent, but soon firmly established.)		

Micky Mulvaney 312, "Making Things Hum" 1496, "Micky Makes Things Hum"
 (Irish. Third-Former. Mischievous as a monkey.)

Reginald Talbot Originally arrived in 334 "The Toff" (1489 "The Coming of
 the Toff") and left in 337 "The Parting of the Ways" (1492 "The Toff at the
 Cross Roads). Returned permanently in 351 "The King's Pardon", reprinted as
 1515 "The Return of the Toff".
 (Formerly a cracksmen and now completely reformed. Great friend of Tom Merry
 and Nurse Marie Rivers.)

George A. Grundy 379, "Grundy of the Shell" 1533, "The Tough Guy of
 the Shell"
 (Late of Redcliffe School. Pugnacious but harmless.)

Giacomo Conterini 387, "Tom Merry & Co's Ally" Not reprinted.
 (Italian. Signalled his arrival by thrashing Buck Finn.)

Dick Julian 394, "The Jew of St. Jim's" 1542, "The Jew of St. Jim's"
 (Jewish. A splendid fellow in every way.)

Bagley Trimble 414, "The Bounder of St. Jim's" 1558, "Trimble the Twister"
 (Everything that is despicable.)

Reggie Manners 421, "Manners Minor" 1563, "The Ragging of Reggie".
 (Caused much trouble to his major, Harry Manners of the Shell.)

Aubrey Racke 440, "Moneybags Minor" 1570, "Moneybags Minor"
 (One of the shady set. A real cad.)

Sidney Clive 446, "Kildare's Enemy" 1572, "The Boy from South
 Africe"
 (South African. Great chum and study-mate of Cardew and Levison.)

Frank Levison 451, "Levison Minor" 1597, "Levison Minor"
 (A fine character who was largely instrumental in bringing about the
 reformation of his brother, Ernest Levison.)

Ralph Reckness Cardew 375, "Cardew of the Fourth" 1604, "A Cool Customer"
 (One of the finest examples of Martin Clifford's delineation of character.)

Dick Roylance 518, "Manners Vendetta" 1615, "The Boy from New
 Zealand"
 (New Zealander. On arrival had a feud with Harry Manners but now one of
 his best friends.)

Kit Wildrake 677, "The Boy from the Wild West" Not reprinted.
 (Featured quite a lot at one time.)

Victor Railton, M.A. 1st series No. 11. See above.
 Late Head of Clevering College. Now a Housemaster at St. Jim's.)

Nurse Marie Rivers 361, "The Call of the Past" 1548, "The Toff's Darkest Hour"
 (Daughter of a now reformed cracksmen. Originally sent to St. Jim's to
 assist her father in robbing the school. Thanks to Talbot, now completely
 reformed and a permanent nurse at the school. A great favourite.)

Ethel Cleveland 1st series No. 20 "Tom Merry's Day Out" 1232, "The St. Jim's
 Speed Cops"
 (Cousin of A.A. D'Arcy. In the original story her name was Ethel Maynard.
 The name was actually changed in New Series No. 2, "Miss Priscilla's Mission,"
 reprinted as 1258 "Priscilla the Peacemaker".)

Artists Who's Who

Compiled by Herbert Leckenby

Ever since we published the "Author's Who's Who" two years ago we have had requests for a similar one on the artists. We have been anxious to comply, but there have been difficulties. Editors seldom talked about the artists like they did about the authors. This seemed unfair, for the men of the pencil played no unimportant part in the success of the stories. Fancy the St. Jim's and Greyfriars stories if you had only had a mental picture of D'Arcy or Billy Bunter!

As a result of this iron curtain, information about the artists, especially personal details is very meagre. However, thanks to the valued help of several members of the clan, especially Harry Dowler, and Peard Sutherland of Vancouver, I have managed to compile what I think will prove quite a useful feature. I have also "cribbed" shamelessly from an article John Medcraft wrote for the S.P.C. No. 14.

As I could hardly draw a straight line when I was at school I did not feel qualified to criticise from a technical angle, but confined myself to an account of the artists' various activities. I think that is what the majority of our members really want. Some names have been omitted because although their work appeared regularly, there is nothing outstanding one can seize upon to say about them.

ABBEY, JOSEPH (Born 1889, in Amsterdam, Holland) -- The man who turned in a solo art job for TOM MERRY'S ANNUAL in 1949, and who illustrated the third of the new Tom Merry books, was brought to England from his native Holland at the age of three. He has done art work for the daily press, and has exhibited at the Royal Academy. During the later years of CHUMS he designed feature pages for that publication, as well as doing some of the story illustrations.

BENNETT, FRED (Born 1877, in London) -- Fred Bennett's boyhood ambition was to become a butcher. Instead he started working in a lawyer's office. He began drawing for a living in 1897. For a lengthy period he was on the art staff of the Amalgamated Press, and there were very few of that firm's numerous boys' publications in which his work did not appear at some time or other. He illustrated Captain Frank Shaw's first serial for CHUMS, "The Peril of the Motherland," in 1908, and was a regular contributor to CHUMS thereafter. He also drew extensively for The SCOUT, and was the official artist at the 1929 Boy Scouts' World Jamboree. His pictures were remarkable for the animation depicted -- the figures fairly flew through the air -- and in the exaggerated action of the humorous drawing, he was at his best.

BOWLES, W. M. (W.M.B.) -- Early work appeared in "Sons of Britannia, 1877. For over thirty years he illustrated for Fox's and other Victorian boys' papers, later on A.P. publications, Pearsons, etc. Did a lot of work for "Famous Crimes", signing himself "Cyclops".

BRAUN, FRITZ. Died about 1921 -- Educated Liverpool High School and School of Art in that city; later became a student at South Kensington School of Art. Did a good deal of work for the A.P., but is best remembered for his associations with the Hendersons's publications especially his covers for their Wild West Library.

BRISCOE, ERNEST EDWARD (Born 1882) -- Illustrator and water-colour painter. Exhibited R.I. and R.A. For years was busily employed on A.P. boys' papers. Seemed to be specially chosen for sports stories, football in particular. Must have done hundreds for the Boys' Realm alone. Also illustrated a few of the Gem St. Jim's stories, but there he seemed a poor substitute for R. J. Macdonald. In the opinion of many his best work was not in story illustrating at all, but a series of famous public schools he did for the Nelson Lee Library. These were superb.

BROOKES, Kenneth. -- For a long time he was the Nelson Lee St. Frank's artist. He also did a lot of work for the Gem and as in the case of Arthur Clarke C. H. Chapman in the Magnet, Brookes was evidently told to copy R. J. Macdonald. At first glance one cannot tell the difference. Like Eric Parker (mentioned later), he attended a meeting of the London Old Boys Book Club in June 1949.

BROWNE, GORDON (Born 1858, at Banstead, Surrey) -- Son of Hablot K. Browne (the celebrated "Phiz" of Dickens illustration fame), Gordon Browne was one of the most prolific illustrators of all time. His art covered a wide range, from juvenile fiction to the classics, from penny papers to the Royal Academy. As early as 1881, he drew the pictures for "The Fifth Form at St. Dominic's", Talbot Baines Reed's first school serial, in the BOY'S OWN PAPER. In the classical field, he illustrated such books as "Gulliver's Travels", "Tales from Shakespeare", and Irving's "Sketch Book". Admirers of G.A. Henty will recall that Gordon Browne illustrated many stories in Blackie's standard edition of that author's works. Browne contributed regularly to CHUM, the SCOUT and The B.O.P. He drew CHUMS' first cover in 1892 and was also represented in the final volume in 1941.

BROWNE, TOM (Born 1870 - Died 1910) -- Hailed from Nottingham. An artist who became famous in other spheres. Where we are concerned he had the distinction in creating Weary Willie and Tired Tim in Chips over 50 years ago, also Airy Alf and Bouncing Billy in "The Big Budget" in 1897. His name or initials can be found on pictures in the very first numbers of the 1/2d. Marvel and Union Jack. He was paid £14 weekly for his six pictures on the front page of "Chips", but after a few years they got on his nerves and he handed over to another artist. There have been many since, but none have had the art of the late Tom Browne.

CHAPMAN, CHARLES HENRY. (Born 1878) -- Started life as an architect. His first work on boys' papers was for Pearson's "Big Budget" about 1906. Four or five years later took over the Magnet illustrations when A. H. Clarke died. He was told to copy Clarke's style, and succeeded extremely well. He was connected with the paper right up to the last number. He was a great friend of Leonard Shields, his fellow Magnet artist. He is still hale and hearty, and a keen cyclist.

CLARKE, ARTHUR E. -- Just as Eric Parker became recognised as the ideal artist for Sexton Blake, so to me, and many others, Clarke was the man for a Maxwell Scott Nelson Lee serial. "Birds of Prey", "The Silver Dwarf", "The Great Unknown" seemed all the more interesting because of his help. Also illustrated the popular Cookey Scrubbs' stories in "Pluck". Was busily employed on stories for the A.P. and Pearson's from the mid 'nineties until about 1914.

Clarke, Arthur E. (Cont'd)

Perhaps best remembered for his illustrating of the early Greyfriars stories. Took over from Magnet No.40 and continued for about six years. It has been stated he died whilst actually at work on a Magnet drawing.

CUMMINGS, J. ABNEY -- One of the most prolific of the Amalgamated Press artists, and his name will always be linked with S. Clarke Hook's Jack, Sam and Pete stories in the "Marvel". He started to illustrate them in the early days of the 1d series in 1904 and continued without a break until 1919. On June 14th of that year No.803 of the paper gave a brief notice of his death. Another artist took the characters over, but they, especially Pete, never seemed the same again.

Cummings was also associated with many other of Clarke Hook's stories including the long forgotten "Five Comrades" and Tom, Dick and Harry series in Pluck.

DODSHON, GEORGE MONTIETH -- Born in London, Educated Kensington. Was illustrating A.P. papers in the 'nineties and for many years afterwards. He was particularly good with historical stories. "In the Service of the King", Boys' Friend 1901, and "The Black Galley", Boys' Realm, 1902, for example.

GATCOMBE, GEORGE --- illustrated a few stories for the early 1/2d. Union Jacks. He also wrote the stories. He worked on Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday too. He was most industrious, however, on papers for the fair sex like "The Girls' Friend", "Girls' Home", etc. He drew hundreds of pictures portraying silk-hatted frock-coated heroes far more handsome than modern film stars, slim waisted, long-skirted, unlipsticked heroines, and lean, pince-nezed, vinegary-looking schoolmistresses. Miss 1950 would shake with mirth if she saw some of those pre-1914 pictures, but it wouldn't be fair to blame Gatcombe.

HARDY, PAUL (Born 1862 near Bath) -- One of the real masters of pen-and-ink drawing, Paul Hardy was the son of David Hardy and the nephew of Heywood Hardy, both noted artists. His art career parallels that of Gordon Browne's in length, diversity and productivity. He illustrated both adult and juvenile books and periodicals. He contributed to The SCOUT, the BOYS' OWN PAPER and The CAPTAIN, but is best known for his brilliant work for CHUMS, particularly as illustrator of S. Walkey's famous pirate stories. The artist-author association of Hardy and Walkey continued for more than 40 years, a record of its kind. Paul Hardy illustrated CHUMS' first serial, by D. H. Parry (Morton Pike), in 1892, and his work also appeared in the final volume, 1941. He was an expert metal worker, and his achievements in this art -- as well as his paintings -- have been widely exhibited, both at home and abroad.

HOLMES, T. W. Born Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1872 -- Was student at Leeds School of Art. Moved to London in 1894. Appears to have commenced his career on boys' papers by doing comic drawings, for one or two appeared in Vol.2 of Chums in 1894. Did the front page for No.1 of the Boys' Friend in the following year. For thirty years afterwards he must have been one of the busiest of his kind, for his drawings not only appeared in numerous A.P. papers, but also in those of Newnes, Cassells and Pearsons.

HOLMES, FRED. -- Brother to the above, probably younger, for his work was not seen so early, neither was he so prolific. Their styles were similar, but Fred seemed to have a habit of making some of his characters appear six feet or more in height. Was another who worked both for Pearson's and what we usually call, for convenience, the Amalgamated Press. He signed his work too - with his full name.

JONES, ARTHUR. -- Best known for his work in the earlier Nelson Lee Libraries, and "The Thriller", especially the latter. Opinions as to his worth as an artist seem to be sharply divided. Some thought "The Thriller" was not the same without him; others considered his work mediocre. "Nemo" (who did the first two "C.D. Annuals" covers) says of him, for instance, "An artist whose flair for the eerie and sinister failed to hide a lamentable lack of preliminary grounding in the fundamentals of anatomy and perspective. Long before the advent of the 'spiv' attributed villainy to the possession of a long overcoat. The artist without a sense of humour."

KINSELLA, E.P. -- Among readers of boys' stories, E.P. Kinsella is best remembered as an illustrator of Boy Scout yarns, during the early years of the movement. He drew the pictures for E. LeBreton Martin's famous "Boys of the Otter Patrol", and also illustrated Robert Leighton's most popular story, "Kiddie of the Camp", which ran as a serial in The SCOUT in 1909. His best known picture, that of an advancing Scout, became virtually the trade-mark of The SCOUT periodical. It was the standard cover illustration of The SCOUT annual, and for many years it appeared in the top front-page design of the weekly.

LEWIS, H.M. -- According to photographs possessed a massive forehead. He was actively engaged for years on Aldine, Pearsons, and Harmsworth-A.P. papers. Another associated with Henry St. John's school stories. "Shunned by the School" and "The Pride of the School" come to mind. As inhabitants of public schools, his characters usually appeared rather untidy-looking specimens. Another who drew Sexton Blake and Tinker quite a lot.

MACDONALD, R.J. - Another whose work can be found in the pages of the 1d. Marvel and its companions, and, of course, he is still active on the illustrations for the Bunter books. Sketched several of the early Jack, Sam and Pete stories, and then for many years the Tom Sayers yarns in the 1d. Marvel. For more years still drew weekly Tom Merry & Co. in the "Gem". His work was interrupted whilst serving in Royal Naval Air Service during the First World War.

Made a handsome, boyish figure of Sexton Blake but more like a matinee idol than the accepted idea of a detective. Was criticised somewhat for his first pictures in the Bunter books, but it was probably because he had always been associated with slim, elegant D'Arcy of St. Jim's rather than the stout, untidy figure of Billy Bunter.

MILLAR, HAROLD ROBERT (Born 1869, at Thornhill, Dumfriesshire) -- This artist began studying as a civil engineer, but gave up that profession for the more congenial pursuit of art. While H.R. Millar specialised and gained a wide reputation in the illustration of fairy stories, he also drew the pictures for numerous adventure yarns in CHUMS.

MITCHELL, HUTTON. -- Had the distinction of being the very first artist to draw Billy Bunter, for he illustrated the Magnet stories from No.1 to No.39. Also the Gem halfpenny series from No.20 to the end, and the new series up to No.30. John Medcraft says of him in S.P.C. No.14, "Although Mitchell's drawings are almost devoid of background, he managed to present his characters in greater variety and individuality than many of his brother artists could contrive. Yet he was rarely used by the Amalgamated Press in later papers, and I can only recall seeing his work in a few issues of the "Gem" around No.150 and in the Boys' Journal in 1913."

PARKER, ERIC R. -- Scores of artists have drawn Sexton Blake, but none like Eric Parker. He was identified with Blake as surely as Sidney Paget with Sherlock Holmes, and of late years his only portrayer, and thousands of admirers of S.B. wouldn't have it otherwise. Was also responsible for the famous Bust.

His first commission was in 1915 - a series of comic postcards. He has drawn for the "Corner Magazine", "Strand" and others. In 1940 he did most of his work in air-raid shelters.

It will be remembered that in June 1949 he was the guest of the London Old Boys Book Club.

PEARSE, ALFRED (Born 1856) -- Four generations of artists comprised the ancestry of Alfred Pearse, son of J.S. Pearse who was a celebrated decorative artist. His reputation was established as a news artist for the PICTORIAL WORLD, but to readers of boys' stories he is best known for his extensive work for the BOY'S OWN PAPER. During his long span as contributor to that publication, he illustrated the yarns of such old-time stalwarts as Dr. Gordon Stables, G. Manville Fenn, David Ker and Talbot Baines Reed.

PROWSE, ROBERT. -- One of the most famous of the artists of Victorian and Edwardian days. His earliest work appeared in the 'sixties and continued until about 1910. Among present day veterans, he is best remembered for his work on the Aldine covers, Claude Duvals, Dick Turpins, Jack Sheppards, etc. are valued by collectors not only because of their stories, but also for their picturesque covers, mainly done by Prowse.

Prowse also worked occasionally for the Amalgamated Press, one of the serials he illustrated was the reprint of "Val the Boy Acrobat" in the Boys' Herald in 1909.

RELDING, VAL. -- Usually known just as "Val" and signed his works so. Had a long flowing moustache. In my opinion was best on historical yarns, made them look as picturesque as Robert Prowse on the Aldine covers. Good examples are "Guy of the Greenwood" (Boys' Friend); "The Longbows of England" (Boys' Herald) and "Through Traitor's Gate" (Big Budget). Also illustrated numerous school stories. He did the first few instalments of "The Seventh House of St. Basil's" at the start of the Boys' Herald, 1903. Then for some reason Fred Bennett took over. To me the story did not seem so good.

Still another who drew Sexton Blake - and Nelson Lee. In 1918 illustrated Sidney Drew's reprint Calcroft stories in the Marvel, after which he seemed to pass out.

REYNOLDS, JR., WARWICK (Born 1873, in London) -- The GEM illustrator who won international fame for his pictures of animals, Warwick Reynolds, Jr., came of a family of artists. His father was a well-known illustrator of an earlier period. In days prior to World War I, he drew for a number of A.P. periodicals, including PLUCK. His first St. Jim's drawings appeared in The GEM dated September 12, 1908, No. 31 (New Series), and he continued as GEM artist until No. 47. His work appeared periodically during the next few years, but his main career with The GEM was during the First World War years, 1916-19. With the exception of four issues, he illustrated all of the St. Jim's tales from 442 to 593. Among his most memorable work of that period was the series of portraits he drew for the "St. Jim's Gallery". He drew the cover and many of the inside illustrations for the original (1920) HOLIDAY ANNUAL. Thereafter he devoted himself mainly to fine art and to adult book and magazine illustration. He died in Glasgow in 1926. Although it is more than 30 years since Warwick Reynolds drew for The GEM, he still has a loyal and enthusiastic following among old-time readers.

SHIELDS, LEONARD. -- During a career of 40 years must have drawn tens of thousands of pictures for the Harmsworth-Amalgamated Press papers. Not only did his work appear in the boys' and girls' papers but also in Answers, Answers Library, Family Journal, and numerous others appealing to adults.

His earliest drawings appeared in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d PLUCK and MARVEL, crude stuff compared with later years. He had the distinction of being the first to draw D'Arcy, in fact, he illustrated all the St. Jim's stories in PLUCK, 1906, before the GEM was born. Was also the artist for the Wycliffe, Lyncroft, and several other school stories which ran in PLUCK at that period. Usually had the cover position and very attractive they looked.

Remembered with affection for his association with the Magnet, only C. H. Chapman drew Bunter more frequently.

Leonard Shields was the son of a chemist, and himself trained to be one at Sheffield University.

He died in January 1949, aged 72. His widow revealed that he had worked for the last two years of his life with hands crippled with rheumatism. He had no need to do so, for he left a handsome fortune, but he loved drawing, especially boys.

SOMERFIELD, THOMAS -- Born in the 70's, Thomas Somerfield was early in life apprenticed to a maker of surgical instruments. But the urge to draw was too great, and he began his artistic career on a provincial newspaper. As early as 1907, his drawings -- sometimes signed "T.S." and sometimes with the name printed in full -- began to appear in CHUMS, and in the late Nineteen-Thirties, his work was still prominent in that publication. Some of his finest pen-and-ink work appeared in The SCOUT in the years prior to World War I, when he illustrated the yarns of such authors as Victor R. Nendick, Stacey Blake and A.B. Cooper. He also contributed frequently to The CAPTAIN.

STUDDY, GEORGE E. -- Was in London Stock Exchange before becoming an artist. In partnership with H. R. Wilson was "Jenus" of the BIG BUDGET.

VALDA, J.H. (JOHN HARRIS) -- The son of an artist who several times painted the portrait of Edward VII. Drew for many papers from the early years of the century, especially those of the Amalgamated Press. In a Champion "Who's Who" (July 19th, 1924) he was dubbed the "Gruesome Artist" not because of his personal appearance, but because he had a preference for weird subjects, fearful monsters and dreadful dragons - things to make your flesh creep. He himself was a most cheerful person, grey-eyed, and a fresh countenance.

F. Addington Symonds, first editor of The CHAMPION, says of him, "Perhaps the most enthusiastic and loyal of all the artists who worked for The CHAMPION. He thought nothing of working far into the night. A delightful man socially, and most unassuming."

WAKEFIELD, G. W. One of the artists engaged on those fantastic stories which appeared in Fun and Fiction in the years just before World War I, stories like "His Convict Bride", "The Woman With the Black Heart". And twenty years later the "Bullseye" and "The Surprise". Whatever the merits of the stories, some of the ideas were so extraordinary that these papers are worth collecting for the pictures alone.

Wakefield illustrated the majority of the Rookwood stories, with their oh so cherubic looking boys, in the Boys' Friend.

I seem to remember he also drew for the pinked-paged "Photo Bits", a paper which was not for boys, and the characters not exactly cherubs.

"YORICK". -- Real name Ralph Hodgson, famous English poet, Born Darlington, 1871. Did a large number of comic drawings for the "Big Budget", and one or two other papers. Had a very eventful life. Never had a day's schooling, nor an hour's tuition in drawing.

THE CLAUDE DUVAL LIBRARY (Cont'd from p.24)

24, The Midnight Guest, or The Picture that Came to Live. 25, The Man in the Green Cloak, or The Ghost of the Living. 26, The Mirror of Fate, or In the Midst of His Enemies. 27, The Silver Skeleton, or The Treasure of Chillingworth Hall. 28, The Magic Ring, or The Triumph of Jeffreys and Rochester. 29, The Black Velvet Mask, or The Daring of Diana. 30, The Cardinal's Revenge, or Claude Duval Wins a Fortune. 31, The Headsman of Paris, or The Rout of the Tigers. 32, The Poisoned Gauntlets, or The Eye in the Rose. 33, In the Coiner's Den, or The Blind Witch of Stansgate. 34, The Queen of Old Drury, or The Mark of the Beast. 35, Bursting the Shackles, or Claude Duval's Escape from Slavery. 36, Caged in Steel, or Father Antonio's Vengeance. 37, The Panther's Claw, or The General of the Jesuits. 38, Prey of the Wolf, or Judge Jeffreys Baffled by Claude Duval. 39, Spider-Leg, or The King of the Beggars. 40, The Red Hand, or The Mystery of the Monastery. 41, The Man-Eater of Cor, or The Queen of the Red Hands. 42, The Labyrinth of Death, or In the Inquisition Dens. 43, The Silent Men in Black, or The Demon of the Inquisition. 44, A Million in Gold, or By Right of Sword. 45, Crushing a Viper, or Claude Duval's Double Victory. 46, A Laughing Hyene, or Claude Duval and the Wolf's Strange Foster-Brother. 47, A Hideous Vengeance, or Claude Duval's First Triumph over Jeffreys and Blood. 48, Every Inch a Rogue, or Claude Duval Seal's the Doom of the Jesuit General.

Down Gray's Inn Road

Home of Nelson Lee, Detective

By Thomas Strype

I have always been happy that Maxwell Scott placed his famous creation in Gray's Inn Road. And I have always wondered why. I'm afraid I shall never know. And yet there must have been a positive allure for Scott to have done so. Its central position, perhaps, for all parts of the Metropolis. Who knows?

The nicely-proportioned Baker Street, domain of Sexton Blake and Sherlock Holmes, is certainly not reflected in Gray's Inn Road. This strange array of uneven and higgledy-piggledy buildings is one of the main arteries from the City boundaries northwards. Bounded on the south by the Dickensian old houses of Holborn, and on the north by the termini of King's Cross and St. Pancras, it would be snubbed by many of artistic vein as one of London's ugly ducklings. About a mile in length, it is encircled by two vast colonies of Italians and Irish, the former predominating. Devoid of all semblance of symmetry, it yet presents a fascinating panorama, and is the haunt of Cockneydom.

The lovely old Gray's Inn, noted directly one enters from Holborn, makes an instant appeal. Its fine old hall (alas! sadly bombed, but now being reconstructed), and its enchanting lawns encompass some of the noblest plane trees in the British Isles. It is the one spot in this centre of bohemianism that seems to preserve its aristocracy. The other side of the road, I am afraid, is not so enchanting.

From Gray's Inn onwards this quaint mixture of the frivolous and hackneyed pursues its switchback contour all the way to King's Cross, its shops, offices, chambers, residences, restaurants, etc. etc., all different to each other. I myself cannot envisage a great main road of more irksome irregularity.

The fine buildings of the Royal Free Hospital, Kemsley House, the Telephone Exchange and many others give it a scattered dignity that is somewhat grotesque in comparison with the rest of it. Any student of topography would recognise instantly its departed glories. Its houses have harboured the great, also the man-in-the-street. Many of note, too, still reside here.

When one thinks of the exquisite architecture ennobling other parts of the Metropolis, and one looks at Gray's Inn Road, one may well pause. But this thing is sure - the old road, with its environs, is the commencement of a huge migration of newspaperland from the vastly overcrowded Fleet Street to itself. Several prominent dailies and weeklies have already settled there. And there are more to come.

Many and many romantic Utopias have been dreamed of within its shabby portals by philosophers of all grades. A few have lived to dazzle humanity for a spell, and have then fallen by the wayside. Highbrow and lowbrow have rubbed shoulders together here for generations, others also, I am sorry to say, who said anything but their prayers.

Its cruelly bombed side streets emphasize, unfortunately, the decaying sordidness only too well. Now, however, magnificent blocks of flats and other structures are filling these streets, some bordering on the stupendous.

But the road is our story, not its satellites. A terrible November night. The fog wreathes down enveloping everything in blackness. Gray's Inn Road is in its grip. Not quite, though. For a moment it lifts. Something is happening across the road. What?

Creeping out of the gloom, one behind the other, come that wonderful array of villains that have dogged Nelson Lee all his life. The Chief, the Squire, the Doctor, Professor Mark Rymer, and all the rest, here they are! Transfixed with terror, we stare aghast! Surely they are not coming our way? No. Thank God. As each comes within the aura of a street lamp it turns its face towards us. The horrible smirk it gives chills us to the bone. Then with a grinning leer, it vanishes into the darkness.

Merciful heavens, we were nearly in their grasp! What an escape! Thank God, once more we are safe.

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Apart from the witchery of the Inn, neither Gray's Inn Road nor its inhabitants could be accused of conceit. This masterpiece of how not to build is always bright, never repellent. Its main business in life is the safe conduct of traffic from south to north and vice versa - and it knows it. To those visiting it for the first time, note the arcadian nook of St. Andrew's Gardens, with its smart block of flats, next to the "Royal Free", as we term it here. A dainty bit of repose this, in the midst of mediocrity.

Or stand at the corner by Holborn Hall. Here lies the glamorous sparkle of the human kaleidoscope, and woe betide you if you don't watch your step while crossing. You'll pay for it, believe me.

Its pubs, too, typify its character, and in most of their bars of a night the curious can, if they wish, be entertained by many superb purveyors of volcanic expletives. These gentlemen's powers of narration never seem to become dimmed.

Yet withal, this lovable and homely ha'porth of allsorts offers a charm that many of its cultured brethren lack.

I, who have tramped its pavements for the last 27 years, night and morning, and have watched its changes since a boy for 50 years now, am still enamoured by the magic of Scott. Many a bitter winter's night or morning when the biting cold and choking fog have conspired to finish me, have I sheltered in the cosy doorways and inviting alcoves of Gray's Inn Road.

Sometimes, while wandering my way to the bus stop at Holborn on one of these bitter mornings at the hour of four or five, imagination runs rife. The scream of the newspaper vans stop; the sullen drone of the fish-lorries from King's Cross to Billingsgate is silent. I am alone in the dank fog. Suddenly a door near me opens. It shuts. A second later a lithe, lean figure emerges, turns up the collar of its coat, takes on glance towards me, then disappears slowly into the ghostly mist. I stand rooted to the spot! Is it possible -----?

Such is the home of Maxwell Scott's great detective.

The Bounder of Greyfriars

By Roger M. Jenkins

It is interesting to note that, when comparing the two schools Greyfriars and St. Jim's, whereas the characters at the Sussex school changed little through the thirty odd years of the Gem's existence, the characters at the former school, like their author, became more matured and mellowed with the course of time. A glance at the first and last copy of the Gem does not reveal any striking dissimilarity in the style of the reading matter or in the character of the boys featured therein, but a comparison of Magnet No. 1 with Magnet No. 1683 discloses a remarkable advance over both the mastery of the art of story-telling and the development of character of the Greyfriars juniors. And the development of character is seldom more arresting and engrossing than in the case of Herbert Tudor Vernon-Smith, the Bounder of Greyfriars.

It was in Magnet No. 119 dated 21/5/10 that Vernon-Smith arrived at Greyfriars, but it is rather a different Greyfriars to that to which the younger Magnet readers may be accustomed. The Bounder was drunk ("A little bosky" he explained to the horrified Mr. Quelch), but neither this nor his point-black refusal to get up the next morning would induce Dr. Locke to accede to the Remove Master's request that the unwelcome new boy be sent home. Mr. Quelch then handed in his resignation, but withdrew it upon learning that it was within Mr. Vernon-Smith's power to ruin the Head*. The new boy was evidently there to stay, and though the form made him apologise to Mr. Quelch the following week, it cannot but be supposed that the Remove Master did not enjoy the position any more than the Head.

We do not get the impression that the Bounder was at all an attractive character. The first description of him is that he was "a little taller," perhaps, than Wharton, but not nearly so well built or so well developed. His weedy frame showed that he indulged in little athletic exercise." But even here we are not led to believe that he was wholly unpleasant. In Magnet No. 121, for instance, he refused to go and buy cigarettes for Carne, though whether this was due to high moral principles or just to stubbornness is not made clear.

It was not long before Hazeldene fell under the influence of the Bounder, a situation which continued intermittently for the rest of the Magnet's career. In No. 122 it began with a visit to the Cross Keys and a champagne picnic, and ended in a fight between Wharton and Vernon-Smith. The following week Harry Wharton & Co. took Hazeldene off to Switzerland to get him away from the Bounder (and for some obscure reason they travel to Dover via London), but it was to no avail, for in Magnet No. 124 Smithy turned up and induced Hazeldene to gamble at the Kursaal. Unfortunately, Hazeldene gambled away not only his own but someone else's money, and then contemplated suicide. Colonel Wharton was able to put matters right, however, and everyone returned to England.

* FOOTNOTE - Compare the position of Dr. Holmes at St. Jim's and Mr. Lumley-Lumley.

The reason why the character of the early Vernon-Smith fails to ring the bell is that he does not attract our sympathy. He is hard, sullen, and utterly unscrupulous, without one redeeming feature, without one touch of humanity that would make him live. Nevertheless, most of the attributes of the later Bounder are present. Even in the beginning he was a dandy, but no fop. He could work hard when he chose, but unfortunately he only chose to do so through some ignoble motive. In Magnet No.180 when Mark Linley was in desperate straits and striving for the Founder's Scholarship, the Bounder set out to win it for himself, and nearly did so. Indeed, by mistake it was at first announced that he had won it, and after a nocturnal celebration he was found drunk again, whereupon there was a repeat performance of the events on his first day, only this time it is revealed that the Head was under Mr. Vernon-Smith's thumb because he had borrowed £1000 from him to search for his daughter when she was kidnapped. After much indecision, Dr. Locke decided that the Bounder must go, and his father had no hesitation in intimating that the doctor would not remain long in his present post. This rather melodramatic pair of stories ended in No.181 with Bob Cherry saving the Vernon-Smiths' car from a smash, and as a reward he demanded the cancellation of the IOU, upon which the Head allowed the Bounder to remain at the school.

The complete villainy of Vernon-Smith's early character by no means increases our sympathy towards the heroes of the piece; in fact, it tends to act in the reverse manner. But there is one way to avoid tedium in a situation where all the heroes are perfect and the villains outrageous, and that is to resort to Grand Guignol methods, to out-Herod Herod. In Magnets Nos.247 to 254 Charles Hamilton employed this technique admirably in a series which, although it does not feature the Bounder as a mature character, has nevertheless gone down into history as one of the more famous legends, and is probably the most striking series featuring Vernon-Smith in all the Magnet lore. The first three stories develop the antagonism between Smithy and the Famous Five, whilst the last five shew how he managed to get all of them expelled from Greyfriars. Nugent was embroiled through his minor, and was caught at the Cross Keys in No.250 where he expected to find Dicky with the Bounder. In No.251 Johnny Bull was told that he would be expelled if he were the aggressor in another fight; it was comparatively easy to get Bulstrode to taunt him into attacking him. The following week Mark Linley was removed by a fake telegram purporting to come from his parents. In No.253 Vernon-Smith was attacked by Diaz (one of his father's enemies), and laid the blame on Wharton who was expelled. Finally in No.254 - "Bob Cherry's Barring-Out" - Bob was expelled^{*} for punching the Bounder who was feigning illness, but he and Inky barricaded themselves in the Old Tower where they were soon joined by the rest of the Co. Diaz next attacked Mr.Vernon-Smith and boasted of his previous assault on his son. The Bounder's father mentioned this to the Head, who soon appreciated the true

^{*}FOOTNOTE - This may seem an ungenerous action on the Head's part in view of the fact that Cherry had saved him from disgrace in No.131, but it must be remembered that these early stories cannot be read as a whole like the later ones.

state of affairs. Dr. Locke was, however, unwilling to make Mr. Vernon-Smith the means of his own son's downfall, and accordingly the Bounder remained at Greyfriars while the Famous Five returned. So ended a memorable, and, when compared with contemporary stories, technically ingenious series.

As time went on, the Bounder ceased to be wholly unpleasant and became more likeable. But he was still very much of a lone wolf in the Remove, and although he had some regard for Wherton he had no real friend until Tom Redwing came along. Tom made his first appearance in Magnet No.517, when he saved Vernon-Smith from drowning. The following week he arrived at Greyfriars using the name of Clavering to enable the latter to join the Army. The Bounder helped him to keep up the deception, but eventually Redwing realised it was not honest, and after confessing to the Head, he left.

Smith's father, Mr. Samuel Vernon-Smith, was a new-rich financier, rather purse-proud, and did not altogether approve of Herbert's friendship with the son of a fisherman. Nevertheless, he was prevailed upon to found a Memorial Scholarship which Redwing won, and the Bounder's chum was thus enabled to return to Greyfriars.

Vernon-Smith was never troubled by a too careful regard for scruples. He believed that the end justified the means, and in this he often shocked Redwing. In Magnet No.553 the Bounder was engaged in the task of ejecting Skinner from Study No.4 to make room for Redwing. Skinner refused an offer of £5 to move out, whereupon the Bounder contrived to get Skinner to bet heavily on a race (on credit) and then bribed the bookie to dun him when the horse lost. Skinner was thus forced to accept the offer to move, but to Vernon-Smith's chagrin Redwing could not find it in his conscience to condone such an act by taking Skinner's place. The friendship was soon severed by a quarrel in which the Bounder accused his erstwhile chum of palling with him only because his father was a millionaire, and when Smithy was willing to bury the hatchet he found that Redwing was bitterly offended. The arrival of Mr. Vernon-Smith in No.555 and the ensuing reproaches for quarrelling made Redwing determine to give up the scholarship, but the breach was healed the next week when the Bounder gave out that his father was bankrupt. Redwing offered to resign the scholarship so that Smithy could enter for it, the rift in the lute was mended, and Mr. Vernon-Smith satisfied that his son's friend was genuine. This must have been a popular series, for the theme was repeated in Magnets Nos. 858 to 860.

Smithy had the doubtful asset of being able to tell lies without batting an eyelid. In No.613 he told Redwing that Mr. Quelch had rescinded his punishment of detention when in fact the Remove Master had done nothing of the kind, and when Skinner gave the game away and the Bounder was flogged he set about getting Skinner a flogging in return. It need not be added that this particular piece of villainy came to naught.

"There was more good than evil in Smithy, though the evil was there, and at time it was very prominent," remarked Charles Hamilton in Magnet No.997. This was the beginning of the Paul Dallas series which lasted for eight weeks. Mr. Vernon-Smith adopted the orphan son of a friend, and the Bounder took a dislike to him before he had even seen him. Vernon-Smith was soon at loggerheads with the rest of the form as a result of this un-reasoning feud, and Redwing finally renounced his scholarship and left

Greyfriars. These stories portray the Bounder as a character of unrelieved wickedness, and though they are well-conceived and at times highly dramatic, we can never find it in our hearts to sympathise with him.

No biography of Smithy would be complete without mention of Soemes, the ubiquitous villain of the piece. James Soemes made his first appearance in the South Seas series (Magnets Nos.1017-1025) as Mr.Vernon-Smith's valet, but his intention was to acquire Black Peter's Treasure for himself. He was outwitted (and, incidentally, Redwing's share of the treasure enabled him to return to Greyfriars as a fee-paying pupil),but he reappeared in the episodes of the Phantom of the Cave (Nos.1087-1089) and in the last complete series of all, the Eastcliffe Lodge one (Nos.1676-1680), though on this latter occasion he was working for his country and not for himself.

There can be no doubt that the Bounder was rapidly becoming more and more popular during the last decade of the Magnet's existence, and this popularity coincided with the marked change for the better in his nature. The most tangible thing one can point to in this respect is the acquisition of an air of badinage, the cultivation of an attitude of lofty superiority curiously reminiscent of Cardew. For instance, one notes that in Magnet No.1222 that the Bounder announced his sentence of expulsion in the Rag by condoling with the Remove on the loss of his future society. It might almost be said that Smithy had become sophisticated (though considering that he was sold into slavery a few weeks later whilst on holiday in Kenya, this word does seem a trifle inappropriate!)

Vernon Smith often asserted that it was not in his nature to help a lame dog over a stile. But he could be quixotic at time. For instance, in Magnet No.1256, when Wharton was in need of money and got Bob Cherry to auction his bike for him, Smithy bid £18 for it. Needless to say, Wharton refused to accept the money, stating that it was charity, and thus antagonised the Bounder who eventually wrested the Captaincy of the Junior Eleven from him for a while.

Like a few others of Mr. Hamilton's characters, Smithy had a "double", one Bertie Vernon who came to Greyfriars in 1939 (Magnets Nos.1631-1642). Whilst it is true that comparisons are odious, it is also true that few themes bear repetition, and the 1935 series about Wharton's "double" was so well-written that this latter series, though good, cannot stand in the same class. But the very fact that it was written at all is a proof, if such be needed, of the Bounder's popularity.

If we want to see the Bounder's character in all its multiform aspects however, we must turn to the Smedley series of 1934 (Magnets Nos.1360-1373) which is undoubtedly the finest set of stories Charles Hamilton ever wrote about him. It began with Vernon-Smith putting ink in the Head's topper when Dr.Locke was off to pay a call on the vicar. The following week Smithy was caught in the "Three Fishers",and was expelled. His father disowned him, but partially forgave him when Dr.Locke gave him a second chance. Mr.Quelch was ill at the time, and in his place came the Bounder's cousin under the pseudonym of Smedley, to whom the Vernon-Smith fortune would go were Smithy expelled. Needless to relate, the Bounder found it an effort to toe the line, and in Magnet No.1365 he went off with Ponsonby

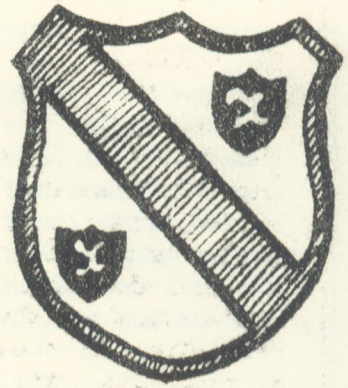
and Co. of Highcliff whilst Bunter went to Folkestone in the Bounder's name in expectation of a glorious holiday - only to find a tutor awaiting him! The holidays went on in France, and ended at Wharton Lodge with Bunter playing hilarious tricks on his fellow guest, Mr. Quelch, and Smedley shadowing Smithy like a hawk. This cat and mouse game continued throughout the following term, one of the most notable episodes being in Magnet No. 1371 entitled "The Bounder's Sacrifice" in which Monsieur Charpentier was prevailed upon not to report Smithy to the Head for playing a trick which would inevitably have resulted in his expulsion. The Bounder had sold his diamond pin for £40, but when he learned that the French master was in urgent need of this sum for one of his many nephews, he characteristically abandoned all thoughts of going on the spree, and made Monsieur Charpentier an anonymous gift of the money. It need hardly be added that Mr. Smedley was unable to achieve his nefarious object, and that Smithy was restored to his father's good graces.

The character of Vernon-Smith is unique in many ways. Although there are some points of resemblance between Cardew and himself he played a far greater part in the stories than did his St. Jim's equivalent. Indeed, there can be few Magnets of the last fifteen years whose pages he did not grace (or disgrace). Again, like Cardew he was popular in spite of his shortcomings, but he was not quite so flippant as Cardew and consequently interested the younger as well as the older readers. Charles Hamilton never really equalled elsewhere the development in characterisation and the completeness in plot construction that he achieved in the later Magnets. There is no doubt that some collectors, for sentimental reasons, may stoutly aver that St. Jim's or Rookwood is supreme, but these claims will not bear examination by the cold light of logic when it is realised that Charles Hamilton has written practically no stories about these two schools since the time when he reached the peak of his ability in the early thirties. Just as Shakespeare began by writing light comedies, went on in his middle period to tragedies, and finally ended up with plays of mellow tranquillity like the "Tempest", so might one trace a similar development in the works of Charles Hamilton. It is a pity that neither St. Jim's nor Rookwood survived until the "Tempest" period; but let us at least rejoice that Greyfriars did. And of the Greyfriars characters of the later period, let us freely admit that few had such dramatic potentiality and none the incalculable fascination of Herbert Vernon-Smith, the Bounder of Greyfriars.

THE RED ROVER LIBRARY

Notes: - Only 8 issues. Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive were dated 17.10.1903 and were written by Charlton Lea. Nos. 5 to 8 inclusive were dated December 1903 and were written by T. G. Dowling-Maitland.

- 1, The Vengeance of Blackbeard, or The Return of Don Salvo Quinada;
- 2, Blackbeard the Terror of the Seas, or The Cruise of the Avenger;
- 3, Marooned by Blackbeard the Pirate, or The Betrayal of Jack Skye;
- 4, Blackbeard's Terrible Triumph, or The Doom of Salvo Quinada;
- 5, Captain Kid's Press Gang; or The Pirate-Taker turns Buccaneer;
- 6, Captain Kid's Vendetta, or The Doom of Bonard the Buccaneer;
- 7, Captain Kid's Treasure Hunt, or Dick Rainham's Dash for Liberty;
- 8, Captain Kid Outwitted, or Homeward Bound at Last.



Robert H. Whiter
-50-

SMITHY!

Serial Items in "The Magnet"

Compiled by Leonard Peckman and J. Breeze Bentley

Nearly three-quarters of the Magnet numbers (1236 out of 1683) carried a serial story in addition to the Greyfriars yarn. In all, eighty-three serials appeared. Their average length was 15 instalments, but of four early stories, two ran to 50 parts, one to 45 parts and the fourth to 44 parts. At the other extreme, one story had only 5 sections, while six others had 6 parts. In the earlier years, the closing and opening chapters of successive serials frequently overlapped, and occasionally two serials ran concurrently, but in the later years each serial concluded before the next began.

The sequence of serials was interrupted on seven occasions, by far the biggest "gap" being one of 141 issues (numbers 673 - 813 inclusive) when the Greyfriars Herald supplement made its first appearance. The last serial ended at No.1483. The next number was stated to contain a "cover to cover" school story, but in fact contained the Greyfriars Herald supplement (No.198, second series), and the Herald continued to appear nearly every week until the end.

<u>RUN</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1- 23	Maxennis - Detective	Lewis Hockley	
21- 65	In the ranks	-	Life in the British Army
65-103	One of the ranks	-	Sequel to "In the ranks"
104-153	Stanley Dare, the boy detective	-	-
154-172	Wolves of the deep	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord, and Ching Lung
173-181	Lion against bear	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
182-207	Beyond the eternal ice	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
207-226	Through trackless Tibet	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
226-275	Twice round the globe	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
275-318	Mysteria	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
317-337	The blue orchid	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
338-370	The unconquerable	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
343-368	A world at stake	W.B.Home-Gall	war story
371-382	The star of the circus	-	-
383-394	Driven to sea	T. C. Bridges	-
395-407	The Prince of Altenburg	Anthony Thomas	-
408-418	The rubies of Sheba	Edwin Wooton	-
419-434	The golden key	T. C. Bridges	-
424-429	The pride of the ring	Mark Linley	Continued from the Greyfriars Herald when that paper ceased publication.
435-451	Adventurers four	Alec G. Pearson	
452-468	The Fourth Form at Franklingham	Richard Randolph	-
477-492	In a land of peril	Beverley Kent	-
535-549	The brown torrent	Sidney Drew	Ferrers Lord and Ching Lung
576-612	Goggs, Grammarian	Richard Randolph	Rylcolombe Grammar School
610-628	The miners' Champion	Percy Longhurst	Boxing
629-645	The secret of the silent city	Dagny Hayward	-

<u>Run</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
646 - 654	The silence	Edmund Burton	The yellow peril
655 - 659	By Nero's command	Victor Nelson	Story of a gladiator
660 - 672	Marcus the brave	Victor Nelson	Sequel to "By Nero's Command"
673 & 677	Billy Bunter's Weekly		
674 - 676)	The Greyfriars Herald (first series; appeared nearly every week)		
678 - 936)			
814 - 822		The brotherhood of the white feather	H. Scott
823 - 834	A marked man	"	" "
835 - 844	The yellow claw	"	" "
856 - 866	Sherwood gold	-	-
867 - 872	Four against the world	H. Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
883 - 892	The deputy detective	"	" "
893 - 901	The golden pyramid	"	" "
902 - 909	The sporting detective	-	" "
910 - 919	The veldt trail	"	" "
920 - 926	The phantom bat	"	" "
927 - 937	The mystery of Lone Manor	"	" "
938 - 947	The case of the Langsdale Wanderers	-	" "
948 - 959	The Phantom of the Dogger Bank	-	" "
960 - 969	Curlew Island	David Goodwin	-
970 - 980	The boy with the million pound secret	David Goodwin	-
980 - 991	The Mystery of Flying-V Ranch	H. Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
992-1007	The trail of adventure	Lionel Day	-
1007-1016	The curse of Lhasa	H. Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1017-1038	Gold for the getting	Stanton Hope	-
1039-1049	The bulldog breed	Geo.E.Rochester	-
1050-1062	The man of iron	Walter Edwards	-
1063-1074	The Lord of Lost Island	H.Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1075-1081	The toughest team in the league	"	" "
1082-1091	Wolves of the Spanish Main	Ernest McKeag	-
1092-1103	The black hawk	Geo.E.Rochester	Story of the Great War
1104-1113	Speedway pals	A.Carney Allan	-
1114-1121	The masked death	John Sylvester	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1122-1132	The shadow of the guillotine	Geo.E.Rochester	Story of the French Revolution
1133-1147	Peter Frazer - Ironmaster	John Brearley	-
1148-1160	For the glory of France	Geo.E.Rochester	Story of the Foreign Legion
1161-1168	The test-match hope	John Brearley	Cricket
1169-1682	The Greyfriars Herald	(second series; appeared nearly every week)	
1169-1182	The flying spy	Geo.E.Rochester	Story of the Great War

<u>Run</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1183-1196	Up the Rovers	John Brearley	Football
1197-1213	The island of slaves	Stanton Hope	-
1214-1219	Land of lost 'planes	Antony Ford	-
1220-1225	Bandits of the line	-	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1226-1235	Short stories about High, Low, and Nippy, "the puncher pals"	-	-
1236-1251	Oom the terrible	-	Oom the flying bandit
1252-1271	Wings of war	Hedley Scott	-
1272-1278	The island traders	Frank Richards	Story of the South Seas
1279-1296	The red falcon	Arthur Steffens	Highway robbery
1297-1317	Nobby the "shooting star"	Hedley Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1318-1337	Allison of Avonshire	John Brearley	cricket
1338-1343	Umzugaan the Mighty	Rowland Hunter	-
1344-1357	When the great apes came	Stuart Martin	-
1358-1375	The man behind the scenes	Hedley Scott	Ferrers Locke, Jack Drake
1376-1381	The black Hercules	Gordon Grey	-
1390-1407	Captain Grimson	Morton Pike	Highway robbery, smuggling
1408-1420	The sea spider	Geo.E.Rochester	Piracy
1421-1436	Moose call	Harrison Glyn	Adventures in Canada
1437-1444	The flying submarine	Geo.E.Rochester	The menace of Russia
1445-1460	Dan of the Dogger Bank	David Goodwin	North Sea fishing fleet
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"Union Jack" - Nos. 858, 868, 982, 1130, 1153, 1247, 1257, 1283, 1285, 1290.

"Magnet" - Nos. 1277, 1283, 1574, 1583, 1588, 1590, 1595.

"Football Association Year Book" - 1949-50.

"Athletic News Football Annual" - 1914-15, 1915-16, 1917-18.

Arsenal F.C. Official Handbook - any issues before 1930-31 excepting 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1917-18. PRICES WITH OFFERS TO:- Harry Homer, Yulden Farm, Heathfield, Sussex, or exchanges.

What Might Have Been

By P. A. Walker

The train I boarded at Temple Meads station in Bristol was far from full on that sunny April morning in the year 1950. Consequently I was able to choose my compartment with care. I found one empty towards the end of the train, and settled myself down with the morning paper and a cigarette for the two and a half hour journey to London.

In my pocket reposed the Magnet Christmas Number for 1917, so that, if opportunity arose, I should be able to regale myself on my journey with the adventures of Harry Wharton and Co. of Greyfriars School. The guard was about to wave his flag when the swift patter of running feet stopped suddenly outside the compartment door, and in tumbled two men and one woman, laughingly panting as they plumped themselves down on the seat opposite. The whistle blew, and the London express slid out of Temple Meads.

"Phew!" gasped one of the men, a pleasant dark man of probably fifty years, "that was a narrow squeak!"

"It certainly was," agreed the other man, a fair goodlooking fellow of similar age, "I really thought we should miss it, Merry."

"The station was further from the hotel than I imagined," said the other, pulling a newspaper from his pocket, and settling into the seat opposite me.

The three of them settled down and, as is customary in English railway carriages, silence reigned. We pulled into Bath, and left five minutes later, and I admired the lovely old buildings set in their fresh green background of hills.

"A gorgeous place, Bath," remarked the woman, who still retained her youthful beauty, although she was probably about the same age as the two men.

"It is indeed, Marjorie," replied the dark man, "I've always thought I'd like to live here."

"Oh, I don't know," she said, "you'd miss your beloved Surrey!"

"Ah, perhaps so," he said, "Surrey certainly takes some beating. Pretty close to Town, too."

"Give me Dorset," remarked the fair man, smiling.

"Oh, yes, I know you're a real countryman," laughed the other.

"Well, I certainly have been since old Bob sold me his place over twenty years ago."

"Is it really twenty years since you bought Bob Cherry's place, Frank?"

My ears cocked. That name was familiar. In fact, it was in print in an old boys' paper in my pocket. How unusual.

The conversation was continuing.

"Over twenty, Harry. Twenty-two to be precise. You remember Bob leaving the country when he went to Australia? It was then that I bought his place. Old Major Cherry died a couple of years before that."

"Bob is not in Australia now, is he?" asked the woman called Marjorie.

"Oh, no," said the man Harry. "He returned just before the outbreak of war in 1939, and is farming in Gloucester - really not so very far from these parts."

This was getting curiouser and curiouser. Bob Cherry, Harry, Frank, Marjorie!

What was this?

"Wharton, old man ---" commenced Frank.

Wharton!! Harry Wharton!!! I began to wonder if I was dreaming, but the train pulled up in Chippenham station, and I saw the hustle and bustle on the busy little platform, and then I looked very hard at the people in the compartment. Yes, the tall handsome dark man, greying at the temples - Harry Wharton.

The fresh fair pleasant smiling Frank Nugent. And the beautiful Marjorie Hazledene. Well, well, well!!

The train moved off from Chippenham.

"What time do we arrive at Wharton Lodge?" asked the woman called Marjorie.

"About two o'clock, we should arrive there," answered Harry.

I decided on action.

"I hope you will pardon me," I said, addressing the dark man, "but I couldn't help over-hearing some of your conversation. I am under the impression that your name is Harry Wharton. Please forgive me for asking, but I have a very real interest in that name, going back more years than I care to think about."

The man smiled.

"Yes, that certainly is my name," he said.

"My reason for asking," I replied, "is that for many years a schoolboy of that name was my boyhood hero, and for that matter still is!"

"Well, I was a schoolboy once," he smiled, "I went to Greyfriars Remove, and later into the Sixth there."

"Then you are Harry Wharton!"

"I certainly am, and this is my wife, and this gentleman is Mr. Frank Nugent."

I gasped.

"Well," I said. "I can't say how overwhelmingly glad I am to know you. I grew up with you and the rest of the Greyfriars fellows, and when I was a boy of twelve you were all my heroes."

"Yes, they were great days," said Wharton. "As you probably heard, we are going back to Wharton Lodge, my home in Surrey, after visiting an old friend of ours, and probably yours, too, old Wingate, who now farms in Somerset."

"How many years is it since you left Greyfriars?" I asked, now feeling decidedly overwhelmed, meeting these people whose very names have been before the public's eye for more than forty years.

"Oh, about thirty, I should think," answered Wharton, whilst Nugent nodded agreement, and Marjorie Hazledene smiled.

"Please tell me," I said, "something about the Greyfriars fellows."

"Well," said Wharton, "to kick off on a personal note, I went to Oxford, and on coming down, took a job in the Civil Service, married Marjorie, eventually went to Canada, returned to this country when old Colonel Wharton died, took over Wharton Lodge, and commenced farming in Surrey. We have two children, one at Greyfriars, and the other at Cliff House!"

Nugent took up the narrative.

"Smithy went overseas on work for the Foreign Office. He's had a most exciting career, and is still a big-wig in India or somewhere. He is now on leave in England. Skinner became a Fleet Street cartoonist, and is a confirmed teetotaler and non-smoker! Which reminds me, will you have a cigarette?"

"Boyhood resolutions gone by the board?" I asked, smiling.

Nugent grinned.

"Afraid so," he replied, handing round his cigarettes. "We started smoking when we were at Oxford, I expect."

"What happened to Bunter?" I asked.

"Old Bunter! I believe he followed in his father's footsteps. Afraid I haven't heard anything about him for years.

"Clara Trevelyan is headmistress at a girls' school in Yorkshire," said Marjorie, "and my brother whom you remember as Hazel is a representative for a firm in London. He travels all over the world."

"What happened, too, to Dr. Locke and Mr. Quelch and old Prout and the other masters?"

"Of course, Dr. Locke died at the ripe old age of 85," answered Wharton, "But Quelch is living in retirement in Oxfordshire, and Prout is somewhere in London. Lascelles is still at Greyfriars and is the Head."

"Surely," I said, "from all the Greyfriars boys at the school during your time, there must have been some who became quite famous. How is it I've never associated any of their names with well-known people in many walks of life?"

"Probably you haven't considered it until now," said Wharton. "But there's old Mauly in the House of Lords; Mark Linley a king of industry worth a million or so, up in Lancashire; Cutts, of the St. Jim's Fifth, a

Society fashion designer, owning places worth thousands; Hoskins, whom you may remember as a musician at Greyfriars is conductor of a broadcasting orchestra, but plays under an assumed name."

"One or two of the younger members of the school during our time earned fame during the war years," added Nugent. "Young Dicky, my brother, won decorations leading his company into action in Normandy in 1944. Also I understand that young Wally D'Arcy achieved fame in that direction. Of course, they are getting on a bit now. Dicky's 47!"

"You may be interested," I said, drawing a copy of the Collectors' Digest from my pocket, "in a little venture which has now been in existence this past three years or so - The Old Boys' Book Club."

I explained the whole business of the growth of our fascinating hobby to Mr. and Mrs. Wharton, and Frank Nugent, who were all intensely keen, and displayed the greatest interest and admiration for our editors, Herbert Leckenby and Maurice Bond, whom, they declared, had done a great service to many old boys. We continued to discuss the happenings of the years during the rest of the journey to London, and it was with the greatest regret that I watched them depart at Paddington Station, en route for Wharton Lodge in Surrey.

At that particular moment, Harry Wharton and his wife, turned and came back along the platform.

"It has just occurred to us," said Marjorie, "that next Saturday we are holding a small week-end party at the Lodge. Would you care to join us?"

"How very nice of you," I exclaimed, "I'd simply love it."

The matter was fixed up, and once more I bade them "au revoir".

That week seemed the longest I had ever known, but at long last Saturday dawned, and I made my way to Wharton Lodge in Surrey. I was greeted at the door by Wharton and Marjorie, after the butler had answered my ring.

"There are some old Greyfriars friends here today, said Wharton, "and one or two old St. Jim's men."

"This is grand," I said, "I never thought that I should one day meet my old boyhood friends."

Wharton laughed.

"Ah, here we are," he said, as we entered the beautiful old lounge hall, with its massive fireplace and ancient beams. A group of people were gathered there drinking cocktails, and we moved towards them.

"This," said Wharton, as he introduced a tall fair man with a fresh healthy complexion and laughing blue eyes, "is Tom Merry, late of St. Jim's."

We shook hands warmly.

"One of my boyhood heroes, sir," I said, and Merry laughed heartily.

"Used to read about us in the Gem, I suppose," he said.

"For years," I replied.

"Well, here are one or two more," laughed Wharton, "Remember old Figgy? Mr. George Figgins."

"George Figgins," I said, "Well - well - well!"

Yes, there he was, tall, athletic, rugged and bronzed.

"This is my wife," he said, and a tall, dark, graceful woman smiled in a friendly way.

"You may remember her as Cousin Ethel," said Figgins.

"I do indeed," I said warmly, "To me, at one time, you were part and parcel of the Gem."

"Remember Smithy?" asked Wharton. "Well, here he is!"

Yes, there he was! Smithy! The Bounder! Cool, calm, still slightly sardonic. Herbert Vernon-Smith! Beautifully dressed, slightly bald, age about 52.

We moved on.

"Tom Redwing," said Wharton, as he introduced me to a clear-eyed, bronzed, naval officer.

"You made the sea your career?" I asked, and Captain Redwing smiled.

"Yes," he said, "In the blood, you know."

"Ah," said Wharton, "Here's an old friend, Lord Mauleverer."

His lordship smiled cheerily, the same lazy grin I knew years and years ago. Perfectly groomed, Mauly surveyed the scene through those lazy blue eyes.

The last person to whom I was introduced presented a slight surprise to me, as, until Wharton mentioned his name, I couldn't link him with any Greyfriars or St. Jim's character of the old days.

"Valentine Mornington," said Wharton, "and that's the lot!"

Tall, slim, immaculate, old Morny shook hands. The general discussion had slipped round to the past, when these people with scores of other famous names had lived with us week by week in the pages of the Companion Papers.

"Later on today," said Wharton, "we are expecting some more old friends from Greyfriars and elsewhere. Naturally we have lost touch over the years with many of them, but it's really surprising how many of the old school men are still coming along on occasions such as this."

"Well, this is certainly a great day for me," I commented. "I little expected that when I boarded that train at Bristol the other day, I was kicking off on an adventurelike this."

Marjorie smiled.

"Bob Cherry's coming along later," she said. "In fact, he ought to be here any minute now."

"Grand!" exclaimed Mauly. "Haven't seen old Bob for years."

The door opened, and the butler announced - "Mr. Cherry."

Marjorie moved forward to greet the newcomer. Yes, there he was. Still good-looking. The same boyish face, with the fair hair a little thinner, and probably a little grey round the temples - but still the Bob Cherry I remembered years ago.

"So nice to see you. Bob," said Marjorie, "I think you know almost everybody."

And Bob went round, and there were cordial handshakes from everyone, myself included.

"I knew you years ago, Sir," I said. "When you were in the Greyfriars Remove."

"Ah, happy days," said Bob his bronzed face lighting up. "I'd give guids to be there again!"

"Some of the happiest days of my life, too, I assure you," I said. "Mr. Frank Richards' records of your schooldays will surely live for ever."

"Yes, a grand fellow," said Bob, "but to him I shall always be Bob Cherry of the Remove!"

"And you will be to me," I answered, and Bob smiled.

Further arrivals came in at this juncture, and I was soon being introduced to Mr. George Hobson, late of the Shell at Greyfriars School, Mr. George Francis Kerr, of the New House at St. Jim's, and a somewhat portly gentleman, who eventually turned out to be Mr. David Wynn, late of St. Jim's. Kerr later on revealed to me that he was a private detective working in London, whose skilled services were frequently prevailed upon by Scotland Yard, and old Fatty Wynn was a tenor of considerable reputation with a leading opera company, and a frequent broadcaster, whose name I had often seen, but never associated with the Fatty Wynn of the old days. Conversations were going on throughout the room, mainly recalling the happy times at Greyfriars, St. Jim's, and Rookwood. Two other newcomers arrived at this juncture, and I must confess that I could not immediately place them, although there did seem to be something vaguely familiar.

"Mr. Cecil Ponsonby, and Mr. Frank Courtenay," announced the butler. Pon!! Well, well, well!!

Tall, dark, good-looking, there stood the old leader of the smart set at Highcliffe! Apparently the ancient feuds with the Famous Five were things of the past, and the fact that Courtenay was with him suggested that he too was now a friend of Ponsonby.

"Hello, hello, hello! Old Pon!" boomed a cheery voice, and Bob Cherry and Pon shook hands warmly.

"How's the gee's?" asked Bob, and Pon smiled.

"Not too bad, Bob," answered Pon, and it turned out that Pon ran large racing stables in Berkshire.

Courtenay and Wharton were soon engaged in deep conversation, and it was obvious that their old friendship had never declined.

It was good, too, to see Figgy and Co. teamed up again, with a delighted Tom Merry talking over old times.

"I am sure," said Wharton, "you will all be most interested in the news that there exists quite a considerable group of people, mostly 'old boys', whose hobby in life appears to be the collection of old boys' books."

Once more I explained the purpose of the Collectors' Circle, the Old Boys' Book Club, the formation of the monthly 'Collectors' Digest', the 'Annual', the correspondence, and all the other delightful things connected with the hobby.

"I remember," said Smithy thoughtfully pulling at his pipe, "seeing something somewhere in a paper advertising an exhibition concerned with the Magnet or Gem or something."

I explained the Islington show, the hard work put into it by Mr. Leonard Packman and many others.

"These blokes," drawled Mauly, "do this for the fun of the thing?"

"Quite," I said, "It reminds them of the happy days of their boyhood."

"And they were, too," remarked Mornington, "despite my variances of opinion with Mr. James Silver and Co. from time to time!"

There was a laugh.

"And mine, too," grinned the Bounder, "with our respected host!"

"Ha! He! He!"

The whole thing was becoming like a page from the Magnet. The door would surely open soon, and a fat shining face surmounted by a pair of vast spectacles would insinuate itself into the room, and a fat voice would exclaim:-

"I say, you fellows --!"

You will probably say to yourself on reading this that this didn't really happen. The whole thing is sheer fantasy. An account of a dream. Well, you would be wrong.

Ask Herbert Leckenby!

THE INVENTION LIBRARY

Notes:- Published by Aldine Publishing Co. Third Series. 12 issues only.

1, Frank Reade on Government Service; 2, Frank Reade's Air Yacht; 3, Frank Reade in the Desert; 4, Frank Reade on the Polar Seas; 5, Frank Reade's Prairie Coach; 6, Frank Reade's Water Plane; 7, Frank Reade Among the Mormons; 8, Frank Reade's Naval Battle; 9, Frank Reade and the Outlaws; 10, Frank Reade in Siberia; 11, Frank Reade's Isle of Diamonds; 12, Frank Reade's New Submarine.

The Rise & Fall of the Boys' Friend

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. series Jan. 29, 1895-June 8, 1901 - 332 numbers:
1d. series, June 15, 1901-Dec. 31, 1927 - 1385 numbers.
Total: 1717

By Herbert Leckenby

With the last day of December, 1927, died also the "Boys' Friend". The dawn of a new year would find no "Green'Un" for the first time for 32 years. It was to some a melancholy event, the end of an era, not so much perhaps to those of the younger generation as to those of a more mature age who remembered it with kindly regard for the pleasure it gave them when it was king of boys' papers. It must be admitted that the youth of 1927 did not hold it in as high esteem as those who went to school in Diamond Jubilee year or the days when Edward the Seventh reigned. If it had been so it would not have passed into the shadows with the last hours of 1927.

True, it was stated with that final issue, No. 1385, second series, that it was to be incorporated with that "really live boys' weekly 'The Triumph'". But that was only a quibble, sheer anti-climax. The veteran, king for years, merged with a mere stripling. There was pathos in it, like a once vigorous, healthy man, now sick unto death, finding a home with a grandson for his few remaining days.

Far better if those responsible had said frankly, "This is the last issue of the 'Boys' Friend'. It has outlived its popularity, so it dies today."

If I appear sentimental about its passing, I have the excuse that I had known it since its humble halfpenny days and had not completely lost touch with it until the very end, though in its later years I bought it more for old times sake than for any interest in its stories. However, having given vent to those sighs, I had better get down to the story in its proper order.

The first number appeared January 29th, 1895, and it ran a month short of 33 years. It was a long life, and of papers relying mainly on serials only Brett's Boys of England lasted longer; and taking boys' weeklies of all types, only the Union Jack in addition. Even the Gem fell short by six weeks.

No. 1 was certainly good value for money, for it was a "double number", 16 pages, about 14 inches by 11, and the price only a halfpenny. The front page had the opening instalment of 'The Scapegrace of Swishall School' by Claude Heathcote. There were two other series, "Hal Daring, the Wonder King" by Captain Harry Anthonydyke, and "The Young Captain". This was written anonymously but there is reason to believe it was by Arthur S. Hardy. His name was found in this way. Towards the end of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series there was a serial, "The Outcasts". This too bore no author's name, but some time later, in the penny series, stories credited to Arthur S. Hardy also stated, author of "The Outcasts", etc.

There were numerous short stories and articles, and a curiosity was a large sketch of a benevolent-looking gentleman with a flowing moustache

and considerable beard, stated to be the editor. It was revealed later, however, that he relinquished the chair before the first issue was published, which must be something of a record. There's not much doubt Robert Hamilton Edwards, destined to become the most famous of all editors of boys' papers, was somewhere about, for the editorial chat was suspiciously like his style.

Another striking feature of that historic number one was headed:- "The Penny Dreadful and the Scoundrels who Write it." It ran to two columns. It was devastating, the writer had dipped his pen in vinegar with a vengeance. Here's a typical sentence or two.

"Let us picture the unfortunate, miserable wretches who pen the stories. As a rule they are drunken, soddened creatures whose lives have been one long unbroken story of failure. They write in the common kitchen of a cheap lodging house, or any place where a rickety table can be found, although the head of a beer cask is often sufficient. Any paper will do, the backs of old handbills, or the wrapping paper of tradesmen."

The paper got off to a good start on its declared mission of killing the penny dreadful. Alas! hard is the lot of the reformer. Quite often in the years to come the Boys' Friend itself was to be branded as a "penny dreadful". It was all nonsense, of course, but there it was. I well remember the fury of Hamilton Edwards early in the penny days of the paper over a case at Newcastle. A boy appeared in the police court charged with breaking into a safe. The "Boys' Friend" was found in his pocket, and the magistrate blamed it for his downfall. Hamilton Edwards raved about it in his editorial column, and was not content until he got the father to sign a statement that he had examined a copy of the Boys' Friend, considered it quite a good paper, and in no way responsible for his son's folly. However, to get back to the halfpenny days.

An artist whose work can be seen in the very early numbers was that of T. W. Holmes. He was to be kept busy on the Boys' Friend and many other papers for a great many years.

In No.22 started the first serial by Reginald Wray (W.B. Home-Gall). It was entitled "The Three R's". He, too, was to become a regular.

With No.42 came Henry St.John (Henry St.John Cooper, brother of Gladys Cooper). His serial was "The Days of Dashing Drake". Close on its heels came "A Middy of Nelson's Day" starting in No.64. For nearly 30 years he was one of the star turns. Hamilton Edwards boosted him as his best school wtory writer, but in my opinion he was at his best on adventure stories like the two above mentioned. Other yarns of his in the 1st.series were "Up For The King", "The Boys of St.Basil's", "Bob Redding's Schooldays" and "Bob Redding Afloat".

Other authors whose work can be found in the 1st. series were the prolific W. Murray Graydon, E. Heath-Hosken, with a grand yarn, "The Modern Pirate", and C. J. Mansford. And one well known to members of our circle, the late R. A. H. Goodyear, had a story accepted when he was only 16. Hamilton Edwards satisfied himself of his youthful contributor's age by asking the police of the town where Mr. Goodyear then lived.

With the advent of the Boer War, the Boys' Friend, in a spasm of patriotic fervour, was printed on a yellow sort of paper to represent

khaki, but this was soon dropped. For a time, too, a double number appeared every other week with numerous articles and pictures on the conflict. Reginald Wray also wrote a serial, "When Britons Face the Foe".

Speaking of war stories, one must not forget that prior to this, Hamilton Edwards himself had written two. They were of the "imaginary war" type; in the first, "Britain in Arms", France was the enemy; the second, "The Russian Foe", speaks for itself. They were crude, to put it mildly, the melodramatic being laid on with a shovel. Nevertheless, "Britain in Arms" gained notice in E. S. Turner's "Boys Will Be Boys", for in it there was a description of the invasion of France with a germ of an idea somewhat similar to the Normandy landing forty years later.

Hamilton Edwards wrote at least three other serials for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series, but, truth to tell, he was a better editor than an author.

One other author who should be mentioned in connection with the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series was Sidney Drew (Edgar Joyce Murray). His first story of Ferrers Lord, Ching Lung & Co., "Wolves of the Deep", appeared therein to be followed by "Lion Against Bear". He remained a great favourite for many years, and his stories are much sought after to-day.

The last of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series, No. 332, appeared June 8th, 1901. During its run of over six years it had gained a leading place among boys' weeklies. As a penny paper it was destined to become king of them all.

The Second Series

Though nearly 50 years have passed, I can still remember the thrill I got as I gazed at the front page of No. 1 of the 1d. Boys' Friend, on a morning in June, 1901. Even if I had never had a copy in my possession since I should still be able to see that exciting railway scene drawn by the inimitable hand of Arthur Clarke for the first instalment of Maxwell Scott's Nelson Lee story, "Birds of Prey". Though several stories of the detective who was to become a close rival in popularity to Sexton Blake had appeared in various papers, including the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Boys' Friend, this was the first serial, and though Maxwell Scott wrote many fine ones in later years, he never wrote a better.

Another serial was "Through Thick and Thin" by Allen Blair. This was his first serial. He was destined to be writing them for years. After two or three instalments the title of this story was changed to "The Boys of Repley College" because one called "Through Thick and Thin" had been published in book form. Four other serials were carried on from the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series. There was a long complete story, "The Boy Jockey", by A. S. Hardy, the editor's page, and a half page "History of the Boys' Friend". Altogether, jolly good fare. R. Hamilton Edwards' name appeared on the front page as editor, but this was dropped with No. 5.

Apart from the fact that the coming of such a paper was quite an event in the life of a boy in the first year of the 20th century, I have additional reasons to remember that No. 1, and perhaps the telling of it will not be out of place.

In that June of 1901 I happened to be away from school, as a younger brother, bless him, had contracted measles, so I was packed off to an

uncle's farm in South Yorkshire for a week or so. Uncle Bob was a burly, genial soul, a typical man of the land, but staying there, too, was Uncle Will, and he was a strait-laced sort of bloke though the younger of the two. One day my two uncles, a cousin, and myself set off in a trap (or some vehicle pulled by a horse) to a market town some six miles away. Arriving there, my uncles went off to the market, and my cousin and I explored the town. I made a bee-line for the first newsagent's, for I had been impatiently awaiting the coming of the new Boys' Friend. To my delight I secured a copy, also one of "True Blue". On rejoining the uncles I tucked the papers away, but on the homeward journey I could not resist bringing them to light again. Suddenly Uncle Will, seated in front, turned round and said "What have you got there? Let's see." He took them from my hand, glanced through them, and then to my fury and dismay, tore them across and across and flung the pieces over the side of the trap. "You mustn't read that sort of trash," he said. "I know your father wouldn't allow it." I turned and looked back with a gulp to see the green remnants of the Boys' Friend mingling with the multi-coloured cover of True Blue fluttering along that country lane. For the rest of the journey I sat scowling at the back of my uncle's neck. If looks could have killed, Uncle Will would never have got back to the farm alive. There was silence except for the clip clip clopperty-clop of the horses' hooves. Later in the day, Uncle Will pulled me up in the garden. "How much did you spend on those wretched papers?" he asked. "Tuppence" I mumbled. He put his hand in his pocket, then handed over that sum. "Well, there you are," he said, "and for goodness sake spend it on something more sensible." I grunted something, then put the coins in my left hand trousers pocket.

A few days later my holiday ended. Back in my home town again, the nearest newsagents to the station was my objective. Hanging in the window was Boys' Friend No.2. I dived inside and found to my delight that they still had a copy of No.1. I still had a copper or two in my normal pocket, but maliciously my hand went down into my left hand one, withdrew Uncle Will's twopence, exchanged it for the two papers, and set off for home light-heartedly and wearing a wicked grin. Well, I was just an average boy, and to have a copy of a brand new paper torn to shreds was a heart-breaking experience for one in the days when a copper coin was wealth.

From that day on for many years the Boys' Friend reigned supreme. Serial followed serial, invariably four appeared at once, the make-up changing little. Quixotic as he may have been, there's no doubt Hamilton Edwards was a shrewd business man. For one thing, he believed in boosting his authors for all he was worth. A new serial starting in three weeks time was to be "by clever Henry St. John"; "a great new Nelson Lee story by famous Maxwell Scott is coming" was splashed all over the pages. It was a policy which paid. Boys had their favourites and devoured all the information they could about them. How different the papers which remain to-day where the author's name, if it appears at all, is just a line of type.

Another praiseworthy feature of the Boys' Friend was the concise "summary of preceding chapters". This enabled a new reader to pick up the threads of a serial quite easily. This was something that had been lacking in most of the earlier papers concentrating on serials. E.J. Brett's

journals, for instance, seldom, if ever, did it. Great events, too, especially in the early days of the 1d. "Green'Un" were the double numbers, for they consisted of 28 pages enclosed in a gorgeous coloured cover. How we used to look forward to them, we who were boys in the century's first decade, especially the Christmas one. What glorious fare it offered to be read over a cosy fire when the nights were long. After a while, however, the covers were dropped. No.184 was the first double number to appear without one. It had 32 pages, but later they had only 28, which didn't seem quite fair.

Years later, in 1915, four numbers in succession had coloured covers, but they were not double numbers. In January 1916 appeared the 21st Anniversary Number, also with cover in colours, and again at Christmas of the same year. Then they were seen no more.

Returning to the early days one must note No.105, for in it started the first serial by David Goodwin (real name Sidney Gowing); he was to be kept busy for many years to come. Opinions differ, but in mine he was the first of all the authors under Hamilton Edwards' banner. This first story was entitled "The Boy Barge-owners". When I first saw it announced I was not impressed, but I soon changed my mind, for it was full of thrills from start to finish. Followed stories of all types, school, historical, mill life, and of the modern navy. Two of the latter, "Middies of the Fearless" and "The Fool of the Navy" were superb, unsurpassed in any boy's paper. He was a past-master in getting his heroes into a desperate situation at the end of an instalment; and out of it, plausibly, in the next. Words flowed smoothly from his pen, and he was not guilty of clichés. David Goodwin had another pen-name - John Tregellis. Under this he is chiefly remembered for a number of remarkable "war with Germany" stories. The first of these, "Britain Invaded" appeared in 1906, and it had two sequels, "Britain at Bay" and "Britain's Revenge". Combined, these stories ran just two years and they were vividly illustrated by "Val".

The opening scenes of "Britain Invaded" described the inspection of a school cadet corps by Field Marshall Lord Roberts, who at the time was warning the country of the peril to come. It is interesting to note that the school was called - Greyfriars, but nothing to do with the one which still lives to-day. Suddenly the German Fleet appeared and the war was on. The heroes of the story, Sam and Stephen Villiers, boldly defied the invaders, and did considerable damage with a lone Maxim gun. No airplanes darkened the sky in that story, for though the Wright brothers had succeeded in getting a heavier than air machine off the ground for a few seconds a year or two earlier, Bleriot had yet to fly the channel. In 1912, however, three years after it had been said Britain was no longer an island, came two more serials from John Tregellis' pen. "Kaiser or King" and "The Flying Armada", and the latter story did foretell with a certain amount of true prophesy what England was to experience a few years later. Still another story on the same lines by the same writer, "The Legions of the Kaiser", was actually running when the First Great War broke out. It had a sequel, "Under the Allies' Flag".

Yarns of this type had a great vogue in the first decade of the century. Lord Northcliffe didn't believe in doing things by half - and two others

which appeared in the Boys' Friend were "Rule Britannia" by Reginald Wray, and "The Peril to Come" which though it appeared anonymously was written by Sidney Drew.

"In the Service of the King", a sea yarn of Nelson's days, was one of the best Henry St. John ever wrote. He also contributed one school story after another. For some peculiar reason, "Kingswell College" was announced as being by a "brilliant new author" - Gordon Holme. Why, was best known to Hamilton Edwards, for one could recognise Henry St. John after the first few paragraphs.

I have it on the best of authority that sometime in 1909 Arthur C. Marshall took over the editorial chair, and continued to occupy it for about three years. There is an interesting circumstance about this, for Mr. Marshall as Arthur Brooke had been Hamilton Edwards' formidable rival when he was editor of Pearson's papers "The Big Budget" and "The Boys' Leader". Though never as well known as the astute Hamilton Edwards, Arthur Mortimer was a lovable, kindly soul, and his name is still revered by men grown grey. About the same time came C. Malcolm Hincks who had also been with Pearsons. As Malcolm Dayle, he wrote some splendid serials for the "Boys' Friend", including "The Odds Against Him" and "On the Up Road."

At what time Hamilton Edwards actually severed his connection with the Amalgamated Press is uncertain, but when he did so it is said he took a considerable fortune with him. He later became quite a public figure. He went in for the "Sport of Kings", and also with a partner took over the Dublin "Freeman's Journal". During the troublous days of the 1920 Irish Rebellion he had to appear before a military court charged with statements likely to cause disaffection. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment. This caused great resentment in England, questions were asked in Parliament, and within a few days he was released. All of which would seem a far cry from occupying the editorial chair of a boys' paper.

He later settled down for a time in Paris, and died suddenly in London in June 1932.

Early in 1915 Herbert Allan Hinton took charge of the Boys' Friend. Up to that time under its various editors it had changed very little - the same type of story and in appearance almost identical with No. 1, new series. But it seemed evident it was not so popular as it once had been. Anyway, Hinton made great changes, most of the old authors were dropped, and with No. 715, February 20th, the first Rookwood story by a, then, mysterious Owen Conquest, appeared. These stories were destined to run for eleven years without a break. Despite the fact that Rookwood was often linked up with Greyfriars and St. Jim's, very few readers, if any, were aware that Owen Conquest was actually Frank Richards, or Martin Clifford, or Charles Hamilton. Many years passed before the truth was revealed. We have got used to it, now, but it caused a gasp of amazement at the time.

Undoubtedly the Rookwood stories revived, to some extent at least, the fortunes of the paper, despite the ravages of war, increase in price, and reduction in size. In support were two authors who wrote one story

after the other - Duncan Storm and Maurice Everard. Duncan Storm created the boys of the "Bombay Castle". They appeared in several stories, and are sought after to-day occasionally, but to an old-timer neither Duncan Storm nor Maurice Everard were in the same street as Maxwell Scott, Henry St. John and the others who had made the "Green'Un" the most successful boys' paper in the land. All the one time popular artists, Val, T.W. Holmes, H. M. Lewis, and many more also disappeared from its pages. Some may have been dead, or retired, but certainly not all. Hinton, of a truth, had different ideas to his predecessors.

Towards the end of 1921 Hinton Left the A.P. to start a rival paper, "School and Sport", the first number of which appeared in December of that year.

Hinton met with a tragic end, for he was killed whilst getting out of a train at Weybridge, on New Years' Day, 1945.

Harking back a little, on January 21st, 1920, appeared the 25th Birthday Number. Included was a "new" serial - "Rodney Stone" by Arthur Conan Doyle, a story of the old prize-fighting days. It was doubtless a good yarn, for it was popular when first published, but a veteran who had read the "Boys of St. Basil's" in the 1st series, muttered to himself, "Reprints in the Boys' Friend! What this, the red light?" For years serials in the "Green'Un" had been re-published again and again in other papers, but never before had the Boys' Friend itself had a reprint, except maybe one of its own complete stories. And a little later, some of P.G. Wodehouse's yarns which had run in "The Captain" also appeared. Good stories again, nevertheless, it was evident the Boys' Friend was running into stormy waters. Still, it struggled on.

By 1926 Duncan Storm and Maurice Everard had gone the way of Henry St. John and Sidney Drew before them. The Rookwood stories, too, came to an end, and strange new names appeared - James Gordon, Russell Mallinson, Dane Grey, Gerald M. Bowman, Alfred Edger, John Lance. Another generation! Some of them became quite popular in later years in other places, but to this old-timer they meant nothing compared with the magic names of the century's first decade. Vain longings, of course, for time must take its toll, except for lucky Magnetites who could pick up their favourite paper on any day through thirty years, and find the world virtually unchanged.

Came more reprints, but not from the "classics", instead from papers in the same stable - the last straw. They included "His Convict Father", which as "Daddy", or "The Convict Earl" had appeared in the "Jester" in 1913; "The School Bell" from "Chips", and the Cookey Scrubbs stories originally in "Pluck" in 1905, and later in the "Wonder". All grand stories these, well worth reprinting, but ah, me! how strange and pathetic to find them in the Boys' Friend.

And so, as I said at the beginning, on the last day of December, 1927, died the Boys' Friend at the age of 32. It had had a goodly life, and was well named, for it had brought cheer to millions of boys, and is remembered with affection still. In that final number one of the stories, "Stick It, Cowboy Ken" by Rupert Hall, was announced "to be continued in that really live boys' paper, "The Triumph"."

An Amazing Pair

Some Reflections on the "Gem" and "Magnet"

By Herbert Leckenby

Never in the whole history of boys' journalism, or any other journalism for that matter, has there been anything to compare with the "Gem" and the "Magnet". A few other boys' papers have had a longer run, but they changed materially in contents through the years, whereas the "Magnet" remained the same from first to last, and the "Gem" just failed to claim the same distinction.

The only papers which could challenge were the "Union Jack" and the Nelson Lee Library, but St. Frank's career in the latter was much shorter, and Sexton Blake only settled down in the U.J. when it had been in existence several years.

The history of what I justly call the amazing pair makes a story so fascinating that a whole book could be devoted to it. I am one of those fortunate enough to have known them from the very beginning, and throughout the 30 odd years I never completely lost touch with them down to the time they disappeared from the bookstalls. Though dead for a decade (or shall we say, hopefully, in a state of coma), the interest in them is astounding, and it tends to increase as time goes on. It is a fact that about 80% of those who will read this Annual worship at the throne of Hamiltonia; therefore I think it will not be out of place if I set down some of the story as I know it, a little of it "from inside", in the hope that it will add to the knowledge of particularly the younger members of the clan who cannot remember the early days, and who have had no opportunity of reading what has been told from time to time.

One thing which always intrigued me in the long ago was - "Who writes the stories?" I was fairly confident that Martin Clifford was really Charles Hamilton for the reason that I had read the St. Jim's stories in "Pluck" which appeared under his name and it seemed a safe bet to say the same master hand was at work when the stories took residence in the "Gem". But I was frankly puzzled about Frank Richards. Even though the two schools were often linked, I hesitated to think Martin Clifford and Frank Richards were one and the same, for the very simple reason that I could not credit that one man could turn out stories for both papers regularly, week after week. Furthermore, the question was often asked by curious readers and flatly denied by the editor of the day that they were one and the same.

Then some 30 years ago, editor H. A. Hinton wrote his "Personal Recollections" in the Gem. He told therein how he came to meet one by one Martin Clifford, Frank Richards, and also Owen Conquest. He gave vivid descriptions of each individual, and told how he came to engage them to write the stories which had made them famous. Well, that seemed to be that; it was straight from the horse's mouth. The trusting, loyal reader could hardly say "Ooh! What a fibber!" so the mystery still remained, "Who is Frank Richards?" and for that matter, "Who is Owen Conquest?"

Revelations!

The years passed on, the papers died, and then about eight years ago, like a bolt from the blue, came the truth, and the truth was far more astonishing than dreamt by any of us who were interested. I remember at the time I was corresponding with friend Bill Gander on the subject when along came a letter from that historian of the amazing pair - John Shaw. I read the letter and whistled in astonishment, for it told me that some paragraphs had appeared in the London Evening Standard revealing that Martin Clifford's real name was Charles Hamilton; not only that, for Charles Hamilton was also Frank Richards - and Owen Conquest, Ralph Redway, Hilda Richards, and one or two others. Fie! Fie! Herbert Hinton, for that fanciful fiction.

When I put that letter down I regretted I could not grab the 'phone and get through to Bill Gander. Anyway, I did the next best thing and wrote him by air-mail.

Well, the result of that revelation in the "Standard" was that letters began to flow into Charles Hamilton's home in shoals; they came from all over the world, and they have continued to come ever since. Other newspapers and periodicals were not slow to see its news value, so much so that in the years which have followed the Magnet and Gem have had more publicity than all the rest of boys' journals ever published put together.

Needless to say, I was one of those who wrote to Frank Richards; I'll call him by his favourite one to simplify matters. I recall my delight when I got his reply. I am fortunate enough to have had many since. One of the first things I mentioned to him was my doubt that Martin Clifford and Frank Richards could be one and the same because I could not credit one man writing the two stories each week. Maybe the man who was also Owen Conquest, Ralph Redway and a few other people, smiled when he read that. Anyway, in his reply he said he never got stuck with his plots and it simply depended upon the speed with which he could tap out the words on his typewriter.

He also told me that when he went over from the Magnet to the Gem he was Martin Clifford and not Frank Richards, he was at St. Jim's not Greyfriars. One can quite see this, for Harry Wharton was not simply a carbon copy of Tom Merry. Tom was sunny-tempered and easy to get on with; Harry Wharton had more faults, stubborn and sometimes unreasonable. Bunter, leading humorous character of one, and D'Arcy of the other were, of course, as the poles apart. Neither had Mr. Railton his opposite number among the regular masters at Greyfriars.

Another question I raised in the early days of our acquaintance was the Peter Pannism of the characters. He said the question was discussed when it became apparent the stories looked like settling down to a long run, and it was decided the boys should not advance from Remove or Shell to Fifth Form, or that Doctors Locke and Holmes, venerable gentlemen at the very beginning, should ever reach an age when they would pass into well-earned retirement. Thus it came about that there sprang up in the counties of Sussex and Kent magic stretches of territory

where time stood still, yet, paradoxically, kept pace with the world outside. Well, perhaps it's not quite true to say time stood still, for football season followed cricket; the schools closed down and their inhabitants stole away for the Christmas vacation. Then, instead of tearing off the last page of the calendar like ordinary mortals do, those in use at Greyfriars and St. Jim's bore no year and were turned back to January again.

I seem to remember that Monty Lowther once said in the long, long ago that they would soon be in the Fifth, but it was not to be. The decision to play tricks with time was bound to lead to anomalies, and inevitable repetition of plots, but it was contended that the readers' age would be ever changing, that ordinary boys who did grow older would read the stories for a few years, and then make way for their younger brothers. Probably it was never contemplated that there were boys who would go on reading them into manhood and even middle age. But in any event, that wouldn't matter, they were evidently satisfied with the state of affairs, or they would not have gone on reading them.

Flight of Fancy

But has it ever occurred to you what the stories might have been like if it had been decided to let the boys grow up? I have thought of the possibilities often, and believe me, it's intriguing. Some years ago, in the "Story Paper Collector", I suggested some of the things that might have happened, but lots of new chums have joined the clan since then, so there's no harm in having another go.

For a start, in the stories as they were the captains of the schools never changed, except, on occasions, temporarily. Well, I remember in Jack North's Wycliffe stories a very moving description of the day when Raleigh, beloved captain of that school, was bid farewell, and Rawson reigned in his stead. Cannot you picture Frank Richards dealing with a similar situation when Wingate's time came to leave the world of school? And, as the years passed on, would the stories have been any less interesting with Harry Wharton in the study which once belonged to Wingate, with a Jack Carless, captain of the Remove, and a Gilbert Carter-Browne causing Mr. Quelch as much trouble as Vernon Smith once had done?

And, oh yes, when the First Great War had come, what might we have found? Maybe a story, "Major D'Arcy of the Guards" with a glimpse of the lovable Gussy in the trenches, monocled and debonaire as ever, never turning a hair in the face of danger, and worshipped by his men. Later, in a story, "Speech Day at St. Jim's", with Captain Tom Merry, D.S.O. there along with Lieut. Lowther of the Royal Flying Corps, and Sub-Lieut. Menners of the King's Navee. And kindly Dr. Holmes telling how two old boys, Cutts and Lumley-Lumley had made the supreme sacrifice. Yes, that would have been a stirring yarn.

Another Speech Day at Greyfriars, when peace had come, with the Old Boys versus the School; Colonel Harry Wharton scoring a century as of old, and "Inky" taking six for twenty-five.

Other stories are conjured up in my thoughts. One say in 1925,

"George Kerr, Detective, and the School House Mystery". Another with Peter Todd, K.C., defending a master of Greyfriars charged with murder. One more where William Wibley, celebrated West End actor, brings his company to the school. Millionaire Herbert Vernon-Smith taking some of the juniors to the South Seas in his yacht, Rose of England, and the famous inventor and explorer, Bernard Glyn, off on a trip to Africa with some of the Shell of St. Jim's in his giant 'plane "King of the Skies". Sound tempting, don't they?

But, ah yes, I can guess some of you would be thinking, "What about Bunter? Where would Greyfriars have been when he had passed through the Sixth (if one could imagine him there) and on to his father's office to become a dud clerk?" But I hadn't forgotten Bunter, oh no. Sammy was already there when he had struggled into the Remove; brother Tommy would have arrived from home into the Second, followed later at intervals by Freddy, Teddy, Dicky and Bobby. Just fancy a story in the later years. "The Seven Bunters", the occasion a Sports Day at Greyfriars. What a chance for C. H. Chapman on the cover, showing Billy, fatter than ever, and all the other Bunters gathered around the festive board.

Then, when the school had got rid of all the Bunter brothers, there might have been round about 1932 a story "Billy Bunter Junior", that is if you could imagine any girl having married the Bunter we knew.

Well, there I think I will stay my flight of fancy. The subject provides a real topic for discussion; there would have been more scope for plots, yet I can imagine the majority of you saying, "Hands off our Peter Pans!" And, well maybe I should agree with you. And now to get back to things as they really were.

Those Substitute Writers.

A few years ago a controversy raged "down under" in the official organ of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. It concerned - the Magnet. It started off by someone declaring, as though he knew something, that the stories were written by a syndicate and that where Frank Richards was concerned - well, there was no such person. The challenge was taken up by others who said there certainly was, and that he had written all the stories. Well, as is well known now, both sides were wrong, but he who talked of a syndicate was less right than those who proclaimed an ever present Frank Richards. For by no stretch of imagination could it ever be said there was a regiment of writers in the same sense as the Sexton Blake stories. However, the alert Bill Gander entered the fray, and put the matter in its right perspective and later a facsimile of a letter from Frank Richards himself clinched it.

Well, that happened in far off Australia, and it is proof of the great interest which is taken in the subject. In last year's Annual we had something to say about the substitute authors, and since I have had numerous letters and verbal requests for more information. Well, if the whole inside story could be told it would make absorbing reading indeed. For obvious reasons that cannot be, but some tit-bits have been gleaned which there's no harm in recording. For instance, when

did the question first arise? I'll tell you. It came about way back in the early days of the Gem when, in the words of Frank Richards, "Martin Clifford was laid up with a severe cold". In consequence, he was for once late in delivering a story. The editor coolly produced the manuscript of a St.Jim's story which Frank Richards had never seen before. The editor said it had been written by someone else, that they had foreseen such a situation arising, and therefore they proposed to use the story written by another hand. Perhaps something could be said for the editor's point of view. There might come a day when Frank Richards was laid up with pneumonie or some other serious illness, and just as in stageland the show must go on, so in journalism the paper must "go to bed" whatever happens. The editor of the time admitted the "emergency" story was not up to standard, and had no scruples in asking Frank Richards to "polish" it up a bit. Frank Richards, though naturally being a little perturbed, good-naturedly agreed to do so, being as he said, "an easy-going sort of fellow" in those days. That first substitute story, by the way, was written by Ernest Brindle who had done a few stories for "Pluck" and other papers, but who was better known as a Daily Mail war correspondent.

Well, that was that. Later, for reasons best known to the powers that be themselves, substitute stories appeared in the Gem and Magnet fairly frequently. Some were pathetic, bull in a china shop like efforts, written by obscure individuals who would certainly never have earned a living writing school stories, and the less said about them the better. But there were others who had deservedly gained a reputation in that art. H. Clarke Hook, son of the author of Jack, Sam and Pete stories, was one, and as stated in the Annual last year, J. N. Pentelow and Edwy Searles Brooks were two others. Yet first class as they were in their own particular spheres, they were not too happy when "adopting" Greyfriars and St.Jim's. There's nothing surprising in that. To turn to cricket for an illustration, a successful left-arm spin bowler can hardly be expected to suddenly try and imitate a Larwood and get wickets. So in like fashion, the authors I've mentioned. Pentelow's style was quite different; he couldn't change it for the life of him; it was more leisurely than the real Frank Richards' and he loved to pause and sermonise. On the other hand, E. S. Brooks' speed was jet-propelled, and he told me during a chat with him, that he did not feel too happy when acting as "locum tenens". Thus those somewhat different St.Jim's and Greyfriars stories.

Writing of these "substitutes" reminds one of the occasion when that provocative critic, the late George Orwell, went astray. He wrote a book "Inside the Whale", a section of which dealt with boys' weeklies, mainly the Magnet and Gem. He contended that, given the data, any Tom, Dick or Harry could write the stories. Moreover, he alleged the stories created class snobbery, and that religion was never mentioned. Well, we know how far he went astray when he said anyone could write the stories. As for snobbery, what nonsense. Thousands of school stories have been written, and inevitably they concern what are usually termed public schools. I can only recall one with what used to be known as a council, or board school setting, and that was "The School Bell" in "Chips". As for religion, with all respect to the memory of George Orwell, one cannot think it was a subject which worried him much. Anyway, this section of Orwell's book,

or that part of it dealing with the Gem and the Magnet, was republished in a highbrow monthly, "Horizon", now deceased. Frank Richards was invited to reply to it. He accepted with alacrity, and the critic met his match; there's no shadow of doubt about that. In reply to Orwell's gibe about religion, the man we know retorted that a story intended to entertain was not the place for such a sacred subject. Frank Richards could have produced proof, too, if he had wished, that though he never attempted to preach, his stories had done as much good in the world as many a sermon.

Harking back to the substitute stories the powers that be might have thought that their youthful readers would not detect the difference. Whether that was so or not, it is pretty safe to say that a frequency of these stories brought a decided slump in circulation, and something had to be done. In the case of the Gem the step was a drastic one, for they started reprinting the stories from the very beginning. This policy started with No.1221 and continued until 1624. It is significant that during this run of nearly eight years, only about a score were "substitute" stories. With No.1625 original stories started again, and from then on to the end the creator of the characters had the field to himself.

In the case of the Magnet the writer of No.1220, "Speedway Coker", was the last understudy to receive payment for a story and from then until that fatal day in 1940, the real Frank Richards had a new story to tell every week. A triumph indeed.

It seems something of a paradox that many of the most famous of the genuine "Greyfriars" stories were those in which the school was hardly mentioned - the vacation stories, of course, went off to distant lands. Anyone reading these could have sworn that Frank Richards had been a world traveller, and knew intimately the countries he described so vividly. You could visualise the rolling prairie, the sunlit isle in a Southern Sea, the density of jungles, or the lights along the Great White Way. Yet I am sure I am correct in saying that although Frank Richards had done a good deal of travelling in Europe, he had never been further afield. That fact makes those popular stories all the more remarkable.

How many of you, I wonder, knew of that exciting adventure Frank Richards himself once experienced. It happened just as the lights were going out over Europe when the Kaiser struck in 1914. Our author was travelling in Austria and was detained. He thought he might as well be doing something useful, so settled down at his typewriter to tap out a Magnet story. The sentry, who probably had never heard of Bunter stood at the door with fixed bayonet, eyeing him suspiciously. Presently Frank Richards went across to one of his travelling cases. Instantly the sentry was across the room, with the bayonet point an inch from his prisoner's chest, possibly thinking he was about to produce a revolver. He gaped foolishly when Frank Richards held up - a paper clip. Just fancy what a difference it would have made to some of your lives if the Magnet had ended its career somewhere in the three hundreds instead of at 1683! However, after a day or two, he was able to proceed home and finished the story in more congenial surroundings.

The Artists.

A review of these two extraordinary papers would not be complete without something about the artists, for they played no small part. In the early days of the Gem, there were several, including Hutton Mitchell, "Val" Reading and H. M. Lewis. Occasionally more than one contributed to the same story. It is amusing to note that in those far off days Hutton Mitchell used to portray Mr. Railton with a beard. It was just as well it disappeared before the Kaiser War came, for he would have had to shave it off, or else join the navy instead of the army. By that time, however, R. J. Macdonald had been the Gem artist for some years. He joined the Royal Naval Air Service, and Warwick Reynolds filled the breach. As old readers of the C.D. will remember, this artist has caused some controversy. Some consider he was mediocre; others, the majority probably, that he was brilliant, and in a class superior to the usual weekly paper artist.

However, the war over, R. J. Macdonald returned, and others whose work was seen occasionally were E. E. Briscoe and C. H. Blake. Later Kenneth Brooke illustrated quite a lot of stories, and it required close examination to distinguish between him and Macdonald.

As for the Magnet, Hutton Mitchell had the distinction of first drawing Billy Bunter. He soon gave way, however, to A. H. Clarke. As has been stated before, Clarke died whilst actually at work on a Greyfriars picture. The exact time cannot be stated, but it was probably round about 1912. C. H. Chapman took over with instructions to imitate Clarke as closely as possible, a task which he succeeded in fulfilling extraordinarily well. Gradually, however, he fell into his own particular style until there was not the slightest similarity to Clarke. Later, he was joined by Leonard Shields, and these two shared the work until the end. Here again there were differences of opinion as to the merits of the two.

Leonard Shields died over a year ago, and the size of the fortune he left caused considerable surprise. There is reason to believe, however, that it did not all come by the aid of his pencil. C. H. Chapman, fortunately, is still alive, though not much of his work is seen these days.

I said earlier that 80% of the members of the clan swear by the Magnet and Gem. Of the remaining 20% a few possibly have never even read a Greyfriars or St. Jim's story. The others steadfastly claim other papers as their first favourites; I am one of them myself. Yet I am sure there will be 100% agreement that the two papers concerned deserve the adjective I have attached to them. Here we have the extraordinary position that ten years after the papers died we find them even more famous than they were in life. Time and time again men of the Fourth Estate turn to them for a headline or a simile. A particularly exciting Football League game takes place and instantly a "Daily Express" man says it was like Greyfriars against St. Jim's. Some prefects go on strike at a public school and we are told there had been nothing like it since the days of Harry Wharton. As for Billy Bunter, well, I should think all the newspaper offices in Fleet Street keep his name "standing", as they used to say when I was in the printing trade. We know that even the stately "Times" in this year

of grace 1950 spoke with knowledge in a leader of Mr. Quelch and the unruly members of the Greyfriars Remove. Who would have dreamt in the days of the humble $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Magnet, that such a thing would come to pass?

I often wonder why some astute journalist does not see the opportunity for a fascinating book in the remarkable history of these two papers. What a chance for Ian Mackay of the News Chronicle, with his delightful whimsical style, for instance.

I will conclude this somewhat rambling review with an experience of my own. I did tell the story quite a long time ago, but it is worth repeating.

It was a summer's night in the height of the last war when I wended my way for duty in a telephone exchange down in the bowels of the earth. Sticking out of my pocket was a roll of Magnets and Gems with which I hoped to while away the after midnight hours when calls were few. The entrance was guarded at the time by members of the Royal Military Police. On this particular night the sentry was a grim-faced, battle-scarred veteran who had the reputation of being a terror to the troops. Woe betide the man with a tunic button undone or his cap a little too much on one side if Nobby spotted him whilst on patrol. However, Nobby couldn't "crime" me even if I had a bulky roll of papers protruding from my pocket, so I pulled up to have a word with him, before descending into our dungeon. I saw the red cap eyeing the roll, and after a while he said, "What's ta got there? Owt good to read? Duty officer'll be coming round, an' when he's buzzed off ah can tak it easy."

"Nothing in your line, Nobby, I'm afraid," I replied, and rather bashfully withdrew the papers from my pocket. Fancy a hard-boiled blighter like Nobby being interested in the Gem! The top one happened to be that last blue-covered (or should it be green?) one, "Under Gussy's Protection". Nobby looked at it; then, to my surprise and amusement, he exclaimed, "Well, I'll be -- old Gussy! Where the -- did you get that?" He grabbed it, and held it at arms length with both hands. A broad grin spread over his face, his eyes twinkled, he was transformed, the troops wouldn't have recognised him, he was a boy again. "Well; well, Ah never thought Ah'd see Gussy again. Why, Ah remember buying this very number not long before Ah joined up in t'last -- war." Just then a mate of his came along, looked at Nobby and said, "What's up, Nobby? You seem pleased with yourself." Then he caught sight of the paper; "What! the old Gem! Tom Merry & Co!" he exclaimed, surprise in his voice. "You another old reader?" I queried, feeling pleased with myself. "By gum, yes," said the second redcap, "though I liked old Bunter in the Magnet best." I handed a red-cover over and another military policeman started grinning. Then to the accompaniment of cordial good-nights I passed on to duty.

Later in the evening I went up for a breather. As I reached the top of the steps I heard a chuckle. There in the dusk seated on a low wall, was Nobby, the tough guy, the holy terror, a blissful smile on his usually stern countenance, the Gem within an inch of his nose. Further along the wall was his fellow-red-cap engrossed in the escapades of Billy Bunter. Of a truth, a sight for the gods.

After that I lent the pair quite a number of Gems and Magnets until they were posted to another station.

Yea, verily, as I said at the beginning, an amazing pair, the Gem and the Magnet.

The Paper of a Thousand Thrills

by C.J. Parratt

During the late nineteen-twenties, detective stories became very popular. The Amalgamated Press already had the "Union Jack", but there was the stigma of "Boys' book" about it. Adults were reluctant to be seen buying a twopenny blood, so, to overcome this reluctance, it was decided to raise the status of twopenny books by issuing a new one called "The Thriller". This paper was intended for the grown-up population and would have the best authors writing for it.

In those days, the best mystery writer was Edgar Wallace. He was supreme. There was none to equal him for sheer brilliance and, to this day, his books are still greatest of them all. He was asked to write for the new paper and on Saturday, February 9th 1929, the "Thriller" was born. It caused quite a sensation as Edgar Wallace had written "Red Aces" to launch the new venture. The story was the first of many featuring Mr. J. G. Reeder, the detective who is now known to millions. The cover and inside illustrations were by Arthur Jones, who did many of the "Nelson Lee" covers. He created such a feeling of mystery and suspense by his fine work that when other artists were invited to try their hand, the stories appeared to lose in quality.

As the weeks went by, the list of authors was supplemented by favourite names from the "Union Jack". No.5 was written by Anthony Skene, closely followed by Gwyn Evans the week after. The quality of the stories was good and other names were added by means of a serial. One notable writer being Agatha Christie.

A very fine achievement was number 322, when the story of the famous mystery play "Ten Minute Alibi" was printed.

Another copy of special interest to us is number 389, "The Last Journey" by J. Jefferson Farjeon. This story had been made into a film and some of the actual photographs were printed. Our interest is in seeing a distinguished fellow collector in a leading part. I refer to that great character actor Frank Pettingell, whose picture comes out very well on pages 51, 59, 61.

The stories were kept well up to standard until, near the end, No.579 saw the title altered to the "War Thriller". This lasted until No.589, which was the last to be issued.

Apart from the main story and serial there were various other articles from time to time. Crime puzzles were very popular and so was the guide to football form which consisted of a fixture list and forecast for the following Saturday's matches, with the corresponding results for the previous two seasons.

In No.311, a very interesting slang list was published and later on there appeared an information bureau. This invited readers to send in queries on any subject. One typical question was -- Is there a simple and speedy way of testing for bloodstains? -- The answer to this was -- There are four methods: 1. The Benzidene test; 2. Microscopic test (for fresh stains); 3. Haematin crystal test; 4. Spectroscopic test. The questions kept quite a high standard.

Then there was an article by Richard Enright, ex-police chief of New York. This was followed later by "Making it hot for the criminal", written by Jean Chiappe, prefect of police in Paris.

No.525 is of interest as it gives us Sexton Blake. This was brought about by the book "Wild West" which ceased publication and left two serials to be finished in the "Thriller". The Sexton Blake story called "The trail of the missing million", was a typical cowboy yarn set in Colorado. This came to an end in No.529.

The one mistake that seemed hard to credit, was a picture. The caption underneath read, "The two crooks carried the trunk to the taxi," and above was a picture of a van with the rear doors open. Apart from this, the "Thriller" was very good.

Looking back over the years, I think that No.452 dated October 2nd 1937 is worthy of mention. It contains an advertisement for "Answers" showing the main article to be "There will be no war." This unfortunate prophecy was by none other than George Bernard Shaw.

The Amalgamated Press may feel proud of the "Thriller" and could do many worse things than to republish it -- that is, if they can find authors good enough to keep up the standard set by the old timers.

The list following is a complete record of all who wrote for the "Thriller". Both long and short stories have been classed together. Serials consisting of true stories of famous criminals have been tabulated as articles. One for each story, e.g. Phyllis Lewis. Several articles have no author's name, so it has been impossible to classify them. They have been omitted.

	Stories.	Serials	Articles		Stories.	Serials	Articles
ADAMS. Herald Drayson,	..	1	-	CH RTERIS. Leslie,	35	3	-
ALLINGHAM. Marjorie,	1	-	-	CHESTER. Gilbert,	1	-	-
AMES. D. L.	5	-	-	CHEYNEY. Peter,	1	1	-
ANDREWS, John,	1	-	-	CHIAPEPE. Jean,	-	-	1
ARMSTRONG, Anthony,	-	half	-	CHRISTIE. Agatha,	3	-	-
ARNOLD. Fenton,	1	-	-	CLARK. Geoffrey H.	-	-	2
ASCOTT. John,	1	-	-	CLEVELLY. Hugh,	26	1	-
				CLIFFORD. Read,	1	-	-
BARRY. Gerald,	-	1	-	COXE. George Harmon,	2	-	-
BLACK. Ladbroke	17	1	-	CREASEY. John,	4	-	-
BLAKE, Stacey,	4	-	-	DANIEL. Roland,	3	-	-
BLAZE, Don,	1	-	-	DAVIS. Frederick C,	-	1	-
BOOTH. Christopher B,	-	1	-	DAWSON. Hugh,	1	-	-
BOWMAN. G. M.	6	-	-	DICKSON. Grierson,	3	-	-
BRAMPTON. Peter,	2	2	-	DILNOT. George,	8	6	-
BRANDON. John G,	57	1	5	DIX. Maurice B,	2	-	-
BRAND. Max,	1	-	-	DOUTHVAITE, L.C.	26	1	-
BRISBANE. Coutts,	2	-	-	DRUMMOND. John,	6	-	-
BROOKS, E. S.	1	-	-	DUNCAN. Murdoch,	16	-	-
BUCHANAN, Carl,	1	-	-	DUNN. J. Allen,	3	4	-

	Stories.	Series.	Articles.		Stories.	Series.	Articles.
EDWARDS. Walter,	8	-	-	NEWTON. Douglas	9	-	-
ELSTON. Allen Vaughan,	1	-	-	NIELSON. Vernon,	1	-	-
ENRIGHT. Richard,	-	-	1	NORDHOFF. Charles,	-	half	-
ESSEX. Richard,	12	2	-				
EVANS. Gwyn,	6	2	-	OPPENHEIM. E. Phillips,	2	-	-
FAIRLIE. Gerard,	2	2	-	PARONS. Anthony,	7	3	-
FARJEON. J. Jefferson,	2	-	-	PEROWNE, Barry,	23	1	-
				PLUMMER. T. Arthur,	1	-	-
GANPAT.	2	-	-	PRICE. Evadne,	1	-	-
GERRARD. Francis,	8	3	-				
GRAEME. Bruce,	4	-	-	QUIROLE. Pierre,	3	-	-
GRANT. Maxwell,	15	4	-	RICHARDSON. Flavia,	1	-	-
GRAY. Berkeley,	29	-	-	ROBINS. Fenton,	4	-	-
GRIBBLE, Leonard,	1	-	-	ROCHESTER. George E.	5	2	-
GUNN. Victor,	4	-	-	ROHMER. Sax,	-	1	-
GURDON. J.E.	1	-	-	RONALD. James,	6	-	-
HALL. James Norman		half		SCHISGALL. Oscar,	3	-	-
HAMILTON. Murray,	1	-	-	SCOTLAND. Kennedy,	1	-	-
HAMMETT. Dashiell,	-	1	-	SEABROOK. William B.	-	1	-
HARDINGE. Rex,	1	-	-	SEAMARK.	1	-	-
HAWTON. Hector,	5	-	-	SHAW. Frank H.	5	-	-
HOLT. Henry,	2	-	-	SHAW. Herbert,	-	half	-
HOPKINS. R. Thurston,	-	-	1	SINBLD.	1	-	-
HORLER. Sidney,	13	-	-	SKENE. Anthony,	16	-	-
HOYS. Dudley,	2	-	-	SNELL. Edmund,	44	-	-
HUDDLESTONE John,	1	-	-	STUART. Donald,	3	-	-
HUME. David,	12	-	-	SULLIVAN. Edward D.	-	1	-
HUNTER. John,	31	1	-	SYLVERSTER. John,	1	-	-
JACKSON. Lewis,	-	2	-	TAYLOR. Eric,	1	-	-
JARDINE. Warwick,	4	-	-	TEED. G. H.	14	-	-
JOHNS. Captain W.E.	10	2	-	TENCH. C. V.	1	-	-
				TYRER. Walter,	3	-	-
KING. Frank,	2	-	-	VERNER. Gerald,	6	-	-
				VICKERS. Roy,	1	2	-
LONDON. Herman,	2	1	-	VICKERY. William P.	1	-	-
LEROUX. Gaston,	-	1	-				
LEWIS. Jack,	-	1	-	WALLACE. Brian Edgar.	3	-	-
LEWIS. Philip,	-	1	-	WALLACE, Carlton.	-	1	-
LEWIS. Phyllis,	1	6	8	WALLACE. Edgar,	35	-	-
LYNDON. Barre,	2	-	-	WATSON. Spencer.	-	1	-
				WHITEHOUSE. Arch.	-	1	-
MACLEOD. Adam Gordon,	2	-	-	WHITELAW. David,	3	-	-
MACLEOD. Walter,	4	-	-	WIMBURY. Harold,	2	-	-
MAKIN. William J,	1	-	-	WOOD. Andrew,	1	-	-
MILES. M.E.	7	-	-	WREN. P. C.	4	-	-
MORLAND. Nigel,	2	-	-	WYNTON. Patrick,	5	-	-
MURTON. Paul,	-	1	-				
MUNDY. Talbot,	1	-	-	YORK. Harrison,	-	-	1
MURRAY. Robert,	3	-	-				

Fun at School

An Entertaining and Instructive Quiz
based on the personalities connected with
St. Frank's, Greyfriars, St. Jim's, and Rookwood

Compiled by J. P. Wood

1. Here's an easy one to test your sense of colour! Which teams play in the following colours: Blue and white; red and white; green and purple; blue and red; green and gold; black and orange; mauve and yellow; blue and gold?
2. Easy? Here's a more difficult one, then. Who would I get if I rang: Rylcombe 101; Latcham 122; Bannington 63; Chelsea 9988; Courtfield 66; Mayfair 00991 ?
3. Sorry you've been tr-r-r-oubled! Still on the 'phone -- What numbers would I ask for to get Gibbons, the Bannington grocer; the Ring Pavilion, Helmsford; the Pine Hill Nursing Home; Nelson Lee (Grays Inn Road); the Head of St. Frank's; Dr. Locke; the Grapes Hotel, Bannington?
4. Having received no reply and recovered our twopences, who are the village "coppers" at Coombe, Friardale, Bellton and Rylcombe?
5. Fill in the blank spaces: George -- Darrell; Herbert -- Langton; Arthur -- St. Leger; George -- Wingate; Arthur -- Carne; Gerald -- Loder; Horace -- Hacker; Algernon -- Capper; Herbert -- Mauleverer;; Alonzo -- Todd; Peter -- Todd; Herbert -- Vernon-Smith.
6. The four school porters are? The tuck-shop keepers?
7. Who were. The Lizard; The Serpent; The Owl; The Outsider; The Bounder?
8. What's in a name; Full names of: Samuel -- Bunter; George -- Gatty; Percival -- Paget; Robert -- Smith (minor); Percy -- Mooney; Mark -- Carthew; Adolphus Smythe.
9. What have the following in common: Toby, Tubbs, Trotter, Spratt? Koumi Rao, Hurree Jamset Ram Singh, Hussi Lal Khan? Ducas, Capper, Pycraft, Bootles, Latham?
10. Under what names were the following better known: Clarence Augustus Jerome Marchant; Hubert Alaric Cavendish; Richard Rossiter; Spencer Fitzhugh Cambridge?
11. Three newcomers to Greyfriars "spoofer" the Remove as to their cricketing ability. Who were they?
12. As Dr. Arnold was to Rugby, so were ---- to Greyfriars, and ---- to St. Jim's respectively.

-----oOo-----

Answers on Page 107

W. Darwin
1950.



Sexton Blake and Myself

By H. Maurice Bond

In a story narrated by himself in 1929, Sexton Blake asked his readers to remember that he was not a superman. "I have," he said, "only one life. A bullet through head or heart effectively writes 'Finis' to even the most exalted of human adventures; and, although I have accustomed myself to regard that fact with complacency, I am not anxious to have it demonstrated."

This statement by the detective, through the medium of the pen of Mr. Anthony Skene, explains why he has been my favourite character of fiction for over twenty years. Although knowing him to be an imaginary figure, I have always held him high in my estimation as a kind and human man. The breathless escapes and hairsbreadth adventures depicted by the many authors through the years, have never made Blake seem an impossible character in my eyes, because he has always had those human traits which we all look for in the ideal person. His reaction to domestic troubles at his Baker Street home; his regard, and even love, for his assistant Tinker; such things as these are made manifest to the keen student of the sleuth, and many writers in the past have concentrated on them and woven them into their plots.

Picture Blake then, firstly as a human being, with all the faults thereby inherited. His choice had been, after graduation, to become a doctor or an associated profession, but he was so intent upon the study of criminal psychology that it eventually outweighed his other ambitions, and he became the relentless manhunter with whom we to-day, and our fathers before us, have become so familiar.

At various times during his career as a fictional detective, Sexton Blake has had many personal problems every bit as intriguing as any of his cases, and these have been revealed to us in such a way as to convince the reader that the criminologist was indeed a real living being, at least that is how they affected me. His love for Yvonne Cartier, his anxiety for the wayward Nigel Blake, these are examples of some of the many personal incidents introduced into the plots of the many stories, and I will go as far as to say that such interesting little private matters were more than anything else, responsible for my ultimate choice of Blake as my favourite fictional character. His adventures and campaigns against organised crime have, of course, interested me greatly, but when an author has made an error, in referring, for instance, to the detective's habits, I have felt very perturbed and wished that the said chronicler had studied his character more thoroughly and thus followed the path of the true Blake tradition.

In my mind's eye I have a perfect picture of the Baker Street establishment, including the downstairs room occupied by that superb house-keeper, Mrs. Martha Bardell. Varying descriptions of Blake's house have never succeeded in disturbing the image, neither have scenes in films, which, after all, could hardly be expected to fall in line with one's imagination. I feel, in fact, as though I could walk into the consulting-room, or the laboratory, and feel perfectly at home.

Likewise the image of Blake himself remains firmly in my mind. Various artists have portrayed him in a hundred different ways, but, the idea of him as suggested by Eric R. Parker, designer of the famous Bust, has always struck me as being ideal in every respect. Many actors have portrayed Blake on stage and screen, the latest of these being David Farrar, but here again the impression in my imagination stands unaltered. The image of Tinker is perhaps not so stable, but it is so in the case of Mrs. Bardell, and here once again, this is due to E. R. P's unique illustrations.

Blake, clad in that old, tobacco and chemical stained dressing-gown, with familiar curved pipe aglow and exuding clouds of pungent smoke, sat comfortably in his favourite saddlebag chair -- this is one of my favourite visions, and one which persists when I am ensconced in my own pet chair with my pipe going strong.

Christmas in the Sexton Blake household as portrayed by Gwyn Evans in the late 1929's, never fails to intrigue me. The Dickensian qualities of the work of this versatile Blake author of the past has had a lot to do with my imaginary picture of Baker Street, and his stories bear reading many times, especially during the festive season. The satisfaction on Blake's face as the turkey is borne in by Mrs. Bardell, the subsequent eating thereof, accompanied by seasonable wisecracks from Tinker, Inspector Coutts, and the indefatigable "Splash" Page, and the final speech by Blake himself, in which he congratulates his buxom housekeeper upon her excellent cooking, thanks her for her Christmas present (invariably a new dressing-gown to replace that old faded "horror"). Surely, such a scene exudes the very essence of Yuletide and once again shows the detective to be most human.

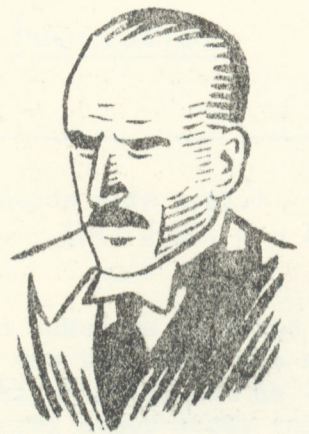
Turning back through the pages of my collection, I find that the detective has played almost every conceivable role in his eternal struggle against crime. Since my introduction to him he has been, amongst other things, Lord Mayor of London, but in the old days prior to the first world war he almost weekly became a different character, often in the interests of topicality. I even recall him playing the role of Ice Cream merchant. So was the famous sleuth merged into the flow of everyday life, endearing himself to all classes and acting towards the poorest as he would the richest. It might be said that Blake is the true Socialist. He certainly has acted as such in the past.

Little wonder then, that Sexton Blake had, by the time I met him, become more than just a fictional detective, and that he became to me a real, human, kind and genuine person - in short, the perfect example of the Britisher one would expect to be representative of our race. I was twelve years of age when Blake first beckoned me to follow his path of adventure. Twenty odd years have passed since that momentous time, and here I am, as keen as ever to tread that path, and hoping that in another twenty years I shall still be able to read and enjoy the same splendid type of story about one of the finest characters in English fiction.

The
Criminals
Confederation



John
Smith



Sir Philip
Champion



Mr Reece

W. Darwin



Dirk Dolland



John Fade

Monograph on The Criminals Confederation

By Harry Homer

'Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.'
(St. John, i - 19)

Author's Note

When first Herbert Leckenby and then Maurice Bond asked me to write on this subject for the 1950 Annual, my first thought was that this was a task for only Maurice himself - the very fount of Blekiene. If not he - then Rex Dolphin or Bill Colcombe or one of those several other stout and erudite fellows who write so much more than do I about our favoured subject.

But truth to tell, I was flattered and pleased, although I soon found that the work of research, analysis and compression of such a wide field would take much thought and no little time.

Here then are my angles on this great series, from "The Missing Crooks" which appeared in "U.J." No.806 dated March 22nd, 1919, until the publication of the final reprint under the title of "Sexton Blake Wins!" in No.1529 of the old paper on February 4th, 1933.

Mine must by no means be the final word but rather a framework on which many another excursion into a very fascinating realm of fiction will be written by other loving pens on future occasions.

My only wish is that you may enjoy reading of the fantastic deeds of these fabulous people as much as I have enjoyed writing about them.

PROLOGUE

Statistics may seem dull to some folk but small indeed is the imagination which is not moved by learning that the full story of the duel between Sexton Blake and his friends on the one hand and the mighty Criminals' Confederation on the other occupied no less than fifty copies of the "Union Jack" - just two weeks short of a year's issue had the numbers been published in sequence week by week! And five years after the last one, public demand led the Editor to embark on the reprinting of fourteen of them with illustrations brought up to date!

I know nothing of the author, Robert Murray, as a man; I know nothing of the fluctuations of "Union Jack" Editorial policy, but if there is a flaw in this great undertaking then it lies in what might be called the three final episodes - 985 "The Hunchback of St. Madros", 1196 "The Great Round-Up" and 1529 "Sexton Blake Wins!" But we will look closer into these points anon.

For purpose of interest as well as clarification I have compiled a full list of numbers, titles and dates and a fairly comprehensive list of the principal characters with various data concerning them.

It will be interesting to learn whether or not other Blake fans agree with my division of the whole series into six separate parts and an epilogue, but it was impossible to tackle such a vast subject as a single entity.

So now let us turn back the pages with a pipe going well, fresh logs stacked on the fire and a bottle and tankard to hand . . .

"It's the same in France, in Italy, in Germany - in fact, all over the Continent," wound up Coutts, "The crooks are migrating like a swarm of bees and heaven knows where they've got to.."

"..the Headquarters of the Confederation was situated in a great white liner that cruised perpetually in a certain part of the South Atlantic Ocean.."

"A great mushroom cloud of black smoke seemed to have formed like a canopy over the crest of Sinister Island and every now and then a red glow of fire seemed to tint it from end to end."

"You are responsible for this perhaps?" said Sexton Blake pointing towards the helpless figure of Tinker. A flash of colour swept up into Mademoiselle Yvonne's cheeks and her eyes flashed coldly.

"Beware of The Shadow!"

"I, Dirk Dolland, hereby agree that at any time Colonel Elias B.Quartz may demand of me . . . "

"My name is Ysabel de Ferre, Duchess of Jorsica."

"Ryan Saul squared his shoulders and pushed out his powerful undershot jaw. 'I want to hire the services of the Confederation,' he said bluntly. 'I am prepared to pay a million pounds down in cash.'"

. . Here are the further adventures of John Fade, the explorer, who found life dull and joined the ranks of the Confederation for the sake of excitement - and found more than he expected . . .

"By god, I'll have a cruiser sent out to blow the island of St.Madros clean off the map," declared the First Lord of the Admiralty, "You mean to say that this scoundrel Deeming Stain is harbouring the President of the Criminals' Confederation?"

"THE RETURN OF MR. REECE" or "The Man With The Fettered Leg."

Fan Too, son of Hoang Ho; Professor Jason Reece's Republic of Santa Costa; Blake, Tinker, Coutts and the Bat deep in the unknown of South America where they find the Yellow City; the hold-up of the ocean greyhound Andillarie in mid-Atlantic; retreat of the Confederation to the frozen wastes of the Arctic, and the marriage of Jason Reece

"The infamous organisation lay on the verge of collapse. While such men as Blake lived to fight its battles, civilisation might not, with impunity and for ever, be flouted!"

"Good man," Blake said, with an appreciative nod, "You've done a mighty good night's work, Coutts, old fellow!" Coutts grinned.

And it was at the unsatisfactory end of the story in "U.J." no.1196 that we finally read the bald announcement:-

THE END OF THE CONFEDERATION SERIES.

Let us take a look at the titles and the dates before going back to the very beginning of things

THE CRIMINALS' CONFEDERATION

The famous series of Sexton Blake stories by ROBERT MURRAY. A full list of titles together with "Union Jack" numbers, dates and names of characters as they make their initial appearance in the series.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>New Character</u>
806.	22. 3.19.	The Missing Crooks	The Mysterious Mr. Reece.
• 807.	29. 5.19.	Tracked by Wireless.	Dirk Dolland, The Bat.
• 809.	3. 4.19.	Held As Hostage.	Sir Phillip Champion.(807)
• 812.	3. 5.19.	The White Liner.	
• 816.	31. 5.19.	The Stolen Yacht.	John Smith, President of C.C.
820.	28. 6.19.	Dirk Dolland's Ordeal.	
824.	26. 7.19.	The Diamond of Disaster.	Gregory V. Canning.
829.	30. 8.19.	Sinister Island.	
• 830.	6. 9.19.	The Man From The Sea.	
• 838.	1.11.19.	The Trail in the Sand.	
841.	22.11.19.	Mr. Smith of London.	Mademoiselle Yvonne Cartier.
• 858.	20. 3.20.	The Informer.	
• 860.	3. 4.20.	The Hidden Headquarters.	
• 868.	29. 5.20.	The New President.	
869.	5. 6.24.	Dirk Dolland's Dilemma.	
• 873.	3. 7.20.	The Man Who Died.	
• 876.	24. 7.20.	The Shadow.	John Graves, uncle of Yvonne and The Shadow, son of Mr. Reece.
• 887.	9.10.20.	The Dog Detective.	
• 893.	20.11.20.	A Bid for Billions.	Colonel Elias B. Quartz.
895.	4.12.20.	The Extreme Penalty.	
• 901.	15. 1.21.	Crooked Evidence.	Sir Huxley Webb.
910.	19. 3.21.	The Black Duchess.	Ysabel de Ferre, Duchess of Jorsica.
• 916.	30. 4.21.	The Fourth Witness.	
• 927.	16. 7.21.	Mr. Reece's Million.	Hoang Ho.
• 946.	26.11.21.	Diamond Mad!	Ryan Saul.
972.	27. 5.22.	The Confederation's Recruit.	John Richard Fade.
973.	3. 6.22.	The Diamond Clue.	
985.	26. 8.22.	The Hunchback of St. Madros.	Dr. Deeming Stain.
• 1056.	5. 1.24.	The Return of Mr. Reece.	Professor Jason Reece.
• 1061.	9. 2.24.	The Spider's Web.	Denzil Dolland, "Mr. Moonshine".
1070.	12. 4.24.	The Key-Man of the Confederation.	
• 1085.	26. 7.24.	The Rival Presidents.	Fan Too.
• 1094.	27. 9.24.	Reece on the Run!	
• 1097.	18.10.24.	The Mandarin's Millions.	
• 1117.	7. 3.25.	Found - and Lost!	
• 1119.	21. 3.25.	Reece's Republic.	
• 1125.	2. 5.25.	Condemned to the Mines.	Ladronas and Black Michael Breedon.
• 1127.	16. 5.25.	Yellow Vengeance!	
• 1133.	27. 6.25.	Into the Unknown.	
• 1137.	25. 7.25.	The Yellow City.	

No.	Date	Title	New Characters
• 1154.	21.11.25.	Buried Alive.	
• 1155.	28.11.25.	Homeward Bound.	
• 1158	19.12.25.	Landed at Last.	
• 1163.	23. 1.26.	Gone to Earth.	
• 1164.	30. 1.26.	Reece's Hold-Up.	
• 1165.	6. 2.26.	North of 70°.	Ah Took.
• 1175.	17. 4.26.	Reece's Revenge.	
• 1185.	3. 7.26.	The Marriage of Jason Reece.	Father Olaf.
• 1191.	14. 8.26.	Dirk Dolland's Crime.	
• 1196.	18. 9.26.	The Great Round-Up.	

THE REPRINTS

- 1469.	12.12.31.	A Corner in Crooks.	Reprint of 806.
1472.	2. 1.32.	Confederation Calling!	" " 807.
1478.	30. 1.32.	Reece's Recruit.	" " 808.
1480.	27. 2.32.	Wind-Blown Blackmail.	" " 812.
1484.	26. 3.32.	Enter the President.	" " 816.
1492.	21. 5.32.	Dirk Dolland's Ordeal.	" " 820.
1496.	18. 6.32.	The Diamond of Disaster.	" " 824.
1500.	16. 7.32.	Volcano Island.	Rewrite of 829 & 850.
1504.	13. 8.32.	The Trail in the Sand.	" " 838 & 841.
1508.	10. 9.32.	The Squealer.	" " 858 & 860.
1513.	15.10.32.	Crooks Divided.	" " 868 & 869.
1518.	19.11.32.	The Shadow.	" " 875 & 876.
1526.	14. 1.33.	Behind the Fog.	Reprint of 887.
1529.	4. 2.33	Sexton Blake Wins!	Vaguely based on 893.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

It would be an error in the worst of bad taste were this list to be headed with any other names than SEXTON BLAKE, TINKER and PEDRO, but any comment would surely be very out of place* so we can pass on to that very good fellow. - DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR GEORGE COUTTS of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard - an efficient, lovable, irascible man of great courage and a firm friend of the detective even if his mental capacity and taste in cigars is oft-times overshadowed by the brilliance of the man from Baker Street.

Next comes DIRK DOLLAND, the "BAT", that erstwhile cavalier of crime who saw the evil of Reece and the Combine so allied himself against it on the side of law and order as did also lovely Mademoiselle YVONNE CARTIER, the incomparable. Adventuress and passionate lover of justice; scornful of the law's slow, ponderous workings and ever ready to flaunt it when a wrong must be righted in haste. One man only in her full, colourful life - Sexton Blake himself. Often at her service is her UNCLE JOHN GRAVES, a lazy-seeming aristocrat and lover of the good and luxurious way of living who can yet rough it and scrap with the toughest at the call of duty. Heading the black list we find THE MYSTERIOUS MR. REECE, the vicious green-eyed little master criminal with the great dome-shaped head. He

* The reader is referred to the Author's "Monograph on Sexton Blake" which appeared in the 1949 Annual.

first appeared in S.B.L. No.41 which was named after him. His nefarious exploits filled a whole series of pink "Union Jacks" before he became one of the leading lights in the great Combine.

In 807 we meet SIR PHILLIP CHAMPION, renegade baronet and master of crime who turned King's evidence later on (887) to avenge the death of his leader and friend, JOHN SMITH (816), a suave and brilliant organiser and first President of The Confederation. In appearance as ordinary as the average man in the street. 876 brings us THE SHADOW, a cold and callous wraith of many murders whose identity is revealed in 887 to be that of a diabolic son to the fiendish Mr. Reece. It is in 893 that we encounter COLONEL ELLIAS B. QUARTZ, No.444,444 of the C.C. Next come six characters of wide variety who almost form a portrait gallery of their own:- in 910 we come across MAX VOGEL, Vice-President of C.C. and a Frenchman. A pitiful double-dealer and trouble-maker this who (in 916) usurps the place of Reece and has a brief spell as President before they die together the horrid doom of The Pool of Darkness. In this story too (910) we first meet the lovely Black Duchess of Jorsica, Ysabel de Ferre, No.13 of C.C., who conceives a hopeless love for Sexton Blake before she is thrown into a maelstrom of wild adventure in the company of the handsome JOHN RICHARD FADE, the explorer. He it was who joined the Confederation for excitement (972) and if the fulfilment of a wish brings happiness then John Fade must have been a very happy man in all that happened to him before he decided to accept responsibility for the future and well-being of the glamorous Ysabel de Ferre.

But we have jumped ahead of our order because it was in 927 that we first hear the ominous name of the Mandarin, Hoang Ho, Chief of the Eastern branch of the great Combine. Although it was not long before he came to a grim but well-merited end, his influence on the series is a very potent one although much of it is posthumous. If we may be permitted to look forward again, it can be mentioned here that in 1085 enters the infamous Fan Too, son of Hoang Ho, leader of the Brotherhood of the Red Spider and rival for the Presidency of the Confederation against the claims of Jason Reece and the Black Duchess - indeed a grim struggle for power.

A most intriguing character who to my mind could have been made much more of is met with in 946. He is Ryan Saul, the millionaire diamond fanatic who conceived the fantastic idea of hiring the Criminals' Confederation. Another vivid piece of character-drawing is Dr.Deeming Stain, the Hunchback of St.Madros - the self-styled Dream Doctor, Mind-Stealer . . . He appeared in 985 in the third story of what had been hailed as a new series but which turned out to be the last Confederation yarn for a year and a half - until in fact the publication of 1056 in which we meet Professor Jason Reece, brother to the erstwhile President.

This series starts with his escape from the penal settlement of Tutea, the Island of Lost Hopes.

Still the new characters continue to appear, play their part and leave the stage for the next one.

Denzil Dolland, younger brother of The Bat (1061), known in the United States as Mr. Moonshine; Ledronas (1125), the best guide and the bravest man in Santa Costa; Black Michael Breedon (in the same issue),

one of the foulest ruffians unhung according to Blake; Ah Took, the Esquimo (1165), Reece's guide in the Arctic wastes until he saw his mistake and, finally, the Norwegian priest, Father Olaf of the mission ship St. Magnus, who performed a strange and tragic wedding ceremony and a score of others, great figures and small, who played their parts in this great drama and went their way to death or oblivion.

Let us pass now to the mould or form in which these people and their stories were cast. . . .

THE SERIES SUB-DIVIDED

As I have already stated, it is not possible to treat a subject of this magnitude as a single entity, so I have taken the liberty of dividing all stories in the Criminals' Confederation saga into half a dozen sections, an Epilogue and an Appendix. It is more than likely that many Blake fans will heartily disagree with me and I shall be most interested to hear their points of view. I would like to make it quite clear at this point that the stories were not published in any form of "series" which sub-divide themselves in a natural manner with the exception of those dealing with the journey into the interior of Santa Costa. So here we go then - for better or for worse

	<u>"U.J." Numbers</u>
Part One - THE VERY BEGINNING.	
Part Two - RISE AND FALL OF AN EVIL EMPIRE.	(806 to 830)
Part Three - THE SECOND GROWTH.	(838 to 901)
Part Four - TROUBLE IN HIGH PLACES.	(910 to 985)
Part Five - RESURRECTION.	(1056 to 1117)
Part Six - CREATION AND DISSOLUTION OF A REPUBLIC.	(1119 to 1191)
EPILOGUE - WHO WROTE "UNION JACK" No. 1196?	
APPENDIX - THE FOURTEEN REPRINTS.	(1469 to 1529)

PART ONE

The Very Beginning

"Begin at the beginning," the King said gravely, "and go on until you come to the end: then stop."

(Lewis Carroll)

George Coutts, Dirk Dolland and Mr. Reece were established "U.J." characters for over two years before the publication of the first Confederation story. Dirk Dolland was a crook in those days and his exploits were much akin to those of E. W. Hornung's famous Raffles. He first appears in 680 "The Hidden Hand" (21.10.16) and reforms in 791 "Dirk Dolland's Redemption". At one time The Bat had a lady partner, The Butterfly, but, unlike Mary Trent with Dr. Huxton Rymer, she did not enjoy a long reign in the favour of either Dirk Dolland or her creator, Robert Murray.

"The Mysterious Mr. Reece" first introduced this master criminal to the readers of the "S.B.L." in the book of that name, No. 41. Instantly

a success, he soon appeared in the "U.J.", sometimes with a gang, at others on his own. I have been able to trace just over twenty of these old pink "U.J."s but have so far only been able to get hold of twelve of them.

Of this period but three things strike me as likely to be of interest to "C.C." enthusiasts - three historical meetings.

The first meeting between Sexton Blake and The Bat finds the detective tied up in his own bed by a midnight visitor whose face is hidden by a balaclava helmet. He soon realises that it is the man who has got poor Coutts almost to a state of apoplexy - not only by his daring and unsolved crimes but by the most impudent notes and telephone calls. At the end of the story Blake does succeed in unmasking him and it is interesting to learn that The Bat is an expert conjuror and a well-known music hall artist!

The Bat first meets Mr. Reece in S.B.L. 41 when he treads on his toes by cracking a safe before Reece's man gets there - so he is sent for by the master mind. "The profile showed an enormous dome-shaped forehead, heavy overhanging eyebrows and a powerful beaklike nose. For a long minute that seemed like hours the figure remained as motionless as a statue; then the great head lifted a trifle and a voice sounded from the other side of the screen, a voice that set The Bat's hair rippling on his scalp like the back of a startled cat."

Blake for his part does not believe at the end of S.B.L. 41 that such a person as Reece exists and does not meet him in the first "U.J." 763. They do finally come face to face.

And so without the slightest warning the Mysterious Mr. Reece - Bat stories assume the form of a series in "U.J." 816 "The Missing Crooks".

I wonder whether Robert Murray realised just what he was starting when he wrote it?

PART TWO

Rise and Fall of an Evil Empire

"The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse."

(Edmund Burke)

We have pieced together how Robert Murray introduced Dirk Dolland to the pages of "The Union Jack", a crook but a gentleman, who never used violence and was imbued with a strong sense of humour and good sportsmanship. We have followed his audacious, even impudent, career of crime; his revulsion against Mr. Reece and his subsequent alliance with Sexton Blake on certain occasions. This seemed bound to end as indeed it did, in his final redemption when he lined himself squarely with Blake, Tinker, and Coutts on the side of law and justice.

Previous to "The Missing Crooks" (806), Reece either had a gang of his own or operated solo but the first rumblings of the approaching storm can be softly but clearly heard in this story.

However much Murray had vacillated during the preceding two years between stories of the Bat alone or with the Butterfly or with Blake

against Reece, his feet were now set on that long trail which was to last, despite several waverings, for nearly eight years. After that untimely finish it was followed by Dr. Satira, Paul Cynos, those two woeful and stillborn tales of The Crime Minister, various odd stories and his contribution to the gangster era of 1930-31 in the persons of Dan Roper, The Spider and The Whisperer. But even then public opinion cried out and he had to rewrite, or in some cases reprint, the initial series of Criminals' Confederation stories which but for the death of the old paper might well have continued until the very finish. Then he might perhaps have taken that so-needed drastic action on 1196 to give the saga a satisfactory conclusion.

It is in 806 that one notices an ominous atmosphere of portentous and troublous events to come with the great and mysterious Mr. Reece playing a minor role to emphasise the enormous organisation behind "C.C."; then the embossed gold buttons on the dead man's queer uniform and the insistent tap-tap-tapping of that strange code signal "CRIMCON" which flashed to the very heart of London from out the vast and boundless ether.

An ordinary quiet detective story this but full of foreboding for the future; who will ever forget those glorious months of anticipation and readers' delight among those of my generation who read them as they came from Fleetway House,

In the next few stories the picture becomes clear and the great battle is on - surely never before had a series been told with such a singleness of purpose, never before had the words "complete in itself" meant so little to readers old and new!

Not for me to attempt a precis of the stories to you voracious collectors - at most perhaps a very broad outline of the march of events.

These were broad indeed, moved very fast and always to a mounting tension.

The arrest and escape of Reece, the quiet introduction of Sir Phillip Champion, the kidnapping of Tinker, the slow build-up to the appearance of John Smith and the penetration to the very heart of "C.C." by the disguised Blake. The Bat joining "C.C." in an effort to rescue Tinker, his journey from Thamesmouth to the great white liner far out at sea. Tinker's rescue, the stolen yacht, the missing million, the diamond of disaster, the sinking of the liner "Liberty" and the new "C.C." headquarters on Sinister Island deep in the salty wastes of the South Atlantic.

Thus the panorama of the first phase in "C.C.'s" history which was brought to a close by the tremendous volcanic eruption which caused the sea to swallow the island until there was nothing left at break of dawn but floating wreckage on all sides.

It was two months before the new era started with 838 "The Trail in the Sand" and so we pass to

Advertise in the C.D.

PART THREE

The Second Growth

"Look for a tough wedge for a touch log."

(Publilius Syrus)

"The Trail in the Sand" opens with neither Blake nor Tinker really believing that they have seen the last of Smith, Reece and Champion. How true this turns out is shown when Tinker disappears down the old tin-mine in Cornwall and gets a message out to say that "C.C." are not only back in England, but have taken him prisoner and on their way to London holding him once more as a hostage.

Another good talking point in this phase of the series is which is the more important event - the amazing introduction of The Shadow in 876 as the son of Mr. Reece, or the appearance in 841 of the lovely Yvonne Cartier? She hitherto had always been regarded as a G.H. Teed character and one may presume that Murray had to ask his permission to write about her. However, it always strikes me as so right to find her in a Blake story by no matter whom - as Dr. Watson said of the fascinating Irene Adler:- "To Sherlock Holmes she is always THE woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name." So surely Sexton Blake with Yvonne Cartier.

Be that as it may, we soon perceive that there is to be nothing prosaic or even of anti-climax about the return of the Criminals' Confederation to the heart of the British Empire. Indeed, I am not at all sure that the London adventures are not more wild and extravagant than those on the high seas or in faraway places.

By 858 "The Informer" we find Blake weary and heavy at heart, facing checkmate at every turn - knowing the new headquarters of this criminal autocracy to be situated in London but unable to find the slightest clue as to its exact location. He scours the great city from the gilt and glitter of the West End to the foulest dives of the East in an indefatigable search throughout the days and nights - but to no purpose. Even his powers of disguise are pierced with no apparent effort until the story ends with the death of the informer, Simon Martin, before he can speak while Tinker and the gallant Coutts face the grim fact that Yvonne and Blake are once more captives and held hostages against any possible move on their part.

So the tides of fortune ebb and flow until Blake escapes and is swept through the rush of a sewer out into the Thames close by Westminster Bridge. Close follow the astounding events at the luxurious Hotel Argent with that amazing dinner-party at Table 13 in its magnificent Grill Room.

Now begins the rot within and 868, "The New President", sees hints and earlier signs and rumours turn to fact when the infamous Reece makes a determined bid for the Presidency of the Combine. The scene moves to film studios of the Tip-Top Company when the now-powerful Reece has his way in condemning to death at one fell swoop not only Blake and Tinker but Coutts, Dolland and Yvonne as well. Despite dissension on the part of Sir Phillip Champion and John Smith the gallant five are left to a

horrid fate from which they are only rescued by the splendid intervention of the sagacious Pedro.

The already rapid pace now gains a new momentum with succeeding stories telling of the arrest of Dirk Dolland, the capture and sensational trial of Reece, the coming of the malignant Shadow, the negation of the Combine by Sir Phillip Champion following on the death of Mr. Smith at the hands of Reece's son, Pedro again well to the fore in 887, "The Dog Detective", and the coming of Colonel Elias B. Quartz in 893, "A Bid for Billions".

It may be mentioned in passing that we are now into the coloured covers with illustrations by Harry Lane, illustrations which to my mind fall far short of those by Val Reading ("Val"), who did some of his finest, if not his very finest, work in his pink "U.J." drawings of Confederation characters. Faster and still faster spins the Wheel with the circus blind and Reece's disguise as a cripple (using stilts to increase his stunted stature), his re-arrest and dodging of the gallows on the declaration of the famous alienist, Sir Huxley Webb (later shown to be a member of the Combine) that he can with impunity plead insanity. The brief reign in the limelight of the cracksman, Ned Hatton, follows, who betrays the redoubtable Colonel Quartz to get away (but not for long) with half a million pounds in cash of the Confederation fund money. On the run from "C.C." on one hand and the police on the other, he puts Dirk Dolland into bad odour - presuming on a service he once rendered The Bat in his criminal days.

But it now really begins to look as if the great gallery of characters created by Murray is drawing to its end. John Smith and Sir Phillip Champion have gone, Reece is as good as gone, and Quartz has vanished. The Shadow has paid for his vile crimes in full and several lesser lights have failed to achieve a sustained flowering period.

Is this then the end of the Criminals' Confederation stories, thinks the reader with a feeling of dismay?

But I think at this point it is fitting to place a row of phantom asterisks and pass on to

PART FOUR

Trouble in High Places

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

(King Henry IV, Act 3, Scene I)

This is where I take a deep breath and plunge in right up to the neck! The more I con over this period of our subject the more I become convinced of one thing and full of doubting thought concerning another. The one is that the illustrations (by I know not whom) reach an all time low, and the other is that somebody took over the series from Robert Murray at this point.

In 910 "The Black Duchess" we meet a flock of new characters and the scene is quickly taken out of England again. The customary resume of preceding events is slashed to a minimum, Reece is killed off in 916,

"The Fourth Witness", without possibility of resuscitation, and we never hear (so far as I can make out) what happens to Colonel Quartz.

Now in 927 "Mr. Reece's Million", we are returned once more to London, Val Reading takes over the illustrations again, and the story has what I call a Robert Murray touch. But 910 and 916 smack strongly to me of 1196 of which you will hear much more anon.

But whatever the source of authorship of these two key stories, the problem already set had to be worked out - who or what will take the places of those characters whose parts are already played to a finish?

The answer lies in one word - SCHISM.

The era begins of the great struggle for power.

The Black Duchess - or the declining star of Mr. Reece, now "mysterious" no longer? Or Max Vogel, the French intriguer? Or Hoang Ho, Chief of the Far Eastern branch?

And soon we are launched into a veritable maelstrom of lust for power, of carnal desire, treachery, hate and double dealing - with all the time Sexton Blake backed by the forces of law and order the wide world over, tilting against "C.C.", now receiving a setback, now winning a round but never letting up his every effort. Beside him all the way the gallant Tinker, the indomitable Coutts and the intrepid Yvonne, to say nothing of dear old Pedro!

Of a sudden into all this are precipitated two men of very different calibre, one to go his way all too quickly, the other to stay with us for a long time. I refer to Ryan Saul and John Fade. The one wished to hire the weakened Criminals' Confederation for cash, the other joined the evil Combine for the sake of pure adventure. (946 "Diamond Mad!" and 972 "The Confederation's Recruit".)

What a prospect and what wonderful situations!

Yet this whole fascinating set-up is allowed to degenerate into the puerile and rather disgusting alliance between "C.C." (in the persons of Ysabel de Ferre and John Fade) and Dr. Deeming Stain. (985 "The Hunchback of St. Madros")

Then on Page 28 of "U.J." 985 we read - "But how to deal with Dr. Deeming Stain himself and the Duchess Ysabel de Ferre (in the earlier tales she was de Ferrer, by the way), far away on the island of St. Madros, was a problem that the authorities had not as yet solved. Yet the time was not far distant when the hand of Justice should reach out and come into its own." THE END.

But the time was far distant - from August 1922 until January 1924, to be exact - and I can only ask now, in 1950, the question we all asked ourselves those many years ago - Why? Why? Why? But even to-day there is no answer and the reason for bringing to a full stop this great series when it seemed fraught with so many interesting possibilities must remain a mystery.

Shall we then pass on to 1924?

Then I must write

PART FIVE

Resurrection

"Who will change old lamps for new ones? . . . new lamps for old ones?"
(The History of Aladdin)

In "A Word from the Skipper" of 1056 "The Return of Mr. Reece", we do find an explanation for any lack of smoothness in the letter "C.C." stories in the fact that Robert Murray has just recovered from "a long and trying illness". This would account either for a falling-off on his part or a handing-over to somebody else of the stories in question.

As a matter of fact, I feel sure that research into these Editorial Chats would teach us much about the Sexton Blake authors and characters; a research that I very much hope that I will have time enough to make one day unless some other good fellow does the work first.

However, to revert to 1056, it is nice to report that here we have the Criminals' Confederation back with a bang - the stories are long, the print good, the illustrations splendid and the covers really superb. All in the initial series are by Eric Parker as are the inside illustrations with the exception of the first two stories - 1056 and 1061 which carry work with more than a stamp of Val Reading about it, although no signature.

Here is the old Murray force back again with strength of plot and characterisation, continuity of events, originality of incident and a tenseness which is sustained by the always exciting sense of anticipation in which the reader comes to the end of one episode only to be left with a heightened interest in the next one!

The framework of this series is three-cornered if not quadrilateral, with three contestants for the "C.C." Presidency - Professor Jason Reece, The Black Duchess, and Fan Too, son of Hoang Ho. Blake and company form the fourth side and the prizes are the million pounds reserve fund collected and hidden by the late Mr. Reece and the diamond hoard concealed somewhere on the island of St. Madros.

Human interest is strong with John Fade now deeply in love with the Black Duchess, while Isabelde Ferre herself still nurses her hopeless and secret passion for Sexton Blake. It is indeed sad to report that Yvonne Cartier has now gone from the series never to return. Why, I wonder? Did G. H. Teed have something to say about this matter?

In seven issues the fortunes of all concerned fluctuate in various ways, but the last one, 1117 "Lost - and Found!" sees Jason Reece holding all the aces in the shape of both the diamond collection and the million in sterling.

Indeed, when Blake saves his life from Fan Too, he shows a most unexpected spark of gratitude and magnanimity and gives Blake, Tinker, Coutts, Dolland, Fade and Ysabel de Ferre their freedom.

Advertise in the C.D.

PART SIX

Creation of Dissolution of a Republic and its President

"A power is passing from the earth
To breathless Nature's dark abyss - "

(William Wordsworth)

And so we come to the final stages of this mighty saga - a straight series of fifteen stories which are spread over the period from March, 1925, until September, 1926. Twelve are illustrated throughout by Eric Parker, to my mind some of his finest work. One (1185) is by Val Reading, and the other two (1191 & 1196) are poor stuff by J. H. Valda.

We now find the nefarious Combine split wide open and much of the story matter hinges on the struggle for power between white man and yellow in the respective persons of Professor Jason Reece and Fan Too. Hounded from the Old World by the efforts of Sexton Blake; Reece, the coffers of "C.C." well lined by the reserve fund and the diamond hoard, instigates a revolution in the little South American republic of Santa Costa and is installed as President. He repudiates all extradition treaties and brings in white crooks from the world over as "C.C." members of what is virtually a Crooks' Republic. But Fan Too comes on the scene and Sexton Blake as well, the latter to foment a revolution against the regime. Story follows breathless story with Blake's revolution succeeding and Reece falling into the hands of Fan Too who carries him off into the remote hinterland, Blake on their heels and The Black Duchess in the hands of Reece's followers with John Fade sworn to rescue her. Eventually the two fall into Coutts' hands and are brought back to England where Reece stands his trial - the most sensational of the century. Space forbids but the very briefest mention of all this, but the list of titles will furnish some slight idea of the rushing tide of high adventure encountered in these pages. But although Fan Too is not mentioned at the trial (1158 "Landed at Last!"), Reece emulates the exploit of his late brother and regains his freedom afterwards, gains control of an old cruiser being taken to Holland to be broken up for scrap, and engineers the hold-up in Mid-Atlantic of the liner, "Andillaria", carrying five million pounds of war debt bullion to New York. But now "C.C." is on the run with all the navies of the world sweeping every sea for a sight of Reece, so retreat is sought in the frozen wastes of the Arctic. Isabel de Ferre has sworn an oath to become the queen of the Confederation and she on the one hand and Blake on the other ("I am here, Jason Reece, you will never find me far away!" 1164 "Reece's Hold-Up") give him no rest. His last fling is the marriage to The Black Duchess in an effort to weld "C.C.", at least the white section of it, together again, but this fails and we find him at last (in 1191 "Dirk Dolland's Crime") really on the run. His final and only hope is to cash in on the Slavonian Crown jewels, but this he also fails to do, escaping at the end by the skin of his teeth.

Now this issue of 1191 bears on its cover the words "The Last of the Confederation", but five weeks later comes 1196 which just about brings us to my

EPILOGUE

Who Wrote "Union Jack" No. 1196?

"Who is this and what is here?"

(Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

It will have been noted that I brand 910 and 916 as suspect Murray stories although it has been shown that he was probably a sick man at the time of their writing. Whether or not he actually did them, they cannot be said to be good work and certainly are not in line with the "C.C." tales which preceded them. But this 1196 is surely the problem child of all "U.J.s"

The dramatic crisis of the series is reached in 1185 with "The Marriage of Jason Reece", but Reece has about shot his bolt and the stage is set for a smashing climax to what was the longest and greatest series of Blake tales ever written.

What will he do before the end?

The very least one expects is a hand-to-hand fight to the death with Blake (in the Teed manner) or a capitulation to Coutts (style of Evans), but Murray, one somehow feels, will have him stake all on an attempt to bomb the Baker Street house or blow up New Scotland Yard and himself perish in the attempt before the eyes of half the population of London.

What happens?

In 1191 the spotlight is switched to Dirk Dolland and his crime, Reece playing a second fiddle and being shown as an ordinary crook on the run. The introduction of Dolland in Chapter Three, the stilted conversation with Blake (who calls him "Dirk") and the explanation of The Bat as "a nickname by which Dirk Dolland had been known in his crooked days", are not at all in the style of Murray. Nor is the following paragraph, page 12, centre column - "The big man was Detective-Inspector Coutts, of Scotland Yard, a prominent member of the C.I.D., and Blake's personal friend. Worse still, he was intimately known to Dolland." This after all the events in Santa Costa and the rest!!

Now remember that the cover of this has it "The Last of the Confederation." But our author lets Reece get away after involving all sorts of new and unimportant characters such as Jack Brandman, Irma Desmoynes, Chick Chapman and Prince Boris of Slavonia. Rex Dolphin has the firm idea that the culprit in both these stories is Gilbert Chester.

But it is my belief that a THIRD author was called in to finish things right off in 1196 which starts with Blake telling a member of the British Secret Service just who everybody is, including Reece, Fan Too and The Black Duchess. John Fade, by the way, is described as "her agent"!

The whole lot of them end up on the island of Jorsica which produces avolcano which conveniently erupts in the last chapter to spare Blake and company but swallow up Reece, Fan Too and the Criminals' Confederation.

But this is more than enough - I could quote paragraph after paragraph to show that Murray never wrote it. Was he ill? Or too interested

in the forthcoming Dr. Satira series that he could not be bothered to round of "C.C."?

I will make one final statement - in 1196 "The Great Round-Up", poor dear old Coutts is never once mentioned and I'm damn sure that Robert Murray would have had him in at the death of the Criminals' Confederation!!

APPENDIX

The Fourteen Reprints

"I feel again a spark of that ancient flame."

(Virgil)

Almost I headed this appendix with Carleton's words "The more we arg'ed the question, the more we didn't agree", for the first things I maintain concerning the fourteen "C.C." reprints are that they are not reprints at all - with the exception of the first four. The next two are rewrites, the following pair consist of an old story and a half, then comes a story sandwiched between two halves (This is the new "Trail in the Sand" which is really the second half of the old "Man From the Sea", the old "Trail in the Sand" and most of the old "Mr. Smith of London"), followed by two new tales each consisting of two old ones and at the end of the series are three which have been almost entirely rewritten and are only very vaguely indeed based upon the originals.

The one thing about them which makes me really angry is the complete elimination of Yvonne Cartier. A very faint substitution is effected in the person of Mademoiselle Celeste, but I am glad to say that her part is written down to a very small one. Colonel Quartz is another who suffers in the whittling down and early finish to the series.

But we must not think too harshly of this period nor be severe in our judgment. It was not only shortage of paper perhaps which killed so many of our books in 1940 - many may have seen the writing on the wall in 1930 when the stamping of feet and the screams of "Heil!" or "Comrade!" could be loudly heard from across the Channel even so far back as that or even earlier . . . And who could expect a boy to spend twopence even on a fictional story of the Criminals' Confederation when a penny bought a newspaper with tales featuring villains just as horrible but, worse luck, with no certainty that a Sexton Blake would come along and write finis to their evil deeds.

Truth - and life itself - had indeed become stranger than fiction and many a lad at 1930 was to live (and not all of them did that -) through adventures more fantastic than any ever conceived by Murray, Teed or the rest of them.

We were lucky and had our youth unsullied by fear; pity the young ones of to-day.

-----oOo-----

(I cordially endorse Harry Homer's pungent comment concerning the last Confederation story, original series. Murray certainly never wrote it. And surely the editor should have flung the manuscript back at the author who did, saying "Why the deuce have you left Coutts out? Get it rewritten." As it was, what should have been a great finish was a pitiful fiasco. -H.L.)

They Wrote of Sexton Blake

By Herbert Leckenby

Thanks to the help of several enthusiasts, I am able to present a complete record of the authors who have written for the three series of The Sexton Blake Library, from September 1915 up to the last number of the 3rd series before this Annual goes to press.

When it is remembered that for years the stories were written anonymously, this is no mean feat. Included in our thanks must be the Editor, or Editors, of the S.B.L. for supplying scores of names, particularly to Arthur J. Southway and John W. Gocher.

Collectors' lists vary slightly, but the records have been checked and re-checked and I think it can be claimed they are as near correct as it is possible to get them.

A study of this remarkable record of the most written about character in fiction reveals some fascinating statistics. For instance, we find 1342 stories have been written totalling probably 80 million words or more. It has been said there are some three million letters in the Bible, so if you allow just four letters to a word you can visualise the S.B.L. output in the terms of some 108 Bibles. Stupendous! But when you are thinking of the Sexton Blake history you have to add all the hundreds of Union Jacks and all the other yarns in numerous papers. It is true there were a number of reprints in the Library, but these do not reduce the figures materially. Is there not, in all this, ample material for an absorbing radio talk? In the words of the politicians, the answer is in the affirmative.

When we come to study the figures more closely we find 74 authors contributed stories (this allowing for those who wrote under more than one name) from William Murray Graydon with 117, down to about two dozen whose names only appear once.

Murray Graydon without doubt wrote more words on Blake than anyone else, for in addition to his 117 S.B.L.'s he at one period was responsible for the U J. story about every other week. In the 1st series S.B.L. he and Andrew Murray were running neck and neck until the latter's name disappeared with No.308. Graydon passed out with No.260 2nd series, thus he wrote 117 stories out of 642.

A good second (though included are a dozen reprints) to Graydon, came George Hamilton Teed, peer of them all for classic prose. He wrote the very first story, "The Yellow Tiger", a fascinating, exhilarating yarn, deserving a place on any bookshelf. When Teed portrayed the foreign scene you could visualise a sunlit island in a southern sea, or smell the garbage in a Parisian slum. A great gap was left when he wrote no more.

Gilbert Chester must be a veteran now, for he has stories in all three series. The same applies to Skene, Brooks and Lewis Jackson, though Edwy Searles Brooks can only claim one in the third and Jackson did just scrape into the lengthy second.

A curious feature is that Robert Murray, so prolific and popular in the U.J., only had two S.B.L's to his credit. This is something which has always mystified me. It is known that he was often ill, and that may have had something to do with it. Another mystery is who was L. H. Brooks, who had fifteen stories in the 1st series? I cannot remember seeing his name anywhere else. Was it the special pen name of some familiar author?

The story has been told how Donald Stuart wrote his first Sexton Blake story seated on the Embankment when down and out. Probably he was able to do most of his other 40 with the aid of a typewriter and in more comfortable conditions.

Another author once told me that he had had a Dixon Hawke story rejected several times by D. C. Thomson's. He felt a little discouraged, then he suddenly thought of something. He merely changed Dixon Hawke to Sexton Blake and Tommy Burke to Tinker and sent it to Fleetway House. It was accepted straight away and he was offered £50. He asked for 60 - and got it. That was in the days of the first series, and several others followed that revised Dixon Hawke story.

There is a striking feature about John G. Brandon's record, for his first story in the 2nd series was No. 365. With 56 (one a reprint) to his credit before the end of the series was pretty good going.

Alan Blair's achievement caused me considerable surprise, for until I came to work out these tables I had not the slightest idea he had written so much of Blake. He must have been something of a veteran towards the end, for he wrote his first serial (for "The Boy's Friend") in 1901. Pierre Quiroule's figures are somewhat less impressive by the fact that the majority of the stories which appeared under his name in the 2nd series were reprints.

All in all, it's an extraordinary record. It is quite on the cards that even with two stories a month only, the number of stories in the S.B.L. will eventually exceed those published in the "Boy's Friend Library". If that be so, it will be a record never likely to be beaten, not in our time, anyway.

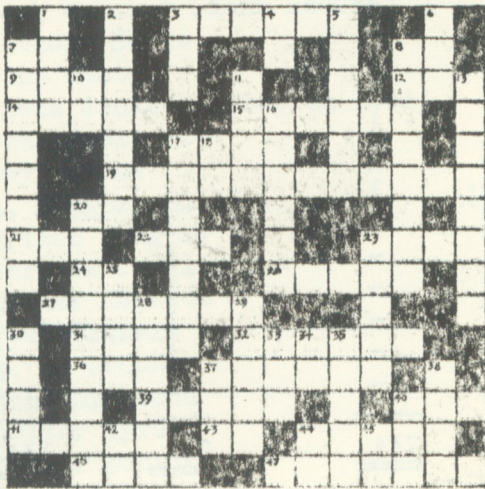
3rd Series compiled to October 1950 inclusive.

Figures in parenthesis denote reprints.

<u>Author</u>	<u>1st Series</u>	<u>2nd Series</u>	<u>3rd Series</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wm. Murray Graydon	72	45	-	117
Gilbert Chester	11	64 (4)	31	106
G. Hamilton Teed	23	78 (12)	-	101
Alan Blair	32	59 (1)	-	91
Coutts Brisbane)	16)	47	-	71
R. Coutts Armour)	3)			
Andrew Murray	65	4	-	69
Anthony Parsons	-	11	57	66
Pierre Quiroule	24	38 (26)	-	62
Rex Hardinge	-	34	21	55

<u>Author</u>	<u>1st Series</u>	<u>2nd Series</u>	<u>3rd Series</u>	<u>Total</u>
John G. Brandon	-	56 (1)	-	56
Mark Osborne (John Ascott)	33	17 (5)	-	51
Anthony Skene	3	36 (4)	5	44
John Hunter	-	11	31	42
Lewis Jackson (Stephen Hood)	15	1	25	41
Donald Stuart	-	41 (2)	-	41
Gwyn Evans	-	31 (7)	-	31
H. Gregory Hill)	15)			
Hylton Gregory)	1)16	13	-	29
Warwick Jardine	-	22	3	25
Walter Edwards	-	19	-	19
Paul Urquart	-	18	-	18
L. H. Brooks	15	-	-	15
John Drummond	-	-	17	17
Walter Tyrer	-	-	18	18
Lester Bidston	-	13 (1)	-	13
Stanton Hope	-	11	2	13
Edwy Searles Brooks	4	7 (2)	1	12
E. J. Murray)	3)			
Sydney Drew)	1) 4	13	-	17
Arthur S. Hardy	4	7	-	11
F. Addington Symonds	7	2	-	9
Martin Fraser	-	3	3	6
Cecil Hayter	5	-	-	5
E. Alias	5	-	-	5
John Cressley	-	3	2	5
Michael Poole	4	1	-	5
Maurice B. Dix	-	3	1	4
L. C. Douthwaite	-	3 (1)	1	4
O. Merland	4	-	-	4
Ladbroke Black	-	4	-	4
Stacey Blake	-	3	-	3
Barry Perowne	-	3	-	3
J. N. Pentelow	1	2	-	3
George Dilnot	-	3	-	3
Lewis Carlton	-	3	-	3
Trevor C. Wignall	2	-	-	2
Alfred Edgar	2	-	-	2
Robert Murray	2	-	-	2
Hedley Scott	-	2	-	2
Richard Goyne	-	2	-	2
Derek Long	-	-	2	2
W. B. Home Gall	1	-	-	1
W. Reynolds	1	-	-	1
W. Jones	1	-	-	1
Crichton Milne	1	-	-	1
Richard Poole	1	-	-	1
Barre Lindon	-	1	-	1
H. Townley	-	1	-	1

Sexton Blake Crossword



ACROSS

3. Tiger, Tiger.
7. Part of a pirate's call, or a Chinese name by Murray.
8. Leland's initials.
9. - 's Teed, or a Plummer's guise
12. Facial feature, half of Champion's Christian Name.
14. Might be Dess.
15. Is a rat, concocted by Robert.
17. Character hewn from a French stone?
- 20, 31, 46. Blake has fought this terrorist gang.
21. Rochester, briefly.
22. He drew admiration too.
23. Blonde Gangstress.
24. Reverse initials of GIMP's creator.
26. Voracious bird.

27. U.J. serial (non-Blake) by Allingham, "The Gyrth - Mystery". (Reversed).
32. Oh, Duchess!
36. See 20 and summarise the whole.
37. Blake has fought both human and reptilian species.
39. Jack's complement.
40. Duck's element.
41. Scottish-flavoured author's Christian Name.
43. Stuart is short.
44. Shall be clueless, but never was!
47. See 30 Down.

DOWN

1. Julie's other self, minus the falsehood.
2. He loved bubbly water.
3. S. B. enthusiast.
4. Mr. Black or Mr. Bidston?
5. Yellow Prince.
6. Bird of Paradise, beheaded, becomes Oriental.
7. "Had Nigter". This author certainly had! 8. Known as "Big Red".
10. Colleague of 22 Across, kinsman of Julius? 11. Part of Sir Gordon's Chinese ego. 13. Nix. 16. 10's Christian Name. 17. Commissioner of Police. 18. See 30 Down - her initials. 20. Curious American crook by Patterson. 23. Reincarnation Prince. 25. Evans mixed it with mistletoe to make a mystery. 28. It's name for Spots. 29. He broke all the glass in Oxford Street, according to Murray. 30, and 47 Across Blake saved her from the catacombs. 33. First part of 47 reversed, make a Teed character. 34. Middle of 37 Across. 35. "The - of Doom" by Stuart. 37. Familiar way to address Mr. Drew. 38. " - Sexton Blake", starring David Farrar. 40. Rochester's element. 42. First 2 letters of 41 Across. 44. 41 Across's initials reversed. 45. Initials of one Murray.



Detective Inspector
Coutts C.I.D.



Prince Wu Ling



Doctor Satira



Tinker



Wilfred Darwin
1950

The Sexton Blake Puzzle Corner

Devised by Rex Dolphin

1. AMBUSH!

Tinker was obliged to decrease the Panther's speed as soon as they left the main road, and shortly they came to a deserted spot where the beauty of the scene caused Blake to exhale a sigh of pleasure. With the sea gleaming in the distance and a slight mist on the mountain tops, the sight gladdened the eyes of the two men, especially as they had not been out of town for many weeks. Gulls wheeled overhead, their cry merging with the hiss of the surf down below.

"Let's have a break here," suggested Blake. When they had parked the car they got out and sat down for a quiet smoke under a shady tree, certain of a peaceful afternoon following the almost unceasing work of the past few weeks.

(But Blake and Tinker are in for an unpleasant surprise, for nine of their enemies are lurking in ambush. Can you spot them?)

2. PASSPORTS PLEASE!

Can you name the nationalities of these Blake characters?

Pompom	Bryant Kennedy
Gunga Dass	Lobangu
Fenlock Fawn	Julius Jones
Coralie Standish	King Karl
Dr. Ferraro	Prince Menes
Oyeni	Muriel Marl
Bertrand Charon	Zenith

3. RAINBOW CORNER

Colours are often featured in Blake titles. Can you state the two most commonly used?

Can you fill in the missing colours in these titles?

The	Tiger	The Men in the	Cowl
The	Chrysanthemum	Secret of the	Mountain
The	Casket	The	Domino
The	Refugees	The	Panther

4. FORM THREES

The middle rank of authors' initials is missing. Can you supply it?

L R W J T A J D E E W R M T E F
D H E P W H B L B M G E D B B S

5. SECRET MESSAGE

This is a straightforward substitution cipher. Work on the basis that E is the commonest letter in any average English text. T, O and N are other frequent letters. THE is the commonest three-letter word. Also in this message a well-loved character's name appears. Track him down, and the word following should strike you.

L D I G X J E R D N I Z J F D L V I J F J H V D X
O N K Y J N M O G K G S K G J M F F I J B D X V I J
L M G F V V K I G F B K S D L X J H V Z D X V A .
D G B J G V I J Z X D E .

For Answers see Page 106.

How They Arrived

Part II

By John Wood

(Note:- To give a complete picture the tables published in Part I (last year's Annual) are repeated and embodied with the arrivals mentioned in Part II. It may be noticed that in a few cases last year's figures have been altered. The reason is that last year Robert Blythe gave the number in which the character first played some active part, whereas this year J. P. Wood quotes the number wherein the character is first mentioned, no matter how remotely. - Ed.)

Completing the record of characters connected with St. Frank's this part fills in the picture since the enlargement of the school in Old Series No.537 until the end of the Second New Series. The Third New Series, of course, was only a re-issue of the stories originally appearing in Old Series No.112 onwards, and only ran for 25 numbers.

This part also continues the story admirably told by Robert Blythe in last year's Annual. His many friends will be delighted to know that at the time of writing Bob is making a slow, but steady, recovery from the illness which has prevented him writing the Nelson Lee Column for many months. We all wish him a speedy return to our columns and extend to him, Mrs. Blythe and young "Nipper" best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Fortunately, the list of newcomers after the enlargement of St. Frank's was not very large and there were, in fact, a much larger number of "outsiders" introduced, particularly as the stories became more and more a mixture of detective story and school yarn. In all, 39 new boys, three masters, five headmasters (including Nelson Lee) and six governors were introduced, while the Moor View and River House schools increased substantially as well.

To our story, however. With the return to St. Frank's in O.S. 537 the boys found that the old days had quite disappeared. Hearing that the old Helmford castle was being dismantled, the school governors bought it and used the ancient stones to build a new St. Frank's which would still look old and maintain the traditions of the past. Two new Houses, East and West made their appearance and all classrooms, laboratories, swimming bath and assembly hall were transferred to the new School House at the top of the famous Triangle. The Head's House was moved to the rear of Inner Court and all was set for a new and outstanding era in the history of the old school.

There was little time to assimilate the improvements, however, for we found ourselves chuckling at the cranky views of the lean Mr. Barnaby Goole, vegetarian headmaster of the East House, or casting a speculative eye at the dandified Bernard Forrest who in 537 was an East House Fourth Former, but who in the next number transferred to the Remove and became a popular successor to the now reformed Ralph Leslie Fullwood. So popular, in fact, that when he was later deservedly expelled, public demand

resulted in his being brought back: later he became Remove captain for a time, but that was in a Boys' Friend 4d. Library story in the very distant future.

Clive Russell was now a new Removite, but an unwelcome addition to the Sixth was Eustace Carey, undergraduate cousin of Fullwood, fleeing from the police and (in 538) taking the place of Stanley Clavering at St. Frank's. Eustace's funk and blackguardism caused Fullwood much anguish before Stanley was released from his prison in Bellton Priory ruins to take his place at the school, Eustace receiving his just deserts and being packed off to Mexico.

Fullwood was now a welcome member of the decent "set" and all ready to play his part with Nipper and the small body of sceptics who fought to uncover the machinations of the mysterious Ezra Quirke. With his weird manifestations of occult powers, his companion owl and his gaunt appearance, Quirke soon imposed on his schoolmates and was an effective aid to his uncle's plan to trick Singleton and Lord Pippinton out of several thousand pounds. After a long period of unrest, Quirke was exposed, but the series was E.S.B. at his best and, with the earlier Dr. Kernak series, one of the most popular in the whole saga of St. Frank's.

After this there was little activity in the new boy line until the close of the old series when Terence O'Grady, Herbert Vandyke and Alec Duncan slipped almost unobtrusively into the stream. They never played a leading role and were introduced at a cinema show in London where they met the more prominent juniors during their efforts to get recognition for the authorship of Steven's late father's play.

Duncan's friendship, however, meant much to the next newcomer, Harry Gresham, worthy son of Sir Stewart Gresham, famous England and Hampshire cricketer, who arrived in No. 51 of the 1st New Series. Because of a family secret he appeared to be a complex mixture of coward and sportsman, but this was soon unrevell'd and Harry slipped into the general pattern of the St. Frank's picture.

The Castleton twins, Alan (the rascal) and Arthur (the sportsman) turned up in 72, and, indeed, they appeared concurrently in the Gem.

Alan at St. Frank's was mistaken for Arthur; at St. Jim's Arthur was believed to be Alan. Much misunderstanding, but when he tried to lend his troubles on to Arthur, Alan found conscience too much and reformed with something of the suddenness of Reggie Pitt in the earlier days.

Then came Vivian Travers, who may well be regarded as the Cardew of St. Frank's. Neither black nor white, he was a light grey, so to speak. He was just as likely to do something outrageous as something heroic. In short, very human!

His cynicism and ruthlessness were seen in his efforts to restore the fortunes of Jimmy Potts, the Boot-boy Baronet, who came to St. Frank's at the same time from the same school. Travers always remained a leading light - a position he was bound to occupy because of his uncertain behaviour - and I always put him with Browne, the two Handforths, Nipper and Archie well in the top rank of popularity.

Claude Gore-Pearce came six numbers later to replace Gordon Wallace, a colourless substitute for the expelled Forrest, but he hadn't the necessary personality to take up Bernard's old place and soon reverted to the background.

There was an attempt to liven up the East House Fourth with the arrival of Lionel Corcoran in 132, closely followed by "Tich" Harborough, one of the Blue Crusaders of which famous team Corcoran was now the owner. "Tich" went into the Remove, but slipped quietly out of the ranks at an early date. Corcoran stayed for some time, giving his section of the Fourth a vitality for which he had been introduced.

With half the school only going on the School Ship tour which followed, the arrival of Dr. Morrison Nicholls as headmaster immediately on their return, and the School Train series after that, St. Frank's was now almost finished. There was a slight revival of interest with the next two arrivals, Stanley Waldo, (son of one of Mr. Brooks's most popular creations, the Wonder Man) and Robert Chester, uncle of Edgar Fenton, but it was no surprise when a revival of the Green Triangle organisation resulted in the burning of St. Frank's, the dispersal of the pupils and staff, and the introduction of the 2nd New Series.

That there was still a yearning for the old school yarns was evident because with No.15 St. Frank's partly re-opened. Prominent newcomers were K. K. Parkington and his 11 Red Hots from Carlton College, but this was too reminiscent of the arrival of Buster Boots & Co., and so an effort was made to return to normal. Nelson Lee was made headmaster, Mr. Wilkes arrived from the North, and for a time there were possibilities. The rancher-earl was introduced, and his son, "Skeets", came as a day boy (only the second in the school's history). A boy king came next, and then Tony Cresswell literally dropped in from an aeroplane. In No.122 we had Clive Maynard on his way, but he never reached Bellton. It was the end, apart from a dying flutter when Fighting Jim Kingswood took over the headmastership in 129. The glory of St. Frank's had dimmed, to be replaced by the detective thriller, by a third series which attempted to start all over again, and last of all by amalgamation with the Gem. How sad it all seems! However, I am appending a complete list of staff and scholars as at the time of Nelson Lee's headmastership in the hope that it may prove a useful record. If space permits, too, last year's arrivals chart is being incorporated to provide a fairly complete record. It is, however, not entirely so as regards "outsiders", which may be published later.

Chairmen of Governors (in order): Sir Rupert Manderley, General Ord Clayton, Sir Roger Stone, Sir Roderick Trumble, Miss Jane Trumble, Sir John Brent, Professor Ogleby, Lord Pottlebury.

Other Governors: General Milton, Sir James Henson, Bt., Lucien Dexter, Sir Gregory Gillingwater, and General Christopher Carfax.

Staff: Nelson Lee (headmaster), Alington Wilkes (Ancient House), Beverley Stokes (West House), Arthur Stockdale (Modern House), Barnaby Goole (East House), Robert Langton (Sixth), William Pagett (Fifth), James Crowell (Remove), Horace Pycraft (Fourth), Austin Suncliffe (Third),

Staff (contd.)

Arthur Blake (gym), Alfred Simpson (chemistry), Herbert Grayle (Mathematics), Frank Weston (swimming), Rev. David Smythe (chaplain), Professor Sylvester Tucker (science), M. Henri Jacques Leblanc (French), Dr. James Press (school doctor), Wally Freeman (football coach), Dora Manners (school nurse), Josh. Cuttle (head porter), Mr. Hake (gardener), Mrs. Hake (tuck shop), Phipps (Head's butler), Perkins (groundsman), Ethel Winter and Chrissie Brandon (telephone exchange).

Ancient House (Red and Blue): Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes, Mr. Crowell and Professor Tucker. Matron, Mrs. Poulter; Page, Tubbs. Head prefect, Edgar Fenton; junior captain, Dick Hamilton (Nipper). Sixth: Edgar Fenton, David Biggleswade, George Wilson, Hobart Conroy (prefects), Gilbert Kingsford. Fifth: William Napoleon Browne (captain), Horace Stevens, Bertram Love, Walter Hitchin, Maurice Bentley. Remove: Bernard Forrest, Albert Gulliver, George Bell (Study A), Claude Gore-Pearce, Arthur Hubbard, Edward Long (B), Dick Hamilton (captain), Sir Lancelot Montgomery Tregellis-West, Bt., Tommy Watson (C), Edward Oswald Handforth, Walter Church, Arnold McClure (D), Archibald Winston Derek Glenthorne, Albert Brent (E), Jerrold Dodd, Hubert Jarrow, Charley (Boomerang) Bangs (F), Cecil De Valerie, Hubert Alaric Cavendish Duke of Somerton (G), Vivian Travers, Sir James Potts, Bt., Viscount (Skeets Rossiter) Bellton, Anthony Cresswell (H), Ralph Leslie Fullwood Clive Russell, Stanley Waldo (I), Harry Gresham, Alec Duncan, Ulysses Spencer Adams (J). Studies K, L, M and N empty. Third: Willy Handforth (captain), Joseph (Chubby) Heath, Christopher (Juicy) Lemon, Jack Owen, Bobby Dexter, Eric Gates and Jack Blythe.

West House (Mauve and Yellow): Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Pagett. Matron, Mrs. Bradley page, Rodgers. Head prefect, Arthur Morrow; junior captain, Reggie Pitt. Sixth: Arthur Morrow, Llewellyn Rees, Harold Frinton (prefects), Leslie Stanhope, Cedric Taylor. Fifth: Cuthbert Chambers, Arthur Phillips, Walter Bryant, George Hodder, Spencer Minter. Remove: Reginald Pitt, Norman ("Jack") Grey (Study O); Nicodemus Trotwood, Cornelius Trotwood, James Rodney (Fatty) Little (P), Johnny Onions, Bertie Onions, Guy Pepys (Q), Hon. Douglas Clarence Cyril Singleton, Hussi Ranjit Lal Khan (R), Solomon Levi Dick Goodwin, Morgan Evans (S), Justin Bartholomew Farman, Charles Owen, Augustus Hart (T), Clarence Fellowe, Timothy Tucker, Robert Canham (U), Harold Doyle, Yung Ching, Larry Scott (V), Alan Castleton, Tom Burton, Clarence Augustus Jerome Marchant Lord Pippinton (W). Studies X, Y and Z are empty. Third: Dicky Jones, Tommy Hobbs, Edgar Button, Freddy Mason, Victor Hoskins, Jimmy Hope and Stanley Kerrigan.

Modern House (Green and Gold): Mr. Stockdale, Mr. Langton, M. Leblanc. Matron, Mrs. Riley; Page, Spratt. Head prefect: Walter Reynolds; junior captain, John Busterfield Boots. Sixth, Reynolds, Harold Carlile, Percival Mills, Cyril Jesson (prefects), Francis Goodchild, Hilary Vickers. Fifth: Howard Rowe, Reginald Swinton, Stephen Parry and Stanley Hulbert. Fourth: Robert Christine, Roderick Yorke, Charley Talmadge (Study I), Ernest Lawrence, Hubert Churchman, George Holland (2), Harry Oldfield, Len Clapson, Billy Nation (3), Sessue Yakahama (4), Horace Crowe, George Webb, Albert Crooke (5), John Busterfield Boots, Percy Bray, Walter Denny (6), Walter Skelton, Eugene Ellmore (7), Terence O'Grady,

Modern House (Contd.)

Herbert Vandyke (8). Studies 9 and 10 are empty. Third: Tommy Tripp, Harry Dawson, Arthur Deakin, Roderick Foote, Cyril Harper and Charley Thompson.

East House (Black and Orange) Mr. Goole, Mr. Pycraft and Mr. Suncliffe. Matron, Mrs. Potter; Page, Jelks. Head prefect: Simon Kenmore; junior captain, Lionel Corcoran. Sixth: Kenmore, Guy Sinclair, Charles Payne, Augustus Parkin (prefects), Stanley Clavering. Fifth: Harold Grayson, Frederick Shaw, Percival Drake, William Simms, Edgar Sopp, Gerald Sumpter. Fourth: John Holroyd, Edwin Munroe, Peter Cobb (Study 11); Lionel Corcoran, Timothy Armstrong, Louis Griffith (12), Clement Turner, Joseph Page, Donald Harron (13), Julian Clifton, Robert Simmons (14), David Merrell, Frederick Marriott, Enoch Snipe (15), William Freeman, Eric Dallas, Arthur Steele (16), Arthur Kemp, Cyril Conroy (17). Studies 18 19 and 20 are empty. Third: Tommy Conroy, Percy Ryder, Jimmy Hook, Billy Dale, George Fullerton, Thomas George Parry, Robert Simms, Wally Sullivan.

In all, 21 Sixth, 20 Fifth, 54 Remove, 39 Fourth and 28 Third: a grand total of 162, to which must be added staff and names of boys who, as shown in detailed lists below, were there for a time only. A big output, Mr. Brooks!

CHARACTERS OF THE NELSON LEE LIBRARY
IN ORDER OF THEIR APPEARANCE

Third Formers	O.S. No.	House	Third Formers	O.S. No.	House
George Fullerton	122	Ancient	James Hook	515	See Note 1
(Chubby) Joseph Heath	132	"	Charlie Thompson	"	"
Jack Owen (Minor)	152	"	Jack Blythe	516	"
Christopher (Juicy)			Billy Dale	"	"
Lemon	154	"	Harry Dawson	"	"
Dicky Jones	167	"	Jimmy Hope	"	"
Ronald Parry (Minor)	188	College			
Stanley Kerrigan	263	Ancient	<u>Remove</u>		
Leonard Simms	301	College	Nipper as Basil Bennett	112	Ancient
Willy Handforth	386	Ancient	" " himself	166	"
Fred Mason	510	See Note 1	Robert Christine	112	College
Percy Ryder	"	"	Roddy Yorke	"	"
Wally Sullivan	511	"	Charlie Talmadge	"	"
Eric Gates	"	"	Len Clapson	"	"
Edgar Button	"	"	Harry Oldfield	"	"
Cyril Harper	512	"	Billy Nation	"	"
Alfred Conroy (Minimus)	"	"	Sir Launcelot Tregellis-		
Bobby Dexter	513	"	West	"	Ancient
Arthur Deakin	"	"	Tommy Watson	"	"
Thomas Hobbs	514	"	Ralph Leslie Fullwood	"	"
Roderick Foote	"	"	Albert Gulliver	"	"
Victor Hopkins	"	"	George Bell	"	"
Thomas Tripp	515	"	David Merrell	"	"

Remove (Contd.)	O.S. No.	House	Remove (Contd.)	O.S. No.	House
Frederick Marriott	112	Ancient	Jerrold Dodd	312	Ancient
Matthew Noys	"	"	Gale (6)	328	College
Walter Church	"	"	Hussi Ranjit Lal Khan	347	Ancient
Teddy Long	"	"	John Willard as		
Edward Oswald Handforth	"	"	J. Martin	349	"
Arnold McClure	"	"	Enoch Snipe	"	"
Owen Major	"	"	Archie Glenthorne	352	"
Arthur Hubbard	"	"	Yung Ching	359	"
Robert Canham	114	"	Larry Scott	393	"
Short (6)	"	"	Alf Brent as		
Louis Griffiths	"	"	Alf Huggins	408	"
Harold Doyle	"	"	Clarence Fellowe	416	"
Timothy Armstrong	"	"	John Busterfield Boots	432	College
Lincoln	"	"	Horace Crowe	"	"
Clement Turner	112	College	George Webb	"	"
Joseph Page	"	"	Albert Crookes	"	"
Walter Skelton	114	Ancient	Walter Denny	"	"
Justin B. Farman	"	"	Percy Bray	"	"
Donald Harron	116	College	Ulysses Spencer Adams	442	Ancient
Arthur Steele (6)	"	"	Hubert Jarrow	448	"
William Freeman	128	"	Johnny Onions	462	"
Cecil De Valerie	132	Ancient	Bertie Onions	"	"
Arthur Kemp	"	"	Claude Carter (7)	485	"
Sessue Yakama	133	"	Clive Russell	529	"
Tom Burton	137	"			
Cyril Conroy (Minor)	138	"	<u>Fifth</u>		
Eric Dalles	149	College	Cuthbert Chambers	112	Ancient
Duke of Somerton	167	Ancient	Harold Grayson	"	College
Reginald Pitt	170	"	Walter Bryant	138	Ancient
Julian Clifton	175	"	Arthur Phillips	"	"
Jack Gray	177	"	Stephen Perry	187	College
Nicodemus Trotwood	187	"	Frederick Shaw	188	"
Cornelius Trotwood	"	"	Walter Hitchin	191	"
Eugene Ellmore	203	"	William Simms	196	Ancient
Robert Simmons	"	"	Salter (6)	234	"
Young (6)	"	"	Percival Drake	295	College
Titus Alexis	220	"	Reginald Swinton	301	"
John Holroyd	223	College	Edgar Sopp	443	"
Edwin Munroe	"	"	Horace Stevens	462	Ancient
Peter Cobb	"	"	Wallace	485	"
Augustus Hart (17)	"	Ancient	William Napoleon		
James (Fatty) Little	228	"	Browne	513	"
Timothy Tucker (16)	236	"	Bertram Love	517	See Note I
Hon. Douglas Singleton	240	"	Percival Drake	518	" " "
Dick Goodwin	274	"	Stanley Hulbert	"	" " "
Solomon Levi	285	"	George Hodder	"	" " "
Hubert Churchman	301	College	Howard Rowe	520	" " "
George Holland	"	"			

Sixth	O.S. No.	House	Remove (Cont'd.)	1st N.S. No.	House
Edgar Fenton (5) (18)	112	Ancient	Charlie Bangs	147	Ancient
Arthur Morrow (5)	"	"	Morgan Evans	167	West
Walter Starke (2) (5)	114	"	Stanley Waldo	175	Ancient
Simon Kenmore (5)	"	"	Robert Chester	190	"
Hobart Conroy (Major)(5)	118	"		2nd N.S.	
Arthur Lambert (3)	126	"		No.	
George Wilson (5)	135	"	Kirby Keeble Parkington	15	Ancient
Walter Reynolds (5)	187	College	Harvey Decks	"	"
Cyril Jesson (5)	"	"	Clement Goffin	"	"
Harold Carlile (5)	"	"	Letts	"	"
Harold Frinton (5)	195	Ancient	Mayhew	"	"
Llewellyn Rees	196	"	Jepson	"	"
Percival Mills (5)	187	College	Kersey	"	"
Augustus Parkin (5)	485	"	Langley	"	"
Guy Sinclair (5)	516	Modern	Bonner	"	"
Francis Goodchild	522	See Note I	Fiske	"	"
Charles Payne (5)	523	" " "	Haddock	"	"
David Biggleswade (5)	524	Ancient	Conway Baines	"	"
Leslie Stanhope	"	"	Viscount "Skeets" Bellton	61	"
<u>Remove</u>			King Victor Orlando	78	"
Clive Russell	537	Ancient	Paul Maddox	78	"
Lord Pippinton	548	West	Tony Cresswell	110	"
Alec Duncan	567	Ancient	Clive Maynard (14)	122	"
	1st N.S. No.		Fourth	O.S. No.	
Harry Gresham	51	Ancient	Bernard Forrest (8)	537	East
Alan Castleton	72	West	Ezra Quirke (9)	542	"
Arthur Castleton	75	"	Terence O'Grady	567	Modern
Gordon Wallace (10)	72	Ancient	Herbert Vandyke	567	"
Vivian Travers	90	"	Lionel Corcoran	132	1st N.S. East
Sir James Potts (11)	90	"	Sixth	O.S.No.	
Claude Gore-Pearce	96	"	Eustace Carey	537	East
"Tich" Harborough (12)	132	"	Stanley Clavering	538	"
	O.S.No.				
Lord Dorrimore	105	Big Game Hunter and Explorer			
Umlosi	"	Lord Dorrimore's companion. Chief of Kutamas			
Nelson Lee as Mr. Alvington	112	Ancient House Housemaster			
Dr. Malcolm Stafford	"	Headmaster			
Mrs. Hake	"	Tuck shop proprietor			
Mr. Crowell	114	4th Form Master, later Remove Master			
Mr. Stockdale	"	College House Housemaster			
Jonas Porlock	"	Proprietor of the White Hart Public House			
Warren	120	Porter. Left in No.274.			

O.S. No.

Arthur Gray	125	Capt. Bannington Grammar School Fourth
Inspector Jameson	126	Police Inspector, Bannington.
P. C. Sparrow	"	Policeman, Bellton.
Mrs. Poulter	129	Ancient House Housekeeper.
Earl and Lady Westbrooke	130	Tregellis-West's Uncle and Aunt
Dr. Brett	132	Village Doctor
Jeremiah Mudford	133	Village Postman
Mike Bradmore	138	Bookmaker
Mr. Pagett	"	Fifth Form Master
Capt. Burton	139	Tom Burton's father. Later Skipper of Wanderer.
Mr. Goodall	"	Owner of racing boats at Caistowe
Tubbs	"	Ancient House Page Boy
Williams	142	Dr. Brett's man.
Mary Jane	148	Ancient House Housemaid
Mr. Suncliffe	154	Third Form Master
Monsieur Leblanc	156	French Master
Sir Crawford Grey	178	Jack Grey's father
Mr. Binks	198	Grocer of Bellton
Sir John Brent	206	Governor (later Chairman)
Lady Mornington	237	Lord Dorriemore's sister
Ellen	250	Maid-servant
Jane	"	Ancient House Cook
Broome	"	Head Gardener
Wiggins	254	Bellton Station Porter
Mr. Arthur Kirby	257	Handforth's Brother-in-law
Edith Handforth	"	Handforth's eldest sister
Sir Edward Handforth	260	Handforth's father
Mr. Hudson	"	1st officer on the "Wanderer"
Mr. McNab	270	Chief Engineer, the "Wanderer"
Josh Cuttle	275	School Porter
Maude Cresswell	300	Headmaster's sister, m. Sir Horace (mentioned)
Jenkins	"	Headmaster's Butler before Phipps
Tinker	236	Sexton Blake's assistant
Colonel Glenthorne	253	Archie Glenthorne's father
Phipps	354	Archie Glenthorne's valet
Mr. Sharpe	363	Ironmonger of Bellton
Lumpy Bill	364	Bellton Hooligan. Blacksmith's son.
Mr. Fielding	365	Caistowe Motor-boat Owner
Mr. Spence	384	Bellton Station-master
Farmer Holt	390	
Mr. Clifford	395	Sports Master
Miss Charlotte Bond	436	Headmistress Moor View School
Mrs. Tracey	"	Housekeeper Moor View School
Joe Catchpole	446	Foreman. Holt's Farm.
Tom Belcher	"	Farm Labourer, Holt's Farm.
Greggs	458	General Handyman, St. Frank's.

Mr. Beverley Stokes	471	Temporary Head. Later Housemaster.
Mrs. Stokes	472	West House
Miss Perry	474	Under Mistress Moor View
Mr. Horace Pyecraft	485	Fourth Form Master
Professor Sylvester Tucker	494	Science Master
Mr. Robert Langton	527	6th Form Master
Mr. Warner Russell	529	Clive Russell's father.
Mr. Barnaby Goole	537	East House housemaster.
Mr. John Carey	541	Eustace's father
Dr. Raymond Snipe	544	Snipe's grandfather (mentioned)
Victor Mason	"	Football Coach
Jim Roach	548	Quirke's uncle
Groves	"	Lord Pippinton's chauffeur
Mr. Martin Heath, M.P., J.P. and Mrs. Heath	550	"Chubby" Heath's parents
Mr. Yates, Tom & Fred.	551	Butler, footmen, at Dorriemore Castle.
Mr. Henry Bruce	"	Relation of Lord Dorriemore.
Mrs. Walters	552	Muriel Halliday's aunt.
Janet	"	Meid
Commander Sampson Rudd	557	Asked to quell West House revolt.
Capt. Phineas Boom and Peter Jiggs	558	His servants, who actually came.
Sylvanus Noggs	561	Owner of travelling theatre
Stephen Ashwood	"	His leading man
Daphne Walters	"	His leading lady (Mrs. Ashwood)
Roger Barton	"	His rascally agent
Sam Arrowsmith	564	Manager, Emperor Theatre.
Augustus Crowson	"	Owner, three London theatres.
Mrs. Stevens	565	Horace Stevens' mother
Mr. Tudor	"	Aged family lawyer
Sir Rufus Browne	566	Browne's father
Benton	1st N.S. 1	Australian at Redcliffe
Herbert Tarrant	2	Joan's brother
Rogers	3	Australian at Redcliffe
Capt. Bertram Glenthorne	5	Archie's elder brother
Mrs. Constance Manning	6	Handforth's aunt (widow)
George Manning	6	Her son. Member of L.C.C. staff
Gerald Fenton	7	Edgar Fenton's elder brother.
Capt. Jim Walker	10	Captain of ocean-going tramp
Mr. Rogers	10	Junior officer
Bob Brewster	22	Hal Brewster's older brother
Mr. Williams	23	Principal, Bannington Cottage Hospital
Ald. Tobias Crump	23	Mayor of Bannington
Dora Manners	24	Irene Manners' cousin (Came to St. Franks as nurse in 1st N.S. 57)
Professor Grant Hudson	26	Hale University
Daley	26	Head gardener
Jim	26	Garage mechanic, Bannington

Mr. Snagg	1st N.S. 26	Bannington bookie and tipster
Withers	26	Doorkeeper at night club on Bellton road
Jenkins	31	Bannington Grammar School
Bill Stiggins	31	Fairground show proprietor
Gen. Gregory Handforth	34	Handforth's bachelor uncle
Mr. and Mrs. Rodd	34	Butler and Housekeeper
Capt. Wareing	36	Commander of the Titan
Mr. Wilcox	36	Junior officer
Edgar Stanmore	44	Junior captain, Bannington G.S.
Mr. Cotton	44	Skipper of barge Gladys
William Hooker	49	Riverside resident.
Capt. Sam Sawkins and Capt. Jim Clamp	49	Barge skippers
Mr. Williams	49	Licensee "The Angler"
Sir Stewart Gresham	51	Harry Gresham's father
Mr. Hubert Addison	51	Head's private secretary
Briggs	52	Under gardener
Lady Honorie Dexter	55	Head's sister - Fresh air fiend.
Sir Lucien Dexter	55	Archaeologist. Governor.
Mr. Graham Castleton	72	Father of Castleton twins
Mr. Piper	73	Bannington art dealer
Oscar Hammerton	73	London art dealer
Walter Church	76	Church's father
Geoffrey Church	76	Church's uncle
Major-Gen. Charles Osborne	80	Old Boy of St. Frank's.
Major Frank Compton, V.C.	80	Another Old Boy: lost memory.
Mrs. Compton	81	His wife
Mr. Day	81	Bannington baker
Gen. Christopher Carfax	84	Governor
Jem Potter	84	Villager
Timothy Tingle	87	Bannington grocer
Lady Potts	90	Sir James's mother
Mortimer Grayson	90	Grayson's father: in city.
Bob Catchpole	90	Bellton Rovers' captain
Joe Spence	90	Bellton Juniors' captain
Mrs. Spence	90	His mother
Ernie Sprigg, Alf Catchpole Harry Belcher, Tom Biggins	90	Bellton Youths
Sam Lloyd	92	Bookmaker
Mr. Salford	95	Bannington pawnbroker
Mason	95	Bannington bookmaker
Earl of Edgemore	96	
Jenkins	96	His butler
William Gore-Pearce	96	Claude's father
Taylor	96	His chauffeur
Lucas Snell	96	His lawyer
Jacob Smithers	97	Edgemore farmer
M. Henri Girard	98	English master, Corrigay School
Madame Rossiter	98	His sister, widow of Capt. Charles Rossiter.

Charlie Rossiter	<u>1st N.S.</u>	98	Madame Rossiter's son, grandson of Earl of Edgemore.
Jack Winston		104	Cousin of Irene Manners and brother of Elsie.
Mr. (later Sir) Hobart Manners		118	Father of Irene Manners
Sophie Heaton		126	Archie Glenthorne's aunt
Sam Billings		128	Manager-Secretary, Bannington Town.
Bill Brice		128	Bookmaker
Lightning		128	Willy's greyhound
Jock		128	Bannington Town trainer
Mr. Godfrey Norton		140	Remove master on School Ship
Sir Arthur Brampton		145	Old Boy of St. Frank's.
Stanley Clapson		147	Len Clapson's father
Dr. Morrison Nicholls		151	Headmaster
Sir Gilman Browne		161	Browne's uncle
Simon and Olive Clegg		190	Robert Chester's friends
Sir Gregory Gillingwater.	<u>2nd N.S.</u>	27	Governor
Lord Pottlebury		29	Old Boy and Minister of Education
Mr. Alington Wilkes		29	Ancient House housemaster
Nelson Lee		29	Headmaster
Lord Walberry		29	Governor
Councillor Horace Gribble		29	Mayor of Bannington
Wally Freeman		31	Football coach
Cristabel Harrington-Douglas		31	Archie's aunt
Mrs. Wilkes		31	Housemaster's wife
Townrow, Smith, Braby, Moulden		37	Bannington G.S.
Sir Trevor Parkington		46	K.K's uncle
Vincent		46	His son
Jake Diamond & Trixie Foster		48	American gangsters
Mike Satella, etc.		52	Crooks who become masters
Mr. Grant		57	Japanese Cafe manager
Earl of Edgemore		61	Rancher-earl
Mortimer & Eustace Carroll		61	Claimants to earldom
Stephen Getfield & John Leach		62	Their helpers
Dr. Inigo Scattlebury		71	Headmaster (left in 73)
Hackett		71	His chauffeur
Amos Whittle		75	Bannington saw miller
Howard Barfield		75	Solicitor
Professor Thorpe Ogleby		84	Chairman of Governors (later headmaster)
Red Kress		110	Cresswell's Secret Service father
Dr. Howard Ponsonby		119	Zingrave as headmaster
James (Fighting) Kingswood		129	Last headmaster
Charles Stockdale		151	Mr. Stockdale's brother
Nerki		152	Crook and sorcerer
Lady Eustacie Bowers		152	Archie's aunt

Advertise in the C.D.

THE MOOR VIEW SCHOOL. Introduced No. 436

Violet Watson	First mentioned	213	
Ethel Church	" "	"	
Agnes Christine	" "	"	
Irene Manners	" "	436	
Marjorie Temple	" "	439	
Doris Berkeley	" "	"	
Tessa Love	" "	464	with Onions Circus
" "	" "	470	Moor View
Jean Torrant	" "	474	
Ena Handforth	" "	488	
Winnie Pitt	" "	515	
Miss Muriel Halliday	" "	O.S.No. 550	
Mary Summers	" "	" "	554 (Came to Moor View later)
Miss Browne	" "	1st N.S.	47
Sylvia Glenn	" "	" "	132
Betty Barlowe	" "	" "	175
Molly Stapleton (15)	" "	" "	187
Vera Wilkes	" "	2nd N.S.	30
Annie Russell	" "	" "	32
Phyllis Palmer	" "	" "	40

THE RIVER HOUSE SCHOOL. Intro. No.143

Dr. Molyneux Hoggs	143	Principal
Mr. Wragg	"	Under Master
Hon. Aubrey De Vere Wellborne	"	
Hon. Bertram Carstairs	"	
Hon. Cyril Coates	"	
Hal Brewster	"	
George Glynne	"	
Dave Ascott	"	
Leighton	"	
Kingswood, Norton, Hawke, Brampton, Grant, Bingham,	all	No.312.
Riley	No.	455.
Rex and John Bayliss,	<u>1st N.S.</u>	1
Littlewood		24
Eustace Grell		95 (Expelled)
Lang, Mason, Reeves, Driscoll, Buller, Pringle, Mann, Palmer, Hadley, Commerford, Grant, Hawes, Knight and Lacey --	all	1st N.S. 112.
Cyril Graham		1st N.S. 124
Chapman, Gadsby, Delaney	" "	125
Mr. Austin Marshall, Wilmore, Parsons & Bishop (prefects) and Evens (a senior) --	all	1st N.S. 176.
Boxley --	1st N.S.	183.

NOTES

- (1) Mentioned only in Portrait Gallery, St.Frank's Magazine.
- (2) Expelled No. 211.
- (3) Expelled No. 126.

Notes (Cont'd)

- (4) Expelled No. 222.
- (5) Prefects.
- (6) Mentioned once or twice only. Assumed to have left.
- (7) Expelled 492.
- (8) Transferred to Remove (Ancient House) O.S. No.538. Expelled 1st New Series 71. Returned 1st New Series 179.
- (9) Left O.S. No.549. Appeared in second series beginning 1st N.S. 137.
- (10) Left in 1st N.S. No.75 and returned to River House.
- (11) Arrived in capacity of boot boy, Ancient House.
- (12) Noted in 1st N.S. 174 that he had left St.Frank's.
- (13) Left in 2nd N.S. No.71.
- (14) Never actually arrived.
- (15) Heroine of earlier series while ward of Eileen Dare.
- (16) Arrived in Boys' Realm story No.37 dated 13 Dec. 1919.
- (17) " " " " " No.12 dated 21 June 1919.
- (18) Originally in College House.

ANSWERS TO SEXTON BLAKE PUZZLES

1. Characters in order of appearance: Dass, Hale, Eagle, Mist, Menes, Rymer, Owl, Kew, Reece.
Score: 1 mark each, or 10 if all found.
2. Ethiopian (Abyssinian), Hindu, American, French, Italian, Japanese, French, American, Zulu (Etbaia tribe), Welsh, Serbovian, Egyptian, American, Rumanian.
Score: 1 mark each. (14)
3. Two most common title colours: Red, Black.
Missing colours: Yellow Grey
Black Red
Golden Red (Crimson)
White Grey
N.B. Possibly other colours may fit. If you can prove such a case, count your answer right.
Score: 1 mark each. (10)
4. C L J N C S G L S J M C B C H A
NB. Nos. 9 and 15 can exchange places.
Score: 1 mark each. (16)
5. FOUR NEW VOLUMES OF THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY ARE ISSUED ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF NEXT MONTH. ORDER THEM NOW.
Score: 25 if all correct. Lose two marks for each word wrong or incomplete.

ANSWERS TO "FUN AT SCHOOL" QUIZ

Score yourself according to the figures at the end of each answer, one for each correct answer, and no cheating! Possible total is 79. Rate yourself as follows: Over 70, excellent; 60 to 70, very good; 50 to 60 good; 40 to 50, average; under 40, more study needed.

Answers

1. Greyfriars; St. Jim's; Rookwood; St. Frank's; East House at St. Frank's; West House at St. Franks; and Ancient House at St. Frank's. (8 marks).
2. Mr. Sands the grocer; the Head of Rookwood; Dr. Brett; Eileen Baro; Elysian Cafe; William Napoleon Browne. (6)
3. Bannington 304; Helmford 5301; Bannington 3841; W.C. 001704; Bannington 70; Courtfield 106; Bannington 688. (7)
4. P.C's Bogg, Tozer, Sparrow, Crump. (4)
5. Bruce Richard; Oswald; Garston; Umphreville; Bernard; Woodhead; Assheton; Manfred; Jasper; Plantagenet; Theophilus Felix; Hastings; Tudor. (13)
6. William Gosling (Greyfriars); John Mack (Rookwood), Ephraim Taggles (St. Jim's), Josh Cuttle (St. Frank's), Mrs. Mumble (Greyfriars), Sgt. Kettle (Rookwood), Dame Taggles (St. Jim's) and Mrs. Hake St. Frank's). (8)
7. Lord Tallboys (Carcroft), Reggie Pitt (St. Frank's), Billy Bunter (Greyfriars), Jerrold Lumley-Lumley (St. Jim's), Herbert Vernon-Smith (Greyfriars). (5)
8. Tuckless; Adalbert; Spencer; Fortescue; Jasper; Auckland; Mermaduke. (7)
9. Toby, Tubbs, Trotter and Spratt are page boys at St. Jim's, St. Frank's (Ancient House), Greyfriars and St. Frank's (Modern House). The next three are Indian boys; the last five are Fourth form masters. (12)
10. Lord Pippinton; the Duke of Somerton; Viscount Bellton; Lord Derriemore. (4).
11. Squiff, Drake and Rodney. (3)
12. Dr. Marvell and Dr. Greville Mason. (2)

Clean Pre-1920 Cigarette Cards
bought. Also Pre-1900 Match
Box Labels
Cruse, 18, St. Matthew's Road
Cotham, Bristol

The Collectors' Who's Who

Compiled by Herbert Leckenby

Bigger than ever this indispensable feature of the Annual. Once again we welcome dozens of new friends, and very few have dropped out. A particularly pleasing fact to note is the number who have joined us from overseas.

The growth of this section, gratifying though it is, does create a problem. How to provide the space without encroaching on other features. It really looks as if sometime the "Who's Who" will be a publication on its own.

Once again collectors' favourites appear in order of preference.

We have also indicated members of the Old Boys' Book Clubs thus: London (L.), Northern (N.).

Here are the Groups:

- 1, Victorian Papers.
- 2, Early 20th Century,
- 3, Aldines.
- 4, Captain, Boys' Own Paper, Chums and similar papers.
- 5, "Hamilton" Papers: (a) Magnet, (b) Gem; (c) Penny Popular;
(d) Schoolboys' Own; (e) Holiday Annual.
- 6, Sexton Blake: (a) Union Jack; (b) Sexton Blake Library;
(c) Detective Weekly.
- 7, (a) Nelson Lee. (b) Monster Library.
- 8, Between Two Wars:
(Champion, Thriller, Ranger, Modern Boy, etc.)
- 9, Comics.

* Denotes Collector's first appearance in Who's Who.

ADLEY, DEREK JOHN.

19, Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex. 'Phone Wordsworth 4484.
Age 23. Groups 5(a) (b); 7(a); 5(e) (d), 5(c); 6(b) (a) (c);
7(b); 2; 3; 8; 9.

Interested in compiling lists of titles of most boys' papers. Anxious to obtain Nelson Lees, 2nd series, 66 to 73, 77, 79, 87, 89, 91, 119, 122 to 124; 133 to 135; 141 to 147.

ALLEN, LEONARD M.

3 Montgomery Drive, Sheffield, 7. (N)
Age 44. Groups 4; 7(a); 9; 2; 6(a).

Wanted: Captains, Vols 9 and 30; Nelson Lees, No's 453 and 454; Old Comics; Nuggets (A.P.), etc.

* ALLISON, GERALD.

7 Summerfield Gardens, Bramley, Leeds. (N)
Age 45. Groups 5(a) (b); 6(a) (b); 5(c).

Allison, Gerald. (cont'd.)

Has only a small, but greatly treasured collection of Magnets. These include 1285-1296, "Harry Wharton in Disgrace". Re-reads them every three years.

Derives great pleasure from the meetings of the Northern Section Old Boys' Book Club of which he is Librarian.

ANDERSON, L.T.

51 Holmewood Gardens, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.2.

Age 39 Groups 5(a) (b) (e) (c)

Been a reader of Magnet and Gem since age of 10. Always willing to buy Magnets, particularly those prior to 1928.

* ASPDEN (Mrs) M. (N.)

104 Earmsdale Road, Darwen, Lancs. Group 5(a)

* BAKER, CHARLES G.

7 Marine Terrace, Waterloo Port, Caernarvon.

Groups 5(b) (a) (c); 2; 3;
6(b) (a) (c)

Anxious to obtain Boys' Heralds, Vol.6; and Gems Nos. 1246 to 1286, and 1297/98. Plucks 106 to 132, early Magnets and Gems 1-400.

Started to collect in 1914 but lost a large part in a raid on Liverpool during the war. Lost Magnets and Gems 1 to 400, first 200 Penny Populars, 10 vols. Boys' Realm, 7 vols. Boys' Herald and many others, but has safe all the re-print Gems except 1246/86, a large number Boys' Realms and Heralds; about 200 Boys' Friend 3d Libraries between 3 and 300; 180 Detective Weeklies, large number Sexton Blake Libraries, the first 52 Boys' Realm Football Libraries and many others.

BARTLETT, HENRY J. H.

Peas Hill, Shipton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset.

Age 49. Groups 2; 3; 5 (all); 4; 6 (all); 8; 9; 7; 1.

Has a mixed collection of many books of most groups. Particularly interested in fantastic books, Ferrers Lord, by Sidney Drew, Captain Justice, etc. Also Boys' Friend 3d and 4d Libraries. Wants old copies of comics, including Puck. Would like to contact other fantasy fans.

BARNITT, LEONARD.

2 New Street, Pittshill, Stoke-on-Trent.

Age 32. Group 5(a) (d)

BARDEN, WILLIAM L.

7 Penryn Street, Redruth, Cornwall.

Group 5 (all)

BEARDSSELL, FREDERICK CLIFFORD.

"Flynstock", Ross Avenue, Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire. (N.)

Age 46. Groups 5(a) (b) (d); 6(a)

Always willing to pay for loan of papers.

BENNETT, RAYMOND V.

64 Dudley Road, Tipton, Staffs.

Age 34. Groups 5(a); 7(a); 5(b) (c); 6(b).

BENTLEY, J. BREEZE.

4 Greenfell Drive, Bradford Moor, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Group 5(a) (b) (d) Hamilton stories only.

Collection now consists of over 1350 Magnets (including complete run 938 - 1683); Gems 450 (nearly all numbers over 1200); S.O.L's over 200. No. 1 Magnet. No. 1 S.O.L.

* BLEWITT, ^{H.S.}68 Crenham Road, Romford, Essex.

Age 26. Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e); 7(a); 6(a); 8.

Chiefly interested in Magnets and Gems. Also likes Bullseyes and would like to obtain copies in good condition. Only recently started collecting. Mrs. Blewitt is also a keen Hamilton fan.

* BLIGHT, EDWARD. (L)

"Sandhills", Constantine Bay St. Merryn, Padstow, Cornwall.

Age 50. Groups 6(a); 7(c); 6(e), 6(b); 8 (Thriller);
5(c); 2; 3; 6(b); 4; 5(a);
5(d); 7(b); 9.

Started collecting in 1915 with Boys' Friend 3d Library, Magnet and Gem. In addition has Union Jacks, Detective Weeklies, Marvel, Penny Popular, Thriller, Nelson Lee Library, Robin Hood, Wild West and many others.

BLUNDEN, Anthony A.

43 Elmfield Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex.

Age 15. Group 5 (all); 7(b) (a).

Anxious to obtain Magnets 1139, 1141, 1142, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1296, 1357, 1362.

Gems 1077-1079, 1505, 1543.

S.O.N's 285, 306, 312, 324, 345, 375, 381, 393, 249, 256, 337, 340, 370, 349, 400, 403, 409, 273, 314, 230, 317.

Interested in Populars.

BLYTHE, ROBERT.

46 Carleton Road, Holloway, London, N.7. (L)

Age 35. Groups 7; 5(a)

BOLAND, JOHN A.

College Historical Society, Trinity College, Dublin, Eire, Ireland. (L)

Age 19. Groups 5(a) (b) (d). 9 (Comet only).

Also interested in the Meccano Magazine (but not in Meccano).

Wanted pre-November 1948 Collectors' Digests and Annuals 1 and 2.

BOND, HERBERT MAURICE.

10 Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Age 38. Group 6 (all).

BOTTOMLEY, Fred.

48 Downhills Park Road, Tottenham, London N.14.

Group 5 (all)

BRADSHAW, WILLIAM H.

3644 N. Oakley Avenue, Chicago 18, Illinois, U.S.A.

Group 6(a) (b) (c)

Has now over 800 Union Jacks and complete set Detective Weeklies, (379 issues).

BRANTON, W. LESLIE,
63 Thoresby Street, Hull, Yorkshire. (L)
Group 5 (a) (e)

BLETHERTON, T.P.
Heskin, Nr. Chorley, Lancs.
Groups 2; 1; 9.
Requires Boys' Leaders (Pearsons) Nos. 75 to 101. For exchange only
Nos. 27 to 54.

* BROWN, RAYMOND E.
54 Longreach Road, Liverpool 16. (L)
Age 23. Groups 5 (all); 6(b) (a) (c); 7(b)(a) 8.
Although interested in old boys' books since 1938, only started collecting
this year. Especially interested in Hamilton papers and wishes to
increase collection. Requires Magnets 1930-40. Employed in London.
Address. 69 Byron Avenue, Cranford, Nr. Hounslow, Middlesex.

BURROW, RONALD.
1 Albert Square, Yeadon, Leeds.
Age 39. Groups 7(a); 5(a) (b).
Wanted: Nelson Lee's (old series) 17, 30, 78, 107, 114, 352, 448, 470;
Gem 1351; Marvel (1894) 45, 51; S.O.L. 4; B.F.L. 1st series, 514.

* BYRNE, F. G.
Wymondham College, Wymondham, Norfolk.
Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e); 7(a).

CALDWELL, RAYMOND L.
P.O. Box 515, Lancaster, Pa.
Age 56. Groups 1; 2; 3; 6.

* CARTER, Ernest Charles.
2 Cooper Street, Kingsford, N.S.W., Australia.
Age 39. Groups 7(a) (b); 6 (all); 5 (all).

CASE, FRANCIS.
4 Dee Street, Liverpool, 6.
Age 45. Groups 9; 1; 5(a) (b) (c); 2.
Is anxious to obtain at reasonable prices old copies of pre-war comic
papers, particularly "Lot-o-Fun", "Comic Life" and "Butterfly".
Condition unimportant if readable.

CHECKLLEY, PETER JOHN.
18 Tarlington Road, Coundon, Coventry.
Age 16. Groups 5(b); 8 (Bullseyes); 7(a);
5(a) (c) (d) (e).

CLOUGH, WILLIAM H.
3 Fonthill Grove, Sale, Manchester.
Age 49. Groups 3; 2; 6(a).

* COLLIER, H. J.
9 Gotts Park Crescent, Leeds 12.
Group 5.

COOK, JAMES W.

4 Swanston Path, Oxney Estate, Watford, Herts.

Age 42. Groups 7; 5(e) (c)

COOK, JOHN R.

178 Maria Street, Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Groups 7(a); 5(d); 7(k); 5(a) (b) (c)
6(a) (c); 5(e); 6(c)

COOK, RON LD.

30 Lucien Road, Tooting Bec, London, S.W.17.

Age 28. Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d) (e); 8 (Ranger)

Possesses 700 Magnets, 36 Gems, 62 S.O.L's, 3 Holiday Annuals.

Requires most pre-1929 Magnets, Rangers 1 - 30; Gems, Boys' Magazines, Populars dated 1931, and S.O.L's 1929-31.

CORBETT, JOHN.

49 Glyn Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham.

Age 39. Group 5(a) (b).

COX, EDMUND WALTER.

29 Carisbrooke Drive, Bitterne, Southampton. (L)

Age 22. Groups 5 (all); 7(a); 6(c);
8; 9; 6(a) (b); 2.

Collection consists of about 250 Magnets, 100 Gems, 100 S.O.L's, 7 Holiday Annuals, 12 Nelson Lees, 500 penny Comics, 5 years' Boys' Own Paper complete, 200 odd papers. Anxious to obtain any Magnets prior to 1930, especially 1923 to 1930. Also Gems and certain copies Penny Popular and Boys' Friend.

CRUSE, A. J.

18 St. Matthews Road, Cotham, Bristol, 6.

Does not collect, but is greatly interested in the subject, and has written several articles for the Press.

CROLLIE, Ronald J.

8 Lytton road, Romford, Essex. (L)

Age 32. Groups 5(a) (b) (d); 7(a); 5(e).

Magnets wanted: 170, 176, 177, 178, 182 and 119.

DARWIN, WILFRED.

76 Western Road, East Dene, Rotherham, Yorkshire.

Age 36. Group 6(a).

Urgently requires Union Jack Nos. 1161, 1149, 1177, 1178, 1198.

Also very interested in Boys' Magazine and wishes to obtain certain numbers after 331. Always glad to hear from others similarly interested.

DEASY, JAMES C.

14 Galleymount Gardens, Ranelagh, Dublin, Ireland.

Age 18. Groups 5(a) (b) (d); 8.

Also interested in post-war Champions, Thomson papers and the Comet. Started collecting in 1945 and has a large number of Champions and Thomson papers.

DEWEY, REX.

"Springfield End", Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincs.

Age 48. Groups 5(a) (b); 6(b); 9.

Though no longer a collector, takes a keen interest in old boys' books. Has a few Boys' Own Papers 1891-2; Chums 1909, and some odd Magnets, Gems, Marvels, Union Jacks and Aldines.

✠DIXON, J.S.

4 Cooper Avenue South, Liverpool 19.

Group 5(a).

✠DOBSON, TOM.

30 McLean Avenue, Bentleigh, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Age 45. Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d); 6(a) (b); 7(a) (b).

Only been collecting about 6 months. A Hamilton enthusiast. Has 52 early Gems, 47-72; 99-124; 160 late Gems, and 180 late Magnets. Also Holiday Annuals 1930-1941.

Is a public servant (Federal), P.M.G. Dept. External service 1921. Stationed Brighton (Victoria) P.O. since 1928.

DOLPHIN, REX.

13 Meadow Way, Hyde Heath, Amersham, Bucks.

Age 35. Group 6(a) (b) (c).

Specially interested in Pierre Quiroule stories in Sexton Blake Library 1st and 2nd series. Requires 169 and 193, 1st series, or 443 2nd series.

DOW, JAMES, Junr.

73 King Street, Aberdeen.

Age 36. Groups 5(a); 7; 5(c) (b).

DOWLER, HARRY.

86 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester, 13. (N)

Age 60. Groups 2; 4.

Requires early volumes Big Budget, and Maxwell Scott stories in 1st U.J.; Pluck, Marvel, 1d U.J. and Boys' Friend 3d and 4 Libraries.

✠DRYDEN, WHEELER.

Box 2647, Hollywood, 28, California, U.S.A.

Group 5 (all)

EDGLELEY, BRIAN.

9 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

Group 6(b) (a).

Anxious to obtain most Sexton Blake Libraries (3rd Series) between Nos. 1 and 50. Also a few later. Specially wanted, Nos. 2, 22, 30, 52, and 53. A few 2nd Series also required.

EDWARDS, W. E.

The Retreat, Oak Road, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex.

Group 5(a).

✠EVERETT, C. A.

P.O. Box 7, Brinkworth, South Australia.

Age 35. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e).

Posses approximately 300 Gems, 300 Magnets, 100 S.O.L's, 200 Nelson Lees. Been collecting two years. (over)

Everett, C.A. (Cont'd)

Is anxious to obtain Magnets and Gems prior to 1932; S.O.L's prior to No. 200.

Is a dance pianist.

EGAN, BERNARD.

1 Dartmouth Terrace, Ranelagh, Dublin, Eire.

Age 27. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e) (c).

Has a small collection of Magnets, Gems and S.O.L's. Particularly wants Magnets 1175-1185, 1297-1307, and any Magnets and Gems between 1931 and 1936. Letters welcomed.

Interested in drawing and painting and is a watch and clock repairer as a spare time occupation.

FLAYNE, ERIC.

The Modern School, Grove Road, Surbiton, Surrey. (L)

Groups 5 (all); 6; 8.

FLINDERS, (Miss) EVELYN B.

Roseview, Gosmore Road, Nr. Hitchin, Herts.

Groups 5(b) (a) (c) (d) (e).

FORD, DEREK.

42 West Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Group 6(a) (b) (c).

Still hunting Detective Weeklies 219, 223, 309, 313, 316, 318, 319, 336, 340, 356, 357, and 379 to complete collection.

FOSTER, GEORGE C.

26 Kelso Place, W.8.

Group 5 (all).

Once had a huge collection, but now only possesses some early Boys' Friend 3d Libraries, including first three, and a quantity of Greyfriars, St. Jims and Rookwood Schoolboys' Owns. Has some early Jack, Sam and Pete stories.

Is himself a successful author with about 40 novels to his credit.

First wrote 13 semi-serious ones including "Sunwards", "Cats in Clover" and "No Poppies in Flanders". Then turned to comedies. One "The Rift in the Loot" was filmed as "Birds of a Feather" with George Robey in it.

After 18 humorous ones returned to his original style under the nom-de-plume of "Seaforth" after his old regiment. Latest written under his own name is "Hooked on the Line".

FENNELL, HUGH W.

4 Dixon Road, South Norwood, London, S.E.25.

Groups 1; 2; 3; 6(a), (and all others).

Wanted "Wild Boys of London"; complete set "Scoops"; Frank Reade's Fantasy and Science Fiction; Detective and Mystery items. Odd numbers "Skeleton Horseman" and "Boy Detective".

GANDER, WILLIAM HENRY.

Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada.

Age 52. Groups 5(a); 2.

Requires various numbers in Volumes 1 to 4, 14, 15, 23 to the end Boys' Friend, new series.

GARRATT, ANTHONY W. HITAKER.

275 Chester Road, Little Sutton, Wirral, Cheshire.

Age 28. Group 5(c) (e) (d).

GEAL, JOHN WILLIAM.

277 Kings Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. (L)

Age 29. Groups 5(a); 8 (Modern Boy), 5(b); 7(a).

Particularly wants "Modern Boys" and "Boys Friend Libraries" with Captain Justice yarns. 1st new Series "Nelson Lee" and "Scoops", science fiction 2d. 1934.

*GILES, F. VICTOR.

6 St. Paul's Road, Barking, Essex.

Group 5.

GOCHER, JOHN WOODWARD.

Constitution Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Age 28. Groups 8; 5 (all); 6(a) (b); 4.

Anxious to obtain Boys' Wonder Library; Thrillers containing stories by Murdock Duncan; bound volumes of Chums 1930 onwards; and Triumphs from 1930 onwards.

GODFREY, SIDNEY.

3 Winchfield Close, Kenton, Middlesex.

Age 40. Groups 5(c) (e) (b); 7; 5(d) (e).

*GODSAVE, R. J.

35 Woodhouse Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11. (L)

Group 5.

*GOODHEAD, W. H.

50 Porter Street, Derby. (L)

Age 35. Groups 7(b) 7(a); 5(a), 5(d).

Only started collecting recently. Very anxious to secure Monsters and Magnets.

GORDON, G.

180 Bryn Road, Brynmenyn, Nr. Bridgend, Glam.

Age 27. Group 5(a) (b)

Deals in all types of old boys' books and usually has a good selection for sale.

Collects personally Magnets and Gems, particularly Christmas numbers.

GRLLINGER, GEORGE P.

Alexandra Road, Paynter's Lane End, Redruth, Cornwall.

Groups 3; 6(a); 2.

Wanted, early Aldine Libraries; Inventions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Detective 10, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 34, 73, 74, 75, 78.

Tip-Top 9, 11, 25, 55, 59, 148, 159, 160. Also Ally Slopers, Boys Friend (weeklies).

GROOM, WILLIAM.

52 Wrexham Road, Bow, London, E.3.

Group 5(a) (b) (d).

GROOMBRIDGE, CEDRIC, J.

12 Barnwell Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton.

Age 28. Groups 5, 7.

GUNN, JOHN.

Milton's Head Hotel, Nottingham.

Groups 7(a) (b); 4.

Still waiting to obtain Monster Libraries Nos. 1, 8, 10 and 14.

HALL, A. L.

34 Compton Crescent, Leeds, 9.

Group 2.

HALL, MAURICE M.

21 Gt. Esmer Avenue, Merton Park, London, S.W.19.

Age 20.

Groups 5(a) (b); 6(a); 8.

Wanted Union Jacks 1927-32. Has some to spare.

HARRIS, A. K.

6 Boughton Close, St. John's Worcester.

Group 5(b)

HARVEY (Mrs.)

123 Penydre, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Groups 5(a) (b).

HESS, GEO. H. (Jun.)

40 No. Mississippi River BLVD, St. Paul 4, Minn., U.S.A.

Groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

*HEPBURN, JAMES,

C/o Walter Willson, Ltd., 4 Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland. (N)

Groups 5 (all); 4.

*HOLTZ, BRIAN D.

Vesturgata 11, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Age 29.

Groups 5(b); 7(a); 5(d); 5(a).

Very interested in all Christmas numbers and anxious to obtain
Gems 724, 828, 878, 930/1, 1242 and 1296.

S.O.L's 41, 65, 66, 161, 162, 210 and 391.

Magnets: Any Christmas series prior to 1930.

Nelson Lees, Christmas 1920/21/27.

Became interested in Britain before the war and during service in British
R.A.F. managed to buy some odd lots, but these were accidentally destroyed
in a fire. Is grateful to the Collectors' Digest for putting him in
touch with Len Packman, Ernest Hubbard, Bill Martin and others. Has
62 S.O.L's; 32 Gems; 53 Magnets; 32 N.L.L's and 1 Holiday Annual.
Few for exchange and would welcome letters. Could supply old and new
Icelandic stamps.

HOMER, HARRY.

Yulden Farm, Heathfield, Sussex. (L)

Age 44.

Groups 6 (all); 5(all); 9; 7(a) (b).

Has over 700 Union Jacks; 50 of the older S.B.L's; 50 Boys' Friends;
Magnets; Nelson Lees; etc.

Anxious to obtain Union Jacks, 710, 858, 868, 982, 984.

Also Blue Crusader and Bombay Castle stories in Boys' Friend Library.

*HONEYSETT, BRIAN.

65 Orchard Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs. (N)
Age 16. Groups 1; 5(a) (d) (b); 6(a) (b);
7(a); 2; 3; 5(c) (e).

Anxious to obtain Magnets 1300-1584; S.O.L's before 292; Gems, later issues; Newnes' Dick Turpins, and Spring-Heeled Jack Libraries.

Has been collecting two years, and has found it the most interesting hobby imaginable. Considers too that fellow collectors are a grand bunch, and has yet to find a "crooked dealer".

HOOVER, H. R.

133 Powell House, Lower Clapton Road, London, E.5.
Groups 5 (all); 6(a) (b).

HORSEY, ALFRED L.

60 Salconde Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17.
Groups 5(a) (c) (b); 1; 2; 3; 4; 7.

HUDSON, REGINALD A.

5 Throstle Row Middleton, Leeds, 10. (N)
Age 46. Groups 5(b) (a) (c) (d) (e); 7(a) (b).

HUGHES, E. V.

Caswell, 25 Hillsboro' Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex.
Age 46. Groups 9; 2; 5 (all); 6 (all); 7(a).

Is a provincial newspaper reporter, and a keen reader of old boys' books, though, as he has other interests, cannot indulge in the more expensive forms of collecting.

*HUMPHRIES, KENNETH.

61 Long Hill Rise, Hucknall, Notts.
Groups 5; 7.

*HUMPHREYS, ERIC.

Oak Dene, Boat Lane, Higher Irlam, Nr. Manchester. (N)
Group 5 (all)

Just started re-collecting and at present has 70 Magnets. Before the war had a fine collection of over 600 Magnets, the same number of Gems. On returning from service overseas found to his consternation that they had all been handed over for salvage. Cannot express his feelings in words.

Is employed by Lancashire Steel Corporation. Plays violin and saxophone in a dance orchestra.

HUNTER, J. V. B. STEWART.

4 Lulworth Road, Mottingham, London, S.E.9.
Age 51. Groups 1; 3; 2.

*HURRELL, JAMES W.

"Glenisle", 10 Ilfracombe Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.
Groups 7, 5, 6.

IMPSON, STANLEY A.

Stanfield, Jerningham Road, New Cestessy, Norwich.
Age 53. Groups 5(a) (b); 4; 5(d) (e); 6 (all); 7(a) (b).

Over

Impson, Stanley A. (Cont'd)

Started collecting Magnets and Gems 1949. Has now 200 copies. Still finds them as interesting as when he was a schoolboy.

*IRALDI, JAMES C.

14 West 82nd Street, New York, 24, U.S.A.

Age 43. Groups 5 (all); 4.

"The man who travelled thousands of miles in search of 'Hamiltonia' and returned almost empty-handed." This, needless to say, was before he discovered the clan of old boys' book collectors. Has now about 200 Magnets, Gems and S.O.L's and hungering for more. Considers the Hamiltonian literature as the best, cleanest, and most absorbing of all. Is also a Jules Verne and Sherlock Holmes fan. A dance-orchestra musician by profession.

*JAMISON, WILLIAM.

Lisnacree, Co. Down, N. Ireland. (N)

Age 48. Group 5(a) (c).

Though not actually a collector, is interested in old boys' books generally, with a preference for the Magnet and Popular.

JENKINS, ROGER M.

Strathmore, 3 Town Hall Road, Havant, Hents. (L)

Age 25. Group 5 (all)

*JEYES, JAMES A.

108 Adnitt Road, Northampton.

Age 54. Group 2.

A collector for only a year. Particularly interested in early Boys' Friend 3d Libraries. Anxious to obtain No.5.

JOHNSON, THOMAS.

Raby Cottage, Raby Park, Neston, Wirral, Cheshire.

Group 5 (a).

*JONES, RAYMOND.

"Melrose", 39 Mill Hill Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Age 21. Group 5 (c) (d) (b) (e)

Collection consists of Magnets between 1930 and finish. Only started collecting recently, but has been keenly interested in Greyfriars stories for 12 years.

KEELING, FRANK.

93 Aldridge Avenue, Stanmore, Middlesex. (L)

Age 43. Groups 7; 5(a)

*KELSHAW, L. G.

41 Selby Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool

Group 5(a).

KIRBY, GORDON J. (L)

C/o Public Library, Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Age 25. Group 5.

Also interested in Schoolgirls' Own, School Friend, etc.

*KNIGHT, STANLEY.

50 Browning Street, Bradford, Yorkshire. (N)

Group 5 (all)

LANDY, ERIC R.

4 Nunceaton Road, Dagenham, Essex.

Age 47. Groups 3; 1.

Requires Aldine Claude Duvals, especially No.5; Dick Turpins; Jack Sheppards; Robin Hoods; Spring-Heeled Jacks.

*LARGE, T.

42 Blandford Road, Rugby.

Group 4 (Captain).

LAWSON, A. W.

13 Charles Square, Hoxton, London, N.1. (L)

Age 76. Groups 1; 2.

Requires certain volumes of Bow Bells; Family Herald; Boys of England; Boys' Comic Journal; Young Men of Great Britain; London Reader; London Journal; Young Ladies' Journal. Lists on application.

LECKENBY, HERBERT. (L) (N)

Telephone Exchange, C/o Central Registry, Northern Command, York.

Age 60. Groups. All.

MARTIN, WILLIAM.

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

A dealer who always has quantities of the more popular papers in stock. Always willing to help collectors with particular numbers to complete runs.

*MATHEWS, CHARLES RACE THORSON. (L)

8 Barnett Street, Hampton, S.7, Victoria, Australia.

Age 15. Groups 7(a); 6(b); 5(a) (c).

Competes with Vincent Page for the distinction of being the youngest collector. Chief interest the Nelson Lee Library of which he has a steadily growing collection, despite difficulty of being so far away. Father was a keen Hamilton fan.

McCLUBE, ROBERT.

74 Ann Street, Dundee, Angus, Scotland.

Age 32. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e).

Would like to obtain copies of W. E. John's "Biggles" stories in Boys' Friend Library.

McFARLANE, JAMES.

106 Beith Street, Glasgow, W.1.

Age 48. Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e); 6(a) (b); 5(e)

Also interested in Ferrers Lord, Jack, Sam and Pete, and Bombay Castle stories.

McGREEVY, D.

17 Edward Street, Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

Age 26. Groups 7(a); 5(a) (d); 7(b); 8.

Special wants: Nelson Lees (1st new series) 48-50, Boys' Friend Lib. (2nd series) Nos. 580, 583, 624, 651. Hotspurs 1936-40. Schoolboys' Own Lib. No. 252.

McKIM, (Dr.) WILLIAM.

Coxwold, York.

Groups 1; 2; 4.

A new collector, fascinated by the hobby from the historical point of view, or from the view of the author of "Boys Will Be Boys". But strongly objects to be labelled a high-brow.

McPherson, E.

80 Benedict Street, Glastonbury, Somerset.

Age 34.

Groups 7(a) (b); 5(a) (d).

McROBERTS, GEORGE.

31 Ardenlee Drive, Belfast.

Age 48.

Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d); 7(a); 6(a)

Only started collecting a little over a year ago. Has got together over 100 Magnets, 21 Gems, 18 Populars, 42 S.O.L's, 3 Holiday Annuals, and a few others.

Anxious to obtain "Bob Cherry in Search of His Father", a few Jack Sam and Peter Marvels, and pink Union Jacks featuring Plummer and Zenith the Albino.

McWILLIAMS, KELVIN JOHN,

1 Wilton Gardens, Shirley, Southampton, Hants.

Age 21.

Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e).

Only started re-collecting recently. First memory of Greyfriars stories was "The Secret of the Holiday Annual" in Schoolboys' Own Library. Started collecting then, but later disposed of them. Interest was revived on reading "Boys Will Be Boys". Has only small number of Magnets at present and the Bunter Books.

MEDCRAFT, JOHN.

64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

Age 55.

Groups 2; 1; 9; 3.

Particularly Wanted: Any copies of Lot-o-Fun in the first hundred, published by James Henderson, 1906-8. Magnet Nos. 265, 279, 280, 281, 282, 293, 294, 297, 299. Gem No. 641.

MOORE, C. W.

78 Alexandra Street, Berea, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Group 5.

MURTAGH, JOHN R.

509, Selwood Road, Hastings, New Zealand.

Age 37.

Groups 7; 5 (all); 6 (all).

NICHOLLS, RONALD ALICK.

The Grey House, Whitchurch, Bristol. (L)

Age 36.

Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e); 6(a) (b); 4.

Started collecting recently. Wishes to obtain Magnets and Gems from 1924 till publication ceased. Copies to be in good condition.

Correspondence on O.B.B.C. welcomed.

OGDEN, HAROLD.

11 Brayside Road, Manchester, 19. (N)

Group 5.

ORR, W. S.

3 Hartfield Terrace, Dumbarton. (L) (N)

Age 48. Groups 5(a) (b) (c); 6(a); 2; 8 (Boys' Friend).

OSBORN, FRANK.

24 Harpur Street, Bedford.

Age 54. Groups 2; 3; 4 (Chums); 5(a); 1.

Wanted Chums bound volumes, 1900, 1913, 1914. Boys' Friend 3d Libraries, Aldine Dick Turpins, red Magnets, Dreadnoughts, first large series.

PACKMAN, JOSEPHINE.

27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L)

Groups 5(b); 6(a) (b).

To complete collection of Talbot stories, other than those written by Charles Hamilton, requires Gems No.819 and 946. Can anyone oblige, please? Also Sexton Blake Libraries, 1st series, Nos. 1 and 199.

PACKMAN, LEONARD.

27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L)

Age 45. Groups 5(b); 6(a); 7(b); 5(c); 7(a); 3.

Anxious to obtain School Friends (1919) Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, 21, 30, 32.

PAGE, VINCENT A.

The Modern School, Surbiton Road, Kingston, Surrey. (L)

Age 15. Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e) (c); 6(b).

Youngest member of the circle. Interested in all papers containing Hamilton stories. Anxious to obtain Greyfriars Heralds and S.O.L.s.

PARKS, JOSEPH.

2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorkshire.

Age 58. Groups 2; 1; 3; 5(a); 5(c).

PETTINGELL, FRANK.

Highfield Lodge, Wise Lane, London, N.W.7.

Age 59. Groups 1; 2; 3.

PICK, ROBERT.

3 Stonegate Grove, Leeds 7. (N)

Age 51. Group 5(b) (a) (d) (c) (e).

Has a few Magnets, Gems and S.O.L's for exchange.

POUND, ARTHUR GILBERT

St. Paul's Vicarage, 68 Finmore Road, Birmingham, 9.

Age 48. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e).

Clergyman. Keen Hamiltonian. Collects Holiday Annuals; good representative Magnet and Gem stories, and all recent Bunter and Tom Merry Books.

PRICE, H. C. N.

22 Northdown Road, Margate, Kent.

Group 6(b).

After many years of collecting of Sexton Blake Libraries now possesses what must surely be a record - a complete set with the exception of five numbers. For the attention of all collectors these are, 1st series, 13 and 23. 2nd series, 405, 407, 513. Now collecting Boys' Friend Libraries.

PRIME, BERNARD.

43 Mayfield Road, Sanderstead, Surrey. (L)

Age 49. Groups 5(a) (b).

Wishes to obtain Magnets Nos. 336 and 337.

PUCKRIN, THOMAS W. (N)

16 Willows Road, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.

Groups 2; 4; 5(a) (b).

*RAMSBOTTOM, GEORGE.

15 Ash Street, Fleetwood, Lancs. (N)

Age 50. Groups 5(a) (b); 6(a); 7(a).

New to collecting and anxious to obtain Magnets, Sexton Blakes and Nelson Lees. Possesses Sexton Blake Bust. Keen sportsman and weight-lifter. Referee, B.A.W.L.A. Other hobbies include woodworking and photography.

*RLYNER, W. J.

Albion, Clarence Road, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Group 5 (all).

READER, DENIS.

141 Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 18.

Groups 5(a) (b) (e) (d); 6(c); 7.

*RENEEN, C. G. van.

P.O. Box 50, Uitenhage, Cape Province, South Africa.

Group 5 (all).

*ROBINSON, B. R.

2 Enfield Terrace, Henshaw Lane, Yeadon, Leeds. (N)

Age 45. Group 5(a) (b) (e).

Only started collecting recently and has only a small collection at present. Very keen on the Magnet and would like to exchange with other readers of that paper.

ROBYNS, JOHN.

"Trewellard", 13 Raphael Road, Hove 3, Sussex. (L)

Group 5(a) (d).

Always on the look-out for red-covered Magnets.

*ROUSE, RONALD E. J.

3 St. Leonard's Terrace, Gas Hill, Norwich, Norfolk.

Age 28. Groups 2; 6(all); 8; 7(a) (detective stories only)

Started reading Sexton Blake Library at age of 9 in 1931. Has now a collection of over 1500 books, nearly all detective and crime. Included are 714 Sexton Blake Libraries. 250 Union Jacks, 120 Dixon Hawkes, and 44 Thrillers. Also several volumes B.G.P, Chums, Young England, Chatterbox, and Captain.

SATCHELL, THOMAS.

84 Ankerdine Crescent, Woolwich, London, S.E.18.

Age 47. Group 5(a) (b)

Would like to obtain, or borrow, Gem entitled "The Toff".

*SEED, JAMES.

18 Ivy Terrace, Buttershaw, Bradford, Yorkshire. (N)
Group 5.

SHAW, JOHN R.

4 Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London, S.E.5.
Age 32. Groups 5(b) (a) (e); 6(a) (b).

SHEPHERD, JAMES.

1 Athelstan Close, Handsworth, Sheffield, 9.
Group 5(a) (b).

Particularly interested in early Magnets and Gems.

SIDAWAY (Mrs.)

The Rise, 84 Wenal Road, Rhiwina, Cardiff.
Group 5(b) (a).

SIMPSON, CLIVE.

Nidd Vale, 36 Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough. (L) (N)
Age 34. Groups 7; 6(a); 5(b); 8 (Thriller);
4 (Chums and Captain).

Interested in school stories generally.

SINCLAIR TOM.

18 Lanshaw Terrace, Belle Isle, Leeds, 10. (N)
Group 5 (all).

*SMITH, CLIFFORD.

5 Sharnan Avenue, Lytham-St. Annes, Lancs. (N)
Age 34. Groups 5(a) (d) (c) (e) (c); 7(a) (b).

Employed in local Municipal Treasurer's Department. 6 years in Navy during last war. First read the Magnet in 1928. Has a complete run of Magnets from 1300 to the end, 30 Schoolboys' Own Libraries (Greyfriars only), 4 Holiday Annuals, obtained in last two years. Would like to see Magnet revived even by reprinting the old stories from No.1. Anxious to obtain Bunter Court series and Ravenspur series (1281-1284).

SMITH, HERBERT A.

13 New Road, Scole, Diss, Norfolk.
Groups 5(a); 7; 8.

SMITH, NORMAN J.

34 Waincliffe Mount, Beeston, Leeds, 11. (N)
Groups 5(a) (b) (d).

Wishes to obtain Schoolboys' Own Libraries (Greyfriars only) before No. 200.

SMITH, PERCY.

The Stores, Nr. Alford, Lincs.
Age 49. Groups 3 (and Hendersons)
5(b); 7; 5(c).

SMITH, JOSEPH.

36 Langham Road, West Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Group 5(a) (b) (d) (c) (e).

SMITH, WILLIAM DAVID OWEN

57 Barkby Road, Syston, Nr. Leicester.

Age 25. Group 6 (b).

Only been collecting about a year, but already has a goodly number of books. Is particularly anxious to obtain Sexton Blake Libraries, 2nd series, 1930-39 period, especially those by Anthony Skene, Donald Stuart, and John G. Brandon. Has made many friends through the hobby. Works in a boot and shoe factory as did three generations before him.

SMYTH, SYDNEY.

1 Brandon Street, Clovelly, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Groups 5(a) (b); 7(a); 5(d).

Been collecting 12 years and now has 452 Magnets, 203 Gems, and 28 Nelson Lees. Is anxious to obtain Gems between 1908-19 and particularly the following Magnets: 1047, 1125, 1144, 1244-46, 1250, 1257, 1285-96, 1331-1340, 1360, 1363, 1364, 1373, 1391, 1405, 1407, 1412.

SNELL, FRANK.

Rathgar, 6 Chingswell Street, Bideford, Devon.

Group 5 (all).

SOUTHWAY, ARTHUR JAMES,

P.O. Box 3, Beaconsfield, Cape Province, South Africa.

Age 40. Groups: All; for statistical purposes.

Would like correspondence with any members to help complete catalogues (in detail) of papers in Group 3, 5, and 6, and also the old girls' papers, Schoolgirls' Own Library, School Friend, etc.

SOUTHWOOD, ROGER.

3 Spring Villas, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants. (L)

Age 16. Group 5 (all).

STABLES, HENRY.

44 Hawes Road, Little Horton, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Age 63. Groups 4; 1; 2; 3; 8.

Says like Topsy his collection "just growed", for he still has some of the actual papers he bought in his boyhood, Boys' Friend, Boys' Champion, Boys' Realm, Boys' Herald, and a lot of the Aldines. Has also nearly complete sets of "B.O.P.", "Boys of Our Empire", "Chums", "Young England", "Union Jack" (Henty's) etc. etc. Is a printer's cutter by profession.

STEVENS, SHEILA.

783 Rathdown Street, North Carlton, N.4., Victoria, Australia.

Age 36. Group 5 (a) (e) (d) (b) (c).

Considers collecting a great relief from loneliness. Collection mainly consists of Magnets, Gems, and S.O.L's of 1930's. Anxious to obtain Magnets, 1535, 1373, 517-519; S.O.L's 232, 220, 6; Gem 393.

STEWART, ALAN.

290 Archway Road, London, N.6. (L)

Age 40. Groups 7(a); 5(a) (b).

Left Scotland when 12, taking collection of over 1000 Magnets, Gems, Nelson Lees etc. to London. By time he was 20 had over 3000, then "thinking I was too old for Billy Bunter I was mad enough to sell the whole lot for a few shillings."

(Over)

Stewart, Alan. (Contd'd)

In December 1949 discovered the London Old Boys Book Club and was amazed to find what an interest there is in the hobby. Thanks to the circle has already 500 Nelson Lees and over 400 Magnets and Gems. Is a dance musician.

STOKES, JOHN C.

Lishegar, 6 Temple Gardens, Rathmines, Dublin, Eire.
Group 5 (all).

STONE, LEON.

Elgin Street, Gordon, N.S.W., Australia.
Group 5 (all).

Also possesses a large collection of books devoted to cricket.

STOREY, ROWLAND (Sen.).

8 Eskdale Terrace, Nesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.
Age 65. Group 2; 6(a); 9.

Started collecting only two years ago. Already has 10 vols. Boys' Friend, complete set Boys' Leader, 8 vols. Young England, 6 vols. Captain; 35 Boys' Friend Libraries. Would exchange the three latter lots for Plucks, Union Jacks, Big Budgets (requires all of these), Halfpenny Surprise, Boys of England.

Says "It was the re-reading of some Maxwell Scott some years ago which gave me the longing to start collecting again, but it was only comparatively recently that my wishes and dreams came true, thanks in no small measure to John Medcraft and the editor of the "C.D."

SUDBOROUGH, ROY WALTER.

27 Milton Street, Higham Ferrers, Northants.
Age 32. Groups 5 (all); 6; 7; 8.

STRYPE, TOM S.

21 Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11. (L)
Groups 2; 3; 4; 1.

Requires True Blues $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. and "Captain" volume containing "Acton's Feud" by Fred Swainson.

SUTHERLAND, PEARD.

3930 W. 35th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Canada.
Age 48. Group 5 (b) (c); 3.

TAYLOR, RLYMOND.

4/52 John Street, Etingshall, Wolverhampton.
Age 61. Groups 1, 2.

Has an ambition to obtain complete runs of all the Henderson journals, especially Young Folks Budget, Nuggets, and Varieties.

THURBON, W. T.

47 Cromwell Road, Cambridge.
Age 47. Group 2; 6(a) Lobange stories only.

TOPHAM, CHARLES.

25 Berkeley View, Leeds, 8. (N)
Group 5.

TRAYNOR, J. RICHARD

BCM/ADVENTURES, London, W.C.1.

Age 43.

Groups 7 (a) prior to 1918 only.

5 (a) " " 1920 "

6 (a) " " 1920 "

Wanted Nelson Lee (original first series) No.17 (very particularly)
71, 98, 101, 103 and 104. Any Red Magnets or odd numbers before 1920.
School Friend Nos. 1-40 (very particularly), U.J.'s before 1917.

*TWELLS, J.

32 Bridgett Street, Rugby. (L)

Age 43.

Group 7 (a).

Likes Nelson Lee stories best because of the constant variety and humour
of E. S. Brooks' writings. Considers Handforth & Co. the supreme
comedians of all time in school yarns.

*TWINHAM, HORACE E.

25 Haselden Road, Lupton, Wakefield, Yorkshire. (N)

Age 42.

Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d); 6(a) (b) (c); 8.

Particularly interested in Union Jack characters Zenith, Confederation,
Waldo, Kestrel, Plummer, Moonlayer, Satira, Rymer. Felt keenly the
passing of the old papers, but by joining the O.B.B.C. he has been able to
fill the void. Has at present a modest collection of Magnets, Gems and
U.J.'s.

Is in business as a window-cleaner. Also collects football programmes,
and is an amateur photographer.

*VENNIMORE, CHARLES E. F.

25 Byron Road, West Hounslow, Middlesex.

Takes an interest in the hobby generally, and possesses one of the most
remarkable collections in existence.

WALKER, PETER A.

Chelsea House, Wick Bristol.

Group 5(a) (b) (d) (c) (e).

*WALKER, THOMAS WILLIAM.

387 Liverpool Road, Hough Green, Widnes, Lancs.

Group 5.

WALSH, JAMES.

345 Stanley Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool. (L)

Age 41.

Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d).

Specialises in Magnets, especially the holiday stories, in this and
the Gem.

Wanted Magnets 757-8; 769; 811; 864-5; 970.

A fair number of Magnets 1921 onwards and S.O.L'S from No. 57 for
exchange.

Hobbies: Piano Accordion; Photography; Motor Touring.

His "golden age" was 1918-22 during which read everything published
in Boys' books.

Advertise in the C.D.

WEBB, WALTER.

84 Park Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

Age 41. Group 6(a) (b).

Wanted. Most of the 1/2d. issues Union Jack between 1-495; Most of the 1d. issues between 1903-1908. Have gaps in issues published 1909-1914. Have most numbers 1915 onwards.

WHITMORE, IAN.

3 South Bank Lodge, Surbiton, Surrey.

Age 16. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (c) (e).

Has now 500 Magnets, 120 Gems (including No.1), 100 S.O.L's, 18 Holiday Annuals, and a number of Boys' Friends and Boys' Friend Libraries.

WINDOVER, EILEEN I. M.

55 Avondale Road, Gorsleston, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk. (L)

Collects Schoolgirls' Own Libraries (4d) and Schoolgirls' Own (2d).

Also School Friend and the Schoolgirl Annuals as follows: School Friend and Schoolgirls Own.

WHITER, BENJAMIN GEORGE.

706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L)

Age 45. Groups 5 (all); 6(all);
7 (a) (b) 4; 3.

Also interested in Amateur Photography and British Commonwealth Stamp Collecting; and a railway enthusiast.

WHITER, ROBERT H.

706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L)

Age 26. Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (e); 4; 8; 6(a) (b) (c).

WHORWELL, RICHARD.

29 Aspinden Road, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16.

Age 52. Groups 5(a) (b) (c) (d); 2; 3;
6(a) (b); 7.

WICKS, DON.

13 Essex Road, Surrey Hills, E.10, Victoria, Australia.

Age 28. Groups 5(a) (d) (e) (b).

Only been collecting a few years. Possesses Magnets and S.O.L's from the early 1930's to beginning of the war. Would like to get earlier copies. Finds collecting old boys' papers a great hobby, and votes it ranks high with his other hobbies of coin and old map collecting.

WILLETT, E. P. K.

67 Ford Bridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex. (L)

Groups 5, 6, 7.

WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

410 Oakwood Lane, Roundhay, Leeds. (N)

Age 48. Groups 6(a); 5(a); 2.

Wishes to read Boys' Friends 1912 onwards, and a little earlier. Also Union Jack Confederation yarns. Does not actually collect; wishes to buy and exchange the papers which gave him so much pleasure in his youth. Considers they have no equal in present day publications.

WILSON, ROBERT.

100 Broomfield Road, Glasgow, N.

Age: Over 50. Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e).

Collection (July) consisted of about 1000 Magnets; 600 Gems; 250 S.O.L's; complete Monster Library; 21 Holiday Annuals (can anyone oblige with 1925?) over 100 Union Jacks; 30 Thrillers (needs Nos. 48, 49, 50 and 51); Sundry S. B. Libraries; some Rio Kid, King of the Islands, and Captain Justice Boys' Friend Libraries.

Would like to obtain some David Goodwin yarns.

WOOD, JOHN P.

"Nestaw", Stockton Lane, York. (L) (N).

Wanted: A number of Nelson Lee Libraries, old series. Also Holiday Annual 1920.

WRIGHT, CHARLES.

12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L)

Age 45. Groups 5(a); 6(a); 7(a); 2.

Requires last 38 numbers Robin Hood reprints (1920) and Amalgamated Press Robin Hood Library.

WRIGHT, OLIVE.

12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L)

Age 41. Group 6(a) (b) (c).

YOU CAN HELP, I feel sure! Will you, please? I am endeavouring to catalogue the old magazines in detail and urgently require the help of ALL collectors. I have completed nearly 20 (including GEM, MAGNET, NELSON LEE, REDSKIN, JACK SHEPPARD, CLAUDE DUVAL, BLACK BESS, DICK TURPIN, THRILLER - weekly and monthly - BUFFALO BILL NOVELS, etc.) and copies are always sent, on completion, to the Editor of the DIGEST. My files are at the disposal of all collectors seeking aid. If you only have one copy, please write me. I still require information in regard to POPULAR, BOYS' FRIEND (weekly and montaly) MARVEL, BOYS' HERALD, PLUCK, BOYS' REALM, SCHOOLGIRLS' OWN, UNION JACK? NUGGET WEEKLY, PRAIRIE, ROBIN HOOD, EMPIRE, BUFFALO BILL LIBRARY, etc. etc. Please write me - all letters answered and correspondence always welcomed. Arthur J. Southway, P.O.Box, 3. Beaconsfield, Cape Province, SOUTH AFRICA.

HELP, CHAPS, PLEASE! Union Jack - Nos.858, 868, 982, 1130,1153, 1247, 1257, 1283, 1285, 1290; Magnet Nos.1277, 1283, 1574, 1583, 1588, 1590, 1595; Football Assoc.Year Book 1949-50; Athletic News Football Annual 1914-15, 1915-16, 1917-18; Arsenal F.C.Official Handbook any issues before 1930-31 excepting 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1917-18. PRICES WITH OFFERS TO:- Harry Homer, Yulden Farm, Heathfield, Sussex, or exchanges.

Advertise in the C.D.

Bold Robin Hood

By W. T. THURBON

"Oh bold Robin Hood, is a Forester good,
As ever drew bow in the merry greenwood"

Said Bishop Latimer (in his sixth sermon before King Edward Vith)
"I came once myselfe to a place, riding on a journey homeward from London, and I sent word overnight into the town that I would preach there in the morning, because it was a holy day, and methought it was an holidayes worke; the church stode in my way; and I toke my horse and my companye in the churche, and when I came there the churche door was faste locked. I tarried there half an houre and more, and at last the keye was founde: and one of the parishe comes to me, and sayes, Syr, thys ys a busye day with us, we cannot heare you; it is Robyn Hoode's daye." Mourned the Bishop, "I thought my rochet should have been regarded, though I were not; but it woulde not serve; it was fayne to geve place to Robyn Hoode's men."

Robin Hood, who could thus take precedence of even so doughty a bishop as Hugh Latimer, is one of the folk heroes of our race. Sober historians today tell us that probably he never existed; they talk learnedly of corruption of Robin Goodfellow (Puck, that most English of fairies of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream"). Perhaps tales of Hereward, perhaps some memories of forest roamers, came down in the ballads of the people. But Robin Hood still rules his forest kingdom. He is still the master archer, he and his companions who can shoot "three North Country miles and an inch at a shot" who can cleave the willow wand with cloth yard shafts. Vain to say that the feat of Locksley at the Tournament is as much an anachronism as is the English Archer in Costain's "Black Rose". For whatever history may tell us of the rise of the English Archer from the reign of Edward I to Henry V, still Robin is master of them all, and long may he remain so.

The real father of Robin for us, as for all readers of tales of Robin Hood, should surely be Joseph Ritson.

Joseph Ritson was born at Stockton-on-Tees in October 1752. He took to the profession of Law and was a Conveyancer in Greys Inn and High Bailiff of the Liberties of the Savoy. His tastes led him to the study of antiquarian lore which (says a memoir in my copy of his works) "He prosecuted with uncommon industry and acuteness. In recovering dates, assigning anonymous fragments to their authors, and in all points where a minute accuracy can alone lead to success, he has perhaps few superiors." Ritson's attention was attracted particularly by what he refers to as "The singular circumstance, that the name of an outlawed individual of the twelfth or thirteenth century should continue traditionally popular, be chanted in ballads, and as one may say 'Familiar to our mouth as household words,' at the end of the eighteenth", and he turned his attention to collecting all the materials and references he could find in old ballads and chronicles about Robin Hood. The result was his "Life" of Robin Hood, based on the Ballads and chronicles, to which he added a collection of the

main ballads. It is this collection which is the main source, either directly or derived, for any story of Robin Hood that is to bear some resemblance to the ballads. In that sense therefore Ritson is the "father" of most Robin Hood tales known to us.

Ritson possessed a most unfortunate temper, and this led him into embittered controversies with the other great workers in his field who were his contemporaries: Warton, Percy, Malone. He displayed great harshness of tone in conversation and writings alike; he finally became insane and died in an Asylum at Hoxton in September 1803.

There have been many editions of Ritson, including a rather nicely illustrated edition towards the end of last Century. It is not too difficult to get a copy of Ritson. When some years ago I wanted one I was offered two with little delay, one edition of about 1830, the other, which I have, undated, but probably mid-nineteenth century. Both were priced about 5/-.

It was the work of the various collectors of the old ballads, Percy and others, and particularly Ritson, which laid the foundation for the interest in Robin Hood from which came firstly the novels by the Masters of historical fiction and then the "Bloods" and "Libraries".

First came Scott, with what is probably still the greatest of all Robin Hood stories. "Ivanhoe", from which the Aldine authors so freely borrowed. Soon followed Peacock with "Maid Marian," to me the best of all his novels.

In the '30's of last century came Pierce Egan with "Robin Hood and Little John". This was afterwards translated by Dumas into French, and later retranslated into English in a Methuen edition of Dumas' work issued at the beginning of this century. Later Robin Hood appears to have been left to the "Libraries" and to children's books. But in the between War period two good "Robin Hood" novels appeared: "Like us they lived" by Margaret Campbell Barnes, and "The Nut Brown Maid" by Philip Lindsay. This last gives a very different picture to that generally accepted of "Bold Robin", but in its grim realism is probably the most effective study of the English outlaw, of any period in the Middle Ages, so far written.

A Robin Hood serial ran in The Boys' Friend about 1904, and was reprinted in "Pluck" later (possibly 1913 or 14). "Guy of the Greenwood" by Morton Pike. Just after the 1914-18 war a shortlived series of Robin Hood tales were published. They were not very good.

The most notable series of Robin Hood stories were the Aldine "Robin Hood Library" published in the years 1902 onwards. These were re-issued in 1912 and again in the early 1920's. My father had for many years most of the first eighty numbers, and as a boy I read and re-read them many times. In the first numbers of this Library the Aldine authors did some very heavy borrowing from "Ivanhoe". They levied tribute (in true Robin Hood style) also on "The Cloister and the Hearth" and possibly "Maid Marian" and the Pierce Egan stories too. Some of the last few numbers borrowed from Stephenson's "Black Arrow". The later authors did not seem to do quite so much borrowing. There were also scenes in

one or two of the stories which followed rather closely the story of Hereward's defence of the fens against the Conqueror. (cf. Kingsley's "Hereward the Wake").

About the middle of last Century Robin Hood also became a character in the then changing Pantomimes. I believe his first appearance was about 1857. Tenmyson also was attracted by the story and wrote a verse play "The Foresters".

The original "Aldine Robin Hood Library" of 1902-6 were 8½" x 5½" in size printed on white paper, 32 pages, in yellow covers, with a coloured picture, some of which were rather well done. The Library title was in red letters with a white border; the story title blue on white. The title was repeated on the first page, with a small black and white picture. I have not seen any of the 1912 reprints. The reprints in the early 1920s were also 32 pages, white, with pale yellow covers. The pictorial covers were rather crude. The size was 7" x 5½". The title in yellow on a red label. Small figures (archers, Friar Tuck, etc. were used as headings on page 1.

"Aldine Robin Hood Library"

The titles in the following list are taken from the 1902-6 edition. The titles in the edition of the 1920's were, where I have been able to trace them, generally the same as in the earlier edition. The names of the authors were only given in the 1902 edition. No author's name appeared in the later edition. The cover pictures of the later edition were much cruder than those of the first. I have not been able to compile a complete list of authors, but have put in the names where I either have them, or have reason to believe them to be correct.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Sweet liberty or death | Alfred S. Burrage. |
| 2. R.H. and the Tyrant of Nottingham | do. |
| 3. The Fighting Friar of Sherwood Forest | do. |
| 4. R. H. to the rescue | do. |
| 5. Will Scarlet the Brave | do. |
| 6. Battle of the Giants | do. |
| 7. Twixt Axe and Freedom | |
| 8. R. H's great shot. | |
| 9. Tyrant of Blackmoor Castle | (1920 Captive of Blackmoor Castle) |
| 10. R. H's call to Arms | |
| 11. Great fight in Sherwood Forest | Chas. E. Brand |
| 12. Dungeons of despair | |
| 13. Red Fox of Tirstestone | Chas. E. Brand |
| 14. From the jaws of death | (1920 From the jaws of destruction) |
| 15. For Richard and the Right | Chas. E. Brand |
| 16. R. H. in desperate plight | |
| 17. Demon of the Forest | |
| 18. Sons of the Brave | Alfred S. Burrage |
| 19. Bede the Wrestler | (1920. Traitor to Sherwood's King) |
| 20. Branded arrow | Escott Lynn |
| 21. In the Lion's Mouth | (1920. No. 23) |
| 22. Witch of Epping Forest | Chas. E. Brand |
| | 1920: No.24. Witch of Epping) |

23. Knight of the Forest. Escott Lynn. (1920: No.21. The Strange Crusader.
24. Outlaw of the Fens
25. Friar Tuck's Bold Foray
26. Lord of the Wolves
27. Wizard's Tower Charles E. Brand
28. Against Norman Steel Escott Lynn
29. Outlaw and King do.
30. 'Prentice Bowman of Nottingham
31. A Might foe (1920: Prince John's Vow of Vengeance)
32. Jester's Secret
33. Grey Wolf of Windsor
34. Scourge of the Forest (1920: Night Hawk of the Woods)
35. Black Cross Knight
36. A life for ransom
37. Best by foes Escott Lynn
38. Peril of the King do.
39. With Lion Heart the Brave do.
40. Sherwood Ho. do.
41. Little John the dauntless
42. Thro' foam to freedom
43. To the King's rescue
44. Brave Hal o' Harding
45. Bowman of England
46. A Felon Stroke
47. The perjured Knight
48. The King's Treasure
49. Scar Eye the Giant
50. R.H. and the Sallee Rovers (1920: The Sea Tigers' Raid)
51. Dragon worshippers
52. The Price of Treasury
53. Black Knight of Avallon Escott Lynn
54. For the King do. (1920; The mysterious Minstrel)
55. Saxon to the Core Ogilvie Mitchell
56. The King's archers do.
57. Facing the Foe do.
58. True to his trust do.
59. Under the standard do.
60. The King's Jester do. (1920: Faithful unto Death)
61. A Knight errant do.
62. Abbot of Armfield do.
63. A traitor knave do.
64. For England's sake do.
65. A king in disguise do.
66. A royal fool do.
67. The sea vulture do.
68. The sea earl's secret do.
69. King of the castle do.
70. Victory do.
71. The lion of England do.
72. A Briton born do.
73. Wolf of Paynewood Escott Lynn

74. Guy of Alverstone	Escott Lynn
75. The Green Company	do.
76. Brave hearts and true	do.
77. The Red Messenger	Richard Ment
78. The Biter Bit	do.
79. The Flower of Sherwood	do.
80. A fourfold reckoning	do
81. The snake in the grass	do.
82. The Black Lances	do.
83. A Traitor Thene	? do.
84. The rival Kings	
85. Thro' Traitors' Gate	H. Philbott Wright
86. Prisoner of Onger	do,
87. Wolf of the Wolds	do.
88. Terror of Towton Bridge	do.

It is some twenty-five years since I last read the "Aldines", and looking back over so long a period, memory may play tricks. A rough summary of the contents, however, would be as follows:

No.1 told how Robin Hood became an outlaw through resisting the cruel forest laws that would have maimed his hound, of the death of his father at the hands of the traditional villain, Guy of Gisborne, of how Robin stormed Guy's fortress and took vengeance on him. At the beginning of No.2 the outlaws storm Nottingham castle (depicted in a thrilling cover picture), Oswald de Burgh escapes. Prince John returns to reinstate him. A tournament is held and Robin Hood (as La Locksley in "Ivanhoe") wins the archery prize. This number finished with a scene with Robbers at an Inn that followed very closely indeed the well-known scene in "The Cloister and the Hearth". In No.3 Friar Tuck plays a leading part, and in No.5 Will Scarlet is the hero, the cover picture showing him attacked by Norman soldiers while rescuing his sweetheart from Nottingham Castle. No.6 dealt with a long rivalry between Little John and a giant follower of Oswald de Burgh. No.8 had a most exciting cover depicting Robin Hood saving Marion by his archery from Normans who were pursuing her with hounds. No.13 showed very strong traces of "Ivanhoe", the villain "The Red Fox" being a Norman robber in league with the Sheriff of Nottingham. One scene of an attack on a Norman castle was lifted from the similar scene in "Ivanhoe". The cover showed Friar Tuck making an unorthodox entry into the castle via the kitchen chimney. No.15 borrowed from the well-known tournament and a Jew modelled on Scott's "Isaac". In No.16 Robin Hood's camp was surprised and the outlaws made their escape by water, thrillingly illustrated on the cover picture. In No.17 a mysterious monster appeared finally overthrown by the outlaws - the subject for the cover picture being his capture. No.18 "Sons of the Brave" was sub-titled "Friar Tuck in a fix". Captured by Normans he is only rescued at the last minute by Robin Hood and Little John. In No.19 Bede the Wrestler joins the Outlaws to take vengeance for a fancied wrong, but learns in the end that the real wrongdoer was a Norman outlaw "Neal the Norman". The cover picture this time showed Robin being lowered by a rope from the tower of Sir Bryan de Bec's castle, which the outlaws are storming, with Sir Bryan swinging at him from a window with an enormous battle axe.

No.20 "The Branded Arrow" again shewed traces of "Ivanhoe". A Saxon Thane is attacked and killed by a Norman Baron while travelling through the forest, and later his home is attacked and his daughter kidnapped by the same Baron. But her lover, aided by Robin Hood, after overthrowing the Baron in a tournament, rescues the lady when Robin Hood storms the Norman's castle, and slays the Norman Baron with his own branded arrow (marked with his crest of a wolf) recovered from the body of the slain Thane. In Nos.21 and 22 Robin Hood in the New Forest and Epping Forest overcomes a rascally Norman who calls himself "King of the New Forest" and Sir Morris Baynard of Baynard's castle. In No.24 Robin overcomes another Norman outlaw, "Neal the Norman", in the Fen district. Friar Tuck is the hero of No.25, described by its title of "Friar Tuck's Bold Foray". "The Lord of the Wolves", No.26, was a very gothic type of romance with a mysterious miller who had some strange power over a pack of wolves with which he robbed and murdered travellers. No.27, "The Wizard's Tower" had a pair of villains: Abdullah, a Saracen wizard and poisoner who lived in a tower in the Ely Fens, and Rupert of Chatteris, a Norman knight who employed the Saracen as a poisoner of Saxons. 28 and 29 were based on the old story from the Ballads of Sir Richard of the Lea, and of how Robin lent him the money to repay his debt to a miserly Abbot, and how Richard the Lion Heart came into the Forest dressed as a Monk and exchanges buffets with Robin Hood.

A further series later, Nos. 37 to 40, formed a kind of sequel to 28 and 29. Robin is called to London with his archers; on the way he has many narrow escapes from Guiscard the villain of the earlier stories and saves Richard in his campaign in France where Richard is severely wounded. Sent to England by Richard he finds John on the throne, and only after many perils does he join his band in Sherwood.

To return to No.30, "The Prentice Bowman of Nottingham" told how Robin and his men assisted by the Nottingham apprentices tracked down and destroyed a band of slavers who were kidnapping the Nottingham lads and selling them to the Nigerian slave merchants.

Of the next few stories No.33, "The Grey Wolf of Windsor", told of a mysterious Robber who roams the woods near Windsor, dressed in a wolf's head, and armour, murdering travellers until at length Robin Hood ended his career. No.31, "A Mighty Foe", described how Prince John captured Robin Hood and how Robin Hood's band captured Prince John to exchange for their leader. In revenge John invades the Forest, but Robin seeks refuge in a Fenland retreat and inflicts a terrible defeat on the Norman army. Friar Tuck again was the hero of No.36, "A Life for Ransom". 41 to '43 formed a series in which Robin Hood, aided by a Danish sea captain, Sweyn, rescues King Richard from captivity in France. 44 to 47 had as particular hero a Saxon "Socman", Hal o' Harding, who after many adventures with Baron de Courcy enters the service of King Richard, and later attains knighthood. 48 "The King's Treasure" had an opening chapter which borrowed from "Ivanhoe" again - the Black Knight at Copmanhurst. The King's Treasure is rescued from the adherents of Prince John by Robin Hood and after many adventures given into Richard's safe keeping. In 49, 50, 51, Robin Hood was in Ireland. Shipwrecked while accompanying Richard's army to Ireland, the foresters are thrown upon the Irish coast. In 53 and 54 Robin Hood goes to King Richard's rescue accompanied by the mysterious "Black Knight", who has a habit of painting his armour with luminous paint in the form of

a skeleton. The series next moved to France where the archers joined Richard's army, on the way defeating a raiding party of Northmen. No.60, "The King's Jester" described how a band of Saracens came to assassinate Richard, but were foiled by the Archers, though the King's Jester is murdered in saving Richard. No.61 described how the Knight Errant (Sir Fulk Fitzwarine) rescued the Lady Elfrida de Burgos from a villainous Spanish uncle and aided by Robin Hood overcame her enemies and married her. The villain of this and the next two stories is Sir Gervaise de Brienne, "The Sorcerer Knight" who after an unsuccessful attempt to poison Robin Hood and the Abbot of Armfield, is finally burned at the stake as a wizard. In Nos. 65 and 66 Richard, accompanied by Robin Hood and his lieutenants and his Jester "Flick", goes in disguise through his Norman domains. There he overthrows various oppressor Barons and rescues a youth who turns out to be the descendant of a family of northern sea earls. In 69 Richard is warring against the rebel baron Sir Hugo de Bungay whose castle is built in the heart of the Broads. Robin Hood constructs floating towers by which the castle is finally taken. In No.70 Robin Hood is sent to meet a raid by the Welsh in Shropshire, led by Prince Llewelly. There is a mysterious sword-maker in this story, and Druids and Bards, and some very gory battles. In 71 and 72 Richard continued his campaign against his rebellious barons.

Ogilvie Mitchell's long series ended here and in the short series by Escott Lynn which followed, John is on the throne. The series described how Robin Hood, assisted by a young Norman Squire La Poer, a master swordsman, restored young Guy of Alverstone to his castle and possessions, finally, after many adventures playing a large part in obtaining from John the Great Charter at Runnymede.

Richard Mant, who followed with another short series, seemed to owe a great deal to Stevenson. The "Red Messenger" of the first story, a red arrow bearing warning messages, seemed to be based on "The Black Arrow", as does the mysterious leper, "The Black Lances" of the last two stories. Sir Ralph Malvoisin has seized the possessions of his leper brother Richard, the real heir, who is slain in rescuing Robin Hood from his brother's dungeons. Finally, Robin executes justice on Sir Ralph and his fellow Normans, Sir Thomas Tracy and Sir Ralph de Vipont. In the last two of Mant's stories Sir Simeon Craftley and his Black Lances, a band of free companions, are finally defeated and destroyed after a bitter conflict with Robin Hood.

With the last four numbers we find what is perhaps an ominous sign of the end - for Robin was moving about the country. The scenes of the four stories were laid in Essex, London and Yorkshire. It was a frequent device to boost a failing circulation in a fairly well known series of stories to set the hero or heroes touring the country - Jack, Sam and Pete seemed to do it at regular intervals, and this may well have been the intention of the Aldine editors. But though number 88, the last published that I can trace, announced that the date of publication of four new numbers would be announced shortly, that "shortly" never came.

It was rather a pity, for H. Philpott Wright who came in at this stage produced four good stories, with attractive plot and incident. Robin Hood, visiting London, is captured and thrown in the Tower in

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