

The **Collectors Digest**
Christmas 1952. **ANNUAL**
6th YEAR



Robert Whiter
-52-

The Tom Merry's Own

THE Annual for 1952

This year concentrating on long stories about Tom Merry & Co., Billy Bunter, and other most popular characters from the pens of Martin Clifford, Frank Richards, and Charles Hamilton and Owen Conquest. Larger than before: illustrated - 10s. 6d

ABOUT ST. JIM'S

THE SCAPEGRACE OF ST. JIM'S TALBOT'S SECRET

By MARTIN CLIFFORD

Each 7s. 6d

ABOUT ROOKWOOD

THE RIVALS OF ROOKWOOD SCHOOL

By OWEN CONQUEST

7s. 6d.

OTHER TITLES IN THE TOM MERRY SERIES

TOM MERRY & CO. OF ST. JIM'S

THE SECRET OF THE STUDY

RALLYING ROUND GUSSY

All by MARTIN CLIFFORD

At 6s. Each

A GRAND ADVENTURE STORY

JACK OF ALL TRADES

By FRANK RICHARDS

7s. 6d

The Collectors' Digest Annual

Christmas 1952

Sixth Year

EDITORS:

HERBERT LECKENBY
Telephone Exchange
C/o. Central Registry,
Northern Command
York

H. MAURICE BOND
10, Erw Wen,
Rhiwbina : Cardiff
South Wales

Duplicated by Wood's Typewriting Office, 20, Stonegate, York.

Foreword

Dear Fellow Collector,

For the Sixth Year in succession "the Annual" comes to you at Christmastide. We hope it will be as welcome as you have been good enough to tell us it has been in previous years. Some of you will be seeing it for the first time, for each year its circulation has grown; we trust it will come up to your expectations.

Familiar names are attached to the articles and sketches, and we are sure they will be found as interesting and appealing as ever. We also welcome new contributors, new only where writing for the Annual is concerned, for they are old stalwarts where our hobby is concerned. We thank all for their loyalty.

In conclusion, to all at home and overseas, the old old wish - "A very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year".

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Leckenby.

H. Maurice Bond.

CONTENTS

		<u>Pages</u>
	There were Other Schools.. .. .	3 - 18
4	The Roamings of the Rio Kid	19 - 24
	Stand and Deliver	25 - 29
	Curiosities in Magnet Titles	30 - 33
	Levison at Greyfriars	34 - 45
6	Detectives in Boys' Literature.	46 - 51
3	The Amazing Career of Billy Bunter.. .. .	52 - 60
5	Kings of Crime.. .. .	61 - 89
	A.S.Hardy - Sport Story Writer.	90 - 93
2	Single to Happiness.. .. .	94 - 97
	Pseudonyms.	98 -101
1	The St.Franks Saga	102-114
	The Collector's Who's Who.	115-134 and 135
	Sexton Blake Crossword	134
	Hidden Hamiltonia	135
	Solutions to S.B.Crossword & Hidden Hamiltonia	136
	Greyfriars Holiday Annual.	29, 45 97, 101 and 114

There were Other Schools!

By Herbert Leckenby

During the past few years gallons of ink have been spilled over the famous schools situated in places where time stood still. Greyfriars, St. Jim's, Rookwood and St. Frank's. They have been written about deservedly for they were, in some cases still are, outstanding examples of their kind. Yet there were other schools which from the turn of the century are remembered with affection by men now well on through life's journey. Ravenscar, St. Basil's, St. Simeon's, Wycliffe, St. Ninian's and many more. True, they held the stage for shorter periods, and the last curtain fell on them long ago, yet they deserve a place in the history we are building so I will endeavour to bring them into the limelight again, aided by copies in my possession, all too few, alas, and my memory of them.

RAVENSCAR

The stories of Ravenscar School consisted of at least three in Pluck. "Brooks of the Lower Fourth" (No. 155); "The Moor Men" (158); "The Rise of the Lower Fourth" (165) published between October and December 1907, and two Boys' Friend 3d Libraries. "Brooks of Ravenscar" (No. 43) and "The Rope of Rubies" (No. 97). If anyone can advise me of any more in "Pluck" I should be extremely grateful.

Now "Brooks of Ravenscar" alone would provide enough material for a lengthy article, for it was one of the most unusual and fascinating stories in the whole history of school fiction. I should certainly place it in a list of the six best of all the 1500 Boys' Friend Library yarns.

The stories were written by Michael Storm, a writer who, according to Walter Webb, was something of a mystery man even to the high-ups at Fleetway House. Well, whoever he was there's no doubt he was a brilliant scholar, that is plainly evident in every line of these yarns of Ravenscar School. The English was immaculate and there were character portrayals which were far above the average. There was little humour, in fact, the stories were more of an adult type, maybe for that reason they had not a very long run. For the same reason they can be read to advantage by members of our circle now.

In another way Ravenscar was unusual. Most of the schools we know so well were situated in the southern counties with a river running by, and very near the sea. Ravenscar wasn't; it was "perched aloft on a great ledge of one of the scars that run out from the Pennine Range into the West Riding of Yorkshire." So vivid are the descriptions of life on the nearby moors that one suspects Michael Storm might have been a Yorkshireman.

Brooks - his Christian name was Egbert, but it was seldom used throughout the stories - was surely one of the most unusual type of hero in schoolboy fiction. In the first story we are told he was "tenacious, reticent, absolutely indifferent to others' opinion, his will was as indomitable as his emotions were undisciplined. He neither feared punishment, nor coveted praise, and for all that he was reckless, passionate and impulsive, he was singularly devoid of either sympathies or antipathies." Rather different to Tom Merry or Jimmy Silver!

He was the son of a wealthy Sheffield banker and racehorse owner, and when he had to attend prayers "it was all a meaningless ceremony to him. He had never known his mother, who had died at his birth; and his father, an embittered agnostic, had brought him up in utter ignorance of any faith."

Yet this strange boy's heart can be touched. A junior called Hallett dies in that story. A housemaid finds Brooks' pillow wet next morning and exclaims "Dret them brats! If they ain't been sousing this boy's pillow." But she was wrong, for "Neither she nor anyone else ever knew it that pillow was as it were a soul's epitaph; for on it for the first time in his fifteen years, for the last time in his life, Brooks had forgiven the enemy he had vanquished, in weeping for the sole being he had ever loved."

In "The Moor Men" came another new boy, Nigel Dorn, another character quite out of the ordinary and who was to play a great part in the destinies of Egbert Brooks.

Now to "Brooks of Ravenscar". Here in the opening chapter we find Brooks being before the Head of Ravenscar, John Manners, Doctor in Divinity. His work for the rest of the term is being discussed and Brooks is now described as

"Some five feet ten in height, straight as a sword-blade, well-built and supple. Brooks showed all the signs of one trained to sports, braced by the keen moorland air, and alert with all the vitality of his nineteen years. He was more than a bit of a puzzle to the school at large, where he was more feared than loved. His dark, inscrutable face, the clear-cut features, the eyes grey and hard as agates, the unsmiling, ironic mouth, had held off from him those friendships which are the usual testimony to such powers as he showed in every field of sport."

Their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of a Mr. Travers and his son and the doctor goes into another room to interview them, asking Brooks to stay. The son is a new boy and after he has been taken to be shown round by Nigel Dorn, Brooks hears the father say he wishes to speak strictly in private.

When Manners returns he finds Brooks seated on the lawn fifty yards away reading a book. He gives a sigh of relief and on being called in Brooks explains with level tranquil eyes, "I heard your visitor say he wished to speak to you in private so I went out into the garden."

But later Brooks makes an entry in his diary, "Allen Travers introduced by Head to Nigel Dorn. Ignorant that his father is Dudley Travers, millionaire and owner of Traver's Bank, etc. Father fears Allen may be kidnapped and held to ransom."

Brooks says pensively, "One never knows" and the author states it was a curious fact that the diary was full of similar entries, registering salient and exclusively essential details about each boy in the school. "Certainly Egbert Brooks was, as his fellows in the Sixth had more than once remarked, a "dark horse!"

The cover of "Brooks of Ravenscar" has a striking picture of a raven perched on the branch of a tree. The bird is Demon and belongs to

Nigel Dorn. Dorn has trained it to carry messages and to play a great part in the story. Dorn, at this time, is Brook's fag and worships him. He is a remarkable youth, old beyond his years, and with the makings of a great detective.

The story develops, literally packed with excitement. Sport is not neglected, and there's a great description of a cricket match with "York College".

Then Travers is captured and held to ransom for £100,000. From then on there are all sorts of amazing twists and turns to the story. It becomes evident to the reader that Brooks is an undoubted criminal, of extraordinary coolness, unscrupulousness, and ingenuity. Nigel Dorn sets to work and eventually succeeds in rescuing Travers and in the process finds to his horror and dismay that he is building up a case against his beloved fag-master. There are some dramatic happenings which keep the reader on sheer tenterhooks when Dorn produces his evidence as skilfully drawn up as if by a learned Q.C. Yet so unusual is this extraordinary story that Brooks, though guilty, makes it appear Dorn was wrong. What's more, he gets away with the spoils. And we read:

"It was nearly dawn before Brooks that night turned in to snatch an hour's sleep. For a long time he paced his room, flushed and fevered with the exaltation of victory, the sheer stress of strife and triumph. No scruple invaded his conscience. Through the perverted windows of his soul he saw realities, awry, yet beneath the gloomy exterior of his face there lay a soul fibred through and through with a kind of mediæval knight errantry. He dreamed stupendous dreams of stupendous wealth, which he, Egbert Brooks, should play Providence with, to right the wrongs of the legally robbed..... He was almost staggered, as he realised the amount of his haul..... Before him was only the dream of dispensing the fortune on the children of misfortune."

And so Brooks passed out of Ravenscar, suspicion removed from his shoulders yet departing a lonely figure.

"The Rope of Rubies" was described as a thrilling detective story, and as far as I remember it it was packed with as much incident as half-a-dozen stories. Nigel Dorn, nineteen and captain of Ravenscar, was the chief character. Again the erstwhile magnetic Brooks came into his life, but I am unable to say how it all ended, or whether Brooks ever did become a modern Robin Hood. Whether or no, the stories of Ravenscar School were just about the most unusual, the most controversial in all school fiction.

Just a closing note. Years later, round about 1923, a serial "Rivals of Ravenscar" with the author given as Geoffrey Gunn, appeared in "The Champion". The hero was called Nigel Dorn, but there was not the slightest link with the stories I have been describing. The editor, F. Addington Symonds, admitted to me that he used to get his ideas for stories from those that had gone before. In this particular instance I could not see that any advantage whatever could be gained.

ST. BASIL'S

St. Basil's was the copyright of Henry St. John, Hamilton Edwards' white-headed boy where school stories were concerned. It was his favourite school; serials and complete stories centred round it appeared at regular intervals over a period of nearly twenty-five years. The first was "The Boys of St. Basil's" in the 1st Boys' Friend, starting about Christmas 1899. It was followed by a sequel, "Bob Redding's Schooldays". Then when the "Boys' Herald" was launched in 1903, pride of place, the front page, was given to the first instalment of "The Seventh House of St. Basil's". With its conclusion there started "The New Master", and a little later in the same paper "True as a Die". And in the Boys' Friend, 1d series, "The Fourth Form of St. Basil's"; "The Shame of St. Basil's" and "The Foundling of St. Basil's". Then on the revival of the Boys' Realm in 1919 came that quaint idea "Henry St. John's Schooldays" wherein the author himself arrived at St. Basil's as a fag, not way back in Victorian days, but long after Bob Redding, Harry Belton and others of his heroes. Author's licence! And, three years later on the start of "The Champion" in 1922, "The Outcast of St. Basil's." There may have been other serials, if so my memory fails me.

Unlike Michael Storm, Henry St. John made no attempt at serious character drawing. His boys were always stereotyped - the decent fellows, the sneak, the bullying prefect and the unpopular rat-faced master. There was a barring-out in "The Boys of St. Basil's" and an almost identical one in "The Seventh House of St. Basil's". Several of the stories dealt with that well-worn theme - the working-class boy who came to the school and for a time found himself the most miserable fellow alive in consequence.

Where there was an interval between two stories there was invariably an almost entirely new set of characters, including even the masters. They certainly did not reign as long at St. Basil's as Mr. Quelch at Greyfriars.

Bob Redding when grown to man's estate sent a boy who had done him a service to St. Basil's, assuring him that it was "the finest school in England". It never struck me that way, for Henry St. John seemed to make it a dreary, rather third-rate sort of place, where the boys lived a somewhat unhappy existence. They certainly never played games in the manner of the Greyfriars chaps, in fact there was little sport in any of Henry St. John's school stories.

I see, however, that in "The Outcast of St. Basil's", that "Champion" serial of 1922, Henry St. John describes the school like this:

"St. Basil's stands on a hill that overlooks the small and insignificant village of Elphinstowe in Cornwall.

It is a building of grey stone in the form of three sides of a square. The left or north wing is devoted to the chapel, the right wing is the fine gymnasium, then which no school in England has a better, for St. Basil's is first and before all else a sporting school. The masters are chosen for their skill in sports ... Not a master of St. Basil's but has some sporting success to his credit."

Well, I feel sure that could hardly apply to Mr. Foulger, Mr. Blatcher, Mr. Terry or Mr. Withers, masters in early stories. I'll vow they never kicked a football or wielded a cricket bat in their lives. But maybe the school improved as time went on.

Most of the schools we read about had a river running near for they were so handy for someone to be rescued from drowning, and, of course, for a little sport. In the case of St. Basil's it was the River Burn.

I only recall one pupil with a title attending St. Basil's, and he was only a modest baronet, Sir Harry Belton, hero of "The Seventh House of St. Basil's."

Although as a writer of school stories Henry St. John was not, in my opinion, in the same class as Michael Storm, Jack North, or David Goodwin, there was no doubt that Hamilton ^{Edwards} and his successors were catering for popular demand when the St. Basil's stories appeared so frequently.

Here are the stories as they appeared in the Boys' Friend Library.

1st Series. No. 5, The Boys of St. Basil's; 55, Bob Redding's Schooldays; 59, The Seventh House of St. Basil's; 61, The New Master; 150, True as a Die; 152, The Bully of St. Basil's; 189, The Fourth Form of St. Basil's; 224, The Shame of St. Basil's; 491, Henry St. John's Schooldays; 742, The Outcast of St. Basil's.

ST. SIMEON'S

The stories of St. Simeon's came from the masterly hand of David Goodwin, real name Sidney Gowing, and they were packed with humour, thrills, and truth to tell, a little "blood and thunder".

If there was any doubt about St. Basil's justifying its claim to be a great public school, there was none about St. Simeon's. It was little less than Eton with 600 boys and, in the first story at least, a Canon Leveson as its Head.

This first story of St. Simeon's, in fact it was David Goodwin's first school story, was called "Barred!", and it appeared in the Boys' Realm in, I think, 1904. It was one of the early yarns of the ditch-dropping boy finding himself at a school for the sons of gentlemen. In this instance he was Brian Hawke, sent there by an aunt, Miss Elphire Cutts, who owned a prosperous steam laundry.

On being set an exam-paper to decide on his Form, Brian found himself in "a great raftered hall, the roof of which was higher than most churches, and felt very lonely and lost. The windows were twenty to thirty feet long, and the great beams were of heavy black oak. At one end of the room were two thirty-foot black panels in the old red brick wall, with a long list of names on them in gold, the names of old St. Simeon's boys who had cut niches for themselves in history."

As in all David Goodwin's school stories St. Simeon's had a smart set, in this particular story known as "The Birds of Paradise", youths who were no credit to the then flourishing stately homes of England, and they gave Brian, in his first days, a terrible time. One of the leaders was Viscount Heredsfoot, and he was one of Brian's worst tormenters. Came the day, however, when Brian saved his enemy from a watery grave, and the son of a noble house became the firm friend of the nephew of the laundry owner.

Then came a twist in the story. Heredsfoot's father, the Earl of Medenham, came to see him, and told him the startling story of a romantic

marriage, the outcome of which was that Brian Hawke was the legal Earl of Medenham, and that his son if he had one would be the rightful Viscount Heredsfoot. He went on to explain that only in the event of Brian's sudden death would he who was now wrongly bearing the name have a right to it. He reminded him that the motto of the Medenhams was "Let nothing hinder". Ruthlessly he tells his son that he must somehow bring about Brian's death. Heredsfoot pleads that Brian had saved his life, but in the end has to agree.

Then follow several attempts to carry out his father's orders whilst still posing as Brian Hawke's friend, a rather blood-curdling theme, yet in the skilful hands of David Goodwin it made one of the most absorbing serials ever. And all came out happily in the end.

The second St.Simeon's story was "Redcastle & Co. at St.Simeon's" in the "Boys's Friend". This was a more light-hearted yarn in which the heroes got in, and out, of many a scrape, and indulged in japes, a favourite word of David Goodwin's, against an unpopular master.

Much later, in 1911, there started in the Boys' Realm "The Sneak of St.Simeon's". The first instalment was the longest ever, six and a half pages. The story told of another uneducated boy, in this instance one who had some experience of the boxing ring. By this time the Headmaster was a Dr. Pratt, a very different individual to the dignified Canon Leveson of an earlier day, and one who believed in sneaking. There were still plenty of aristocrats at the school, however, for the hero, Tom Holt, chummed up with Aubrey Clavering Mountnelson, son of Viscount Sedborough, Bob St.Quentin, and Cecil Stanhope.

Two other serials were in the Boys' Friend, "The Gipsy of St.Simeon's" and "For the Honour of St.Simeon's". Here again there was the same idea, the uneducated lad who turned out to be the heir of vast estates. Nevertheless, David Goodwin managed to make each one seem new and they were certainly packed with fun and excitement.

Here are the St.Simeon stories as they appeared in the Boys' Friend Library, 1st series.

98, "Barred!"; 143, Redcastle at St.Simeon's; 145, Hank Haldane's Schooldays; 156, Gypsy of St.Simeon's; 157, The Earl of St.Simeon's; 201, The Sneak of St.Simeon's; 202, "The Sneaks Brigade; 274, For the Honour of St.Simeon's; 283, The Fag of Study Three; 286, The Fags of St.Simeon's.

(Note.-- In several instances a serial was divided into two Boys' Friend Libraries, a better idea than to abridge them drastically in order to get them into one. - H.L.)

-oOo-

WYCLIFFE

I have expressed my regard for the Wycliffe stories before, and given some account of them, but there is much more one could tell. I shall always contend that in them John Nix Pentelow, writing as Jack North, gave some of the greatest character studies, made life in a fictitious boys' school more realistic, and expressed some of the finest sentiment ever to appear in stories of their kind. Listen to this, an extract taken from "The Runaway" (B.F.L. No.82, 1st series). It told of a hot-tempered, misunderstood junior who in his misery had run away from Wycliffe. He stands on a bridge some distance away in the early morning and looks back

"He saw the noble, massive building of the old school; the cheerful, red-brick, creeper-covered masters' houses clustered round it; the broad green playing fields, alive with active figures, bounded by the grey barrier; the wide stream of Wyvern, dancing in the sunlight; and for the first time he realised how goodly a place it was.

The birth-pang of loyalty to Wycliffe racked him in that moment when he had meant to destroy the last link that bound him to her. He did not know it till long afterwards, but so it was. Never throughout his life will Claude Arthur Coningsby Wilder forget the bridge over the Wyvern at Rylton, and the red sun low in the eastern sky, and the river that ran like blood.

Wycliffe would never be to him quite the Alma Mater - benign mother that she was to many of her children. His stormy nature would make the greater part of his stay there a time of trial and tribulation. Yet through it all he would be learning to love her more - to love her better, it may be, than those to whom she gave more peaceful days.

And at the end of it all - on his last evening there - when his voice should join as heartily as any in the Captain's Song, raised in honour of old-time enemy Bull Barrance, then he would realise what she had been to him, what she had taught him, she and those her sons who had been his friends and his enemies - and he would see in mental vision grey bridge, red sun, and river as of blood."

Yes, fine sentimental writing that, the kind which brings a lump to the throat.

Some time ago I passed by my old school. It was a very much less place than Wycliffe, surrounded by very ordinary houses. I had not been that way for years. When I had spent my days there I had often called it that rotten old school. The shadows were stealing across the playground. I could pick out the very window I had broken one day whilst playing cricket with a tennis ball. I could picture each class-room and I recalled masters, some of them long since dead and gone. I turned away thinking "Ah well, it wasn't a bad old school. I had many happy days there." Maybe I felt a little like Wilder, even though I had never run away from it.

As I have said before, the boys in the Wycliffe stories grew older. This added to the realism undoubtedly. There was something fascinating in following the progress of fun-loving juniors upward to the Sixth to be dignified prefects and in one instance captain of the school. The later stories dealt mainly with a completely new lot of juniors and they were not a whit less interesting thereby. Altogether there were scores of characters all carefully drawn, including the masters.

Wycliffe was portrayed as a great public school with five-hundred boys and seven houses, situated near the market town of Wickham, evidently in one of the southern counties; the river, the Wyvern.

In the first story the reader was introduced to four new boys all arriving together. John Jackson, Donald MacDonald, David Davies, and Patrick O'Hara. After some excitement and plotting they made a spectacular and sensational entry through the gates of Wycliffe garbed in the traditional garb of their respective countries - Jackson as John Bull, MacDonald with kilt and bagpipes, Paddy in battered hat, long tailed coat, and brandishing a shillelagh, and Taffy Davies as an old

Welsh market woman, in steeple-crowned hat, frock and shawl, with a bundle of leeks on her arm. They later chum up with another new boy, Beiram Sinhji, a handsome Rajput prince, who is found to possess remarkable hypnotic powers, a power put to good use on several occasions. They also make friends with Harry Merry, Australian and great cricketer, a Test player of the future.

These six formed the main characters, and it was their careers through the world of Wycliffe School, the reader of forty years ago followed with breathless interest. Along with them there travelled a host of others, too numerous to mention, fine fellows, leaders of men, shady characters, and utter wrong'uns. There were splendid masters, weak masters, and one who was a scoundrel. And even the station-master at little Wickham junction, one Eccles, was finely drawn by Jack North's faithful pen.

Later came Harry Merry's younger brother, Larry, a harum-scarum lovable imp, similar in many ways to Wally D'Arcy. He became a leader of the lower school, forming with six others the Secret Seven. Here again was an example of Pentelow's artistry, for all seven, though fine lads, were distinct from each other.

I will bring these few rambling notes on this particular school to a close by giving another typical example of the fine sentiment which so much appealed to me.

Harris and Wicks of William's House are under suspicion of cheating in an exam, and they are two of the mainstays in the House cricket team. The final for the House Cups is imminent but Dr. Anderson, the Head, has issued an order that until the matter is cleared up they will not be allowed to play. This causes dismay in William's House and a meeting of prefects is called. As a result eight of them, headed by Raleigh, the most popular captain Wycliffe had ever had, and soon to leave, form a deputation to the Head. They appeal to him to change his mind. A long argument follows, the description of it grips you. Despite their eloquent defence of the suspected two, the Head is adamant. Then the prefects, not all of William's House, take the drastic step of handing in their resignations. Dr. Anderson is dismayed at the situation. The story goes on.

Dr. Anderson had a nature both just and generous. And he respected and liked those boys. There was not one of them that he would not have been proud to call his son. Perhaps it was because he had longed for, but had never had, a son that Raleigh had grown so dear to him.

'Raleigh,' he said, 'I must speak further with you. The rest of you may go. Raleigh will tell you later whether your resignations have been accepted.'

They filed out.

'Raleigh,' said the Head, with a strange softness in his voice, 'do you realise what you are doing?'

'Yes, sir, I do. I'm sure of it in fact.'

'I don't think you do, my boy. Soon you will be leaving Wycliffe for ever. For two years you have been the school's captain, honoured and held in affection as I believe no captain it has ever had before has been. And now in a moment of pique you throw down your office, and you lead into what is little better than rebellion the very flower of

your fellow prefects. Can you answer to your conscience for this?

Raleigh's face was very pale, but his head was held high. The appeal had touched, but it had not conquered him. Let it be said for him and the rest that they had no intention of trying to bluff the Head. What they did they believed right and justifiable.

'Yes, sir, I can.'

Half a dozen times the Head strode to and fro with never a look at the tall figure that stood motionless by his desk. Then he wheeled suddenly in his walk and said:

'This can't be! I give way, Raleigh. I am wrong perhaps. Most men would call me foolish. But I am not prepared to face the consequences of refusal. Tell them that their resignations are not accepted, that Harris and Wicks may play.'

The Head sat down and turned his back. Twice Raleigh turned to speak but the words would not come. Then he went.

An hour later a note was brought to the Head. It was signed by the eight prefects, and it asked that any pain they had given him might be pardoned, expressed their devotion not only to the school, but to him personally.

Dr. Anderson is a bishop now. He may be an archbishop before his life runs to a close. But whenever that may be, his executors will find among the papers that he has cherished most carefully the note which Barham wrote and the eight rebel prefects signed.'

Well, to me that is a splendidly drawn, realistic picture of the Head of a great public school, strong enough to give way to those below him in authority because he felt they might be in the right. There was something, oh so human, about that last paragraph, too.

It only remains to be said that Harris and Wicks played a great part in the winning of the game for William's House, and almost immediately were cleared of the suspicion hanging over their heads.

And now for the benefit of those who feel they would like to read some of the Wycliffe stories, here are a few details about them as they appeared in "Pluck" and the Boys' Friend Library.

In "Pluck" they started towards the end of 1907 and for a time ran in harness with the St. Jim's and Specs. & Co stories. Here are a few of them.

146, "Cock House at Wycliffe"; 148, "Sixteen of them"; 151, "The Hittites"; 153, "The Captain of Wycliffe"; 161, "The Scamp of Wycliffe"; 166, "The Commander's Birthday"; 181, "Wycliffe's Ghosts".

In the "Boys' Friend Library" (3d) the following three were original stories: 53, "Chums of Wycliffe" (Aug. 1908); 73, "Larry & Co"; 82, "The Runaway".

Then years later, about 1921, the Pluck stories were re-printed in the B.F.L. (4d) 1st series. 532, "Jack Jackson's Enemy"; 535, "The Rise of Bowker's House"; 539, "The Prefects of Bowker's House"; 542, "Staunchest of Chums"; 547, "The Wycliffe Scholarship Boy"; 550, "The Brothers of Borden"; 555, "Birds of a Feather"; 558, "The Rival Captains"; 583, "The Rival House Teams"; 588, "Prefect and Fag"; 593, "In Open Rebellion"; 598, "A Troubled Term"; 604, "Alexander the Great".

HAYGARTH

Haygarth, to some extent, was Wycliffe reborn, with some of the characters reincarnated as juniors again. In place of Jack Jackson, Donald MacDonald, and David Davies, were Jimmy Mackworth, Duncan McLeod and Terry McKeon, who became known as "The Three Macs". For some reason there was no Irish boy to take the place of Patrick O'Hara. Later, however, came Mechliwalle Khan, of Wajhkerat, who became the Fourth Mac. He, however, never became such a strong character as Beiram Sinhji of Wycliffe.

The captain of the school in the beginning was Hellemore, the river the Hay, the nearby village Waybourne; there was also in the vicinity Wervoe Wood, and the little market town of Silbury.

But although the background was similar the stories were by no means carbon copies of the Wycliffe ones, and throughout they were interesting and absorbing though maybe not quite so much so as those of the earlier school.

Instead of the seven houses of Wycliffe, with the exception of the School House named after masters, there were four at Haygarth, North, East, South and West. An innovation, typical of Jack North, was that the dormitories were named after towns in the West country, Bristol, Exeter, Barnstaple, etc. The Head too was quite different to the venerable, dignified Dr. Anderson of Wycliffe. He was the Rev. Arthur Dalton, athletic, comparatively young, very similar to Mr. Railton, of St. Jim's. He was married and with them lived his wife's sister, Molly Lyle, a girl of considerable charm who played quite a part in the stories, and between whom and Jimmy Mackworth there was a friendship on Cousin Ethel - George Figgins lines.

The Wycliffe stories in Pluck by the way had been illustrated by Leonard Shields; for the Haygarth ones Warwick Reynolds took over. An expert, I believe, would declare that Reynolds was a better artist than Shields, but to me, a novice on the art, Shields was the more attractive of the two.

After the Haygarth stories had been running some time there came a new boy who was destined to play an important part, the Hon. Claude Ferringe, who was the exact double of Jimmy Mackworth in appearance, but in his early days at the school very different in disposition, a haughty, supercilious character, always kicking against authority. Except in cases of twins you don't often come across doubles in real life, but they are very convenient in fiction and have been used frequently. Hamiltonians know of a case or two. Jack North, however, succeeded in playing up the Haygarth instance skilfully, and after many complications sunny-tempered Jimmy Mackworth and the haughty Honourable Claude became firm friends.

In the realms of school fiction men have been known, not infrequently, to come to an untimely end, but not often has a schoolboy been known to die. There were instances, of course, in Dean Farrar's "Eric" and St. Winifred's of long ago, but those stories were out of the usual. In that with which we are more concerned, John Nix Pentelow, in that sentimental way of his, had a tendency to bring a character's life to an end early in life. He, of course, is held responsible for the death of Arthur Courteney of Greyfriars in that Magnet story "A Very Gallant Gentleman", and in the C.D. some time ago I related how Dangerfield of

Wycliffe met an early death. There was a third instance in the Haygarth stories, when a junior named Marpole died after being badly injured by a train.

Marpole, I don't think his Christian name was ever mentioned, was not a very pleasant youth. Jack North described him thus:

'Marpole was a large youth for the Fourth. He was also a pimply youth, and he dressed in the most excruciating way, wearing ties in which hardly another Haygarth fellow would have been seen dead. He looked the complete lout.

He was not one of the boys who reformed but remained an unpleasant character until the day he died, yet no doubt the youthful reader would wipe an eye for him when Jack North wrote his epitaph.

Well, the boys of Haygarth, like those of Wycliffe, grew up, then a hard-hearted editor, according to John Nix Pentelow, decreed that the stories had had their day.

Here are the titles, those from 'Pluck' incomplete.

"Pluck" No.276, "The Head's Command"; 279, "The Ghost Hunters"; 280, "The New Fellow"; 283, "The Stolen Cup"; 284, "The Fight for Two Cups"; 285, "For the Honour of the House".

Boys' Friend Library (1st Series) No.166, "The Haygarth Detective"; 207, "The Fifth Form at Haygarth"; 518, "Moxon's Fag"; 573, "The Three Macs"; 576, The Feud in West House; 670, "The Fourth Mac"; 674, "Jimmy Mack, Detective"; 678, "Friends at Last"; 684, "The Kidnappers"; 686, "The Haygarth Carevanners"; 692, "Jimmy Mack's Double"; 721, "The Leader of the Fourth"; 752, "The Sixth Form at Haygarth"; 756, "The Barring Out at Haygarth"; 2nd Series, 16, "The Rotter of the Fourth"; 34, "Jimmy Mack, Minor."

-oOo-

CLIVEDEN

The Cliveden stories, written by Charles Hamilton under his actual name, had quite a good run in the "Boys' Herald" but only appeared at intervals. When they first started I am unable to say, but Cliveden was on the scene before Greyfriars, for one story I have before me, certainly not the first, is dated February 15, 1908, an issue which heralds the coming of the Magnet. They were, too, running as late as September 18, 1909, so over that period on some occasions at any rate, the industrious author was writing three school stories a week, as he did later when Rookwood was born.

These Cliveden yarns are probably unknown to the great majority of present day students of Hamilton lore, nevertheless, they were typical stories of their kind and well worth a review. They ran to about 8,000 words, short when compared with a St.Jim's or Greyfriars yarn, therefore there was not much scope for characterisation or plot. The motive then was humour arising from rivalry between various factions, in the manner of St.Jim's School House against New House.

Thus we find in "The Cliveden Valentines" (February 15, 1908) that Lincoln G. Poindexter, a newcomer to the school, has taken over the leadership of Study 4, the other occupants of which are Dicky Neville and Micky Flynn, and known as the Cliveden Combine. 'Tis easy to guess from which ^{country} Poindexter hailed, but he was a very different youth to one

Fisher T. Fish who arrived at Greyfriars sometime later.

The deadly rivals of the Cliveden Combine were a couple of red-heads, Pankhurst and Price, of Study 10, and designated the Old Firm. From the copies in my possession I am unable to discover their Christian names.

Talking of Fish I see there was a boy of that name at Cliveden, but he was described as "the fattest junior in the Fourth". He was also always in the vicinity when there was any food about.

Other names with a familiar ring were Gatty and Greene.

Trevelyan was the captain of the school. Mr. Lanyon, a venerable looking gentleman with a beard was the master of the Fourth and M. Friquet the French master. One Philpot was the cad of the Form, and the stories were illustrated by A. H. Clarke.

The stories passed into oblivion decades ago even though they were very little different to those of the early St. Jim's days. Published in similar surroundings Cliveden might have become as famous as the home of Tom Merry & Co.

ST. NINIAN'S

The stories of St. Ninian's are of particular interest, of course, for the reason that it was the famous Nipper's first school and one where he had many adventures years before St. Frank's took him into its fold. Maxwell Scott, who created Nelson Lee and Nipper, wrote the St. Ninian's stories, for the Grays Inn Road detective and his pupil were owned by him in those days.

First came "Nipper's Schooldays" in the Boys' Herald in 1905. Others were "The Captain of St. Ninian's" and "Nipper of St. Ninian's (Boys Friend)" and "The Fighting Fifth" which started in the Boys' Realm April 6, 1907. Another serial, really a detective one but in which the school played a prominent part was "Detective-Warden Nelson Lee" in the Boys' Friend.

I shall have to rely upon "The Fighting Fifth" for details; fortunately it contains a good few. For instance, we learn that St. Ninian's was in Sussex (a popular county for fictitious schools) and was on the banks of the River Dene.

In the first instalment of "The Fighting Fifth" the reader was told, in that precise manner so characteristic of Maxwell Scott, that the boys on the opening of a new term left London Bridge at five minutes past twelve and arrived at Eastbourne at 2.23. There they changed into the Cleveden train, the station nearest the school.

It may be news to all except a few veteran admirers of Maxwell Scott that Nelson Lee in those days had two wards, Nipper and Dick Starling. The latter in similar circumstances to Nipper had been found in humble surroundings but proved to be the heir to one of the richest estates in England. A third boy, Sir Robert Arkle, also the central figure in an earlier Nelson Lee serial, and a fat youth named Wagstaffe were the shining lights of the Lower Fifth.

St. Ninian's had three houses, Mr. Rant's, Mr. Jerman's, and the School House, nick-named the Ranters, the Germs, and the Coolies respectively. The headmaster was Dr. Shuttleworth, irreverently known as old Shuttlecock.

It is worthy of note too, that in the vicinity there were two other schools, Cleveden Royal Grammar School, and Cambridge House Collegiate

School for Young Gentlewomen ('twas 1907 remember when shorts on feminine lower limbs were unheard of). There was intense rivalry between St.Ninians and the Grammar School needless to say. The Grammar School was presided over by Mr. Stuart-Unwin, or disrespectfully Stewed Onions.

Four miles away from St.Ninian's was Greystones Convect Prison, a grim place in the days when prisons lived up to their names, and which played a part in most of the St.Ninian's stories.

"The Fighting Fifth" centred round Prince Chota Lal Nath Chandra Das, a new boy whom the boys quickly decide to call "Lal". In one way, and one way only, he was like Billy Bunter (at the time unheard of) for he was a ventriloquist; in addition a clever conjurer. The excitement was provided by the plotting of a distant relative, Golab Singh, who had ambitions to become the Rajah of Tanjore.

Other interesting points gleaned from this story and odd instalments of "The Captain of St.Ninian's" (1906) and "Nipper of St.Ninians" (1912) are that the school was quite near the sea and Cleveden Bay, and that several small islands dotted the River Dene, the largest of which was Jungle Island whereon the boys found many adventures and trouble from gamekeepers. Moreover in "The Captain of St.Ninians", a Cliff House is introduced. This Cliff House, however, was no place for pretty school-girls, instead one of sinister happenings in which the captain of the school, a mysterious master, and a Colonel Cobb played a part. And, in "Nipper of St.Ninians" there is quite a lot about "Nipper's Weekly", a publication which seemed to cause quite as much trouble as "Tom Merry's Weekly" which would be appearing about the same time.

The school porter, I find, was Barney McGuire who seemed to be a somewhat more genial character than the guardians of the gates at Greyfriars and St.Jims.

The opening chapter of "Nipper of St.Ninians" told the reader that "the leader of the five was the ever famous Nipper, who at this time was completing his education at St.Ninians."

Completing his education, indeed! Poor Maxwell Scott little thought that years later his beloved Nipper would arrive at the school of St.Franks where he would sojourn for far longer than he had stayed at St.Ninians, and that St.Franks would be remembered long after he himself was dead, and the school he had created forgotten except by a very few. Strange, sometimes sad, is the history of schoolboy fiction.

St.Ninians stories in the Boys' Friend Library (1st series) No.171, "Nipper's Schooldays"; 474, "The Fighting Fifth"; 530, "Detective-Warder Nelson Lee.

-00-

SLAPTON

The stories of Slapton School were written by John Finnemore, an author who could to advantage have been employed more frequently by the publishers of boys' weeklies, for he certainly could write a good yarn. Those of Slapton appeared I believe only in the "Boys' Realm", though possibly there may have been reprints.

Two of the serials were "His First Term" and "Teddy Lester in the Fifth", and there were also a series of complete stories, entitled "Stories of Slapton School". Leading characters were Teddy Lester, Tom Sendys and Arthur Digby, whilst in "His First Term" a Japanese boy

Ito Nagao was introduced. In those days round about 1906, it must be remembered that we talked of gallant little Japan which had bravely fought the Russian Bear, in consequence Japs in stories were always shown in a favourable light. So little Ito came to Slapton, and was soon a great favourite. He was also capable of all sorts of strange tricks, much to the discomfort of one Birling, generally known as "The Lubber", and others of his kind.

An unusual feature about Slapton was that they played Rugger instead of Soccer, and the stories contained some very good descriptions of games under the handling code.

The usual village was Oakford, but it appears to have been three miles from the school. There was also, of course, a river, but I have been unable to trace its name.

Dr. Balshaw was the Headmaster and one of the masters Mr. Jaynes.

In "His First Term" the boys got into conflict with Sir Jasper Popham, a local landowner, but they later became great friends.

It is interesting to note that not long ago the Slapton stories were re-published in several volumes of excellent appearance by Latimer House, Ludgate Hill. Collectors who have seen them were quite impressed, and apparently the stories have stood the test of time. It is something unusual for serials which appeared in a boys' weekly to be given the dignity of stiff covers over forty years later.

-000-

CALCROFT

The Calcroft stories were written by Sidney Drew. There were not a great many of them, but they were spread over a period of about twenty years. The first, a serial, "Kings of Calcroft" started just before the end of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. series Boys' Friend in 1901. Another was "Staunch Chums at Calcroft" in the "Boys' Herald" in 1905, and another "For Fame and Fane", Boys' Realm, 1907. There were probably other serials and the school certainly came to life again in a series of complete stories in the Marvel round about 1920. And, sometime a little earlier Sexton Blake and Tinker had some adventures there.

As was usual with Sidney Drew's school stories, those of Calcroft were mainly robust, slapstick humour, with occasionally a spasm of adventure and a slight touch of sentiment. The humour depended upon the old stand-by, rivalry between the juniors. At Calcroft, too, it was another case of time standing still where most of the main leading characters were concerned.

Lionel Fane was the leader of one faction of the Calcroft Third, and supporting him were Manners (nicknamed The Corpse), Pye and Bindley. So far as "Kings of Calcroft" was concerned the opposition was led by Harold Hilward, backed by Haik, Sargent and Raffel. Fane and his men invariably had the best of it.

In "Staunch Chums at Calcroft" Hilward had gone and a new boy called Brandeth, one of those deceptively angelic-looking, butter wouldn't melt in his mouth type, took his place, making a worthy foe for Fane.

The village bore the same name as the school and was near the sea, and again there was the river to enable someone's life to be saved.

"For Fame and Fane" brought two more new boys, Remandra Arput Jal, who joined up with Fane & Co., and Alphonse de Bompot, who was taken up

by the rival camp. Among the 500 boys of Calcroft there were also a couple of Japs and a Turk.

Sidney Drew was fond of curious names for some of his characters, Tanks and Tooter, for instance, old salts and servants of Admiral Sir Blake Barbary. There was also a Mr. Peddle. A master who was often in trouble was Mr. Pycroft.

The Calcroft stories had their supporters, but I cannot say they ever left me longing for the next instalment.

-oOo-

Well, there, sketchily, are a few of the schools which figured prominently in the golden years of boys' weeklies. There were hundreds more for in those days no paper devoted to serials would have dreamed of appearing without one concerning the world of school. There was Ranthorpe, for instance, a kind of twin to Calcroft and about which three serials for Pearsons were written by Sidney Drew. "Rivals of Ranthorpe" and "The Lads of Langton's House" (Big Budget) and "That Terrible Term" (Boys' Leader).

Then many old-timers will have happy memories of Specs. ' Co ('Specs') was a demure-looking youth called Teddy Wickfield) which appeared in Pluck at the same time as the St.Jim's and Wycliffe stories and concerned Lyncroft School. They were written by H. Clarke Hook, son of the more famous S. Clarke Hook.

A shorter series in those days when "Pluck" was at its best told of Brian Donoghue of Greystoke. They were written by Lewis Hockley and were fine stuff.

Of the schools which made a fleeting appearance in just one serial (or in a few instances two) and heard of no more, one could fill pages and pages. There was the long line with the theme of the , in the beginning, persecuted working-class boy sent to a great public school. To name a few at random: "Shunned by the School"; "The School Against Him"; and "The Snobs of the School"; all by Henry St.John in the Boys' Friend; "Barred by the School" by Martin Shaw (Boys' Realm); "The Drudge of Draycott School" (Boys' Friend) by Henry T. Johnson, and "Despised by the School" (Boys' Herald) written by Andrew Grey.

Other grand yarns which come crowding to mind quicker than I can write were peerless David Goodwin's "Forester of St.Osyth's (Boys' Realm), "The Terror of the Remove"; "The Cad of St.Corton's"; and "Smythe the Cortonian"; all in the Boys' Herald. More by that prolific school story writer, Henry St.John in "The Defence of Danescliffe"; "Kingswell College" (Boys' Friend) and "The Millionaire's Son" in the Boys' Realm. And, one must not forget those two fine stories by Charles Hamilton in Pluck - "The Rivals of St.Kit's" and "The Secret of St.Winifred's".

So far in this lengthy review I have confined myself (with the sole exception of the Ranthorpe stories) to those which appeared in the Amalgamated Press papers. This because I knew them best. But there were, of course, legions of others, dozens in "Chums" alone during its long life, to say nothing of the B.O.P. and the Victorian papers like "Boys of England" and the "Boys' World".

The Aldine Co. did not specialise in school stories, but there were some in their Diamond Library including Kettle & Co. and one recalls "Tom Brooke of Baycliffe" and "The Barring-Out at Baycliffe" by Alec G. Pearson in "True Blue".

James Henderson's Nugget Library had its Tufty & Co. and Trapps, Holmes & Co. gave Taffy Llewelyn & Co. of Blackminster School, a short run in the Vanguard. Conspicuous in Hulton's "Boys' Magazine" for quite a time were the boys of St.Gideon's.

And, oh yes, there was that unique story "The School Bell" by John Edmund Fordwych in "Chips", unique because it was the only one on record written round a humble board school.

Schools! Schools! legions of them. They have all passed into the shadows now, but to the elder generation happy memories remain. The stories were not great literature but what matter that. They gave us a healthy thrill for an honest penny, and happily awaiting the next instalment.

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

NOTES:

A list of the long and short stories by Charles Hamilton and E.S.Brooks which appeared in this Annual during its run from 1920 to 1941 inclusive, compiled with the assistance of several collectors including Messrs.Wilson, McFarlane, Corbett, Vosper, Thompson and Shaw. This book was originally entitled "THE HOLIDAY ANNUAL" but in 1921 the word "GREYFRIARS" was added. The price from 1920 to 1933 inclusive was 6s.0d per volume and from 1934 to 1941 inclusive 5s.0d per volume. Several stories were reprints from the "MAGNET" and the "GEM" as shown.

1920:

Greyfriars..	A Cliff House Comedy	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Against All Comers	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Billy Bunter's Bike	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Fighting for His Honour	..	..	..	..
	(Reprint of Magnet No.175 - Driven from School; also reprint of No.174 - A Schoolboy's Honour).	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Ructions at Greyfriars	..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Ricals of Rookwood School	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Wandering Schoolboy	..	..	..	..

1921:

Greyfriars..	A Night Alarm	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Billy Bunter's Butler	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	My Tour of Greyfriars	..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Jimmy Silver's Rival	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	All Gussy's Fault	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Master's Secret - or How Tom Merry came to St. Jim's. (Reprint of 1/2d Gem No.11, Tom Merry at St. Jim's; also No.13, Tom Merry's				



Robert White

WANTED
THE
RIO KID

The Roamings of the Rio Kid

By Eric Feyne

The Rio Kid joined the "POPULAR" in the first month of the year 1928. The stories of the Boy Outlaw of the Rio Grande were the only ones which were new in the whole history of this paper whose pages were always devoted to the re-prints of past successes.

Not only was the Kid a new character,- he was unique. Western yarns or western films probably do not enjoy a great popularity in this country. The main thing to be said in their favour is that they are clean,- sex never rears its ugly head in the Wild West, apparently.

But I think that many hardened anti-Westerners must have been converted by the Kid. Not that there have ever been,- either before or since,- any Western yarns of the same tingling quality as those of the Boy Outlaw, or any Western character of the same subtle charm as the Rio Kid.

For these stories rang true. They were geographically exact to the last detail; the characters lived; there was never a false moment with the dialogue; the lazy Spanish atmosphere of Texas was blended right into the heart of the stories. Every single story in the entire series had an original plot which was skilfully developed under the hot Western sunshine. A reader felt that they were written by some cowboy who had wandered away from the ranges,- some puncher who had dropped his lariat and taken up the pen.

RALPH REDWAY

It is rather remarkable that there were so many readers who did not realise that Martin Clifford was Frank Richards, and that Frank Richards was Owen Conquest, and that all were Charles Hamilton who had written the early St.Jim's tales in PLUCK.

But the Rio Kid was a character apart. The stories were gems without parallel.

The Cedar Creek tales, delightful though they were, had an English flavour. Even some of the plots had their counterparts at St.Jim's and Greyfriars. When Jimmy Silver, or Tom Merry, or the Bounder went to the Wild West the English flavour was always there. The scene was like that set on an English theatre stage; the dialogue seemed to be an Englishman's idea of how cowboys would talk.

But the Rio Kid was real. The dialogue was real. The rolling prairies and the wide rivers were real.

When I learned that Ralph Redway was none other than our old friend, Charles Hamilton, I had the surprise of my life, and my admiration for this amazing writer reached its zenith. Much has been written of the genius of Charles Hamilton. His greatest genius is to be found in the Rio Kid stories, which not even a keen student of his work could trace to the pen of an Englishman who has never visited America.

THE BEGINNING THAT WASN'T

The Rio Kid first appeared in the POPULAR dated January 21st 1928, and numbered 469. The Kid was then an outlaw. He had been kicked out of the Double Bar Ranch at Frio by Rancher Dawney for some crime which

he denied. What he was supposed to have done we were never really told. But he was innocent. We were assured of that. Something seemed to be missing here. It was as if a few stories had been omitted at the commencement of a series.

We were never told his actual age. He was called the "Boy" outlaw, but the term "boy" can cover a multitude of sins and an assortment of ages. From a close study of the stories, it can be assumed that he was something just under twenty.

His name? We never really knew. As the series went on, he called himself Kid Carfax, but as the Kid himself often said, people call themselves by many names in the Wild West.

His grey mustang,-- as brave as the Kid himself,-- was Sidekicker. The Kid was something of a dandy in his dress. He always wore a band of silver nuggets round his hat, and the neck scarf was of pure silk. But he carried two walnut-butted guns in low holsters at his side, and we knew of the little Derringer pistol which he always had in his pocket.

Dark and desperate were the tales told of the Rio Kid, through all the cattle country along the Rio Grande and the Pecos. Boy in years, hard-bitten man in all else, cool and daring and desperate, quicker on the draw than any puncher on the ranges, or any gunman of the river camps, the Kid's life had been a tale of danger and hazard ever since the day when he had pulled out from the Double Bar and become an outcast.

That was how Ralph Redway introduced us to his new character who was to grace the pages of the POPULAR for several years to come.

SOUTH TEXAS

The series opened in South Texas, and we met Jake Watson, the Sheriff of Frio, the town near the Double Bar Ranch. He appeared from time to time in the series, on occasions when the Kid's travels took him towards his old home.

THE TRAIL OF THE KID

The Kid's wanderings took him from Texas to Mexico; thence to Arizona; on to Nevada; into Wyoming; through the foothills of the Rockies; to New Mexico. He came trailing back to Texas, visited Mexico again, and finally reached Hollywood. Some of the stories, four-chapter affairs, blended together into one series; others were single stories, and many of them were delightful. Of the single stories, in which the plot was complete in one issue, one of the best was "The Bully of Salt Lick", in which the Kid took on Jeff Blake, gunman and Bully, and saved the life of a plucky youngster who was no match for the brute.

LLANO ESTACADO

Some of the early yarns were set on the Llano Estacado. A strange name for a strange land, explained Ralph Redway, geographically accurate as always. In the old days, when the Spaniards held all the wild South West, a trail had run across the high table-land, from Texas to Santa Fe in New Mexico, but sand and dust blotted out the track, and whitened bones in the desert told where travellers had lost their way. And then great wooden stakes had been set up at regular intervals to mark the trail. Long since had the stakes rotted away,-- vanished, like the Spanish conquerors who had set them up. But the name remained. The Staked Plain, or Llano Estacado, in the musical tongue of the old conquerors.

GOLD

In May 1928 came the most brilliant series in a brilliant series. The Kid became possessor of a gold-mine in Arizona. He tried to work the Gambusino mine at Los Pinos, but found himself in conflict with the big mining company, the Arizona Consolidated, who tried every underhand device to make him give up his mine. Finally, the Kid blew up his own mine, with the aid of Rainy Face, the Apache Indian.

But, with the aid of Rainy Face, the Kid captured Eli Robinson, the president of the Consolidated, and, under the threat of being left to the tender mercies of the Apaches, Robinson paid one hundred thousand dollars for the wreck of the mine. This series ran to eight stories, and it was the very best of all the tales of the Kid, which is saying a mouthful, as the Kid himself would have said. In passing, this series was re-published in the Boys' Friend Library under the title "The Rio Kid's Gold Mine."

NEVADA

The Kid, with his wealth in his pocket, went north of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, heading for Nevada. Here, he fell in love, and even thought of settling down with a wife. Fortunately for readers, Miss Janet's fiance turned up, and the Kid turned out on the trail once again.

THE SPARSHOTS

By mid-July 1928, the Kid was in Montana with the intention of hitting the sheep country. The Kid, like every true cowman, hated sheep, and all they stood for — the barbed-wire fences and the eaten-up range. In his own country of Texas he had seen many a wide Llano, once a sea of tossing horns, turned into an ocean of woolly backs. But here, in Wyoming, it was not his country, and if they raised sheep it was no business of his. But the Kid soon found himself mixed up in a dispute between cowmen and sheepmen, with the Starbuck bunch. A thrilling series which ran through August.

TRAILING BACK

Meeting thrilling adventures all the way, the Kid came trailing back, through the Rockies and New Mexico, into Texas.

The shining waters of the Rio Frio and the green rolling plains of Texas called to the Rio Kid — and although there were countless enemies waiting him there, the Kid trailed back to his own country. There, in Frio, the Kid found that there was a Thousand Dollars reward for his capture, dead or alive.

Now came a brilliant set of stories, in which Chief Many Ponies featured. There had been a time when the old Apache's name had accorded with his estate. A chief, the son of a chief, he had owned many ponies, many buffalo robes, and many braves had followed him on the war trail. The old hunting-grounds of Chief Many Ponies were ranch lands now. Where his braves had ridden in war-paint and feathers, the cowboy punchers rode the range; long-horned cows grazed where countless buffaloes had roamed. Chief Many Ponies, now a vagrant outcast, fell foul of Sheriff Watson of Frio, and, in revenge, bound the Sheriff, like Mazeppa, to the back of a horse which he turned adrift in the desert. The Kid went after the Sheriff, and after many breathless adventures, rescued his enemy. A magnificent Western series.

THE RIO KID'S CHRISTMAS

There was rain in the Huecas - winter rain - and bitter wind. On that stormy eve of Christmas the boy outlaw of the Rio Grande was a hard case. The Kid came on a "nester's" shack, - a nester being a settler, apparently, - and the Kid rode forty miles to Cow Crossing, by the wildest and hardest trail in the West of Texas, to fetch Doc Pigeon to the Nester's sick wife. He left the Doc at the shack on Christmas morning, with 500 dollars as a gift for the sick woman.

That night, in a far canyon of the lonely Huecas, as the dusk of Christmas faded into night, the stars came out of a velvety sky, and glimmered down on the Rio Kid, rolled in his blankets, sleeping peacefully as a child.

THE KID AT SEA

The Kid had now been in the POPULAR for exactly a year, and he began his second year as a puncher on the Sampson ranch in the San Pedro country, a hundred miles from Frio and Sheriff Watson. From here, the Kid was shanghai'd, became a sailor, was seasick, and had a hard time from the rope's end, before he eventually turned the tables on the villainous Captain Shack.

TRAILING ON

Through the spring and early summer of 1929, masterpiece followed masterpiece, as the Kid, back in Mexico, starred in adventure after adventure. By mid-Summer he was back in Texas, and we found him, once again befriended by Chief Many Ponies, actually joining the Apache band, to escape from Mule Kick Hall of the Texas Rangers. What a superb film this great story would have made, with its cowboys and Injuns and Texas Rangers.

THE LAZY "O"

In the autumn, the Kid bought the Lazy "O" ranch, and in nine powerful stories we were told how he tried to lead the peaceful and law-abiding life of a rancher. And when the Kid at last had to take the trail again, owing to the persistence of the Texas Rangers, the boss gave the ranch to his "bunch". Far away from the Lazy O, a rider in goatskin chaps, with a band of silver niggets round his Stetson and two long-barrelled walnut-butted guns in his holsters, rode a trail in the chaparral. The Rio Kid, rancher no longer, once more the outlaw of the Rio Grande.

CHRISTMAS AGAIN

It was bitter winter weather -- in many a drift on the ranges cattle froze, and up in the rugged Huecas the snow was stacked in every gully, and gulch, and arroyo. It was going to be a hard Christmas in the uplands of the cow country, - and it was here that the Rio Kid saved the life of an old enemy, Mike Jedwin. This story, "The Trail in the Snow", was re-printed in a Holiday Annual.

A fortnight later came "The Rio Kid's Christmas Gift", a story in which the Kid played Santa Claus. A novel and fascinating story which also appeared in a Holiday Annual.

BLACK GEORGE

At the beginning of January, 1930, exactly two years after the Kid had first appeared in the POPULAR, came the "Black George" series, of a negro bandit. He was found afterwards to be a white man in disguise, and six yarns passed before the bandit was brought to justice. This fine tale appeared in the Boys' Friend Library.

YUBA DICK

In Mid-February, "The Rio Kid's New Pal" was Yuba Dick, an inveterate gambler. It was an expensive friendship for the Kid, but entertaining for the reader.

MARCH 1930

"The Man from Montana" told of Colonel Sanderson and the sacrifice of the Kid, who took on his own shoulders the blame for the crime of the old man's wayward son.

APRIL 1930

By this time, the POPULAR was in deep waters, but the Kid was going strong in a fine series of a white boy who had been brought up among the Apache Indians. The Kid was now carrying the POPULAR on his own shoulders for the western story was now the only item worth reading left in the paper. But, with "The Rio Kid's Quest", which appeared at the end of April, the Kid left the POPULAR, and one felt that the end was in sight for that fine paper.

THE KID'S RETURN

But, at the end of July 1930, the Kid came back in a series which lasted 13 weeks, in which he became Sheriff of Plug Hat, and had many adventures before he was driven back to the outlaw trail.

Far away from Plug Hat, by a lonely trail, the Rio Kid rode the grey mustang. Sheriff no longer. It had been a good game while it lasted, but it was over. But the Kid still had his guns and his mustang, and a high heart, and the world was before him. With these words, Ralph Redway said good-bye to the Popular.

So, for three years, from early 1928 till the autumn of 1930, the Rio Kid rode the ranges in the POPULAR. During that time there was not one weak story in the entire series, and the majority of them were brilliant. The success of the Kid was due to his carefree outlook on life, plus his deep humanity. Not to mention the musical quality of the words used to tell the stories,- the lilting phrases which had the same appeal as the lyrics of a song.

THE KID IN "MODERN BOY"

But that was not quite the end. Exactly seven years later, when the Modern Boy was losing the race in the popularity stakes, the Editor announced that "The Rio Kid Rides Again" was to appear in that famous paper. So the Boy Outlaw made his appearance once again, and his brand new adventures were told week by week by Ralph Redway from September 1937 until February 1938 in "Modern Boy".

Although I have never considered that this latest series was of the same very high quality which had marked the Kid stories in the POPULAR, - and reading them again in preparation for this article, I still feel the same about them,- they were, nevertheless, excellent yarns, and nothing better ever appeared in "Modern Boy", at least.

GOOD-BYE TO THE KID

On September 18th, 1937, in No.502 of that paper, the Kid made his bow in Modern Boy. The first series, a long one of 13 stories, told of how he became foreman of the Lazy S ranch at Lariat, and much excitement prevailed before he was fleeing again from Mule Kick Hall of the Rangers.

A second series, "The Rio Kid in Hollywood" started in No.515, and ran for 9 stories. The Kid was out of his element here. Judged by the standard of the rest of the series, it was disappointing. So, on February 12th, 1938, the Kid departed, - for good this time, though not for our good. Modern Boy, already in deep waters, announced a complete change of policy which may be commented upon when that paper is analysed some time.

WE MISS THE KID

With the passing of the Rio Kid, a gap was left which has never been filled. Of their type, nothing better than these stories appeared in any paper. Because he played the lead in every story, and his character was so consistently maintained by the unfeeling skill of a great writer, the Kid endeared himself to the reader.

He became a personal friend. When we lost the Kid, I felt that I should never again meet a character who could charm the passing hours as he could.

And I never have!

(NOTE - I have a shrewd suspicion that, having read this fascinating review of the career of the Rio Kid, those of you who had not read the stories will have a longing to do so. And, for that matter, those who knew him will probably wish to renew acquaintance. You may find it easier to get the stories published in the Boys' Friend Library. Here then, for your benefit, is a list of them. - H.L.)

Boys' Friend Library, 2nd Series:- 266, The Rio Kid; 275, The Rio Kid's Gold Mine; 283, The Rio Kid's Revenge; 306, The Rio Kid at Bay; 317, The Rio Kid's Enemy; 335, The Six-Gun Outlaw; 356, The Rio Kid's Return; 370, The Rio Kid, Sheriff; 403, The Kid from Texas; 471, The Outlaw Kid; 487, The Rio Kid in Mexico; 566, The Rio Kid; 569, The Rio Kid's Gold Mine; 578, The Outlaw Ranger; 585, The Rio Kid at Bay; 590, The Rio Kid's Enemy; 593, The Six-Gun Outlaw; 601, The Rio Kid's Revenge; 606, The Rio Kid, Sheriff; 609, The Kid from Texas; 693, The Outlaw Kid.

It will be seen that from No.566 the stories were reprints of the earlier ones.

WANTED: "Sexton Blake Library", 1st & 2nd Series only. Serial Numbers and price required to L.Packman, 27, Archdale Road, East Dulwick, London, S.E.22.

WANTED: All "Boys' Friends" and "Nelson Lees" - 1915 onwards. Lists to M. Johnson, 164, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2.

Stand & Deliver

By Charles Wright

The Highwaymen (and women) in general, and Dick Turpin in particular, seem to have played quite a large part in the history of boys' periodicals. Practically every publisher, well known or obscure, has had a finger in the juicy and very often bloodthirsty highwayman pie. I should think Turpin alone has made more money for the purveyors of youthful literature through the medium of his name than he ever made for himself by lifting purses and other trifles from the unfortunates on whom he bestowed his nocturnal attentions. The highwaymen were very mobile, usually owning a very fleet horse, and after stopping the cumbersome coach and robbing the occupants, were many miles away before the authorities could even be informed. The lack of adequate banking systems often caused large sums in gold to be transported from place to place through the medium of the stage or private coach which was usually easy meat for the gentlemen of the road.

What is the fascination of the Highwaymen to the youth of the last 120 years? Easy money? Picturesque clothes? The free and easy life of the road? or the thrills and excitement of their life? - Who can say? But whatever the reason, there is no doubt that a good many fortunes have been drawn one way or another from the pockets of the youthful admirers of High Toby. The names themselves have a certain fascination. Dick Turpin, Claude Duval, Sixteen String Jack, Tyburn Dick, Swift Nick, Captain Crimson etc. The ladies are represented too with May Turpin, Starlight Nell - Queen of the Highwaymen, Galloping Gloria Gale, etc.; these are just a few of the names that have appeared through the years.

The police of the period - the Bow Street Runners, seem to have been used by the authors to supply a little comic relief here and there, invariably being portrayed as dense and stupid, but a study of the times show us that in reality they did a good job of work, as witness the great number of highway gentry that were caught and hanged. The inns and taverns were great places for the highwaymen to gather information of valuable cargoes to be transported, and the ostlers were always treated with great generosity both for the information they passed on and the care they took of the horses which were the highwaymen's most valuable possession, and there is no doubt that a highwayman stranded afoot for any length of time soon became a dead highwayman.

The highwaymen were, according to the old "Bloods", always dashing and handsome, and as the old coloured covers will testify, always dressed in superb clothes with handsome silver-mounted pistols. Whoever heard of an ugly or shabby highwayman? Perish the thought, and when they were eventually caught and lodged in Newgate they usually cut a fine figure to the admiration (or so we are told) of the other prisoners, and the numerous visitors who used to come to see this or that famous knight of the road who had for so long been a thorn in the side of authority. When the day arrived for them to pay their debt to the law the route from Newgate to Tyburn was always well guarded by troops to prevent a rescue from his many friends, and balled vendors usually did a thriving trade in selling "His Last Words" long before he even reached the scene of his turning off.

The papers that published stories of the highwaymen are legion, and we will remark on some of them, and it will appear that Dick Turpin is the favourite. Numerous as are the stories remarked on here it is by no means complete.

In 1837 W. H. Ainsworth published his "Rookwood" which had Dick Turpin as one of the central characters, often appearing as Jack Palmer. This work was a success and would seem to have set the fashion for the spate of Highwayman publications that followed.

In 1840 appeared "Dick Turpin", published by Thos. White in 41 numbers, the author being Henry Miles, and in 1841 R. Macdonald published "Criminal Annals of Highwaymen" in 35 numbers. In 1850 appeared a 12-number issue of "Night Hawks of London" or "The Noble Highwayman and the Miser's Daughter" published by the Newsagents Pub. Co. The title of this work is almost a story itself. 1851 saw "Captain Hawke the Gallant Highwayman" in 66 Nos. and published by E. Lloyd. In 1853 E. Lloyd also published in 162 Nos. "Paul Clifford" or "Hurrah for the Road". In 1856 a version of "Dick Turpin's Ride to York" was published in 9 Nos. by Geo. Purkess, and also "Gentleman Jack" or "Life on the Road" in 205 nos. by E. Lloyd, and "Claude Duval the Dashing Highwayman" in 202 nos., also by E. Lloyd. In 1856 was published by Wm. Clark "Dick Turpin". This was, I believe, another version of the Dick Turpin published by White in 1840. 1860 saw "Turpin and Bess" published by E. Head and sub-titled "A Romance of the Road". The cover of No.1 depicts Turpin leaping over a toll gate much to the consternation of the keeper, with a posse coming along behind. Round about this period was published "Starlight Nell, Queen of the Highwaymen" or the "Scarlet Riders of Hounslow Heath" by the Temple Pub. Co. in 48 Nos. In 1862 H. Lea published "Nan Darrell, the Highwayman's Daughter" in 12 Nos. and Geo. Purkess issued "Captain Macheath" or the "Bold Highwayman" written by Monk Lewis in 27 Nos. Also in this year appeared "Tales of Highwaymen" by the Newsagents Pub. Co. in 62 numbers and was composed of three stories, "Captain Macheath" or "The Black Rider of Hounslow"; "Black Hugh" or "The Forty Thieves of London" and "The Shadowless Rider" or "The League of the Cross of Blood". My goodness, what a pennorth for the lads of the sixties! J. Dicks followed in 1863 with "Nightshade" or "Claude Duval the Dashing Highwayman" which was completed in 60 numbers. The year 1864 saw the famous "May Turpin" published by Newsagents Pub. Co. Only two numbers of this work are known to exist and were in the collection of the late Barry Ono. Also this year saw "Tyburn Dick" or "Take Me Who Dare" which was published by the Hogarth House. He was known as the Boy King of the Highwaymen and during the course of this publication a play was given away to the readers depicting Dick Turpin's ride to York. Harrison this year also issued in 35 numbers "Gentleman Clifford" or "The Ladies' Highwayman".

In the year 1866 the Newsagents Pub. Co. came up smiling with "Moonlight Jack King of the Road" in 30 numbers. The Hogarth House also ran as a serial "Captain Dick - King of the Road" in their "Boys of Britain". This story had Dick Turpin as the principal character. The Newsagents Pub. Co. also brought out the same year in 19 numbers "Black Hawke the Highwayman" and the London Romance Co. weighed in with

"Hounslow Heath and its Moonlight Riders" in 18 numbers. In 1867 appeared another of the Turpin clan, this time "Tom Turpin or Life on the Road" published by Harrison in 55 numbers. The year 1868 was memorable for the commencement of Harrison's "Black Bess or the Knight of the Road" but at least two other productions appeared in that year: "Sixteen String Jack, the Noble-Hearted Highwayman" in 19 numbers and "Tom King and Jonothan Wild or the Days of Young Jack Sheppard," both these being published by A. Ritchie. It would appear from the latter story that the author has mixed his periods somewhat, but this was quite a common occurrence in a lot of these old bloods, and the boys seemed to make no objection and accepted it as inclusive for their penny.

"Black Bess" was published by Harrison and written by Edward Viles. It is reputed to be the longest story in the English language, it is in 254 parts and ran to 2,028 pages and a great part of it was illustrated by that fine artist Robert Prowse, Senior. There was also a sequel to this monumental work. "The Black Highwaymen", the second series of Black Bess, and it ran to 86 numbers and appeared in 1874. Dick Turpin in "Black Bess" is teamed with Tom King, Jack Rann, better known of course as Sixteen String Jack, and Claude Duval. This Duval is, by the way, a nephew of the famous Claude who danced the light fantastic with a lady whose coach he had stopped. I must confess to having waded through this lot a couple of years ago and it seemed to me that everything was thrown in. Turpin takes unto himself a wife, the person being gently persuaded to marry them by being placed on a barrel of gunpowder with a train of powder leading to it. The Lord Mayor and many other notabilities are robbed, they have fights with pirates and smugglers. They fight in the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 - despite the fact that Turpin departed this life in 1739. They find skeletons of murdered people in empty mansions and are in and out of Newgate prison with monotonous regularity, and on the rare occasions they do not escape from the gaol they are rescued en route to Tyburn. At the end comes the death of his wife Maud, and Tom King, then the famous ride to York and the death of Bonny Black Bess, and finally his own capture and death at York. Viles, the reputed author of this story, was only 33 years old when he died and was at one time the editor of the "South London Press". There were many reprints of this work and with each succeeding issue the type, impression, and paper became steadily worse. I have been told that chunks of this story were lifted and published as a serial in the Big Budget. (Correct.- H.L.)

1870 saw the publication of the Blue Dwarf published by Hogarth House, the author being Percy B. St. John. This is the only work I have read by this author, but it is considered by his regular readers to be far below his usual level. Turpin, King and Sepathiva the Blue Dwarf are the main characters, they have innumerable adventures not only on their native heaths, so to speak, but in Scotland and Ireland, and at one period are mixed up with Red Indians in America. In one picture in this work Turpin is rescuing a damsel from a terrible fire and Sepathiva is under the window on a ladder to receive the unconscious burden. And in another picture, the Dwarf is doing the rescuing and Turpin is at the receiving end, so it would appear that they took turn and turn about for the heroics.

The Boys' Standard No.208 (New Series) started a short serial called the "True Story of Dick Turpin the Famous Highwayman" in 1885, and in

1886 "Rayner's Boys' Champion Paper" published the "Schooldays of Dick Turpin". "Captain Macheath the Highwayman of a Century since" was issued in 17 numbers in 1872 by F. Hextall. Publisher Charles Fox in 1878 brought out "Turnpike Dick" or the "Star of the Road" which ran to 60 numbers, and in 1891 Messrs. Sully and Ford issued in 18 numbers "Dashing Duval the Ladies' Highwayman".

Charles Shurey in his "Comrades" Vols 2-3 in 1894 had Turpin as a leading character in a story called "Wild Dick".

In the present century the highwaymen continued their popularity, but were somewhat diluted as it were. In April 1902 the Aldine published the first four numbers of their Dick Turpin Library; with covers beautifully illustrated by Robert Prowse. In my humble opinion no finer covers have ever appeared on a boys' periodical. The majority of the 182 numbers were written by Charlton Lea, and the last sixty or so by Stephen Agnew, two authors with contrasting styles. In these books there was quite a faithful band of associates; Turpin the captain, with Tom King as his right hand man, Pat o'Flynn as Irishman with a brogue one could cut with a knife, Sing Sang, a chinee who possessed a fearsome blunderbus which he affectionately named "Little Billee" and as he was inclined to be trigger happy it often did deadly work. Blueskin, Flick, Beetles and Peters completed the team, the last two supplying the comic element. Beetles the gigantic negro was always quoting from the book of deportment and politeness, and Jem Peters with flaming red whiskers was an ex Bow Street Runner turned highwayman (shades of G. M. Plummer). This library finished in 1909 and was followed by the Black Bess Library which only lasted for 18 numbers. The Aldine Claude Duval Library was also started in 1902, running to only 48 numbers in spite of the nice Prowse illustrations and the introduction into the stories of Prince Rupert, Judge Jefferies and Colonel Blood, and in 1906 they went into the discard. Some of these stories were subsequently reprinted in the "Diamond Library". In 1908 the "Jester" had about 12 stories of Dick Turpin, and "Lot o'Fun" also had several Turpin stories about 1909. The early penny numbers of "Pluck" had a series of complete stories featuring both Dick Turpin and Claude Duval. Between the years 1908-10 David Goodwin wrote as serials in the Boys' Herald "The Black Mask" and "On Turpin's Highway". The latter was a really fine story and was reprinted I think in "Pluck", Boys' Friend and Nelson Lee Libraries. The Boys' Friend Library had a few Highway stories, No.623 (1st series) "Romance of the Road" by Morton Pike, and 201 (2nd series) "Dick Turpin's Double" by John Hunter. Morton Pike also published "Captain Crimson" in the second series and I think this ran as a serial called "The Red Falcon" in Magnets Nos. 1279-1296.

The "Penny Wonder" in 1912 featured one of the ladies in a story named "Galloping Gloria Gale Highwaywomen and her wonderful black horse Midnight". In the 1920's Geo. Newnes, who had apparently obtained the rights from the defunct Aldine Co., published the Dick Turpin Library at 3d which ran to 138 numbers and also a small Black Bess Library at 2d, which went to 18 numbers, and in 1921-22 came Newnes Black Bess Library (new series) which were Magnet size at 2d, but after 38 numbers they finished.

The Boys' Magazine was also very fond of highwayman stories, mostly about Dick Turpin. This paper, originated by E. Hulton, was afterwards taken over by the Amalgamated Press. There were of course countless other stories over the years, even the Boys' Own Paper and Chums never disdained the Highwaymen. The Aldine Boys' Library, The Boys' Own Library had Highwayman stories, and in 1904 the Union Jack Christmas No. contained a long Highwayman story, and even today there is still a picture story in the "Sun" which has been depicting the adventures of Dick Turpin, Moll Moonlight and Tom King for nearly two years, and in the 8d Monthly Thriller Comics, several Turpin picture stories have appeared. And so they go on over the years, in a milder form it is true, but the fascination is still there in spite of this being an atom and jet era. Perhaps that is why they still have an appeal - the quiet roads, no telephones, no wireless communications, only the clip-clap of the horse in the moonlight and the command to "stand and deliver".

(From Page 18)

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

St. Jim's .. Mistake; also No.14, The Master's Secret)..
 Towser's Triumph.. .. .

1922:

Greyfriars.. Billy Bunter's Cookery Class
 Greyfriars.. Bunter and the Box
 Greyfriars.. The Rivals of the Remove
 Greyfriars.. Who was the Winner?
 Rookwood .. Who did it?.. ..
 St. Jim's .. Glyn's Greatest
 St. Jim's .. To Save his Honour
 (Reprint from Gem No.361 - The Call of the
 Past; also No.362 Cast out from the School;
 also No.363 - Loyal to the Last).
 St. Jim's .. Two Heroes

1923:

Greyfriars.. A False Alarm
 Greyfriars.. A Shadow over Greyfriars
 Greyfriars.. Billy Bunter's Blunder.
 Greyfriars.. Billy Bunter's Midnight Adventure
 Greyfriars.. Nugent Minor's Lesson.. ..
 Rookwood .. The Mystery of the Priory
 Rookwood .. Tubby and the Tuck Hamper
 St. Jim's .. Captain of St. Jim's
 (Reprint of Gem No.317 - The New Captain;
 also No.318 - Captain Tom Merry).
 St. Jim's .. Towser's Narrow Escape.

(Continued Page 46)

Curiosities in Magnet Titles

By Herbert Leckenby

Figures are a fag, thinks the bank clerk. But there are figures and figures, some can be fascinating, and I'm not thinking of feminine ones - at the moment. No, what I have in mind is a massive work, an alphabetical list of Magnet titles, compiled by that ace enthusiast, Jim Southway. Browsing over it, it struck me it provided any amount of intriguing Greyfriars lore for worshipers at the shrine of Frank Richards to ponder over.

For instance, I calculate there's 504 instances where a boy has the title to himself. In addition there are some "birds of passage" like Tracy and Carter whom I have not taken into account.

Who comes out top of the poll? What an unnecessary question. Bunter has "sole rights" on no less than 195 occasions. Greedy Bunter! And this does not include the many occasions where Bunter is suggested as in the instance of "The Vanished Ventriloquist" (No. 875).

It is interesting to note that in the very early days there are three instances where he is just "Billy", viz. No. 11, "Billy's Boom"; 14, "Billy's Competition" and 20, "Billy's Treat". The Christian name by itself makes all the difference and confirms what has been said before that the corpulent one was in the beginning quite a different character and even popular.

Two other numbers (514 and 1016) each entitled "Bravo Bunter" suggest the Owl in a good light, so also "Bunter the Benevolent (1037), though needless to say it was other people's money he was spending. And that's about all the good one can find about him.

For examples of his many faults we have, it goes without saying, far more choice. Twice (83 and 1348) he was "Bunter the Bully". 1562 told of "Bunter the Bragger" and 1014 "Bunter the Bad Lad". On three occasions (1072, 1316 and 1564) he was up to something in "Bunter's Big Bluff", and way back in No.651 he was working on more modest lines in "Bunter's Bluff". It can be taken for granted he was not on the side of law and order.

No.748 portrayed him as "Bunter the Crook" and 1376 as "Bunter the Dodger". In 366 he was "Bunter the Blade"; "Bunter the Crasher" in 1351, and "Bunter the Punter" in 568. He was in trouble in "Bunter's Bolt (737). "Bunter's Barring-Out (802), also Bunter's Barring-In" (957). Neither did he seem to be happy in "Bunter Gets the Boot" (1570) and "Bunter on the Spot (1531).

Twice (1076 and 1141) "Bunter Comes to Stay"; twice when it was mentioned in the titles that is. There were many other occasions often uninvited, and always unwelcome, of course.

There was excitement for the stout one in 1476, "Bunter Beats the Gangsters"; 1091, "Bunter Big Game Hunter"; Bunter the Lion Tamer (1481) and 1020, "Bunter the Stowaway".

And there I think we will leave Bunter for the nonce.

Looking at this record reminds one of a Parliamentary election fight where all the candidates apart from the winner are in danger of losing their deposits, for the "runner up" has only a modest 48 appearances in the titles. It's another humorous character like Bunter, conceited,

not endowed with much brain, a dud at games, but in other ways quite different. Whom do you think it is? None other than Horace Coker! That came rather as a surprise to me and I have not taken into account No's 895 and 1324, "Aunt Judy Comes to Stay" and "Aunt Judy at Greyfriars" respectively, wherein, no doubt, Coker played a prominent part.

The Fifth-Former's conceit is indicated in "Coker Takes Control" (1546); "Takes Command" (1647); "The Reformer (1412); "Big Idee" (1547) "The Detectives" (1302). He would appear to be asserting himself in "Coker the Rebel (508 and 971); "Coker on the Warpath" (981); "Coker's Conquest" (342 and 700; 1527, "Coker the Conqueror"; and "Coker the Kidnapper" (1516). His generosity is shown in "The Coker Cup" (300) and "The Coker Challenge Cup" (825).

Close behind Coker comes that quixotic character mixture of good and bad - Herbert Vernon Smith, with 44. In his case I have included those titles which style him "Smithy" and the Bounder. You never knew where you were with Smithy. Twice we were told of "The Bounder's Folly" (1260 and 1357) and twice of "The Bounder's Good Turn" (1012 and 1329). 1371 was "The Bounder's Sacrifice" and 1653 "The Bounder's Dupe"

Yes, a strange, perplexing, deplorable, courageous, caddish, generous character "the Bounder", and the history of Greyfriars would have been much duller without him.

Next comes Harry Wharton with 38, that is, where he holds the title alone. If we add the instances where "and Co" is added the total rises to 50. Curious the case of Wharton. In the early days considered the principal character, but later pushed from the stage into the wings for lengthy periods by the burly figure of Billy Bunter.

He was generally acknowledged to be one of Frank Richards' best drawn characters, no attempt being made to show him as 100 per cent perfect. There were times when he was inclined to kick over the traces, thus we find three stories entitled "Harry Wharton's Downfall" (170, 885, 1251). Then there were 1287, "Harry Wharton Declares War" and "Harry Wharton's Feud (951).

Titles which were repeated were "Harry Wharton's Peril" (126 and 1104) and "Harry Wharton's Enemy (1261 and 1424).

Who's next? A character few, if any, had a good word for, one whom we hope was not a typical member of God's own country, to wit, Fisher T. Fish. On 15 occasions he held the headline. There were others where he was up to his tricks like "The Shylock of Greyfriars" (1110 and 1327) and "The Schoolboy Moneylender (207 and 272), but we will leave it at that.

Now a very different kind of fellow, probably the most popular of all the dwellers in Greyfriars - happy-go-lucky Bob Cherry. He was only named on 13 occasions, but there were many other occasions, of course when he was in the picture. And two of his stories were two of the most famous in all the 1683 - "Bob Cherry in Search of His Father (179) and No.254, "Bob Cherry's Barring-Out". They were collectors' items long long ago.

There was one instance of a story title being repeated, "Bob Cherry's Secret" (266 and 633). The cry "Bob Cherry!" can sometimes be heard in tones of elation as a sleek thoroughbred bearing that name flashes first past the post, far from the Greyfriars scene

Tying with Bob with that alleged unlucky number 13 is dear old Alonzo Todd. Where, oh where, could one find a greater contrast? Two stories, Nos. 129 and 1345 told of "Alonzo the Great". There were several others referring to "The Duffer" which one can take it concerned the youth with the peculiar countenance.

Follows one of the "bad lads", Skinner, with 11, then going to the other extreme, that charming fellow "Mauly" with a modest eight. On the same mark Hurree Singh, Tom Redwing, and the first senior to be mentioned, bully Loder. Seven for Wibley and another who, though not of Greyfriars, cannot very well be left out - Ponsonby.

Then another exception to the rule - Wally Bunter. His score was six. The stories when there was a decent and capable Bunter at Greyfriars for a time, to the astonishment of all the inhabitants, were so popular that he must be in this record.

Modest Mark Linley was next with five, also Jimmy Vivian, followed by a varied assortment scoring four - Johnny Bull, Peter Todd, Wingate, and Wun Lung, and Bolsover Minor. Then on the three mark, sturdy Dick Penfold along with three "problem boys", Bolsover, Bulstrode and Ernest Levison, who though known best at St.Jim's was first at Greyfriars and returned for a time.

Now I can hear someone saying, "What about Frank Nugent, who was at Greyfriars before any other member of the Famous Five". Well, try as I will, I can only find two occasions where he was named - No.223, "Frank Nugent's Great Wheeze" and "Frank Nugent's Folly (434). Early numbers, you will observe, for as time went on, like Harry Manners of St.Jim's, he did not assert himself except on odd occasions. With him on the two mark are Dick Rake, Peter Hazeldene and Walker.

And those who took the stage for one appearance only were Blendell, Micky Desmond, Monty Newland, Nugent Minor, "Squiff", Snoop Dutton, Dick Russell, Hoskins, and Wun Lung Minor.

Well, that's all about personalities, but let's dig further into this intriguing business. It would appear there was plenty of excitement among those 1683 stories. For instance, I find there were thirty tales commencing "The Mystery of ---" (three concerned Wharton Lodge, 1038, 1349 and 1610). If we add those containing "Mysterious", "Mystic" and the like, we reach a total of 45. And 23 titles concerned a "Secret". Thrills there must have been in "The Terror in Black" and seven others concerning other terrors. Chills are suggested in the five "The Phantom of ---" and the two "Ghost of Mauleverer Towers" (776 and 1350) and one "Ghost of Wharton Lodge" (1350). Dark Deeds were enacted in seven stories dealing with "The Prisoner of ---" giving it the plural when Bunter was engaged in his most audacious plotting of all time in "The Prisoners of Bunter Court" (915). Add to these eight cases of "Kidnapping" and it would appear there was plenty of work for the police in the Greyfriars saga.

There would be plot and counterplot in the three repeated "Hand of an Enemy" (798, 938, and 1001), also "The Hand of Fate (805) whilst "The Hidden Horror (239); "The Hidden Foe" (940) and "The Hidden Hand" (1169) would not be lacking in suspense.

Then no doubt Frank Richards was at his best in "The House of Dark Secrets" (1640); "The House of Pengarth" (811); "The House of Peril"

(1542); "The House of Terror" (1122) and "The House on the Heath" (461).

Civil war is indicated in the nineteen titles concerning "Rival" or "Rivals", also in the five "Feuds" including two with the girls of Cliff House (902 and 1528). There were six similar to "Foes of the Fourth" and numerous occasions when someone was up against a single adversary.

With such a mighty number of titles repetition was inevitable, and one finds some very interesting examples. "In Borrowe Plumes" appeared no less than four times (304, 656, 751 and 1066). "The Rebel of the Remove" was equally popular for we find it given to 826, 883, 1286 and 1636, and just slightly different was "The Rebels of the Remove" (408). The leading player in this chronicle would crop up here, to wit, "Billy Bunter's Bargain" (1221, 1281, 1306, and 1659). Twice within six months you will observe. Moreover, there was also "Billy Bunter's Big Bargain" with No.729, a substitute story that one.

Evidence that the lot of the captain of the Remove at Greyfriars was not a bed of roses is supplied by the appearance three times of "Harry Wharton's Downfall" (170, 885 and 1257). Lucky collectors possessing all three could have an interesting browse by getting these three together and reading them one after the other, pondering the while over a world all changed in the twenty-one years in between, and only Greyfriars remaining the same.

Other trios were "The Artful Dodger" (163, 582, and 1142); "Fool's Luck" (1134, 1407, 1630) and "Hunted Down" (1009, 1089, and 1402).

There were doubles too numerous to mention.

And judging by what I see near the end of this absorbing list of 1683 titles there would appear to have been a fair number of "whodunit" mysteries to solve, for there were the queries "Who Hacked Hecker?" (1156) and "Who Sacked Hecker" (1621). The portly master of the Fifth was also in the wars for on two occasions one finds the question asked "Who punched Prout?" (1085 and 1188). No.1276 asked "Who Walloped Wiggins?" whilst there was similar concern about the captain of the school in "Who Walloped Wingate?" (1369).

And so one could go on gathering interesting statistics from those 1683 historic titles, if only space would allow.

WANTED: "Magnets" and "Gems", 1908 - 1928. Give Numbers. G.H.Rawson, 207, Basingstoke Road, Reading.

WANTED: S.O.L's. especially before No.198. Beryl Russell, 11, Malthouse Lane, Washwood Heath, Birmingham, 8.

WANTED: Magnets, most years. J.F.Bellfield, 24, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

WANTED: Gems and S.O.L's. T.W.Porter, Old Fields, Corn-greaves Road, Cradley Heath, Staffs.

Levison at Greyfriars

BY J. BREEZE BENTLEY

Ernest Levison is usually associated with St. Jim's where, for thirty years, he was a prominent member of the Fourth Form, first as the "hard case" of the form, later as a reformed character, living down his unsavoury past.

Before going to St. Jim's, however, Levison was at Greyfriars, and it is about his connexion with that school that this article is concerned.

Levison was in the Greyfriars Remove for only seven months (MAGNET 18 to 46 inclusive), yet much is known of his character, as he was mentioned in twenty of those twenty-nine stories and played a leading part in no less than ten of them. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that at that time, the main theme of the MAGNET stories was Harry Wharton's unsuccessful struggle to penetrate the hard crust of Levison's ill-nature and bring out the good in him that lay beneath.

The picture painted of Levison was not a pleasant one. Physically, he was not ill-favoured, and his eyes were keen and full of movement. Morally, he was supremely selfish, and as he thought only of his own interests, he attributed other people's actions to the same motives. He never did anybody a good turn, could never appreciate when anyone did him a service, and so never gave thanks for a kindness received. He was quick-witted and delighted to lead others up the garden path, and, of course, suspected that everybody was trying to take a rise out of him. He had a sharp tongue, and could not resist passing scathing comments and making cutting remarks and bitter taunts, yet resented criticism of himself, and was wounded by ridicule. A psychologist would have said that he was a victim of inferiority complex and this, no doubt, was the reason for the wilful obstinacy that in the end brought him to disaster.

In his article "That Enduring Magic", Tom Hopperton said that Charles Hamilton seldom drew two identical characters, even at different schools. In the case of Ernest Levison he went one better than this. The character of the wayward boy at Greyfriars was not identical with that of the hard case of St. Jim's.

Let us now turn to the actual chronicle of events.

In MAGNET No. 17, Harry Wharton and a numerous party of friends spent Whit week at Wharton Lodge. This, so far as I know, was the only Whitsuntide holiday on record. Evidently, after its publication, someone must have told Charles Hamilton that Whitsuntide falls in term time at all boarding schools.

In MAGNET No. 18, the party returned to Greyfriars, by some very unusual route, as on arrival at Friardale Station, they were informed that the rest of the school had been delayed by a blockage on the line between Courtfield Junction and London. At Greyfriars, Gosling was in sole charge, and the juniors descended to the kitchens to prepare a hearty meal. Billy Bunter was, of course, in charge, but Hurree Singh was helping and he eked out the supply of custard powder by the addition of a liberal amount of liquorice powder. At this point, Ernest Levison arrived at the school gate, and rang to be admitted. By this time Gosling, taking advantage of the absence of the Masters, had made himself tipsy, so Wharton

+ Cherry, Nugent, Hurree Singh, Bunter, Hazeldene, Desmond, Hoffmann, Muenier.
() Via Ashford, presumably.

opened the gate. This involved some delay and Levison - who shewed none of the bashfulness usually associated with new boys - gave vent to scathing criticism of the way in which Greyfriars appeared to be run. Naturally, this ruffled the established members of the Remove, but nevertheless they asked him to join them at supper. This he was reluctant to do, fearing and openly stating that he suspected a trick would be played upon him, but at last he consented. Then, shortly after the meal, the liquorice powder made its presence felt. The pains were diagnosed as food poisoning, and one and all rushed to the stable, and drove down to the village doctor in a pony-and-trap. Dr. MacKenzie soon diagnosed the trouble, much to his amusement. Levison, turning a blind eye to the fact that all the juniors had been affected, became convinced that Wharton and Co. had tricked him.

After this unhappy start, it was distinctly unfortunate that Mr. Quelch assigned Levison to Bulstrode's study, as the bully of the Remove was the sworn enemy of Wharton and constantly up against him.

In MAGNET No.20, a team of French boys challenged the Remove to a gymnastic competition. Levison offered to take part, but could not refrain from boasting in an unpleasant manner of his prowess at gymnastics, saying that he had won a prize, and to crown that, refused to have tea with the Famous Four, with a reminder of the liquorice episode. Highly annoyed, they would not have him in the team.

In the next tale, Bob Cherry told Wharton that Levison "batted well at the nets", but when invited by the cricket captain to shew his form, refused. He stated, rather uppishly, that he had "played cricket at his old school, and fancied that his form was a bit above that of most of the Remove," and then unwisely suggested that Wharton wished to make a fool of him on the field, rather than see him bat. This stung Wharton, and Levison did not get into the eleven.

Here we see a marked difference between the boy as he was at Greyfriars, and at St. Jim's where he despised games. Actually, in MAGNET 39, Levison played for the Remove against St. Jim's and was described as a "born goalkeeper". But he was not a good sportsman. He put on black looks when he had to concede a goal to Tom Merry.

To return to MAGNET No.21, in those days the Remove was a faggin-form and Levison was sent at lock-up to the village for cigarettes by Carberry - the black sheep of the Sixth. Harry Wharton warned him, at the gate, that the short cut through the wood was unsafe, as there were vicious gypsies in the neighbourhood. Levison first snubbed Gesling - who wanted to close the gate - with the remark, "I don't see why I should hurry to please you. You're not very obliging to me. You can wait," and then plainly intimated that he disbelieved Wharton by saying, "it sounds to me like a fairy tale. If you could prevent me from getting out by this yarn, I can imagine how you would snigger over it afterwards." After a few more remarks of this sort, Wharton lost his temper and knocked Levison down - much to Gosling's amusement. Levison demanded satisfaction on the morrow, and departed. He was, of course, attacked and held prisoner in a damp hollow near the river, whence the Famous Four rescued him. But they got no thanks. Levison wondered how they came across him, and hazarded that they had been poaching fish. When Wharton offered to call off the fight, Levison said, "You don't want to fight me tomorrow?" "No." "You needn't have minded. I don't box half as well as you do, and you're bigger than I am, too." Finally he blamed Wharton for not having

convinced him of the danger - "I thought you were rotting ... you played a trick on me the day I came to Greyfriars - " and rounded on the Famous Four for letting his kidnappers escape with his watch and money!

The next tale again shewed Levison's meanness of outlook. On a whole holiday, Wharton and Co. journeyed to Winklegate-on-Sea". Levison travelled on the same train, and was invited to join the party, but immediately asked, "Why? Have you run short of cash? Or what is it then?" and, of course, got left. But later, seen plodding wearily up the cliff road, he was given a lift in the Removites' brake. At the end of the ride, when Wharton was about to settle up, he found that his wallet had been stolen. Levison, on his guard at once, refused to lend Wharton any money to help him out of his difficulty, and with the statement, "I thought it was deuced good-natured of you to ask me into the brake for nothing, and I was a fool not to expect this. There's a shilling. That's my share of the expenses, and it's all you can ask of me. I'm off." Later, with their usual luck, the Co. recovered their money from the pickpocket, and at the railway station met Levison - who in turn had had his pocket rifled, and was without ticket and money. He had the mortification of receiving the fare - in ill-grace, no word of thanks being uttered.

Stories 23, 24 and 25 related the encounter of the Remove with Mr. Chesham - the food-faddist. In them Levison twice made unsuccessful attempts¹ to rag the temporary master, and once revealed a virtue in him - when he refused to sneak.²

But MAGNET No.26 again shewed his weakness for the seamy side of human nature. Wharton was disturbed from sleep, suspected burglary and went down to inform Wingate. On the morrow, it was found that the pantry had been raided. Levison at once accused Wharton, and harped on the subject until Bob Cherry threatened to fight him. Hamilton's comment was "Levison was one of those fellows who always know a little more than anybody else and whose pride it is that they are never taken in. And, like most suspicious persons, he had a way of jumping to wrong conclusions." Bunter was the culprit, as you would expect.³

In MAGNET No.28, when the Head's sister Amy acted as form-mistress of the Remove, all the boys objected. Levison tried to voice his objections with Bunter as catspaw, but his prompting was overheard. Bulstrode also got short shrift, and in the evening was inveigled by Levison into hurling a jumping cracker over the bannister to Miss Locke's feet. By the irony of fate Wharton, who tried to stop this trick, got the blame. Neither Bulstrode nor Levison would own up, and Wharton would have been caned had not the German master, Herr Rosenbleum, intervened.

In the next tale, Levison abstracted watches from the pockets of the Removites, whilst they dressed, and put them in Bunter's pocket. (This sleight of hand came in, later, at St.Jim's). Bunter was blamed for the mischief. As so often happened, the Form got to the root of the trouble, but Levison would not go to Quelch. Later, when Wharton got Bunter off, Levison asked whether he had been "given away", and, knowing that he was safe, said "... as a matter of fact, I was going to own up if Bunter was

1) Magnet No.23, Chapter 3; No.24, Chapter 4.

2) Magnet No.25, Chapter 4. The form has locked itself in the boxroom to have a feed. Chesham catches Levison who refuses to disclose how many are in the boxroom.

3) Bunter the sleepwalker.

was going to be caned." Wharton - who by this time was completely out of patience with Levison - replied curtly, "I'm glad to hear it." "You don't believe me?" Wharton hesitated. "I hope it's the truth," he said. "I daresay you have some good points, though you've never shewn them to my knowledge."

Later, Levison removed Quelch's book from a desk and put it in the master's own pocket, refused to admit his action until threatened with punishment-by-the-Head, and when sent to Quelch's study, was cool enough to sit in the armchair till he arrived. He received his six without a sound and then accused Wharton of sneaking. Bulstrode, ever ready to harm Wharton, suggested that Levison should plant something on him, and get him expelled for theft. Levison declined to partake in such villainy. The conversation was overheard by Bunter, and misreported to Bob Cherry as an actual plot to get Wharton expelled. Subsequently, the truth came out, and Harry tried to apologise to Levison for the mistake. Levison seized the opportunity to use his bitter tongue. "You might have given me credit for refusing Bulstrode's scheme... You might have inquired a little more closely in the first place.... If you're sorry, that's all right, but my belief is that you are humbugging... I suppose that you and your pals have been planning to take a rise out of me..."

Wharton's reaction was not anger, but a resolve to try to educate Levison. He told Nugent that "he's shewn that he has some good qualities in him. If someone could get through the outer crust, as it were, he might turn out to be a decent chap." Nugent was doubtful, but offered to help. Thus the tragedy of Levison entered upon its second stage.

In MAGNET No.30, Levison incited Bunter to try to hypnotise Mr. Quelch. Of course, it wasn't a success, and Levison surprised the Form by owning that he had put Bunter up to it. He got four strokes. After class, Harry Wharton impulsively remarked to Levison that he had acted well by owning up. This remarkable instance of priggishness inevitably drew Levison, who replied, "Was it?... What else could I do?" "Well, nothing but..." "But you didn't think I would... You were surprised... You thought I was cad enough to let Bunter be punished." Seldom has Harry Wharton asked for it. Worse was to come. Billy Bunter, who it will be remembered was in Study No.1 at that time, then tried to put the 'fluence on Mrs. Mimble. The poor woman thought that he was crazy, let him take some tuck, and he stood the Famous Four a spanking tea. When Bunter was hauled before Quelch for his sins, Levison seized the opportunity and accused Wharton of putting Bunter up to it. "You ought to get Bunter out of this fix. You were very concerned about me in a similar case." Wharton bit his lip. "I'm afraid the fellows are right, Levison," he said quietly. "I am beginning to think that you are a hopeless cad, and that you'll never be anything else." "Really," said Levison, with irritating coolness. "Much obliged for your opinion. Are you going to own up to Quelch?" "I have explained the matter to you, though you are not entitled to an explanation." "Yes, and are you now going to own up?" "Once more, I have nothing to own up to." "Then you are going to make a scapegoat of that ass Bunter?" "Oh! Hold your confounded tongue," broke out Wharton, angrily, "You will tempt me to knock you flying soon." "Really? Because you licked me the other day. I suppose you think you can bully me as much as you like," said Levison unpleasantly.

1) Magnet No.29, Levison made Wharton fight.

No character at Greyfriars, St. Jim's or Rookwood has ever taunted another with such malicious persistence. Cardew's drawing of Tom Merry was airy banter in comparison with this. The Gestapo-like repetition of the main question was calculated to exasperate Wharton. In the end he went to Quelch and explained what had happened, - and got told that he must not try to shoulder other boys' burdens. Had that advice been followed, how many Greyfriars tales would not have been written!

In MAGNET No.31, Mr. Quelch ordered Bunter to pay Mrs. Mimble ten shillings for the tuck wheedled from her by the hypnotism-trick, and told the Famous Four that they must not give him any money, knowing full well that he would try to get it from them. Levison realized that this gave him a chance of plaguing Wharton, gave Bunter the money, went with him to the tuck-shop, and settled the account. On hearing of this, Wharton after some hesitation complimented Levison on his sporting action, in doing what Quelch had forbidden the Famous Four to do. "Thanks," sneered Levison, "--- you were bound to obey orders, or course; you always do." "It was a peculiar case. Quelch made me promise." "A promise that was quite useful to you - eh?" Wharton bit his lip. "No good coming any humbug, you know," said Levison. "I'm not the chap to be fozzled, you know." Wharton turned very red. "I think you are an utter cad sometimes, Levison," he said quietly. "Only, a cad wouldn't have helped Bunter out of his fix. I must say, though, that your manner is against you." And he walked away. He left Levison staring after him with a rather curious look on his face. "I wonder," muttered Levison. "...I wonder..." But he did not finish his reflection. He was soon to have more food for thought.

Later, Levison and Bulstrode set out to climb Black Pike, the height overlooking the bay, and would not heed Bob Cherry's warning of rain and mist. Part way up, the rain came on, and Bulstrode turned back. Levison obstinately refused, and climbed to the top, where he was trapped by the mist. Wharton rescued him, but both were compelled to stick it out on the top through the night, and went into the sanatorium when they got back to school. At last, this action of Wharton's evoked a response from Levison, who said, "I've been a rotten cad. If we get out of this alive, I'll try to make up for it."

The third stage in his career shewed Levison still spiteful and mean towards the weaker fry, but no longer working against Wharton.

In MAGNET No.32 Bulstrode, misled by Bunter's twaddle, tried to enlist Levison's aid in getting Wharton expelled for moneylending; to his amazement, he was bitterly rebuffed, and reminded of Wharton's bravery on Black Pike.

In No.36, however, Levison abetted Bulstrode in the bullying of Wun Lung - then a new arrival - by pretending to cut off his cherished pigtail, but when Wharton intervened, Levison would not oppose him. Again, in MAGNET No.37, Levison favoured the ragging of Wun Lung in the dormitory, but again deferred to Wharton's opinion.

Yet he could not resist playing mean tricks on Bunter. In MAGNET No.39, when Bunter was trying to ventriloquise¹, he beguiled him into "trying it on Quelch", to the Owl's discomfiture. A twinge of remorse then prompted Levison to help Bunter with his "lines" - or it may have been the

1) Bunter first achieved success as a ventiloquist in MAGNET No.32.

desire to display his ability to imitate other people's handwriting. (It is curious that, though Bob Cherry sagely observed that this was a dangerous gift, it was not until Levison went to St. Jim's that he ever misused this skill.)

In the next story (No. 40) Levison again led Bunter into trouble. Bunter planned a raid on tuck belonging to Hoffmann of Herry Rosenblaum's Academy (which opened in MAGNET No. 33, and had grounds contiguous to those of Greyfriars¹). Wharton and Co. refused to help, but Levison and some kindred spirits² helped Bunter to climb over the dividing gate, and then callously left him to be the victim of the aliens, who ducked him in the fountain.

At this stage there seemed some hope for Levison, but in MAGNET No. 43 he noticed that Wun Lung was receiving and sending postcards, written in a mysterious code, to a man at the Chinese Embassy. There was a "yellow peril" scare at that time, Levison concluded that he had unearthed a spy-plot, and wrote an anonymous letter to the C.I.D. at Scotland Yard. A detective rolled up and the handwriting of the letter traced to Levison. Wun Lung was interviewed and the whole affair proved, of course, to be quite harmless - Wun Lung was merely playing chess by post! Afterwards, he told the Remove what had happened, and Levison was well and truly chipped on the subject. He became very huffy and fell out with his friends.

Three stories later, in MAGNET No. 46, the grim consequences of this wounding of Levison's self-esteem were revealed. Benson of the Remove, for a rag, pinned on Levison's study door a card with the inscription: "E. LEVISON Private Detective Fellows spied upon and their letters read, at the shortest notice. Plots discovered to order and anonymous letters written with promptness and despatch. All kinds of meanness undertaken and spying into other people's correspondence a speciality." Levison caught him in the act, shot him into his study, and wreaked vengeance by twisting his arm. Wharton butted in, to Levison's annoyance, and when shewn the card, laughed at the notice. Levison, furious now, again twisted Benson's arm, and when pulled off by Wharton, lost his temper completely and burst out passionately, "I don't want to argue with you. I've tried to be friendly with you because - because of what happened that night on the Pike. That's done with. I'll never speak to you again, or any of your set. I hate the lot of you. I hate the Remove and all this place!"

The obstinacy of his nature aroused, Levison determined to shake off Wharton's influence, and offered to go down to the village for Carberry, to bring cigarettes and a bottle of whisky from the Red Cow. On his return, Wharton met him with the message that Quelch wanted to see him AT ONCE. Levison prevailed upon Wharton to take the contraband to Carberry's study, by arguing that if Quelch saw it he would be expelled. He got six for failing to write an imposition before going out, and on emerging from Quelch's study ran into Wharton and - ever suspicious - accused him of spying on him.

Thereafter his descent was headlong.

- 1) The Cloisters separated them.
- 2) Bulstrode, Skinner and Stott.

A few days later, a messenger from the landlord of the Red Cow called to see Levison at the school gate, proving that he had visited the pub on his own behalf. And Quelch's eye was on him, as he had by accident pulled a packet of cigarettes out of his pocket, in class. The censure inflicted merely made him more reckless.

That night, Levison broke bound and went to the Red Cow to gamble at cards. (This pub-haunting was stated to be a "new thing in the Remove" - an example of bad memory by Frank Richards, as Bulstrode was stated to visit "the Green Man" in Friardale, in MAGNET No.32². Here we see the operation of the Licensing Acts: the Green Man reappeared in Wayland, its licence evidently having been transferred; and the Red Cow - described as the worst house in Friardale and haunt of all the blackguards of the district - must have lost its licence, as it did not feature in the later stories.) To resume, Wharton followed him, with intention of threatening the landlord with a report to the police.

Levison entered the inn, and Wharton arrived just as he was tasting some "steaming hot" whisky and water. Wharton knocked it out of his hand and a regular rumpus ensued which ended in the boys being turned out, nearly coming to blows in the garden, and walking into Mr. Quelch's arms as they turned into the street.

The following morning they went before Dr. Locke.

Now, only a short while before - in MAGNET No.44 - the Remove had had a plum-pudding-making competition, in which some weird and wonderful ingredients had been used. Harry Wharton had insisted that no pudding was any good until it contained some brandy and he and Bob Cherry had called at the Red Cow to get some. Carberry caught them, but their good reputation saved them from punishment.

But now, the previous accusation told heavily against Wharton, and belied his denial that he went to the inn for any ill-purpose. And when Levison's turn came, he brazenly stated that he had gone to play cards and drink whisky. The masters were shocked by this - as Levison intended them to be, and he went on mockingly: "I suppose you wanted me to tell you the truth, sir. I will tell you lies, if you like, sir. I will say that I went to the Red Cow with a good motive, and the best intentions in the world."

That did it! Both boys were sentenced to be expelled.

Then Levison broke in to say that Wharton did not go with him to the Red Cow, but went AFTER him to fetch him away. "He has been good enough to constitute himself my father-confessor for a long time past," he said sneeringly. "I did not appreciate his kindness."

So Wharton was cleared, but Levison had to go. Not by public expulsion... quietly when the rest of the school was in class. Ere he went, Levison said "... I made a bad start here, and I shall be glad to get gone... You did your best for me... were a better friend than I deserved... and when I make a fresh start I shall remember this..."

And so he passed out of Greyfriars.

Two years after his expulsion from Greyfriars Ernest Levison was admitted to the St. Jim's Fourth (This was related in GEM No.142, reprinted in GEM No.1386). At St. Jim's, far from remembering what he had said to Wharton, he behaved much more badly than at Greyfriars, and was a thoroughly

1) Page 12, line 34(col.1). 2) Magnet No.32,p.7. line 6 (column 2)

unsavoury rascal, smoking, drinking, gambling and betting. In fact, on the very day that his younger brother Frank arrived (GEM 451, reprinted in 1597) he preferred to go drinking champagne with Aubrey Racke and finally (in GEM 464, reprinted in 1600) after a card and drinking party with Racke, Croke, and Mellish, Tom Merry and Co. came upon him at the side of Rylcombe Lane, drunk. Soon afterwards, he abandoned his wild ways, took up football and cricket, and soon became a regular member of the House and School junior teams.

This behaviour of Levison in his early days at St.Jim's was reflected in the MAGNET stories on the three occasions when he spent some time at his old school.

The first occasion was in MAGNET No.510 - shortly after his reform - when Levison came to Greyfriars as a member of the Junior Football eleven. Vernon-Smith - then at loggerheads with the Famous Five - laid bets against Greyfriars, in pique as he had not been chosen to play. Skinner, Snoop, Stott, Bolsover major, and others, took him on. (Bunter was willing, nay anxious, to do so, but could not raise any cash.)

Skinner had a fiver on, - far more than he could afford - but knew that Levison was in the team, and pinned his hopes on him. He sought him out, and talked of the "old days". "Are you going in much for games?" "Yes." "Football as a regular thing?" "That's it." "You never cared for it at Greyfriars." - Quite wrong, but of course it fitted into the present tale. Skinner then tried to bribe Levison to play badly and give the game to Greyfriars - working on the quite false assumption that in the old days at Greyfriars, Levison would willingly have sold his soul. Levison flatly refused to oblige him. Furious, Skinner now got Stott to take Levison up to the Remove corridor and suddenly rushed round the corner and knocked him down the staircase. Levison's knee was hurt, and he could not play, but his brother Frank - who had come over with the team as their sole supporter (there wasn't even a reserve) - played in the match and, very appropriately scored the winning goal. Because of the injury, the two brothers stayed at Greyfriars for a week, till Ernest Levison was fit.

In the next story (MAGNET No.511) Vernon-Smith, disgusted by Skinner's duplicity, decided to turn his back on dingy ways and throw over his associates at the Cross Keys, only to find himself threatened by Jeremy Hawke, the bookmaker, who had a photograph of the Bounder with a cigarette in his mouth and cards in his hand, in the company of Hawke and Cobb in the pub-garden. Further, Cobb - landlord of the Cross Keys - had a second copy to post to Dr.Locke if Vernon-Smith tried any tricks. This was a nice jam for the Bounder to be in. But Levison got him out of it. By pretending to be "the old Levison" he got Vernon-Smith, Cobb, and Hawke together in the letter's room - ostensibly for a game - and then, with the help of the Famous Five calmly secured the incriminating pictures and negative. Vernon-Smith helped by jabbing Hawke with a red hot poker to make him unlock his desk! In this tale, Levison was said to be well-acquainted with the lay-out of the Cross Keys, whereas in the old days it was the Red Cow he had visited. In both, however, the private room had a French-window that opened to the garden!

Levison's second visit to Greyfriars took place five years later, and lasted much longer - MAGNET No.793 to 796. It was a particularly fine series, worthy to be numbered with the very best writings of Charles Hamilton.

Actually, the first story appeared in GEM No.792, where Piggott of the St.Jim's Third, placed fireworks in Mr. Selby's fire-grate and Frank Levison got the blame. Disbelieved even by his brother, he ran away. Then Cardew got on the trail and bowled Piggott out.

In MAGNET No.793, the Famous Five came across Frank Levison in a hut off the Lantham Road, brought him to Greyfriars and hid him in the old tower. Of course, Bunter found out and by indiscreet talk, gave the show away to Quelch. This turned out to be fortunate, as Levison minor was suffering from the effects of exposure, and had to be put in the school sanatorium.

Ernest Levison was sent for, and in MAGNET 794 most of the Remove wanted to meet him - to evade a geometry lesson. Harold Skinner got his request in first and met Levison, only to learn that he now had nothing in common with him. (The lesson of the previous visit had been completely wasted on Skinner.)

After seeing his brother, Levison walked in the grounds, where he was reminded of the "old days" by the school servants. At the gate, Gosling remarked, "Never happened before in all my experience. 'Tain't often a feller's expelled, but it's happened sometimes in the years I've been here. And wot I says is this here. This is the first time such a feller has had the nerve to show his face in the school arter." Levison crimsoned. "I wasn't exactly expelled, Gosling," he said quietly. "You was sent away for bad conduct," said Gosling grimly, "and bad it was, too. Now I hear you're in your old Form, Master Levison, for a few weeks. Don't let me catch you, that's all!" "Catch me?" repeated Levison. Gosling snorted. "Out of bound after lights out, and all that," he said. "Don't let me catch you at the game, that's all." "You're cheeky, Gosling," said Levison. "Don't let me have to report you to the Head for cheek, that's all!" and he walked away, leaving Gosling breathless with wrath and indignation.

At the tuckshop Mrs Mumble, surprised to see him, asked Levison if the Head knew that he was there! And her husband, the gardener, gave him a queer look when he saw him.

Bunter tried the postal order stunt, and when it didn't work, warned Levison to keep clear of Study No.7, with the remark, "A fellow with your juicy old reputation, can't expect to be asked into a respectable study."

Nevertheless, Levison was invited to tea with the Famous Five and Hazeldene. Afterwards, Skinner in vengeful mood, dropped a cigarette under Levison's chair, to cast doubt on the genuineness of his reform, and tested him by an invitation to smoke and play banker after supper in Study No.11. A row followed, with painful results for Skinner, Snoop and Stott. Next day, Skinner cunningly threw more suspicion on Levison by asking, "Do you mind if I let that little account stand over till next Saturday?" Annoyed by this calculated vilification of his character, Levison announced that he was going to ask the Head to inquire into the charges against him. This rattled Snoop and Stott so much that they split on Skinner, and so Levison was cleared.

On his return to Greyfriars, Levison had been placed in his old study - No.2 - with Hazeldene and Tom Brown.¹ In the next story, Hazel landed in trouble with a card-sharper called Mulberry, to whom he owed ten pounds. A threat by Mulberry to call at the school made Hazel panic, and Levison visited "The Feathers" early the following morning to do what he could. He was, of course, greeted as an old acquaintance - in spite of there being

1) Bulstrode is stated to have left at the end of the previous term.

no record of his ever having been there before. He warned Mulberry that the police would take action if he visited the school, and by promising that HE would guarantee payment of the debt, secured a week's respite.

Of course, Hazeldene's foolish remarks about Levison's early rising to go "up the river" enabled Skinner to suggest a visit to the Feathers, and suspicion mounted when it was learned that Mr. Prout had seen a Greyfriars boy in the inn garden that morning.

Hazeldene then tried to raise the cash by another wild bet at 24 to 1 that did not come off, and later by asking Vernon-Smith for a loan, which was refused. But the Bounder, wrongly connecting Levison's worried look with the rumours that were current, stopped and offered to help Levison - as a quid pro quo for the help HE received in the Hawke episode¹, when Levison was last at Greyfriars. (The remark "You chipped in once, and saved me from getting it in the neck" is the sole reference made to the stories that appeared in MAGNETS 510 and 511.)²

Levison took the money, paid Mulberry, and was caught by Wingate as he dropped from the fence outside the Feathers.

Having landed him in trouble, Hazel in typical fashion, evaded the issue, and told Levison, "If you give me away, I shall deny it. I'm not going to be expelled because you butted in and made a mess of the whole thing." Noble fellow, Hazel.

The Bounder, however, now tumbled to the whole story, tried to see the Head but was stopped by Hazel who, in desperation, fought him in the Head's corridor, tried again after Levison had been sentenced, only to be told that it was too late - had he seen the Head BEFORE this, it might have done some good - and finally by a telephone call, brought Mulberry to the school. He barged past an indignant Gosling with the crushing remark, "I've called 'ere by the special invitation of your employer, my man, the 'eadmaster of this school! Keep your place, my man! I ain't arguing with blooming menials!" Questioned by the Head and Mr. Quelch, Mulberry stated that Levison was acting on behalf of another person, but with the remark "'Tain't my business to 'elp you manage your school," he would not say who the third party was. So Levison and Hazeldene were saved.

The four stories (MAGNET 794-7) that related the above were remarkably well written, and deserved to become "classics". The next three, though good, did not reach as high a standard.

In MAGNET 798 Ponsonby tried to renew his acquaintance with Levison - an acquaintance that was quite fictitious, as the first mention of Highcliffe was in MAGNET No.109, twelve months after Levison's expulsion - invited him to tea, and tried to get him to "sell the cricket match" to be played the following week. Levison naturally refused. Ponsonby then came to Greyfriars and accused Levison of stealing a gold tie-pin, which he had himself secreted in Levison's letter-case. Fortunately, Bunter had witnessed this act, and babbled to Peter Todd, who disclosed the plot, with painful consequences for Ponsonby.

1) Vide Magnet No.511.

2) Further remarks on the same theme appeared in Magnet 796.

3) Similarly (Magnet 797) Gerald Loder tried to get Levison to visit the Bird In Hand on the strength of Levison's "having done so in the old days". Actually, the first mention of Loder was in No.66.

Previously, in MAGNET 797, Levison rescued Bessie Bunter from Gadsby, who was tormenting her with a peashooter. This led to much leg-pulling by Skinner and Co., who had seen him with her in Pegg Lane and wilfully drew a false conclusion.

In revenge (Magnet 799), Gadsby bribed a disreputable hanger-on at the Feathers, called Purkiss, to visit Greyfriars. Levison chucked him out. Gadsby boasted of his action and got his nose pulled by the Caterpillar, who later overheard him say that there would be "more to come". Purkiss tried to injure Levison with a stick, but Hurree Singh received the blow. Finally, Gadsby lured Levison from the match by a spoof 'phone call. Purkiss and a pal of his waylaid Levison, but de Courcy - remembering what he had heard - muscled in and got him away in time to win a cricket match for the Remove.

The series ended with the recovery of Frank Levison, and the return of the brothers to St. Jim's.

Levison's third and last return to Greyfriars took place about four years later. Like the previous series, part of the story was related in the GEM and part in the MAGNET. The stories were well written, but suffered from the fact that many of the plots were very similar to some of those in the previous series.

In GEM 1031, Bagley Trimble discovered that the Levison brothers' fees were unpaid and spread the story that they were hard-up. Racke and Co. taunted them with talk of charity and Gussy put his foot in it with misplaced expressions of sympathy. Then John Levison arrived and told Ernest that he was ruined. Many years previously, he had inherited £20,000 from his uncle, John Thorpe, formerly master of the Remove at Greyfriars, who was believed to have died intestate. A moneylender called Esau Bright had now produced an old will, naming him as the heir. The money - and accumulated interest - had to be paid to Bright, and all bequests made by Mr. Levison to fulfil Thorpe's verbal wishes had to come from his own pocket. These included £500 to Greyfriars in consideration of which the two boys were to be admitted to that school without payment of fees. Mr. Levison was sure that a later will lay undiscovered, somewhere at Greyfriars.

Meanwhile, in MAGNET 1028, Esau Bright had succeeded in getting his son Edgar into the Remove at Greyfriars, where he proved to be thoroughly objectionable: mean, untruthful, and cruel to animals.

The Levisons arrived in MAGNET 1031, Ernest Levison being placed, this time, in Study No.1. Both parties - Bright and the Levisons - began to search for the will.

In MAGNET No.1032 - wilfully ignoring the evidence of the two earlier visits - Vernon-Smith told Redwing that he didn't believe in sudden reformations - he'd done himself many a time, and always slipped back again! - and he invited Levison, Skinner, Snoop and Stott to tea. Afterwards - for the fun of seeing whether Levison would fall for it, - he suggested a little game of cards, and a smoke. Levison refused, and a sarcastic remark about hypocrisy by the Bounder, precipitated a free-for-all fight. Subsequently, the Bounder healed the breach by an unexpected apology, but Skinner in anger, attempted to keep Levison out of the Highcliffe match by getting Ponsonby to send a fake message

and then tie him up in a disused part of Highcliffe¹. The plot was foiled by Coker's blundering in.

In the next story, Bunter overheard Skinner upbraiding Ponsonby and Co. on the failure of the plot, and told the tale to Wharton. Levison, however, asked the Remove not to give Skinner a ragging. This stood in good stead when Bright tried to convict him of theft by taking money from Quelch's study and placing it in Levison's box. Skinner got wind of this and switched the notes and Bright nearly got expelled.

In the last story (MAGNET 1034) the vaults were explored by Levison and the Famous Five. Bright muscled on to the party, got lost and was found by Levison. Their lamp failed and, blundering about in the darkness, Levison found the missing will - he had a few matches and struck one at the right moment - and came across a staircase that led to the back of the panelling in Quelch's study, whence they were rescued.

Thus the family fortunes were restored, and in GEM 1034, the Levisons left Greyfriars for the last time and returned to St. Jim's.

1) The Caterpillar, Ponsonby, and Skinner all speak of Levison's being pally with the Highcliffe blades "in the old days" and Skinner says "I remember once in the old days, he spoofed Quelch with a yarn about a telephone call, when he wanted to get off to the races with some Highcliffe men."

(FROM PAGE 29)

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

1924:

Greyfriars..	A Great Man at Greyfriars ..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	Something Special for Bunter ..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Morny's Master-stroke..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	The Manoeuvres of Muffin ..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	Grundy's Merry Christmas ..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Merry Prisoner ..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Schoolboy Treasure Hunters ..	..	..	..
	(Reprint of Gem No.173 The Mysterious Document; also No.174, Tom Merry's Treasure Island; also No.175, The Schoolboy Castaways)			

1925:

Greyfriars..	Bunter's Banking Account ..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	The Bunter Cup ..	..	..	..
Greyfriars..	The Rival Editors ..	..	..	..
	(Reprint of Magnet No.306 - Harry Wharton's Christmas Number).	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	a False Alarm ..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Getting Quits with Greyfriars ..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	Forbidden to Fight ..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Bishop's Medal ..	..	..	..
	(Reprint of Gem No.313 Rallying round Fig-gins)	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Tribulations of Trimble ..	..	..	..

Detectives in Boys' Literature

By Herbert Lockenby

Undoubtedly with the exception of tales of school life, stories about detectives have been the most popular in boys' weeklies for several decades. This despite the fact that there are no Sexton Blakes in real life. There are individuals styled private detectives, or enquiry agents, but they spend most of their time trailing faithless husbands - or wives - instead of solving international intrigues, or bringing to justice master criminals.

Some time ago a private detective did get into the news. It looked at one time as if like the sleuths in the boys' weeklies he had solved a murder mystery where the police had failed, but alas! the end was anti-climax, and he retired again to oblivion.

In the halcyon days of the "Union Jack" curious readers used to ask if Sexton Blake really lived. The editor would reply blandly, "Well, no, he is a fictitious character, but he is drawn from life," copying, I suppose, the suggestion that Conan Doyle saw in Sherlock Holmes a certain Dr. Bell. Fancy though anyone in real life having a fraction of the lives of nine hundred and ninety-nine cats, as has been the lot of Sexton Blake in his long career. But then, editors - or some of them - have to tell the tale.

Nowadays yarns of private detectives have attained the dignity of stiff covers, and can be found by the score in the public libraries, but they are mainly whodunit stuff, with 95% chatter and 5% action. We who read in the golden days when the bookstalls groaned under the weight of boys' weeklies demanded action. No lazy Peter Wimseys for us, our Sexton Blakes and Nelson Lees had to be at it twenty-four hours a day, and oft-times in the jaws of death. We wanted no set scene in a country mansion, we asked for plot and counterplot with a chase across the world. We knew who the villain was from the first chapter, we were content to let him be on top at times so long as he was brought to justice in the end.

Some of us who are not so very young sigh for the master-criminals, Plummer, Kestral, Zingrave, Professor Kew and their like. And, those sinister organisations, the "Order of the Ring", the "Green Triangle" and the "Criminals' Confederation". Alas! the present day publishers will have none of them; it's years and years since our beloved Tinker was in the hands of a king of crime; he spends too much time in pubs and wise-cracking with females of doubtful virtue.

True, the Plummers and the Carlacs used to set their authors a problem. If they put them behind bars at the end of a story they, the authors, were up against it. They could see to it that after a sojourn in Bleakmoor for a time the criminal could manage to escape. He could do it once - or twice - but he could not go on doing it. So the author saw to it that his villain was deprived of his ill-gotten gains in the last chapter but managed to escape by the skin of his teeth in order to be on hand for the next story.

I said at the beginning that detective stories have been popular with boys for several decades. I think it would be safe to say they came into vogue in this country in the closing years of the nineteenth century. Earlier, the publishers like Brent, Fox, Emmett, Guy Rayner and the rest

relied mainly on school and historical yarns, tales of pirates, highwaymen and Old London Town to stir the hearts of the Victorian boy, and private detectives were almost unknown.

There would appear to be not the slightest doubt that America can claim the credit for creating the serial detective character, for according to Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*, July 1949, the "Old Sleuth Library" was started as long ago as 1872, and the stories of Old Cap Collier started nine years later. Then there was Nick Carter, who for years meant as much to American youth as Sexton Blake to ours. According to an article in *Dime Novel Round-Up*, June 1943, Nick also first appeared in the 1870's, being featured in three serials by John R. Coryell. These scoring a hit the "Nick Carter Library" followed and ran to over 100 numbers. I have a suspicion though that the statement that this happened in the '70's was a printer's error, for the article goes on to say "The Nick Carter Library followed the Weekly in 1897", with no suggestion that there was some 20 years in between. This suspicion is confirmed by the afore mentioned "*Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*", for after its statement that Old Cap Collier appeared in 1893 it says "less than a decade later Nick Carter began a long career."

Anyway, as with chewing gum, candy floss, and fruit machines, it's clear America cashed in on the private detective first.

Returning to this side of the ocean it would appear that the once famous firm of James Henderson and Sons were pioneers in publishing detective stories here. For in a copy of "*Young Folks Paper*" dated June 21st, 1890, there appeared a list of over 200 titles published in their "*Weekly Budget People's Pocket Story Books* (3d.). Among them were a number of detective stories, for example, No.164 "*Joe Phoenix*," No.291 "*The Dragon Detective*" and No.317 "*The Working Men Detective*". The presence of Joe Phoenix, however, makes it obvious they were American reprints.

Then came the Aldine Publishing Company to give the detective story a real place in the sun, for in 1894 they launched their "*Detective Tales*". They were published four at a time, about monthly, and there were 344 of them in all. Here again, however, the great majority of them, if not all, were of American origin. There were many bizarre titles among them. I'll quote a few: "*The Demon Detective*"; "*Old Electricity, the Lightning Detective*"; "*Red Light Will the River Detective*"; "*Doc Grip the Sport Detective*"; "*Lady Kate, the Dashing Lady Detective*". Another was "*The Dog Detective*", but I have no note of the name of this predecessor to Pedro. No.1 was "*Brant Adams, the Emperor of Detectives*".

About this time Alfred Harmsworth entered the field of boys' literature with the "*Halfpenny Marvel*", "*Union Jack*" and "*Pluck*", and the Britisher came into his own.

No.6 of the *Halfpenny Marvel* contained a story "*The Missing Millionaire*". It was a crude story but it was destined to become historic, for it was the first of more than 3,000 stories of Sexton Blake, the longest lived character in any kind of fiction. Stories about him began to appear fairly frequently in both the "*Marvel*" and the "*Union Jack*", written by a number of authors. There was nothing outstanding about them, they were certainly in no way superior to these about other detectives who came on the scene about the same time. How is it then that Sexton Blake has continued his career for nearly sixty years, whereas all his early rivals

passed into oblivion long ago? Well, it's a pet theory of mine that it was due to the inspiration which made someone saddle Blake with that unusual Christian name. It is said that Conaf Doyle when trying to find a Christian name for Holmes first thought of "Sherrington"; then like a flash came "Sherlock". Said one of his biographers, "It clicked like the turning of a key in a lock." So with Sexton - it clicked. If he had been called Gordon or Martin Blake he would probably have died before the great majority of his present day admirers were born, instead of having his name set by linotype operators thousands upon thousands of times. What's in a name!

However, closely upon the heels of Sexton Blake came Nelson Lee created by that fertile brained Yorkshire doctor, John W. Staniforth, writing as Maxwell Scott. He installed Nelson Lee in the Grays Inn Road, kept him to himself for a great many years and saw to it that he had as many hairsbreadth escapes and was as far travelled as his fellow sleuth a mile or so away in Baker Street.

Maxwell Scott also built up three other detectives who became very popular. Kenyon Ford for the "Big Budget", Vernon Read (Boys' Leader) and Martin Dale (Chums). With Nelson Lee they were "quads" really for they went through exactly the same hazardous adventures in search of missing heirs with clues hidden in statuettes, books, watch cases and so on. He had still another, Gordon Gray, in the early days of the "Union Jack", but he never reached the dignity of the serial story and was completely forgotten until the A.P. republished the few stories in the short-lived Detective Library some 30 years later!

And we mustn't forget that the busy doctor was also one of the little army of Sexton Blake authors.

Another writer popular with the lads who were going to school when the 20th century dawned was Alec G. Pearson. He, too, created a number of 'tects. Stanley Dare, known as the boy detective, Frank Ferrett, Royston Gower, and, to lend a little variety a couple of "Doctors", Messina and Nevada, to wit. Then there was William Murray Graydon; one cannot leave him out where almost any type of story was concerned. To the army of sleuths he supplied Abel Link, Carfax Baines, Gordon Fox and probably others, to say nothing of millions of words about Sexton Blake.

Cedric Wolfe, an author about whom little is known, deserves a niche in the gallery of detective story writers, for his Kit and Cora, brother and sister detectives. Cora, a winsome lass, had to get about in long skirts but they didn't prevent her getting into some desperate situations, and out of them again. Occasionally they became associated with Sexton Blake in the days of the slim "Union Jack" pink covers.

I wonder how many St. Franks fans remember Carson Grey, "The celebrated London detective". He was created by E. S. Brooks, writing as Robert W. Comrade, long before he took over Nelson Lee, and was associated with Frank Kingston in his fight against the Brotherhood of Iron. Their adventures were told in two thrill packed serials. "The Iron Island" and "The Brotherhood of Iron" which appeared in the Gem, in 1910-1911. These serials were similar in plot to "The Green Triangle" and "Eileen Dare" stories which appeared later in the Nelson Lee Library. In my opinion they were E. S. Brooks at his very best, and why he should have

disguised himself as Robert W. Comrade is a mystery to one who greatly enjoyed them. His real name wasn't familiar then, of course, but I don't see why he shouldn't have used it, for the two serials were a credit to him. If I remember rightly, the serials were followed by some complete stories.

Another who made his mark as a detective story writer was Mark Darran, actually Norman Goddard. He wrote a great many of the Sexton Blake stories in the early years of the penny Union Jack, also several of those which appeared in the Boys' Friend 3d. Library anonymously before Sexton Blake got a library of his own. He made his Inspector Spearing just about the most bumptious and pig-headed of all the Yard men who went running to Baker Street for help when they were up against it.

John G. Rowe, a prolific writer of the time, told me that Mark Darran once nearly came to blows with Hamilton Edwards in an argument over a story. Later he did some real fighting for he was in France almost from the start of the Kaiser War, and unfortunately was killed there.

A striking feature about the detective fraternity was the number who had two syllables to their first names, one to the second. All the better known ones were "baptised" that way, and looked impressive on a business card. But one of Mark Darran's creations, John Smith, went to the other extreme.

A survey of this popular type of boyhood fiction would not be complete without mentioning the "comics", for many detectives appeared within their pages. Best remembered perhaps was "Hawkshaw" who had a long run in the "Jester". So far as I remember he was always just Hawkshaw, his Christian name never being revealed.

Most detectives had an assistant of the Tinker, Nipper type, but Martin Steele, of Comic Cuts, had twelve - all ladies, young and glamorous. Each week one of them helped him bring some criminal to justice. These stories had quite a long run.

Usually, however, the detective stories in the comics were rather flimsy affairs, for they were completed each week, and only occupied a page, providing little room for a very convincing story.

Accompanying this article is a list of the detectives of yesteryear I can recall. I do not suggest it is anything like complete, neither have I made any attempt to check up on the more modern papers. With one exception, they are but memories, for only Sexton Blake the eternal lives on. Nevertheless, they deserve a place in the history of boys' literature, for Nelson Lee, Kenyon Ford, Stanley Dare, Abel Link and the rest provided good cheer and many a thrill when, where clean, pulse-stirring yarns for boys were concerned, were undoubtedly the "good old days".

Name	Author	Paper(s) featured in
Carfax Baines	Wm Murrey Graydon	Henderson Publications and Nelson Lee Lib.
Sexton Blake	Numerous (over 100)	Union Jack etc.
Dixon Brett	Anon.	Various Aldines
Curtis Carr	Earle Danesford	Champion.

Name	Author	Paper(s) featured in
Nick Carter		Nick Carter Weekly etc.
Howard Clifton	Escott Lynn	True Blue
Joe Dale		Pluck
Martin Dale	Maxwell Scott	Chums
Scarlett Dangerfield	Anon.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Boys' Friend
Stanley Dare	Alec G. Pearson	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Pluck, Marvel.
Trimley Dare		Champion
Adam Daunt	Anon.	Fun and Fiction
Abel Daunt	Anon.	Firefly
Frank Dudley	Alfred Barnard	Marvel
Farrington	Anon.	Jack's Paper
Frank Ferrett	Alec G. Pearson	$\frac{1}{2}$ d Marvel, etc.
Peter Flint		Nuggett Library
Kenyon Ford	Maxwell Scott	Big Budget
Gordon Fox	W. Murray Graydon	Boys' Herald
Royston Gower	Alec G. Pearson	Boys' Friend etc.
Gordon Grey	Maxwell Scott	Detective Library
Maxwell Grey		$\frac{1}{2}$ d Union Jack
Panther Grayle		Champion
Hawkshaw	Anon.	Jester and Wonder
Dixon Hawke	Various	Adventure, etc.
		Dixon Hawke Lib.
Randall Keene		Boys' Journal (A.P.)
Michael Hearne		Boys' Herald
Nelson Lee	Maxwell Scott (creator)	Various Amalgamated Press
	Edwy Charles Brooks etc.	Publications
Abel Link	Wm. Murray Graydon	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Boys' Friend
Ferrers Locke	Charles Hamilton	Magnet, Gem etc.
	Hedley Scott etc.	
John Lyon	Stephen Agnew	Nugget Library
Harry Marks	Bracebridge Hemying	True Blue
Dr. Messina	Alec G. Pearson	Jester, Boys' Friend
Middleton Moore	Jack North	Pluck
Dr. Nevada	Alec G. Pearson	$\frac{1}{2}$ d Pluck etc.
Nemo	Phil Rayburn	The Gleam
Ras Pagan	Julian Jackson	Marvel
Joe Phoenix		Various Aldines
Vernon Read	Maxwell Scott	Boys' Leader
		Big Budget
John Smith	Mark Darran	Pluck
Martin Stern		Pluck
Fergus Scarth	Escott Lynn	True Blue
George Sleath	Cedric Wolfe	Marvel
Paul Sleuth		$\frac{1}{2}$ d Union Jack
Anthony Sharpe	Edmund Burton	Gem
Dick Sheridan		$\frac{1}{2}$ d Boys' Friend
Will Spearing	Mark Darran	Pluck

Name	Author	Paper(s) featured in
Shirley Steele		Marvel
Falcon Swift		Boys' Magazine
Fielding Torrance	Stewart Young	Boys' Herald
Herbert Trickett	Alec G. Pearson	Boys' Friend
Martin Trackmann	John G. Howard	Football Favourite
Vernon Trew	Donovan Mart	Big Budget
Kit & Core Twyford	Cedric Wolfe	Pluck etc.
Raymond Weird	Sidney Drew	Jester
Darrell Yorke	Arthur St. John	Vanguard

William Martin OLD BOYS BOOK SPECIALIST

93, Hillside, London, N.W.10.

Offers for Sale:

MAGNETS 397-1683 MINUS 100 COPIES.

GEMS 1-48, 8-1663 MINUS 40 COPIES -
2 SERIES 10 SERIES ETC.

MARVELS 1-800 COMPLETE RUN - -

NELSON LEES 145-567 OLD SERIES - -

S.O.L's. 100-411 MINUS 50 COPIES - -

I NEED 15 NUMBERS BETWEEN 1006 - 1038 TO COMPLETE
 MY GEM COLLECTION; ALSO SCATTERED MAGNETS ~
 BETWEEN 800 - 1096. I OFFER LIBERAL EXCHANGES ~

WANTED: Aldine Original Robin Hoods, 1903 edition, Also
 wanted Aldine Jack Sheppards, good prices paid. To No.4
 Nuneaton Road, Dagenham, Essex.

The Amazing Career of Billy Bunter

By Roger M. Jenkins

"To laugh without sympathy," declared Bernard Shaw, "is a ruinous abuse of a noble function." This explains why the character of Billy Bunter is such a great success, while that of Baggy Trimble is not. The later Bunter is in some ways a likeable character, but Trimble is never anything but contemptible. As Charles Hamilton himself remarks in this connexion, "Baggy owed his existence to the fact that Bunter was such a draw in the other paper: but though he was the work of my own hands, I never liked him much: the real truth being that an author should never imitate even himself. He had to be differentiated from Billy Bunter, and all the differences turned out badly for him." This is in fact the crucial point: Trimble had all of Bunter's bad qualities, but none of his good ones.

Bill Bunter, we are told, was created at the end of the nineteenth century, but did not meet with the approval of the editor to whom he was first offered, and consequently was put into cold storage, as it were, until the Magnet made its first appearance in 1908. Like all of Charles Hamilton's characters, he was drawn from life: his corpulence was derived from an editor; his habit of blinking owlishly was copied from one of the author's uncles; while his eternal expectation of a postal order was suggested by an impecunious relative who was always expecting a cheque. It is also rumoured that Bunter's fatuous conceit was modelled on the behaviour of a famous Victorian politician.

The Early Bunter.

Bunter had all these attributes in 1908, but nevertheless at that time he was not the Bunter of whom most of us became so fond in later years. At first, he was practically inoffensive, and not excessively fat. He was noticeably short-sighted, and much of the humour seemed to revolve around his mistakes in identifying people. His catch-phrase was "I'm sincerely sorry" - and he often had occasion to use it. From the beginning, Bunter's one good point was his ability to cook, and his red face looked up from the fireplace on many a study feed. In the early days he displayed a marked resourcefulness - he took up physical culture in Magnet No.11, hypnotism in No.20, and boxing in No.81 - all without any marked success. There was an exception to this in Magnet No.32 - "The Greyfriars Ventri-loquist" - from which time he began to develop his remarkable powers of throwing his own voice and imitating the voices of others, attributes which were to form the basis of many amusing stories in the future.

Billy Bunter and Frank Nugent were at Greyfriars from the beginning, and they had study No.1 to themselves until Harry Wharton arrived in the first number. When in Magnet No.141 a new study - No.14 - was opened, however, Billy Bunter decided to grace it with his presence, together with Alonzo Todd and Wun Lung, whose effluence made him dear to Bunter; but before long Bunter's new study mates had departed, and he was left to waste his sweetness on the desert air. He eventually moved to Study No.7, which he had to himself until Magnet No.271 - appropriately entitled "The Impossible Four" - in which Alonzo Todd returned to the school with his cousin Peter, and Ditton, the deaf boy, made a fourth. From this time onwards, Billy Bunter remained a fixture in study No.7.



"I SAY YOU FELLOWS!"

Bunter
How some
artists have drawn
him!

Robert Whitem
SEPT. 26th 1952

During the first year or two of the Magnet's career, Billy Bunter played quite a prominent part, no doubt because he was in the same study as the hero of the stories. After that time, however, he seemed to decline a little. His character was developing, all of it unpleasantly; artfulness, untruthfulness, and a propensity for eavesdropping were all apparent by the year 1910, as displayed in Magnet No.142, in which Billy Bunter placed an advertisement in the local paper, inviting Public School boys to send a shilling for details of a great money-making scheme for translations from the classics. With considerable ingenuity and resource, Bunter managed to keep the swindle going for quite a while before the collapse came. Again, in the Christmas Double Number for 1910, Magnet No.148, entitled "Bunter's Bust-up", is related the lengths to which he went to raise the money for a feed - even to the extent of writing a begging letter to a charitable organisation and "touching" Mr. Quelch. It is not surprising that Bunter was losing his popularity with the readers at this stage.

Billy Bunter's Postal Order, on the strength of which so many loans were raised, was first heard of in Magnet No.2, and it has been in the post even since. On one or two occasions, Postal Orders have actually arrived, but there has always been something odd about them. Bulstrode sent him a number (for small amounts) on his birthday in Magnet No.133 - "The Postal Order Conspiracy". Unfortunately, one was crossed, and the others payable at Courtfield, Friardale, and Leverock respectively.

It was often remarked that truth and Bunter were complete strangers. There was an exception to this rule, however, in Magnet No.160 - "Poor Old Bunter" - in which he dived into an empty swimming bath, and lost his memory for a while, during which time he became quite a truthful and tolerable person. Alonzo Todd helpfully proffered beef tea (accidentally adulterated with ink) and suggested dropping him in the bath again to revive his memory with a second shock. Johnny Bull played his concertina to Bunter, who promptly burnt it at the first opportunity.

The Middle Period.

Mr. Bunter was on the Stock Exchange, among the bulls, bears, stags, and other fearsome animals that haunt the purlieus of Throgmorton Street. Unfortunately, he usually impersonated the wrong animal, and consequently he seldom had anything but advice to bestow upon his hopeful children. On one occasion, however, in Magnet No.366, Mr. Bunter actually pulled off a successful deal, and Bunter received four fivers, a remittance that was a nine days' wonder in the Remove. Unfortunately, Mr. Bunter's affluence vanished as suddenly as it had arrived. Mr. Bunter starred again in No.474 when he was the victim of a swindler who had convinced him that, after a certain amount of costly research, Mr. Bunter could lay claim to an extinct earldom. Bunter was to be a viscount, and his brother in the Second Form was to become the honourable Samuel Bunter. It was not long before the swindler was shewn up, and Viscount Bunter became a commoner again, giving up D'Arcy's accent and Ponsonby's sneer which he had so assiduously cultivated.

There was only one person who had ever succeeded in bringing out the better side of Bunter's nature, and that was Core Quelch, the niece of the Remove form master. She was a very plump young lady, and when she came to stay at the school for a while, in Magnet No.364, she soon found

out that Billy Bunter was very sensible for a boy - his interest in cooking being fully reciprocated by herself. Bunter even managed to save her from a bull, and this set the seal on a most appropriate friendship. Cora Quelch paid another visit to the school in Magnet No.460, during which time they renewed their friendship, and Bunter once again distinguished himself by pulling her out of the Sark. He seemed indeed to have turned over a new leaf, but when Miss Quelch left Greyfriars her influence waned soon after her departure. To quote: "It was exactly three days before Billy Bunter made his first attempt to raise cash on a Postal Order he was expecting - a Postal Order from one of his titled relatives, as he explained. And the same evening he had occasion to stop and tie his shoelace as he was passing Mr. Quelch's keyhole. So, amazing as it had been while it lasted, there was an unfortunate lack of permanency about Bunter's Reformation."

From time to time efforts were made by the Remove to reform Bunter but these were also of impermanent duration. In No.541 - "William the Good" - Bunter convinced his form fellows that his particular brand of virtue could be even more unpleasant than his normal habits. Bunter's amazing brain went off at another tangent in No.593, when he became a Bolshevik, and tried to implement the redistribution of wealth by threatening Lord Mauleverer with a poker. It was not until the Removites began to help themselves to Bunter's property that his thoughts became less radical.

Billy Bunter had a cousin Wally who was exactly like him in looks, except that he did not wear spectacles. Wally had made a brief appearance already in No.439 - "The Other Bunter" - and the Removites were pleasantly surprised on that occasion to discover that Wally had very little in common with Billy except in looks. Wally worked in an office, but, after rendering his employer a great service, he was sent to St.Jim's as a reward. Wally would rather have gone to Greyfriars to renew his acquaintance with Harry Wharton and Co., and Billy was anxious to leave Greyfriars for a while, since he was being dunned by a local bookmaker. So Billy prevailed upon his cousin to exchange places, and the Saints were treated to Billy's entrancing society while Wally tried hard to live down his cousin's reputation at Greyfriars.

This was the longest series the Magnet had published to date - it ran for eighteen weeks (Nos. 568 to 585). After the initial impetus, however, Wally Bunter ceased to figure prominently in the stories: this was the time when glimmerings of a secondary plot began to be manifest: there was the trouble with Highcliff; there was the story of Snoop's reformation on his father's release from prison; and there was the feud with Loder. The series was marred by two stories interpolated by substitute writers - Nos. 573 and 581. Nevertheless, there was good reading to be had all the way to the end, when Billy Bunter reappeared in No.585 entitled "The Return of the Native."

The Magnet stories during this series were dramatic rather than humorous, since Billy Bunter, the mirthmaker, had removed his fat carcass to St.Jim's to trade upon his cousin's good reputation there. Accordingly, Nos.571 to 585 of the Gem chronicled the more amusing side of the picture. There was great competition by both houses at St.Jim's to have Bunter, since Wally Bunter's prowess as a footballer was known there. School House eventually won, but the victory was soon regretted when Billy Bunter's own peculiar habits became known at the school.

There were also four stories interpolated into the Gem series by substitute writers, but the genuine Hamilton stories in the Gem during this series were, if anything, slightly better than the Magnet ones. How Cardew managed to evict Bunter from Study No.6, how Bunter tried to raise the wind under the pretence of organising a charity, how the school became haunted by strange voices, and how eventually Billy Bunter suddenly decided to return to Greyfriars, leaving Wally no option but to go to St.Jim's and face the accumulated wrath of masters and boys alike for the misdeeds of his cousin all make highly entertaining reading. In the end, Wally Bunter left St.Jim's to take up a position in Paris. Three years later he reappeared at Greyfriars as a form master, but the series was not written by Charles Hamilton, and accordingly no further comment is called for here.

The years 1920 and 1921 in the Magnet saw more stories by substitute writers than any other period. Nevertheless, the stories that were actually written by Charles Hamilton only stand out the more conspicuously for that. In No.640, Bunter decided to go bankrupt, and through Peter Todd, his legal adviser, he duly advertised for claims. When the Removites came to work out all the little sums that Bunter owed them, they discovered that it amounted to over £27. The elation of the creditors soon vanished, however, when they heard it was to be a settlement of only a penny in the pound, and that Bunter proposed to start borrowing all over again, as soon as he had settled his debts in this remarkable manner. Bunter was up to his antics again eleven weeks later, dressing up as his sister Bessie to force admittance to a Remove feed, at which he proceeded to insult the Removites with impunity while he scoffed at the lion's share of the feed. Unfortunately, Bunter succumbed to the temptation of eating the share of the food he had promised to save for Bessie in reward for her lending him her clothes, and she came over from Cliff House and indignantly revealed the truth.

Mention must be made here of a remarkable story in No.652 of the Magnet entitled "Bunter's Baby". This story is unique in that it is the only story to have been written partly by Charles Hamilton and partly by a substitute writer. Apparently a short story written by Charles Hamilton was amended and lengthened to fit a Magnet. The plot revolved around a baby Billy Bunter was asked to mind, and though it is not a story of any significance in itself, collectors may find it intriguing to scan it and attempt to ascertain exactly which parts were written by Charles Hamilton.

A strange phenomenon occurred in No.682, when Bunter groundlessly convinced himself that he was growing thinner, and so he purchased a bottle of Dr.Flummox's Fattening Fluid. This elixir seemed to produce a very contrary effect, and for a while Bunter grew even thinner than Peter Todd, but, needless to say, the effect was only transitory. After thin Bunter, we had, in succession, deaf Bunter in No.689, blind Bunter in No.715, and lame Bunter in No.806. Having thus run the gamut of the infirmities, as it were, Billy Bunter apparently decided to exert his wonderful talents in other directions, and we heard no more of his sad afflictions.

In 1922 there appeared the first series in the Magnet centring wholly around Billy Bunter, albeit a short one in Nos.737 to 739. On this occasion, he threw a concoction of soot, glue, and other noxious ingredients over his form master in mistake for Coker. Mr.Quelch commanded Bunter to

lose no time in accompanying him to the Head to be flogged and expelled. Bunter, however, had other ideas on the matter, and he left Greyfriars for temporary sojourns in St. Jim's and Rookwood before he was eventually brought back. Needless to say, he was not expelled, Mr. Quelch having decided to be lenient when he understood it was a mistake. This theme must have been popular, for it was repeated in a story specially written for the 1927 Holiday Annual by Charles Hamilton.

Two years later Bunter was again the centre of attraction, in Nos. 874 to 877. Dr. Locke had sentenced him to be flogged for playing ventriloquial tricks, but Bunter, having no relish for floggings, cheeked the Head and Mr. Quelch until it was decided to expel him instead. He departed in deep satisfaction, with the prospect of having the remainder of the term free from work, and then going to Eton or Harrow the following term. Mr. Bunter, however, threatened to put his hopeful son to work in an office in the City, a prospect so alarming that Bunter returned to Greyfriars in an effort to persuade the Head to take him back. It need hardly be added that he was, in the end, successful, though he scarcely aided his cause by sitting on a stool outside Greyfriars with a placard, "I refuse to be eggspelled; I want justiss."

There can be no doubt that the funniest series that ever appeared in the Magnet was the Bunter Court series of 1925 in Nos. 910 to 917. This series defies criticism because it is pure farce. To Bunter fans it is a sheer joy to read.

Most of us have a sneaking sympathy for the under-dog, be he deserving or undeserving: consequently it was with no little pleasure that we read in the Magnet how, after years of boasting to incredulous listeners of the glories of his ancestral home, Billy Bunter suddenly brought it to life for a few brief weeks, to the amazement of all the Removites.

It began when Bunter viewed a nearby mansion for Lord Mauleverer, whose guardian was thinking of leasing it for the summer. Bunter could not resist the temptation of allowing the estate agent to continue to think he was Lord Mauleverer, and in that name he engaged the mansion for himself, having its name changed to Bunter Court. Lord Mauleverer accepted Bunter's opinion that the mansion would not suit his guardian, and thence began the amazing deception, the servants knowing Bunter by his real name, and the Estate agent by his assumed one. Of course, Bunter had no money to pay for the rent, let alone the servants' wages or the cost of the food, but he borrowed money from his guests, and tipped the servants to keep them quiet. When the Estate agent became suspicious, Bunter adroitly locked him in the wine cellar, and the Butler later shared his fate. D'Arcy discovered Bunter feeding his prisoners in the middle of the night, and he soon made a third in the cellar. The deception was eventually discovered, and Bunter fled precipitately from Bunter Court. Far-fetched though this series may be, it is nevertheless so entertaining that we cannot but surrender our objections, and yield wholeheartedly to the delightful nonsense of it all.

Bunter captured the limelight once again in Nos. 956 and 957, when his backwardness in class impelled Mr. Quelch to give him special tuition daily for an hour after class. Bunter convinced himself that he was being persecuted, and he absented himself from the school for a while, leaving a note explaining why he was going, thus hoping to touch Mr. Quelch's stony heart. He succeeded only in being sentenced to a spell in the

punishment room on his return - on a spare diet! - and though he later managed to turn the tables by locking Mr. Quelch in the punishment room, it was all to no avail.

Billy Bunter's ventriloquial tricks often got him into trouble, but they seldom turned out so amusingly as they did in that classic story in Magnet No. 996 entitled "Bunter's Brain Storm". He telephoned Chunkley's stores in Courtfield, and ordered tuck on a lavish scale - all to be put down to the account of Mr. Quelch, whose voice he imitated on the telephone. When the time of retribution approached, Bunter tried to convince his former master that he had had a brain storm when he ordered the tuck, but Mr. Quelch, by the judicious introduction of a cane into the argument, clearly shewed how little credence he was prepared to put in this ingenious claim.

Now and again one comes across tales in the Magnet that seem out of keeping with the general tone of the stories. Usually, these turn out to be stories which have been specially written at the behest of the editor, like No. 409 which shews Frank Nugent acting somewhat out of character, or Nos. 1122 to 1125, the Ravenspur Grange series, which was modelled on Edgar Wallace lines. Billy Bunter came in for his share of this type of story in No. 1016, when he saved the life of a gypsy's child, and in No. 1137 entitled "Bunter the Bandit". But the most astounding of all were Nos. 1036 to 1037, in which he became Bunter the Benevolent as a result of reading Dickens' Christmas Carol. These stories - and Strong Bunter in No. 1348 - are tales which some readers enjoy, while others find them vaguely disturbing. In a way, they defy criticism because they are so exceptional.

The Later Bunter.

A remarkable transformation was taking place in the character of Billy Bunter during the 'twenties. He remained, as before, lazy, greedy, inquisitive, untruthful, obtuse, and slovenly, but in spite of all these faults he began to become a sympathetic character; instead of laughing at him, the readers began to laugh with him, and this great change also coincided with a great improvement in the standard of writing of the Greyfriars stories. Billy Bunter was coming into his own at last.

Bunter now began to get away with his amazing effronteries, as the circus series in Nos. 1069 to 1076 well illustrates. Dashing out of a detention class, with authority hotly pursuing him, he came across the circus proprietor, Mr. Whiffles, bathing in the river. Mr. Whiffles was a short, tubby gentleman who wore a number of hirsute adornments to conceal his baldness. Bunter accordingly donned Mr. Whiffle's clothes, wigs, and beard, and assumed proprietorship of the circus for a few weeks while the genuine owner, deprived of his hair, went unrecognised by his former employees. It was a lark carried to hitherto unprecedented lengths, and we find ourselves sympathising with Bunter all along, even though we know him to be in the wrong. Some years later, Billy Bunter attached himself to Signor Muccolini's circus by blackmail, in Magnets Nos. 1481 to 1490, but he never managed to attain quite the degree of eminence that he did in Whiffle's circus.

Charles Hamilton states that, in his opinion, the most amusing Magnet stories he ever wrote concerning Bunter were the pair in Nos. 1325 and 1326 - "Bunter's £100 Boater" and "Billy Bunter's Hat Trick", describing the theft by a tramp of a banknote from Mr. Vernon-Smith. The note was

hidden in Bunter's old straw hat, and the story turns most amusingly on the efforts made by the tramp to regain possession of it. Whether, however, these are the most amusing stories of the lot is perhaps open to discussion. As Charles Hamilton remarks, "on such points as these I think the reader is a better judge than the author."

The Remove were not fond of Bunter; as Skinner used to remark, there would be many dry eyes if Bunter were expelled. Strangely enough, however, when he was sentenced to be expelled for something of which he was innocent, the Remove stood by him, and had a barring-out on Popper's island in Magnets Nos.1374 to 1382. Fisher T. Fish was the real culprit, and he felt moved enough to sympathise with Bunter, though, of course, it was many weeks before his sympathy allowed him to admit guilt himself.

In 1925, Bunter Court had come to life for a few weeks: now, in No.1383, in the year 1934, Bunter suddenly became possessed of vast wealth, and another of his boasts was apparently proved true. Through a chance encounter with a person named Jarvis, Bunter obtained money in unlimited supplies. Jarvis was pursued by a transatlantic gunman called Tiger Bronx, and, to evade his unwelcome attentions, Jarvis transferred his money to Bunter, and acted as his valet, taking good care to inform the gunman of his action. What he failed to impart, however, was that Bunter was given only a life interest in the money, and that when Bronx had been hanged for murdering Bunter, it would revert to Jarvis himself. Bunter the Billionaire who took the Famous Five on holiday to Italy, was alternately offensive with opulence and terrified of the gunman. Eventually, in No.1389 the affair was settled with poetic justice when it turned out that neither Bunter, nor Jarvis, nor Tiger Bronx were entitled to the money, which had to go to the Chicago Home for Stray Cats. And Bunter returned to Greyfriars, penniless, sadder if not wiser.

In the early stories, the saving of a life often provided a convenient climax to the story. This would not have been acceptable to more modern readers, and in its place we find Bunter, in the Brazil series, willy nilly rescuing Chico from the crocodile in Magnet No.1465. This incident was included only to provide someone who would be in the remarkable position of looking up to Bunter, and who would, incidentally, be needed as a friend of Bunter's in a later number. Thus, whereas Bunter's saving Cora Quelch, for example, was an end in itself, his saving Chico was only a means to an end. This incident provides an interesting example of the way in which Charles Hamilton's powers of story telling advanced during the course of the years.

The collector who desires to enjoy to the full the fatuous antics of the later Bunter must turn to the volume for 1937, in which appeared the story of Mr.Quelch's gold chain which was taken from his desk as a joke by Bunter, who subsequently lost possession of it to Ponsonby. This short series in Nos.1518 to 1521 is an excellent example of the closely woven plots and amusing style of writing so typical of the later Magnets.

If the Bunter Court series was the funniest of all the Magnet stories, then the Carter series of 1938 was assuredly the wittiest. Charles Hamilton recollects that he much enjoyed writing the series, and an author usually manages to communicate his enjoyment to his readers. This series, in Nos. 1561 to 1572 was the last one featuring Billy Bunter as the central character of a Magnet story, and his ample figure filled the stage to perfection. The story revolved around Bunter's rich uncle Carter, who was

considering disinheriting Arthur Carter, a new boy to Greyfriars, in favour of Billy Bunter. Arthur Carter naturally made every effort to get Bunter disgraced, but Bunter was championed by Bob Cherry, and Carter found his efforts availed him nothing. Charles Hamilton never surpassed the style of writing in this series, which formed a fitting farewell to Billy Bunter's career in the Magnet.

The Bunter Books.

Some collectors, especially those who have never had much liking for the Owl of the Remove, are not particularly keen on the Bunter books. They claim, with some justification, that Billy Bunter dominates them to the exclusion of all other characters, and consequently there is plenty of amusing reading, but little of the more serious character studies of the type provided in the later Magnets.

There is more than a grain of truth in this, but it would be well to view the matter from a more realistic standpoint. In the days of the Magnet, it was comparatively easy to vary the type of fare provided; if Bunter played a small part one week, his devotees would cheerfully invest twopence the following week to see if he would be playing a more conspicuous part then. With the Bunter books appearing only irregularly at 7/6d a time, however, it is not so easy to vary the ingredients, and it must not be forgotten that Bunter is the most popular character with the schoolboy readers for whom the books are primarily intended. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that this predominance of Bunter is only a logical outcome of the tendency that was becoming more and more apparent in the Magnet towards the close of its career. When, in May of 1937, the Magnet began to bear the sub-title "Billy Bunter's Own Paper", it was obvious that he was being groomed for stardom, as it were, on an even higher level.

Even so, it will be seen on a closer inspection that Bunter does not unduly dominate all the stories in the Bunter books. "Billy Bunter Butts In", for example, contains a fine character study of Harry Wharton as the rebel of the Remove once again, a story which is a delight for his admirers.

Above all, it must be remembered that it is through the Bunter books that Greyfriars will go down to posterity. For the first time Greyfriars stories have been published in bound form (as distinct from the impermanent Holiday Annuals), and, so long as there is a demand for the school story, the Bunter books will be printed and reprinted. Greyfriars is at last able to compete with such books as "Stelky and Co." at the same level. It is a matter for rejoicing that the ridiculous stigma which attached to weekly papers of all kinds no longer attaches to the work of Charles Hamilton.

Conclusion

What are we to make of Billy Bunter? How is it that Charles Hamilton's most famous character is practically the only impossible one he ever drew? There is no doubt that Bunter is impossible not only mentally but physically - Mr. Chapman, the Magnet artist, has stated that the editor insisted upon Bunter getting fatter in the illustrations, even though the artist protested that the drawings were approaching caricatures.

The secret of Bunter's success lies in the very enormities that make him so grotesque. Now and again, grotesque characters, like Quilp and

Mrs. Gamp, are tremendously successful, and Billy Bunter has joined their ranks. Bunter, however, has been taken a stage further than these Dickensian characters. He has been made a sympathetic character. We always realize the error of his ways, but we sometimes feel a sneaking sympathy for him, hoping that, for once in a while, he will collect some ha'pence after all, as well as the usual allowance of kicks.

There are times when Bunter's remarks cause even adults to laugh aloud. These are usually when he is at his most hopeful and most fatuous, as, for example, when he puts up his hand during the middle of a boring lesson, and tells Mr. Quelch he thinks the form-room clock has stopped. Or, when his form-master informs him that he will be caned as an example to other boys, who can fail to find amusing Bunter's hopeful suggestion that another boy should be caned as an example to Bunter? Again, when Mr. Quelch accuses Bunter of hiding articles on the desk in the form-master's study, it is impossible not to admire the audacity of Bunter's suggestion that the missing articles may be merely displaced, since "very old people often forget what they do with things."

Adult collectors, however, naturally prefer the more serious characters, and admirers of Harry Wharton are particularly resentful of Bunter's ever increasing predominance. This resentment is really unnecessary. Harry Wharton was the pivot around which the Magnet turned from beginning to end; he was always the hero of the stories, though in later years Bunter was the star character. But readers who were first attracted to the Magnet by Billy Bunter stayed on later than they might otherwise have done because of characters like Harry Wharton, Bob Cherry, or Vernon-Smith.

Bunter played another part, however, in the success of the Magnet, a part which is often overlooked, but one which is quite distinct from his role of mirthmaker. This secondary function was to assist the machinery of the plot. Bunter's habits of poking and prying into affairs that did not concern him were of great assistance in making the Greyfriars stories well-knit. Bunter was always overhearing conversation not meant for his ears: none of it was ever wasted. Whether he was listening at the keyhole of Loder's study, under the seat of a railway carriage, or at the window of the Head's study, the episode always had a direct bearing on the plot. Readers of the Magnet may recall the infamous part played by Bunter in one of the finest of all the series - the one featuring Harry Wharton as the Rebel of the Remove in 1925. This was, incidentally, the first occasion on which Charles Hamilton utilised the great potentialities of Bunter in the construction of the story.

Whether one likes Bunter or not is, in the end, merely a matter of personal preference. Some collectors find that the rumbustial vulgarity of the later Billy Bunter is rather distasteful, and prefer the St. Jim's stories for that reason. On the other hand, the St. Jim's stories never succeeded in reaching the same heights as the Greyfriars ones, partly because Bunter had no real counterpart at St. Jim's. Certain it is that Billy Bunter, alone of all characters in schoolboy fiction of this century, has already become immortal. It is doubtful whether any living author can claim as much for a character of his own creation.

-----oOo-----

KINGS OF CRIME

58

A SEXTON BLAKE FEATURE

compiled by members
of

The Sexton Blake Circle

58

in which is laid down a complete and authentic record
of the Baker Street detective's campaigns against the
major master criminals.

CONTENTS

EXPLANATORY INTRODUCTION

by Harry Homer, Chairman of the S.B.C.

NOTE ON ANTHONY SKENE

by Archie Young.

LETTERS FROM ANTHONY SKENE TO ARCHIE YOUNG.

Among other interesting data, here one finds the very origin of
Monsieur Zenith.

SEXTON BLAKE versus ZENITH THE ALBINO.

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked by Harry Homer; The Notes by
Archie Young.

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF ANTHONY SKENE - minus Monsieur Zenith.

SEXTON BLAKE versus GEORGE MARSDEN PLUMMER.

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked and revised by Len Packman and
Harry Homer; The Notes by Harry Homer.

SEXTON BLAKE versus LEON KESTREL, THE MASTER MUMMER.

Lists by Herbert Leckenby, checked by Harry Homer, Len Packman and
Norton Price.

MONOGRAPH ON PAUL CYNOS

by Harry Homer.

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF EDWY SEARLES BROOKS

The Lists by Bob Blythe and Herbert Leckenby, additions by Ronald Rouse;
the checking by Len Packman and Harry Homer; The Notes and information
on Rupert Waldo by Bob Blythe; the whole edited by Harry Homer.

THE SEXTON BLAKE WORKS IN "THE UNION JACK" AND THE "SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY" OF GEORGE HAMILTON TEEDE.

The List by Bill Colcombe, checked by Harry Homer and Len Packman;
The Notes by Bill Colcombe and Harry Homer.

KINGS OF CRIME

EXPLANATORY INTRODUCTION

The Sexton Blake Circle was formed by a number of collectors who felt that a need existed for accurate research work to be done on their hobby.

It was felt that the time for purely sentimental reminiscence was past and that so much inaccurate data was being published as fact that new collectors were being misled and old ones confused by uninformed articles in all the magazines devoted to our hobby.

Therefore, thanks to the help and co-operation of our dear friend Herbert Leckenby, plus the untiring efforts of our little band, we now present our first feature.

Every list here has been compiled by one who holds the author of the stories or characters concerned in the highest esteem and has been checked, and in many cases double-checked, for accuracy by another member of the Circle who is more general in his tastes regarding Sexton Blake lore.

Thus we find that Bill Colcombe has tackled the work of G.H. Teed, checked by Norton Price of the peerless Sexton Blake Library collection, and myself whose accumulation of "Union Jacks" is quite considerable. In the same way Archie Young has worked on Anthony Skene and his fascinating Zenith. And so on and so forth....

It would be trite indeed to say that we shall be pleased should any reader trip us up in an error or errors but should you do so, please let our good Secretary, Rex Dolphin, know at once and rectification will be made to the fullest possible degree.

In the fullness of time we hope to cover the whole vast scope of Blake lore but we are not in a hurry and there is an Annual published every year!

We are not a social organisation and meet together but two or three times a year, but our aim is single and united - to put all our efforts into work that will amuse, interest and instruct our fellow collectors and above all, work that can be trusted by them to be correct in every detail and as full of accurate information as loving care and happy co-operation can make it.

If this feature only helps one collector to clear up one point of Sexton Blake lore, we shall feel it has all been worth while.

Thank you, all !

HARRY HOMER

Chairman,

The Sexton Blake Circle.

ANTHONY SKENE

Some Personal Notes by Archie Young

Mr. Anthony Skene, the creator of "Zenith", started writing for the Amalgamated Press when he was about twenty-nine. As his first "Union Jack" story (a "Zenith" yarn entitled "A Duel to the Death") was published in 1918, this would make him about sixty-three today.

Like Sexton Blake, the character Anthony Skene interprets so well, he is very reserved, so that I, who probably have had more talks with him than most other "Union Jack" readers, know actually very little about him. He plays the 'cello and, according to Mrs. Skene, the fool also. The latter statement I find hard to believe. He prefers, at any rate when with me, to talk on general subjects rather than about his work.

A few years ago he quitted writing and is now doing a surveyor's job in Wales. It is this catholicity of trade and profession that has probably enabled Skene to create such a truthful and accurate atmosphere in his yarns. The architectural background in the Sexton Blake Library story "The Case of the Swanley Viaduct" is a fine example of this.

Mr. Skene has written one or two amusing "shorts" for the Evening News and a Dixon Hewke story.

Many years ago, I met him by appointment at a Fleet Street pub, and over Whiskies and Mussels he proved an amusing and stimulating companion - one who was not only prepared to impart knowledge but, what is rarer, not ashamed to acquire it from his companion.

Mr. Skene's appearance is, of course, known to most "Union Jack" readers. What is probably not known is that he conforms very closely, in my opinion, to what the interpreter of Sexton Blake should - i.e. quiet, thoughtful, and kindly.

A. YOUNG.

25.7.1952.

TWO LETTERS OF INTEREST
FROM ANTHONY SKENE TO ARCHIE YOUNG

2/7/24.

"Woodlands",
Oakhill Gdns.,
Woodford Green, Essex.

Dear Mr. Young,

Many Thanks !

The Editor of the "Union Jack" of course receives letters from readers galore as to his yarns and most of them have something to say about Zenith.

They are not all complimentary, some are very much the reverse; but the Albino is usually liked (or disliked) very much indeed.

That shows, I think that to them, as to you - and me, Zenith is a living man. It is impossible to feel strongly about a phantom.

One likes appreciation naturally. Literary art, so far as I understand it, is translation, by means of words, from the mind of the writer to the mind of the reader, of certain interests and emotions. When I read that for you Zenith lived, I was delighted to perceive that, so far as you were concerned, I had succeeded.

In 1913, I encountered, in the West End, a true albino, a man of about fifty-five.

He was a slovenly fellow: fingers stained with tobacco, clothes soiled by dropped food, yet he was dressed expensively and had about him a look of adequacy.

I should have forgotten him in a day or so; but when, an hour afterwards and five miles away, I sat down to have my lunch, he walked in to the restaurant and sat himself within a few feet of me.

This coincidence made an impression upon my mind, and when I needed a central figure not quite so banal as Blake for the "U.J." stories, I re-created this albino fellow "moulded nearer to the heart's desire".

As I expect you will agree, Mr. Young, the lordly crook exists in most of us, only he is shackled by conventions and virtues. The Joykel-and-Hyde trick of setting him free is, of course, a trick of the writer's trade. One cannot, alas, have the excitement of a crook's brief life in actuality; but one can, vicariously, with arm-chair and cigarette, experience not only the actions thereof, but the re-actions also. But I am telling you what you have already divined.

Regarding my novels - I regret to inform you that I have written none. The disgusting truth is that novel-writing does not pay. I have planned a novel and soon I shall write it. I think it will be good but do not expect to make more than £50 out of it. That's that. I have to live, Mr. Young. Novel-writing is an expensive hobby.

Otherwise you appear to have read all my long stories. In my opinion (which is probably unreliable on the subject) the best chapters I ever wrote were the first one or two in "The Case of the Crystal-Gazer" (U.J. 889) and the best yarn "The Tenth Case" ("U.J." 842) published immediately after "A Duel to the Death" ("U.J." 837) in 1918. The Editor liked "The Case of the Crimson Curtain", published recently. ("U.J." 1022)

In addition to these "Union Jack", etc., yarns I have written nothing but newspaper articles and one or two "shorts" not worth mentioning. I have a single copy of most of my Zenith yarns but I need them frequently for reference and further copies are, I fear, largely out of print.

I am writing now an S.B. Library story of which, when it is published, I should like to send you a copy.

That I have awakened so strong an interest in one who is, obviouslyk intellectually superior to the average reader of the "Union Jack", I find both flattering and stimulating.

Sincerely yours,

(Anthony Skene)

26/2/25.

"Woodlands",
Oakhill Gdns,
Woodford Green, Essex.

Dear Mr. Young,

Many thanks for your letter of the 17th January. It is very kind of you to say all these nice things about my work, and I only wish I could feel that they were deserved.

As to my description of Sexton Blake as a Big man, here I am afraid I have made a mistake. You will realise that it is essential for us who are writing the Blake stories to make the description of Sexton Blake's character as constant as possible.

I agree with your judgment that my best "Union Jack" story is "In League Against Him".

As to the novel, I have just started that and hope to push along with it now.

A U.J. yarn generally takes me about a month to write, writing as I do, only about an hour a day. The novel, I expect, will take me six times as long, but then I propose to put my best work into that to see whether I can get the general public to endorse your kind opinion of my work.

With kind regards,
Sincerely yours,
for Anthony Skene,
(P. Morrison)

EDITOR'S NOTE

And Anthony Skene did write his novel and it lies before me on my desk. A written inscription on the title page reads:-

"To the only person (excepting myself) who thought that I might one day write a novel - Mr. A. Young.

With the regards and compliments of Anthony Skene.
September, 1932."

Truly did Archie Young as does the man in the old proverb who "pins his faith upon another's sleeve."

But unlike many such, Anthony Skene did not forget the young man who believed in him

(H.H.) 1952.

ZENITH THE ALBINO

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked by Harry Homer; the Notes by Archie Young

No.	<u>"The Union Jack"</u>
837	A Duel to the Death.
842.	The Tenth Case. (Anthony Skene reckoned this to be his best story.)
844	The Case of the Man in Motley.
847	The League of the Cobbler's Last.

(Zenith the Albino - contd.)

- 856 The Beggars' Hotel.
(Blake states in this story that he does not consider the League of the Cobbler's Last to be outside the Criminals' Confederation but a branch of it. This tale also introduces Oklahoma Sam.)
- 867 The Five Clues.
- 871 The Case of the Four Statues.
- 875 The Death Spider.
- 889 The Case of the Crystal Gazer.
(Anthony Skene considers the opening chapters of this story his best work.)
- 894 The Strange Case of the Elsingham Legend.
- 898 The Case of the Toxic Tylips.
- 919 The Thirteenth Bowl.
(This is the story of Nihil, Zenith only appearing on page 17.)
- 928 The Return of Zenith the Albino.
- 937 The Corner in Quinine.
- 954 The Case of the Five L's.
(I consider this contains Skene's best-ever fight sequence. A.Y.)
- 956 Threatened by Three. (Introduces Yvonne, Kestrel and Wu Ling.)
- 966 The Affair of the Sacred Fire.
- 969 In League Against Him. (The sequel to 956.)
- 996 The Case of the Atwell Aircraft Factory.
(There is a mention of Yvonne on Page 6 and Blake and Tinker are said to bear the numbers 11 and 12 in the British Secret Service.)
- 1000 The Thousandth Chance. (G.H.Teed's famous story of the great convention at Dr. Huxton Rymer's Sussex home, Abbey Towers.)
- 1013 On Secret Service.
(Introduces Julia Fortune of the British Secret Service. Skene never wrote of Yvonne again after "U.J" but only of Julia Fortune. In this story, Blake double-disguises himself to baffle Zenith - stripping off one disguise he is revealed as Leon Kestrel without disguise!)
- 1022 The Case of the Crimson Curtain.
(Skene's finest story in the opinion of the Editor of the "Union Jack".)
- 1025 Plague.
- 1038 X-Ine.
- 1044 The Living Mask.
- 1065 The Train of Tragedy.
- 1082 The Strange Case of the Jig-Saw Puzzle.
- 1091 The Man in Steel.
- 1098 The Wizard of Wurtz.
- 1116 Absolute Authority.
(A unique yarn in that Blake is invested by the Secret Service with an authority above that of Coutts and Scotland Yard itself. Although men at the Yard might often defer to Blake, the Yard is always officially the higher authority but not in this instance.)

- 1128 A Problem of Proof.
- 1139 The Strange Affair of the Mantel Register Grate.
- 1160 The Affair of the Crumpled Paper. (Introduces 3-0 a.m. Smith.)
- 1162 Threads of Fate. (Zenith does not appear in this story which relates the end of 3-0 a.m. Smith.)
- 1171 The Plant of Prey.
- 1174 Zenith Declares War.
- 1178 The Mystery of the Masked Rider.
- 1182 A Mystery in Motley.
(Julia Fortune plays a part here and the story is half related from the point of view of Zenith the Albino.)
- 1188 The Mystery of the Mechanical Men.
- 1216 The Affair of the Were Wolf.
- 1229 The Trail of the Nameless Three.
(Being also No.2 of the four Black Trinity stories in which Julia Fortune plays a part. The others are 1228,1230 and 1231.)
- 1240 The Case of the Friend of May Cubitt.
- 1276 The Case of the Grey Envelope.
- 1299 The Affair of the Great Seal.
- 1310 The Problem of the Broken Stick.
(Being also the second Gargoyle story. The others are 1307 and 1331.)
- 1325 The Humber Woodyard Mystery.
- 1339 The Case of the Fifth Man.
(Being also the first of the four Fifth Man series. The others are 1349, 1356 and 1382.)
- 1372 Gangsters' Gold.
- 1402 Killers' Creed.
- 1412 Green Men.
- 1419 Crooks' Warning. (In which Julia Fortune plays a part.)
- 1420 Night Birds. (Here is notable dialogue between Blake and Tinker on page 21.)
- 1486 Crook Crusaders.
(Being also No.2 of the famous Proud Tram Depot Series which ran from 1485 to 1490 inclusive and introduced many famous characters.)
- 1505 The Rain Maker.
- 1510 The Gold Maker.

Sexton Blake Library - First Series.

(List by Harry Homer, checked by Norton Price.)

- 156 The Rumanian Envoy. (Establishes that Zenith was a Romanian National)
- 255 The Albino's Double.
- 370 The Amazing Affair of the Renegade Prince.

Second Series.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 13 | The Mystery of the Swanley Viaduct. | 281 | The Vault of Doom. |
| 155 | The Mystery of the Shot P.C. | 291 | The Death of Four. |
| 173 | The Case of the Crook M.P. | 331 | The Fatal Mascot. |
| 188 | The Man Who Squealed. | 368 | The Derelict House. |
| 233 | The Gangster's Revenge. | 582 | Reprint of No.13 - Same Title. |
| 246 | The Crook's Accomplice. | 703 | Reprint of No.155 - Same Title. |

Third Series.

49 The Affair of the Bronze Basilisk.

Zenith in "Detective Weekly".

8 The Box of Ho Sen. 53 The Case of the Shuttered Room.
14 The Seven Dead Matches Mystery. 71 The Clue of the Corsican Collar.
21 Seeds of Sleep. 87 The Blinding Clue.
26 The Crime Zone.

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES OF ANTHONY SKENE - minus Zenith the Albino.

"The Union Jack"

1162 Threads of Fate.
1245 The Haunted Hotel Mystery.
1300 The Strange Affair of the Rejuvenation Club.
1317 The Croucher's Come-Back.
1321 The Broken Melody.
1389 The Headsman.
1405 The Hate Doctor.
1435 Sexton Blake Cleans Up Chicago.
1442 The Catpaw.
1464 The Fifth Stair.
1479 Wry House.

"Sexton Blake Library"
(Second Series)

44	The Affair of the Seven Warnings.	345	Green Mask.
123	The Giant City Swindle.	356	The Red Stiletto.
145	The Case of the Rejuvenated Millionaire.	374	The Circus Crime.
200	The Victim of the Waterway.	381	The Silent Menace.
206	The Radium Profiteer.	393	The £1,000,000 Plot.
225	The Riddle of the Three Marked Men.	405	The Roadhouse Murder.
261	The Death Trap.	418	Missing Man.
267	The Night Raiders.	447	The Riverside Club Murder.
273	The Legacy of Fear.	464	The Rush Hour Crime.
298	The Night Club Crime.	566	The Terror of the Tenements.
303	The Death Gang.	646	Reprint of No. 123 Same Title.
309	The Nameless Five.	692	Reprint of No. 145 Same Title.
317	Crook House.		

(Third Series.)

4 Reprint of Second Series No. 356 - Same Title.
22 The Mystery of the Bombed Hotel.
153 The Men Who Lost His Memory.

"Detective Weekly"

5, The Falcon of Farnbridge; 17, The Men Who Stole Life; 32, Death in
the Mine; 81, The Medium Murder Case; 92, The Clue on the Blotter.

GEORGE MARSDEN PLUMMER

This oldest, and in many ways, greatest of Sexton Blake's adversaries must obviously one day form the subject of a lengthy Monograph. But the amount of research work will be considerable and until this can be done the Sexton Blake Circle are happy to offer what is believed to be the first complete and authenticated list of his tilts against Sexton Blake since they first met in "Union Jack" No.222, dated 11th January, 1908, until the death of Plummer in "Detective Weekly" No.31, dated 23/September, 1933. The first story was entitled "The Men from Scotland Yard" and the last "The Secret of the Slums". These lists concern only the "U.J.", the "S.B.L." and the "D.W." Popular opinion has it that Plummer was the creation of Mark Osborne but was taken over by G. H. Teed in the middle nineteen-twenties. It is a pity to have to relate that he lost much of his character with Teed and became more an adventurer of the Dr.Huxton Rymer type without the Doctor's attractiveness rather than the green-eyed ex-Scotland Yard man turned super-crook created by Mark Osborne.

Another phase was the Sakr-el-Droog one which must also one day be written about in some detail by an interested historian.

So these sketchy notes must serve merely as introduction to the ever-important lists.

∅ The last four stories of Plummer published in the "Union Jack" form a complete little series introducing Muriel Marl, the Gang Girl, her alliance with Plummer and subsequent clash with his old consort Vali Mata Vali.

- + No.998 introduces Aubrey Dexter.
- + " 1000 is of course the story of the famous convention at Abbey Towers.
- + " 1020 introduces Dr.Huxton Rymer.
- + " 1041, 1049, 1079 and 1141 feature Plummer as Sakr-elDroog and the latter story also introduces Dr.Huxton Rymer and precedes S.B.L. "The Terror of Tangier".
- + " 1105 introduces Yvonne Cartier, Mary Trent and Dr.Huxton Rymer.

There is some confusion at this period, particularly in the case of the work of G.H. Teed, between the chronology of "Union Jack" stories and some "Sexton Blake Library" stories - for example Plummer ceased to live as Sakr-elDroog when he met Vali Mata-Vali in S.B.L. "The Tiger of Canton" and S.B.L. "The Great Canal Plot" is preceded by "U J." 1122 "The Monte Carlo Mystery". Matters are not helped by the fact that almost all the S.B.L. stories were reprinted which is why I do not give the numbers here as of course each story has two numbers. Collectors must delve into these details for themselves at present and they will find it indeed a fascinating task. Josie Packman cites another case which shows that Teed was not the only culprit. This is S.B.L. (First Series) No.92 "The Boy Without a Memory" which follows right on from "U.J." No. 772 "The Mystery of the Appeal Tribunal".

Another point about the Plummer saga which must one day be gone into in detail is that of authorship. As has been stated, this is not a Monograph but Bill Colcombe has done a certain amount of research in this direction and we hope one day that he will be in a position to amplify his conclusions.

"From what I can gather," writes Bill, "Three authors had a go at this character with Mark Osborne taking over from Mark Darran (whose real name was Norman Goddard). In fact I believe he ghosted for Darran when he first started work for the Amalgamated Press and this may account for the great similarity in their styles of writing. I had at first believed that Osborne created Plummer but Len Pratt, the Sexton Blake editor, told Walter Webb that Mark Darran (Norman Goddard) was the real creator of Plummer and that Osborne took over from him. In addition it was confirmed to me that Osborne took Plummer over from someone else by his son, Den Bobin, whom I know well."

Later of course G. H. Teed took over from Mark Osborne. Bill Colcombe gives his first Plummer in the S.B.L. as Second Series No.49 "The Case of the Bookmaker Baronet" and his first Plummer "U.J." as 1041 "The Hawk of the Peak" apart from 1000 and 1020 in which he was not the only central character. I am inclined to agree with Bill here as the Sakr-el-Droog idea does not smack of Osborne and Plummer was always more the adventurer than the super-crook after he doffed Arab robes and threw in his lot with Vali Mata-Vali in S.B.L. Second Series No. 89 "The Tiger of Canton".

But the serious student must take careful note that this is, in the words of Blake himself, "Mere speculation without a grain of fact!"

Perhaps in the future the past may be persuaded to give up its secrets!

(H.H.)

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked and revised by Harry Homer and Len Packman.

GEORGE MARSDEN PLUMMER

No.	<u>"The Union Jack"</u>	
222	The Man From Scotland Yard.	499 The Welsher.
334	The Problem of the Yellow Button.	502 The Great Safe Mystery.
342	The Mystery of Room II.	536 The Workings of Chance.
357	Plummer Versus Blake.	537 Plummer's Prisoner.
365	The Cotton Corner.	541 Plummer's White Hope.
382	The Mystery of Bleakmoor Prison.	546 The Men Who Sold His Estates.
453	The Case of the Convict Million- aire.	547 The Pursuit of Plummer.
454	The Case of the Newspaper Relief Fund.	566 Plummer At Sea.
456	The Blackmailed Detective.	574 The Case of the German Trader.
459	The Brotherhood of Twelve.	586 The Case of the Missing Reservist.
469	The Heir From Texas.	587 The Millionaire Traitor.
471	A case of Graft.	590 The Case of the Concentration Camp.
473	The Great Bank Fraud.	593 Plummer's Dilemma.
475	The Case of the £500,000 Loan.	609 The Mystery of the Mosque.
476	The Great Turf Mystery.	630 The Case of the Ludley Tiara.
480	The Price of Silence.	635 The Case of the Engleby Barrings.
484	The Secret of Bleakmoor Prison.	644 The Circle of Steel.
487	Police Constable Plummer versus Sexton Blake, Detective.	658 The Prisoner of Portillo.
490	Plummer in Society.	748 The Oil King's Secret.
491	Plummer's Gambling Den.	772 The Mystery of the Appeal Tribunal.
496	The Arbitration Swindle.	

George Marsden Plummer. "The Union Jack" (contd.)

<u>No.</u>		<u>No.</u>	
855	The Case of the Rival Promoters.	1255	The Affair of the Rotten Rails.
989	A Rogue on 'Change.	1256	The Case of the Second Goblet.
+ 998	The Case of the Doped Favourite.	1262	The Adventure of the Green Imps.
+1000	The Thousandth Chance.		
+1020	The Mystery of the Moving Mountain.	1263	The Terror of the Pit.
+1041	The Hawk of the Peak.	1264	The Treasure of the "Isabella".
+1049	The Straits of Mystery.	1306	The House of Fear.
+1079	Plummer's Missing Million.	ø 1458	The Gang Girl.
1093	Plummer's Death-Ray.	ø 1461	Spanish Gold.
+1105	Sexton Blake's Christmas Truce.	ø 1471	The Prisoner of the Harem.
+1141	The Kidnapped Correspondent.	ø 1503	Honolulu Lure.
1254	The Case of Colton's Mule.		

Sexton Blake Library - First Series.

24	The Man with the Green Eyes.	208	The Case of the Cultured Pearls.
54	The Stolen Crown.	227	In the Grip of the Tong.
57	The Case of the Two Bankers.	228	The Hooded Riders.
92	The Boy without a Memory.	249	The Case of the Bogus Laird.
103	The Stolen Partnership Papers.	276	A Legacy of Vengeance.
109	Link by Link.	293	The Mystery Mandarin.
142	Out of Reach of the Law.		

Second Series

19	The Great Canal Plot.	277	The Yellow Skull.
30	The Case of the Long-Firm Frauds.	285	The Crime of the Catacombs.
35	The Case of the Mummified Hand.	297	Gang War.
49	The Case of the Bookmaker Baronet.	310	The Crook of Costa Blanca.
77	The Terror of Tangier.	343	The House of Cellars.
89	The Tiger of Canton.	384	Rogues of Ransom.
103	The Fatal Pit.	391	The Crook's Decoy.
119	The Mystery of the Film City.	402	The Mystery of the Old Age Pensioner.
128	The Case of the Portuguese Giantess.	415	Murder in Manchuria.
129	The Adventure of the Bogus Sheik.	441	The Mystery of Cell 13.
144	The Case of the Bogus Monk.	495	The Mystery of the Cashiered Officer.
147	The Rubber Smugglers.	553	Reprint of No.30 - same title.
161	Crooks in Clover.	590	Reprint of No.19 - same title.
165	The Adventure of the Eighth Millionaire.	615	Reprint of No.77 - same title.
173	The Gunmen.	628	Reprint of No.89 - same title.
207	The Pearls of Doom.	631	Reprint of No.103 - same title.
224	The Crook of Marsden Manor.	644	Reprint of No.119 - same title.
239	Cassidy the Con-Man.	687	Reprint of No.144 - same title.
262	The Crook of Paris.	693	Reprint of No.147 - same title.
		718	Reprint of No.165 - same title.

"Detective Weekly"

- 25 Frame - Up !
31 The Secret of the Slums.

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked by Harry Homer and Len Packman.

LEON KESTREL, the Master-Mummer.
A Creation of Lewis Jackson.

<u>"The Union Jack"</u>	
<u>No.</u>	
641	The Case of the Chinese Mascot. 922 Kestrel's Intrigue.
646	The Case of the Missing Airman. 929 Prince Pretence.
651	The Case of the Aniline Formula. 956 Threatened by Three.
655	The Affair of the Dutch Merchant. by Anthony Skene.
662	The Mystery of Martin Esher. 958 The Convict Millionaire.
668	The Amazing Case of the Blind Fiddler. 961 The White Sentinel.
	969 In League Against Him.
673	The Case of the White Fugitive. by Anthony Skene.
677	The Fools' Highway. 983 Double-Crossed.
684	The Poisoned Fumes. 1000 The Thousandth Chance.
689	The Great Hoax. by G. H. Teed.
711	The Great Office Mystery. 1022 The Case of the Crimson Curtain.
815	The Strange Case of the Naval Lieutenant. by Anthony Skene.
825	The Case of the Decoy. 1024 The Return of Beaudelaire.
833	The Riddle of the Rector's Wife. 1053 The Shadow of the Past.
	1076 The Syndicate for Sale.
843	The Isle of Revenge. 1084 The Strange Case of the Runaway Surgeon.
848	Kestrel's Great Bluff. 1099 The Law of the Claw.
864	The Dance of Disaster. 1204 The Mysterious Affair of the Vanishing Stones.
886	The Case of the Bogus Judge.
890	The Mist of Sheep. 1205 The Problem of the Gardener's Cottage.
891	The Case of the Paralysed Man.
913.	The Kestrel's Prey.

List by Herbert Leckenby, checked by Norton Price.

LEON KESTREL
Sexton Blake Library.
(First Series)

86	The Red Heart of the Incas. 139	The Kestrel's Claw.
90	The Case of the Trans-Atlantic Flyers. 147	The Mystery of the X.O.4.
	155.	The False Alibi.
95	The Kestrel Syndicate. 160	Kestrel's Conspiracy.
106	The Chink in the Armour. 172	The Lady of Ravensedge.
111	The Jewels of Wu Ling. 218	The Case of the Bendigo Heirloom.
115	The Affair of the World's Champion. 238	The Fallen Star.
127	The Affair of the Oriental Doctor. 296	The House of Fear.

(Second Series)

704. The Secret of the Sacred Ruby. (by Hylton Gregory)

(Third Series)

65 The Case of the Biscay Pirate.

MONOGRAPH ON PAUL CYNOS

By Harry Homer

This short series seems to me deserving of some special attention if only for its all-round excellence in plot and characterisation on the part of Robert Murray and the very high standard attained both in covers and inside illustrations by Eric Perker. Another important point is its satisfying completeness, but of that more anon. Let us begin, as is usual on these occasions, with The List.

No.	Date	
1289	30/June/28.	The Seven Sons of Cynos.
1297	25/August/28.	A Million in Gold!
1312	8/December/28.	The Mystery of the Black Van.
1327	23/March/29.	Are You Paul Cynos?
1338	8/June/29.	I Defy!
1350	31/August/29.	King's Evidence!
1359	2/November/29.	Retribution!

We can now see that this series of only seven stories was spread over nearly a year and a half or an average of but one episode almost every six months. Whether this was editorial policy or slow rate of production by the author, we cannot say; it may even have been that there was a spate of good contributions rolling in to the office as the standard of that period was uniformly high. It was eight months since Robert Murray had finished the Dr. Satire series and in that time Furg the Fur-Man came and went as did two short series of George Marsden Plummer and Waldo the Peril Expert stories as well as Lola de Guise, Captain Christmas, Mr. Mist and Peter the Spider - all these also more or less in the new form of not less than two or more than eight yarns to a series. Teed, Skene, Murray, Brooks, Chester, Evans, Hardinge and others were all writing at this time and the Editor must have been a very happy man. Yes, it was a rich, interesting and varied period and I can quite understand why many collectors rate it as the best in the history of "The Union Jack", although I am inclined to prefer 1913 to 1916. But this after all is but a matter of personal taste and the main task of a critic must always be to keep an attitude of strict impartiality.

Thus the preamble, but it has not been possible this year despite requests that I tackle such giants as George Marsden Plummer, Zenith the Albino, Prince Wu Ling or Leon Kestrel, to say nothing of Dr. Huxton Rymer, to attempt a full-length monograph.

But their turn will surely come

So when my mind began to rove over the smaller canvasses from Henri Garock, the Snake, to the Mysterious Mr. Mist of later days, I finally fixed upon Paul Cynos.

Here we have perhaps the almost perfect series...

From a slow start these seven stories, when looked at as one entity, work through a series of really tremendous climaxes, to a complete and satisfactory finish.

This is an event all too rare in Sextor Blake lore and it is a pity for posterity's sake that, even when he had got a finished theme,

Robert Murray did not take the trouble to hide the two weak spots. Of course we realise now that he was writing for the sake of money rather than posterity, but even so there was such a thing as taking a pride in one's job in those days even if it is a lost habit now.

The fact remains that in the very first story it is only hinted that Mr. Latimer Biggs, K.C. had a family connection with the house of Cynos. I have read and reread the back cover, page 28, of the first tale ("U.J." No.1289) and maintain that Murray left the issue very open indeed as to whether or not Sexton Blake had unmasked one or two of the Seven Sons of Cynos. That, again, is always a matter of opinion.

In an attempt to make quite sure of this, I went through the books again and made out another list - of Sons and numbers this time. This however only served to further cloud the issue because I came across another major error which I had failed to notice in the reading.

In the penultimate story (1338), Malcolm Burton is recaptured following the great break from Brixton Prison, but in the last story (1359) he is found giving himself up to Sexton Blake outside Scotland Yard!

Making all due allowances for poetic or literary license, this is bad charftsmanship - and in a series which I have already described as a model one! Yes, he might have made a further escape which is not mentioned in the text and there are one or two other ways in which we might get round the fact that an escaped man at the end of one story is free to give himself up at the start of the next - but nothing will convince me that the explanation is anything but one of carelessness.

But here at least is the list of the Seven Sons, their occupations and the numbers of the stories in which they first were unmasked by Sexton Blake: -

- 1289 John Selby Waite, Home Secretary.
- 1289 Mr. Latimer Biggs, K.C.
- 1297 Edgar Reid, Manager, Meldrum Street branch of National British Bank, (In this story too, we first meet the twin brother (or very nearly so...) of Paul - the scornful Maximus Cynos.
- 1312 Malcolm Burton, head of the Steadfast Insurance Company.
- 1312 Professor Septimus Cos, the Scientist - making five sons met with in four stories.
- 1327 Detective-Sergeant Siburn, C.I.D.

We meet no new sons in 1338 but have Blake and Coutts worried as to the identity of the last one who comes to light in the last story -

- 1359 in the person of Dr. Harper Garrick.

Now if the eagle eye of the historian notes that the distribution of the seven sons is carried out in an uneven manner throughout the series then so is that of the victims.

- 1289 sees Jabex Knowland, erstwhile partner of Paul Cynos, brought to book.
- 1297 Sir Harley James, once chief witness, now head of British National Bank.
- 1312 has Malcolm Burton, foreman of the jury which convicted Paul Cynos, (another example of hurried weakness this, I feel...) now revealed as a son whose Insurance Company is held to ransom for £250,000.

1327 Has as victim Mr. Justice Swain - the judge of sixteen years before.

There is no victim in either 1338 nor in 1359 but the story between sees the Counsel for the Crown, Sir Thursby Thomas, K.C. as the object of Paul Cynos' hate and lust for vengeance.

One feels that Robert Murray somewhere fell between the two stools of using the father and his seven unknown sons as instruments of vengeance or of making them into a tremendous criminal combine on the lines of the Confederation, to which there is indeed one reference in the series, as there is also to Dr. Satira.

But here are all the weaknesses - the rest is all imagining most lofty!

We have the usual slow Murray opening to the series with a good build-up of mystery and hints of thrills to come - all brought out in the first story which surely has one of the best titles and finest covers in the whole long fifteen-hundred-odd range of "The Union Jack". The sons are not so much featured here but we meet a daughter and of course learn much of Paul Cynos himself. We learn also of the Wolf's Head which plays a very big part in the second episode. Then the motto of the House of Cynos, "Lupus Est Homo Homini", which rightly means that Man is a wolf towards Man in the literal translation, but is better rendered by Robert Murray in the more free "Men Preys on Men".

Historians will get a shock here, I did at any rate, when they meet one Bill Higgins, brother-in-law to George Coutts and who calls the Yard men "Erb" of all things! Has anybody met Bill in further tales? He sets us a neat little problem almost in the vein of Larry Plummer!

Again a fine cover to this second story and a really splendid bank robbery with Blake just coming out on top in a cut-and-thrust battle of wits when he plays an ace to save the gold but is trumped by a further ace from Cynos who saves himself!

Number Three is perhaps the highlight of the series and the devastation of London by means of breaking glass, an idea worthy of the highest type of thriller fiction. Many will also rate it as the best-written story ever to come from Robert Murray. The humour and intimacy of the rooms in Baker Street leading up to the unseen shattering of the glass of whisky and soda and the mention of Dirk Dolland's picture on the wall; contrast against the dinner at the Hotel Magnificent in Piccadilly with its atmosphere of luxury and gastronomical well-being leading up to the spreading of the splintering glass on all sides and the subsequent chaos throughout the West End of London and even beyond, and one finds a standard of writing very high for such a humble paper - since 1946 I have paid three half-crowns for a less thrilling idea and a far worse-written development of it. It is possible that Coutts is made at times a little too obtuse but we adult critics must remember that we write of stories which were written for boys or for men of no very great intellect. Two habits of grammar certainly irritate - the continual use of an adverb "puzzledly" and the word "effectually" for "effectively". The first is indeed an ugly word but Murray loved to use it! Illustrations all through this number are the very highest standard of Eric Parker.

This high standard of writing and novelty of idea is carried on in the next tale as is the high quality of illustration. Students of Blake lore have often discussed at club meetings, over tea-table and bar or in

the quiet of private homes that wretched problem of the author of the last Confederation story. Maybe there are still a few who believe that Murray wrote it - then let them read the middle column on page four of "U.J." 1327. And thereafter hold their peace! Here surely is one of the best Baker Street scenes of them all - including those of Gwyn Evans. Has dear old Coutts ever been better portrayed? And the firm deep relationship between the two? In this story also Sir Henry Fairfax plays quite a part as does Scotland Yard itself. A slow start with London in an uneasy quiet, a rising tempo through excitement and sensation to great and grave disaster and a dramatic finish with the whole of Scotland Yard itself half-destroyed, baffled and at bay! What more do you want for your twopence, boys, the spaceships and germbombs of 1952?

"I Defy!" carries on right from where the last story ended although the poor old reader had to wait from the 23rd of March until the 8th of June to get it. This time the interest in the series is shown by a new departure - the series is billed on the title-page as the "fifth episode in the Blake-Cynos campaign", the titles, but not the numbers, of the previous stories are given and it is announced that the series is illustrated throughout by E. R. Parker. The trial scene is splendid if rather reminiscent of the great Mr. Reece trial of Confederation days and the whole story a further chapter of what has gone before - in fact, it should hardly be described as a story in itself at all. A ding-dong battle of wits.

The penultimate episode gives us the great break from Brixton Prison but the final chapter, with Cynos certified insane and going to a ghastly death in the last chapter after which Blake establishes his sanity, comes as rather an anti-climax.

But any end to such a very high standard of series would come as that and I repeat my contention that the short Paul Cynos series deserves to stand very high in the list of those who make up our gallery of Sexton Blake characterisations.

Pity that I must write it down as the last worth-while work done by Robert Murray for the "Union Jack". So let us then be all the more thankful for it!

(Harry Homer.)
August, 1952.

=====

THE SEXTON BLAKE WORKS OF EDWY SEARLES BROOKS IN "THE UNION JACK"
AND "THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY"

With some Notes on certain characters created and used by him, in particular Rupert Waldo, the Wonder-Man; Nelson Lee and Eustace Cavendish. The Lists by Bob Blythe and Herbert Leckenby, additions by Ronald Rouse; the checking by Len Packman and Harry Homer; the Notes by Bob Blythe; the whole edited by Harry Homer.

It is hoped that this portion of our feature will help to clear up many obscure points which have long worried collectors, not only of Sexton Blake lore but also our friends and rivals who favour the adventures of Blake's greatest rival - Nelson Lee, the man from Gray's Inn Road, and his ebullient young assistant, Nipper.

There are indeed many who do not realise what a lot of Sexton Blake

work was done by Edwy Searles Brooks and many more who are ignorant of the many occasions when Blake and Lee worked together in such close and pleasant harmony. Had not the latter elected to settle down at St. Frank's, who knows but that there might someday have been formed the greatest anti-crime partnership on a permanent basis ever seen in our society? But it was not to be and as the cobwebs gathered in Gray's Inn Road, so the man from Baker Street saw less and less of his friend at St. Frank's although on two occasions ("U.J.'s 777 & 794) Sexton Blake and Tinker paid visits to the famous school.

But it must not be thought that Brooks was the first author to record the joint cases of the two famous detectives because it was Robert Murray in "U.J." 683, "In Double Harness", who wrote of their initial meeting on a case although they were old friends at the club or over a dinner table. And Walter Webb has written of a very early collaboration between them in Edwardian times! The association between the two is fully gone into by Murray on Page Seven of this story in "U.J." 688. Brooks in his first collaboration story ("U.J." 768) slides gently into this with a statement by Tinker on Page Ten that Lee is "-one of the gov'nor's best friends." Later when they find they are both engaged on the same case Blake offers to withdraw but Lee suggests they work together.

Now it should be mentioned here that your editor has experienced some little difficulty in classifying Brooks' work in the early stages. It is clear to us who are now historians that he much preferred writing in the first person. This fact is far more evident in the "Nelson Lee Library" than in his "Union Jack" work. But at the time of writing I feel that he was experimenting and although series after series were started in the "U.J." which I have classified according to the cover sub-titles, parts of many other stories are narrated by Tinker or Nipper, sometimes in the form of letters from one to the other; others in straight first person writing.

The main separations I have managed to establish are as follows with the abbreviations used by the side of the titles in the Lists:-

Tinker's Case Diary	T. C-D.
Letters between Tinker and Nipper	L.T.N..
Sexton Blake's Case-Book	S.B. C-B.
Tinker's Letter-File	T. L-F.
Narrative by Tinker	N.B.T.
Narrative by Sexton Blake	N.S.B.

In addition to these, for those who are keen on detail I have noted the following, also with abbreviations:-

Featuring Nelson Lee	F.N.L.
Eustace Cavendish	E.C.
Waldo (A) ... the Wonder-Man and Crook	W.(A).
Waldo (B) ... the Robin Hood of Crime	W.(B).
Waldo (C) ... the Peril Expert	W.(C).
Waldo (D) ... the relapse into Crime	W.(D).

The numbers of the two stories in which St. Frank's is featured are both marked by asterisks.

Bob Blythe, who worked out most of the detail on this feature, notes "U.J."s 1219 to 1222 (inclusive) as being the transitional period from

Waldo as a Robin Hood of crime into his phase as a Peril Expert; this short series depicts him as a Professional Avenger.

E. S. Brooks had his own Scotland Yard man in the shape of Chief Detective-Inspector Lennard, a genial hearty type with plenty of hard common-sense.

It might save many queries if we included here Bob Blythe's comment on Rupert Waldo's son, Stanley. He first appears in the Nelson Lee Library (First Series) No. 175 "Waldo, the Wonder-Boy". In this story, Nipper says of him:-

"My gov'nor knows Mr. Waldo fairly well," said Nipper keenly, "Well, we're always learning something, aren't we? This is the first time I knew that Mr. Waldo had a son."

Stanley looked rather thoughtful.

"Well, as a matter of fact, I haven't long known that I had a father," he admitted. "Two years ago I knew practically nothing of my parentage. I was in a preparatory school and I thought that both my parents were dead. It's only recently that my father made himself known to me."

"What was the idea?" asked Handforth curiously.

"Well, until two years ago (The date of this story is 7/9/29 - B.B.) my father was - well, he wasn't earning an honest living," said Stanley quietly, "But now he's the Peril Expert (First Peril Expert story in "U.J." dated 21/1/28; last Waldo Crook story in "U.J." dated 19/3/27 so it checks fairly enough - H.H.) and he's a man of honour and honesty. He saw no reason why he should keep me in the dark any longer and so he claimed me as his own."

Bob Blythe, and I agree with him, thinks this quite a plausible explanation but finds himself left wondering who acted as the boy's ward during those years and where he spent his holidays, etc. Bob does not think he was meant to last longer than his father's career as a Peril Expert as he disappears from the "Nelson Lee" before Waldo Senior's reversion to crime.

There is no mention of a mother but Bob and myself feel that some tragedy lurks behind one of Rupert Waldo's frequent sojourns on the Continent where the marriage presumably took place there being no record of it at Somerset House and we do not feel that Stanley would have been accepted at St. Frank's had he been born under a bar sinister!

Lastly a reminder that 1490 is the last of the Proud Tram Depot Series.

If they do nothing else, I think that these Notes show the character of Rupert Waldo to be far better drawn and more fully developed than is thought by many collectors who dismiss him merely as a crook possessed of enormous strength and an immunity to pain. Those who read the notes and supplements to the old "U.J." will remember that many is the scientific explanation offered, sometimes by very high authority, for some of the feats set down to the credit of the Wonder-Man.

After all, he did attain to the high office of Deputy Commissioner when Sexton Blake was appointed Chief Commissioner of Scotland Yard ("U.J."s 1425 and 1433) - and with equal powers too!

H.H.

SEXTON BLAKE STORIES BY EDWY SEARLES BROOKS

(Lists by Bob Blythe and Herbert Leckenby, additions by Ronald Rouse; checked by Len Packman, the Notes by Bob Blythe; the whole edited by Harry Homer.)

"The Union Jack"

No.		
446	The Coffee Stall Mystery.	
720	'Twixt Sunset and Dawn.	T. C-D.
726	The Riddle of Yew Hollow	T. C-D.
729	The Valley of Crags.	T. C-D.
733	The Secret of the Third Panel.	T. C-D.
737	The Peril of the Trehernes.	
738	Run to Earth.	
750	Rescued by Aeroplane.	T. C-D.
768	The Mount Stoneham Murder Mystery.	F.N.L.
771	The Mystic Cypher.	F.N.L.
774	The Dual Detectives.	F.N.L.
777*	The Flashlight Clue.	F.N.L.
781	The Case of the American Soldier.	T. C-D.
784	The Crooks of Rapid Hollow.	F.N.L.
786	The Terror of Trevis Wold.	F.N.L.
788	The Studded Footprints.	F.N.L.
793	The Case of the Hollow Dagger	F.N.L.; L.T.N.
794*	Waldo, the Wonder-Men.	W.(A); T. C-D; F.N.L.
796	Hoodwinked!	F.N.L.; N.S.B.
798	The Case of the Five Hairs.	W.(A); N.B.T.
799	The Clue of the Frozen Knife.	F.N.L.; T. L-F.
800	The Affair of the Bronze Monkey.	S.B. C-B.
801	The Shanghaied Detective.	W.(A); N.B.T.
805	The Case of the Stacey Rubies.	W.(A); F.N.L.; N.B.T.
810	The Clue of the Second Bullet.	T. L-F.
813	The Riddle of Quinton Grange.	Partly T. L-F.
817	The Great Spiritualism Case.	W.(A); F.N.L.; N.B.T.
831	The Valley of Lost Men.	T. L-F.
859	The Mystery of the Gnarled Oak.	T. L-F.
862	Tinker's Big Case.	N.B.T.
865	The Clue of the Green Stain.	W.(A).
870	The Mystery of the 9-12 Express.	T. L-F.
874	The Chessington Towers Mystery.	
888	The Human Link.	W.(A).
892	The Case of the Chinese Antique.	W.(A).
942	In the Grip of Waldo.	W.(A).
948	The Wonder-Man's Challenge.	W.(B).
962	Rupert Waldo - Stuntist.	W.(B).
1054	The Flaming Spectre of Cloome.	W.(B).
1077	The Electric Man.	W.(B).
1104	The Leopard of Droone.	W.(B).
1118	The Affair of the Roman Relics	W.(B).
1131	The Pauper of Pengarth Castle.	W.(B).
1132	The Curse of Pengarth Castle.	W.(B).

No.		
1135	The Great Stadium Sensation.	W.(B).
1219	Waldo's Wonder Stunt.	W.(B). -1.
1220	The Affair of the Professional Avenger.	W.(B). -2.
1221	The Case of the Second Blackmailer.	W.(B). -3.
1222	The Lightning-Flash Mystery.	W.(B). -4.
1266	The Affair of the Bronze Mirror.	W.(C). -1.
1267	The Diamonds of Devil Pool.	W.(C). -2.
1268	Jungle Justice.	W.(C). -3.
1320	The Case of the Shrivelled Men.	W.(C).
1322	The Captive of the Crag.	W.(C).
1354	The Case of the Three Black Cats.	E.C.
1357	Terror by Night.	W.(C); E.C.
1358	The Death Snare	W.(C).
1364	The Frozen Man Mystery.	E.C.
1384	Quivering Steel.	E.C.
1425	The Red-Hot Racketeers.	W.(C); E.C.
1433	Sexton Blake on the Spot.	W.(C); E.C.
1490	The Mystery of Blind Luke.	W.(C).
1499	Once a Crook . . .	W.(D).
1501	Waldo's Way Out.	W.(D).
1507	Red Sand.	W.(D); E.C.
1516	Sexton Blake's Understudy.	W.(D).
1528	The House of Light.	W.(D).
1530	Village Vengeance.	W.(D).

SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY
(First Series)

6	The Red Spider.	
12	The Peril of the Prince.	
13	The Case of the Twin Detectives.	
33	The House with the Double Moat.	
374	In the Night Watch.	W.(B).

(Second Series)

33	The Impersonators.	W.(B).
43	The Riddle of the Lascar's Head.	
406	The Black Dagger.	
559	The Midnight Lorry Crime.	
641	The Three Frightened Men.	
683	Reprint of No.33, (Second Series)- Same Title.	W.(B).
744	Reprint of No.374 (First Series) - Same Title.	W.(B).

(Third Series)

6	The Riddle of the Body on the Road. Detective Weekly	
11	The Hollow Giant.	W.(B).
19	The Tree-Top Murder.	W.(B).
28	The Hired Avenger.	W.(B).
33	The Pool of Escape	E.C.
48	From Information Received.	W.(B).
54	The Riddle of the Five Strange Guests.	W.(B).
66	The Mystery of the Miser Landlord.	
93	A Secret from the Thames.	
99	Murder on the Midnight Coach.	

THE SEXTON BLAKE WORKS OF GEORGE H. MILTON TEED
IN THE "UNION JACK" AND "THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY"

With some Notes on certain characters created by him, the List by Bill Colcombe, checked by Len Packman and Harry Homer; the Notes by Bill Colcombe and Harry Homer.

G. H. Teed perhaps of all the Sexton Blake authors created the longest list and the most varied gallery of characters. Some of them, like Yvonne Cartier and Dr. Huxton Rymer, were giants of their kind and ran through the stories for year upon year; others, like June Severance and Prince Menes, just failed to ring the bell and were thrown into the discard without compunction. The one failing of this fine author was that he seldom brought a series or a character to a definite end - they just stopped appearing in his stories. Another point about him was that Teed would have none of Couetts but had his own Scotland Yard man in Inspector Thomas.

Many will say that his greatest creation was Yvonne Cartier who was written of at length in last year's "Annual".[‡] Others will submit that the colourful Dr. Huxton Rymer towers head and shoulders above them all.

She came nearest of all to featuring at times in series which may be called complete, such as the first eight Teed stories published in the "U.J." which are now known as the Vengeance series. Again, she featured in the Island Colony series starting with 631 as the first of four. Later came the "Mademoiselle Yvonne, Consultant" run starting with 963 which was a series of complete stories rather than a series. Lastly she played a part in the Nirvana stories.

The origin of Dr. Huxton Rymer and his first meeting with Sexton Blake is shrouded still in mystery but in 488 "When Greek Meets Greek" it is quite clear that the two have met before but it could not possibly have been in the pages of the "Union Jack". This is a point which the Sexton Blake Circle hope very much to clear up on day and would welcome any authentic information on the subject.

Prince Wu Ling was a great character and must some day be the subject of a detailed Monograph but his Egyptian counterpart, Prince Menes, never measured anywhere up to the splendid characterisation of the Chinaman. He ran to only six stories in the "U.J." - four between 722 and 731 then a long gap until 1067 and 1112/13.

Somehow Teed seemed to draw bad women rather better than he did good ones. June Severance was a pallid wraith compared to Yvonne when the latter was on the wrong side of the law, while the exotic Marie Galante and the vivid Vali Meta-Vali flamed beside the wishy-washy Nirvana. Mary Trent was the only well-drawn sympathetic woman of Teed's, and Muriel Marl the only successful effort to create a really modern woman, and she only ran to four stories with George Marsden Plummer. It is of interest to note here that Marie Galante was introduced in "U.J." 984 as a new character, whereas she and Blake had of course met in 710!

[‡] See "Monograph on Yvonne Cartier" by Harry Homer.

Other Teed characters were discarded when their types became out of date such as the aristocratic Baron Beuremon, the financier Hammerton Palmer and the melodramatic Black Rat and Black Eagle. John Potter seemed to be a feeble effort to find a lover for Yvonne and was doomed to failure from the start.

Lastly came Baron von Kravitch but too late in the day to make much impression as by then the era of greatness in our boys' papers was on the wane.

Another oddity is that Teed gave Plummer a brother, Larry, in S.B.L. Second Series No. 418, but this also was quite late in the day.

Mary Trent joined Rymer in S.B.L. First Series No. 253.

Vali Mata-Vali teamed up with Plummer in S.B.L. Second Series No. 89.

The Three Musketeers (Algy Somerton, Archie Pherison and Roger Featherston) first appeared in "U.J." No. 977 and first met their vicious benefactor, Matthew Cardolak, in "U.J." 1018.

Another great strength of Teed's was his minor characters.

Hong Lo Soo, the genial Chinese merchant of Packers Court; Sir Gordon Sadler or Hsui Fsi, the mystery man of San Francisco and even minnows such as Joe Morris ("U.J." 1100), Kelly the giant doorman at the Hotel Venetia, Madame Goupolis the Greek adventuress and a dozen more all came to life when he called upon them.

REPRINTS

Reprints mentioned in the Lists are the same as the originals, and may be read as such, but we have ignored the later "Detective Weeklies" as the stories were so much re-written as to bear little resemblance to the originals.

CHRONOLOGY

As mentioned in the Notes which precede the George Marsden Plummer Lists, either Teed or his editors, had the habit of popping a story into the Sexton Blake Library which had a direct bearing on one or more "Union Jacks". One example is of "U.J."s 714 and 718 which are sequels whose action directly follows on in S.B.L. (First Series) "The Diamond Sunburst" which is the last appearance in either Library of Jim Potter and/or The Black Rat.

Another difficulty is presented by "U.J." 1172, "The Clue of the Cracked Footprint". This Rymer story is a reprint of S.B.L. (First Series) No. 360, "The Case of the Jade-Handled Knife".

A Note may be made that "U.J." 1100 precedes 1122 which in its turn is an introductory story to S.B.L. (Second Series) No. 19 which was later reprinted as No. 590 - "The Great Canal Plot".

Also that S.B.L. (First Series) No. 233, "The Diamond Dragon" was a reprint of "U.J." No. 493 of the same title.

G. H. TEED'S WORK IN "THE UNION JACK"

No.

485	Beyond Reach of the Law.	Yvonne Cartier.
488	When Greek Meets Greek.	Yvonne Cartier & Dr. Huxton Rymer.
492	On the Brink of Ruin.	Yvonne Cartier.
493	The Diamond Dragon.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
495	Settling Day.	Yvonne Cartier.

<u>No.</u>		
498	A Minister of the Crown.	Yvonne Cartier.
501	The Detective Airman.	Yvonne Cartier.
505	The Missing Guests.	Yvonne Cartier.
507	The Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle.	Prince Wu Ling.
509	By Right of Possession.	Yvonne Cartier.
510	The Idol's Spell.	Wu Ling.
512	The Yellow Sphinx	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer, Wu Ling.
518	The Black Jewel Case.	Yvonne Cartier.
519	The White Mandarin.	Wu Ling.
526	The Yellow Octopus.	Dr. Huxton Rymer, Wu Ling.
528	The Mystery of Walla Walla.	Yvonne Cartier.
529	The Sacred Sphere.	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer, Wu Ling.
543	The Grey Domino.	Yvonne Cartier.
548	The Case of the Radium Patient.	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer.
552	Pirated Cargo.	Wu Ling.
555	The Council of Eleven.	Baron Beauremon.
558	The Death Club.	Yvonne Cartier, Hammerton Palmer.
559	The Lost King.	The Council of Eleven.
560	The Mountaineer's Secret.	The Council of Eleven.
564	The Crimson Pearl.	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer, San and The Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle.
571	A Fight for an Earldom.	The Council of Eleven.
573	The Sweater's Punishment.	Yvonne Cartier.
576	The Refugee.	The Council of Eleven.
579	A Voice from the Dead.	San and the Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle.
582	The Great Cigarette Mystery.	Yvonne Cartier.
584	A Soldier - and a Men.	Yvonne Cartier.
588	The Case of the German Colony.	
591	The Mystery of the Banana Plantation.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
594	The Coniston Diamonds.	The Council of Eleven.
596	The Case of the Poisoned Telephone.	Wu Ling.
597	The Army Contract Swindle.	Yvonne Cartier.
599	The Vengeance of the Eleven.	The Council of Eleven.
607	The Quest of the Grey Panther.	Wu Ling.
613	Scoundrels All.	Dr.Huxton Rymer & The Council of Eleven.
614	The Secret of Kilchester Towers.	Yvonne Cartier.
616	Bribery and Corruption.	Hammerton Palmer.
618	Sexton Blake - Pirate.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
622	The Case of the Cabinet Minister.	
631	The Man with the Scarred Neck.	Yvonne Cartier, Bob Cartier.
633	Fugitive From Justice.	Yvonne Cartier.
639	At the Turn of the Hour.	Yvonne Cartier.
656	The Island of Fear.	Yvonne Cartier.
663	The Case of the Missing Princess.	
669	A Corner in Vanilla.	Yvonne Cartier.
685	The Blue God.	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer and Hammerton Palmer.
692	The Sunken Schooner.	Yvonne Cartier, Dr.Huxton Rymer.
697	The Broken Span.	Yvonne Cartier, Jim Potter.

<u>No.</u>		
701	The Black Rat.	Yvonne Cartier, The Black Rat.
703	The Emerald Necklace.	
706	The Crest of the Flood.	Yvonne Cartier, Jim Potter.
707	The Opium Smugglers.	The Black Rat.
710	At the Full of the Moon.	Marie Galante.
712	The Case of Extradition.	The Black Rat.
714	The Three Millionaires.	Yvonne Cartier, Jim Potter.
715	Uncut Diamonds.	The Black Rat.
718	The Case of the Lorimer Twins.	The Black Rat.
722	The Case of Re-Incarnation.	Prince Menes.
723	The Secret Hand.	Prince Menes.
727	The Pearls of Silence.	Professor Lawrence Haswell.
728	The Case of the Crimson Terror.	Prince Menes.
731	The Invisible Ray.	Prince Menes.
933	The Treasure of Kao-Hang.	
959	The Case of the Polish Refugees.	Yvonne Cartier.
963	The Case of the Patagonian Devil.	Yvonne Cartier.
964	A Chinese Puzzle.	Yvonne Cartier.
965	The Black Vendetta.	Yvonne Cartier.
971	Count Flamberg's Crime.	Yvonne Cartier.
977	The Wireless Telephone Clue.	The Three Musketeers.
980	The Winfield Handicap Case.	Yvonne Cartier & Dr.Huxton Rymer.
981	Sexton Blake's Blunder.	Yvonne Cartier and Dr.Huxton Rymer.
982	The Case of the Rickshaw Coolie.	Dr.Huxton Rymer.
984	The Voodoo Curse.	Dr.Huxton Rymer and Marie Galante.
986	The White Rajah.	
990	The Broken Circle.	Yvonne Cartier.
991	The Bandit of Bruyeres.	The Three Musketeers.
994	The Soap Salvors.	Yvonne Cartier and Dr.Huxton Rymer.
997	The Mystery of the Big Woods.	
1000	The Thousandth Chance.	The Convention at Abbey Towers of almost all Blake's adversaries and the first of a Wu Ling series.
1001	The Diamond Special.	The Three Musketeers.
1004	The Palace of Mystery.	The Three Musketeers.
1008	The Strange Legacy.	
1014	The Pearls of Benjamasin.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
1015	The Painted Window.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
1016	The Brand of the I.D.B.	Yvonne Cartier.
1017	The Case of the Indian Fakir.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
1018	The Sceptre of Solomon.	The Three Musketeers.
1020	The Mystery of the Moving Mountain.	Dr.Huxton Rymer and George Marsden Plummer.
1023	The Tabu of Confucius.	Prince Wu Ling.
1026	The Slave of the Thieves' Market.	Prince Wu Ling.
1028	Tinker - Wireless Operator.	
1031	The Adventure of the Giant Bean.	Prince Wu Ling.
1033	The Hyena of Paris.	A Tale without Tinker.
1035	The Affair of the Lacquered Walnut.	Bryant Kennedy.
1040	Bail Up!	

- 1041 The Hawk of the Peak. George Marsden Plummer.
- 1042 The Case of the Crippled Monk. The Three Musketeers.
- 1043 The Case of the Golden Pebble. Yvonne Cartier.
- 1047 Huxton Rymer - President. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1048 The Black Eagle. The Black Eagle.
- 1049 The Straits of Mystery. George Marsden Plummer.
- 1050 The Case of the Six Rubber Balls. Marie Galante.
- 1064 The Street of Many Lanterns. Yvonne Cartier, Prince Wu Ling.
- 1066 The Green Portfolio. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1067 The Mummy's Twin. Prince Menes.
- 1079 Plummer's Missing Million. George Marsden Plummer.
- 1081 The Lizard Man.
- 1083 The Quest of the Jewelled Globe. The Three Musketeers.
- 1086 The Case of the Strange Sickness. Prince Wu Ling.
- 1089 The Case of the Missing Athlete.
- 1090 Rogues of the "Revontazin".
- 1096 The Affair of the Yellow Bricks. Yvonne Cartier.
- 1100 The Latin Quarter Mysteries. Joe Morris - precedes 1122.
- 1105 Sexton Blake's Christmas Tree. Yvonne Cartier, Dr. Huxton Rymer,
Mary Trent, George Marsden Plummer.
- 1109 The Affair of the Tartan Box. Yvonne Cartier.
- 1110 The Affair of Tortoise Island. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Marie Galante.
- 1112 The Adventure of the Blue Bowl. Yvonne Cartier & Prince Menes.
- 1113 The House on the Cliff. Yvonne Cartier & Prince Menes.
- 1114 The Crime of Stanley Traill.
- 1120 The Case of the Living Head. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1121 The Affair of the Empress' Little Finger. Hong Ho Soo & Hsui-Fsi.
- 1122 The Monte Carlo Mystery. The Black Eagle - see Notes.
- 1129 The Man Who Won the "Calcutta". Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1141 The Kidnapped Correspondent. Dr. Huxton Rymer & George Marsden
Plummer.
- 1145 The Affair of the Walnut Desk.
- 1147 The Adventures of the Five Giants. The Three Musketeers.
- 1148 The Green Rose. Yvonne Cartier.
- 1149 Tinker's Secret. Yvonne Cartier and Nirvana.
- 1150 The Loyalty of Nirvana. Nirvana.
- 1156 Vendetta. Nirvana.
- 1159 Nirvana's Secret. Nirvana.
- 1161 The Mystery of the Painted Slippers. Nirvana & Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1166 The Lumber Looters.
- 1168 Nirvana's Ordeal. Nirvana.
- 1170 The Adventures of the Bowery Tar-Baby. The Black Eagle.
- 1172 The Clue of the Cracked Footprint. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1177 The Case of the Stricken Outpost. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 1194 The Mystery of the Man from Manilla.
- 1198 The Mystery of Room No. 7. Nirvana.
- 1199 The Case of the Sheffield Ironmaster. Nirvana.
- 1200 The Affair of the Derelict Grange. Nirvana.
- 1201 The Mystery of the Venetian Palace. Nirvana, Yvonne Cartier.
- 1202 The Clue of the Two Straws. Nirvana, Yvonne Cartier.
- 1203 A Mystery of the Mountains. Nirvana, Yvonne Cartier.

1208	The Adventure of the Two Devils.	Nirvana, Yvonne Cartier.
1218	The Mystery of Black Dan's Treasure.	Mention of Marie Galante.
1224	The Adventure of the Yellow Beetle.	Prince Wu Ling.
1225	The Temple of Many Visions.	Prince Wu Ling.
1226	Doomed to the Dragon.	Prince Wu Ling.
1227	The House of the Wooden Lanters.	Prince Wu Ling.
1254	The Case of Colton's Mule.	George Marsden Plummer.
1255	The Affair of the Rotten Rails.	George Marsden Plummer.
1256	The Clue of the Second Goblet.	George Marsden Plummer.
1262	The Adventure of the Green Imps.	George Marsden Plummer.
1263	The Terror of the Pit.	George Marsden Plummer.
1264	The Treasure of the "Isabella".	George Marsden Plummer.
1291	The Legion of the Lost.	
1305	Poisoned Blossoms.	June Severance.
1306	The House of Fear.	June Severance.
1309	The Affair of the Six Ikons.	June Severance.
1311	The Case of the Scented Orchid.	June Severance.
1315	The Case of the Captive Emperor.	June Severance.
1318	Presumed Dead.	June Severance.
1368	The Twilight Feather Case.	Dr. Huxton Rymer, Mary Trent.
1378	They Shall Repay!	Roxane Harfield.
1380	The Man from Devil's Island.	Roxane Harfield.
1383	The Brute of Saigon.	Roxane Harfield.
1388	Hunted Down.	Roxane Harfield.
1390	Jungle Justice.	Roxane Harfield.
1391	Forestalled.	Roxane Harfield.
1396	Blackmail.	Roxane Harfield.
1397	Shanghaied.	Roxane Harfield.
1401	Sinister Mill.	Roxane Harfield.
1410	The Shuttered Room.	Roxane Harfield.
1418	The Man from Chicago.	
1421	Voodoo Vengeance.	Dr. Huxton Rymer & Marie Galante.
1432	Black Spaniard Creek.	Roxane Harfield.
1438	Yellow Guile.	Dr. Huxton Rymer, Mary Trent and Prince Wu Ling.
1445	Pearls of Peril.	Roxane Harfield.
1447	Bootleg Island.	Roxane Harfield.
1448	Piracy!	Roxane Harfield.
1450	Gangland's Decree.	Roxane Harfield.
1452	Lonely Farm.	Roxane Harfield.
1454	Doomed to Devil's Island.	Roxane Harfield.
1458	The Gang Girl.	George Marsden Plummer & Muriel Marl.
1461	Spanish Gold.	George Marsden Plummer, Muriel Marl and Vali Mata-Vali.
1465	Doomed Ships.	Dr. Huxton Rymer.
1471	Prisoner of the Harem.	George Marsden Plummer, Muriel Marl and Vali Mata-Vali.
1474	Planned from Paris.	Roxane Harfield.
1478	Lost in the Legion.	Roxane Harfield.
1482	The Secret.	

- 1487 Revolt. Roxane Harfield - see Notes.
 1494 Sexton Blake in Manchuria. Roxane Harfield & Prince Wu Ling.
 1495 Arms to Wu Ling.
 1497 The Blood Brothers of Nan-Hu. Roxane Harfield & Prince Wu Ling.
 1503 Honolulu Lure. George Marsden Plummer & Muriel Marl.
 1506 The Crime of the Creek.

"Detective Weekly"

- 3 The Silent Women. Baron & Elsa von Kravitch.
 6 The Chocolate King Mystery. Baron & Elsa von Kravitch.
 12 Perilous Pearls. Baron & Elsa von Kravitch.
 16 Gambler's Gold. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 22 The Banker's Box. Baron & Elsa von Kravitch.
 25 Frame-Up! George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mate-Vali.
 31 The Secret of the Slums. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mate-Vali.
 36 Black Traffick. Roxane Harfield.
 40 Black Brothers of Formosa. Roxane Harfield.
 46 The Affair of the Missing Financier. Roxane Harfield.

"SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY"
 (First Series)

- 1 The Yellow Tiger. Yvonne Cartier, Prince Wu Ling and
 Baron Beuremon.
 11 The Two Mysteries. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Baron Beuremon.
 37 The Diamond Sunburst. Yvonne Cartier, Jim Potter and
 The Black Rat.
 219 The Ivory Screen. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 229 The Spirit Smugglers. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 233 The Diamond Dragon. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 241 The Trader's Daughter. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 253 The Case of the Courtlandt Jewels. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
 271 The Secret of the Emerald Mines. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 276 A Legacy of Vengeance. George Marsden Plummer.
 283 The Eight-Pointed Star. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 307 The Crimson Belt. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Prince Wu Ling.
 312 The Orloff Diamond. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
 325 The Great Ivory Swindle. Yvonne Cartier & Hammerton Palmer.
 356 The Case of the Clairvoyant's Ruse. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
 358 The Trail of the Tiger.
 360 The Case of the Jade-Handled Knife. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
 366 The Mystery of the Seine. The Three Musketeers.
 371 The Case of the Pink Macaw. The Black Eagle.

"SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY"
 (Second Series)

- 1 The Secret of the Coconut Groves. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
 8 The Case of the Ten Diamonds. Dr. Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
 16 The Clue of the Four Wigs.
 19 The Great Canal Plot. Prince Wu Ling, George Marsden Plummer,
 Prince Menes, The Three Musketeers & The Black Eagle.

- 21 Under The Eagle's Wing. The Black Eagle.
- 25 The Case of the Chinese Pearls. Dr.Huxton Rymer.
- 35 The Case of the Mummified Hand. Yvonne Cartier,Dr.Huxton Rymer,
Mary Trent, George Marsden Plummer, Prince Wu Ling,
Prince Menes, The Three Musketeers & The Black Eagle.
- 41 The Island of the Guilty.
- 49 The Case of the Bookmaker Baronet. George Marsden Plummer.
- 52 The Black Emperor. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Marie Galante.
- 73 The Riddle of the Russian Gold. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 77 The Terror of Tangier. Dr.Huxton Rymer,Mary Trent and
G.M.Plummer.
- 82 The Night Club Mystery. The Three Musketeers.
- 85 The Rogues' Republic. Dr.Huxton Rymer,Mary Trent & Marie Galante.
- 89 The Tiger of Canton. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 113 The Case of the Disguised Apache. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 119 The Mystery of the Film City. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 128 The Case of the Portuguese Giantess. George Marsden Plummer &
Vali Mata-Vali.
- 129 The Adventure of the Bogus Sheik. George Marsden Plummer &
Vali Mata-Vali.
- 134 The Victim of Black Magic. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 144 The Case of the Bogus Monk. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 147 The Rubber Smugglers. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 153 The Case of the Voodoo Queen. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Marie Galante.
- 158 The Terror of Gold-Digger Creek.
- 161 Crooks in Clover. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 165 The Adventure of the Eighth Millionaire. George Marsden Plummer and
Vali Mata-Vali.
- 175 The Mystery of the Man from Rio.
- 178 The Gunman. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 183 The Secret of the President's Daughter. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 186 The Secret of the Vampire Actress.
- 204 The Cabaret Crime.
- 207 The Pearls of Doom. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 213 The Prisoner of the Chateau.
- 223 The Throne of Peril.
- 224 The Crook of Marsden Manor. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 230 The Victim of the Gang.
- 236 The Crook of Canada. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 239 Cassidy the Con-Man. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 247 The Masked Killer.
- 250 The Secret of the Strong-Room.
- 253 The House of Silence.
- 262 The Crook of Paris. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 265 The Secret of the Thieves' Kitchen. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Marie Galante.
- 272 The Crime on Gallows Hill. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 277 The Yellow Skull. George Marsden Plummer, Vali Mata-Vali &
Prince Wu Ling.
- 285 The Crime of the Catacombs. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 293 The House of Curtains.

- 297 Gang War. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 306 The Cross-Channel Crime. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 310 The Crook of Costa Blanca. George Marsden Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 319 The Chinatown Mystery. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 333 The Crook of Shanghai. Dr.Huxton Rymer.
- 343 The House of Cellars. G.M.Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 353 The Phantom of the Ereek.
- 362 The Crook of Monte Carlo. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 376 The Isle of Horror. Marie Galante.
- 384 Rogues of Ransom. G.M.Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 391 The Crook's Decoy. G.M.Plummer & Vali Mata-Vali.
- 402 The Mystery of the Old Age Pensioner. G.M.Plummer, Vali Mata-Vali & Baron von Kravitch.
- 418 Murder in Manchuria. G.M.Plummer, Vali Mata-Vali & Larry Plummer.
- 441 The Mystery of Cell 13. G.M.Plummer & Baron von Kravitch.
- 456 The Fatal Amulet. Dr.Huxton Rymer & Mary Trent.
- 463 Reprint of No.307 (First Series) - Same Title.
- 474 The Martello Tower Mystery. Dr.Huxton Rymer.
- 495 The Mystery of the Cashiered Officer. Plummer and Vali Mata-Vali.
- 536 Reprint of No.41 (Second Series) - Same Title.
- 548 The Dictator's Secret.
- 590 Reprint of No.19 - Same Title.
- 603 The Bailiff's Secret. Dr. Huxton Rymer.
- 615 Reprint of No.77 - Same Title.
- 628 Reprint of No.89 - Same Title.
- 640 Reprint of No.113 - Same Title.
- 644 Reprint of No.119 - Same Title.
- 663 Reprint of No.82 - Same Title.
- 687 Reprint of No.144 - Same Title.
- 693 Reprint of No.147 - Same Title.
- 707 Reprint of No.158 - Same Title.
- 718 Reprint of No.165 - Same Title.

TAIL-PIECE

Len and Josie Packman have been kind enough to check through the Lists which I incorporated in my two previous Monographs for the "Annuals" of 1950 and 1951 - one on the Criminals' Confederation and the other on Yvonne Cartier.

They are satisfied that these Lists are correct save only for two omissions - Yvonne Cartier played parts in two Sexton Blake Library stories which were not listed by me last year. They are:-

First Series No. 37, "The Diamond Sunburst".

Second Series No.35, "The Case of the Mummified Hand".

If collectors will amend their copies of last year's "Annual" accordingly (easily done with a ball-pen), they will find the Lists perfectly correct for reference purposes.

This will save reprinting them under the sign of The Sexton Blake Circle

Thanks, 'Len and Josie!'

A. S. Hardy - Sport Story Writer

By Harry Dowler

A. S. Hardy, whose real name was Arthur Steffens and who was of Polish origin, was born in the heart of London - in Regent Street, in fact - about the year 1875.

Nearly all his stories were written under the name of A. S. Hardy, although he wrote a large number under the pen-name of Clement Hale, the name of a character he played in "Sweet Lavender" in his very early days as an actor. It would seem from the data I have at my disposal that he spent his early life both as an actor and acting-manager, and toured all over the country. Later he seems to have augmented his income from his stage work by writing boys' stories. He left the stage altogether eventually to assist in editing a paper, and from that time, early in the 1900's, he seems to have devoted the whole of his energy to writing, chiefly for boys' periodicals. He used his stage experience to write several stories of stage life under the pen-name of Atherley Daunt. According to my records his first story under this name was "Harry Brandon, Actor", which was a serial in the *ld. Boys' Friend* about 1906. He wrote several other stories, chiefly complete stories, about this character in various Amalgamated Press boys' papers.

One story written under the name of Atherley Daunt was "Fiddler Dick", a serial in the *Boys' Herald* in 1909. It is only within recent years that Hardy's identity with Atherley Daunt has been established. With greater knowledge of boys' authors and their methods it has come to be almost an established fact that where an author has only a few stories under a certain name this name must be another pen-name of a writer that we are already familiar with. For instance, we have "Kingswell College" in the *ld. Boys' Friend* where the author's name is given as Gordon Holme. As far as I can make out no other story appeared under this name and you get a suspicion that it is one of our already established favourites, and you start studying the style, and in this particular case, it does not take long to discover that Gordon Holme is none other than Henry St. John, or to give him his proper name, Henry St. John Cooper.

We have no direct proof that Hardy was Atherley Daunt, or at least I have not, but there are so few stories by Atherley Daunt, that I felt sure that it was a pen-name of an author I was already familiar with. A copy of a short biographical sketch which appeared in the *ld. Boys' Friend* stating that Hardy was an actor who hoped one day to make a name for himself, and was at present playing with Miss Kate Vaughn in old English comedies, made me suspicious at once. A careful comparison of the styles reveals that Atherley Daunt and A. S. Hardy are one and the same.

Hardy must have written all his stories at an amazing speed, never pausing for a second to think, for his total output compares favourably with Charles Hamilton, Henry St. John, D. H. Parry, T. C. Bridges, and many other boys' writers who seem to have been wound up so to speak, and churned out story after story week after week, continually going on practically without a stop. My own personal opinion is that they were not human. They were definitely not like myself. I work hard at my chosen calling, but I am not a machine. I like and keenly appreciate my

leisure hours which I have no difficulty in filling in, and I shall certainly retire, now that I have passed the 60 mark, as soon as financial circumstances permit. But these boys' authors seem to have no interest in life whatsoever except to type away or write away story after story always at the same low dead level of mechanical efficiency. They seem practically all to have one-track minds, and the curious thing is, you never seem to bump into them when you are on the bus, or in the street, or in fact anywhere. As far as the world is concerned they might never have existed. Their stories, for the most part, are dead, the week after they have appeared in print. No one except a comparatively small number of people take any interest whatsoever in them, and A. S. Hardy is no exception. I have had the utmost difficulty in getting the scanty information about Hardy for this article, and I am quite convinced that the number of people who take any interest in him now is very small indeed.

Hardy, judging him by his work, seems to have followed the usual formula. He probably had a spark of literary ability and by incessant practice and almost unbelievable concentration on his work due to his innate one-track mind developed into the usual fast-writing hack writer for boys. Very pleasing to boys and young men and to the editors of the boys' papers, but why, oh why don't these writers like Hardy aim at higher work in the literary firmament? They write for perhaps 30 or 40 years, and after say the first five years when they are serving their literary apprenticeship there is not the slightest difference in literary merit in any of the stories churned out like so many sausages out of a machine.

Plenty of action and dramatic conversation, and no unnecessary verbiage seem to have been the ingredients of the Hardy formula, stories paid for at the rate of anything from 10/- to 30/- a thousand. That was the sort of stuff turned out by Hardy, stories full of go, full of interesting conversation, and technically efficient, but - and we must fact up to facts - hack work.

Judged impartially by myself steeped in all that is best in English and French literature, and a student and ^{now} lover of the English language for a large part of my life, I must say that I have arrived definitely at maturity, that the stories turned out by Hardy and practically all those other writers who gave us such pleasure in our boyhood days are of a very low calibre indeed. There is a tremendous gap between say a complete story by Hardy and one by Conan Doyle or W.W. Jacobs, and there is another tremendous gap between say Doyle and Jacobs and say Trollope and Thackeray and Guy de Maupassant, the greatest short-story writer the world has ever known. I am now referring to actual writing technique, and I am not concerned with the subject-matter of the stories.

As I have said before, it is literary ability alone that makes a writer. Vast technical and scientific knowledge and deep erudition are of no account as against supreme skill in word-craft and the art of telling a story that starts at the beginning and finishes at the end.

Now Hardy had a remarkable knowledge of many kinds of sport, far more remarkable than one would expect in a writer who spent his life contributing to ld. boys' papers. I cannot speak very authoritatively about his cricket and football stories because my interest in these two

games is only so-so. But Hardy wrote a great many stories about athletics, swimming and cycling, three sports in which I have been tremendously interested for a large part of my life. I can say authoritatively that practically all his stories dealing with these three sports are quite remarkable for their technical knowledge, almost uncanny in some, and particularly in one story which I am now coming to.

In the Boys' Realm in 1908 Hardy, under his pen-name of Clement Hale, wrote a complete story entitled "Sixty-three Miles an Hour." This is a story of a cyclist who on the then splendid cycling track in Munich, paced by a powerful and specially-equipped motor-bicycle, and fitted with a moveable bar at the back, rides 63 miles, 1,293 yards in the hour. Ridiculous! Impossible! I can almost hear you saying these words as you read. But it is by no means impossible. In fact, it has been my pleasure to see some of the world's greatest exponents at this highly-skilled and dangerous form of racing. It may interest some of you to know that I live exactly one mile away from what is now considered to be England's premier cycling track, far faster and more steeply banked than the official N.C.U. track at Herne Hill, London. To come back to Hardy's story. You will gather how technically accurate Hardy was in this story when I tell you that on the 10th September, 1909, less than 12 months after Hardy had written his story, Paul Guignard at Munich accomplished the wonderful ride of 63 miles, 255 yards in the hour. Only 1,038 yards difference between what Hardy's hero did and actual reality! The greatest distance in this form of riding for one hour is 76 miles, 504 yards at the Monthlery motor-circuit, France in 1928 by Leon Vanderstuyft. I myself have seen both Guignard and Vanderstuyft, and to see riders such as these tearing round the track with their eyes incessantly fixed on the moveable bar at the back of the powerful motor-bicycle, and against which the tyres of their front wheels are constantly rubbing, is a tremendously thrilling experience. I have no wish to burden you with a lot of technical details, but what I particularly wish to emphasize is that Hardy explains this story in quite extraordinary technical detail, describing the technique of paced riding in such a way as even to surpass the detailed description in the journals devoted to cycling. In fact, his description in this story was so thorough and detailed that many facts about this form of cycle racing, which I had previously overlooked, were brought to my mind in a powerful and convincing way.

Hardy carried out this strict technical accuracy to practically all his athletics, cycling and swimming stories, as I can testify from my own actual experience. This is in striking contrast to many other authors who wrote about these subjects. Reading their stories, it was quite obvious they had never been inside an athletic ground or a swimming bath!

I am unable to give you the title of the first story that Hardy wrote, but as far as I can make out, his first stories appeared in the *1d.* Union Jack, Pluck and Marvel. He wrote a large number of football stories, both serials and completes, his most famous being I should say "The Blue Crusaders" which appeared in the Boys' Realm. He created "Tom Sayers" and these boxing stories ran in the *1d.* Marvel for years. In 1908, the year of the Olympic Games in London, he wrote a large number of complete stories in the Boys' Realm about the various events, in such vein that no reader who prided himself on his knowledge of athletics

could be in any doubt that here was an author who knew what he was talking about.

Hardy wrote a large number of stories that had nothing to do with wither sport or the stage. Here he was obviously not very comfortable, but at the same time these stories were exceptionally well-written, that is, as far as this type of boys' stories is concerned. In a nutshell, he carried out his editor's requirements in a satisfactory manner. In some of his stories there did not seem to be any reason at all why a villain should be a villain, but that is a fault very common in stories written in boys' papers.

According to my records Hardy does not seem to have done such writing before 1900. Before this date he was probably doing this stage work at the same time. But with the change from the 2d. numbers to the 1d. numbers of the Boys' Friend in 1901, Hardy seems to have given up his stage work entirely, and concentrated on writing, because from his date for many many years he reeled off both complete and serial stories for the Boys' Friend, and later for the Boys' Realm, the Boys' Herald, Pluck, Union Jack, Marvel, The Jester, and other boys' periodicals, and occasionally he contributed to adult papers, the only difference being that a love element was introduced into his stories. Otherwise there was not the slightest difference in that regular, smooth, and machine-like efficiency, so pleasing to editors who aim to please the masses, which had by now become an integral part of the Hardy formula.

As I have previously stated, Hardy's sporting stories were noted for the accuracy of their technical details, although some of these were very carelessly written, and evidently in great haste as though they had to be on the editor's desk by 10 o'clock on Monday morning and he was pounding away on his typewriter late on Sunday night. Both his heroes and his villains were definitely overplayed, to speak in theatrical parlance. All his characters were too much of a pattern, and all his stories, from a literary point of view, were too smooth and slick, the same standardized villains and heroes, with no shades in between, and the whole of the writing was a kind of monotonous machine-like precision, very good for juvenile minds, and I might add adult minds like myself, at times when we want a rest from the more sober and really well-written stories by proper writers.

Briefly summed up, Hardy was, in the main technically efficient in most of his stories, but as a writer very ordinary and commonplace, just an efficient hack boys' writer, and evidently eminently satisfactory to his editors.

He was a very conscientious and competent author who never let his editors down, as so many of these boys' authors did.

I believe that Hardy died some time in the 1940's, but exactly when I have no knowledge. And so we will leave him, a boys' author who gave much pleasure to thousands and thousands of boys and young men for over 40 years.

WANTED: All Boys Friends and Nelson Lees, 1915 onwards.
Lists to M. Johnson, 164, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill,
London, S.W.2.

Single to Happiness

By Eric Fayne

When looking back on the history of Greyfriars or St. Jim's one tends, somewhat naturally, to think only of the powerful, outstanding series which appeared from time to time.

There were, however, more than a few "single" stories of outstanding merit during the long life of the Gem and the Magnet,— stories with compact, original plots,— plots which were not used again by the author, for the most part. The majority of these "singles" appeared in the comparatively early years of both papers, though both periodicals had a few in middle life, and a very occasional one in the closing years.

Those little plots, which live so vividly in the memory, would probably have been extended to cover a number of issues in later years, sometimes with advantage, but more often not.

I intend to comment in this brief review, on some of the "single" stories which live most vividly in my own memory. If I omit to mention your own particular favourite, it will probably only be for the reason that it is impossible to cover them all in the space the Editor can allow me.

I intend to write without reference, so that the dates I give for the various titles must be taken as approximate. Should you wish to know the actual date and serial number of any particular story I mention, I shall be only too happy to supply it. I do not intend, either to introduce the stories in sequence. I am sitting by the fire and mention the tales just as they occur to my mind.

An outstanding and original thriller was "THE HIDDEN HORROR", a Magnet story about 1912. It was a grand yarn telling of how Harry Wharton discovered a derelict steamer, which eventually drifted on to the "Shoulder". No crew was aboard. There was the evidence that something had interrupted a meal. A film in a camera, when developed, showed a terror-stricken face of a man who was fleeing in mortal horror. That night, some of the Co stayed on board, and they, too, met the Hidden Horror of the derelict steamer. A real nerve-chiller, this one.

About the same time, the Gem gave "D'ARCY'S LIBEL ACTION". What a Gem it was, too. Gussy, in an article in Tom Merry's Weekly, criticised the "twousehs" of Mr. Jepp, the Mayor of Wayland. The Mayor issued a writ for libel against Gussy,— only fortunately he turned out on this occasion to be Kerr in disguise.

In the roaring Twenties, the Gem gave another potted masterpiece,— "D'ARCY MAXIMUS". No wonder the Twenties roared. D'Arcy adopted a moke, and there were hilarious moments before the animal returned to its rightful owner.

In the early years of the first World War, we find "SURPRISING THE SCHOOL". Readers, in later times, seeking this yarn, called it "Billy Bunter's Love Affair". It told how Bunter's character was completely reformed when Cora Quelch visited the School.

Christmas Numbers often carried outstanding single stories in early days. One unforgettable yarn in the Gem was "THE MYSTERY OF THE PAINTED ROOM". A chiller, in a ghostly Christmas atmosphere. Perhaps the first of the "secret passage" stories, this one. It was a long story, in a Double Number, about 1913, but it held the interest from start to finish.

In later years, Frank Richards gave us "GRUNTER OF GREYFRIARS", in

which Billy Bunter, trying to avoid a well-deserved punishment, managed to pass himself off as a coloured boy. The date? Well, 1939 would not be far out.

"THE SCHOOLBOY GOLD-MAKER" appeared about 1925, featuring Glyn. He thought he had discovered a formula to make gold, but it was only some of Racke's sovereigns,- melted.

"THE STOLEN SCHOOLBOYS", about 1911, in the Magnet, told of Harry Wharton and Co shanghaied. Harry received the ropes-end on his bare back, and Mr. Shields showed him, on the cover, getting it. This one was intensely exciting.

A novel and fascinating story in the Gem, also in 1911, was "BOUGHT HONOURS", in which Levison disguised himself as Gussy, and passed an examination in his name. There was some fine character work here.

About the beginning of 1918 a story appeared in the Magnet called "A VERY GALLANT GENTLEMAN". It told of the death of Arthur Courtenay, a great pal of Wingate. This one was written by J.N. Pentelow, and according to this gentleman, who was Editor of the Companion Papers at the time, it was an exceptionally popular story, and much sought after. It is many years since I have read it,- I never liked Pentelow's style,- but the story remains in the memory owing to its unusually sombre theme.

The last story in the GEM in 1907 was "FIGGINS' FIG PUDDING", a jolly little romp in which the New House Leader made a pudding from Syrup of Figs, with disastrous results. It was talked about by readers for many years.

An unusual story about 1928 was "GOOD-BYE TO ETONS", in which St. Jims gave up their famous uniform for the junior school. Gussy was, of course, very indignant.

When the re-prints started, Etons came back to St. Jim's, and remained until the end of the Gem. It is interesting to note that, though Etons are rather ghastly to wear, Macdonald always made his lads in such clothing very attractive,- far better than the fellows he draws in lounge jackets and slacks.

"GOOD-BYE TO ETONS" was particularly welcome as a story, as it was an oasis in the desert,- a story by Charles Hamilton at a time when a sub-writer was handling the Gem for the most part.

Very amusing, in 1930, was "ALL THROUGH BUNTER", in which Bunter bought an arm-chair which he thought was priced at £1-5s. while the actual cost was £15. As usual, the Co had to bear the brunt of his fatuous mistake, but it all came right in the end, with the discovery of a small fortune hidden in the chair.

In 1908 there appeared in the Gem an excellent tale called "THE TELL-TALE", with Mellish as a mischief-maker. When it was re-printed in the Gem in the 'thirties', it was so badly abridged that the main twist of the story was omitted, and the whole thing hardly made sense.

"GLYN'S GREAT WHEEZE", about 1910, was a line-writing machine. It was the best of all the stories about the Schoolboy Inventor.

"NO CLASS", a little later, was a fine single story in which Joe Freyne came to St. Jim's.

"CORONATION DAY AT ST. JIM'S" told of how Tom Merry and Co celebrated the coronation of King George the Fifth, using the proceeds of a treasure they had found in the South Seas. It was re-printed as the Jubilee story in the Gem in 1936.

One of the most delightfully amusing stories ever to appear in the Gem had the intriguing title of "THE LIMIT". Mr. Lethom was ill, and a Miss Ponsonby had charge of the Fourth form. When it was re-printed it went under the horrible title of "Miss Ponsonby's Pets".

"TOM MERRY'S LEGION OF HONOUR" would be regarded as slightly priggish, these days, but it was a fine story, all the same.

Outstanding story of the powerful type was "THE LAST HOPE", in which Cutts persuaded Tom Merry to lend him the funds of the cricket club, and then defaulted. Tom Merry saved himself from a charge of theft, by winning a purse in a boxing-ring. One of the best singles of 1912.

"FOR D'ARCY'S SAKE" in the Magnet was a memorable story about 1916. Bob Cherry, allowing himself to be blackmailed, thinking he was helping Gussy, was the central figure of the tale.

A long and lively story, about 1911, was "TOM MERRY'S CONCERT PARTY". The theme, though slight, was original, and Martin Clifford has never written a story more packed with fun and wit and schoolboy atmosphere. Naturally, this was a Gem, - in more ways than one.

"SHOULDER TO SHOULDER", featuring Mr. Selby and Wally D'ARCY, and "THE FLOODED SCHOOL", also featuring Mr. Selby, with Tom Merry this time, were both outstanding tales of the pre-1914 period. In the former, we remember the tale owing to Tom Merry telling a deliberate lie, while the flood atmosphere of the second-named was unforgettable.

"VISCOUNT BUNTER", about 1917, is evergreen. Bunter almost became a member of the peerage, and adopted Gussy's famous lisp.

So one could go on and on. "QUITS" was a very famous tale, telling of a feud between the Bounder and Mr. Quelch, about 1913.

A remarkable and powerful tale in 1913 was "BY WHOSE HAND?" in which Koumi Reo was accused of being guilty of a brutal act really committed by Gore. The story introduced Glyn, who thought he had invented something akin to an atom bomb, and it finished with an hilarious episode in which Gussy mixed up the set pieces in a firework display.

A famous single, about 1910, was "BOB CHERRY IN SEARCH OF HIS FATHER". Something of a potted travelogue, this one, and excellent reading.

"TRICKY TRIMBLE", about 1925, was very amusing in the Gem. Trimble announced that he was leaving, and there was a screamingly funny and witty sequence in which Lowther conducted Trimble's Leaving Sale. As one draws to the end of the allotted space, scores of singles come crowding into the mind, - most of them from those halcyon Blue Cover and Red Cover days.

"YOUR EDITOR AT ST. JIM'S", a novel tale in 1914; "THE IMPOSSIBLE FOUR", were Peter Todd and his study freaks; "THE WHIP HAND", held by Crooke over Tom Merry, in 1913; "THE SHADOW OF THE PAST", re-introducing that fine character Valentine Outram, in the Gem Xmas No. of 1917; "UP FOR THE JUBILEE", a delightful Bunter tale of King George the Fifth's Jubilee, in 1936; "THE SPY OF THE SCHOOL", was Mellish in 1912, making trouble for Tom Merry; "LINLEY MINOR", in 1916, a third-rate sub-story, remembered on account of a ludicrous printer's error; "TALBOT'S RESCUE", about 1915, an exciting kidnapping story; "FOUR FROM THE EAST", a sub-story in a Magnet Xmas No, and one of the worst tales ever to appear in the Magnet; "THE SCHOOLBOY SWIMMERS", a splendid Cardew story, in which Tom Merry tries to swim the Channel, about 1920; "DUMB BUNTER", a rib-tickling tale of about the same period; "BRAVO, BUNTER", an attractive story with Bunter as

a hero, about 1929; "STAGE STRUCK", a Monty Lowther tale in 1912; "THE PREFECT'S PLOT", thought out by Bingham in 1913, to bring about the disgrace of Tom Merry; "GUSSY'S GUEST", in 1914, was Fisher T. Fish; one could go on, and on, and on.

Those grand stories were "SINGLES" to Happiness, but they were also "RETURNS", for one comes back to them, time and again, and finds them ever new, ever exciting, ever attractive.

From Page No. 45

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

1926:

Greyfriars..	Bunter in Bankruptcy
Greyfriars..	Loyal to His School.
Greyfriars..	Lucky for Parkinson
Greyfriars..	The Form-Master's Substitute. (Reprint of Magnet No. 389 The Mysterious Mr. Mobbs) ..
Rookwood ..	Pulling Carthew's Leg
Rookwood ..	Tubby Muffin's Birthday.
St. Jim's ..	A False Alarm.
St. Jim's ..	Grundy's Great Idea. (Reprint of Gem No. 465, Grundy's Guilt).. .. .
St. Jim's ..	Snowbound
St. Jim's ..	The Scientist of St. Jim's

1927:

Greyfriars..	Bunter the Cricketer
Greyfriars..	Nugent Minor's Bad Start. (Reprint of Magnet No. 100, Nugent Minor).
Greyfriars..	What Happened to Bunter.
Rookwood ..	The Rookwood Rat Hunt
Rookwood ..	Top Dog.
St. Jim's ..	Lord Eastwood's Experiment. (Reprint of Gem 127, D'Arcy's Bank Book)
St. Jim's ..	Rival Authors.

1928:

Greyfriars..	Battling Bunter
Greyfriars..	How Horace Coker Got His Remove. (Reprint of Magnet No. 127, D'Arcy's Bank Book)
Greyfriars..	The Haunted Tuckshop
Rookwood ..	Jimmy Silver's Pupils
Rookwood ..	Tea with Mr. Manders
St. Jim's ..	Baggy Trimble's Romance.
St. Jim's ..	The Arm of the Law.

1929:

Greyfriars..	Cheque-Mate
Greyfriars..	Coker the Humorist.
Greyfriars..	When Billy Bunter Forgot. (Reprint of Magnet No. 160, Poor Old Bunter)

Pseudonyms

By Herbert Leckenby

In our second Annual we had a feature "The Author's Who's Who". Therein we included, where we could, the pen-names the authors wrote under. Since those days, thanks to the researches of several of our members, we have discovered many more. It has been suggested that it would be a good idea to have an article devoted solely to pen-names - a "see-at-a-glance" list. As we are frequently asked for information about some particular author, and as there is no doubt there is an immense amount of interest in the subject, we agreed that such an article was well worth the space.

When it came to compiling it the problem arose - how best to arrange the names. In some instances an author was best known by his real name, W Murray Graydon, for example. On the other hand several writers were always thought of by a pen-name with his real one much less familiar, or even unknown, Arthur S. Hardy being a case in point until Walter Webb discovered it. Still again one might have several pseudonyms but one was used more frequently than any of the others; in this category, Davis Goodwin. It was therefore decided that the best thing to do was to place the most familiar name first, with the real one, where known, or generally considered to be the real one, in capitals.

Before going on to give the details, however, we'll have a few comments, for the subject is an extremely interesting one, one which has always intrigued me. As I said four years ago, it always puzzled me why an author who had made quite a reputation either under his real name or a pseudonym, should sometimes try to disguise himself under another one. You could understand it when he was writing for an adult paper, or in the case of Charles Hamilton's other identities. But in other instances the motive was not so clear. For one thing, it was altogether futile for the author to change his name for he simply could not change his style.

An outstanding case was John N. Pentelow. What was the use of him calling himself Jack North one week and Richard Randolph the next, when you could spot him as quickly as you could a policeman disguised as a chorus girl?

Another was William Murray Graydon. You could place him at a glance. He had so many favourite phrases like "a lump rose in his throat"; "his voice choked with emotion", and I'll guarantee if you looked through an instalment of one of his stories you would be almost certain to come across the word "vowed". Still, he only used one pen-name and that usually for historical stories.

Now just a word about "the two ladies". Long years ago an editor told me that "Max Hamilton", a popular writer for the A.P. papers in the early years of the century was a woman. Ever since I was told I have wondered who she was, but never found out. Then recently that indefatigable researcher, Walter Webb, told us that he had good reason to believe she was none other than the once famous Cecily Hamilton.

The news from the same source that "F. St. Mars", writer of many nature stories and that "war with Germany" series in Pluck, also hid the

identity of a woman came as a real surprise to me. There was a real professional touch about those pre-1914 war stories.

Well, here's the list, by no means complete, but still, I think, useful. And don't forget, real names in capitals.

ARMOUR, R. Coutts	Coutts Brisbane, Reid Whitley.
Ash, Fenton.	A. J. ATKINS.
BELL, R. S. WARREN	Hawkesley Brett.
Bird, Richard	WILLIAM BARRADALE-SMITH.
BIDSTON, LESTER	Paul Hotspur..
BLACK, L. DBROKE	Paul Urquhart, Lionel Day.
Bleir, Allan.	WILLIAM J. BAYFIELD.
BLYTH, HARRY	Hal Meredith.
BRIDGES, T. C.	Christopher Beck.
Brooke, Arthur.	ARTHUR C. MARSHALL; Carras Yorke.
BROOKS, EDWY SEARLES	Robert W. Comrade; Reginald Browne; Edward Thornton; Berkeley Gray, Victor Gunn
BULLIVANT, CECIL	Maurice Everard; Henry Turville; Robert W. Dixon.
CHANCE, JOHN NEWTON	John Drummond; David C. Newton; Alice Millard.
CLEAVER, HYLTON	Reginald Crunden.
Charteris, Leslie	LESLIE CHARLES BOWER
Cooke, Percival	PERCY BISHOP.
CREASEY, JOHN	Michael Halliday, Peter Manton.
Darran, Mark	NORMAN GODDARD.
Drew, Sidney	EDGAR JOYCE MURRAY.
Earle, Ambrose	J. J. JONES.
FARMER, HENRY	Franklyn Wright.
Fordwych, John Edmund	HAROLD J. GARRISH; Harry Belbin; George Gerrish; Walter Darrell; Walter Everard; Wallace Morrell.
Goodwin, David.	SYDNEY GOWING; John Tregellis; John Goodwin.
Gordon, S. S.	GORDON SHAW; Gordon Wallace.
GRAYDON, WILLIAM MURRAY	Alfred Armitage.
Hamilton, Max	CECILY HAMILTON.
Hardy, Arthur S.	ARTHUR STEFFANS; Clement Hale.

Heathcote, Claude	J. HARWOOD PANTING.
HILL, HARRY GREGORY	Hylton Gregory.
HINCKS, C. MALCOLM	Malcolm Dayle; John M. Howard; Charles Malcolm.
HOOK, S. CLARK.	Maurice Merriman.
HOPE, STANTON (W.E.)	William Stanton; Donald Dean; Rhoda Dean.
HOME-GALL, EDWARD R.	Edwin Dale, Rupert Hell.
JOHN HUNTER	Peter Meriton; Anthony Drummond; L. H. Brenning.
Jackson, Lewis.	JACK LEVIS.
Mart, Donovan	E. LE BRUTON MARTIN; Raymond Lee; Martin Shew.
Maxwell, Herbert	HERBERT LOMAX.
Morris, Patrick	VISCOUNT MOUNT MORRIS.
Murray, Robert	ROBERT MURRAY GRAYDON; Robert Graydon; Murray Roberts.
North, Jack	JOHN NIX PENNELOW; Richard Randolph; Randolph Ryle; John West; Harry Huntingdon.
Osborne, Mark	JOHN WILLIAM BOBIN; John Ascott; Jack Bobin; Victor Nelson; Adelie Ascott; Gertrude Nelson.
Pike, Morton	D. H. PARRY; Capt. Wilton Blake.
Poole, Michael	ROBERT HEBER POOLE; Anthony Thomas.
Quiroule, Pierre	W. W. SLYER.
Quiz, Roland	RICHARD MARTIN HOWARD QUITTERTON.
Richards, Frank	CHARLES HAMILTON; Martin Clifford; Owen Conquest; Ralph Redway; Harry Dorrian; Clifford Clive; Hilda Richards; Robert Stanley; Frank Drake.
ROCHESTER, GEORGE E.	Eric Roche; John Allan.
ROWE, JOHN G. (Gabriel)	Charles Lewis; Mortimer Austin; Capt. Arthur Ferris; Gregory Dunstan; Charles A. Ransome; James Bright; Alice E. Rowe.
St. Mars, F.	FLORRIE ST. MARS.
Scott, Hedley	HEDLEY O'MANT.

Scott, Maxwell
St. John, Henry

DR. JOHN W. STANFORTH.
HENRY ST. JOHN COOPER;
Lieut. Paul Lefevre; Gordon Holme;
Mabel St. John.

SHAW, FRANK H.
SYMONDS, F. ADDINGTON
TREETON, ERNEST.
TWYMAN, H. W.
WIGNALL, TREVOR C.
Wrey, Reginald

Grenville Hammerton.
Earle Danesford; Howard Steele.
W. Shaw Rae.
A. Cartwright.
Alan Dene; David Rees.
W. B. HOME GALL; Reginald Drew.

From Page No. 97
1929 (Contd.)

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

Rookwood .. A Rift at Rookwood.
St. Jim's .. Tom Merry's Minor. (Reprint of Gem 296,
Tom Merry's Minor)

1930:

Greyfriars.. A Lesson for Coker.
Greyfriars.. Bunter's Report
Greyfriars.. Rough on Toddy
Greyfriars.. The Greyfriars Adventurers. (Reprint of
Magnet No. 179, Bob Cherry in Search of
his Father).
Rookwood .. Pleasing Dear Thomas
Rookwood .. The Last Laugh
St. Jim's .. Gussy's Latest Stunt
Cedar Creek. The Cedar Creek Detective

1931:

Greyfriars.. Mark Linley at the Cross-Roads. (A Re-
print of Magnet No. 180, A Schoolboy's
Crossroads).
Greyfriars.. Pulling Coker's Leg
Greyfriars.. Sturgis Forgets
Rookwood .. French Leave..
St. Jim's .. Gussy's "Tennah"
St. Jim's .. Troublesome Tom. (Reprint of 1/2d Gem No. 5
Troublesome Tom).

1932:

Greyfriars.. Reforming Mauly
Greyfriars.. The Old Boys' Dinner
Greyfriars.. The Vanished Eleven. (Reprint of Magnet
No. 338, The Match with St. Jim's)
Rookwood .. My Little Mistake..
Rookwood .. Putty's Priceless Prank.

The St. Franks Saga

By Robert Blythe

It has been suggested several times that I do the same for the Nelson Lee as John Geal did so ably for the Magnet in 1949 and Eric Fayne for the Gem in 1951. That is, give a complete list, together with short descriptions of the various series.

Well, it so happens that I did give such a list spread over the year 1949. That list was given primarily to help collectors to know the start/stop numbers of the various series and also as they are rather difficult to find, even if you possess the C.D. for that year without a lot of searching, I'm giving the list again, but this time fully revised and elaborated. However, I must confess that my main reason is to show what a wealth of good reading there is to be found within the pages of the good old Nelson Lee.

To disbelievers and unrepentants (R.J. please note) please observe how many times you see a straightforward detective series recorded!!

Incidentally, I have not included any of the 2nd and 3rd New Series, mainly because to do them justice I would need at least another four pages and that, with this article at its present length, is out of the question. Perhaps I'll do that another time. However, of one thing I'm certain, those who are only superficially acquainted with the Lee are in for a surprise.

ORIGINAL SERIES 1915-17

No's 1 - 111. Almost without exception a complete detective story each week.

1917

No's 112-120 (with the exception of 113, 115, 117, 119),

INTRODUCING ST. FRANK'S

Nelson Lee and Nipper arrive at St. Frank's as Mr. Alvington and Dick Bennett. Most of the stories are complete in themselves with the overall picture of Nipper settling in and raising the Ancient House from the doldrums by ousting Fullwood from the captaincy.

No's 121-131 (excepting 121, 123, 124, 127)

Complete school-detective stories.

No's 132-135. NELSON LEE V. THE CIRCLE OF TERROR

Exciting school-detective story introducing Cecil De Valerie and Sessue Yakama. Yakama's life is threatened by the Circle of Terror, a criminal organisation headed by Prof. Cyrus Zingrave, De Valerie being the innocent dupe. All their efforts, of course, are foiled by Nelson Lee still in his disguise as Mr. Alvington.

No's 136-139

ARRIVAL OF TOM BURTON

Tom Burton arrives and incurs the enmity of Fullwood and De Valerie. Two rascally sailors, Cept. Jelks and Bill Larson, attempt to kidnap Tom in order to force his father, Dept. Burton to disclose the whereabouts of certain treasure. An exciting prelude to the summer holiday series.

1918

No's 140-141.

DE VALERIE REFORMS

Complete in themselves showing how De Valerie reforms. This is brought about because he is under the mistaken impression that he has caused the death of one of the village boys. The struggle between his baser and better self is well described. This struggle with his conscience results in his confession. He then discovers that the whole thing has been engineered by a crooked bookmaker for the purpose of blackmail.

No's 142-147. Nelson Lee v. Prof. Zingrave and the Circle of Terror.
School detective stories.

No's 148-157.

HUNTER THE HUN

The first of the barrings-out and one of the best. Mr. Hunter arrives and by his despotic and bullying attitude soon earns the nick-name "Hun". After his attempt to subdue Nipper, Tregellis-West and Watson by starvation the Remove rose in revolt. The barring-out is held among the ruins of the Monastery complete with barbed wire entanglements. They are forced out of here but manage to take up positions on Willards Island. They return to the school after receiving a written promise that all is forgiven, only to find they have been tricked. Nipper & Co. are cruelly flogged and imprisoned. The efforts of the rest of the Remove to start another barring-out is foiled. Hunter the Hun is the victor. However, Nelson Lee, although ostensibly absent from the school, had not been idle, for Hunter was a Hun - literally. In fact, he was a spy and after several exciting events is finally captured and turned over to the police.

No's 158-165. NIPPER & CO IN THE SOUTH SEAS

Capt. Burton takes some of the Removites with him on his search for treasure. Trouble is caused by the afore-mentioned Capt. Jelks. Together with battles against cannibals and a volcanic eruption which leaves their ship high and dry in a lagoon, they have a tough time of it. Nevertheless the treasure is found and Jelks is defeated.

No's 166-169. NELSON LEE v. THE CIRCLE OF TERROR

Lee fights another round with Zingrave's criminal band and wins. Lee and Nipper's real identity is revealed to the school as a whole for the first time in this series.

170-177.

ARRIVAL OF REGGIE PITT

One of the most popular characters celebrates his arrival by completely wrecking the study of one of the River House Masters, as an act of spite against Welbourne & Co. for which the latter are flogged. He soon proves a thorough rascal and earns for himself the name of "The Serpent". As part of his plan for avenging himself upon Nipper & Co. he is instrumental in getting Tregellis-West and Handforth expelled. Watson is to get the same treatment but at the last moment he is involved in a fire from which he is rescued by Pitt (the only one who knows where he is) at the risk of his life. Pitt has a change of heart and confesses to his trickery.

178-186. THE BOY FROM BERMONDSEY

The arrival of Jack Mason, later known as Jack Grey. He thinks he is an orphan, but his uncle, Mr. Grell, knows that a locket Jack has in his possession is the clue to his parents as well as a lost treasure. Jack has a great influence upon Reggie Pitt and they become firm friends and it is the latter who is mainly responsible for foiling the wicked uncle, although it is Nelson Lee who establishes Jack's parentage.

1919

No's 187-194. COLONEL CLINTON

A new housemaster takes over the College House and things begin to hum, for Col. Clinton is a militarist of the most virulent type. Drills, parades, saluting and guard duties are the order of the day. But Col. Clinton is proved insane and the juniors get their demob. papers.

195-204. THE BULLIES LEAGUE

Starke, Kenmore and other shady characters among the Fifth and Sixth start a reign of terror by incessant bullying. The fags are easy meat but the leaders of the Remove form the "Secret Combine" and commence to give the seniors a taste of their own medicine until they are too scared to start anything for fear of the retaliation. Also running through the story is the mysterious X, who is responsible for a series of burglaries.

205-212. NIPPER EXPELLED

Starke, still smarting after his defeat, fakes evidence of an assault for which Nipper is expelled. Nipper, however, returns to the school in disguise and manages to prove Starke's guilt, as a result of which he, in turn, is expelled.

213-220. IN SEARCH OF THE TREASURE OF SAFRA

All aboard for North Africa in company with Lord Dorriemore and Umlos. The clue to the treasure is contained in the locket owned by Jack Grey. The treasure is discovered and the villains are foiled (of course there are villains, that's where all the fun and excitement comes in!) The scene shifts to West Africa where the party have a skirmish with the natives, and so on to the Atlantic. As storm and engine trouble, getting marooned upon an island and finally stuck in the middle of the Sergasso Sea rounds off a series full to the brim with adventure.

221-222. TITUS ALEXIS AND THE GREAT FIRE

Titus arrives with a deep hatred of all things British. He, naturally, gets pushed around a bit and in revenge he sets fire to the College House. Of course he's nuttier than a fruit cake and is removed from the school. But the whole thing is a dramatic curtain-raiser to the next series, which is -

223-228. ST. FRANK'S IN LONDON

The school takes up quarters near Holborn. Detection is well to the fore in this series, as it concerns an opium smugglers' ring and the kidnapping of Tregellis-West. The last story introduces Fatty Little.

229-236. BARRING-OUT OF MR. MARTIN

This barring-out follows the familiar pattern of a tyrannical new Headmaster and the inevitable revolt. No new angles in this plot but, of course, plenty of action.

237-239. Christmas with Lord Dorriemore at Cliff Castle.

1920

240-249. THE SPENDTHRIFT

An unusual series this. The Hon. Douglas Singleton, a newcomer to the Remove blest with a fortune of over £200,000, proceeds to spend some like water. As might be expected, he falls into the hands of three unscrupulous crooks led by a Mr. Gore. They begin to fleece him by various means until he has not a penny left. By this time he has well and truly learnt his lesson and has become a steadier and more reliable person in the process. By a trick he manages to trap them and hand them over to the police. Mr. Gore then proves himself to be - Nelson Lee. So Singleton gets his fortune back and all's well.

250-255. THE SERVANTS STRIKE

An amusing series with Timothy Tucker well to the fore as a Communist agitator. The school staff decide to go on strike and are backed up by the juniors. Heaps of fun and games with the juniors doing the cooking and making the beds etc., meantime keeping the fresh staff off the premises by various devices. The old staff eventually get their raise in pay, and things return to normal.

256-263. Mr. Crowell, suffering from a nervous breakdown, is replaced by Handforth's brother-in-law, Mr. Heath. Mr. Heath is being blackmailed by a Count De Plessigny. Handforth does a spot of detective work and causes a split in Study D as a consequence.

264-274. EL DORADO

One of the most famous holiday series, full to overflowing with adventure.

Lord Dorriemore takes a party up the Amazon in search of Col. Kerrigan. They discover the lost city of El Dorado and a race of giants known as the Arzacs. What with battles with pre-historic monsters, a war between rival armies, and hair-raising escapades together with volcanic eruptions thrown in for good measure, there's never a dull moment. E.S.B. certainly pulled out all the stops for this yarn.

275-283. ARRIVAL OF DICK GOODWIN

Back to St. Frank's and straight away up to the eyebrows in mystery. Dick has invented a mechanical gadget and certain doubtful types try to steal it.

284-293. BANNINGTON CINEMA

Soloman Levi persuades his father to buy Bannington Grange for conversion into a cinema. Mr. Webb, the only other cinema owner in Bannington, objects - violently. Story tells how he attempts to put paid to the scheme by nefarious means - and fails - naturally.

294-304. THE COLLEGE HOUSE WITHOUT RULES

This period of "no rules" was introduced by Mr. Smale Fox, the new Housemaster. No rules, no punishment - result chaos! The rotters take full advantage and bring the name of St. Frank's into disrepute. Nelson Lee takes a hand and proves that Smale Fox is deliberately allowing these happenings as part of a plan of revenge against the school. The story also tells of the boxing prowess of Ernest Lawrence as a professional.

305-311. THE HOUNDS OF THE TARGOSSA

A holiday crowd on a trip in an airship which is wrecked in the Adriatic. The boys are saved by a ship which is drifting without a crew. The ship in turn is wrecked on the coast of Mordania. The party is captured by the Targossa, rebels who hold power in the country. They escape and go in forces with the Royalists. There is a terrific battle between the two factions before the rebels are subdued and the party can return home.

312-319. JERRY DODD AND THE TEST MATCHES

Jerry Dodd, a youth who lives for cricket, is told by his father "no cricket, school is a place for study". How he gets over this and ends up playing in a test match is told in a way that puts Brooks in the forefront of sports-story writers.

320-327. IN THE WILD WEST

Justin B. Farman's father is having trouble with rustlers etc. on his ranch in Montana. He invites Nelson Lee and Lord Dorriemore and a crowd of the lads out there for a holiday. Whilst there, Lee feels that it's up to him, and so we're treated to as full-blooded a western yarn as could be wished for.

328-335. PITT'S EFFORTS TO SAVE THE FAMILY FORTUNES

Dramatic episode relating Reggie Pitts' efforts to make money to help his father, who is bankrupt after being rooked in a business scheme. Pitt, who is reckoned the finest winger in St. Frank's football history, gets a job as outside-right with Bannington Football Club. And so we have a football series with a spot of skulduggery provided by one Simon Respe who had caused Pitts' father to go bankrupt in the first place.

336-349. THE MADNESS OF DR. STAFFORD

Dr. Stafford is being poisoned by a Mr. Trenton, the new Science Master. The poison causes him to fly into uncontrollable tempers, each attack being worse than the last. The boys, not knowing what to make of it, begin to take sides for and against. Those against, led and influenced by Timothy Tucker, go communist, which leads to them gaining control of the school. There's a small barring-out and clashes between them and the other party, termed the Loyalists.

This is a long series and there's too much in the plot to cram into a small space. However, Trenton is exposed and the school gradually returns to normal.

1922

349-357. THE COMING OF ARCHIE

This series, which concerns efforts which are made to recover treasure from Willards Island, is enlivened by the arrival at the school of one of the very best characters in schoolboy fiction - Archie Glenthorpe. Archie, the walking fashion plate, is absolutely one of the "ones". His manner of speaking alone is sufficient to endear him for ever to the reader.

358-365. Young Ching is kidnapped by members of a Chinese Tong and is taken on a ship en route to China. This leads to:-

366-374. A HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

Lord Dorriemore and the usual crowd on board The Wanderer give chase to the kidnapers, duly rescue Young Ching and carry on to the South Seas. Here they get wrecked on a coral island and live like the Swiss Family Robinson. Archie's valet, Phipps, comes into his own as a sort of "Admirable Crichton". They are finally rescued by aeroplane which brings us to:-

375-380. THE NEW ANGLIANS

One of Brooks' so-called "far-fetched" stories. The aeroplane takes them to the antarctic where they discover the lost country of New Anglia, only to find that they have landed just when a war between the two halves of the country is about to start - with what results to the St. Frank's party you can imagine.

381-397. Back to the peace and quiet (!!) of school life. Complete stories.

1923

398-407. PEPICOAT RULE

Miss Trimble, a newly elected chairman of the Governing Board, objects in public to the Headmaster administering corporal punishment. He resigns in protest, followed shortly afterwards by the rest of the masters. Miss Trimble seizes the chance to prove a theory that boys are better trained by women and installs women teachers. The boys treat the whole thing as a joke at first, but the joke turns sour when Miss Trimble bans most of the privileges such as tea in the studies etc. The final straw is when the juniors are banned from using the studies. From then on it's war - to the bitter end! A well-remembered series with Brooks at his best.

408-414. ALF HUGGINS ARRIVES

Alf Brent, son of the Chairman of the Board of Governors has a theory that if he went to St. Frank's under his own name he would be treated with respect, but if he went as Alf Huggins, an ordinary working-class boy, he would be ostracised. How the idea works out is brilliantly and movingly told.

415-422. WHITSUN HOLIDAY SERIES

The Removites spend a caravanning holiday touring the highways and byways of rural England.

423-432. IN AMERICA

The Remove, for various reasons, find themselves in America. They travel from New York to Hdlywood, where they meet Lord Dorriemore who takes them on The Wanderer into the Pacific. Here they meet with more adventures on a certain island. Brooks wrote this story whilst in America and it has the ring of authenticity.

433-441. INTRODUCING BUSTER BOOTS

From the Editor's remarks concerning this series: "It was power and leadership that he coveted and he found that he could more quickly attain success by instituting a reign of terror—. As we have seen, Nipper proves to Buster that two could play at that game, and when the new Remove leader began to experience some of his own medicine he realised that there was some truth in the saying that 'He who lives by the sword perishes by the sword'. The light of reason brought home to him at last the folly of his mad lust for power. He was sobered, and felt ashamed of himself. His old supporters now turned against him. They regard him as a bully and a coward, and it remains for Buster to prove that at heart he is neither."

442-447. Nelson Lee's tustle with the Night Owl, otherwise known as Caleb Droone, and the criminal organisation The Alliance of Thirteen.

1924

448-454. THE DR. KARNACK SERIES

Dr. Karnack takes over the post of Curator to the school museum, and weird things begin to happen. Some parts of this story would not be out of place in the "Not at Night" books, as witness some of the titles: "The Evil Eye of Baal", "The Curse of the Moon God" etc. This series was most topical at the time, for Tutankhamen's tombe had just been discovered.

445-463. BARRING-OUT AGAINST WILLIAM K. SMITH

Smith, a German-American millionaire, buys up most of the countryside surrounding St. Frank's with the idea of building vast factories. As a result of his scheming Dr. Stafford is forced to resign and one of Mr. Smith's stooges, a Mr. Ponsoyby Small, is installed. Small is not big enough for the job and soon has everyone in open revolt. This rebellion interferes a great deal with Smith's plans and in consequence there's loads of excitement culminating in a thrilling finale when his workmen (all foreigners, by the way), maddened with drink, storm the school and attempt to set fire to it.

464-470. THE CIRCUS COME TO TOWN

A circus comes to Bannington and then the fun starts. The performers go on strike and the Removites take over. Imagine Handy, as a strong man, tossing 500 lbs. weight about!

471-476. A story with, for a boys' paper, a most unusual plot. It tells how Mrs. Stokes, the new Housemaster's wife, having been cured of a serious illness by the use of drugs, had become, in part, a drug addict.

Her fight to return to a normal life, whilst being encouraged to take more drugs by a reptilian Chinaman, is dramatic, to say the least.

477-484. IN THE SAHARA

One of Brooks' "far-fetched" holiday series. This time they discover a lost Roman city in the middle of the Sahara Desert and experience all the thrills and adventures that one might associate with such an event.

485-492. THE SCHOOL WITH A BAD NAME

Another unusual story of a type not usually met with in boys' papers. During a champagne party held by the "blades", a senior dies of heart failure. A London newspaper gets hold of the story and the resulting scandal nearly causes the school to close down. However, most of the Remove manage to stay on and, under Pitts' leadership, manage to restore the good name of St. Frank's.

493-500. Complete School Stories.

1925

501-512. TOMMY WATSON AT MOUNT HOLLOW

Owing to his father's finances being somewhat shaky, Watson is sent to the new school recently opened at Mount Hollow between St. Frank's and Bellton. A shock awaits him, however, for the school is nothing more or less than a prison, where the boys have all the spirit knocked out of them and are, in fact, treated like slaves. Brooks must have read Nicholas Nickleby, for this is the type of school that Dickens exposed. A thoroughly good yarn with Nipper doing his stuff at the end as the "Phantom Protector".

513-522. A cricketing series with a feud between the Ancient and Modern House thrown in as good measure and to add to the complications.

523-528. ST. FRANK'S TAKES UP SCOUTING

Owing to part of the school having been damaged and accommodation lacking, the Lower School take up Scouting and camp out on the Downs overlooking Shingle Bay.

529-536. IN THE SOUTH SEAS AGAIN

Lord Dorriemore takes the usual crowd to a South Sea Island in search of pearls. This is Brooks at his best and his description of a tropical island is convincing. There is also a most realistic description of a cyclone.

537-541. THE REFORMATION OF FULLWOOD

Fullwood, until now the acknowledged leader of the "cads", had been present on the holiday in the last series and mainly owing to the influence of Clive Russell, began to see the error of his ways. In this series we see the transformation completed. All is not made easy for him, and he has an uphill fight before he can cut loose from his old associates.

The school is enlarged to five houses in this series.

542-549.

EZRA QUIRKE

In the opinion of many this is the finest series that Brooks ever wrote. It made such an impression on one of our circle that he decided to take up the profession of stage illusionist as a career.

Briefly then: Ezra Quirke arrives, riddled with superstitions and a dabbler in Black Magic. He has a powerful personality and very soon has his own circle of believers. Those who ridicule him seem to run into bad luck. However, the die-hards form themselves into the "13 Club" and defy Quirke to do his worst. As a consequence they suffer all sorts of misfortunes and the "13 Club" disbands. Quirke utilises a cellar in the East House where he holds meetings and where he achieves all sorts of weird phenomena. Eventually he has nearly everyone believing in him except a very few. Led by Browne of the Fifth, they eventually find the means to expose him. How this is brought about and why Quirke is at the school I won't reveal as it would spoil your fun if you haven't already read the story.

Brooks at his very best.

1926

550-560.

THE REVOLT AGAINST GUY SINCLAIR

Guy Sinclair, a 6th Former, and one of the worst, succeeds in becoming Head Prefect of the West House mainly owing to the fact that he has a hold over Mr. Stokes the Housemaster. His success goes to his head and he becomes a petty dictator. Life is made unbearable for the juniors and so they rebel. Eventually the rest of the school join in and with Masters and Prefects absent for various reasons the unruly elements get the upper hand and mob rule is only stopped by the intervention of Mr. Stokes. Sinclair is finally exposed by Stokes and is expelled.

561-568.

HORACE STEVENS AND HIS FATHER'S PLAY

For this, the last of the Old Series, Brooks takes us behind the scenes of London's Theatre-land. Stevens' father, before he dies, had been a great actor and had written a play. Stevens tries to get it produced and also reveals his own capabilities as an actor. How the play is stolen from him and how with Brown's and Nipper & Co's help he finally triumphs is well told in a most dramatic fashion.

1st New Series

No's 1-11.

SPORTS MAD AT ST. FRANK'S

Fenton starts a Sports Carnival and Nipper suggests a Young England v. Young Australia playing in a test match with the final game at Lord's. St. Frank's thinks of nothing else except sport this term, but the Headmaster tries to bring them back to earth by setting them a specially stiff exam. So what with sports and study and everything going with a mad rush, everyone has a hectic time, trying to fit things in.

12 - 19.

HOLIDAY ADVENTURES IN CHINA

Young Ching is kidnapped and Nelson Lee, Dorriemore and Umlosi, to say nothing of Nipper & Co. go to China to effect a rescue. They are

taken prisoners and get mixed up in a battle between rival War Lords before everything smooths itself out.

20 - 25. HANDFORTH AS REMOVE CAPTAIN

As a result of a joke that went wrong, Handforth is elected captain. He proceeds to make a thorough nuisance of himself, until the whole Remove is fed up to the back teeth with his weird and wonderful ideas of how a form should be run. A very funny yarn.

26 - 33. ST.FRANK'S ON ITS HONOUR

An American Professor persuades the Headmaster to adopt the "Honour System", with dire results. The decent element form a vigilante committee to bring the others to their senses. Meanwhile, Fullwood is tempted to desert the straight and narrow, but his better self prevails.

1927

34 - 43. THEY DISCOVER NORTHESTRIA

After spending Christmas at Handforth Towers the holiday party go on a trip to the Far North, in an airship owned by Lord Dorriemore. As one might expect, the airship gets out of control in a violent storm and is carried well into the Arctic Circle. They get pitchforked over a range of mountains and find themselves - in Northestria - a land of knights in armour. In other words, back to the Middle Ages. Although this is one of Brooks' "far-fetched" stories, I, personally consider it one of the best. The party arrive just as the Gothlanders are about to invade Northestria. Lee and Dorriemore are given the job of organising an army to repel them, and using modern weapons and ideas, do the whole thing in grand style.

44 - 50. THE GREAT FLOOD

Pine Hill Reservoir bursts during heavy rains and floods the whole of the Stowe Valley. St.Frank's is complete cut off. However, a couple of barges float into the school grounds together with an old barn (Fort Resolute of the Trimble barring-out) and Handforth gets the bright idea of lifting the barn on to the barges. They use "Handforth's Ark" as a means of escape from the school. They get carried out to sea and are wrecked but manage to save the barges. They return to the coast and when the floods subside, a few of them, acting as bargees, return the barges to their rightful owner.

51 - 54. THE FUNK OF ST.FRANK'S

Harry Gresham, son of a county cricketer and himself an expert at the game, arrives only to be branded a funk. Handy takes him in hand and helps to prove that his cowardice is more imaginary than real.

55 - 60. THE FRESH AIR FIENDS

The Headmaster's sister persuades him to allow those who wish to take advantage of the summer weather to go under canvas. Her husband is in search of Roman treasure for which purpose he buys Holt's Farm. The camp is washed out by a storm and some of the lads persuade the Head's

sister to allow them to carry on at Holt's Farm. Her husband objects at first but eventually allows them to stay and help him in his search.

66 - 67. ON THE CONGO

This holiday starts out with no particular end in view, except as a trip to the Congo in the company of Lord Dorriemore. However, when they arrive they learn that trouble has broken out in Umlosi's tribe, the Kutana's, and that Umlosi has disappeared. They at once set out to do the rescuing business, only to be captured by a slave trader, one Otto Lorenzo. Needless to say, they put paid to him, but not before we have had our full quote of thrills and adventures.

68 - 71. THE FEUD OF THE FOURTH AND THE REMOVE

What commences as a new spirit of rivalry between the two forms is turned to hatred by Bernard Forrest (who took over the reigns as chief "cad" from Fullwood.) He, with some of his friends, fan the flames impartially by introducing such things as stones and dog-whips etc. into the rivalry. Forrest is in due course exposed and is drummed out of St.Frank's.

72-75. THE CASTLETON TWINS

Allan and Arthur Castleton arrive, the former at St.Frank's and the latter at St.Jim's. Although they are as alike as two peas outwardly, their natures are poles apart. Allan is a thorough-going young rascal, and eventually makes himself so unpopular that he suggests to Arthur that they change places as a joke. Arthur agrees and goes to St.Frank's, only to find that he has to pay for his brother's sins. Allan meanwhile is conscience-stricken and returns to take his medicine. The story also tells of the various attempts on the life of Lord Pippinton.

76 - 79. DEATH OF WALTER CHURCH

One of the most dramatic stories ever written by E.S.B. Church is pursued by enemies and his life is saved only by prompt action by Nelson Lee. To prevent further attempts Lee and Dr.Brett announce that Church has died. Although McClure is convinced, Handforth refuses to believe it, and does his best to force Nelson Lee to explain. The fine thing about this story is the description of the fellows' reactions, particularly Handforth's and McClure's to Church's illness and supposed death. To those who regard Handy as purely a comic this side of his character is an eye-opener.

80-89. HANDFORTH'S BARRING-OUT

Handforth is falsely accused of setting a trap for Mr.Pyecraft, and is due to be flogged. Handforth, being the chap he is, and highly incensed by the injustice, starts a barring-out with his two friends. Very soon others join until the whole Remove is in revolt. The rebellion starts in the Ancient House studies, takes over the store-house as more join, and end by the juniors taking over the Modern House. The barring-out is finally brought to an end by the confession of the culprits, in this case Merrell and Marriott.

90-93. THE BOOT-BOY BARONET

Sir James Potts, Bart. comes to St. Frank's as a boot-boy to earn his living. He is helped to regain his position in life by an old friend and new boy Vivian Travers, and the story ends with him becoming a member of the Remove.

94-99. The Earl of Edgemore is in Queer Street what with mortgages being foreclosed etc., but the Remove rally round and with Nelson Lee doing his stuff on the side, everything works out nicely, thank you!

100-108. HANDFORTH THE OUTCAST

Handforth, usually good-natured and cheerful, gets into a thoroughly bad temper which gets worse as time goes on, and all over nothing. He realises that he's at fault but Handy is as obstinate as a mule and considers everyone owes him an apology instead of vice-versa. Things go from bad to worse until he is ostracised by the whole form. Even his faithful chums, Church and McClure, leave him to get on with it. Of course, Handy comes to his senses but not before he nearly gets himself expelled.

109-117. Chambers of the Fifth, owing to sheer laziness, is sent down to the Remove. He attempts to assert himself by bullying, but is soon put in his place. Showing no effort to improve himself, the Headmaster decides to put him into the Third - amongst the fags. He has a terrible time of it, the fags taking the opportunity to pay off old scores. He soon pulls himself together after this and eventually gains his old place in the Fifth.

118-123. ON HOLIDAY IN INDIA

Lord Dorriemore takes the usual crowd on holiday again, this time to India. The plot is basically the same as the China Series, except that this time it is Hassi Ranjit Lal Kahn who is kidnapped.

124-127. ... story of fun and games, when a series of japes are carried out between St. Frank's and the River House.

128-131 WILLY HANDFORTH'S DOG

This yarn tells how Willy Handforth forms an attachment for a greyhound, of his efforts to buy it from a brutal owner.

132-139. A mixed bag of very short series, concerning the Blue Crusaders, Kenmore the prefect and his reformation, and ghostly happenings at Raithmere Castle re-introducing Ezra Quirke.

140-151. THE ST. FRANK'S TOURING SCHOOL

The school go on an educational tour of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. I don't know what they learnt but they had their full quota of adventure. Brooks may or may not have visited these countries, but his descriptions are most realistic.

152-159. THE SNEAK'S PARADISE

Note: - 152, 157-159, complete school stories.

Dr. Stafford has retired and instead we have a Dr. Morrison Nicholls. He has a theory which he puts into practice, that the schoolboy code of honour, which says "one should not 'sneak'", is all wrong, and that if a boy is bullied, or knows of some misdemeanour, he should report the matter. What happens, of course, is the opposite to the Headmaster's hopes. It's a field day for the cads.

160-169. ON TOUR AGAIN

Coming so quickly after the other touring school series, one can only assume that it was a publicity stunt. This time they travel about England in a special train, stopping a few days at various points. Each stopping-place provides a different adventure.

170-174. Lord Dorriemore turns up again and takes a party off to Arizona in search of gold.

175-178. Stanley Waldo son of the "Underman", arrives, and proceeds to stagger the school.

179-182. Bernard Forrest is reinstated and immediately starts his old games.

183-186. Nelson Lee and Nipper's lives are threatened by a Chinese Tong (the same one that caused them to go to St. Frank's in 1917 and the Tong's vengeance is for the same reason!)

187-189. Christmas with Handforth at Travis Dene.

190-194. Edgar Fenton, the popular Head-Prefect, is saddled with an uncle - in the Remove! And what an uncle! He soon earns the name of "the worst boy in the school", and is in fact an unscrupulous young blackguard. Nephew Edgar has a dreadful time before his uncle is finally expelled.

From Page No.101.

GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL

1932. (Contd.)

St. Jim's ..	Making Game of Gussy ..	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	The Third Form Crusoes ..	..	..	..	..
St. Frank's ..	Rivals of St. Frank's ..	..	..	..	..

1933:

Greyfriars ..	Coker's Capture ..	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars ..	Coker's Great Game ..	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars ..	Saved from the Sea. (Reprint of Magnet No. 301 Cast up by the Sea) ..	..	..	..	..
Greyfriars ..	Tom Brown's Footer Report ..	..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Getting Their Own Back ..	..	..	..	..
Rookwood ..	Hanson's "Twin" Brother ..	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	A Yankee at St. Jim's. (Reprint of Gem No. 294 Gussy's Guest) ..	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	Lowther's Last Laugh ..	..	..	..	..
St. Jim's ..	Trimble Takes the Cake ..	..	..	..	..

The Collector's Who's Who

Compiled by Herbert Leckenby

Once again new friends from far and near are added to this indispensable feature. The request for occupations was well responded to, too, thus adding to its interest, for it shows illuminatingly that our fraternity is made up of all sorts and conditions of men (and women) which is just as it should be.

As before, collectors' favourites appear in order of preference.

Old Boys' Book Club Branches indicated thus London (L); Northern (N); Midland (M); Merseyside, Liverpool (Mer.); Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Vic.).

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 Library, (b) Monster Library.
8. Between Two Wars (Champion, Thriller, Ranger, etc.)
9. Comics.
10. Schoolgirls' Own Library, School Friend, Schoolgirls' Weekly, etc.

ADDISON, JOHN R., 319 Long Lane, East Finchley, London, N.2. (L)
Group 5.

ADLEY, DEREK JOHN, 19 Braithwaite Gardens, Stanmore Middlesex.
Age 25. Groups 5 (a) (b); 7(a); 5(e) (d) (c);
6 (b) (a) (c); 7(b); 2; 3; 8; 10.

ADSLEY, GORDON R., 17 Bergerw Road, Brynmenyn, Nr. Bridgend, Glam. South Wales.
Age 29. Builder and Decorator.
Group 5 (c) (b).

Chiefly interested in Christmas numbers and Christmas series of the Magnet and Gem. Usually has surplus copies of most of the popular papers available for sale or exchange with fellow collectors.

ALLEN, LEONARD M., 3 Montgomery Drive, Sheffield, 7. (N)
Age 46. Civil Servant.
Groups 4; 7(a); 2; 9; 6(a).

Requires early comics (1910 to 1924); Cheerio; Chums years 1914, 1915. Nelson Lees (old series) 230, 312, 319, 357, 371, 373, 374, 391, and 523.

ALLISON, GERALD, 7 Summerfield Gardens, Bramley, Leeds. (N)
Departmental Manager.
Groups 5(b) (a); 9.

Librarian, Northern Section, O.B.B.C. Says "If you have any spare copies, sell them to the Library. Thanks!"

- * ALLISON, "MOLLIE", 32 Warrels Place, Bramley, Leeds, Yorkshire. (N)
 Age 35. Bank Clerk.
 Group 5 (a) (b) (d) (e)
 A new collector. Particular interest - Greyfriars stories,
 "Vernon-Smith Series."
- ANDERSON, L.T., 51 Holmewood Gardens, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.2.
 Age 41. Assurance Representative.
 Group 5 (all).
- ARMITAGE, S. F., The Orchard, Ossett, Yorkshire. (N)
 Journalist.
 Group 5(a) (b).
- AUCKLAND, CHARLES KENNETH, 67 Hemsworth Road, Sheffield, 8. (N)
 Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (all).
 Is anxious to obtain Christmas number Magnet "Four From the East"
 and Nelson Lee Library No. 499, "The Secret of the Panel".
 Also interested in English coins and cigarette cards connected
 with boxing and cricket.
- BAKER, ANTHONY, Christ Church Vicarage, Barnet, Herts. (e)
 Age 14. Groups 5 (a) (b) (d) (e); 6(b).
- BAKER, CHARLES, 7 Marine Terrace, Waterloo Port, Caernarvon. (e)
 Groups 5(b) (a) (c) (a); 2; 3.
- BANKS, CYRIL, 42 Rose Terrace, Calton Street, Huddersfield, Yorks. (N)
 Age 43. Clerk.
 Groups 7(a); 5(a) (b) (d) (c); 7(b);
 5(e); 10 (for daughters).
- BARTLETT, C. J., 20 Broomfield Road, Beckenham, Kent. (e)
 Age 21. Clerk, London Transport Executive.
 Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e).
- BARTLETT, HENRY J. H., Peas Hill, Shipton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset. (e)
 Age 51. Hire Car Proprietor.
 Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e); 6 (all); and all others.
 Also interested in fantasy fiction and would like to correspond with
 others on the subject.
 Is under the impression that for a period the Dreadnought was same
 size as the Boys' Friend, but cannot get confirmation. Can anyone
 help?
 Is also a Rural District Councillor, Parish Councillor, Bellringer,
 Scoutmaster, Choir member, Warden Civil Defence, and member of Toc H.
- BEARDSSELL, FREDERICK CLIFFORD, Plymstock, Ross Avenue, Davenport,
 Stockport, Cheshire. (N)
 Age 48. Master Window Cleaner.
 Group 5(a) (d) (b).
- BENNETT, RAYMOND V., 64 Dudley Road, Tipton, Staffs. (L)
 Age 36. Chief Clerk.
 Groups 5(a); 7(a); 5(b); 6(a).
 Particularly interested in Christmas Numbers.

- BENTLEY, J. BREEZE, 4 Grenfell Drive, Bradford, Yorkshire. (N)
 Group 5 (a) (b) (d)
 Collection now includes 1550 Magnets, 600 Gems, 200 S.O.L's
 (Greyfriars, St.Jim's, Rookwood).
 Magnet numbers wanted. 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 43, 48, 49, 91, 106,
 122, 140, 149, 167, 178, 184, 212, 233, 234, 253, 254, 255, 400,
 404, 419, 423, 428, 431, 437, 443.
- BLIGHT, EDWARD, "Sandhills", Constantine Bay, St.Merryn, Padstow,
 Cornwall. (L)
 Age 51. Retired Engineer.
 Groups 3; 5(a) (b) (e); 6(a) (c); 7(a);
 8 (Thriller).
 Collection includes Cheer Boys Cheer, Boys' Journal, Wild West,
 complete runs.
- BLYTHE, ROBERT CHARLES, 46 Carleton Road, Holloway, London, N.7. (L)
 Age 38. Assistant Stock-keeper.
 Groups 7(a); 5(a); 6 (E.S. Brooks stories only).
 Is employed by Oxford University Press. Is in charge of books
 handled on behalf of twenty American University Presses as well
 as four other learned Associations.
- BOLAND, JOHN A., College Historical Society, Trinity College,
 Dublin University. (L)
 Age 21. Group 5(a) (b) (d)
 Also interested in "Meccano Magazine".
- BOND, HERBERT MAURICE, 10 Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, South Wales.
 Age 40. Group 6 (all)
- BOTTOMLEY, FRED A., 48 Downhills Park Road, Tottenham, London, N.17.
 Age 45. Shopkeeper.
 Groups 5(a) (d); 7(a).
- BRADSHAW, W. H., 227 West 88th Street, Los Angeles, Cal. U.S.A.
 Group 6 (all)
- BRANTON, W. LESLIE, 63 Thoresby Street, Hull. (L)
 Commercial Artist.
 Group 5(a)(e) (c).
- BRETHERTON, T. P., Heskin, Nr. Chorley, Lancs.
 Groups 2; 1; 9.
- *BRIGGS, S.C. GODFREY, Public Hospital, Rotorua, New Zealand.
 Age 58.
 Groups 5 (b) (a) (c) (e); 2;
 4 (Captain, Chums) 6 (c) (b);
 9 (Chips).
 Collection at present very small and is anxious to increase it.
 Possesses B.F.L's "Shunned by the School" and "Pride of the
 School", also Chums, 1912-13. First edition Scouting for
 Boys (1918). Would like to purchase 1/2d. and first 1d Gems,
 "Gathering of the Clans", etc.

■ BROMLEY, GEORGE, "Holeywell", Estoria Avenue, Wigston Magna,
Leicester.

Age 31. Trade Union Officer,
Group 5(a) (b) (d) (e)
Collection small but growing. Interested in Greyfriars, St.Jim's
and Rookwood. As a boy first love was Greyfriars, but as an
adult collector sympathies veering to St.Jim's. Considers this
shows the St.Jim's characters are more subtle and better portrayed,
whilst Greyfriars ones are mainly background for "Famous Five"
and Bunter.

BROWN, RAYMOND E., 54 Longreach Road, Liverpool, 14. (L) (Mer.)
Age 25. Group 5 (all); 6 (all); 8; 9.

■ BRYNE, F. G., C/o 40 Whitebarn Lane, Dagenham, Essex.

Age 28. Schoolmaster.
Group 5 (all).

Only been collecting a short time. Finds high prices a problem.
Hopes collectors will help by refusing to pay them, and not add
"Your price paid" to wants advertisements.

BURROW, RAYMOND, 1 Albert Square, Yeadon, Leeds.

Age 41. Grocer.
Groups 7(a); 5(b); 8; 2.

Wanted: Nelson Lee (old series) 17, 30, 78, 107, 114.

Gems 1023, 1024. Schoolboys' Own Library 4, 120.

Boys' Friend Library, 514.

CALDWELL, RAYMOND L., P.O. Box 515, Lancaster, Pa, U.S.A.

Group 1; 2; 3; 6.

CARTER, ERNEST CHARLES, 2 Cooper Street, Kingsford, N.S.W., Australia.

Age 41. Clerk.
Groups 7(a) (b); 5(a); 6 (all); 5(b).

Only requires Nelson Lees 1915-1917 to complete set. Can anyone
help? Good price paid for books in good condition suitable for
binding.

Is employed in Central Registry, Eastern Army Command.

CASE, FRANCIS, 4 Dee Street, Liverpool 6. (Mer.)

Groups 9; 2; 5 (all).

Hon. Sec. Merseyside Branch, O.B.B.C.

CHAMBERS, W. E., 83 Orme Road, Bangor, N.Wales.

Age 34. Porter.
Groups, All.

CHECKLEY, PETER J., 18 Tarleton Road, Coundon, Coventry.

Age 18. Printer's Apprentice.
Groups 8 (Bullseye, Surprise)

5 (b) (d) (c); 6(a); 7(a).

At present on National Service.

CHURCHILL, CHARLES H., 123 Pinhow Road, Exeter.

Age 43. Accountant.

Groups 7 (a) (b); 6(a).

Is particularly in need of various Nelson Lees (old series) prior to No.130. Would be glad of any help. Interested also in early "Confederation" and "Spots Losely" Union Jacks.

CHILD, A. C., 64 Gilbertstone Avenue, Birmingham 26.

H. Group 7.

CLOUGH, WILLIAM/3 Fonthill Grove, Sale, Manchester.

Age 51. Groups 2: 3; 6(a); 4 (Captain); 9.

Still very anxious to obtain Peter Flint's series in Nugget Library, and Kettle & Co. series in Diamond Library.

COATES, VERA, 33 Benheim Place, Blackman Lane, Leeds, 2. (N)

Groups 10, 5(a); 6(a); 7(a).

Particularly interested in Schoolgirls' Own Library Morcove stories.

COLCOMBE, WILLIAM HENRY, 256 South Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. (L)

Age 31. Works Security Officer.

Groups 6(b) (a) (c); 5(a) (d).

Wanted. Sexton Blake Libraries by Allen Blair and Donald Stuart.

COOK, JACK R., 178 Maria Street, Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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

COOK, JAMES W., 4 Swanston Path, Oxhey Estate, Watford, Herts.

Age 44. Groups 7; 5(a) (c).

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

Age 30. Civil Servant.

Groups 5 (all); 8 (Ranger).

Collection consists of 776 Magnets, 36 Gems. 62 S.O.L's, and 3 Holiday Annuals. Requires Rangers 1 and 29-47. Populars 626-8. Magnets 893, 896, 900, 903, 906-1918, 920-1, 923, 925-7, 929-34, 936-44, 946-50, 952-7, 959, 960, 962-3, 965, 968-72, 974, 977, 982, 986, 987, 990, 1152.

CORBETT, JACK, 49 Glyn Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham, 32. (M)

Group 5 (all).

Chairman Midland Branch, O.B.B.C.

* COWD, DONALD G. T., "Trivendrum", 27 Lonsdale Avenue, Portchester, Fareham, Hants. (P)

Age 31. Physical Engineer.

Group 5 (all).

Founder-Chairman of the Greyfriars Club, Portsmouth.

Had a good collection of Magnets when he left school, but they disappeared. Says he has never smiled since.

Re-started collecting in 1951 and at present concentrating on the Magnet from 1919-1940. Has a complete collection of contemporary Hamiltonia. Reads all he buys and does not believe in collecting merely as a form of acquisition.

- COX, EDMUND W., 29 Carisbrooke Drive, Bitterne, Southampton. (L)
Age 24. Groups 5(a) (b) (d) (e) (c); 9; 8; 10; 7(a).
- CROLLIE, RONALD J., 8 Lytton Road, Romford, Essex.
Age 34. Bakery Engineer.
Groups 5 (a) (b) (d); 7 (a); 5(a); 6(a) (c). (L)
- DAINES, COLIN, 209 Mile Cross Lane, Norwich, Norfolk.
Age 42. Electrical Draughtsman.
Groups 7 (a); 5(a) (b).
- DARWIN, WILFRED, 76 Western Road, East Dene, Rotherham, Yorkshire.
Gardener.
Groups 6 (a); 8 (Hiltons' Boys' Magazines).
- DAVEY, EDWARD JOHN, 26 Bourton Road, Olton, Birmingham, 27. (M)
Age 49. Accountant (Export).
Groups 5 (a); 4; 10.
Secretary Midland Section O.B.B.C. and greatly enjoys the job.
Regards it as a privilege and an honour.
Wife and son (age 17) also keenly interested in the hobby.
- DAVIES, GRAHAM C., 54 Newton Road, Mumbles, Swansea, Glam.
Age 33. Principal, Secretarial Service.
Groups 6 (b) (a) (c); 5(a) (b).
- DEASEY, JAMES C., 11 Gallymount Gardens, Ranelagh, Dublin, Ireland.
Age 20. Clerk in Aer Lingus.
Group 5 (a) (b).
Also interested in "Meccano Magazine" but not in meccano.
- * DE SOYSA, A. C. H., 4 Boyd Place, Colombo, Ceylon.
Age 35. Company Director.
Group 5 (a) (e).
Is anxious to buy Magnets and Holiday Annuals from members,
as collection is of recent origin. If exchange is preferred can
send Ceylon curios. Correspondence invited.
- DOBSON, TOM, 16 Tovan-Akes Avenue, Bentleigh, Victoria, Australia.
Age 47. Public Servant (P.M.G. Dept.)
Groups 5 (b) (a) (e) (d) (c); 6 (all), 7 (b) (a).
Possesses 350 Gems, 350 Magnets, including Bob Cherry's Barring-Out
series. Also 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Magnets, earliest No.5.
Wanted Magnet and Gem Double numbers and early Talbot stories,
originals. Your price paid.
- DOLPHIN, REX, 13 Meadow Way, Hyde Heath, Amersham, Bucks. (L)
Age 37. Group 6 (all).
- DRYDEN, WHEELER, Box 2647 Hollywood 28, California, U.S.A.
Group 5 (all).
- DOW, JAMES (Junr.), 73 King Street, Aberdeen, Scotland.
Age 39. Shopkeeper.
Group 5 (all); 7 (a) (b).

- DOWLER, HARRY**, 86 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester 13. AL110
 Age 62. Commercial and Shorthand Teacher.
 Groups 2; 4.
 Sherlock Holmes fan. Keen, active cyclist and bowler, sports enthusiast, especially trick cycling, athletics and swimming. Interested in films, stage and acting in general. A great lover of the French language.
- EVERITT, C. A.**, P.O. Box 7, Brinkworth, South Australia.
 Age 38. Farmer.
 Groups 5 (a) (b) (d); 7 (e).
 Particularly requires any runs up to 1260 of Gem and Magnet. Any help would be greatly appreciated.
- PARISH, ROBERT**, 24 English Street, Longtown, Cumberland.
 Age 51. Groups 5 (a) (b) (c) (e). YAL1003
- FLAYNE, ERIC**, The Modern School, Grove Road, Surbiton, Surrey. (L)
 Groups 5 (all); 6; 8.
- FENN, WILLIAM H.**, P.O.Box 127, Auckland, C.I., New Zealand. (L)
 Age 50. Groups 1; 9.
- FENNELL, HUGH**, 4 Dixon Road, South Norwood, London, S.E.25.
 Groups 1; 2; 3 and all others.
 Wants "Wild Boys of London"; Scoops: Frank Reades; Fantasy and Science fiction; Sherlock Holmes and detective first editions; odd numbers "Skeleton Horsemen" and "Boy Detective". Unusual books.
- FLATMAN, HYLTON**, 8 Leinster Square, London, W.2. (L)
 Actor.
 Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (e).
- FLINDERS, EVELYN B.**, Roseview, Gosmore Road, Nr. Hitchin, Herts. (L)
 Illustrator.
 Group 5 (b) (a) (c) (d).
- FORD, DEREK**, 42 West Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
 Group 6 (all).
- GANDER, WILLIAM HENRY**, Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada.
 Age 54. Retail Newsdealer.
 Group 5 (a); 2 (Boys' Friend, etc.) (L)
 Needs only 25 Magnets to complete set. Vols 1-4, 14-16, 23 to end, Boys' Friend or certain numbers to complete these volumes. New series Greyfriars Herald, from No.31.
- GARRATT, ANTHONY GARRETT**, 275 Chester Road, Little Sutton, Wirral,
 Age 30. Building Society Assistant Branch Manager. /Cheshire.
 Groups 5 (a) (b); 1.
- GEAL, JOHN WILLIAM**, 277 Kings Road, Kingston-on-Thames. (L)
 Age 31. Scientific Instrument Maker.
 Groups 5 (a); 8 (Modern Boy);
 5 (b) (e); 7 (e).

- GILES, F. VICTOR**, 6 St. Paul's Road, Barking, Essex.
Group 5.
- GODSAVE, REUBEN JAMES**, 35 Woodhouse Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11. (L)
Age 42. Commercial Traveller.
Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (a).
- GOCHER, JOHN WOODWARD**, Constitution Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk.
Age 31. Ironmonger.
Groups 8; 6 (all); 5 (all); 4; 3; 2; 9; 10; 1.
Particularly interested in Sexton Blake stories by John Hunter.
- GOODHEAD, W. H.**, 50 Porter Road, Derby. (L)
Age 37. Warehouseman.
Groups 5 (a) (b) (d) (e); 6 (all); 7 (a).
- GOURLAY, NEIL CLARKSON**, 54 Grosvenor Drive, Whitley Bay,
Northumberland. (L)
Age 26. Electrical Engineer.
Groups 5 (b) (a); 7 (a); 5 (d) (e) (c);
7 (b); 6 (all); 10.
During the war gave away a large collection of boys' papers
of the 1930's. Interested in Hamilton and Brooks' school stories.
Aims to get "key" stories of St. Jim's, Greyfriars, Rookwood and
St. Frank's.
- GRAINGER, GEORGE P.**, Alexandre Road, Paynter's Lane End, Redruth, Cornwall.
Groups 3; 6 (a); 1; 2.
Special Wants: Aldine Invention Library (1d) No's 1-4, 6-10.
Aldine Detective Library (2d) No's 10, 17-20. Aldine Tip-Top
Library (1d) No's 9, 11, 25, 55 and 59. Boys' Friend (1d)
No's 575, 577, 578, 579, 581, 597, 603, 604 and 616.
- GREGORY, NORMAN**, 6 Metfield Croft, Harborne, Birmingham, 17. (M)
Age 36. Accountant and Auditor.
Groups 4; 5 (all); 6 (all); 7 (a) (b);
2; 3; 1; 8; 9; 10.
- GRIFFITHS, HAROLD F.**, 6 Walls Street, Dunedin, N.W.I., New Zealand.
Age 44. Groups 4 (Chums); 9; 2; 1.
Has now nearly Chums volumes and on the look-out for more.
- GUNN, JOHN**, A.M.H.C.I. Gunn's Guest House, 1 Stratfield Square,
(off Shakespeare Street) Nottingham.
Age over 21. Guest House Proprietor.
Groups 7 (a) (b); 8.
- HALL, ALFRED L.**, 34 Compton Crescent, Leeds 9. (N)
Groups 3; 2; 6 (a) (b); 1.
- HALL, LESLIE**, 32 Second Avenue, Wortley, Leeds 12. (N)
Group 5 (all).
- HARRISON, WILLIAM**, 54 Chandos Avenue, Leeds, 8. (N)
Age 50.
Groups 5 (a) (b) (c) (d); 9.

* HEMMINGWAY, HENRY B., 32 Dickering Road, Kingston Hill, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

Electrical Engineer.

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

Requires most S.O.L's prior to No.270, and some, mainly Frank Richards' from 207 to 409. Already has the St.Franks series. Has been re-collecting S.O.L's for only one year. Says the silliest thing he ever did was to sell about 100 S.O.L's for 25/- 10 years ago.

HEPBURN, JIM, 1 Sixth Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland.

(N)

Age 47. Grocery Manager.

Groups 4 6 (b); 5 (a).

HESS, GEO H. (Junn.), 40 North Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul 4, Miss., U.S.A.

Groups 3; 4; 5 (all); 6 (all); 7; 8.

* HIGHTON, GEORGE J., 14 Greyhound Road, Kensal Green, Willesden,

London, N.W.10.

Age 25. Automobile Engineer.

Groups 5 (a); 7 (a).

Collection consists of 200 Magnets, Nelson Lees, and S.O.L's, and is growing steadily.

First discovered the Magnet in Singapore in 1946, and became acquainted with the Nelson Lee in 1948. Started collection last year. Says he cannot chose between E.S. Brooks and Charles Hamilton. Suggests an alteration in C.D. - that it should be published daily instead of monthly.

Would like to hear from anyone with spare copies to sell of any of the above.

HOCKLEY, GEOFFREY W., 308 Keyes Road, New Brighton, Christchurch,

New Zealand.

(L)

Age 51. Motor Cycle Dealer.

Groups 4; 2.

Requires Chums columes for years 1893, 1902, and 1918, to complete entire run 1892-1941.

HOMER, HARRY, Yulden Farm, Heathfield, Sussex.

(L)

Age 46. Market Gardener.

Groups 6 (a) (b); 5 (d) (e); 6 (c); 9.

HOLT, BRIAN D., British Legation, Reykjavik, Iceland.

(L)

Groups 7 (a); 5 (b) (d) (a).

* HOPKINS, RAYMOND, 129 Shardeloes Road, New Cross, London, S.E.14.

(L)

Age 33. Customs Entry Clerk.

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

Collection at present very small consisting of 16 Magnets, 10 Gems and 3 Populars, mostly obtained at meetings of O.B.B.C. Has also 9 Holiday Annuals which he was allowed to keep when all his old weeklies were disposed of when 16. Came into contact with O.B.B.C. via Frank Richards' Autobiography and enquiries for the Collectors' Digest and Story Paper Collector from Skiltons.

- HOPPERTON, TOM, Courtlands, Fulford Road, Scarborough, Yorkshire. (N)
 Age 45. Group 5 (a) (b) (d) (c); 1.
 Above favourites, but interested in all groups.
- HORTON, WILLIAM, 4 Merton Road, Huyton, Liverpool. (Mer.)
 Groups 5 (a); 7 (a); 4 (Chums).
 Librarian to Merseyside O.B.B.C.
- HUBBARD, ERNEST ALEXANDER, 5 South View Crescent, Sheffield 7. (N)
 Age 46. Groups 5 (all); 7 (a) (b); 9; 2; 6 (a).
- * HUGHES, (Rev.) JACK SHERWOOD, 184 Riverview Drive, Chelmer, S.W.3
 Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
 Minister of Religion.
 Groups 5 (a) (b); 7 (a); 5 (d) (e); 7 (b).
 Began collecting Gems whilst at school, but Magnets only in later years. Possesses 590 Gems, 430 Magnets, 250 S.O.L's, 670 Nelson Lees. Eager to obtain Magnets years 1930-31.
- HUMPHRIES, KENNETH, 61 Long Hill Rise, Hucknell, Notts.
 Groups 5 (all); 7.
- HUMPHREYS, ERIC, "Oakdene", Boat Lane, Higher Irlam, Nr. Manchester. (N)
 Age 38. Laboratory Assistant.
 Group 5 (all).
 Collection now consists of 220 Magnets, 50 S.O.L's (all Greyfriars), 3 Holiday Annuals, all Skilton, Mandeville and Goldhawk books. Known the C.D. three years and thinks it gets better every month. Is anxious to obtain the Cavendish Abbey series in the Magnet, also Magnet No. 1186.
- HUNTER, J.V.D. STEWART, 4 Lulworth Road, Mottingham, London, S.E.9.
 Age 53. Groups 1; 3; 2.
- HUNTER, RONALD H., C/o Royal Mail Agencies (Brazil) Ltd., Avenida Rio Branco, 51/55 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, S. America.
 Age 39. Group 5 (all).
- HURRELL, JAMES W., "Glenisle", 10 Ilfracombe Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex. (L)
 Age 42. Progress Clerk.
 Groups 7 (a); 5 (a) (c) (e) (b) (d); 6 (all).
- IMPSON, STANLEY A., Stanfield, 19 Jerningham Road, New Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk.
 Age 55. Upholsterer.
 Groups 5 (a) (b) (e); 4; 5 (d); 7 (a); 2;
 6 (b) (c); 7 (b); 8; 1; 9; 10.
- * INGRAM, ARTHUR JOHN, 97 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton. (M)
 Age 40 odd. Schoolmaster.
 Groups 4; 6 (all).
 Member of Midland O.B.B.C. and thoroughly enjoys monthly meetings at Birmingham.
- IRALDI, JAMES C., 28-13 33rd Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York, U.S.A., (L)
 Age 45. Group 5 (all).

JAMISON, WILLIAM, Lisnacree, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

Gardener. Group 5 (a) (c).

JARDINE, WILLIAM WALTER, 52 Kipling Avenue, Woodingdean, Brighton,
Sussex. (L)

Age 37. Engineering Sales Correspondent.

Groups 5 (all); 7 (a) (b);

6 (all, especially stories by Gwyn Evans.

Is gradually building up a small collection, concentrating mainly on period 1920 to 1933. Particular "wants" are The Bunter Court series, "Captain of Greyfriars" series (both Magnet 1925) and the "Hollywood" series (Magnet 1929).

* JENKINS, GERALD, 7 Caedderwen Road, Westernmoor, Neath, Glamorgan. (L)

Age 29. Local Government Officer (Clerical).

Group 5 (a) (b) (c) (d).

Was a reader of the "Magnet" during the last four years of his school-life and accumulated mint copies over that period. In a fit of generosity gave them away to a friend younger than himself. As the years passed had a certain nostalgia for the old paper. Came across a letter about it in "News Chronicle" Dec.14, 1951. As a result was put in touch with London O.B.B.C. Has a great admiration for Frank Richards.

JENKINS, ROGER MICHAEL, "Strathmore," 3 Town Hall Road, Havant, Hants.

Age 27. Civil Servant (Legal Branch.) (L)

Group 5 (a) (d) (b) (c) (d).

JEYES, JAMES A., 108 Adnett Street, Northampton.

Age 56. Group 2.

JONES, S F., High School, Penrith, New South Wales, Australia.

Group 5 (b) (e).

* JOHNSON, MARCUS, 164 Amesbury Avenue Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2.

Age 45. Accountant.

Groups 8 (Boys' Friend); 7 (a); 5 (a) (b) (e).

Has only just started collecting. Would be pleased to hear of any copies of Boys' Friend, Nelson Lee, Magnet and Gem for sale. (1915 onwards).

JONES, RAYMOND, "Melrose", 39 Mill Hill Road, Cowes Isle of Wight.

Age 23. Shop Manager.

Group 5 (a) (d) (b) (c).

KEELING, FRANK, 107 Dolphins Road, Folkestone, Kent. (L)

Age 45. Electric Instrument Maker.

Groups 7 (a); 10; 5 (a).

Also interested in obtaining copies of "Motor Cycling" or "Motor Cycle" of years 1928-1936.

KELSHAW, L. G., 41 Selby Avenue, South Shore Blackpool.

Group 5 (a).

KIRBY, GORDON J., C/o Public Library, Swanston Street, Melbourne,
Victoria, Australia. (Vic.)

Groups 5 (all); 10.

KNASTER, R. M. J., 4 Elm Place, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W.7.
Group 5 (a)

KNIGHT, STANLEY, 50 Browning Street, Bradford, Yorks. (N)
Group 5 (all).

KNOTT, FRANK L., 62 Britannia Street, Petone, New Zealand.
Group 5.

KUTNER, MAURICE, 4 New North Place, Scrutton Street, Finsbury, London,
Age 45. Wood Carver. E.C.2. (L)
Group 5 (b) (a) (c).

Collection now consists of 470 Gems, 360 Magnets, 80 Penny Populars.
Anxious to obtain Magnets 462-4, 476, 498, 500-03, 505, 508, 522-3,
530-4, 536-7, 540-2, 546.
Interested in the illustrators, particularly Warwick Reynolds.

LANDY, ERIC R., 4 Nuneston Road, Dagenham, Essex.
Age 49. Commercial Traveller.
Groups 3; 1; 2.
Required Aldine Robin Hoods, (original 1901), Jack Sheppards.

LAWSON, ARTHUR W., 13 Charles Square, Hoxton, N.1. (L)
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".
List on application.

LECKENBY, HERBERT, Telephone Exchange, C/o Central Registry, Northern
Command, York. (L; N)
Age 62. Supervisor Military Telephone Exchange.
Groups: All, particularly 1; 2; 3.

LEWIS, MERVYN D., 10 Dudley Road, Folkeston, Kent. (N)
Age 30. Group 5 (a).

LOFTS, WILLIAM O. G., 42 Ashbridge Street, St. Marylebone, London, N.W.8.
Age 29. Engineering (Carburettor Assembling.) (L)
Groups 6 (b); 5 (a) (d).
Not an actual collector. Likes to read the books and pass them on.
Has read over 1000 S.B.L's, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Series. Anxious to
obtain S.B. Annuals (any years).
Sports enthusiast: football, cricket, boxing, wrestling, speedway,
athletics, etc.

MACHIN, HUBERT, 38 St. Thomas Road, Moor Park, Preston, Lancs.
Group 5 (a).

MCCABE, ROBERT JACKSON, 74 Ann Street, Dundee, Angus, Scotland.
Age 34. Reed Maker.
Groups 5 (all); 6 (b); 3.

Still on the look-out for Biggles stories in the
Boys' Friend Library.

- McGARVA, R. ANTHONY**, 220 Sissons Road, Leeds 10. (L)
 Age 29. Salesman (Shoes)
 Groups - All.
 Anxious to obtain early Schoolboy Annuals of weekly and monthly papers. Also G. A. Henty books, or articles written by him. Thanks all members who have written to him.
- McKIM, WILLIAM**, Coxwold, York.
 Medical Practitioner.
 Groups 1; 2; 3 4.
- McPHERSON, A.**, 60 Benedict Street, Glastonbury, Somerset.
 Age 36. Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (a) (d).
- McROBERTS, GEORGE**, 31 Ardenlee Drive, Cregagh, Belfast.
 Age 50. Groups 5 (a) (b) (c) (e); 7 (a).
- * **MAGOVERNY, EDITH**, 65 Bentham Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
 Age 43. Groups 5 (a) (c) (d) (e); 7 (a) (b).
 Has a collection of about 60 Magnets and 15 S.O.L's (Greyfriars) and would like to get more at reasonable prices.
- MARTIN, BILL**, 93 Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London, N.W.10.
 Dairyman.
 Groups 5 (all); 6 (all).
 Requires Aldine Jack Sheppard Lib. 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11.
- MATHESON ALEX S.**, 11 Ackergill Street, Wick, Caithness, Scotland. (L)
 Age 21. Groups 5 (b) (d); 8; 5 (a).
- MATHEWS, CHARLES RACE THORSON**, 8 Barnett Street, Hampton, S.7, Victoria, Australia. (L., Vic.)
 Age 17. Groups 7 (a); 6 (b); 5 (a) (c).
- MELL, GEORGE**, 4 Milbank Crescent, Darlington, Co. Durham.
 Age 44. Local Government Officer and Free Lance Journalist.
 Groups 4; 5 (all).
 After collecting one year has 100 Magnets, 5 Holiday Annuals, vol. of Boys' Friend, 5 vols. Chums. Wants more Magnets and Holiday Annuals.
- MELLOR, PETER LODGE**, 19 Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22a.
 Age 30 Machine Tool Fitter (Skilled).
 Groups 5 (all); 6 (all); 1; 2; A; 7 (a) (b).
 Hon. Sec. Companion Papers ASSOC. Birmingham.
- MERRALLS, JAMES DONALD**, 13a, Campbell Road, Balwyn, E.8, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. (Vic.)
 Age 16. Schoolboy.
 Groups 6 (all); 5 (all).
 Has been passing through a very important year at school, and hasn't had as much time to devote to the hobby as he would have liked. Wishes to apologise to those who have written to him and had no reply. Hopes to have more time in 1953.

MURTAGH, J. R., 509 Selwood Road, Hastings, New Zealand.

Age 39. Theatrical Entertainer.

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

Wanted Nelson Lee Library (old series) No's 1, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 27, 30, 31, 34, 40, 42, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 59, 60, 62, 64-69, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 78, 82, 84, 86, 88, 92, 102, 103. S.O.L's 27, 212. Cash, or have hundreds of early Lees and Blakes in exchange for above.

NICHOLLS, Ronald Alick, The Grey House, Whitchurch, Bristol 4. (L)

Age 38. Groups 5 (a) (b) (c); 6 (a) 1 8 (Thriller); 4.

Wishes to obtain Magnets from 1924 to end in good condition.

Also Union Jacks 1925-1933. Letters welcome.

ORR, W. S., 3 Hartfield Terrace, Dumbarton, Scotland.

Age 50. Groups 5 (a) (b) (c); 6 (a);

2; 8 (Boys Friend).

PACKMAN, JOSEPHINE 27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L)

Civil Servant.

Groups 5 (b); 6 (a) (b).

Requires certain numbers Union Jack to complete run.

PACKMAN, LEONARD, 27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22. (L)

Age 47. Civil Servant (Established).

Groups 5 (b); 6 (b); 7 (a); 6 (a);

10; 5 (a) (c); 1; 2; 9.

Urgently seeking Union Jacks No's 896 and 1153 for wife to complete a run of nine years.

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

Age 17. Groups 5 (all); 6 (b).

PARKS, JOSEPH, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorkshire.

Age 60. Master Printer.

Groups 2 1; 3; 5 (a); 6 (b).

PARRANT, C. JAMES, 99 Compton Buildings, Goswell Road, London, E.C.1. (L)

Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (all); 8 (Thriller).

PICK, ROBERT, 3 Stonegate Grove, Leeds 7, Yorkshire. (N)

Age 53. Master Tailor.

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

POUND, Rev A. G., St. Paul's Vicarage, 68 Finmore Road, Birmingham 9.

Age 50. Minister of Religion.

Groups 5 (a) (b) (e) (d); 1; 2.

PRICE, H. C. NORTON, 22 Northdown Road, Margate, Kent. (L)

Group 6 (b).

Also collects Boys Friend 3d. and 4d. Libraries, and has a considerable number of them. Always glad to hear of any for sale.

PRIME, BERNARD, 43 Heyfield Road, Sanderstead, Surrey. (L)

Group 5 (a) (b).

* QUENSIER, ARTHUR J., 16 Soho Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham.
Age 29. Skilled Machine Tool Fitter.

Groups 5 (a) (b) (e); 6 (all).

At present possesses small collection consisting of 18 Gems, 11 Magnets, 20 Dixon Hawkes and 152 Sexton Blakes. Wants Holiday Annuals 1921 and 1924 in good condition. Is Chairman and joint Founder of the Companion Papers Association, also Treasurer of Birmingham-Australian-British Cobbers Club. Is very interested in Australia, and would like to hear from our hobby enthusiasts there.

* RANSOM, G. H., 207 Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berks.

Age 49. Groups 5 (a) (b); 6 (a); 7 (a).

Has been interested in old boys' books since eight years of age. Like many others got rid of a huge quantity years ago, but has now a total of over 700 again.

RAYNER, W. J., Albion, Clarence Road, Sudbury, Suffolk.

General Manager, Cinema Company.

Group 5 (all).

RENEE, CHARLES GERARD van, P.O. Box 50 Uitenhage, Cape Province,

South Africa.

Age 40. Bank Official.

Group 5 (a)(b) (c).

To complete series urgently requires Magnets 795-799 811, 812, 881, 882, 906, 907, 925, 1219, 1381, 1385, 1256, 1400, 1422. Can offer a wide variety 1916/1940 in exchange.

RHODES, A. WRIGHT, Regional Intelligence Officer, C/o Rhine Centre,
Dusseldorf, B.A.O.R.4.

Group 5 (a) (b).

RICHARDSON, ARTHUR, 49 Ashburnham Mansions, Chelsea, London, S.A.10. (L)

Groups 2 1 3.

ROUSE, RONALD E. J., 3 St. Leonards Terrace, Gas Hill, Norwich, Norfolk.

Age 30. Groups 6 (b) (a); 7 (a.1915-18); 1; 2;

8 (various Libraries); 6 (c);

5 (c. 1st series only); 4 (certain series)

Possesses an enviable collection of No.1's, too numerous to give in detail.

* RUSSELL, BERYL, 11 Malthouse Lane, Washwood Heath, Birmingham 8.

Age 25. Departmental Manageress.

Groups 5 (a) (e) (d) (b) (c); 7 (a) (b). (M)

Collection consists of 100 S.O.L's, 120 Magnets and 120 Gems, including No.1 Penny series. In addition has a complete set of Monster Libraries, five Holiday Annuals, all the Bunter, Tom Merry and Gold Hawke books, also a few copies of the Dreadnought, Penny Popular, Greyfriars Herald, Nelson Lees and School Friends.

SITCHELL, T., 84 Ankerdine Crescent, Woolwich, London, S.E.18.

Age 49. Butcher's Manager.

Group 5 (a) (b).

Particularly interested in the early "Toff" series and would like to obtain these by way of exchange.

- SHARPE, HOWARD, C/o G.P.O. Box, 4339, Melbourne, Australia.
Group 5 (a) (a).
Main interest Greyfriars, but keen to acquire all S.O.L's.
Also Captain Justice B.F.L's.
- SHAW, JOHN R., 4 Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London, S.E.5.
Age 34. Groups 5 (a) (b) (e); 6 (a) (b); 7 (a).
Always interested in all periods of Charles Hamilton's work.
Especially requires certain "Plucks" containing Circus stories by
Harry Dorrien, dated 1909-10.
- SHEPARD, JAMES., 43 Station Road, Killamarsh, Nr. Sheffield.
Group 5 (b) (a).
Particularly interested in early issues.
- SIDAWAY (Mrs.), The Rise, 84 Wenal Road, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.
Group 5 (b) (a).
- SIDEBOTTOM, HERBERT G., 79 Headingley Avenue, Leeds, Yorks. (L)
Group 5 (a)
- SMITH, CLIFFORD, 5 Sharman Avenue, St. Annes, Lancs. (N)
Age 35. Local Government Officer.
Group 5 (a) (d) (b) (e) (c).
Is desperately anxious to obtain Magnets Nos. 1099, 1189, 1202, 1206,
1207, in order to complete collection.
- * SMITH, DEREK., 14 Crescent Lane, Clapham Park, London, S.W.4.
Group 5.
- SMITH, NORMAN J., 34 Maincliffe Mount, Beeston, Leeds 11. (N)
Office Manager.
Group 5 (a) (d) (b) (e).
Secretary Northern Section, O.B.B.C.
- SMITH, JOSEPH., 36 Langham Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne 5.
Group 5 (a) (b) (d) (e).
- SMITH, PERCY., The Stores, Mumby, Nr. Alford, Lincs.
Age 51. Groups 3; 2; 5 (b); 7; 5 (c).
- SMYTH, SIDNEY, 1 Brandon Street, Clovelly, N.S.W., Australia.
Silk Screen Artist.
Groups 5 (a) (b); 7 (a).
- SNELL, FRANK, Rathgar, 6 Chingswell Street, Bideford, Devon.
Group 5 (all).
- SOUTHWAY., ARTHUR JAMES, P.O. Box 3, Beaconsfield, Cape Province,
South Africa. (L) (N).
Groups (all).
- STABLES., HENRY, 44 Hawes Road, Little Horton, Bradford, Yorkshire. (N)
Age 65. Printer's Cutter.
Groups 4; 1; 2; 3; 8; 9; 7 (b); 5(d).
Still wanting Aldine First Rate Deadwood Dick, Outlaw, reprints;
No.416, Deadwood Dick in Danger; 464, Deadwood Dick in Dead City.

- ★ STACEY, DAVID., "The Beeches", Southend Road, Wickford, Essex.
 Age 23. Clerk.
 Groups 5 (e) (d) (c) (b) (a).
 Only recently started collecting and welcomes advice and assistance.
- STEVENS, SHEILA., 783 Rathdown Street, North Carlton, N.4. Melbourne,
 Victoria, Australia. (Vic.)
 Age 38. Groups 5 (all); 10; 4; 7(a) (b); 8; 2; 1; 3; 6 (all).
- STEWART, ALAN., 290 Archdale Road, London, N.6. (L)
 Age 42. Dance Musician.
 Groups 7 (a); 5 (a) (b).
 Collection now consists of 542 Magnets (last ten years), over 400 Gems
 and nearly a complete set of Nelson Lees.
- STONE, LEON, Elgin Street, Gordon, N.S.W. Australia.
 Journalist.
 Groups 4 5 (all).
- STORLEY, R., 4 Byron Street, Shieldfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.
 Groups 1; 2; 6 (a).
 Particularly interested in Boys' Friend, Marvel, Big Budget and Pluck.
- STRYPE, TOM, 21 Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11. (L)
 Corrector of the Press.
 Groups 2; 3; 4; 1.
 Requires True Blues $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d.
- STURDY, F., 8 Watson Street Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.
 Group 5 (all).
- ★ SUTCLIFFE, HERBERT JAMES, "Borrowdale", Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford,
 near Pitsea, Essex. (L)
 Age 34. Warehouseman, Builder's
 Groups 7 (a) (b); 5 (a) (b) (d) (c);
 6 (a) (c) (b); 5 (e).
 Declares he is very definitely a Brooks enthusiast. Has almost 600
 Nelson Lee Libraries and a complete set of Monster Libraries. In
 addition a good assortment of Brooks' stories in S.O.L's, S.B.L's,
 B.F.L's, Nugget Lib. and Union Jack. Says that although he puts
 Nelson Lee first, he can thoroughly enjoy a Magnet or Gem story.
 Only other hobby is cycling. Averages about 6000 miles a year.
- SUTHERLAND, PEARD, 3930 W. 35th Avenue, Vancouver 13, B.C. Canada.
 Age 50. Assistant Public Relations Manager, British Columbia
 Telephone Company, and Editor of Magazine, "Telephone
 Talk". Groups 5 (b); 4; 5 (a) (c); 6 (a).
 Has complete collection of Chums except five volumes. Can any collector
 help: Missing are Vol.1 (1893; Vol.3 (1875); Vol.4 (1896); Vol 5 (1897)
 and Vol.8 (1898).
- SWAN, JAMES R., 3 Fifth Avenue, Paddington, London, W.10. (L)
 Age 36. Electric Arc Welder.
 Groups 5 (a) (b); 7 (a); 4 8; 6 (a) (b); 2.
 During the past year has added over 1100 papers to his collection,
 composed of scores of publications dating back to the beginning of
 the century. In all has a collection of over 2000.

TAYLOR, RAYMOND, 22 Pembroke Avenue, Etingshall, Wolverhampton.

Age 63. Groups 1; 2.

Still anxious to obtain Henderson's "Young Folk's Budget", Nuggets, and varieties.

THURBON, WILLIAM THOMAS, 47 Cromwell Road, Cambridge.

Age 49. Clerk (College).

Groups 2 (Marvel); 6 (a) Lobangu stories only); 4.

Special needs: 1d. Marvels 13, 23, 234, 135, 141, 215, 239, 241, 243, 278, 279, 280, 1d. Union Jack. 171, 201, 244.

1d. Popular (1st series) Nos. 39 to 49.

TWINHAM, HORACE E., 25 Haselden Road, Lupset, Wakefield, Yorkshire. (N)

Age 44. Window Cleaner.

Groups 5 (a) (b) (e) (c) (d); 6 (a) (b); 9.

Would like to obtain Magnets, Gems, Holiday Annuals, S.O.L's, Union Jacks, S.B.Ls, Comics. Also collects football programmes.

VENNIMORE, CHARLES E. F., 25 Byron Avenue, West Hounslow, Middlesex.

Still possesses a big proportion of his famous collection of adult and boys' weeklies in mint condition.

WAINE, GRANVILLE T., 6 Burnham Road, Westcot, Nr. Aylesbury Bucks.

Age 49. Groups 5; 6; 7; 8.

Particularly interested in Double Numbers.

WALKER, PETER A., Chelsea House, Wick, Bristol.

Groups 5 (b) (c); 7 (a); 4; 5 (d) (e).

WALLIS, CLIFFORD, 64 Oakwood Park Road, Southgate, London, N.14. (L)

Age 32. Civil Servant.

Groups 5 (a) (b); 8; 7 (a); 6 (all); 5 (c); 9; 5 (d) (e); 10; 1; 2; 3; 4.

WALSH, JAMES, 345 Stanley Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool.

Age 43. Group 5 (e) (b) (c) (d).

(Mer.)

WARREN, PHILIP, 3 Newton Road, Urmston, Lancs.

Group 5.

WEBB, WALTER, 84 Park Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

Age 43. Group 6 (a) (b).

WEBSTER, DONALD B., Waterloo House, 7 Crosby Road South, Liverpool 22.

Age 47. Civil Servant.

(Mer.L.N.)

Groups 5 (a) (b) (d) (c); 7 (a); 6 (a); 4.

Chairman and Founder of Merseyside Section O.B.B.C. Desirous of obtaining Magnet No.223 and B.F.L. 3d Lib. "Through Thick and Thin". Prefers the Gem but a strong admirer of Frank Nugent.

WEBSTER, PETER, Waterloo House 7 Crosby Road, South, Liverpool, 22. (Mer.)

Age 11.

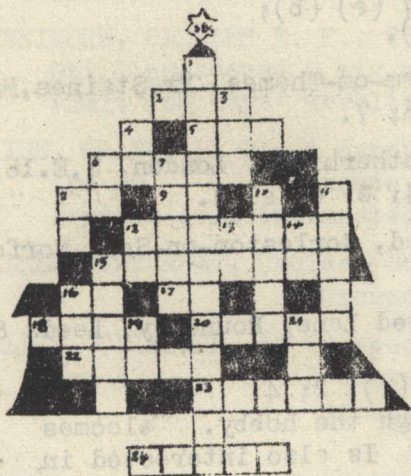
Youngster member of the hobby circle. Prefers the old Hamilton books to Modern literature. Collector of Holiday Annuals and already has six.

- WHITER, BENJAMIN G., 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L)
 Age 47. Warehousemen.
 Groups 5 (all); 6 (a) (b); 7 (a);
 4; 8; 9; 10; 3.
 Secretary of London Club for four years and has correspondents
 in many parts of British Commonwealth.
- WHITER, ROBERT H., 706 Lordship Lane, Wood Green, London, N.22. (L)
 Age 28. Cycle Dealer.
 Group 5 (all); 8; 4.
- WHITMORE, IAN, 3 South Bank Lodge, Surbiton, Surrey. (L)
 Age 18. Bank Clerk.
 Groups 5 (a) (b) (d) (c) (e).
- WICKS, DONALD F., 13 Essex Road, Surrey Hills, E.10, Victoria, Australia. (Vic.)
 Age 30. Groups 5 (all); 7 (a) (b);
 8; 6 (all).
- WILLETT, E.P.K., Church Cottage, Leleham-on-Thames, Nr. Staines, Middlesex. (L)
 Groups 5 (all); 6; 7.
- WHORWELL, RICHARD, 29 Aspinden Road, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16.
 Age 54. Groups 5 (all); 4; 8; 6 (all).
- WINDOVER, EILEEN I. M., 55 Avondale Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk. (L)
 Group 10.
- WILLIAMSON, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, 410 Oakwood Lane, Roundhay, Leeds 8. (N)
 Age 51. Warehouseman.
 Groups 5 (all); 6 (a); 2; 4.
 Declares has made many friends through the hobby. Welcomes
 correspondence from home and abroad. Is also interested in
 newspapers and magazines from overseas.
- WILLISON, FRANK A., 6 Meredith Street, Cradley Heath, Staff. (M)
 Age 51. Progress Chaser, Engineering.
 Groups 6 (b) (a); 5 (a) (b) (c);
 7 (a); 9 (Hendersons).
 Required: Boys' Friend Libraries by Sidney Drew, Cecil Hayter and
 Maxwell Scott. Also interested in Henderson's Comics and Jesters
 1910-14. Collection now about 650.
- WILSON, ROBERT, 100 Broomfield Road, Glasgow, N.
 Age 50+. Medical Practitioner.
 Groups 5 (a) (b) (d) (e) (c); 6 (a).
 Collection to date: 1100 Magnets, 650 Gems, 310 S.O.L's, Complete
 Monster Library, All Holiday Annuals, 100 Populiers, 300 Union Jacks,
 205 Boys' Friend Libraries, 100 Thrillers (No. 51 (1930) still missing)
 150 Boys' Friend (Rookwood stories). All C.D's and C.D. Annuals.
- WOOD, JOHN P., Nostaw, Stockton Lane, York.
 Age 38.
 Groups 7 (a) (b);
 6 (all); 5 (all).

- WRIGHT, CHARLES, 12 Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L)
 Age 47. Hospital Attendant.
 Groups 3, 6 (a) (b) (c); 7 (a).
- WRIGHT, OLIVE, 12 Ashburnham Road, Greenwich, London, S.E.10. (L)
 Counter Hand.
 Group 6 (a) (b).
- YOUNG, JOHN, 81 Alsen Road, Holloway, London, N.7. (L)
 Groups 7; 8.

Sexton Blake Christmas Crossword

By Rex Dolphin



Across: (2) So Valda signs; (5) Black by Teed; (6) Wrote of 20; (8) Initials of Det. Dedgard's creator; (9) Initials of 3 a.m. Smith's creator; (12) Christian name of 9; (15) A baronet of the C.C. a paper too; (16) So the creator of Barry starts; (17) So Roxane's yacht starts; (18) Add this colour to a Russian River for an early Blake author; (20) Sir Richard before the eyes? (22) A river, or Prof. Butterfield's companion; (23) Author who followed father's footsteps; (24) Most infamous of them all?

Down: (1) Blake exposed this criminal vegetable (9, 4). (3) Artist signs his Christian Name; (4) Initials of author of (1); (7) The Great ... Plot, by G.H. Teed; (8) Top of the Tree; (10) Reverse for the Breton invader; (11) Crook with large family; (12) Who is he; (13) The Grey Panther surely has some; (14) Start and finish of (10); (15) Blake's sister-in-law; (16) Fruit of 2 or 3's labours; (19) So a brotherhood starts, or the Black Duchess starts and ends; (21) Teed without end.

Solution on Page 136

ADDITIONS TO WHO'S WHO:

SIMPSON, CLIVE, Flat 2, 8, Granby Road, Harrogate, Yorks.
 Age 36. Medical Representative.
 Groups 7(a), 6(a); 7(b), 6(b); 5(b) (a); 6(c);
 8 (Thriller); 4; 5(a); 2; 1; 3; 1a; 9.

THOMPSON, GORDON, 54, Wallasoy Park, Belfast.

Age 37. Tobacco Worker.

Groups 5(a) (d) (c) (b) (c); 7 (a) (b).

TWELLS, J. 32, Bridgett Street, Rugby.

Age 45. Group 7 (a).

TRAYNOR, J. RICHARDS, BCM/Adventurers, London, W.C.1.

Groups 7 (a); 5 (a); 6 (a); 10.

BLUNDEN, ANTHONY, 43, Mayfield Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex.

Age 17. Bank Clerk.

Groups 5 (a) (b) (d); 7 (a); 5 (c); 8 (Boys
Friend); 5 (e).

(L)

Hidden Hamiltonia

Set by Donald Webster, Chairman, Merseyside O.B.B.C.

Here is a "Quiz" to test your intelligence. All the characters are taken from St.Jim's, Rookwood, and Greyfriars, so there's no need to reach for that Holiday Annual yet. The answers are on Page 136. For example: Make of Car ... Talbot. Easy, isn't it?

(1) How much. (2) Key wanted) (3) Yorkshire Town - easy for the Northern Section. (4) It's a small branch - Do you get it? (5) Smooth in manner. (6) Famous Classic Race. (7) Most Villages possess one. (8) Connected with Hogs Norton. (9) She was a King's favourite. (10) The "Doctor" of course. (11) Not necessarily a Dock worker. (12) Obviously a hiker. (13) Famous English statesman (Youngest P.M?) (15) What the Dickens? Why it's Bill. (16) Precious metal. (17) Place of worship. (18) He doesn't live in Baker Street. (19) Columbus discovered this? (20) His namesake swam the Channel. (21) Radio critic of Scottish Reformer. (22) Lancashire's answer to Bradman? - easy to Cricket "fans". (23) Is he in the R.A. or an Arsenal footballer - one for London this time. (24) Shave, Sir? - Can I do you now, Sir? (25) Perfect fit for Croke (or Cutts for that matter).

WANTED: Gems or Magnets before No.1300. S.O.L's before No. 275 (especially Rookwood); also Populars, Nelson Lees, Boy's Friends and Holiday Annuals for years 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940. A.Blunden, 43, Mayfield Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex.

WANTED: Aldine original Robin Hoods, 1903 edition; also Aldine Jack Sheppards, Good prices paid. Eric R.Landy, 4, Nuncaton Road, Dagenham, Essex.

SOLUTION TO SEXTON BLAKE CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

1. JHV
5. Rat
6. Cecil
8. SD (Sidney Drew)
9. AS (Anthony Skene)
12. Anthony
15. Champion
16. Al (Ian Blair)
17. Ia (Brise)
18. Gray (don)
20. Spots
22. Trent
23. Robert (Murray)
24. Reece

DOWN:

1. Christmas Tree
3. Val
4. GE (Gwyn Evans)
7. Canal
8. SB
10. Noino
11. Cynos
12. Ah
13. HP
14. No
15. Clare
16. Art
19. YE (Yellow Beetle or Ysabel de Ferre).
21. Tee.

HIDDEN HAMILTONIA

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Price | 13. Pitt |
| 2. Locke | 14. North |
| 3. Selby | 15. Sykes |
| 4. Twigg | 16. Silver |
| 5. Bland | 17. Temple |
| 6. St. Leger | 18. Holmes |
| 7. Greeno | 19. Newland |
| 8. Potter | 20. Webb |
| 9. Gwynne | 21. Knox |
| 10. Grace | 22. Hilton |
| 11. Loder (Loader). | 23. Gunner |
| 12. Walker. | 24. Todd |
| | 25. Fitzgerald. |

HERE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS 1953