

Let's Be Controversial Column

A complete listing of L.B.C. articles in the
Story Paper Collectors' Digest



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Former C.D. editor

32

Compiled by Naveed Haque

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Story Paper Collectors' Digest

From

April 1957

to

October 1991

Compiled by Naveed Haque

Distributed by

Happy Hours

37 Tinshill Lane, Leeds LS16 6BU

Reproduced from the originals by

IMPRESSIVE CHARACTERS

Leeds (0113) 261 0787

Introduction

by Mary Cadogan

I am delighted to welcome Naveed Haque's index of the Let's Be Controversial articles.

These, as many readers know, were published in the C.D. between April 1957 and March 1986, thus retaining their popularity over four decades. Indeed, if Eric Fayne wishes to add to the series at any time, I shall be more than happy to have the Let's Be Controversial series marching triumphantly towards the Millenium in the pages of the C.D.

The themes listed in this index clearly indicate both the width and depth of Eric's articles. Byways as well as Highways of Hamiltonia are well represented, and I am sure that many readers - like myself - have been inspired by specific features of the series to buy or borrow certain numbers of the Hamilton papers for further study and enjoyment.

Eric's outstanding devotion to the hobby is matched by his truly impressive and detailed knowledge of the stories that form its heart and root. It is particularly fitting that this volume marking one very important aspect of his work should appear in 1996 when the C.D. is celebrating its half century of publication.

Foreword by Eric Fayne

I find it heart-warming that some readers still remember with pleasure some of the articles which I churned out from my typewriter in years gone by. Certain articles, in fact, go back to the time when our splendid hobby was young and when today's outstanding, thriving Collectors' Digest was in its infancy.

The object of the Let's Be Controversial series was that, hopefully, many would find the articles entertaining, but beyond that, plenty of readers would be tempted to reply and give their own opinions on the various themes. In fact, most of the items finished with a statement, and much more important, an invitation: "It's just my point of view - what's yours?"

And it was successful. Down the long years, letters poured in; most were very friendly as readers sent in their own views. Now and again there was a tart reply - and the tart replies added to the joy of the whole thing and opened the way for further discussion.

Each month, immediately after the current article, we presented extracts from letters on the previous month's subject, under the heading Controversial Echoes.

Of course, it says much for the splendid stories of Charles Hamilton, under his various pen-names, that we found such a great number of themes to discuss, doesn't it?

He created characters upon which the boys of the Gem, Magnet and Popular years like to model themselves. He wrote for youngsters, but the quality of his writing is proved by the fact that adults could read them, enjoy them and discuss them in later years. He never "wrote down" to his young readers and his writing was always grammatically perfect - which is more than can be said for some writers who give birth to present day "best sellers" for adults. (It's just my point of view - what's yours?)

I may sound smug, but I'm sure that Roger Jenkins and I - Roger with his superb series of Do You Remember? and little me with my Let's Be Controversial series - covered every possible aspect of the work of Hamilton - the world's very greatest writer for youth.

Nothing has replaced those wonderful stories which made our own youth joyous and still add wonderful memories as we slowly become ancient.

Look at the world around you today and compare it with our Greyfriars, St Jim's, Rio Kid days (and don't forget Rookwood.) Give me the good old days every time.

It's just my... But I've said that before.

Lets be Controversial column
(a complete, separate listing of L.B.C articles
in the Collectors' Digest)

- April 1957 (#124): Reginald Talbot, the Toff.
- May 1957 (#125): The Cliff House girls.
- June 1957 (#126): The Dr. Birchmall/St. Sams stories
(by George Samways).
- July 1957 (#127): Do we owe anything to Substitute writers?
- August 1957 (#128): Arthur Augustus D'Arcy of St. Jims -
Is he tedious?
- September 1957 (#129): Were there too many characters in
the Gem and Magnet?
- October 1957 (#130): The reformations of Vernon-Smith and
Levison.
- November 1957 (#131): Hamiltonian characters should remain
as they are- should not grow up.
- December 1957 (#132): On the best Christmas numbers (with
'Nobody's Study' and 'The Painted Room' mentioned, also
Bunter in attic series of 1933 Magnet.
- January 1958 (#133): Essentially on Pentelow as a substitute
writer (and are Hamiltonians idolisers of F.R?).
- February 1958 (#134): Did we suffer from too much Bunter?
- March 1958 (#135): Which was the better of the two Wharton
Rebel series (1925 or 1932)?
- April 1958 (#136): Why did the Gems circulation drop behind
The Magnet in White Cover days?
- May 1958 (#137): Are the Masters credible at the Hamilton
schools?
- June 1958 (#138): Did any of the series overstay their welcome
(mention of Smedley, China and other series in this context).

July 1958 (#139): Is it regretful that Charles Hamilton wrote his 'Subsidiary' series of stories?

August 1958 (#140): A School setting vs. holiday one (which one is preferable?).

September 1958 (#141): Are we over-critical on the hobby?

October 1958 (#142): Did Rookwood have something lacked by Greyfriars and St. Jims?

November 1958 (#143): Some of E.F.'s pet aversions on types of Magnet stories - namely upstart series, poverty theme & barring-outs.

December 1958 (#144): Can all the stories be regarded as a series?

January 1959 (#145): To bind or not to bind. Should our old story papers be bound?

February 1959 (#146): Was The Magnet's Mr. Lamb series, a complete success?

March 1959 (#147): Two years of L.B.C column (some high-lights).

April 1959 (#148): Did the Hamiltonian rotters become 'poor fish' after they reformed. And what a pity. The Boys Friend - a different size from The Magnet and The Gem.

May 1959 (#149): Characters having a special part to play in one series, can outlive their usefulness in others.

June 1959 (#150): On Cliff House school. Also can one distinguish between genuine and substitute stories? ♥

July 1959 (#151): What's in a Name? The use of pseudonyms by Charles Hamilton and the stories written.

August 1959 (#152): Frank Richards' writing life.

September 1959 (#153): On what makes a good story. Among other things - good writing.

- October 1959 (#154): Charles Hamilton's use of names - and inconsistency thereof (repetition of names).
- November 1959 (#155): The school story classics (hardcover) of the early century.
- December 1959 (#156): How to pronounce some Hamiltonian characters' names.
- January 1960 (#157): Americans, Europeans and other races in the stories. Charles Hamilton's attitudes, gleaned from his work.
- February 1960 (#158): Did the Magnet decline and fall? The conclusion is 'no', though quality was comparatively lessened.
- March 1960 (#159): It is good to remember the past - The Magnet and Companion papers.
- April 1960 (#160): The titles of story papers were good in the past.
- May 1960 (#161): Charles Hamilton on cricket.
- June 1960 (#162): On Charles Hamilton's (presumably) first school story in Pluck of 1906, and the Jack Blake stories in Pluck.
- July 1960 (#163): On Edwy Searles Brooks and his 'between ourselves' column. Papers should not always go by what readers demand.
- August 1960 (#164): The principal fat boys - Bunter, Trimble Muffin and Fatty Wynn - contrasted.
- September 1960 (#165): How Charles Hamilton retained the interest of readers.
- October 1960 (#166): A look at the Rookwood stories being reprinted in 'Knockout' magazine, with comments on that school's stories.
- November 1960 (#167): Spot-light on the fags (younger form members) at Greyfriars and St. Jim's.

December 1960 (#168): Christmas at Wharton Lodge. In short, a look at some of the festive series.

January 1961 (#169): The Magnet is not a 'comic', with some personal experiences of Eric Fayne in this respect.

February 1961 (#170): On the Popular (one of the editor's favourite papers).

March 1961 (#171): Series that 'dove-tailed', namely The Wharton Swot/downfall series and Vernon-Smith Captain.

April 1961 (#172): A look at Hamilton characters. They were not out-dated or unreal to those in actuality.

June 1961 (#174): Charles Hamilton on Americans. Was he anti-American?

July 1961 (#175): Comments made by prominent Fleetway personalities to W.O.G Lofts. That Hamilton should have subbed stories written by Subs, The Magnet's circulation higher than Gem in later years, and other points of view.

September 1961 (#177): A brief look at some illustrations in The Companion papers.

October 1961 (#178): The influence of readers of characters being dropped etc.

December 1961 (#180): Was Tom Merry lifeless and colourless compared to Harry Wharton?

January 1962 (#181): The substitute stories in the Companion papers were not good (with Francis Warwick and Brooks mentioned).

March 1962 (#183): Charles Hamilton should have been honoured by the nation, and the moral tone of his stories.

May 1962 (#185): The right man at the right moment, and can his principal works be republished in book form?

June 1962 (#186): The senior boys in Hamiltonia, particularly the Captains of the various schools contrasted.

August 1962 (#188): On critics of the Hamilton story belittling his work. In fact he was second to none.

September 1962 (#189): The Rio Kid stories. Where ever did he get his inspiration to write these excellent tales?

October 1962 (#190): The Charles Hamilton mystery stories.

November 1962 (#191): Enthusiasts of Charles Hamilton's works are not idolators.

January 1963 (#193): On substitute writers - touching on post-war Bunter books.

February 1963 (#194): On a recent substitute story in Collectors Digest.

March 1963 (#195): Ventriloquist, impersonator, missing heir and school cowboy theme.

May 1963 (#197): 'The Vital Spark' - discussion on The Magnet's golden age, with examples and comparisions (Silverson series of Gem mentioned).

June 1963 (#198): 'Branch lines' - other stories by Charles Hamilton (Cedar Creek highlighted).

July 1963 (#199): 'The Heavenly Twins' - Magnet and Gem compared in many respects.

September 1963 (#201): Was there a ghost writer for Charles Hamilton?

October 1963 (#202): 'The One and Only', an article on Arthur Augustus D'Arcy.

November 1963 (#203): Substitute stories - should they have been written, and how published if so.

January 1964 (#205): 'Not Flawless, but...'. Some flaws in Charles Hamilton's stories, if any.

March 1964 (#207): Tom Dutton's deafness.

- April 1964 (#208): Magnet 1659, a genuine story and not substitute.
- July 1964 (#211): Talbot, the Toff.
- August 1964 (#212): The Rio Kid, Western outlaw.
- September 1964 (#213): The post-war Bunter books.
- October 1964 (#214): Some inconsistency in Hamiltonia. Views of the Old Boy fans.
- November 1964 (#215): refuting the criticism against Hamilton by a Lee fan.
- December 1964 (#216): The Holiday Annual for Christmas.
- January 1965 (#217): Herbert Hinton, Magnet editor.
- February 1965 (#218): The charm of Rookwood (its history in Boys Friend, and comparison with other Hamiltonian schools).
- March 1965 (#219): When did The Magnet surpass The Gem in popularity?
- April 1965 (#220): The debt- or otherwise - owed by Frank Richards to other writers.
- May 1965 (#221): The carbon copy characters in The Gem.
- June 1965 (#222): Rookwood series in Canada of 1923, and others.
- July 1965 (#223): A discussion of barring-out series in all three Hamiltonian schools, including the High Oaks Revolt.
- August 1965 (#224): On friendship - the Co's.
- September 1965 (#225): The fame of Bunter. With reference to post-war Bunter books in this respect, as well.
- October 1965 (#226): The substitute story 'Sunday Crusaders'.
- November 1965 (#227): The series of Gems written by Charles Hamilton at the outbreak of war in 1914. When the discriminating reader could notice substitution.
- December 1965 (#228): Critical comment on J.S Butcher's Greyfriars Prospectus and The Times Supplement article. Also critics of Charles Hamilton criticised on their assertions.

January 1966 (#229): Was Rookwood the sole reason for the decline in output of Charles Hamilton's Greyfriars and St. Jims stories? Did Charles Hamilton know about the Greyfriars Story (substitute) competition?

February 1966 (#230): The importance of names on characters in general.

March 1966 (#231): The Popolaki Patrol series in The Popular. The Rio Kid touched upon.

April 1966 (#232): An analysis of the Frank Richards long-playing record 'Floreat Greyfriars'.

May 1966 (#233): Charles Hamilton's relationship with Hinton and Pentelow touched upon.

June 1966 (#234): The Last of the Blue Gems. Mention made of the Outram series that marked the change-over.

July 1966 (#235): Cricket in the Hamiltonian series. In particular Da Costa, Lancaster and Stacey.

August 1966 (#236): idiosyncracancies of some famous authors, with Charles Hamilton and the 'plot' of his stories being mentioned in another context.

September 1966 (#237): The Will Hay stories by Frank Richards, and those written under pen-name of Winston Cardew.

October 1966 (#238): Hamiltonian characters out of 'character'.

November 1966 (#239): Critical view of recent B.B.C interviews on the hobby and 'analysts'.

December 1966 (#240): Autobiographical reminiscences by Eric Fayne on the hobby.

January 1967 (#241): The final appearance of Rookwood in 'The Boys Friend', 1926.

February 1967 (#242): The peter Pan quality of Hamilton's characters, and the way in which characters changed.

March 1967 (#243): The Silverson series (with quotes from Roger Jenkins' article of November 1966).

April 1967 (#244): The first major substitute series in The Magnet, and Charles Hamilton's attitude towards Sub writers of that period.

May 1967 (#245): The lack of Hamilton stories being 'dated', with reference to Old Bus series and The Rio Kid.

June 1967 (#246): The Empire Library stories of Rylcombe Grammar school (Frank Monk & Co.).

July 1967 (#247): Critical comments on re-prints of Hamiltonian stories, and assertion that these stories are not for the modern youth of today.

August 1967 (#248): Cedar Creek and the 'Frank Richards Schoolboy' saga.

September 1967 (#249): Frank Richards' auto-biography touched upon, and a rare, early Cricket serial.

October 1967 (#250): The Hamiltonian schoolmasters, and schoolmasters in general.

November 1967 (#251): The Magnet and Gem artists, and the fact that the Companion papers made them famous.

December 1967 (#252): The last of the Christmas double numbers, Boys Friend Library of 1917.

February 1968 (#254): Hamilton's career and the effect if any, of age on his stories.

March 1968 (#255): editor's comments on likes/dislikes of characters (younger critic is more of a judge).

April 1968 (#256): What if Tom Merry had not gone to St. Jims, and St. Jims not transferred to the Gem... A look at certain 'if' situations.

May 1968 (#257): The sports contest series in the Gem of 1918 (and Hamilton's approach to this topic).

June 1968 (#258): Unwarranted critics of the Companion papers. The stories had no political leanings.

July 1968 (#259): Comments on Caravanning series in Hamiltonia.

August 1968 (#260): Arthur Augustus (new boy) and the 'The Swell of St. Jims' story .

September 1968 (#261): The last days of Empire Library (some Hamilton stories in that paper).

October 1968 (#262): Some substitute stories in the Gem of 1918/20.

November 1968 (#263): Touching on humour and comedy in Hamiltonia.

December 1968 (#264): The effect of the ending of the war, 1918, on Hamiltonia - analysis of the Companion papers at the time.

January 1969 (#265): Commenting upon the Hollywood series, The Game Kid series, Christmas at Holly Lodge (Coker) and others.

March 1969 (#267): The Wally Bunter/Bunter interchange series of 1919.

April 1969 (#268): The Masters on Strike series of Rookwood circa 1919.

May 1969 (#269): The good and the bad of the S.O.L's.

June 1969 (#270): The editor, Herbert Hinton and his column on the writers of Magnet, Gem etc. out at that time (pre 1930).

July 1969 (#271): The Caravanning series of 1919 of the Gem.

August 1969 (#272): The Magnet Wingate/Cinema series of 1920.

September 1969 (#273): Hamilton's King Cricket stories of the 'Boys'Realm'.

October 1969 (#274): Touching upon Hamilton's attitude towards the Amalgamated Press in the 1940's and the four Magnet stories that never were published.

November 1969 (#275): Why Hamilton did not write a lot for The Magnet of 1920 vintage.

December 1969 (#276): The Magnet Christmas series of 1927, The Bunter philanthropist series.

January 1970 (#277): Charles Hamilton did not 'write to order,' but followed his own free will.

February 1970 (#278): Some errors in substitute stories; and on the post-war Bunter plays.

March 1970 (#279): The Cedar Creek tales depicting Frank Richards (in the story) as an author.

April 1970 (#280): 'The Boy Without a Name' (Highcliffe school tale)- impressions on two non-Hamiltonians.

May 1970 (#281): The Dirk Power series of 1920 Gem.

June 1970 (#282): Hinton and the 'Bunter's Baby' story which cost him his job.

July 1970 (#283): In defence of Miss Priscilla Fawcett, Tom Merry's guardian.

August 1970 (#284): Scholarships, exams and snobbery in Hamiltonia.

September 1970 (#285): A substitute story dealing with a new South African character.

October 1970 (#286): On the Let's be Controversial Column and its approach to the hobby (with extracts quoted from previous Controversials).

November 1970 (#287): The Peter Panquality of The Companion papers.

December 1970 (#288): Eric Fayne's personal reminiscences, and mention of Sahara series, and The Gem's 'The Mystery of the Painted room'.

January 1971 (#289): Characters in Hamiltonia that were expendable and which ones should have been.

February 1971 (#290): The Benbow tales and Drake & Rodney. Also mention of 'Thin Bunter' Magnet story.

March 1971 (#291): Why The Magnet and Gem are more memorable than the post-war stories.

April 1971 (#292): Three puzzling stories of Hamiltonia, possibly not wholly genuine.

May 1971 (#293): Charles Hamilton, his typing and the manuscripts submitted.

June 1971 (#294): Characters lying in Hamiltonia, with mention of Trimble series.

July 1971 (#295): The ending of the Cedar Creek stories.

August 1971 (#296): Hamilton on 'upstarts' and snobbery in Rookwood (with the 1921 Montmorency series and Morcom series highlighted).

September 1971 (#297): Some faults of Hamilton's earlier stories ('The Only Way' Magnet story mentioned).

October 1971 (#298): Roger Jenkins' articles in Collectors' Digest.

November 1971 (#299): November the fifth (Guy Fawkes day) in The Magnet; and comment on government.

December 1971 (#300): Christmas of 1921 (with mention of Magnet story 'The Mystery of the Christmas Candles') and the Companion papers in general.

January 1972 (#301): A letter on 'Floggings' in Hamiltonia by M. Milston and the editorial comment on this topic.

February 1972 (#302): Charles Hamilton's 'contrived' endings with mention of 1st and 2nd Wharton Rebellion series and the Stacey series.

March 1972 (#303): Bernard Glyn, the Schoolboy Inventor, and some Gems on this theme.

April 1972 (#304): The question of whether substitute stories should be collected.

May 1972 (#305): The Twilight (substitute) years of The Gem, circa 1928 - mid-1931.

June 1972 (#306): The Pentelow/Hamilton relationship. Sour or not so sour?

August 1972 (#308): Former Magnet substitute writer Samways assertion, on Professor Rivers and Marie Rivers in the Talbot saga of The Gem.

September 1972 (#309): Hamilton's writings for former Amalgamated Press editor Hinton's 'School and Sport' (under pseudonym of 'Clifford Clive').

October 1972 (#310): A look at the early Levison of St. Jims.

November 1972 (#311): Some early Rookwood stories in Penny Popular.

December 1972 (#312): Joe Frayne and the Tom Merry - Adrift series (in London).

January 1973 (#313): Brooks' Gem & Magnet subs, and the 'coward' theme.

February 1973 (#314): Touching on Strong Alonzo, ventriloquism and Hamilton's use of 'Yaroohs' etc.

March 1973 (#315): The Prout/Headmaster series - an appraisal. Gifts given away in The Magnet.

April 1973 (#316): The atmosphere of intimacy at St. Jims, and seniors (Kildare, Monteith).

May 1973 (#317): Agatha Christie and Charles Hamilton - some similarities.

June 1973 (#318): The earlier characteristics in Hamiltonia that changed as the years went by.

July 1973 (#319): Tragedy (in Hamiltonia theme) with substitute stories/incidents included in this comment.

August 1973 (#320): Hamilton's typing out-put, and duplication of character names.

September 1973 (#321): Some stories purported to be by Hamilton, but were not. And the substitute story Gem No. 817 'Condemned by the School'.

October 1973 (#322): Charles Hamilton's Western themes/series.

November 1973 (#323): Should writers carry on sub stories?

December 1973 (#324): The Rookwood Christmas stories.

February 1974 (#326): The Chateau Cernay (Tom Merry & Co. in Paris) series of 1909.

March 1974 (#327): Concerning 'Figgins Folly' and comments over it.

April 1974 (#328): The Benbow tales in the Herald.

May 1974 (#329): Stories in The Modern Boy, and Charles Hamilton's earlier work for Trapps Holmes organization.

July 1974 (#331): The Herlock Sholmes stories, with some direct quotes.

August 1974 (#332): The Sahara series of Magnet 1924.

September 1974 (#333): St. Kits, Charles Hamilton's early school stories.

November 1974 (#335): The Letters of Frank Richards.

December 1974 (#336): The 1st Harry Wharton Rebel series of 1925.

February 1975 (#338): The Tomsonio Circus stories written under pseudonym of Harry Dorrian, in Pluck.

March 1975 (#339): Substitute tales (themes) contrasted with the genuine, and Danny's views on subs.

April 1975 (#340): Mr. Greely (The Rookwood Masters and older characters).

May 1975 (#341): Magnet story 'Playing the Goat' (Vernon-Smith and Temple cricket match).

August 1975 (#344): The Rookwood 'Silver Cloud' yacht series (with comparison to the 1933 Bunter's Cousin/Easter Cruise series, and the post-war 'Billy Bunter's Christmas Party').

September 1975 (#345): The early Red Magnets and naming of characters.

October 1975 (#346): The Minors (younger borthers) in Hamiltonia.

December 1975 (#348): What Hamilton regarded as his best stories. His lack of reminiscencing over former work.

April 1976 (#352): On Rookwood and the end of the stories in Boys' Friend (the part that Lovell played in particular).

May 1976 (#353): The use of Islands in Hamiltonia, notably some episodes on Popper's Island.

August 1976 (#356): Atmosphere in Hamilton stories (with Ravenspur Grange high-lighted).

October 1976 (#358): Nicknames in Hamiltonia - a comprehensive look.

November 1976 (#359): On thirty years of some Companion papers.

December 1976 (#360): The early Magnet Christmas stories (at Wharton Lodge).

January 1977 (#361): The Game Kid (Drury) and Gem's Oliver Lynn series contrasted.

February 1977 (#362): 'Boss of the Study' - an early Magnet story - and the Greek translation therein.

April 1977 (#364): Frank Richard's comments on the 1000th Magnet issue. Also an extract from the author's statement in The Gem.

May 1977 (#365): Character over-playing (using some characters over a long period) in The Companion papers.

June 1977 (#366): Coronation stories in The Magnet and The Gem (The Kings Guest of 1911 and Coronation Day at St. Jims of 1911, among others).

July 1977 (#367): The Bounder, Herbert Vernon-Smith. Changes in his characterization over the years.

August 1977 (#368): The Cedar Creek tales, in Boys Friend. Frank Richards schooldays in Canada.

October 1977 (#370): Pentelow's schools- Wycliffe, and others.

November 1977 (#371): The Nabob of Bhanipur, Hurree Jamset Ram Singh (his career - before Magnet also).

February 1978 (#374): The Cliveden series written for Boys Friend (1907 & 1908).

April 1978 (#376): The recurring theme: Da Costa series, Smedley series, Caffyn series and the Carter series (and one or two Gem series).

June 1978 (#378): 'Alonzo the Great' (the Quelch and Miss Primrose meeting), a 1910 Magnet.

August 1978 (#380): The Victor Cleeve series of 1928 Gem.

October 1978 (#382): 'Through Thick and Thin' (St. Jims story in Boys Friend Library) with Lumley Lumley in lime-light.

December 1978 (#384): Red Magnet Christmas tale 'The Four Heroes' and The Greyfriars Herald mentioned.

April 1979 (#388): Bessie Bunter of Cliff House school.

June 1979 (#390): Characters in Hamiltonia who were absent at intervals or dropped after lengthy appearance(s).

July 1979 (#391): Francis Warwick (Substitute Gem writer) and his Gem Sub. stories.

August 1979 (#392): The Girl Guide movement and Charles Hamilton's introduction of that topic in his stories (with quotes from Gussy).

July 1980 (#403): The possible inspiration of Talbot Baines Reed (author) on Charles Hamilton's earlier works.

May 1981 (#413): On 'Tom Merry's Music Hall', Gem of 1912 (and the reprint version in 1931).

June 1982 (#426): The Parkinson story written by Charles Hamilton in the 1926 Holiday Annual.

August 1982 (#428): The final series of the Cedar Creek tales. Frank Richards fleeing from father's ranch, and encounters adventures.

October 1982 (#430): Was Rookwood easier to write about by the substitute authors?

November 1982 (#431): The Gem's first substitute story 'The Schoolboy Jockey' of 1908 (and general comment on subs).

March 1983 (#435): The way the artists filled in details, perhaps contrary to the author's conception.

April 1983 (#436): Miss Priscilla Fawcett, Tom Merry's 'guardian' and his other relations - the background.

June 1983 (#438): On the Magnet story 'Playing the Goat' a cricket episode.

September 1983 (#441): On Monty Newland (The Magnet) and Julian (The Gem), two Jewish characters.

October 1983 (#442): 'Masters on Strike', a Rookwood tale . note: this is an L.B.C repeat.

March 1984 (#447): On punishment and 'kickings' etc. at the Hamilton schools - was it excessive?

May 1984 (#449): The Mystery of Lumley-Lumley (the saga of this character in the blue Gem).

November 1984 (#455): The Greyfriars Herald of 1919 (and Benbow school tales).

January 1985 (#457): Tom Redwing, the Sailorman's son note: this is an L.B.C repeat.

February 1985 (#458): On the Wilmot series of 1936, with comments on The Gem Victor Cleeve tales.

March 1986 (#471): Reginald Talbot, The Toff. note: this is an L.B.C repeat.

June 1987 (No.486): Repeated themes in Hamiltonia.

October 1991 (No.538): King Cricket. Note: this is an L.B.C. repeat.

