

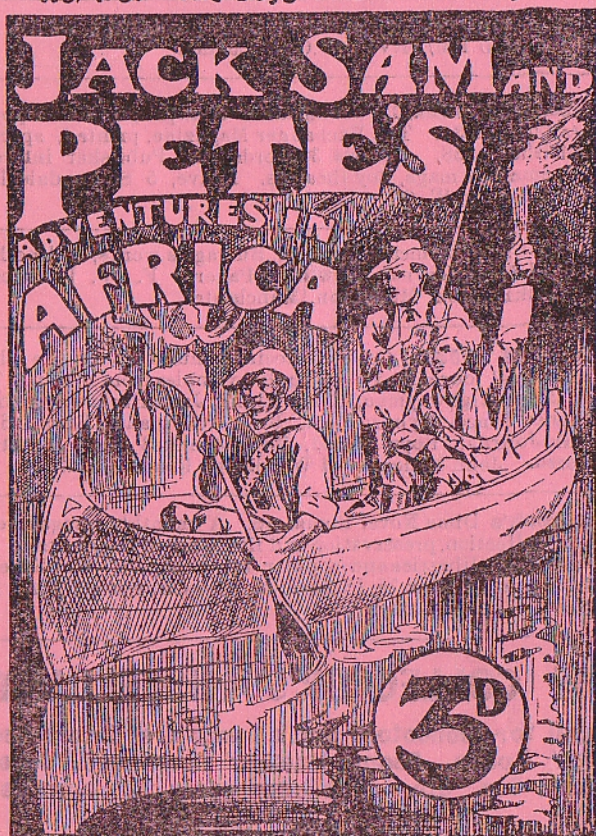
The Collector's Miscellany

A journal for collectors of Old and Modern Boys' Books, Bloods, Penny Number Romances and Juvenile Drama

No. 4 (5TH. SERIES)

MAY, 1946

No. 1 of "The Boys' Friend" Library.



A reproduction of the cover of the first number of the "Boys' Friend Library." Read the List of titles which commences on page 58.

SALE EXCHANGE WANTED

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1½d. 2d. 3d. MINT JAMAICA Constitution stamps gratis to approval applicants, postage 3d. The Exchanger Magazine, printed, specimen 6d. Established 1938, Adverts. 30 words 2/6. Publisher interested in stamps, amateur mags, toy theatres. Neave, 5 Surrendale Place Maida Hill, London, W. 9.

WANTED Fox's and Emmett's journals, Burrage's works, Aldine First-rate, Garfield Boys Journal, New Boys Paper. F. W. Puleston, 11 Kingsway, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, 4

AN INEXPENSIVE HOBBY. Collect specimen numbers of the old romances and boys' journals. I can supply examples from Sweeney Todd Blueskin, Black Highwayman, Ching-Ching, Jack Harkaway, Crusoe Jack, Charles Peace, Tyburn Dick, Boys of England, Boys Leisure, Boys Comic Journal, Boys World, Boys Standard and many others. 6/6 per dozen. John Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford.

Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Round-up. A monthly magazine devoted to the collection, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by Ralph P. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Price \$1.00 a year; 10 cents a copy.

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THE "UNION JACK".

THE WEEKLY WITH THE RECORD RUN.

BY HERBERT LECKENBY

THERE have been two papers published for boys with the title "Union Jack". The first, started on New Years' Day, 1880, had only a run of about three years, despite the fact that it had as editors famous writers of boys' stories in W. H. G. Kingston, and G. A. Henty. The second was launched by Alfred Harmsworth some fourteen years later, and as it was still running at the beginning of 1933, it is, of course, the one suggested by my sub-heading.

I am confident I am on safe ground in stating it held the honour of holding the record of any boys' paper. It is true the "Boys' Own Paper" started years before it, and can still be bought to-day, but it is many years since it ceased to be a weekly. It is true, too, that in its later days the "Union Jack" claimed, and justly, to be a paper for readers of all ages, nevertheless, it takes its place at the top of the poll as the paper which grew to greatest age in the juvenile field.

A real history of the "Union Jack" would fill a volume; here I will just attempt to give you some facts and figures, and comment upon some of the most interesting features.

The first number then appeared on April 26, 1894, (dated April 27), at the modest price of a halfpenny. The long complete story, always destined to be the chief feature of the paper, was entitled "The Silver Arrow" and the author was Paul Herring. The cover was a violet or mauve colour, and continued so throughout its nearly ten years as a halfpenny paper. The sixteen inner pages were white, changed later to a rather tepid sort of pink. The page size was $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7", two columns to a page.

That first story has been long ago forgotten, except maybe by a very few. The one in No. 2 comes into a very different category; for it is talked of to this day, for its title was "Sexton

Blake, Detective". Sexton Blake! A name about which in the fifty years that were to follow more were to be written than about any other character in English fiction.

But here let me remove a misconception. That story was *not* the first Blake story, even though it has been stated so by later editors of the "Union Jack". It was republished in a "Sexton Blake Annual" as such, and in the very last number of the U.J. the editor implied it when he said: "In 1894 the first 'Union Jack' appeared. In that year Sexton Blake made his first bow to the public." But; Sexton Blake had appeared on at least four occasions before that; those editors should have gone more carefully into the files reposing in the vaults of Fleetway House. I learned the truth in this way.

Some time ago I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of Mr. Walter Dexter, the well-known authority on Dickens, and editor of "The Dickensian". Mr. Dexter, besides being devoted to the greatest of English novelists, took a great interest in the subject which appeals to all readers of the paper in which this appears. He spent a great deal of time in the British Museum delving into the history of boys' papers, and one day he picked up the first volume of "The Halfpenny Marvel". The "Marvel", of course, was the slightly older brother of the U.J., about five months older in fact. Well in that volume Mr. Dexter discovered four stories of Sexton Blake, the first being in No. 6.

That was a real surprise for no one, including those at Fleetway House, seems to have been aware of it.

However, to return to the U.J. As a halfpenny paper it was evidently a huge success, for it ran on until nearly the end of 1903 with very little change in appearance. This is always a good sign for when a paper keeps changing its make-up and drastically alters its contents it invariably means it is having a stormy passage. With the U.J. apart from the fact that the cover design was varied from time to time, the only changes was an improvement in the type and the substitution of pink for white paper. It might also be mentioned that in the first few issues there was no serial. One started in No. 24, however, entitled "Peter Slim, the Young Ventriloquist", by Captain Spencer. From then on to the very end of the U.J. a serial lent support to the main feature, with the exception of a short period in the later years.

One rather curious feature of the halfpenny U.J. was that there was never any attempt to use the insides of the cover for advertisements, they were always blank. The date was hidden away in very tiny type at the bottom of the back page.

The stories were well varied, tales of adventure in foreign lands, detective and sea yarns, war stories, an occasional historical one, but very few school tales. Some of the most popular authors were John G. Rowe, S. Clarke Hooke, Paul Herring, Henry St. John, Alex G. Pearson, Julian Jackson, Mark Darran, A. S. Hardy, and one who needs no introduction to these columns—Charles Hamilton. Some of his stories of which I have a note were: No. 377 "Every Inch a Sailor"; No. 394 "Scheming for Gold"; No. 430 "A Million at Stake"; and No. 448 "Partners in Peril".

Among the artists whose work appeared frequently were Fred Bennett, Harry Lane, A. White, Val., W. M. Bowles, T. D. Holmes and R. J. Macdonald.

But there were other authors whose names appeared in the early days of the halfpenny U.J., names not usually associated with a humble ha'penny journal, names like Fenimore Cooper, Captain Marryat, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, and so on. The explanation was that when the paper was a little over two years old someone had a brain-wave, the offering to the youthful reader of the immortal works of the great masters, needless to say, very much abridged. Whoever had the task of compressing "Oliver Twist", "Ivanhoe" and "Robinson Crusoe" into twelve or thirteen pages would probably end up with a headache.

However the works of those dead and gone authors did not impress the lads of 1896 for the noble idea was soon dropped, and the old favourites appeared once more.

I have notes of Sexton Blake stories in Nos. 15, 43, 125, 137, 180, 204, 283, 289, 344, 411 and 420. There were doubtless several more.

And now, before I leave the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. issues, let me comment upon a little mystery concerning the exact run of the paper. It is this. In the very last number of the later series, No. 1531, Feb. 18, 1933, the editor gives some details of the history of the paper. He said the first number appeared April 26, 1894, and it therefore had a run of 38 years, 10 months. 2 weeks, but as there was a re-numbering in 1903 (when the 1d. numbers started)

the final number bore the figure 1531 instead of 2018. Well if his figures were correct, obviously if you deducted 1531 from 2018, the result 487, should be the total of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. numbers. But, actually it wasn't so, for I have before me No. 490, Sept. 12th, 1903. In that number the editor is preparing his readers for the change, and there is no doubt the last $\frac{1}{2}$ d. one was No. 494, October 8th, 1903.

I puzzled me at first for the editor's statement seemed to fit but I think I see the explanation. He had evidently been reckoning by the calendar and had overlooked the fact that in some years, when publishing day fell on New Year's Day there would be 53 issues in the year. So that the full total would be 2025 and not 2018. The error is easily made when calculating time.

However the first penny number, after a lot of advance publicity, made its appearance October 15th, 1903. It carried 32 pages without the cover, two columns to a page. It was printed on excellent paper, the type was good, and the pink cover most attractive; altogether a first-class production. It carried a slogan—"A $\frac{3}{6}$ novel for 1d." That may have been an exaggeration, but when one looks at the austerity papers of to-day costing 9d. or 1/-, one realises one did get value for money in those far-off days, even if the U.J. did quickly reduce its inner pages to 28.

T. C. Bridges, an established favourite, had the distinction of writing the first story, "With Pick and Lamp." In passing I might mention that T. C. Bridges died in the early part of 1945.

The first serial was "The Chums of Ashbourne School" by Allan Blair an author who was very popular and who is still alive. "From the Quarter Deck" completed the contents.

(continued)

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LLOYD'S "BLOODS" IN THE FIFTIES

BY F. N. WEARING

THOMAS CATLING, formerly editor of "Lloyd's News" says in his autobiography—"Salisbury Square Fiction"—
"In the office there remained bills, and other evidences of the flood of fiction which was gradually running out. 'Ella the Outcast', and 'Ada the Betrayed', continued in demand, while 'Claude Duval' and 'Dick Turpin' were perennial favourites.

The authors of these, and a multitude of other tales no longer poured their manuscripts into Salisbury Square, but the air was full of anecdotes of the methods they had pursued. When, in 1844, all Paris was raving over 'The Wandering Jew', each part of the French edition was translated as soon as received, and a hitch in the supply at times compelled the English adaptor to furnish whole chapters of his own invention. A new writer would be required to send in a complete story, but the stock authors worked from hand to mouth. Each penny number consisted of eight pages, ten shillings being paid for the copy as soon as completed. The idea of a plot was submitted for something like eight weeks.

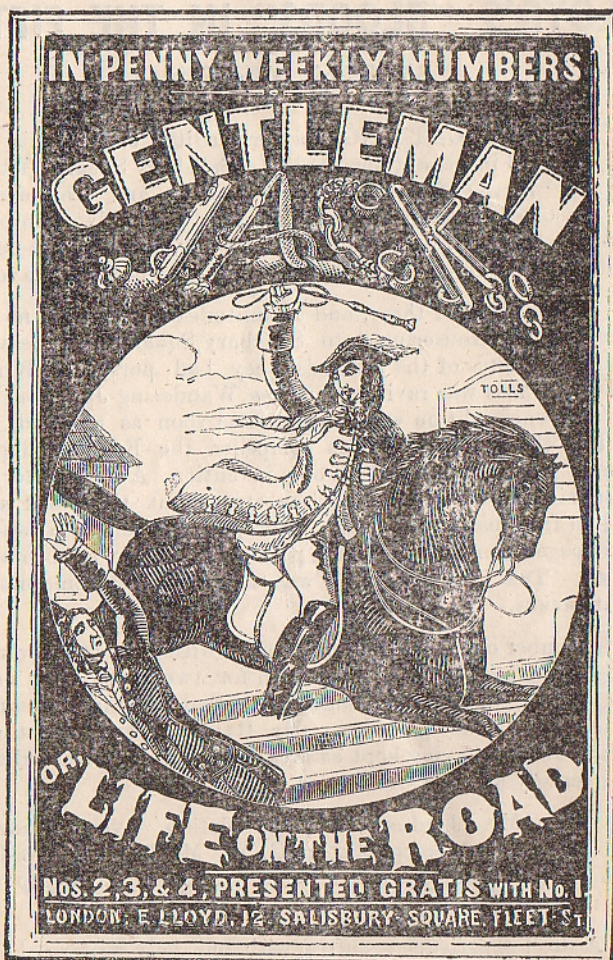
Number one would be given away with some other work, and if it caught on, the serial might run for twelve months, or even two years. On the other hand, if it failed to attract a summary ending was quickly provided. Mr. Rymer (Errym) was the most prolific author, having kept as many as ten different stories running serially at one period.

When Mr. Lloyd ceased to issue fiction, Rymer transferred his labours to another publisher (G. W. M. Reynolds and John Dicks), and ultimately accumulated sufficient money to enable him to end his days in comfort.

A droll experience occurred with one lady writer, who unexpectedly sent in what she called the last instalment of her tale. 'That will never do', said Mr. Lloyd when he heard it, 'Why, the story is just going well, and ought to run for months'.

After discussion a trusty man was sent to inquire what the sudden stoppage meant. He found that it was due to the lady expecting a speedy addition to the family. As delicately as possible he inquired further, and was told that the important

A scarce but typical wrapper of one of Lloyd's "Bloods"



event was anticipated in about a fortnight. To meet the publisher's wish the authoress promised to write all the copy she possibly could during this fortnight, in order to bridge over the period that must ensue. So the tale went forward 'To be continued' as usual; at the end of the week, instead of the anxiously looked for fresh chapters, came news of baby's arrival.

Mr. Lloyd was equal to any emergency; when one literary tap failed, he never hesitated for a moment to get another turned on. There was no one in the place who had read the lady's story, and no time to do it, as the printers were waiting for copy. Just glancing at the closing lines of the previous number, a new writer, regardless of what had gone before, dashed off sufficient for an instalment, which duly came out next morning. Instead of being grateful to those who thus saved the situation, the authoress appeared in a surprisingly short time with an imperious demand to know who had dared to interpolate such stuff into her story. Her anger was softened on being told that the story was a success, and that she could safely go on writing another dozen numbers, with the prospect of more being wanted.

'Lloyd's News' was started in 1842, it was an illustrated penny paper of eight small pages, with two serial stories. News had to be avoided on account of the newspaper tax, and so pictures were given of a national event, or a murder, without any descriptive letterpress. The police cases were entirely fictitious, but theatrical and other amusements received considerable attention. The profits from the large number of 'Bloods' kept the paper afloat until it achieved success."

OBITUARY

IT is with deep regret that we announce the passing of two more collectors of the old school—H. A. Hall who died on January 18th last and Wm. Taylor who passed on in February.

H. A. Hall's fine collection of journals included long runs of "Boys' Standard", "Boys' Leisure Hour", "Young Englishman", "Young Briton", "Nuggets", "Garland" and "Ching-Ching's Own", and complete sets of "Young Folks", "Boys of England", "Boys' Comic Journal", "Boys of the Empire" and "Boys' World". The collection has been purchased by John Medcraft.

Wm. Taylor was in his 77th year. He started work as a boy at Ward Lock & Co., the publishers, then went to the famous old firm of Houlstons. He was with this firm for about 25 years. When it closed down he went to Hatchards of Piccadilly and was with them until he retired. Upon his retirement he carried on a business in secondhand books.

THE "BOYS' FRIEND LIBRARY"

1st. SERIES, SEPT. 1905—MAY 1925

COMPILED BY HERBERT LECKENBY

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1—Jack, Sam & Pete's Adventures in Africa. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 2—Jack, Sam & Pete's Treasure Hunt. | do. do. |
| 3—Jack, Sam & Pete in South America. | do. do. |
| 4—Birds of Prey. (Nelson Lee). | Maxwell Scott |
| 5—The Boys of St. Basils. | Henry St. John |
| 6—Pete's Boyhood. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 7—Shunned by the School. | Henry St. John |
| 8—The Road to Fame. | Hamilton Edwards |
| 9—Pete at Eighteen. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 10—Sexton Blake's Honour. | — — — |
| 11—The Pride of the School. | Henry St. John |
| 12—Guy Prescott's Trust. | Craven Gower |
| 13—Only a Pit Boy. | Hamilton Edwards |
| 14—Carrington's Last Chance. | Henry St. John |
| 15—The Drudge of Draycott School. | Henry T. Johnson |
| 16—The Silver Dwarf. (Nelson Lee). | Maxwell Scott |
| 17—The Missing Heir. do. do. | do. do. |
| 18—Pete in Canada. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 19—Nelson Lee's Pupil. | Maxwell Scott |
| 20—Three British Boys. | Maurice Merriman |
| 21—Pete's Holiday. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 22—Sporting Life. | A. S. Hardy |
| 23—Pete's Schooldays. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 24—The Great Unknown. (Nelson Lee). | Maxwell Scott |
| 25—The Stolen Submarine. do. do. | do. do. |
| 26—Pete, Detective. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 27—A Woolwich Arsenal Mystery. (Sexton Blake). | — — |
| 28—Circus Ned. | Henry St. John |
| 29—Playing to Win. | A. S. Hardy |
| 30—Tom Merry & Co. | Martin Clifford |
| 31—The Rival Forts. | W. Murray Graydon |
| 32—Wolves of the Deep. | Sidney Drew |
| 33—Lion against Bear. | do. do. |
| 34—Nelson Lee's Rival. | Maxwell Scott |
| 35—Pete's Christmas. | S. Clarke Hook |
| 36—Football Fortune. | Charles Hamilton |
| 37—Man to Man. | David Goodwin |
| 38—Tom Merry's Conquest. | Martin Clifford |

(continued)

SEXTON BLAKE AT WAR!

A Review of the "SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY"

2nd. (Wartime) 7d. Series.

BY H. M. BOND.

AS the "Sexton Blake Library" has been the only wartime survivor of its type from the Amalgamated Press it is only fitting to say a few words on this time honoured member of a once large family. I have managed to obtain and read all the issues of the new series commenced in 1941, so I think I can say that I am quite up-to-date as far as this publication is concerned. I will say, without hesitation that the standard of the stories has been very high all through the war months, and I have many times felt like congratulating the regular authors on the excellent way in which they have maintained the pre-war quality of the "Sexton Blake Library". But the authors are not the only ones to whom credit is due. The front cover illustrations have been better than ever before, and I still detect the work of that ace Sexton Blake artist, Mr. Eric R. Parker. Only on one or two occasions has his hand been missing from the covers and I immediately noticed these as would any keen student of Blake material. Apart from one or two printers' errors the general quality of each volume has been very good too, so I must hand out bouquets to the remainder of the people responsible for the production of the S.B.L.

The fact that only two copies have been published every month in this 2nd. new series had, of course, the effect of limiting the scope of variety as one used to get in the old days of four volumes per month, but nevertheless the variety has been quite good and there has been something for everybody at one time or another. The series opened with "Raiders Passed" by our old friend John Hunter and was a Captain Dack story. Unfortunately this fine character seems to have faded from Mr. Hunter's work since this No. 1, with, I think, one exception.

An interesting innovation in No. 10 was the inclusion of two stories in one volume. Hylton Gregory provided the story which the cover advertised "The Case of the Mystery Parachutist", and our old favourite Anthony Skene gave us "The Haunted Hotel Mystery" as the second story. It was said at the time that the two story issue would be repeated when the opportunity presented itself, but apparently such has not been the case, and so

far this issue remains the only one of its kind.

I spoke of Captain Dack a paragraph or so back, and regretted his absence from the pages of the S.B.L. Many readers may know that stories featuring Dack are published as 7/6 novels by Peter Meriton, so it is interesting to note that this name was used as the author of No. 37 of the S.B.L. 2nd. new series, "The Man from Madrid" although Dack was not featured. This was only occasion that the name "Peter Meriton" has been used as far as I can discover.

This review is, of course, from the 1st. issue of the series until the cessation of hostilities with Japan and 102 issues are thereby involved. I have been checking up on the various writers' works in these volumes and I find that Anthony Parsons topped the list with a total of 24 stories! When one considers the excellence of each of these one cannot but be amazed at the ingenuity of Mr. Parsons. If an author turns out two full length detective novels in a year he or she is considered prolific, so imagine the industry of Mr. Parsons. Gilbert Chester, an old and tried favourite was a close second with 22 stories to his credit. Once again I say "amazing." The third on the list is John Hunter with 17 Blake stories, including the "Peter Meriton" one. After this we drop considerably, for the next author produced 9 yarns from the hat. These 9, however, were all winners as may be expected for the author was none other than Lewis Jackson, who was responsible for the well remembered stories dealing with Sexton Blake's brother Nigel, and the never to be forgotten Leon Kestrel series. As a matter of fact Kestrel re-appeared after a long absence in No. 65 "The Case of the Biscay Pirate"—an excellent story it was too!

A new author takes 5th. place with a total of 7 stories, and I feel sure that if he keeps up his present standard he will become a popular Blake chronicler. His name is given as John Drummond and he gets full marks from me for his detection plus action stories, so true to the Blake traditions.

Anthony Skene was 6th with four novels, but two of these were reprints, if not a third.

And now I want to remark upon the work of an author well known to many but new to the S.B.L. namely Walter Tyrer. He contributed three stories to the series and each were excellent. But one of these "The Curse of the Carringtons" No. 61, was in a class all its own and was, in my estimation, the best Blake

story of the whole series up to the time of writing. This opinion has not been made without due consideration of all the other fine yarns published during this period.

The remainder of the series up to No. 102 were made up of contributions from Martin Fraser (2), John Creasey (2), Stanton Hope (1), E. S. Brooks (1) a reprint, Hylton Gregory (1), D. L. Ames (1), L. C. Douthwaite (1), Maurice B. Dix (1), and four entirely new authors, Joseph Stamper (1), John Sylvester (1), John Purley (1), and Richard Standish (1). The last named author contributed a very well written story "The Case of Sgt. Bill Morden" in which there were some brilliant moments of deduction by Blake.

To sum up. Although the whole of the volumes in this series were published in time of war, the number dealing with subjects akin to war was not so large as may be expected. As far I can make out there were some 46 stories with a Nazi Spy or similar theme, including ones dealing with shipyards, factories, aerodromes etc., and another 44 of a more or less "straight detection" nature (although some of the latter were set in war time England, occupied France, Norway, etc. Only 12 stories were of adventure and detective work abroad, most of these coming from the pen of Anthony Parsons and set in India or Egypt. This was a marked change from the old days when nearly every other story dealt with some foreign clime. The loss of George Hamilton Teed recently left a big gap in the list of authors specialising in yarns of foreign adventure and the absence of Rex Hardinge on war work abroad has also made a difference.

And so it may be said that Sexton Blake has played a big part in helping to beat the Hun. I make this statement in all sincerity, because even if one forgets that "the man from Baker Street" is merely fictional, he has, nevertheless provided endless recreation for thousands of war workers, servicemen and others, and has thereby indirectly helped in the final victory.

In conclusion let me express a hope that the S.B.L. continues in its present state for many years to come, and long may the authors and artists continue to portray the favourite and greatest detective of all time.



"COLLECTORS' QUIZ"**No. 1**COMPILED BY HERBERT LECKENBY
AND MAURICE BOND

QUESTIONS

- 1—Name the Eskimo who was a prominent character in several "Boys' Friend" serials.
- 2—Which Sexton Blake author was responsible for the character "Humble Begge"?
- 3—What was the number and the title of the last blue covered "Gem"?
- 4—Who was "The Gang Girl" and who created her? (Sexton Blake series).
- 5—Who created Ferrers Lord?
- 6—What was the title of the first school story in the "Boy's Realm" and who wrote it?
- 7—Name the re-incarnated Prince who once clashed with a fictional detective; also name the authors responsible and the detective concerned.
- 8—What was the real name of Robert W. Comrade?
- 9—Another Billy Bunter appeared in a series of school stories in the days of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "Magnet". Name the paper he appeared in.
- 10—Name the crook who once tried to blackmail Sexton Blake and Mademoiselle Roxane.
- 11—Three Hamilton Edwards serials appeared in the "Boy's Friend Library". Can you name them?
- 12—Who, in Sexton Blake stories, created the character "The Raven"? Also name the female character often featured in his stories.

oooOooo

NOTE—This "Quiz" is not intricate and readers are asked to try and answer the questions from memory before turning to their collection for information. The answers will be published in No. 5 "Collector's Miscellany".

Sale Exchange Wanted

PRINTING

All classes of printing undertaken.

Samples and quotations on receipt of stamp.

Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks.

WANTED Aldine publications, all kinds. Sheppards, Duvals, Ching-Chings, Henderson's Wild Wests, Halfpenny Boys' Friends, Marvels. Exchanges. F. Webb, Mornington, Brunswick Park Road, New Southgate, N. 4

CIGARETTE CARDS. Complete sets or odds wanted from all parts of the world. Will purchase, or send English cards in exchange. Hundreds of different sets available. Alexandra S. Gooding, Coronation Cottage, Gosbeck, Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

BIG PRICES for boys' periodicals, comics, Magnets, Gems, 1914—1940. Anything on Nelson Eddy, newspapers dated December 1931, Feb. 1932. BM/FRVV, London, W.C. 1. 6

PRINTS, Books, Magazines with references to Punch and Judy, or Puppets wanted. Also the Juvenile Drama. George Speaight, 6 Maze Road, Kew, Surrey. 4

SEXTON BLAKE Correspondence Club. Will anyone interested in the formation of this please communicate with H. M. Bond, 172 Caerphilly Road, Cardiff. 4

THE STORY PAPER COLLECTOR—Issued quarterly, features articles of interest to collectors of British boys' papers. 10 cents a copy, 50 cents for 6 issues. If you live in the Stirling Area your interest and/or copies of boys' weeklies for my collection are sufficient to bring you copies until such time as the sending of funds becomes easier. Wm. H. Gander, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada. AE

SALE or Exchange Diamond Library No 63, Black Bess Library No 7, Boys' Friend Library Nos 80 & 119. Parks, Printer, Saltburn, Yorks.

A few copies of Nos 1, 2 & 3 of this journal still in print. Price 1/3 each post free. Publisher.

Sale Exchange Wanted

FOR SALE: Sweeney Todd; Merry Wives of London; Charles Pearce the Burglar; Nell Gwynne; Little John and Will Scarlet; Boys of Canem Academy; Black Bess; Black Highwayman; Blueskin; She Tiger of Paris; Mystery of Marlborough House; Under the Blood Red Flag; Captain Tom Drake; Rupert Dreadnought, orig. edn.; Sailor Crusoe; Paul Jones the Pirate; Jack Sheppard; Handsome Harry and Cheerful Ching-Ching; Daring, Wonderful and Young Ching-Ching; Lambs of Littlecote; Island School; Broad Arrow Jack; Blue Dwarf, all coloured plates; Outlaws of Epping Forest; Tom Wildrake's Schooldays; Jack Harkaway's Schooldays—At Oxford—Amongst the Brigands—Round the World etc. Scores of Brett and Hogarth House complete romances. Gentleman Jack; Lady Godiva; Miller and His Men; Black Monk; Mazeppa; Old House of West Street; Spectre of the Hall; Paul Clifford; Penny Pickwick; Oliver Twiss; The Sketch Book; Smuggler King and many other Lloyd romances. Boys World Vols 1—4; Up-to-Date Boys complete set; Boys Weekly Reader Vols 1—4; Boys of the British Empire Vols 1—3; Young Folks Vols 7—47 incl; Comrades Vols 1—3; Nuggets; Varieties; Garland; Boys of the Empire; many vols of Boys of England, Boys Comic Journal and Young Men of Great Britain, state wants. Aldine Buffalo Bill, Diamond, Detective, Tip-Top, Cheerful, Bullseye, Powerful Dramatic Tales and Half Holiday Libs. Union Jack; Boys Friend; Boys Friend 3d Library; Boys Realm; Boys Herald. Many others. Reasonable exchanges considered, John Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED Boys Leader and Big Budget published from Maiden Lane about 1903. All numbers required. Boys Champion, (Henderson), 1901-3; Lot-o-Fun; Comic Cuts; Jester. Bretherton, Heskin, Nr. Chorley, Lancs. 6

WANTED early Gems and Magnets. Boys' Friend Libraries containing very early stories of Tom Merry. Sexton Blake Libraries containing The King's Spy, The Fake, Wireless Message, The Great Diamond Fraud and any Kestrel tales. Also Dreadnoughts, Boys' Friends, Penny Poplars, early Union Jacks, etc. Also comic papers before 1925. Eric Fayne, 23 Grove Road, Surbiton. 5

TEN PENNY STAMPS (20 cents) brings specimen copy International Amateur Magazine for collectors, budding authors, hobbyists. Mrs. Teugels, 81 Bradford Road, Brighouse, England. 0

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