

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme.
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Dear Friars,

The release of the Gem title, TOM MERRY'S HOLIDAY, in May, will bring us within sight of the end of our current Spring programme.



Our most sincere apologies for the distressing delay in the delivery of the previous two titles, THE KIDNAPPED SCHOOLBOYS and BILLY BUNTER IN CHINA. The cause of this was a hangover from the winter industrial troubles, which only began to bite hard a few months ago.

LOOKING AHEAD

Since our last Greyfriars Herald newsletter we have made considerable inroads into our forward production planning and consequently can disclose some of our publishing intentions.

In the next (August-December) catalogue we expect to announce such attractions as The Da Costa series, the Whiffles Circus series, the long-awaited, long-promised Ezra Quirke (Nelson Lee) series, and a particularly interesting Gem collection suggested by Friar Wilde of the Northern Club.

For our patient Sexton Blake aficionados we hope to produce a volume of Union Jack 'singles', including three of Gwyn Evans's incomparable 'Christmas at Baker Street' stories, plus several 'complete' Sexton Blake novels by Edwy Searles Brooks.

The Christmas treat for the Magnetites has not yet been firmed, but it may well be 'The Mystery of the Moat House' collection, the last Magnet Christmas series written by Frank Richards and, in the opinion of your publisher, one of the very best ever. (The eight succeeding 'Lamb' issues could follow, to complete the collection.)

In response to constant demand, THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL 1975 will contain, among other delights, the first Magnet: The Making of Harry Wharton, recounting the arrival of Harry Wharton at Greyfriars School.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

Later, we plan to produce such much-sought collections as the LODER - CAPTAIN series, from 1925, and RAGGED DICK from the same year. TALE OF A TRIKE and RAVENSPUR GRANGE from 1929 and - a piece de resistance - the 1920 HOLIDAY ANNUAL, a rare collectors' item indeed!



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from:

HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers

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We are happy to say that in the six years since the inception of the Greyfriars facsimile project, we have never been in secure possession of such a far-ranging amount of source material. We can only hope that economic factors will not prevent the continuation of our programme, but that, of course, will depend upon the loyalty and support of the Friars.

SIT-VAC

Our Mrs Story is retiring. In consequence, Greyfriars Press seeks a replacement immediately.

Essential qualifications: Secretarial proficiency (shorthand-typing).
Rudimentary knowledge of book-keeping.
Ability to maintain records of Orders and Sales.
Competency to deal personally with monthly Greyfriars Press mailout and day-to-day orders.

Congenial working conditions. Own office. Hours: 9.30 am to 5 pm. 1½ hours lunch-break.

Salary: £1,600 p.a., or by negotiation, depending upon overall and/or particular qualifications.

Apply in writing to: The Publisher, Howard Baker Press Ltd.

SHADES OF COLDITZ

We thought you would be interested in the following anecdote from one of our regular readers, Professor Beck, MA., Ph.D., of Malta University. He writes:

'During the winter of 1943-44, I was in a P.O.W. camp for RAF aircrew at Heydekrug, on the borders of East Prussia. We lived fifty men to a barrack room, with twenty-five beds on each side. During the long dark nights, frequently made longer and darker by the lights being extinguished during air raids, periods of reprisal, or just plain power-failure, we played various oral games to pass the time. One of the favourites was to see which side of the barrack could remember the largest number of names belonging to Greyfriars School: boys, masters, and even administrative staff. The aggregate number we could jointly recall was phenomenal, and sometimes, no doubt, apocryphal. The interesting thing was that young men from all over the world could join in: Canadians, New Zealanders and Rhodesians. I was not so bad at it myself, in all modesty, but the champion was an Aussie airgunner from Western Australia - of course, he slept on the other side of the barrack!'

CHALLENGE

Canadian Friar, Phil Harris, of Quebec, Canada, writes:

'The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974 - what can one say about this volume except that whoever compiled it must have been inspired. The Christmas spirit just oozed from between the covers. As I received it on Christmas





Eye, be assured that it added considerably to the pleasure of my Christmas. Reading the stories rekindled the enjoyment one received as a schoolboy, when devouring the long-awaited 'Bumper Christmas Number', only in this instance I did not have to wait a week for each succeeding issue. The volume is really a masterpiece. One must also mention the Magnet dated August 3rd, 1912, which - whilst not a Christmas issue - was a nostalgic gem. I thought the Greyfriars Holiday Annual for 1973 was really something, but this one for 1974 just defies description. Now, the Greyfriars Press people really have a problem - how do you top this effort? I am sure I must be one of a host of readers awaiting news of your next Greyfriars Holiday Annual, that for 1975.'

We quail before the challenge!

PESSIMISM ?

Friar Knight, of Northampton, detects a note of pessimism in our last Newsletter, but goes on to say: 'There must be thousands of collectors like myself all over the world who would be willing to pay £5 a volume in order to ensure the perpetuation of the Greyfriars Press programme.' Thousands? We would gladly settle for hundreds - come all ye faithful.

BAD NEWS - AND GOOD

We are bound to advise our readers that we are forced at last to bow before the long prevailing winds of savage price increases (binding, printing, paper) and increase our own prices of all new titles issued after July 1974. The increase will bring the price within the region of £3.20 per title.

We are still searching for ways and means to avoid this measure, but, stout Friars, brace yourselves against a strong likelihood.

There is at least this consolation: despite the overall poor response to our Christmas plea for stronger support from regular subscribers, we do not contemplate early termination of the Greyfriars Press programme.

With kindest regards to you all
from

The Publisher

