



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 15

SPRING 1975

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Dear Friars,

With the current release of the Texas series, we near the end of the Spring programme and now face the problems of selection for the Summer/Autumn List.

At time of writing we cannot furnish full particulars but the likelihood is that it will include: Trail of a Trike and Ravenspur Grange from 1929. Tuckshop Rebellion and the Cliff House Feud from 1937. The Warren series and Polpelly Christmas from 1935. (e&oe) Other selections have still to be firmed but the new Catalogue should be ready for circulation by the latter part of May.

HARRY WHARTON & Co in TEXAS!



GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB



The response to the Book Club project of rare de luxe editions in limited printings has been modestly encouraging -- at least sufficient to cause us to launch the Club forthwith.

Friars should note:

- 1) The order of publication will be varied -- depending upon preponderance of orders for each particular title.
- 2) Full scale production of each volume will commence as soon as readers have honoured their Pledges for each volume of their choice following our submission of pro-forma invoice.

Accordingly, we must submit bills for prepayment for each Book Club title approximately two months before publication. As soon as all remittances are received we can begin production.

Pro-formas for the first Book Club volume will be despatched very shortly, and we ask all Club members to respond as near-by-return as possible in order that we can go to press immediately.



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incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers

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Friar Phil Harris of Montreal Canada writes:
"My response to the Greyfriars Book Club invitation is a resounding yes. It opens up truly rosy vistas ... a fantastic programme."

WELL FOUNDED

With regard to our Greyfriars Book Club, Friar Patrick J Kane of Melbourne Australia writes: "Thank you for the most staggering news since the invasion of Normandy. Upon receiving the details my first impulse was to rush down to the bank and remit the total money for all 12 books in advance. As for your selections, I could not think of a better dozen titles. It reflects great credit for both imagination and initiative upon all concerned in the enterprise."

Well, with such loyal Friars as Mr Kane, our enterprise is indeed well founded.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS by E S TURNER

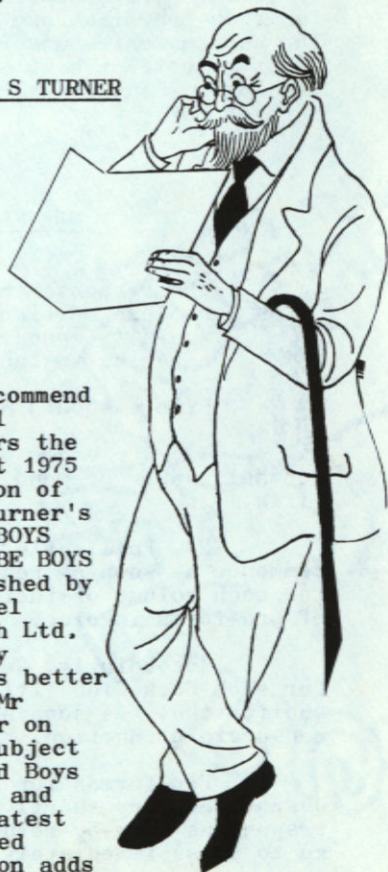
Thus Alfred Harmsworth assured the readers of his early halfpenny boys' magazine, *Union Jack*. We cannot resist passing on the assurance to the readers of this fascinating book, which, says the author, invites them to take a backward somersault into the New Mythology – the mythology of Sexton Blake and Deadwood Dick, of Jack Sheppard, Jack Harkaway and Billy Bunter. The mythology, in fact, of all Dick Barton's ancestors.

This book is not for those few, those very few, who can claim with a clear conscience that they never in their youth dipped, furtively or otherwise, into such literature. For the unregenerate rest, it is a welcome chance to look back at the he-men, the ape-men and the bird-men whose adventures they followed under cover of Hall's Algebra or in the precarious privacy of bed.

When it was first published in 1948, Mr Turner described his book as 'purely a refresher course'. Many impressions later, he has revised his work, adding to the deathless historical record of such heroes as Sexton Blake, whose adventures began in 1893 and are still going strong. Here, you may look back to the astonishing adventures of Nelson Lee, the detective who turned schoolmaster and had once to deal with an ugly incident when the school turned communist; you may re-live in pleasant reminiscence the exploits of Jack Harkaway and Billy Bunter, or, if you wish to be well-up-to-date, the cases of Dixon Hawke. Schoolboy heroes, of the old-fashioned breed, or the more modern type who conduct inter-planetary wars; spies, both beautiful and sinister; master-crooks, redskins, cowboys – they are all here, as striking as ever and very properly twice as large as life, in this absorbing and delightful book about the fiction we all once read.

£3.50 net

We recommend to all readers the latest 1975 version of E S Turner's book **BOYS WILL BE BOYS** published by Michael Joseph Ltd. Nobody writes better than Mr Turner on the subject of Old Boys books and the latest updated edition adds new dimensions to this fascinating hobby.



WHARTON SPECIAL

Those who subscribed should be in receipt of their Wharton Special volumes by the turn of the month.

You will note we have decided to incorporate this volume into the overall Greyfriars Book Club scheme. Thus the Wharton Special becomes No 1 issue of the Club series.

Look out for the No 2 GBC volume, the Loder-Captain series, within the next few months.



THE WORLD OF FRANK RICHARDS

The eagerly-awaited biography of Frank Richards is almost ready for release. We hope for publication near end of April or early May. Advance copies will be despatched to all those who have subscribed this title the moment it is available. Friars who have not yet subscribed are urged to place their orders immediately.

This is the story of the literary phenomenon of the century: the man who brought to vivid life the most famous schoolboy characters of all time and delighted countless readers of every age for over sixty years. The real world of Charles Hamilton, who hid behind more pen-names than any other writer ... who produced more wordage than any author before or since ... and who was known to the English-speaking world as Frank Richards.

The man who wrote about countless public schools yet never went to one ... the shy, diffident scholar who penned rumbustuous Latin verses in later years ... the crusader who preached against gambling, yet lost much of his own money at the tables....

This is the definitive biography of one of the greatest popular entertainers of all time, compiled by two of England's most expert literary detectives: W O G Lofts and Derek Adley. They have spent years researching their subject, and give a truly fascinating picture not only of Frank Richards himself, but of the world he lived in: the writers he knew, the editors he worked for, and the vast publishing house of which he was star writer for over 30 years.

All lovers of Frank Richards (the man and his wonderful stories), and all those fascinated by the curious teeming world of popular fiction and the people who inhabited it, cannot afford to miss out on this remarkable book.

THE 'FILLERS'

Mr Emanuel Cohen of Rishon-le-Zion, Israel writes:

"I appreciate the fact that the reprinting of complete issues of Magnets and Gems inside hard covers dictates the inclusion, along the main rich fare served by the great Frank Richards, of some dishes of inferior quality. I refer to the supplementary stories in the closing pages of the magazines. (It would be but just to add that, happily, they completely disappear from the scene in the final years of the Magnet). I have made sporadic dips into their contents but with the best will in the world could not work up an interest, and invariably had to give it up as a hopeless job. However, one must assume that these authors if still alive -- or their shades if they are not -- must feel thankful, for it is the proximity of their stories to the immortal work of Frank Richards that may preserve their names for Posterity. Then, too, these stories serve a useful purpose, for beside them the genius of the Old Master shines with even greater incandescence."

APOTHEOSIS

Observant readers will have noticed that we have changed our banner. As from now, this regular newsletter will be known as the GREYFRIARS GAZETTE thus eliminating the clumsy title Greyfriars Herald Newsletter; avoiding any nuance of confusion, and providing a sensible point of reference and easy identification.



SUMMATION

Friars will see from all of the foregoing that their earlier fears of abrupt termination of the Greyfriars Press are groundless. With a little luck, and strong support we should be producing and publishing your favourite fare for a considerable time to come.

With kind regards, thanks, and best wishes to you all,



Sincerely yours,

The Publisher