



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 22

EASTER 1977

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Greetings Friars !

Those who have not yet completed their collections should be advised that the following titles will soon be out of print :

THE GREYFRAIRS HIKERS
MYSTERY OF THE MOAT HOUSE
GHOST OF POLPELLEY

BILLY BUNTER IN CHINA
BUNTER TELLS THE TRUTH
TOM MERRY'S HOLIDAY

G.H.A. 1928

So we urge late Collectors to make these titles their priority when ordering backstock.

SINGLES

We have produced one hundred sets of THE COURTFIELD CRACKSMAN in 'singles' form : i.e. unbound, to sell at £8.00 per set of fourteen single issues in slipcase container. Supplies of this novelty item should be available by the time this Gazette goes to Press. Further widely dispersed 'singles' items will be announced shortly.

PAYMENTS FROM OVERSEAS FRIARS

All of our books are priced in sterling. All of our invoices are so rendered, and overseas Friars are asked to make payments to us in sterling if at all possible. We have to pay a high rate of commission to convert other currencies, which adds to our overheads and, ultimately, to the cost of the books that you buy. So pay us in sterling, please. Alternatively, if



FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers

Cables: Bakerbook London

settlement in English pounds does present some insuperable problem, we would accept payment in other currencies, provided that allowance is made for fluctuating conversion rates and high negotiating commissions. So -- if you are paying in a currency other than sterling, please add 15%.

We know that, in these difficult times, Friars will understand -- and appreciate -- our efforts to keep overheads down, and prices as low as humanly possible.

GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB

The next Club edition is NEW BOYS AT GREYFRIARS (of 1909) due for publication at Easter. In June we publish the delayed LEVISON'S RETURN series of 1923, plus an extra issue (number 789) for good measure. The month of August should see the publication of THE GAME KID plus the short Roger Quelch series, together in one volume.

Collectors : be advised that the MAKING OF HARRY WHARTON of 1908 is now out of print. But all other titles on the original brown-and-green Pledge form are in stock and available (with the exception -- of course -- of LEVISON'S RETURN, which is due in June).

We are now making inroads into the Blue Pledge (NEW BOYS AT GREYFRIARS of 1908-9 &c).

THE 'FRIARS' CLUB

Two meetings of the first London Chapter of The Friars Club have already been held at the home of Mr Bob Acraman at 'Courtfield', 49 Kings End, Ruislip, Middlesex. Many subjects of interest to Greyfriars Press readers have been aired, including the showing of a colour movie of a visit to the home of Frank Richards. Though the first Sunday meeting was scheduled only to last from 3pm until 5pm., the last Friar did not leave 'Courtfield' until 9.15pm.

Friar Simmonds proposed that a regular Newsletter, recording the activities of the Club, be produced periodically, and the first two have in fact already been circulated. Your Publisher hopes to attend a future meeting at 'Courtfield' to meet and to get to know some of his most enthusiastic readers.

We are informed that the next Club meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 24th at 3pm. Prospective members wishing to attend should contact Friar Acraman at the address given above. Or telephone : 71 - 31025. He assures us that all will be certain of a cordial welcome at 'Courtfield'.



'COMICS' VOLUME

Though somewhat removed from Friardom, we know that the interests of some of our readers extend into the comics collecting field. Accordingly, we plan to produce a volume of the best-known AP comics of the twenties and thirties with original colour and in their original size, though of course on better quality paper.

The publication of the first volume should include : TIGER TIM'S WEEKLY, RAINBOW, PLAYBOX, CHIPS, COMIC CUTS, BUTTERFLY, JESTER, KINEMA COMIC, FILM FUN, RADIO FUN, SUNBEAM, KNOCKOUT, PUCK, FUNNY WONDER, LARKS &c (e. & o.e.) Further details will follow.

CONTACTS/SALES/WANTS

Have been able, through the Gazette, to obtain Volume 23, JOKER OF GREYFRIARS, from a Friar in Leeds. Now only require Volume 18, THE GREYFRIARS DOUBLE, to complete my set. Please write to : J.K. Bartholomew, 77 Edington Street, North Rockhampton, Queensland, 4701, Australia.

Can I trade Volume 6, DOWNFALL OF HARRY WHARTON for any of the following : Vols 14, 20, 21, 28, 34 ? Write to : Robert H. Herrington, The Manor House, 75 Graydon Hall Drive, Suite 1507, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 3M5, Canada.

Master Roger Smith (aged 12) of 4 Charles Street, East Bentleigh, Victoria 3165, Australia, would like to hear from other Friars in his locale who might be interested in occasional meetings for exchange of views on matters Hamiltonian.

Required : Volume 23 JOKER OF GREYFRIARS, Volume 22 BILLY BUNTER'S CHRISTMAS and Volume 18 THE GREYFRIARS DOUBLE. Offers please to Mark Pengelly, 15 Glen Place, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Will pay good prices.

Wanted : Volume 18 THE GREYFRIARS DOUBLE and G.H.A. 1974. Good prices paid. Brian Simonds, 4 Nutfield Road, London NW2

I hold an extra copy of Volume 24 THE KIDNAPPED SCHOOLBOYS. Would be willing to exchange it for Volume 23 THE JOKER OF GREYFRIARS. Write to : Captain F.A.E. Ganado, 26 Tintern Ave., Toorak, Melbourne, Victoria, 3142, Australia.

(Reprinted, with due acknowledgements, from a recent article in THE DIRECTOR, Journal of The Institute of Directors)

This Christmas, something like £65m. worth of books may change hands at the busiest time of the year for the publishing industry, which appears on paper to be going from strength to strength. In 1975, a record 35,608 volumes were produced by British publishers, resulting in a turnover of £351m., and figures for the first quarter of 1976 show a healthy increase over the comparable period last year. All this despite savage inflationary pressures which have, in a very short time, pushed the book-buyer into the era of the £5 novel and the £10 biography. The years of cheap books in Britain are over as decisively as the years of cheap food.

No comment necessary !

But appearances are not all they seem. Publishing may still be 'an occupation for gentlemen', but it has had perforce to become a good deal less gentlemanly in practice after the most searing couple of years in living memory: many an author is now smarting over a broken contract as books commissioned in the palmy days have been cancelled, often in mid-production. Printing and binding costs went up by 70 per cent in 1972-75; paper costs have rocketed by around 300 per cent in three years. For many small publishers, desperately undercapitalised and operating as a cottage industry— —the wonder is that they are still in business at all.

SHORT MEASURE

Unfortunately, lack of space and time -- with the Easter double mail-out almost upon us -- prevents publication of a selection of Friars' letters as is our usual wont. Perhaps we can include some of them in our next Gazette.

But we could not 'go to Press' without thanking all those readers who have written us such wonderful heart-warming letters, and the many who sent us Christmas cards last season. All your cards found their honoured display position in the Editorial sanctum and afforded us a great deal of pleasure.

We do sincerely regret the essential brevity of this SPRING EDITION of the Gazette. But we do, as said, have to mail you out our Easter offerings : THE BOUNDER'S REBELLION and BUNTER THE HYPNOTIST in good time for the coming holidays, and that must take priority. Agreed nem con ?

Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter

Sincerely yours,

W Howard Baker

The Publisher

You have the written works of Frank Richards: Why not now hear him, in audio form?

Listen to him expressing his views, on his writing, his characters, his life, in the EMI Record, FLOREAT GREYFRIARS.

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The price of FLOREAT GREYFRIARS is £2.25 plus 30p post and packing to addresses within the UK. Overseas postage and packing is 50p.