



# The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 28

CHRISTMAS 1978



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Greetings Friars!

Publication of the November and December titles marks the safe conclusion of another season's programme. And relief is profound, because we have been subjected to very serious delays both at the printing and the bookbinding ends of the operation.

Everything at the latter part of our programme has been running outrageously late, and all appeals have fallen on stony ground. However, all's well that ends well, and Magnet Volume 67 and Greyfriars Library No. 1 are now safely in your eager hands. We have been promised better service in 1979, and can only hope that these assurances are kept.

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## PRICES

As from the New Year, there will be a small increase of 45 pence in the price of each Greyfriars Press volume. Of course, it is by no means enough to compensate us for the price increases the Company has had to bear through escalating production costs over the past two years throughout all of which time we have not passed on our losses. So we shall have to look to other small economies to create sound viability.

For the time being there will be no increase in the prices of Book Club volumes.



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## 'SINGLES' CATALOGUE

For some time past, we have been producing a 'spin-off' run of approximately 40 copies in single (24, 32 or 44 page) form of each Greyfriars Press book published. These are now being made available at 60 pence each, post free. We hope to produce a comprehensive catalogue of 'single copy' titles shortly.

FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon London, S.W.20

incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers







## VISITORS TO GREYFRIARS PRESS

Over the years we have warmly welcomed many Friars from all corners of the globe to our editorial offices in Wimbledon. But we would like to stress again that a telephone call to agree a time of mutual convenience is absolutely essential.

We cannot reasonably be expected to extend the welcome mat to visitors who arrive out of the blue purely at their own whim or convenience. One recent overseas visitor actually arrived unannounced at a quarter-past one (lunchtime) and was more than a mite discomfited when an impromptu meeting could not be convened on the spot!

He must bear the distinction of being the only Friar to have departed Wimbledon in high dudgeon and indignation. But one supposes that there has to be a first for everything.

So, dear potential visitors, please do show some consideration to a very busy and occasionally wroth publisher struggling with sometimes horrendous editorial/production problems. 'Distracted with care and anguish' could be our Anthem.

### BY APPOINTMENT

A visiting Friar from Canada, Phil Harris of Montreal, who called to see us in October, writes: "Please let me say how very happy I was to finally come face-to-face with our genial Publisher, who, if I may say so, "fills the bill" to perfection. I thank you for your courtesy and hospitality on that glad occasion. May you enjoy many more years, and continue to give all your Friars the happiness you have provided to so many for so long."

*The blushfulness of your ludicrous Publisher is terrific - but the thankfulness is also great.*

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

The present Book Club programme is drawing to a close. The last book of the current series will be published in early summer. Consequently, a new Club Catalogue is in process of preparation and will include approximately twelve more titles. This forward list will be mailed out to all Club Members in the Spring.

The December Club book - THE TOFF OF ST. JIM'S (£12.00) - is a really bumper volume of 348 pages, containing two Talbot series, plus a summer holiday series sandwiched in between. Eleven Gem numbers many of which are extra large 32 page issues. Truly a super book, and well worthy of consideration even by non-Club Friars.

### THE UNSUNG 'SUBS'

Following Friar Murtagh's original suggestion, letters continue to arrive regularly from readers asking when we are going to produce the long-promised volume of non-Hamilton sub stories.

"Yes, please. I would be happy to acquire as many as you publish," writes Mark Pengelly, of 15 Glen Place, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

"A very good idea!" - Bob Francis, of 4 The Bracken, Warren Wood, High Wycombe, Bucks.

"Yes to the publication of some 'sub story' volumes" - C. B. Rollins, of 16 Cotysmore Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.

"I agree wholeheartedly with Friar Murtagh. Please publish some substitute stories." - J. Kennedy, of 2 Matham Grove, London SE22.

"Subs or not . . . Keep up the good work. In a dull world, full of so much sorrow and trouble, you give pleasure and happiness to thousands of followers of the old papers" - R. A. Richardson, of 55 Bardsway Avenue, Layton, Blackpool.

Currently, we are gathering together a selection of 'substitute' stories representing the best writers considered to be the 'best of the bunch'. Further details will follow soon.



STOP  
PRESS  
NEWS







## THE NEW GREYFRIARS LIBRARY.

Mr. E. Austyn-Prys of 21 Fields Road, Tredegar, Gwent, Wales, complains:

"While it is gratifying to learn (from the Autumn Newsletter No. 27) that we shall eventually be offered in full facsimile form those Magnets from which the Schoolboys Own Library — and its new edition, the Greyfriars Library — have been "culled" (i.e. presumably *cut*); it does not seem right to offer these Greyfriars Library volumes as part of the Greyfriars Bond selections, because this means that we shall eventually have duplicates of the same story: one edition in complete form and the other in "potted" version."

*On the other hand . . .*

David Urch, P. O. Box 3197, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, writes:

"Delighted by your reassurance in the Autumn Gazette (No. 27) that, later, we will be able to have Magnet Nos. 874 — 877 in full facsimile. A big relief. It enables us to welcome the new Greyfriars Library series with enthusiasm."



## THE SEXTON BLAKE TV PANTOMIME

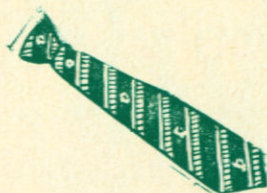
Sexton Blake author, Martin Thomas, writes:

"As ITV demonstrated a decade ago, even when taking Blake a long way back in his history there was no need to give him a Monty Python treatment burlesquing "ripping yarns of spiffing adventure" to quote a phrase applied by the Press to this misconceived and disastrous BBC version of Sexton Blake.

And since the serial appears to have been derived from Christmas pantomime, it is hardly surprising that the acting had all the hamminess of such a show — culminating in that appalling coyly-modest smile, with downcast eyes, given by 'Blake' on being assured that he was, indeed, the "chosen one". I have seen all the Sexton Blake cinema films, heard all the Sexton Blake radio plays, and seen all the Sexton Blake television serials. If asked to name the very worst of them all, I would have no hesitation in making 'Sexton Blake and the Demon God' the chosen one!

Only deliberate intention could such abysmal depths have been plumbed. A decade ago, the ITV Sexton Blake serials — although frankly intended for young viewers — earned high praise and consequently enjoyed a long run. Only masochists could want a long run of the BBC's nauseous concoction."

Martin Thomas  
Bristol



## THE GREYFRIARS CLUB TIE

New stocks of the Friars Tie\* have just been received, so once again our readers can place orders in confidence of by-return delivery.

On that subject, Friar C. Oliver of 34 Belfield Avenue, May Bank, Newcastle, Staffs., declares: "The Club Tie . . . absolutely first class — splendid, as are all your presentations. One is always confident, when ordering any item from you, whatever it may be, of top quality and service. I have found this throughout the many years I have been a customer."

\*Club Tie, in Greyfriars/St. Jim's colours, blue, white & red (£4 + 20p postage).

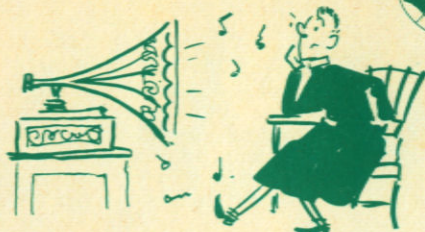




# Greyfriars Gazette



**FLOREAT GREYFRIARS!**



The Rev. Robert Singleton, of 51 Anfield Road, Liverpool, poses an interesting query: "Re. the EMI record, *Floreat Greyfriars* — Neither myself nor any of the other members of my family have yet succeeded in catching all the words in the Latin of the School Song thereon, although we have played the record over and over again. I should like a copy of them, so as to be able to translate. I wonder whether you could possibly help in this direction?"

*Can any Friar, sharp of ear, help the Reverend Singleton?*

## LONDON FRIARS CLUB

Club host, Friar Bob Acraman, informs us that the next (Christmas) meeting of the London-based Friars Club will be held at 'Courtfield', 49 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middlesex, on Sunday, 17 December at 3 pm. All Greyfriars Press readers are assured of a warm welcome. Though close to Christmas, it is hoped that many Friars will make their way to 'Courtfield' for this happy occasion. Your Publisher too hopes that, Christmas commitments permitting, he will be able to join the throng of the merry and the gay on the date.

(If possible, please telephone Bob Acraman at 71-31025 to advise of your intention).

He also wishes it to be known that the annual subscription to his own COURTFIELD NEWSLETTER is £1.40. Intending subscribers should apply to Ruislip for further details.

And now, with the Autumn programme safely to bed, we can concentrate our thoughts on the problems of production of the Spring List. And problems there will be, no doubt. So be not alarmed, Friars, if occasionally one of your deliveries is delayed.

Many of you have been worried in the past when your books failed to arrive at the expected time but, as you know, they always get there in the end — occasionally even ahead of publication date!

Regrettably, lack of time since our Autumn edition prevents us publishing our usual Sales/Wants Classified section. However, this popular feature will return in the next issue of the Gazette.

In conclusion, we wish to thank those kind Friars who have already sent us Christmas Cards, and other seasonal tokens. What good people you are!

Be assured your generous greetings are highly prized by your friend and Publisher.

With Best Wishes for a very Happy Christmas, happy holiday reading and good fortune in the coming year —

*Howard Baber*

