



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 32

SUMMER 1980

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme
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Greetings all Friars,

This summer number of the Greyfriars Gazette marks the end of the Spring programme, the introduction of the Autumn List, and takes us almost to the halfway stage of our Third Book Club collection.

The Autumn Greyfriars Press Catalogue (July to December) has been published. We hope you find the offerings contained in it to your taste. You will note that there is no 'Bunter Book' (Greyfriars Library) included. This bi-annual mini-series has not proved the success we had hoped it would be (object: attraction of the younger reader) and it has been discontinued. So the new generation has eluded us!

"Today's youth cannot miss something they have never known, but I fear that there are no current fictional characters whose impact and influence will last with such abiding affection into their 'sere and yellow' as this splendid man's creations have in mine!"

Frank Richards . . .



— Peter Cushing



BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Greyfriars Book Club collection continues to grow. (Thirty-two volumes to date). We know the members would appreciate some advance information on the Autumn to Christmas titles, and the programme is as follows:

August: The Mystery of Pengarth Club Vol. No. 33

October: Mick the Gypsy Club Vol. No. 34

December: De Vere and the Silver Scud Club Vol. No. 35

These three collections have been chosen in order of popularity among Club subscribers, which is calculated by the ticks (✓) on your Pledge Forms. One man, one vote, and all that.

FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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

incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

General Fiction & Non-Fiction — Political Science — Poetry
Autobiography — Biography — Reference — Specialist facsimile editions

PROFIT – AND LOSS

As Club members will be well aware, we have not raised the prices of Book Club volumes for nearly *four years*. Knowing of the constantly rising production costs we have to endure here (paper, printing and binding, etc.) you don't need to be a mathematician to realise that our profit loss situation has been worsening year by year – indeed almost month by month !

We have borne it stoically all these years, to your benefit, but the time has come when we must be realistic, else the Greyfriars Book Club will disappear off the publishing scene.



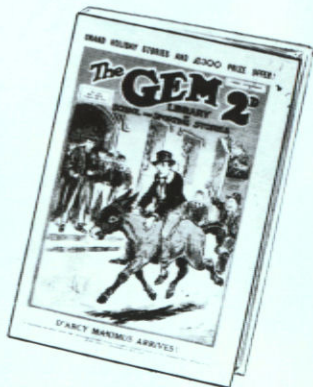
Accordingly, our Club price per volume must increase to £15 per volume from August. Twenty-five percent over the span of nearly four years when, all around, our own costs have risen by more than twenty percent *every twelve months*. Surely no-one can dispute that we have done all of our share – and more – to hold price increases at bay !

In any case, as OUT-OF-PRINT copies already fetching from £25 to £50 – in one case even £100 – you will no doubt agree that at the new price our titles are still an excellent investment. We were about to say 'Gilt Edged', but they are that already, oi ! (Monty Lowther, please copy !)



MAGNET COMPANION ' 77 SUPPLEMENT

Our Supplement has now been published and details are given in the Autumn Catalogue. As promised, we have kept the price to purely a nominal one, in a vain effort to cover our printing costs. It is an invaluable addition to the main Companion and brings all information bang up to date – to Summer 1980. Also it corrects some setting errors that crept into the original work. No Collector can afford to be without it.



Autumn 1980 CATALOGUE

REITERATION

Because the following message seems to have failed to register with some of our non-bond Friars, we consider it worthwhile to repeat it here.

For your peace of mind, and for the furtherance of our 'impeccably efficient and imperturbable service' (to quote Friar Morley of Worthing) please read, mark, learn and inwardly digest:



ORDERING FORWARD AND BACK

Apart from our Bond customers, who know exactly where they stand regarding delivery dates, there are those who order back stock titles for immediate delivery — but sometimes confound this simple operation by including a FORWARD title on their order list.

This means that, if they have only paid postage for one parcel of books, the *whole* of their order is held up until the FORWARD TITLE is available.

And some customers, uncomprehendingly, then write in to demand to know why their order has not been serviced by same-day return post, as is our normal custom with back-stock titles.

Hope all is now clearly understood.

Whilst on this subject, another point worth noting: the month of publication given in our seasonal catalogues usually means the *end* of the particular month in question rather than the beginning. Thus, a book announced for August publication — for example — is not likely to be available until the *end* of August: certainly not on August the First! Well worth remembering.

Here endeth the lesson.



Readers/Friars in the Irish Republic, please NOTE:

EIRE is now included in the £1.10 for 4-books-per-parcel postal Contract system.

Therefore, when you order per our Order Form, include yourselves in the U.K. *only* concession

SUPPLEMENT TO

The **MAGNET** **COMPANION '77** A DIRECTORY

It is recommended that the information in this supplement should be transferred to the relevant pages of your Magnet Companion '77, using the abbreviations listed there on page 4. In addition, if used in conjunction with pages 129 to 147 of the Companion, it becomes a bibliography of the Greyfriars Press.

50 pence (60p. post free) Published Summer 1980

Dear Sir...



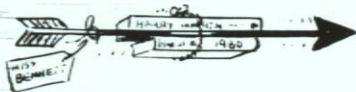
"MARM - YOUR GREYFRIARS BOOK HAS ARRIVED!"



Miss Sarah Batchelor of 25 Salcombe Avenue, Weeping Cross, Stafford, writes: "I would like to convey my grateful thanks for 'Tom Redwing's Triumph'. I have not purchased a Book Club volume before, and I am absolutely delighted. The binding and presentation is magnificent! Keep up the good work."



Sentiments echoed by Miss Diana Lynn of 8 Longridge Avenue, Cochrane Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who says: "Having just received my first special Book Club volume this week, may I congratulate you on its beautiful appearance. It really is a Collector's item."



Whilst from yet another lady, Miss N.J. Bennett of Becket Hall, Weston Road, Stafford, more plaudits are in order: "I would like to congratulate you on your excellent service - the first class packing and the amazing speed with which orders are dispatched is quite unlike the norm for mail order services."



And Friar Emanuel J. Cohen of 46, Jabotinsky St. Rishon-le-Zion, Israel has this to say "I regard you as the one through whose means I was once more able to enjoy the enchanting works of Frank Richards and derive so much happiness therefrom. Continued success in your unparalleled task."



Mr. E.E. Fortune, of 43 Richmond Road, Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand, tells us: "This past year has been a time of great joy and great nostalgia. Almost twelve months ago I saw on the bookshelves in one of our Auckland bookshops a wonderful sight: great volumes of Howard Baker books that brought back to me the most wonderful memories as I saw before me, on the covers, all those 'boys' I had grown up with - Billy Bunter and Harry Wharton and Co, plus all my old friends from St. Jim's."



And Mr C. Clegg, of 64 Somerton Drive, Erdington, Birmingham, has news of a convert: "I would like to thank you for the pleasure your enterprise in publishing these books has given me, together with your chatty newsletters. I can think of no other item which provides so much pleasure for so little cost. Even my wife, a confirmed 'Mills and Boon' fan, has become engrossed in the Greyfriars saga!"



TOUGH CHALLENGE

"Thanks for all you have achieved over the last decade," writes Mr Peter R. Morley, of 327 Tarring Road, Worthing. "You have undoubtedly made many people's Christmases very merry indeed, these last ten years. Here's hoping you'll do the same for the next ten."

Whilst Friar Phil Harris, of Montreal, Canada, says: "On the occasion of my visit to you at the end of September last year, you showed me the proof make-up of the Holiday Annual for 1980, and I said then that it promised to be a real blockbuster. Having now read the volume, 'blockbuster' seems to be an understatement. If anything man-made can ever be said to approach perfection, then GHA 1980 is the perfect Christmas reading. It's just great — which brings up my question to you once again : *What do you do for an encore ?*

"My brother-in-law enjoyed the GHA so much he thought it was worth a trans-Atlantic call to tell me so. For all that you have done in the past, and for this latest effort, dear Abbot, a thousand thanks. Just wonderful."

G — for G — ups

Mr Michael H. Dennis, of St. Clair Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey, knows what he likes: "Just a word of praise for 'Greyfriars for Grown-ups'. It's a real delight to dip into. Trouble is, it's taking me such a long time to get through, as I keep on referring back to the original story, if I've got it, to check the context. I can see me re-reading the whole lot before I'm finished ! Mind you — that's not such a bad idea."



The Magnet

Mr G.H. Wilson, of Goodmaynes, West Wycombe, Bucks is more critical: "How disappointing 'Greyfriars for Grown-Ups' has turned out to be. The title is misleading to say the least. Why are so many St. Jim's quotations used, and of an early Skimpole Socialist crackpot variety ? So many amusing Frank Richards quotations were left out. What a pity that political overtones should be brought into the delightful carefree world of Greyfriars where, in my opinion, politics had no part."

THE SECOND ELEVEN

Friar R.L. Carroll, of 16 Hamilton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, doesn't beat about the bush: "In Praise of the Subs — more please !"

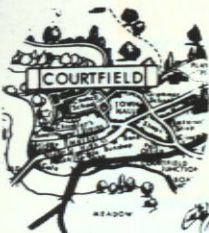
And Mr Simon Garrett of Bathwick House, Bath, Avon. BA2 6NX clearly agrees: "I would also like to add my voice to those who have welcomed the inclusion of substitute authors in the series, as these have a special interest of their own."

Friar Cyril Rollins, of 16 Cotysmore Road, Sutton Coldfield, concurs: "Glad to hear that the substitute stories were well received. I hope we shall have many more in due course."

From Wales comes an encouraging letter from Miss Jillian Sheppard, of 13 Bromley Drive, Ely, Cardiff, who tells us : "I have found another shop in Cardiff where the owner is himself a buyer and collector of your publications. I was fortunate to obtain six of the books I required and are out of print. I trust there will be some more soon. I had a delightful time at the shop where I met a gentleman who has collected Magnets from before 1920. There are now, to my knowledge, seven customers in Cardiff area who collect your books as a hobby."

And from Australia, from Friar Joe Williamson, of 80 Wilson Road, Wangaratta, via R.M. Milawa, Victoria, Australia, comes the final word: "I have just received your Spring 1980 Catalogue, Greyfriars Gazette No. 31, etc., and note your remarks regarding increases in printing costs, and can only marvel at the way you have been able to control the prices you charge for the Greyfriars books. Thank you for all the joy you have given me with your excellent reproductions."

ACTIVITIES AT 'COURTFIELD'



Robert Acraman, able organiser of the London Friars Club, writes to report:

"Two more exciting meetings at Kingston on Thames at Eric/Beryl Wafer's flat, and Maurice Hall's residence at Walton on Thames, where some 15 handsome large polished wall shields bearing the full colour Armorial Arms & Crest of Greyfriars School, custom made and cast to bring out the full design in relief, were handed out to the lucky recipients by your Hon Sec.

Our next two meetings are at Brian Simmonds 29th June (ring 01-450 7077 to confirm attendance at 2.30/3.00) and our Grand Summer Meeting at Courtfield on 3rd August (ring Ruislip 31025 to confirm attendance, same time) at which both Howard Baker and Miss Hood have informed me they hope to be present."

For details, intending members should write to Robert Acraman, 'Courtfield', 49 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middlesex, or telephone 71-31025

TO LATE-COMING COLLECTORS

The following titles are now OUT-OF PRINT and no longer available to order through the Trade. Nor are they listed in our current catalogue.

However, we still have a few copies at these offices, and these are available to late-coming collectors by MAIL ORDER ONLY, while stock remain.

Magnet Vol.

No.	
10	Bunter and the Greyfriars Mutiny
15	Calling Mr Quelch
27	Shadow over Harry Wharton
30	The Burglar of Greyfriars
35	Bob Cherry's Big Bargain
38	Bunter Tells the Truth
39	The Ghost of Polpelly

Gem Vol.

No.	
6	Tom Merry's Holiday

Nelson Lee Vol.

No.	
3	The Haunted School (Ezra Quirke Series)



GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL 1928
GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL 1975

CLASSIFIED ADVTs

SALES AND WANTS



FOR SALE: To Help Lately Ordained Friars. Vol. 7, The Greyfriars Pretender, £8; Vol. 15, Calling Mr. Quelch, £8; Vol. 17, Black Sheep of Greyfriars, £8; Vol. 27, The Shadow over Harry Wharton, £8; Vol. 33, The Sleuth of Greyfriars, £8; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1928, £8; Vol. 4 Billy Bunter and the Terror of the Form, £4; Vol. 9, The Schemer of the Remove, £4; Vol. 10, Bunter and the Greyfriars Mutiny, £4; Vol. 16, Harry Wharton's Enemy, £4; Vol. 51, The Bounder's Rebellion, £4; Vol. 52, Bunter the Hypnotist, £4; Vol. 54, Vernon-Smith's Rival, £4; Vol. 57, Expelled from Greyfriars, £4; Vol. 58, Bunter's Christmas Carol, £4; Vol. 60, The Greyfriars Impersonator, £4; Vol. 59, Bunter's Rich Relation, £4; Vol. 67, Bunter at St. Jim's, £4; Vol. 69, The Bully of Greyfriars, £4; The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1927, £4; The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1941, £4; The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1979, £4; The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1980, £4. All postage extra at 60p per volume.

Write first with one International Reply Coupon. Apply to: Mr. John Hardy,

22 Rue des Asters – Apt 57, CH – 1202 GENEVA, Switzerland.

FOR SALE: The Greyfriars Crusaders, £15; The Toff of St. Jim's, £15; Paul Dallas at Greyfriars, £15. Apply to: Miss M. Stirland, 5 Mill Lane, Huthwaite, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

FOR SALE: Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1931, very good condition, £10 or near offer. Offers to: Mr. P. B. Mahony, 12 Riefield Road, Eltham, London SE9 2QA.

FOR SALE: Vol. 17, The Black Sheep of Greyfriars. Offers to: Mr. Rufus Meakin, 10 Victoria Road, Broomhall, Sheffield. Telephone (0742) 660766.

FOR SALE: Various Howard Baker Magnet volumes, first class condition, less than published prices. Write to Mr. G. Dalley, 4 Fieldview, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

FOR SALE: Club Vol. No 5, Tom Merry's Schooldays (First 15 Gems of 1907) £30; Club Vol. No 6, Paul Dallas at Greyfriars, £25; Club Vol. No. 7, The Greyfriars Crusaders, £25; Greyfriars Press Magnet Vol. No. 8, The Mystery of Wharton Lodge (Xmas Series) £16.

Write to: Mrs. C. Collins, Flat 2, The Grange, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: 'Original' Holiday Annuals, 1929–1932, 1935–1941; 28 Magnets in bound volume; 17 Cassell Bunter Books; Most HB Volumes. Offers to: Mr. K. Whitaker, 69 Fairfield Road, Tadcaster, North Yorks.

FOR SALE: Magnet Vols. 1 to 13, 15, 16, 20 to 28, 30 to 36, 38, 40 to 66; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1973; Howard Baker Holiday Annual 1974; Easter Omnibus 1978; Summer Omnibus 1977; Gem Vol. 7; Magnet and Gem Vol. 67; Sexton Blake Star of Union Jack; Sexton Blake, Crime at Christmas; Greyfriars Library Vol. 1, Billy Bunter Gets the Boot; Book Club Vol. 5, Tom Merry's Schooldays; Book Club Vol. 7 The Greyfriars Crusaders; Magnet Companion 1971; Magnet Companion 1977 – all with dust-covers, excellent condition –

Write to: Mrs. E.M. Evans, 35 St Nons Avenue, Carmarthen, Dyfed.





The Greyfriars Gazette



WILL SWOP: Billy Bunter's Lucky Day and Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1941 for certain other G.H.A's. Write to: Mr. P. Gilligan, 16 Fern Avenue, Bentley, Doncaster.

WANTED: Vol. 22, Billy Bunter's Christmas; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974. Will pay £20 each. Write to: Mr. R. W. Tucker, 239 Bricknell Avenue, Hull, North Humberside.

WANTED: Magnet Vol. 23, Joker of Greyfriars; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974. Good prices paid. Magnet Vol. 25 available for exchange if required. Offers please to Mr. P. H. Bray 23 Church Lane, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HA. Telephone (Canterbury) 711121.

WANTED: Magnet Vol. 17, The Black Sheep of Greyfriars. Offers please, to Mr. S. G. Smith, 170 Algernon Road, Lewisham, London SE13 7AW.

WANTED: Greyfriars Book Club Vol. 1, The Worst Boy at Greyfriars; Magnet Vol. The Jokers of Greyfriars. Write to: Dr. C. Chan, 56 La Salle Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.



Because of constantly increasing pressures on our day-to-day work-load and the need to grapple with more and more problems of cost/price increases from all areas of the supply industries, it may not be possible to publish another Gazette until the pre-Christmas period.

But all notwithstanding, you can surely depend upon a traditional Christmas Greyfriars Gazette, late November or early December.

Hoping you enjoy the offerings set before you in the coming months,
and with very best wishes,



Sincerely,
Your Publisher



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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