



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No 37

SUMMER 1982

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme

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Greetings Friars!

First, some good news. Almost one year after our last price rise, there seems still no likelihood of any further increase in our book prices. Our tariffs should remain stable at least until the end of 1982. Maybe longer! Likewise, the Book Club.

However, that area over which we have absolutely no control – the Post Office – have once again raised their Contract Postal Rates. Thus, our book parcels containing anything from one to four books at a time now cost £1.42 per parcel, in place of the former £1.30.

But here, we are talking about a few pennies – not pounds. Therefore, little cause for lost sleep on this one! So all is 'calm and bright', N'est-ce pas?

GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB

By now, 'Club' Friars will be in receipt of three of the first Red Magnet Volumes (Nos 42, 43 and 44) comprising Magnets Nos 11 to 40. And, bear in mind, apart from the historical interest of the very first Magnet issues, the best of the early Greyfriars stories are still to come. In 1908, Frank Richards was limbering up, feeling his way, in a comparatively new genre. By 1909 (our coming volumes) he was getting into his stride as a scary-teller. Result, the stories will continue to improve more and more as we move forward.

Though the 'thirties are generally acknowledged to constitute the Magnet's Golden Age – an opinion with which we concur – there is no doubt that all three decades of the Grand Old Paper were golden in their own particular way. Each decade was a reflection of its time.

And how interestingly contradictory these times were! In 1910, the Boulder (Herbert Vernon Smith) arrived, as a 'New Boy', in an intoxicated condition. By the 'thirties, such a situation would not be envisaged – or written about. Indulgence, *Affaires de coeur*, religion had all become taboo subjects in The Magnet by the 1930's. Yet they had played a part – admittedly a very small part – in the earlier years of the paper's history. Sociologically interesting.

Letters for publication from readers on this subject would be welcomed.

FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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

Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

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

SINGLES

The new (3rd) 'Singles' List has been published. Intending customers of this unique 'spin-off' collection should write to us for Catalogues (Enclose SAE if possible). Later, when ordering, please give alternatives whenever you can, in case one or more of your selections has gone out-of-print since the list was first published.

Also, please note that the 'Singles' are stored and dispatched from a separate address. Therefore, please treat your singles orders as being quite separate and distinct from your orders for books. They will not travel together in your book parcels.

MORE O/P TITLES



More Stock titles have sold out since our Spring '82 Greyfriars Press Catalogue was distributed.

Please note that the following books are now completely out-of-print:

- Volume No 9: The Scherner of the Remote
- Volume No 13: Bunter the Ventriloquist
- Volume No 31: Billy Bunter's Hat Trick

The following titles are now officially out-of-print (that is, no longer available by order through the Trade/Bookshops.) But a few copies of each remain at our offices and can be obtained by MAIL ORDER ONLY direct from this address, while stocks last:

- Volume No. 1: Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids
- Volume No 20: Alonzo the Great
- Volume No 24: Bunter's Seaside Caper
- Volume No 42: The Greyfriars Secret Society
- Volume No 43: The Dictator of Greyfriars

Our next (Autumn) Catalogue may reflect this new up-dated stock situation, but do bear in mind that the above five titles, will be obtainable by Mail Order from 27a until the last copy is sold.

BOOK CLUB

The latest Out-Of-Print situation ament the Greyfriars Book Club is as follows:

OUT OF PRINT (O/P) Club Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 (Club Volume No 8 is still in print – tho' not for long)

It follows that it behoves all late-coming Club collectors to obtain Club Volumes 8, 11, 12, 13 as quickly as possible, before these also join the O/P list!



POSTAL CHARGES



As touched upon earlier, the postal charge for one parcel of books (one order) of up to four books is, as from 1st April, '82, (£1.42). We make no extra charge for wrappers, packing or handling. You only pay the Post Office levy. We pay all concomitant costs – which are not inconsiderable.

(Most mail-order services add an appropriate extra for the cost of packaging, etc. We do not.)

Dr. McCall's lengthy preparation of his mammoth work of reference, *The Greyfriars Guide*, is now nearing completion. The computer-setting problems that bedevilled the operation for many months seem to have been ironed out and we look forward to receiving from him copy ready for Press very shortly.

Therefore, we think it is safe to say that you can look forward to the publication of this long-awaited title in early Autumn. We feel sure that, when it arrives, you will consider it was well worth waiting for!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir...



"I must thank you again for bringing out these volumes", writes Ms Beryl Matthews of 4 Pennise Way, Spalding, Lincs. "I used to read them as a rather lonely child in the 30's — and foolishly used to exchange them with a Canadian cousin for American "funnies" rubbish. As the years went by, I bitterly regretted doing this and often wished that I could read the old Magnet stories again. I had no idea, however, that these were being reprinted until I happened to see an advertisement of yours, purely by chance, in the *Sunday Telegraph*. You can't imagine my joy and excitement on re-reading 'The Downfall of Harry Wharton' which I remembered so vividly — even to some of the wording of the actual incidents. I was utterly and completely 'lost to the world' — transported back in time and place.

"Great literature? Well, isn't the real test of this what one reads and re-reads, and continues to get pleasure from? Like 'Christmas Carol', re-read every Christmas, the Magnets stand up to this stringent test and come through with flying colours. I would like to possess every issue — so must hope it may be possible!"



Friar Norman Kadish, of 126 Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8SS, experienced that same joy and excitement of discovery, too. "I happened to be travelling to work", he writes, "and on the other side of the road, almost opposite the neighbourhood hospital, I espied a very familiar sight in a shop window. It looked like the old Magnet cover. Surely the paper wasn't being published again, I thought! As soon as I returned in the evening, I went in and purchased the book and from that time began a very enjoyable and happy relationship with the Howard Baker facsimiles."

And Jessie Packman, of 27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, SE22 9HL, succinctly sums up the feelings of literally hundreds of other correspondents over the years: "I treasure my selection of your Volumes and cannot thank you enough for all the good work you have done for the OBBG and others."



Friar J.R. Murregh, of 509 Windsor Avenue, Hastings, New Zealand has spotted a first-class investment opportunity. He writes: "I intend to purchase two of each volume you publish of the Red Magnets. After seeing the prices being paid for early out-of-print volumes — some up to five or six times the original price — I am sure that buying an extra copy of each of the forthcoming Book Club volumes will be a gilt-edged investment and better than keeping money in the bank. Also, if more readers did this, it would be a great help to your company and ensure the success of future plans for reprints."



Two other Friars are continually staggered by our 'old fashioned' standards of service. Dr. R.L. Snowden, of 5 Chemin des Palattes, 1212 Grand Lancy, Geneva, Switzerland, says: 'I take this opportunity of thanking you for a swift and efficient service. So unusual these days.' And Mr C. Harrison, of 8 Langley Gardens, Prestwich, Manchester M25 7DD, concurs: 'I have become so used to long intervals of silence of anything from four to eight weeks after ordering by mail, that I find it very refreshing to deal with a publisher so courteously prompt in the despatch of orders.'



Miss Meryl E. Witty, of 24 Allingham Street, Kuraby, Queensland, Australia 4112, has an interesting idea. 'You may add my name to the list of Friars who would be happy to have more Sexton Blake volumes,' she says. 'How about a volume of the spookier tales, such as *The Mystery of the Spring Vampire*, as a Halloween offering?'



Friar John A.C. Bridgwater, of Tels and Radar Branch, REME, Leigh Sinton Road, Malvern, Worc. WR14 1LL, writes: 'The Book Club programme is excellent. Much the best thing now to start at Magnet No 11 and work forward in chronological order, I am delighted to see 'Bullseye' Nos 11 to 20 (a better selection than Nos 1-10 already published) and a further 'Tiger Tim's Own'. I am particularly pleased to see some of the better Gems in the programme, but it is sad to see so little of Sexton Blake.'

'It was most disappointing that you could not publish the entire Criminal Confederation series. However, I can count myself among the most fortunate of people, being able to enjoy the wonderful volumes you have published already.'

Says Friar Richard Afford, of Girdlestonites, Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey: 'I have just received your marvellously mouth-watering Book Club catalogue, and I can hardly wait to start buying!'



On the subject of 'sub' stories, Friar David Urch, of Riyadh, P.O. Box 4736, Saudi Arabia writes: 'I feel that the sub stories by O'Wart are better than some I have read. Although - like everyone else - he fails to quite catch the Master's touch, it is very clear that anyone reading the anonymous 'Billy Bunter's Blunder' and not knowing it was a 'sub' tale, would believe that it was a genuine Charles Hamilton. Not fully up to standard, perhaps, but O'Wart does get the boys' speech rhythms rather well.'

'I also thought Duffy's effort - 'Speedway Coker' - particularly good, though about a subject which C.H. would not have chosen. And Duffy's treatment of the boys was excellent!'



At greater length, Friar P.J. Harris, of 5542 Decelles Avenue, Apt. 4, Montreal, Quebec, H3T 1W5, Canada, has this to say: 'Greetings to you and yours and to your merry helpers at 27a. May 1982 be full of good things - with health, happiness and success at the top of the heap.'

'I guess I should add 'strength', when one thinks of the 4-Year Plan you have set yourself. I drool just reading through it. Not only are all those wonderful early Red Magnets going to come to us on a regular basis but, overpage, we read 'Additional to the Titles Listed' - Gem 16-25, Gem 26-35, Gem 77B-78A ('Christmas Barring-Out' series), Bullseye 11-20 and a second Tiger Tim's Own Comic Collection. What an 'All Star Line-Up'! What a bait to dangle before all loyal Friars and adherents!

'Also, I notice that the option is still open to you, should you so desire, to throw in the old Union Jack or Nelson Lee volumes.'



"Sir, after the years of unadulterated pleasure you have given us, I can only say "More Power to You!" What matter if here and there we overlap on some issues. And if some of the stories are written by sub-writers, so what? As a boy, when I picked up the Magnet for Gerni on the way to school it never entered my head to stop and consider "Is this a genuine Frank Richards' story?" All I was interested in was - what are Harry Wharton, Bob Cherry, Inky and the Boulder up to this week? Of course, as I grew in stature and, I hope, in wisdom, I did come to appreciate the sterling worth of Charles Hamilton, but in those far-off days the 'character' was the attraction. So with the opportunity of getting a complete set of Magnet, let us go to it! Regardless of who wrote the stories."

With which sentiments undoubtedly many agree.



Finally, a chorus of appreciation. From Mrs. E.E. Hopton, of 'Karunda', 79 Scalpeliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs: "I would like to say how much I enjoy the Magnet facsimiles. I am a newcomer to these books and realise that, without them, so many people - including myself - would never have the pleasure of reading these lovely stories."

From Mr C. Oliver, of 34 Belfield Avenue, May Bank, Newcastle, Staffs: "Thank you again for all the many happy hours of reading you have provided for us... The amount of reading contained in your Greyfriars Press volumes makes them splendid value for their price."

And from Friar G. Garrod, of 58 St. Mark Street, Gloucester, the last words: "Greyfriars Press Publications (1) Excellent quality (2) Quick delivery (3) High Standards of service (4) Cheap at Twice the Price! Very well done!"



Finally, a few words from a revered MAGNET office assistant editor, George Samways, the originator of the Greyfriars Herald, author of the 'Dickie Nugent' St Sams stories, and also Dick Penfold the Greyfriars Rhymester.

He writes: "No one appreciates more than I your splendid work in creating the Greyfriars Renaissance! Seventy years after writing my first poem for The Magnet, I send you the enclosed verse. Just a *je d'esprit*. Do not publish unless you consider it up to the old 'Dick Penfold' standard."

Friar George Samways is indeed writing as well as ever he did! His new poem will find a place of honour in the autumn edition of our GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL.



ORDERS FOR THE GAZETTE

Will non-Bond readers please ensure, when ordering the Greyfriars Gazette by post, that they specify exactly which issue is required. Please state the Number wanted. When readers write in asking vaguely for "the latest" Gazette it may transpire that the latest issue is, in fact, the one they have already got. It should be borne in mind that there is quite a long time-gap between issues. The Gazette is an irregular, occasional publication. Not a weekly, nor a monthly. Therefore it is essential that we know which precise issue is wanted, otherwise time-consuming correspondence will ensue. And at 12½p minimum postage each way - 25p - that devours our readers' contributions towards the cost of the magazine. An absurd situation indeed!

NEWS OF THE CLUBS

The London/Home Counties Chapter of the Friars Club reported a splendid Spring meeting at the home of Maurice Hall, at Walton-on-Thames. New officers elected were as follows:

Chairman, Maurice Hall.

Editor of the Courtyard Newsletter, Dr. Peter McCall.

Research consultant, W.O. Lofts.

A point raised at the meeting – received from Friar Jack Murtagh, in New Zealand – was that he favoured a complete run of numbers, whenever possible, in the Book Club volumes, rather than have the odd single issue left out because it had already appeared in one or other of the Howard Baker Greyfriars Holiday Annuals (between 1973 and 1981). The meeting was in unanimous agreement with Friar Murtagh on this matter.

Your Publisher is happy to accept the verdict. So be it.



It was further proposed at the Friars meeting that plans for a Summer boat-trip up the Thames from Kingston to Lachlade be put in hand. The voyage (a minimum of 7 days duration) would follow the course of the famous journey of the *Water Lily* in 1839, recorded in *Magnet Nos 1643 to 1660* (H.B., Vol. No 11: *SIX BOYS IN A BOAT*).

Needless to say, the trip would be motor-powered! Friars would not be expected to row, or tow, the latter-day *Water Lily*! We are not all given to such strenuous exercise as the Famous Five!

Interested parties should write to Maurice Hall, at 26a Sidney Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.



The Summer Garden Party of the London and Home Counties Friars Club will take place at 'Courtyard', 49 Kingsland, Ruislip, Middlesex, on Sunday 18th July 1982, commencing at 3pm and hosted by the hospitable Bob Aceman.

Intending visitors should phone and advise Friar Aceman at (Tel.) Ruislip 31025.

Midland Friars wishing to attend meetings in their area should write to Jack Bellfield at 65 Bridge Court, Cradley Heath, Walsley, West Midlands.

Northern Friars wishing to attend meetings in Leeds, should write to Fr. Geoffrey Good, at Thomas Vicarage, Wakefield, West Yorks WF2 9DW.

Australian Friars in New South Wales should contact Sidney Smyth, Box 284, Rydalmere, N.S.W., Australia. (The Golden Hour Club).



SPRING INTO SUMMER

Our regrets that due to uncommon difficulties in the preparation of the Autumn List our projected 'Spring' issue of the Gazette has been transmuted into a Summer issue. Thank you all for your patience and forbearance. In all the circumstances, it is unlikely that there will be another Gazette until November, when our special Christmas number will be published.

Meantime, we hope you will enjoy the fruits of our labours, evidence the new Summer/Autumn programme now set before you. Our thanks to Friars Darrell Swift, Leslie Lasky, William Smith and others for their kind aid in the compilation of the forthcoming list. Where would all of us be without a little help from our friends?

Happy reading, Friars, until we have the pleasure of addressing you again before year's end.



Sincerely,
Your Publisher

Howard Baker



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Ardenberry Road, Wrotham, London, S.W. 20



SALES AND WANTS

CLASSIFIED ADVT'S

It is necessary that in future we levy a small charge for insertion of advertisements in our Classified Advertisement/Sales & Wants section. Please remit at the rate of 5 pence per word.



FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar Grisledale. All orders with remittances to Mr John Hyde, 74 Robin Hood Lane, Helsby WAB 6NG.

Out of Print Club Volumes: Club Vol. 1 - £40; Club Vol. 2 - £30; Club Vol. 3 - £60; Club Vol. 4 - £30; Club Vol. 5 - £30; Club Vol. 6 - £30; Club Vol. 7 - £30; Club Vol. 9 - £30; Club Vol. 10 - £30.

Out of Print Greyfriars Press Volumes: No. 2 - £20; No. 7 - £25; No. 8 - £25; No. 9 - £15; No. 10 - £20; No. 15 - £20; No. 16 - £20; No. 17 - £20; No. 19 - £30; No. 21 - £30; No. 22 - £20; No. 23 - £30; No. 24 - £20; No. 24(a) - £20; No. 25(a) - £35; No. 25 - £25; No. 26 - £25; No. 27 - £25; No. 29 - £30; No. 30 - £30; No. 31 - £10; No. 33 - £15; No. 35 - £15; No. 36 - £20; No. 37 - £25; No. 38 - £25; No. 39 - £25; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974 - £30; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1975 - £20; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1978 - £20.

The following In-Print Volumes are offered at £10 each: Nos. 11 to 38 inclusive.

The following Greyfriars Press Volumes are offered at £4 each: Nos. 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 14, 20, 28, 32, 34, 40, 41, 42, 43 - through to No. 70.

Greyfriars Holiday Annuals: 1925 - £15; 1928 - £15; Annuals for 1920, 1921, 1927, 1935, 1941, 1973, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 at £4 each.

Greyfriars Library Books: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 at £2 each.

Nelson Lee Volumes: 1, 2, and 3 at £4 each.

Gen Volumes: Nos. 1 to 12 at £3 each.

Howard Baker Holiday Annual 1974, Summer Omnibus, Easter Omnibus, Collectors Pic No. 1, Billy Bunter's Gen - at £3 each.

Tiger Tim's Comic Collection - £5; World of Frank Richards - £7.



The Greyfriars Gazette



WANTED: Club Vol. 3 – The Making of Harry Wharton; Magnet Vol. 21 – Tyrant of Greyfriars; Magnet Vol. 22 – Billy Bunter's Christmas; Magnet Vol. 23 – Joker of Greyfriars. Write to: W.E. Mils, 53 Blundell Avenue, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED URGENTLY: Club Vol. 3 – The Making of Harry Wharton. Offers to – Jack Cardiff, 75 Woodland Rise, London N10 (Tel: 01-883 1638).

WANTED: W.E. John's 'Bigger' books, Richard Crompton's 'William' books, and Evadne Price's 'Jane' books. **FOR SALE:** Surplus copies of the above, plus some out-of-print H.B. volumes. Write: Darrell Smith Esq, 22 Woodbrook Close, Leeds LS16 6PQ.

WANTED: Billy Bunter's Christmas. Good price paid. Write: T. Johnson, 28 Woodlands Way, Melbourne, Derbyshire.

FOR SALE: 71 Volumes MAGNET. (Greyfriars Press) Many out of print. Numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.

All in mint condition – only two without dust covers. Approx value at current publishers price and advertised prices £715. Will accept for complete sale £500. Tel: Richard Butler, 01-638 1904.

FOR SALE: The following Club Vols. At £6 each, plus post and packing: The Greyfriars Crusaders; The Toll of St. Jim's; The Bounder's Feud; Jim Lee's Secret; St. Jim's Forever; The Flogging Judge Jeffreys. The following Magnet Vols. at £3 each, plus post and packing: Vernon Smith's Rival; Calling Mr. Quetch; Bunter the Ventriloquist; The Greyfriars Bounder; Bunter the Lion Tamer; Billy Bunter's Christmas Carol; The Bully of Greyfriars; The Bounder's Rebellion; Billy Bunter's Blunder; Bunter the Hypnotist; Harry Wharton's Enemy; The Dictator of Greyfriars; Harry Wharton's Feud; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1921; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1922; Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1951. Write: Miss M. Striland, 5 Mill Lane, Huthwaite, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottingham NN17 2NN.

FOR SALE: All Mint Condition. Magnet Vols. 7, 19, 27, 30, 37, 38 – at £15.20 each; Volume 10 – £13.20; Vols. 31, 33, 36 – £11.20 each; Volume 35 – £8.50; GHA 76 – £9.50; Volume 31 – £8.20; Gem Volume 6 – £11.50. Apply to Mr. S.G. Smith, 170 Algonon Road, Lewisham, London SE13 7AW.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar Rowley. All orders to Mrs D.A. Rowley, 215 Kildare Road, Doornide, 2767 N.S.W. Australia.

Out of Print Club Volumes: Club Vol. 1 – £40; Club Vol. 2 – £30; Club Vol. 3 – £60; Club Vol. 4 – £30; Club Vol. 5 – £30; Club Vol. 6 – £30; Club Vol. 7 – £30; Club Vol. 9 – £30; Club Vol. 10 – £30.

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Nelson Lee Volumes: 1, 2, and 3 at £4 each.