



The Greyfriars Gazette



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NEWSLETTER No. 41 1984



With this issue of the Gazette comes our publishing programme for the latter part of the year. The fact that it contains fewer titles than is customary is due solely to hard economic factors that do not brook of any argument or controversy. Smaller sales means smaller income, and that in turn leads inevitably to less available capital for investment in production.

The absence of an individual GEM volume in the coming season is particularly regrettable, but the stark truth, as many of our readers are aware, is that the GEM does not sell as well as the Magnet, takes longer to recover the capital expended in its production, and is thus a burden upon our resources.

However, we certainly plan to publish another Gem volume in our next programme. And in the meantime there will be three or four Gem issues in our Greyfriars Holiday Annual, due in September. So the flag of St. Jims will continue to flutter from the flagpole — even if not so strongly as heretofore.

PRICES

We can predict, with confidence, that there will be no price increases either now, or in the coming months — or in the coming year!

One wonders how many companies could give you such a guarantee! Any? We beg to doubt it.

GOING . . . GOING . . . GONE !

Readers please note that THE COURTFIELD CRACKSMAN (Vol 4A/5) is now completely O/P, in volume form.

However, this famous series is still available in single loose format, enclosed in Book Club-type slip-case box. £15 per set of 14 issues (Magnet Nos. 1188 to 1191)



Other titles now O/P include:

- Vol.2, The Rebellion of Harry Wharton,
- Vol.5, The Downfall of Harry Wharton.



Also O/P: Vol.1, Land of the Pyramids, Vol.24, Billy Bunter's Seaside Capers, Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1975.

(A few of the above three titles remain on our shelves at Greyfriars Press, but note that the dust jackets of G.H.A. 75 are in less than pristine condition).

Each at £0.95 while stocks last.



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Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

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SINGLES CATALOGUE No. 5.

A new, comprehensive 'single issues' Catalogue has just been published. It is by far the largest of these catalogues issued to-date. It lists approx five hundred Magazines ranging between Magnet No.1 and Magnet No. 1500.

Also many Gems, Nelson Lee, Popular, Union Jack, Schoolgirl, Penny Marvel, Champion, Triumph, Boys Cinema, and a large variety of Comics of the Thirties, from Tiger Time to Comic Code &c &c.

Send for your copy today.

No. 1. NEW STORY BOOK!



The first issue of 'The Magnet', dated February 1954

WHEN ORDERING THE GAZETTE . . .

Once again, we find it incumbent to issue the following stern warning to casual purchasers of the Gwynfron Gazette . . . (Reprinted from the Summer 1983, G.G. No. 37 edition).

"All non-Band readers please ensure, when ordering the Gwynfron Gazette by post, that they specify exactly which issue is required. Please state the issue wanted. Wise readers write in asking vaguely for 'the latest' Gazette, it may appear 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 each number. 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.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir...

From Mrs. Beryl Matthews of 4 Pennine Way, Spalding, Lincs.

I have been meaning to write and thank you so much for the Christmas books which I sent for. On 10th December, 1983 I wrote for "Billy Bunter's Christmas", but thought that I had left it too late, and just hoped that I should get the book fairly soon after Christmas.

To my surprise and delight it arrived almost by return.

A few days later I thought I would send off for "Billy Bunter's Bank Note", which I did on 19th December, 1983, of course with absolutely no thought or expectation of receiving it for Christmas. I merely thought vaguely that I should get it sometime in the New Year after the Christmas Break. I was absolutely astonished — not to mention overjoyed — to get the book on Christmas Eve! I simply could not believe it!

Thank you again so much — you really do deserve a medal! And I think perhaps in this last instance the usually much maligned G.P.O. did very well too!

Yours very gratefully, Beryl Matthews.



From Neil Beck of 54 Barons Way, Folgate, East Sussex BN26 5J].

I must question the statement in your Spring 1984 catalogue repeated in the recent "Wally Bunter at Giny-

frim" that its publication completes the Wally/Billy Double series.

According to my recent Magnet 568 (Bunter the Painter) is part of the series – confirmed by Magnet Companion '77 – but this has not been published in any of your reprints yet. May I suggest that it could form part of an omnibus/annual as soon as possible.

Frim Book 3, of course, quite correct. And Magnet No. 568, Bunter the Painter, will duly appear in our next programme.



CLUB NEWS

From Maurice Hall of 26a Sidney Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2NA.

In line with the suggestion of publisher, Bill Howard Baker, we have changed the Club title from the Greyfriars Club to the 'Frimers Club' and the magazine from the Courtfield Newsletter to the 'Frim Chronicles'. These changes were effective from issue No. 8 and were agreed at the Special meeting held at Wokingham on the 18th March 1984.

I am delighted to announce that, at the A.G.M. to be held at Walton on Thames on the 15th July 1984, a special presentation by Peter McCall of "Where exactly was Greyfriars?" will be on the Agenda.

New members always welcome, write to Graham McDermott, 4 Castle Road, Epsom KT18 7NZ for details.

For anyone wishing to attend the A.G.M. please ring Walton 234848 a week or so prior to advise hosts, Maurice and Molly Hall.

Readers will gather from the above announcement that there are now two clubs: The new reformed 'Frimers Club' and the original 'Greyfriars Club', still administered by Bob Acromb, the founder.

Norman Kullish of 126 Broadfield Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8SS sends us a bouquet and a bribebox:

Dear Alton, I still enjoy collecting these juvenile classics of C.M. and nothing gives me greater pleasure than coming down in the morning and sorting the fine collection of Howard Baker volumes and Club Books in one book-case and filling up another. True that Shakespeare, Scott, Dickens and John Stuart Mill will be crowded out to the outer environs of our small house. We might have to sleep eventually in the garden. Still it is worth it. I must send a picture one day when I have time to look round.

I was a bit put out handling the last club volume, as it fitted the slipcase in such a glove-like manner that although I managed to extract and squeeze it in after many varied judo holds on the spine, I still was not able to avoid the glassine from becoming torn. If the book-binders were given a gentle hint to make the case a millimetre in excess of the present size perhaps the awkwardness could be avoided. If the volume is held downwards in the case and a slight sliding is observed – this I usually judge to be a good fit.

We are aware of this problem, Frimers, and are trying to solve it. The difficulty is that the bulk thickness of volumes can vary slightly from time to time whereas the size of the slip-case is generally standard. To have every slip-case tailor-made specially to fit a particular title would add greatly to costs.



From Emmanuel J Cohen of 46 Jabotinsky Street, Rishon-le-Zion, Israel.

During one of my perambles in the British Museum Library I came across two or maybe three very interesting Gems dealing with the relations between Dick Julian and his Uncle Moses. These were very forward looking (2 years before the Balfour Declaration of 1917) and contain an excellent of the Jewish race at a time it was pretty much down and under – another instance of F.R.'s humanity and largeness of spirit. Would you consider reprinting these Gems in a future annual or collector's pile? They are not consecutive but the first if I remember rightly, is Gem No. 397.

If Frim Cohen can be precise about the issue numbers involved we will certainly do our best to oblige.



From Mr. N.S.F. Green of Coldhouse, Upper Froyde, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4JX.

In 1943 I was in Burma and saw an article about Frank Richards in "Picture Post" - possibly in honour of his 70th birthday.

I wrote him a letter telling him how much I had enjoyed the Magnet in earlier days and also telling him about series that I had particularly liked (eg. the Hiking series and the series about the camping session on an island in the River Sark).

I had a very nice letter in reply saying that he had received many letters as a result of the article in Picture Post but that my letter had travelled the greatest distance of all. With his reply he enclosed a 4d booklet containing some stories of Carroll School.

To my everlasting regret I did not keep his letter. It was a very kindly gesture from a man of his years and many commitments. Although I addressed him as Mr. Hamilton he signed himself as Frank Richard!



Dear Staff - writes Michael Wood of Flat 22, St. Georges Terrace, Brighton E Sussex BN2 1JJ.

Just a few short lines to thank you for your most excellent service. A couple of weeks before Christmas I ordered several books from you and from the time of posting my order and receiving the books was only 3 days.

It is a great credit to you all,
Michael Wood - A more than satisfied customer.



Solemn words from John A.C. Bridgewater of 38 Spring Lane, Malvern Link, Worce WR14 1AJ.

Once more I must say how pleased I am to subscribe to another splendid spring list from Greyfriars Press. The size of the cheque required caused my eyebrows to float upwards and my stomach to sink but neither

elevation or depression was of the magnitude I had expected.

You are to be heartily congratulated for making a better job of controlling Greyfriars inflation than the "other lot" have done on national inflation.

One small point that I would like to be permitted to criticise in Greyfriars Gazette No. 43. True, Magnet volumes have only risen by 400% but the statement about 700% increase in average weekly wage should be qualified by a rider. Some Friars are, like myself, rather elderly now. When Buster started things off in the Land of the Penzance! we were vigorous young fellows earning that £24.75.3d weekly wage. But as time went on we were retired and instead of our annual 5% increase in wages we were presented with a 50% or more - most of us mean-drop in weekly income.

This is why we appreciate so very much your arduous efforts to keep prices down and why that eye-brow lifting being caused a deep sigh when viewing the remaining balance after writing the enclosed cheque.

However, all such an over more money is completely dispensed when we remove the staples and open the latest package of boyhood happiness.

Long may you flourish at 23A.



From Mary Cadogan of 24 Southend Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1SD.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the recent books and, as always, find the prices very reasonable, compared with other books on the market today.



and from Jillian Sheppard of 13 Bromley Drive, Ely Cardiff.

"I was not at all surprised when your prices rose last year. The new price is still a very reasonable one, all things considered".



From Lawrence A.J. Herber of 40 Pyfield Road, Walthamstow E17 3RA.

Thank you very much for reprinting Club collection *Wablog* of Werry Rhorner. It has made me happy beyond all words!



Martin Sherlock of 63 Bettells Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks HP8 4EJ writes:

One small complaint about "The Greyfriars Guide": being currently engaged on my own reference volume I have used both "The Magnet Companion '77" and "McCall's Greyfriars Guide" a great deal. Noted, several errors.

- p. 19 "Alonso the Great" given as HBE Volume 21.
- p. 32 Micky the Sprat & Skid Smith robbed Mr. Lazarus's shop, not Papper Court.
- p. 59 Mr. Cha in 1175, not 1173.
- p. 60 Nick Clancy in GBC 25, not GBC 24.
- p. 98 Giacomo in 1387, not 1387.
- p. 122 Hoscot in 1426, not 1387.
- p. 212 Rymer arrested Orris, not Brian Mastlover.
- p. 233 Dr. Sin, not Mr. Sin.
- p. 235 add in SPYVERS — servant in Hall (1583).
- p. 235 add in Mr. WOODSE — temporary Remorse master, retained as Art master and Librarian.
- p. 245 Mr. Tipton in 1393-4, not 1393-4.
- p. 278 Dr. Wyatt, not Mr. Wyatt — he invited Mr. Quitch to St. James to discuss an article the latter had written in Public School Review, and Yarnon-Smith paid "a man at Lanthorne" to send Loder, supervising detention, a telegram, enabling them to break detention.

Finally, a request: could you please reprint HBE Volume 18 "The Greyfriars Double" in your Limited Editions series.

All I can do now is to praise you for still bringing out books of such high quality at such reasonable prices: a feat even more remarkable considering your smallness of resources. Long may you continue!



Fritz Joe Williamson of 80 Wilson Road, Waggaman via R.M. Milawa, Victoria 3677, Australia writes:

I note your prices have increased, but fair enough — you have to survive and have done a magnificent job holding the prices as long as you have. Was pleased to receive the Spring catalogue and looking forward to reading *The Road to Greyfriars*, you always seem to have something up your sleeve and this should be sheer delight. Good work Mr. Smeewars, creator of St. Sarns and Dr. Birchwell, Jack Jolly and Co!

Also enjoying the new limp reprints that I have so far received. Excellent. Cannot understand your correspondent J.M. Smith complaining, as you pointed out before publication that they would be soft covers.

I have no complaints at all and at present am thoroughly enjoying "The Making of Harry Whartoe". Hope this new venture is a financial success. Once again many thanks for all the enjoyment you have given me.

POLICY

Readers will have noted that the Magnet volumes to be published in the Autumn List constitute an all-Hamilton season. Every issue in the two coming volumes will contain only stories by the genuine Frank Richards.

It was our policy at one time to work our way back from the year 1940 until we had met up with the Book Club, advancing from the other end in 1968. However, the snag with this plan is that the period of the early 'twenties, where we now find ourselves, is positively swash with substitute stories. Whole years seem to feature little else.

Therefore, in order to strike a balance we have jumped to the year 1918, at least temporarily, where Charles Hamilton featured more prominently. And from this period we have culled twenty-two Hamilton Maggots to feature in our Autumn list. There will be eleven Magnet in each volume.



CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS LATELY ?

We regret to say that some Friars are rather slipshod when it comes to advising us in good time of change of address. And then they are upset when their periods are mis-directed!

Do bear in mind that very often address labels are prepared many months in advance of orders being actually mailed. This is almost invariably the case with Friars who subscribe to our Bond system. Other Friars, who pay for their selection against a Profumo invoice, should always check their address as it appears on that invoice, to ensure that it is completely correct.

And whilst on the subject, it would make our dispatch department's job of getting your books to you swiftly and safely just that more sure and more certain if you would always ensure that your name and address is either typed or else legibly written in black capitals on every enquiry and order.

Help us to help you!



THE GREYFRIARS CLUB

Robert F. Azaman, F.C.C.A., founder and Chairman of The Greyfriars Club writes to report another highly successful meeting at 49 Kingspan, Ruidy, Mills on 6 March. The first part of the meeting concluded with a 'study tea' of more than generous proportions. This followed a film show featuring a visit of members to Rose Lawn at Broadstairs; for many years the home of Frank Richards. More discussions followed, including a review of the Spring Greyfriars Press programme.

Supper was served at 8.30 pm and the meeting finally closed at 9 o'clock. Heartly thanks were accorded to hosts, Betty Azaman for her lavish hospitality.

The next meeting of the Greyfriars Club is to be held at Ruidy in July. Date to be announced in the next issue of the Courtfield Newsletter - No. 47. (The Chairman of the Greyfriars Club has asked us to emphasize that there is no payment or subscription for members. Membership of the Club is entirely free).

THE HIGHLAND OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB

We meet, usually at 7.0 p.m. on the last Tuesday in the month, at Dr. Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham, and we'd love to expand our membership. Meetings are jovial mixtures of chat, games, Hamilton readings, refreshment and book trading. The principal interest is, of course, Hamiltonians, but lots of specialisations are represented - Nelson, Lee, B.O.P., Benton Blake, Ullias, etc., etc. Several of us find long journeys to the meetings well worth while. Anyone interested in having a specimen newsletter can get it from Mr. Geoff Lardner, Georgian House, Broad St., Littledean, Gloucester. Telephone area 22222.

TIGER TIM

Tiger Tim's Collection of 16 pre-war comics in volume form has finally gone out-of-print. We do not contemplate a new edition at the present time. However, we do have in preparation a portfolio of 16 single issues of this famous collection in slip-cased bound form. The price of this remarkable comics portfolio will be £12 per set.

THE MAP

New supplies of the Greyfriars Wall Map are now available Price £5.

For those of you who already have one of these splendid pictorial representations of the cartographers' art (Measurements: approx 2 feet, 3 ins by 2 feet) an additional copy might be welcome. And for those who do not possess one, such an acquisition, framed on the wall of your living room or study, can only embellish the surroundings and doubtless form an interesting talking point for visitors and friends.



CLUB No. 3

Many readers who have acquired our soft-cover reprint of Club No.3 THE MAKING OF HARRY WHARTON have expressed the wish that the volume could be enclosed in a slip-case box in order that it can join their other Book Club volumes on the shelf without looking such an "odd man out" among such august company as it does at present.

We are happy to accede to this suggestion, and accordingly, slip cases are now available for THE MAKING OF HARRY WHARTON at the modest price of 60p post free.

IN CONCLUSION

First indications are that our autobiography of George Sainsbury THE ROAD TO GREYFRIARS is receiving a warm reception from our readers; and, in the Trade, sales are buoyant. Review copies have gone out to the National Press and we expect to see some good notices shortly.

Any Friars who have failed to secure a copy to date are urged to make good their omission without delay. THE ROAD TO GREYFRIARS is a book you will want to read, savour and enjoy more than once.

* * *

We hope you have all liked the Spring programme. Letters to date certainly endorse this view. And the autumn offerings, though few, should provide you with many hours of happy reading. Send in your Bonds without delay.



Sincerely yours,



Howard Baker



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED
87a, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4



CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

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



Sales and Wants

FOR SALE: From the estate of the late Friar Adams.

Out-of-print CLUB titles:

Vol.3, The Making of Harry Wharton, £40, Vol.5, Tom Merry's Schooldays, £25, Vol.7, The Greyfriars Crosses, £20.

Out-of-print Greyfriars Press titles:

MAGNETS, Vol.1, Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids, £15, Vol.2, The Rebellion of Harry Wharton, £17, Vol.4a, Billy Bunter and the Countfield Crackman,

£18, Vol.7, The Greyfriars Pretender, £25, Vol.8, The Mystery of Wharton Lodge, £15, Vol.9, The Schmeer of the Romans, £15, Vol.10, Bunter & the Greyfriars Murky, £12, Vol.13, Bunter the Ventriloquist, £15, Vol.15, Calling Mr. Querlo, £12, Vol.16, Harry Wharton's Enemy, £15, Vol.17, The Black Sheep of Greyfriars, £15, Vol.19, The Greyfriars Hilton, £18, Vol.21, The Tyrant of Greyfriars, £16, Vol.22, Billy Bunter's Christmas, £16, Vol.24, The Kidnapped Schoolboys, £12, Vol.25, Billy Bunter in China, £16, Vol.36, Bob Cherry's Big Bargain, £14, GEM, Tom Merry's Holiday, £15, ANNUALS, Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1925, £15, Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1974, £20.



The Greyfriars Gazette



CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

SALES AND WANTS

In-Print CLUB titles:

Vol.14, Lockon's Return, Vol.30, The Greyfriars Plotter, Vol.31, The Removal of Horace Coker, Vol.35, De Vere and the Silver Seal, Vol.33, The Mystery of Penarth: each at £10.

In-Print Greyfriars Press titles:

MAGNETS, Vol.6, The Downfall of Harry Wharton, Vol.12, The Greyfriars Adventures, Vol.14, My Lord Bunter, Vol.20, Alonso the Great, GEMS, Vol.1, D'Arcy the Runaway, Vol.2, Cardow of St. Jims, Vol.3, The Rebel of St. Jims, Vol.4, Tom Merry & the Night Raiders, Vol.5, The Boys of St. Jims, ANNUALS, The Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1929, Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1933, Howard Baker Holiday Annual, 1934, Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1978, Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1981, Billy Bunter's Own: each at 36.

Write to Mrs. Eild Adams, 93 Selmeiston Road, Eastbourne, Sussex BN21 2TH.

FOR SALE: Original Magnets 576 to 612 in good condition at £3.00 each plus postage. Write to S.J. Riley, 19 Derby Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2TA.

FOR SALE: Out-of-print "Magnet" volumes at £12. In-print at 28, postage free, S.A.E. for list to Mr. J. Donnan, 7 Side Cliffs Road, Roker, Sunderland SR6 9JP.

FOR SALE: Mint Condition Magnet and Gem Vols. £4.50 each, Club Vols. £10, each. List from B. Andrews, 20 Wyncote Court, Sames Road, London SE20.

FOR SALE: I have every original H.B. edition of the Magnet, Twenty Book Club editions, twelve Gem editions and all the H.B. Annuals to date. All in excellent condition. Also I have original G.H.A.'s from 1931-1940 but of varying condition, mostly with a rebound cover. All available for offers, by post or phone Mr. C. Thurgood, 30 Bridge Road, Chertsey, Surrey CH. 63347.

FOR SALE: Club No.3, £25. Magnet volumes 1-10 £70, 11-20 (Minus No. 18.) £70, 21-30 £100, 31-38 £80. All mint and plus postage. Blackburn, 23 Wakeley Road, Alnwick, Northumberland.

FOR SALE: Howard Baker Magnet Volumes Nos. 1 to 87. Also one copy of the Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1938. Write to K.J. Norris, 14 Dewey Street, London SW17.

WANTED: N.L. Monster Library Numbers 1 to 19 inclusive. Good condition only. Will pay "Over the odds". Martin Trease, Tel: 01.337.5223. 32 Leyfield, Westcott Park, Surrey KT4 7LR.

WANTED: to buy, Magnet singles 48, 49, 50, 120, 125. **FOR SALE:** Magnet volumes 18 to 25 offers to Martyn, Winbar Avenue, Hastings, New Zealand.

WANTED: Club volumes No.1 and No.2, offers please, to Mr. N. Bamforth, 40 Thornthwaite Road, Windsor, Cumbria LA23 3DA.

STOP PRESS

Customers please note: The present industrial action by Post Office employees may impair your letter/parcel deliveries.