

The Greyfriars Gazette

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NEWSLETTER No. 42, 1985



END OF TERM REPORT

The dreaded 1984 year is over and we are happy to report that no remedial disasters have struck the Greyfriars Press division of the Company. There have been problems, of course: production delays in printing and binding, loss of readers at the hands of the grim reaper — replacement *in pace* — rising costs, extra and extra and extra. However, Friars, we survive . . . to face the rigours of the coming year.

PROGRAMMING

Judging by comments received, readers have enjoyed the Autumn volumes greatly. Considering the historical circumstances, the last year of H.B.P. was quite a good year for Charles Hamilton. And you have had twenty-two Hamiltonian Magazets during the Autumn programme, plus some Hamiltonian Gems in the G.H.A.

In the Greyfriars Book Club series there have been a further twenty-one Magazets of vintage Hamilton on the autumn list.

Readers ordering back numbers of the Book Club volumes please note the up-to-date price structure: All available Club titles, to No. 54 remain priced at £16 per volume.

From No. 55, *John Bull junior* onwards the price is £18.

THE VAT-MAN COMETH!

As promised in our Summer edition of the Gazette we plan no price increases in the coming year. A two-year price moratorium!

However, we do glimpse one cloud on the horizon. There have been rumblings in Parliament and uneasy rumours in the Trade, of the possible introduction of V.A.T. to Books sometime in 1985. We can only hope fervently that nothing comes of this inequitable idea and that sane councils will prevail, in the mind of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

POSTAGE

To our great surprise there has been no increase in the overall (non-club) parcel postage charges since the last 'hike' in 1983. We can hardly believe our own luck! How long can it last? No answers, please — not even on a postcard . . .

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

Keeping to schedule, six more Club volumes have been published this year! Nos. 54 to 59.

The publication of No. 60, *The Expulsion of Harold Skinner* in January 1985 will write links to the splendid year of 1911, which really saw the burgeoning of Frank Richards talents.

In the New Year, the fair vistas of that vintage Edwardian Magnet anno 1912 opens up before us.

However, due to 'bad copy' problems, we may have to leap-frog over the first half of 1912, Jan - June, and take up at least No. 250, and onwards, coming back to Nos. 204 to 229 at a later date - one of the hiccups, production-wise, that besets us from time to time, and over which we have no control.

Be that as it may, Book Club members can look forward to a glorious setting of the Edwardian Magnet era in the programme placed before them in the coming year.

REVIEW

We have received for notice a glorious volume of Christmas nostalgia from the Museum Press:

FROM WHIMPER LODGE TO LYTON HALL, collated and edited by Mary Cadogan and Tommy Keen, [Charles Hamilton Companion Vol. 7.]

It is difficult to imagine a more perfect Christmas gift with which to award yourselves in the run-up to the festive season. Along with your reading and re-reading, for the unimpaired times of all your old favourites 'Yule-tide' series set in Wharton Lodge, Eastwood House, Maulverton Towers, Holly Lodge, published by the Greyfriars Press.

You can now enjoy lengthy extracts and commentary from many of your fondest favourites in this sumptuous 280 page labour of love by two devoted aficionados. Not to be missed.

Order now from THE MUSEUM PRESS, 28, ROSSINGTON ROAD, HUNTINGTON, LEICHT. £5 which includes postage and packing.

PORTRAIT

That timeless art-chronicle of the contemporary Greyfriars scene, Friar Norman Kadish, has come up with yet another splendid piece of portraiture, featuring Removitas past - and present. Commissioned by Friar Brian Simmonds, the canvas depicts the Lower Fourth on the last day of term before Christmas break-up.

Most of the Removs will be familiar to all readers, but additionally three are featured: back row - Tommy Keen, second row - Peter McCall, W. Howard Baker, Front row - Graham McDermot/Darrell Swift, Maurice Hall, W.O. Lefts, Brian Simmonds - stalwart Friar all!





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friar Phil Harris of 5542 Decolles Avenue No. 4, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, writes Most Esteemed Abbot, Guelphing. Feel that it is time I penned a few lines to you – at least to say "Thank-you" for yet another great and enjoyable half-year.

"Collector Pls No. 3, is an absolute delight with the Xmas "Union Jack" and the conclusion of the *Nooki the Soccerer* series in the "Nelson Lee Library". When one considers the original size of the "Lee" it really fits into your "special" volumes in fine style when it is enlarged. Another "plus" is *The Road to Greyfriars*. Mr. George Sawways is a joy from beginning to end. Excellent reading. As our mutual friend Norman Kadish writes in the *Greyfriars Gazette* – "nothing gives me greater pleasure than coming down in the morning and noticing the fine collection of Howard Baker volumes and Club Books". I agree with Norman completely, – they are a real "spirits lifter" whatever the weather outside.

Now, dear Abbot, congratulations – no increase in prices during the coming year. This, after you had held your prices for so long. As you say, "One wonders how many companies could give you such a guarantee!" Echo answers "NONE". Over here in Canada one cannot look at any hard cover book under \$ 20.00- that is for the average "run of the mill" types, not the elegant volumes we receive from you at regular periods. Anything special starts around \$ 25.00. May I say that we Friars applaud your efforts on our behalf.

Whilst regretting the absence of a "Gem" individual volume during the coming season, your point is well taken. Who can afford to have an expensive project resting on the shelves gathering dust? Certainly no way to keep prices down. However, I certainly look forward to the one you say will be in your next Spring '85 programme.

As a devotee of the *Gems* I have always found it difficult to appreciate the somewhat lukewarm interest in the *Gems* volumes. The old blue issues of the late teens and early twenties were, in my mind, fine reading,



almost on a par with *Magnet*. Of interest, also, is the *Schoolgirl* papers you publish from time to time. As this period of my life I have found a new appreciation of them. Needless to say, my sister literally devours them. Finally, Sir, the *Union Jack*: Great reading at any time – particularly the Xmas issues in your Annual. Like the "*Magnet*" – "*Gems*" and "*Nelson Lee*", the "*Union Jack*" reeks of the festive season. *Gems*, by now, you have realised that whatever feast you serve up will be more than appreciated by me, and, doubtless, your other loyal Friars.

Again, dear Abbot, my sincerest thanks – for everything.

Yours very sincerely, Friar Phil Harris.



From Joe Williamson of 80 Wilson Road, Wangaratta, via R.M. Milawa, Victoria, 3691 Australia.

Have recently received *The Road to Greyfriars* and am delighted. As you state, once started it is hard to put down. I commenced to read it last night and went to bed later than usual but with a warm glow. I think the perfect stranger who rescued young Master Sawways from that dark wood should be included in Companion Papers Hall of Fame at Fleetway House, as without



this noble deed young Master Samways might well have perished. The consequences of this do not bear thinking about. "The Magnet" and "Gem" might well have collapsed at the peak of their popularity because of lack of material. There would have been no "Greyfriars Herald" as we know it, and we would have been denied the joys of St. Sams. This unknown benefactor of mankind should not be forgotten and I personally "Dip my lid" to this gallant gentleman, be he resident on Planet Earth or some more distant Sphere.



D. Bently of 27 Hillside Road, Wellingborough, Northants, N.N.S. 4AW, writes.

What a treasure "The Road to Greyfriars" by G.R. Samways turned out to be. One of your best ideas yet. I could not put it down, till the end of the story.



From Mrs. Diane K. Davies of 53 Hillside Road, Dover, Kent CT17 0JQ.

I felt I must write to compliment you on your excellent service. In less than a week you have replied to my letter and then sent me the books which I ordered. I received these today with great delight, coming at a time when I needed cheering up.

I hope that when you publish further catalogues you will send them to me. It is a pleasure to do business with you.



Dr. B. Andrews of 30 Weyborne Court, Samses Road, Fenge, London SE 20 writes.

Thank you for your memo suggesting that I contact the local sorting office with regards to the missing books.

This I have now done and have obtained the books from them. It appears that they had omitted to leave

me a card saying that they had the books and had been unable to make delivery. It would appear that the local office is not very efficient.

Thanking you.

A centenary tale, Friday, Worth bearing in mind. — Ed.



From the Rev. Father Geoffrey Good of Thomas VVicarage, Wakefield, W. Yorks WF2 8DW.

My best wishes for the continuance of the programme. According to my arithmetic (which was never very good) you have so far reproduced 1222 Magnets, which therefore leaves 463 to go! You are almost three-quarters of the way through the whole Magnet series!

Do we hope for some sort of celebration in 1988/9?



Re. Rev. Monseigneur George Saintsbury of The Tridentine Institute of Our Lady of Walsingham, London W 12 writes.

In the Preface to his excellent *Greyfriars Guide*, Dr. McCall says: "For obvious reasons this volume only includes that part of the School history as yet published by Mr. Howard Baker".

However, on page 26 there appears an entry for one Tom Bekker a professional boxer of great fame who figures in Magnet No. 414 but according to the Magnet Companion '77 and all the Howard Baker catalogues No. 414 "Bob Cherry's Challenge" has not yet been issued. By what is doubtless a 'computer' error Dr. McCall has whetted my appetite. May we hope for an early appearance of No. 414?

We will do our very best, Monseigneur. — Ed.





From J. Packer of 48 Altona Crescent, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex BN12 4H2.

Although the Greyfriars Press Books Catalogue refers to Bunter the Punter (publication date November 1984) as another all-Hamilton programme one of the Magnet issues concerned (i.e. Magnet issue 561 Coler's Latest) was not written by Charles Hamilton but by George Richmond Sarneys.

Perhaps this is a misprint for Magnet issue 562 Walker of the Sixth written by Charles Hamilton but not mentioned in the catalogue as being included in Bunter the Punter.

I shall be glad to hear from you on this point.



From E. Austen-Fryx, 21 Fields Road, Tooting, Great NP2 4LW.

A question! The proposed Vol. No. 93 is described in your Autumn '84 Catalogue as being all-Hamilton. Yet, in the Magnet Companion '77 Magnet issue No. 561 "Coler's Latest", is listed as being by GRS with the following issue No. 562, "Walker of the Sixth" as by Hamilton. Where does the error lie?

Friends Austen-Fryx and Packer can rest easy. The Bunter the Punter Vol. No. 93 is all-Hamilton. The error lies in the Magnet Companion listing which reversed the authorships of "Coler's Latest" and "Walker of the Sixth". Readers should adjust this page of their Companions accordingly.

No. 561 should read Hamilton and No. 562 should read Sarneys. — Ed.



W.J. Rayner of 6 The Curlews, Bury, St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2NL writes.

With the last 2 Club Volumes I have had to rip off the slip cases to get to the book. How about dispensing with these cases in favour of a normal pictorial dust-cover as with the other series.



From J.P. McMahon, 9 Lansdowne Way, Hailsham, E. Sussex BN27 1LX.

Re the problem of the tight slip-cases, NEWSLETTER No. 41.

I have discovered that by interchanging the slip-cases on a fairly large range of cased books, first paying heed to the seemingly extra thick and stubborn volumes, eventually one can enclose all the books quite satisfactorily.

We believe the recent slip-case problem has now been solved, by our new binders. — Ed.



AND NOW FOR A FEW BOUQUETS!

From J.P. Carpenter, 160 Wellington Road, South Hamslow, Middx, TW4 5JH.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you for your most prompt and impeccable service.



From Leslie S. Laiboy, Beechwood, 8 Woodside Avenue, Brighton, Sussex BN1 5NF.

If only all firms, in 1984, provided such a prompt and efficient service . . . It is appreciated.





THE STANDARD
December 3 1984

STOP PRESS

We quote a short extract from an article by Dr David Owen MEP, writing in the (London) Standard on 3rd Dec. 1984 →

Friars I Lobby, or write to your member of Parliament, objecting to this scandalous V.A.T proposal !

No government has ever before felt it right to put a tax on knowledge by taxing books. This is a principle of tax policy that must be upheld.

Small bookshelves would be wiped out if books were taxed. Schoolchildren would suffer and it would be very difficult to draw a distinction between educational books and the general knowledge that comes from reading books.

Provision for minority books would virtually cease and Britain would be taking a number of bookshelves in terms of its cultural heritage.

Martin Magee, 112 Clooness, Craighaven, Co. Armagh writes -

May I take this opportunity to thank all at ZTs for the prompt attention to all orders.



From A.C. Bridgewater, 5a Saundland Place, Highcliffs, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4QP.

Many congratulations on being a quite unique company. What a wonderful organisation you are - and every one working in it. Others may grate much about keeping prices down - you actually keep them the same for unbound or periods of time - quite matchless in my opinion.

Wishing you all every success,

THE CLUBS

At time of going to press, we have not received the latest reports from the two London and Home Counties' clubs.

For full information on current and future activities readers should write to: Robert Aramian, Chairman of the Greyfriars Club, at 'Courtfield', 48 Kingsard, Ruislip, Middx. or/also to Maurice Hall, Chairman of the Friars Club, at 26a Sibley Road, Watson on Thames, Surrey.

FINAL WORDS

It only remains to wish you all happy reading in the weeks ahead, and to express grateful thanks to those good-hearted Friars who sent us Christmas cards and other seasonal tokens. (Special thanks to Friar Moss of

Wellington, New Zealand).

Be assured, all your expressions of regard are very much appreciated by your editor and publisher.

Howard Baker



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CLASSIFIED ADVTs

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

Sales and Wants

FOR SALE: Out-of-Print Greyfriars Press Vols. £12 each. Vols. Nos. 9, 13, 15, 19, 23, 26, 33, 38, 39, 42. In-Print £5 each. Vol. Nos. 43, 46, 50 - 56, 74, GHA, 35. Club Vol. No.7, £18, Nos. 8 & 29. £9 each.

Books can be made available from a London address, write, A. Church, Chypin de Basmeat 5, Nyon, Switzerland.



FOR SALE: Club Volumes 5 and 7 £15. each, Club Volumes, 11, 23, 30, 31, £10. each, 11 Howard Baker Holiday Annals £6. each, 7 Original Holiday Annals, some mint condition £12 others £5 and £5. H.B. Holiday Annual, 1975 £12. Others. (Plus Postage). S.A.E. please for 16b. Hall, Longmadow, Longhorsley, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 8BY.



FOR SALE: Mint Condition Magnet and Gem Vols. £4.50. each. Club Vols. £10. each. Details from B. Andrews, now at 53 Durham Rise, Plumstead, London SE 18.



FOR SALE: Magnets. Out-of-print. Good Condition. Low Prices. Vol. 26 Bargain for Bunter, Vol.31. Billy Bunter's Hat Trick, Vol. 15, Calling Mr. Quetch, Vol. 12. The Greyfriars Adventurers, each at £9.00.

In-Print. Vol. 68. The Rague of the Renown, Vol. 1. (Gem) Diary the Runaway, each at £4.00. Write to D.J. Jones, 14 Goparth Avenue, Penrynensis, Gwynedd LL34 6PY or phone Tel: 62 3337.



FOR SALE: Out-of-print Magnet Volumes, original Magnets, Armada/Hamlyn paperbacks. Also Bibles, Report etc., S.A.E. please to Goddard, 7 Backland Road, Salford M6 8GP.



FOR SALE: Greyfriars Book Club Volumes No. 1 to 55 to sell as a lot. Offers invited. Masters, 43 Cherrywood Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 3BU.

FOR SALE: "Greyfriars for Greenacre", "Best of Magnet & Gem" (Fleesway 1950's) "Fame Master's Home-coming", - Martin Gifford. (Hamilton Museum Edition) Write to Rogers, 420 Woodgrange Drive, Southend, Essex.



FOR SALE: Greyfriars Press Vols. S.A.E. to A. E. Angus, 8 Holes Hall Crescent, Chesterfield.



FOR SALE: Out-of-Print CLUB titles: Vol.3. The Making of Harry Wharton. £20. Vol.7. The Greyfriars Crusades. £20.

Out-of-Print Greyfriars Press titles: Magnet, Vol. 1, Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids, £12. Vol. 2, The Rebellion of Harry Wharton, £16. Vol. 5, Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Crusades, £18. Vol. 6, The Downfall of Harry Wharton, £12. Vol. 7, Billy Bunter and the Greyfriars Postcard, £18. Vol. 8, The Mystery of Wharton Lodge, £16. Vol. 9, Scheme of the Renown, £16. Vol. 10, Billy Bunter in the Greyfriars Mulley, £16. Vol. 13, Bunter the Ventriloquist, £18. Vol. 15, Calling Mr. Quetch, £18. Vol. 16, Harry Wharton's Enemy, £18. Vol. 17, The Black Sheep of Greyfriars, £18. Vol. 19, The Greyfriars Hikers, £18. Vol. 31, The Tyrant of Greyfriars, £17. Vol. 35, Billy Bunter in China, £18. Vol. 37, The Shadow over Harry Wharton, £18. Vol. 29, The Mystery of the Most House, £18. Vol. 30, The Bargain of Greyfriars, £18. Vol. 51, Billy Bunter's Hat Trick, £16. Vol. 33, The South of Greyfriars, £17. Vol. 35, The Six-in-Sixties at Greyfriars, £16. Vol. 26, Bob Cherny's Big Bargain, £17. Vol. 37, Billy Bunter's Lucky Day, £17. Vol. 39, The Ghost of Poppley, £18. Vol. 42, The Greyfriars Secret Society, £17. Contact: Mr. K. Bar, 178 Orchard Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 7HN, Telephone: 01 737 8296.



FOR SALE: The Howard Baker Magnet Volumes No.1. to 87, also one copy of the Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1978. K.J. Norris, 14 Dewey Street, London SW 17.



The Greyfriars Gazette



CLASSIFIED ADVTS

SALES AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Various *Mist Magnet* Volumes. In-Print £6, Out-of-Print from £10. Post Paid, S.A.E. for List. Blackburn, 22 Blakelaw Road, Alnwick, Northumberland.



FOR SALE: All mint and post-free:
Club Titles: Vol. 7, *The Greyfriars Crusaders*, Vol. 9, *The Boy from the Underworld*, each at £13.
Greyfriars Press Titles: Vol. 2, *The Rebellion of Harry Wharton*, £12. Vol. 4, *Billy Bunter and the Terror of the Form*, £11. Vol. 5, *Billy Bunter and the Court-field Crackdown* (1st. edition) £15. Vol. 6, *The Downfall of Harry Wharton*, £11. Vol. 8, *The Mystery of Wharton Lodge*, £11. Vol. 13, *Bunter the Ventriquist*, £10. Vol. 25, *Billy Bunter in China*, £12. Vol. 36, *Bob Cherry's Big Bargain*, £11. Vol. 42, *The Greyfriars Secret Society*, £10.

In-Print Vols. at £6 each post-free. Send for list. Write to Mr. John Hardy, 22 Rue des Ailes, CH-1202, Geneva, Switzerland.



From the Estate of the late Prial McDonald
FOR SALE: Greyfriars Book Club Special Collector's Editions;
Numbers 1 - 26, Complete.
Magnet Reprints - Complete Collection, Nos. 1 - 91
Gem Reprints - Complete Collection, Nos. 1 - 19
Greyfriars Holiday Annals: 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984.
Collectors Pk No. 3, No. 2, No. 1,
Summer Omnibus 1977, Easter Omnibus 1978,
The Road to Greyfriars, by Geo. Sawneys.

PLUS: *Billy Bunter gets the Boot* No. 1, *Bunter the Bad Lad*, No. 2, *Billy Bunter's Tramp*, No. 3, *Billy Bunter's Rebellion*, No. 4, *Sexton Blake - The Plague of the Onion Men*, *The Cimbab Confederation*, *Sexton Blake - Union Jack*, No. 2, *Crime at Christmas*, *The Barring Out at St. Franks*, *The Magnet Companion 1977*, *Greyfriars for Grown-Ups*, *McCall's Greyfriars Guide*, *The Secret Societies of St. Franks*, *The Death of Walter Church*, *The Nelson Lot*, No. 3, *The Haunted School*, *Tales of Bamber College*.

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WANTED: Book Club No. 3, R. Whaley, 132 Melbree Road, Liverpool L18 9SH.



WANTED: Magnet Singles 137, 1348, Club Vol. 6. Offers to Eric Swinbanks, 32 Oakwood Drive, Wingley, W. Yorks.



WANTED: N.Z. Monitor Libraries will buy, or exchange board volumes *Magnets*. Eleven copies per volume. (10 Volumes). Frank Knott, 29 Colson Street, Auckland, Wellington, New Zealand.

