



# The Greyfriars Gazette

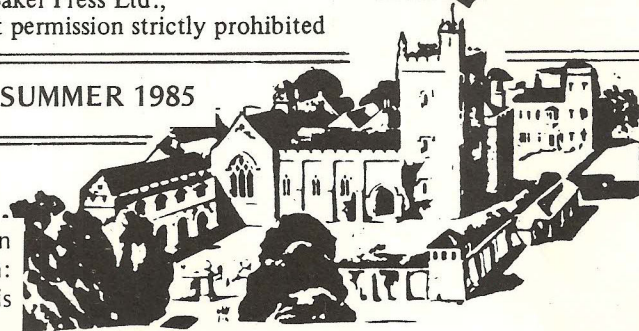
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NEWSLETTER No. 43 SUMMER 1985



Well, Friars, the great and dreaded VAT bogy, has been dispelled. To quote the Chancellor, in his Budget speech: "No VAT on books during the lifetime of this Parliament".

At least we have been granted a breathing space! A temporary reprieve.

Our thanks to all you good people who answered our plea (Gaz No. 42) to write/lobby your Member of Parliament on this matter.

## PRICES

Production costs, printing, binding, paper — especially paper — continue to rise inexorably. Thus, our profit/loss margin continues to diminish — inexorably! The sensible, logical, consequence and one employed by all sound business's, is to pass on, and share the load, with their consumers . . . that means you, Friars!

However, let our Readers rest easy. It is not our intention to abide by those hard rules in this moment of crisis. It is our intention to grit our teeth, summon up the blood, cry *nil illigitemus corborundum*, (or something like that!) and maintain price stability at least into 1986.

In short: no immediate price increases.

It may be that this policy of rigidity on our long-standing price structure which has held firm since December 1983 may not be able to stand the strain against constantly escalating production costs.

Thus, our long cherished ambition — to publish every issue of the Magnet, 1908 to 1940 — will not be achieved. That would be a sad day for Friardom — but a possibility which must be faced. However, no effort will be spared here at Greyfriars Press to keep the flags of SS Augustine and Francis flying. And long may it continue so.

## NEW O/P TITLES

We have to report that Magnet Vol. 34, BUNTERS SEASIDE CAPER is now completely O/P. No stocks at warehouse, no stocks at 27A.

The GHA 1920 is almost O/P. Only a few copies remain at 27A.

And stocks of ALONZO THE GREAT (Vol. 20) are running very low.



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our new Book Club List — No. 5 — has just been published. This represents another Four year Plan, extending from Summer 1985 to the Summer of 1989.

The list includes 20 Magnet volumes, spanning the vintage years 1912 to 1914. Interspersed may be some GEM collections.

And — who knows — at last we may get the long-promised Second Bullseye volume off the ground.



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

General Fiction & Non Fiction  
Autobiography Biography

Political Science  
Reference

Poetry  
Specialist facsimile editions



## SINGLES

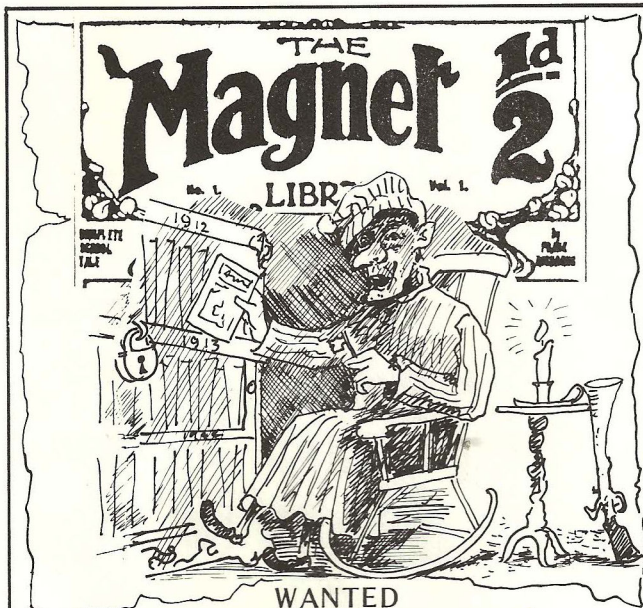
We would like to emphasise, once again, that the supply of Books and the supply of SINGLE copies are two *distinct* and *separate* operations.

Books are supplied to you from here at Wimbledon. Single copies are *not*: they are passed on to be dealt with by our *singles warehouse* at Maidstone, Kent. So please do not send mixed orders for books and singles on the same order form. Singles cannot be enclosed in book-parcels, and their postage must be paid for separately.

## GAZETTE – FREQUENCY

Orders for (logged) and queries about, the frequency of publication of the Greyfriars Gazette continue to accumulate . . .

Let it be established, once and for all, that there is no firm pattern of publication for our “house journal”. Of only one thing can you be sure: a Greyfriars Gazette has always appeared before Christmas – and another appears in high summer. Other issues, Easter and the Fall, may, or may not, be published. The controlling factors are too numerous to spell out in detail.



WANTED

Book Club collectors will have noted, and regretted, the absence of two half-year periods in our straight-forward-chronological progress from the year 1908 to 1913: i.e. Magnet Issue Numbers 204 to 231 of 1912 and Numbers 256 to 281 of 1913. The fact is that these two half-yearly periods are mysteriously missing from the Fleetway (I.P.C.) files. And Fleetway, as you probably know, is our supply source for all early, rare copies of the Old Papers.

We wonder if any of our readers might, perchance, hold all of these originals? If so, we would like to borrow them – on the most generous reciprocal terms, naturally. If such there be, would the Friar get in touch with us as soon as possible?

## ERRATUM

*Erratum* – In the summation of early Club titles on page 34 of the Comprehensive Book Club Catalogue there is an omission: THE PRINCE OF GREYFRIARS.

The List *should* read thus:

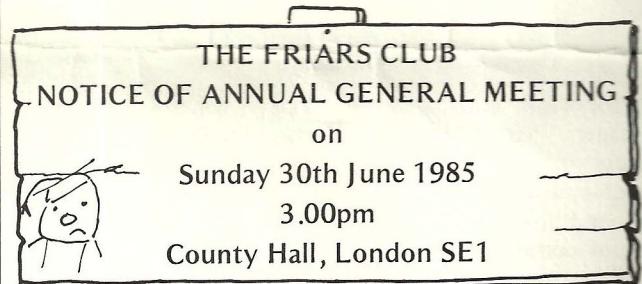
CLUB VOL 40 The Prince of Greyfriars

CLUB VOL 41 1st Boys Paper Omnibus

(*Passim* GAZETTE No. 36. Page 2)

## REDUCTION

Ten copies of Magnet Vol 75. The Greyfriars Bounder – without jackets – have surfaced in our stock room. In view of the absence of jackets we are taking £3 off the normal price. So, available now at £7 each, while stock lasts.



THE FRIARS CLUB  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
on  
Sunday 30th June 1985  
3.00pm  
County Hall, London SE1

The Annual General Meeting of the Friars is to be held at The County Hall, London, only a short walk from London's Waterloo Railway Station. We are most grateful to club member Arthur Edwards for making this central location possible, and it is hoped that a large number of Friars will gather to attend this the most important meeting of the club's calendar.

For obvious security reasons, names of all those wishing to attend must be given to the Hon Secretary on, or before, 24th May. We regret that members will be unable to attend the meeting without first giving their name before the aforementioned date. There is no restriction regarding numbers, so we hope to see as many of you as is possible on the day.

The most important task for us all at the AGM will be to elect a new Chairman, as Maurice Hall's term of Office ends this summer.

A total of three Candidates have been proposed and

seconded. They are:

Martin Trouse  
Brian Simmonds  
Maurice Hall

Prospective members wishing to join the Friars Club should send a subscription (still £3 p.a.) to Graham McDermott, 4 Castle Road, Epsom, Surrey.

The subscription entitles the member to attend meetings. To receive 4 issues of the Friar's Chronicles per year and to vote on club matters that arise from time to time.

Postal members will find much help from existing Friars, who are always ready to offer assistance in any way possible. Please keep your letters and suggestions and ideas coming forward, so that the Committee can create the sort of Club that all enjoy.

Special rate of £2 p.a. for members under 16 years.

**STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS . . .**

### **THE GRAND SUMMER MEETING OF THE FRIARS**

By kind permission of Cindy Stevens & family, the Summer Meeting of The Friars' Club will be held on Sunday 14th July, 2.30pm at:

"Little Ashes"  
Winchelsea,  
Nr Rye, East Sussex.

Please inform Cindy if you wish to attend. Phone Rye (0797) 226389 – AFTER May 15th. Full details in next issue of the "Chronicles".

### **THE MIDLAND OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB**

In a year of mixed fortunes, death has robbed us of two members: Ted Sabin, at 82 our oldest member, who remembered buying Magnet No. 1 in 1908, and John Look. Ill-health has restricted the attendance of our chairman, Tom Porter, and kept Christine Brettell away altogether, whilst removal to distant parts has presented travel difficulties for three regulars, Joan and Vince Loveday and Geoff Lardner.

Happily, there has been much on the brighter side to compensate. We have a number of new members, including the Fahey family – Brian, Florence and Pat – attendances are rising and our meetings continue to be friendly, cheerful and informative. When Tom is absent we miss his display of Anniversary Number and Collectors' Item but games, readings, chat and splendid food provide a monthly highlight. The Christmas Party was a great occasion, whilst we look forward this summer

to welcoming Bill Lofts to address us. If you are near Dr. Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham, at 7.00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in the month, come in and join us. You will be most welcome.

Geoff Lardner

Prospective Five members should write to me at:

Georgian House,  
Broad Street,  
Littledean,  
Gloucestershire.



### **THE GREYFRIARS CLUB**

"Courtfield", 49 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middx.

*The club chairman, Bob Acraman, reports:*

"Another excellent meeting took place on Sunday 31st March at Courtfield lasting from 2.30p.m. until just before 9.00p.m., the first arrivals being Don Webster past Chairman of the London O.B.B.C. club who was closely followed by Len Berg and Eric Bristow.

"Against a background of school songs from the music centre, sung by the boys of Hendon Grammar School (Floreat Greyfriars) and the boys of Harrow School singing 'Forty Years On' playing softly in the background members greeted each other, glasses of Sherry or Chartreuse were handed around with refills readily available while members wandered out into the sunny lawns and garden to enjoy the sunshine, or peruse dust jackets and catalogues of new releases.

"Finally it was time to call the meeting to order where after welcoming all arrivals your Chairman announced the tragic loss of our member John Look calling for all members to stand for a minute of silence in memory of our dear friend.

"John and Audrey Kirkham had brought along a fine new issue of six school stories written by P.G. Wodehouse 'The Pothunters', 'Head of Kays'. 'The Gold Bat' etc. Your Chairman then played a recording of P.G. Wodehouse talking about his life in much the same way as our Frank did in the Record 'Floreat Greyfriars'. Then a reading from Syd Smythes' Golden Hours' magazine about the Harrow School song 'Forty Years On' which told us many interesting things about this song, and this took us up to teatime; another scrumptious repast prepared by our Courtfield Hostess. After tea followed a reading of some of the most interesting points from correspondents letters. More happy discussion followed.

After one or two closing announcements by your Chairman the meeting closed at 8.45p.m., but not before a vote of thanks was called for your hosts.

Next meeting Sunday 8th Sept at Courtfield".

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*Friar Galloway writes from Cornwall:*

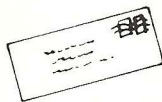
I do not often write to you other than to order each new issue, but I feel that I must express the dismay I felt on reading in the Greyfriars Gazette No. 42 that Magnet Nos. 204–229 will not be published until 'a later date'.

I have collected all your Hamilton volumes to date, with the exception of a few non-Greyfriars titles and am running a reading programme which will be seriously disrupted with the non-production of the above-mentioned. Is there any way in which I can maintain continuity, e.g. singles or any other means?

*(Afraid we cannot think of a ready solution to this problem – but we believe the gap in the series will soon be filled – Editor)*

Incidentally, would it be possible for you to insert in your next Greyfriars Gazette an invitation to other 'addicts' in my area to contact me. I am too far away to join the club activities in the London area.

Friar Lionel Galloway, 9 Woodside, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 8PH.



*A cri-de-coeur from Friar Evans for one more soft-cover Special:*

Could you not see your way clear to reprint Club Vol No. 1 THE WORST BOY AT GREYFRIARS (the famous First Wharton the Rebel series). I am sure it would be received with rapture by many late-coming Friars.

R.G. Evans, 1 The Lindens, Wrexham Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

*We will look into the feasibility – and viability – of this suggestion, and report back – Editor*

*Kind and comforting words from Cheltenham:*

Thank you for the prompt despatch of the Club Editions which I received this morning.

Although I have had many of your Greyfriars Press Magnet books I have not previously had Club volumes, and I must tell you that I am absolutely delighted with them.

R. Whelan, M.B.E. 12 Littledown Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9LP.

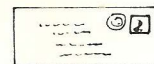


*Cautionary words from Edinburgh:*

I have complained to the Post Office about the two parcels of books which were returned to you. *Since no notice of arrival was left in my letter box on either occasion* I, unaware, could not collect the parcels.

Thank you for letting me know and thank you, too, for the many trouble free years in which you have sent me books.

Olive Stevens, 16 Springvalley Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4PY.



*A comparatively new Friar, Nandu Thalange writes to us from Bolton, Lancs:*

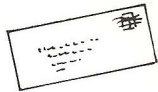
I would like to thank you for publishing selected out-of-print books again for the benefit of those arriving late on the scene as I indeed suggested to you a while ago. Indeed, I have just finished reading "The Making of Harry Wharton", which though rather expensive proved to be extremely good. The new "Napoleon of Greyfriars" which I have just started also holds out the same promise.

I trust that it will be possible for you to complete the run of Magnets for a sadly diminishing readership and *may I thank you for giving me the opportunity to glimpse a delightful world where a simple decency and honest values were so conspicuous in comparison to our own time.*

Your most faithfully, Nandu Thalange, Elbar, 42 Regent Road, Bolton, Lancs BL6 4DQ.

*Friar Rayner engages in a little playful one-up-manship anent the letter from Norman Kadish, (published in Gazette No. 42, page 3.) He writes:*

I can surpass Norman Kadish's pleasure in seeing his collection in the mornings. All my Howard Baker books (Both series) are in a large bookcase in my bedroom so I have the pleasure of seeing them last thing at night and first thing in the morning, and what a pleasure it is too! W.J. Rayner, 6 The Curlews, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2AL.



*A stern rap over the knuckles from a member of The Force, down-under, who writes:*

I would like to make the following suggestion — That you publish an up-to-date edition of the Magnet Companion.

Such an edition could *exclude* the alphabetical index of Magnet stories to which I, for one, never refer and which would make much more space available for an up-date of the Greyfriars Press Volumes.

Now some carping criticism: In the Autumn 1984 catalogue you advertised the Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1985 and, *inter alia*, stated "five Magnet issues" but did not include the numbers of such issues. Expecting such Magnet stories to be the work of the "Master" imagine my dismay when I consulted the Companion and found all were substitutes. Whilst some Friars, apparently, enjoy reading substitutes I am not one of them.

However, notwithstanding, keep up the good work. R.T. White, 32 Gleeson Avenue, Forster, N.S.W. 2428 Australia.



*A plea for a poll from Friar H. Heath:*

I have watched with admiration and much pleasure the continued progress of your wonderful facsimile programme.

There appears to be no doubt that the success lies in the popularity of the Magnet, which was and still is, my favourite paper.

However, I would like to put in a strong plea for the undermentioned stories written by Charles Hamilton and published in the *Schoolboys Own Library*, to receive consideration for inclusion in the programme at some future date.

*Nos. 308 and 317*, entitled "Jimmy Silver Resigns", and "No Good as Captain" respectively, featuring of course Rookwood School.

*Nos. 290 and 299*. These two volumes concern Jimmy McCann and High Coombe School, referred to as "The

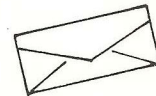
School for Slackers".

*No. 353*, entitled, "The Schoolboy Tec". This volume introduced Len Lex to Oxshott School, and his quest to find the mystery cracksman known as "The Sussex Man".

It would be most interesting to hear of readers reaction to the idea, and to further suggestions.

H. Heath, 55 Hernwood Road, Windsor, Beshire SL4 4YX.

*Perhaps readers may care to write to Friar Heath on this subject? — Editor*



*Words of comfort and joy from Friar Read of Wokingham. (Friar Dr. McCall please note!)*

I read with interest Gazette Nos. 41 & 42, and would like to echo the thanks of your subscribers for your excellent service.

My parents gave me your 'Courtfield Cracksman' series at Christmas 1972, when I was 14 years old. Whilst they thought that I would be interested in the volume, they never dreamt that I would read it throughout.

Of course, having had an introduction to Greyfriars via Cassells editions, I pounced on the volume and began reading it right away. Before that time I had not even heard of 'The Magnet'. To then be able to read the full, original stories complete with illustrations was pure magic. Over a period, I read that volume five times, and then gradually built up my collection of further H.B. Magnet volumes.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks for your excellent service, and for all the enjoyment and pleasure your books give to me.

John J. Read, 4 Rose Court, Wokingham, Berks RG11 1TG.



*Another newcomer to our arcane Order writes:*

I wish to thank you for the prompt and efficient service which I received when I ordered "The Making of Harry Wharton" from you. I found it one of the best novels I have ever read. Perhaps you could recommend what you think are the best of "Frank Richards" writings to me as I would be very interested in your personal opinion. I was perhaps slightly disappointed to see that it was not a hard-back edition but I realise that when you reprint a book it cannot be the same as a "Limited Edition". Once again I thank you and enclosed is my next order of which there will be many more forthcoming . . .

AND LATER . . .

Thank you for your reply to my last letter and my follow-up order which I received with great pleasure. The "Club Volumes" astounded me — how can you keep these superb de luxe volumes at such low prices! Yet again, I thank you for your excellent and prompt service.

M. Ford, 2 Fairfax Close, Leicester LE4 7FS

. . . and another new Friar declares:

What a pleasure it is to find so many people share my love of the Greyfriars stories. No doubt that this is escapism, largely, but it gives me great pleasure to experience this world of decency, fair play, sportsmanship, honesty and comradeship. Perhaps such a world never did exist; maybe it never will but then life without dreams is no life at all. A fellow must dream, for without question the present world is a miserable and shoddy mess.

Continue the good work and go on giving "unparalleled" pleasure to thousands of devotees.

Thank you. Yours sincerely, W.H. Kennedy, 69 Princes Gardens, Codsall, Staffs WV8 2DL.

## CONTACTS

It is suggested that we set up an extension of our Classified columns to encompass announcements from Friars who are desirous of making contact with other Friars in their own locality.

Purpose: either to meet, write each other, generally exchange views on simply pen-pal-ship. This issues letter from Friar Galloway is a simple case in point.

Short messages of this nature can be sent to the Gazette for publication in our columns *free of charge*.

## BOND-TIME

By now you will have received your copy of the Autumn Catalogue. The *piece de resistance* in this programme is the Greyfriars Holiday Annual, 1986. It features some very special items indeed, as a perusal of the details shown on the broadsheet amply demonstrates. Not to be missed on any account. Do return your Bonds without delay.

We hope to address you all again during the period leading up to Christmas.

Meantime, happy reading — and all best wishes from,

Your Publisher

*Howard Baker*



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED  
27a Artterberry Road, Wimbledon London, SW 20





# CLASSIFIED ADVTs



Charge for insertions in these columns: 5p per word.

## Sales and Wants

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**FOR SALE:** Greyfriars Press Magnet Vols 1 to 66 (Less Nos. 18, 24, 64.) Holiday Annuals 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927 and 1973 to 1978. Omnibus Vols. 1976 to 1978 Mint Condition. In Print. £6 each; Out of Print from £9. Original Holiday Annuals 1930, 1933 Fair Condition £3 each. Magnet Companions 1973 and 1977 £2 each. Write to: A. Atkinson, 38 Park Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7QW.

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**FOR SALE:** Magnets. Out of Print. Good Condition. Low Prices. Vol 8. The Mystery of Wharton Lodge; Vol 9. The Schemer of the Remove; Vol 17. The Black Sheep of Greyfriars; Vol 25. Billy Bunter in China each at £15. Write to: D.L. Jones, 14 Gogarth Avenue, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6PY. (or phone) Tel: No. 623337.

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**FOR SALE:** Magnet Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 26 & 36 £30 each. Also G.B.C. Vols 5 & 7 £30 each (Postage included). A. Sanders, 95 Swift Road, Sholver, Oldham OL1 4QS.

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**FOR SALE:** Magnet, Gem and Club Volumes. £4.50 Press Volumes; £10 Club Volumes; Many out-of-print volumes available at various prices.

Also required books by G.A. Henty; L.W.T. Satchell. 270 Southover, Downham, Bromley, Kent BR1 4SE.

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**FOR SALE:** Magnet Volumes No. 36. £15; Nos. 41, 45, 46, £5 each. Write to Mr. M. Allison, 5 Montgomery Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 5LB.

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**FOR SALE:** The following OUT-OF-PRINT Greyfriars Press Magnet Volumes: Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 19, 20 at £15 each.

**For Exchange:** Nos. 3, 4, 12, 45, 46, 49, 55, in return for any of the following: 43, 48, 49, 51, 54, 56, 57, 61, 62, 66, 67, 75, 76, 79, 81, 82, 85, 87, 89.

Write to: Mr. W. Taylor, 1 Bassett Close, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey or, phone CAM. 28795.

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**FOR SALE:** Magnet and Gem and Club volumes from £4.50 to £10 Club Volumes, also many O/P Titles. B. Andrews, 53 Durham Rise, Plumstead, London SE18.

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**FOR SALE:** The following OUT-OF-PRINT Greyfriars Press Magnet Volumes are offered at £16 each: Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974 — £16.

The following still-in-print Magnet Volumes are offered at £6 each — Nos. 3, 4, 11, 14, 32.

The following GEM volumes at £5 each — Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Nelson Lee Vols 1 and 2 at £5 each.

Greyfriars Holiday Annuals 1928, 1973 £6 each.

Magnet Vols No. 12 'Greyfriars Adventurers' — £10.

Preferably sold as one lot at £400. o.n.o.

Write to Mr. S. Gelsey, 163 Old Shoreham Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 7EA.

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**FOR SALE:** From the Estate of the late Friar John Look. The following OUT-OF-PRINT BOOK CLUB Volumes: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 — each for sale at £25.

The following IN-PRINT Book Club Volumes: Nos.

continued



# The Greyfriars Gazette



CLASSIFIED ADVTS

SALES AND WANTS

continued

8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49. Each at £10.

The following Greyfriars Press OUT-OF-PRINT Volumes: Magnet Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 27, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43. Plus GEM volume No. 6 and Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974 – each at £16.

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**FOR SALE:** From the Estate of the late Friar Paton: The following OUT-OF-PRINT Greyfriars Press Volume: Nos. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43. Plus GEM Volume No. 6. Each at £15, plus postage.

The following IN-PRINT Greyfriars Press Volumes: Nos. 3, 4, 12, 14, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89. Each at £5 plus postage.

The following Greyfriars Press GEM Volumes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17. Each at £4 per volume, plus postage.

The following Greyfriars Holiday Annuals (Howard Baker volumes) G.H.A's for 1920, 1921, 1927, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 – Each at £5.

The following miscellaneous: Collectors Pie No. 1., Billy Bunters Own, Howard Baker Summer Omnibus 1977, Howard Baker Easter Omnibus 1978 – Each at £5.

Write to Mrs. K.P. Paton, 14 Abbotts Crescent, Highams Park, London E4 9SA.

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The following Greyfriars Press IN-PRINT Volumes Nos: 3, 4, 11, 12, 28, 40, 42, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 80. Plus GEM Volume Nos: 1, 2, 11, 12 – Each at £6.

Greyfriars Holiday Annuals 1973 and 1975 to 1984  
H.B. Holiday Annual, 1974

H.B. Summer Omnibus 1977 and H.B. Easter Omnibus 1978

Collectors Pie of Magnet & Gem No. 1. Each at £6.

The De Luxe Collectors edition of the CHINA series No. 25A at £20.

All above in mint condition.

All enquiries regarding any of the above to be addressed to R.F. (Bob) Acraman by post at Courtfield, 49 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middx. HA4 7DD, who at the request of Mrs Look has agreed to act as her agent in the sale and disposal of the above collection.

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**WANTED:** Billy Bunter Cassell Hardback Editions. Must be in good condition, complete with dustcovers. Generous prices offered. Write to Martin Price, 10 Poynton Avenue, Ulley, Sheffield S31 0YE.

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**WANTED:** Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974, in good condition. Offers to Peter Barnicott, 22 Ingleboro Drive, Purley, Surrey CR2 1EE.

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**STOP  
PRESS**