



The Greyfriars Gazette

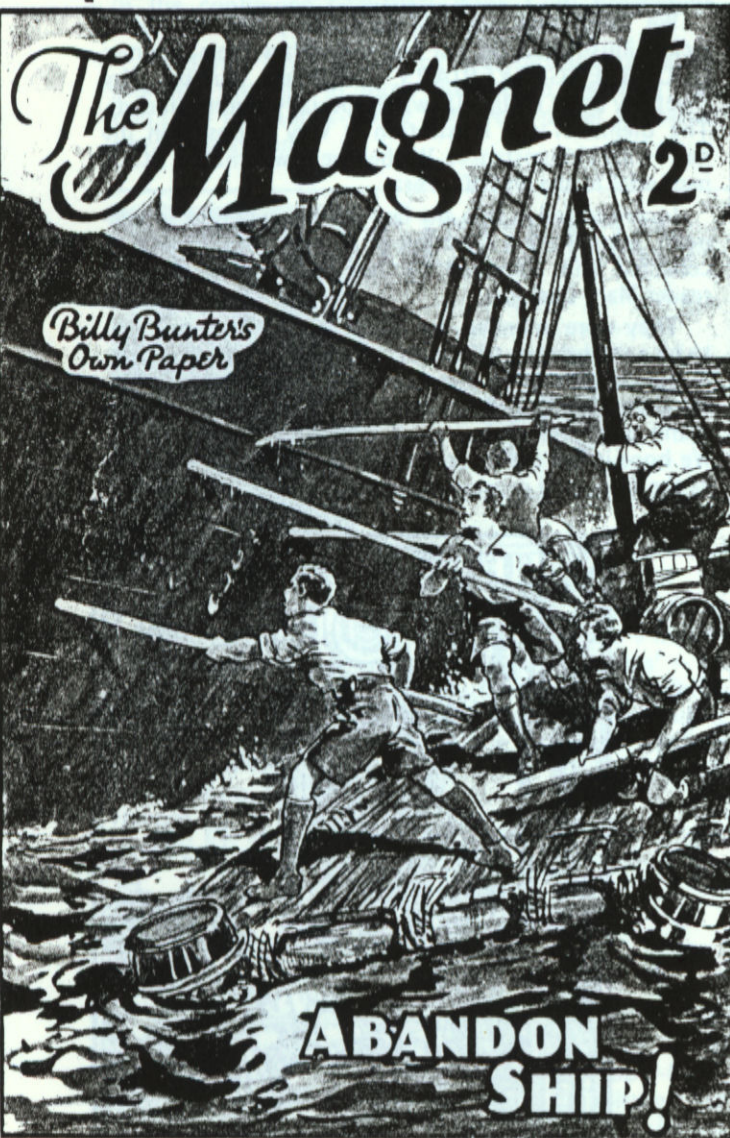
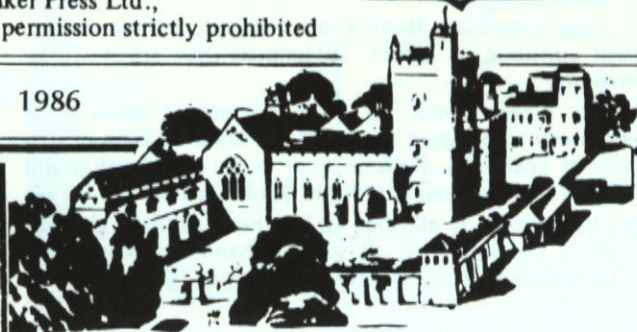
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NEWSLETTER No. 45 1986



No. 1,003. Vol. LIV. EVERY SATURDAY. Week Ending August 27th, 1938.

This issue of the newsletter (Gazette 45) may be the last one we address to you — at least so far as the publishing status quo is concerned.

Because, alas, it is more than likely that Greyfriars Press Volume 100 — GOODBYE, GREYFRIARS, our centenary number — will be the final volume in this series.

The company hopes to continue the Greyfriars Book Club series for some time to come. But regretfully, it no longer makes economic sense to continue with the standard Greyfriars Press volumes.

With every Greyfriars Press book published over the past few years, our accountants/auditors tell us we have shown losses. And that, as the phrase has it, is no way to run a battleship.

Consequently, this particular craft is foundering, and it is time that we 'abandoned ship'.

This we are about to do.

Our general book programme (non-Greyfriars) will, naturally, continue, and our Greyfriars Book Club series will also continue, so long as it is viable. The moment that our accountants tell us that it is not, we shall have to take to the boats again. So rally round, jolly tars of the good ship s.s Greyfriars, and give us all the support you can.

The harsh fact is that the Greyfriars programme has only been sustained by our other publishing endeavours — and that for too long!

FROM



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

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Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

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



THE GREAT AIM

To spell it out for the hard of hearing, the position is this. The Greyfriars Press volumes, selling at the wildly uneconomic price of £9.95, come to an end in Autumn 1986.

The Greyfriars Book Club volumes, selling at £18, will continue as before, so long as they are not loss-making.

So please 'buck up', you recumbent Book Club members who signed your intent Forms — some of you several years ago. Resume your active membership and help at least to keep Greyfriars Book Club alive.

Because it is all that is left now of that glorious project to which we all set our hands in those high-flying days of 1971 — fifteen long year ago — when we determined, with your support, to publish every Magnet from 1908 to 1940. We have almost achieved that goal, short of a few hundred! But without your unstinting and unwavering support, we cannot reach that final target. True, our numbers are diminishing, but surely there are enough of us left to achieve the Great Aim?

If our appeal falls upon deaf ears, then so be it. We here can do no more than give due warning of the direful consequences.



We think that you will particularly like the cover/jacket illustration on our last Greyfriars Press volume: GOODBYE GREYFRIARS, Centenary Number (by Fleetway artist Philip Hayward, specially commissioned). The theme of the illustration is very apposite in the harrowing circumstances. We believe it will make a fitting memorial to the end of an era.

Incorporated in this, the last volume, will be a Supplement, comprising a selection of tributes from Friardom, collected and compiled by our distinguished author/reader Mary Cadogan.

They were intended, by the people who wrote them, to be a celebratory tribute to '100-NOT-OUT'. However, in the circumstances they take on a more poignant note. Nevertheless, we publish them as they were written, and thank you all for your good wishes and loyal support. We hope it will continue — and increase — during the life of the truncated programme ahead.

THE AUTUMN TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

At the time of compiling this Gazette, we have not finalised the Autumn programme, but the finished list should look like this:

Greyfriars Press : MAGNET COMPANION 1986 (AUG)
The Concise New—Revised—Updated
£5.95

GOODBYE GREYFRIARS (OCT)
Magnet Vol. 100
9 Magnet issues

All stories by Charles Hamilton
(No 'subs')
£12.95

Greyfriars Book Club : September THE ARRIVAL OF WILLIAM WIBLEY
Club No. 70
Issue Nos. 320 to 325

November THE MISSING MASTER
Club No. 71
Issue Nos. 326 to 331



THE NEW BOND

Having delivered ourselves of these sombre tidings, it seems there is little more to be said at this juncture. We will, of course, endeavour to bring out another Gazette for Christmas, apprising you of the up-to-the minute situation – which may have changed, for better or worse, by that time.

Meanwhile, we are circulating a new Autumn/Winter Bond which incorporates the last two books in the standard Greyfriars Press programme, plus publications in the continuing Greyfriars Book Club programme.

Pro-forma invoices will be sent out as usual at bi-monthly intervals to those Book Club members who don't use the money-saving Bond, but prefer the earlier pro-forma system.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

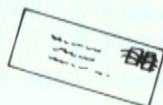


Mr J.A. Hollis of 19 Manor View, Manor Farm Estate, Hazlemere, Bucks HP15 7SX, believes a hearty pat-on-the-back is in order. 'My congratulations' – he writes – 'for producing these outstanding books. Quite seriously, I believe I derive more pleasure from reading them now than I did in those long distant days before World War Two. Why they never knighted Frank Richards I shall never know!'

Join the band, Mr Hollis. Thousands of other people don't know either – Ed.



Friar Milligan's letter, published in Gazette No. 44, evoked a mixed response. Friar Tim Salisbury, of 20 Uphill Road South, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, wrote: 'I hope you decide to reissue Club Volume No. 1 *The Worst Boy at Greyfriars*, as I did not manage to buy a copy of it before it went out of print, and I know quite a few others who missed it, too.'



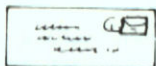
On the other hand, Friar Paul Yates, of Ravenscourt Guest House, Seafield Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey, PH26 3JG, has this to say: 'May I raise objections to the request made by Friar Milligan, who asks for a soft cover reproduction of the first 'Wharton the Rebel' series. Whilst I understand his dilemma and sympathise with his situation, I should emphasise to him that – unlike the Greyfriars Press books – book club volumes were offered for sale in a strictly limited edition. For such book club titles to be reprinted now, albeit in a different format, would be totally unfair to those readers who bought the limited edition. To reproduce this series would be similar to an art dealer offering a framed limited signed print for sale and then, some years later, printing more copies and offering them for sale in a different frame.'

'I feel to do as Friar Milligan wishes would bring into question the purpose of the whole operation. If he wishes to purchase the aforementioned volume, he could do what I have done on many occasions and contact people who are selling the book he requires – or, indeed, he could himself advertise in the *Gazette*.'



Friar Milligan, 4 Enid Drive, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT5 6EN, says: 'I wrote my letter in mid-November, after reading a request from Friar Evans, in the then current issue of the *Gazette*, that you consider republishing Club Volume 1 in a special soft-cover edition. I wanted to give his request my support. I noticed that my letter was printed in the last edition of the *Gazette*, but that unlike many other letters which

appeared in that issue, it received no editorial comment. Is this good or bad? Once again, I urge you to consider reprinting this 'special', as I am sure that the response would be very favourable and such a reprint would be greeted with pleasure by all those Friars who had the misfortune to miss the first edition.'



Recently, many Friars have been writing to us to express their disquiet on the quantity of output. Friar John Kennedy of 14 Lordship Lane, London SE22 8HN is one of them: 'Thank you for replying to my recent letter in *Gazette* No. 44. I am naturally disappointed that economics do not permit you to publish Greyfriars Book Club volumes at the rate of one a month. Also, my concern is that your publishing programme is slowing down. At your peak, you published 16 volumes a year — Club books and 'ordinary' titles. But for the first half of 1986 there will only be six. Perhaps only twelve for the entire year!

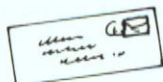
'And now you make the disquieting announcement that Magnets 204—231 and 256—281 have gone missing. I make that 58 issues — or 9 Club books which we may never see. Way back in 1972, I set up a grid of numbers running from 1 to 1683. My deletions from this grid are now decelerating, and I am beginning to wonder if the last deletion will ever be made.

'With regard to the missing issues, would it not be possible to publish Book Club volumes containing whatever odd Magnet numbers you can lay your hands on? Surely, this is better than publishing none. I for one would be grateful for such an approach, even if it did mean jumping from volume to volume in reading a series, when you did at last track down the 'rogue' issues.

'This said, I must express my gratitude that you embarked on this unique publishing venture in the first place. When I bought *Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids*, I hardly thought that — all these years later — you would still be publishing and have achieved so much.'



From Miss Paula Johnson, 5 Linden Grove, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 9NF, comes an enquiry: 'I wonder if I am the youngest member of the arcane order of Friars. I am fifteen years old. It would be nice to hear from any other 'teenage Greyfriars fans... Letter welcome'.

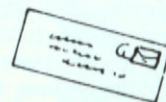


And another lady, Geraldine Lamb, of 2 Broom Field Close, Chelford, Near Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9SL, writes: 'May I say how delighted my elder son and I both are with the excellent reproductions and service which you provide. We were both introduced to the Magnet through your volumes. Previously, our limited knowledge of Billy Bunter had reached us through the Cassell editions and — in my case — also through Frank Minnett's version in the old *Knockout* comic. So you opened up a vast new world for us. Thanks again!'

By air mail Par avion

Although it has not been taken up universally, our *Super-Bond* has won widespread acclaim amongst overseas Friars — as these two letters, selected at random, amply testify. Friar Reg. V. Moss, of 19 Mysore Street, Khandallah, Wellington 4, New Zealand, writes: 'May I congratulate you on the new all-inclusive *Super-Bond*. Payment by one cheque every six months is infinitely preferable to the previous method. An additional advantage will accrue here in New Zealand when our new GST tax commences. It is a close relative of VAT, and this new tax will be levied at a single rate and with no exemptions. Even food and books will be taxable! My photocopy of the *Bond* will be evidence of the price paid for each volume, and should satisfy Customs Officers who would otherwise make their own — possibly exaggerated — assessment.

'When I look at my bookshelves and see the handsome Howard Baker Press volumes standing tall among the four thousands odd books I possess, I recall the pleasure they give, and I am indeed proud to have the complete set. Keep up the good work!'



And Friar L. Medaris, of 35 Cullen Street, Watson, A.C.T., Australia, simply says: 'Congratulations on your 'Super Bond'. It's a great idea and I, for one, will be happy to see it continue into the future.'



Friar Norman Kadish of 126 Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex raises a query: 'I notice in *Collectors' Pie Number 5* that the story 'The Houseboat Mystery' is credited to the authorship of G.R. Samways, but in both *Companion* volumes (1971 and 1977) the respected creator is given as S.E. Austin.'

A matter for Inspector Lofts. Well, Bill?



Customers are forever surprised at the service which we consider normal. This from Mr L. Cunningham, of 11a Chellsway, Carr's Meadow, Withernsea, North Humberside HU19 2EN: 'How refreshing it is to have such speedy deliveries of the orders!' And from Mr Brian T. Glennon of 25 Cordingley Avenue, Droylsden, Manchester M35 6FU: 'I enclose order form and postal orders for more books, and wish to thank you for the books so far received. Your service has been incredible, especially in this day and age, and your wonderful volumes have added a new dimension to my life. Thank you most sincerely once again.'



Penultimately, Mr P.K. Baker, of 6 St. Asaph Close, Heath, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF4 4LD has this to say: 'I write to you in sheer delight, having taken out on loan a copy of one of your publications - 'Bunter's Poor Relations' - from the local library. I did not know that such delights existed in the publishing world today.'

And, finally, from Friar Edward Sissons, of 10 Cromwell Road, Hove, Sussex comes this:

MYSTERY SOLVED!

'Having been advised through a recent telephone call to a member of The Greyfriars Press of the gloomy outlook for the continuing programme, one thinks one now understands the reason for the rather solemn mien of our Publisher, as pictured at the mast-head of the LETTERS TO THE EDITOR columns of late. Clearly, coming events were casting their shadow before!'



'I SAY YOU FELLOWS - DON'T BE BEASTLY ROTTEN TO A CHAP...'

The Daily Telegraph
14 THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, WEDNESDAY JULY 30, 1986

**REPORT FROM:
THE MIDLAND OLD BOY'S BOOK CLUB**

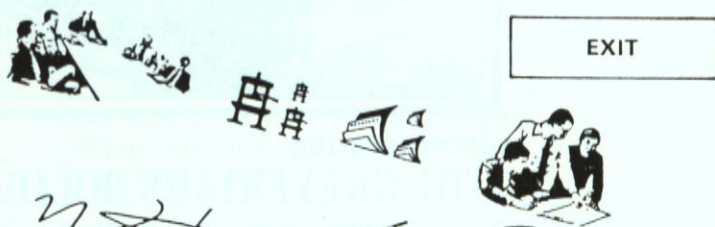
"I suppose the past year is best likened to the curate's egg. There have been bad parts, concerned mainly with the ill-health of two of our members, chairman Tom Porter and Christine Brettell, whose attendance have been severely restricted, and also with the bitter weather which has kept numbers low and meetings short for the first two months of 1986. We hope that with longer days and warmer air will come a return to our accustomed full and lively meetings.

The celebrated egg, however, was not wholly bad and there has been much to cheer us. New members continue to materialise - David Packwood and Nick Gregory are the latest - and in spite of sometimes low attendances the meetings retain all their warmth and cheer. The highlight of the year was the fascinating talk given by Bill Lofts at the September meeting. His main theme of the origins of the Howard Baker reprints was interwoven with anecdotes of and insights into the great days of the Amalgamated Press. Bill has accepted membership of the club and has promised future talks from time to time. His knowledge of the background to the old papers is (to borrow from P.P. Prout) unparalleled and we look forward eagerly to further revelations - of the nicest sort, of course.

Visitors as well as new members are assured of a warm welcome at Dr. Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham, at 7.00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in the month. If you would like a specimen newsletter, write to me."

Geoff Lardner, Georgian House, Broad Street, Littledean, Gloucestershire GL14 3NH.

Regret that reports from Clubs in London, Home Counties, Cambridge, Northern and Western, were not forthcoming at time of Gazette going to Press - Ed.



Howard Baker

HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED
27a Artarberry Road, Wimbledon London, S W 20



CENTENARY
100
NUMBER

Good-bye Greyfriars

by Frank
Richards



The last 'standard' MAGNET volume
Published OCTOBER 3rd.
£12.95 in U.K.

Incorporating
THE GREYFRIARS HOLIDAY ANNUAL 1987 

Published by Howard Baker Press Ltd, 27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W. 20.



The Greyfriars Gazette



CLASSIFIED ADVTS

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



Sales and Wants



FOR SALE: The following OUT OF PRINT Greyfriars Press Volumes:— Bunter's Seaside Caper £12; The Downfall of Harry Wharton £15; Billy Bunter and the Greyfriars Pretender £15; Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids £15; The Rebellion of Harry Wharton £16; Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksman £20; Bunter the Ventriloquist £14; ALSO THE FOLLOWING IN PRINT VOLUMES AT £7 EACH:— The Schoolboy Smuggler; The Popper Island Rebels; The Big Bang at Greyfriars; Billy Bunter of Bunter Court; Vernon Smith's Rival; The Bounder's Rebellion; D'Arcy the Runaway; The Greyfriars Impersonator; Ructions at Greyfriars; The Greyfriars Mysteries — Write to: Mr H. Dulgarn, 4 Highlands Close, Needham Market, Ipswich, Suffolk.

FOR SALE: OUT OF PRINT Volumes: Club Vol. 5; GHA 1928; Courtsfield Cracksman Vol. 5; £12.50 each. Press Vols. 31, 40, 42, 43 £10 each. **WANTED:** Club Vol. 4, Harry Wharton & Co in India. Contact:— James Fisher, 66 Auldlea Road, Beith, Ayrshire KA15 2JU. Telephone: 05055 3940.

FOR SALE: Greyfriars Press/Club Volumes. Many Out of Print. SAE with Wants to:— Laurie Young, 211 May Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 4AW.

FOR SALE: Holiday Annual 1925 £10; The Burglar of Greyfriars £12; The Downfall of Harry Wharton £12. Write to: R.B. Morton, 61 Arkley Park, Barnet Road, Arkley, Herts EN5 3JH.

FOR SALE: GHA 1941; Greyfriars for Grownups; Bunter's Own (1979); Facsimile Volume 60, 69, 78. All Mint, £5 each plus postage. (Plus 10 single issues):— P. Rogers, 420 Woodgrange Drive, Southend, Essex.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of Friar Brian Crook: The following IN PRINT Book Club Volumes at £10 each: Nos. 8, 12, 19, 20, 21, 25, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38. The following IN PRINT Gem Volumes at £5 each: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15. ALSO Gem Vol. 6 £10, no dust cover. The following Greyfriars Holiday Annuals: 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1983. IN PRINT: £6 each. OUT OF PRINT: £9 each. Nelson Lee Vols. 1-3, £5 each. Magnet Volumes 1-97 inclusive. IN PRINT: £6 each. OUT OF PRINT: from £10. Some do not have dust covers. All prices plus postage. Other miscellaneous titles also available. Write for details stating volume number *and* title required to:— Anne Blood, 33 Lytham Gardens, Skipton, North Wales.

FOR SALE: Magnet, Gem, Annuals (IN PRINT) Greyfriars Press volumes £4.50 each. Club volumes £10 each. Many OUT OF PRINT volumes (Greyfriars Press and Club) available at various prices. **WANTED:** Magnet and Gem Howard Baker collections and single volumes. Also required: books by Brereton, Westerman, Henty, Strang etc., pre-war Comics, Boys' Magazines and Annuals. In fact, anything considered. Good prices paid. — L.W.T. Satchell, 270 Southover, Downham, Bromley, Kent. Tel: 01-698 6014.



Sales and Wants

WANTED: Greystriars Book Club Vol. No. 2, Loder for Captain £30 offered, including postage and packing. Contact: Paul Yates, 'Ravenscourt', Seafield Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3JG. Tel: (0479) 2286.

WANTED TO PURCHASE: Cassell-Skilton Bunter hardbacks and Howard Baker Magnet volumes. Also some duplicates for Sale. Please state titles wanted. Contact: Colin Crewe, 12B Westwood Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Tel: 0268 693735.

WANTED: Greystriars Press Volumes (original h/b editions): Vol. 19, The Greystriars Hikers; Vol. 23, The Joker of Greystriars; Vol. 26, A Bargain for Bunter; Vol. 29, The Mystery of The Moat House; Vol. 30, The Burglar of Greystriars; Vol. 33, The Sleuth of Greystriars; Vol. 35, The Sit-in Strike at Greystriars; Vol. 37, Billy Bunter's Lucky Day. BOOK CLUB volumes: 1, The Worst Boy at Greystriars; 2, Loder for Captain; 3, The Making of Harry Wharton (original h/b edition wanted. Will also give £25 edition as well as money, if required); 4, Harry Wharton & Co in India; 5, Tom Merry's Schooldays; 6, Paul Dallas at Greystriars; 9, Dick the Penman; 10, The First Ten Bullseye. MISCELLANEOUS: GHA 1974. All books must be in good condition. Offers to Mark Ford, 2 Fairfax Close, Leicester LE4 7FS. Tel: 0533 768529.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of the late Friar G.D. Wilson: Greystriars Press **OUT-OF-PRINT Magnet** volumes: Vol. 1. Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids £12; Vol. 2. The Rebellion of Harry Wharton £15; Vol. 5. Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksman £16; Vol. 6. The Downfall of Harry Wharton £14; Vol. 7. The Greystriars Pretender £14; Vol. 8. The Mystery of Wharton Lodge £12; Vol. 9. The Schemer of the Remove £12; Vol. 10. Bunter and the Greystriars Mutiny £15; Vol. 13. Bunter the Ventriloquist £12; Vol. 15. Calling Mr Quelch £12; Vol. 16. Harry Wharton's Enemy £15; Vol. 17. The Black Sheep of Greystriars £15; Vol. 18. The Greystriars Hikers £15; Vol. 21. The Tyrant of Greystriars £14; Vol. 22. Billy Bunter's Christmas £14; Vol. 23. The Joker of Greystriars £15; Vol. 24. The Kidnapped Schoolboys £14; Vol. 25. Billy Bunter in China £16; Vol. 26. A Bargain for Bunter £14; Vol. 27. The Shadow over Harry Wharton £15; Vol. 29. The Mystery of the Moat House £15; Vol. 33. The Sleuth of Greystriars £14; Vol. 34. Bunter's Seaside Caper £12. **IN PRINT Magnet** volumes: Vol. 3. Billy Bunter of Bunter Court £5; Vol. 4. Billy Bunter and the Terror of the Form £5; Vol. 11. Six Boys in a Boat £5; Vol. 12. The Greystriars Adventurers £7; Vol. 14. My Lord Bunter £5; Vol. 20. Alonzo the Great £5; Vol. 28. Billy Bunter's Circus £5; Vol. 31. Billy Bunter's Hat Trick £5; Vol. 33. The Greystriars Cowboys £5.

OUT OF PRINT BOOK CLUB LIMITED EDITION: Vol. 1. Worst Boy at Greystriars £20; Vol. 2. Loder for Captain £20; Vol. 3. The Making of Harry Wharton £25; Vol. 4. Harry Wharton & Co. in India £20; Vol. 5. Tom Merry's Schooldays £20; Vol. 6. Paul Dallas at Greystriars £20; Vol. 7. Greystriars Crusaders £20. Write to Mr John D. Wilson, 7 Warkworth Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 1LE.

The CONCISE MAGNET COMPANION '86

A complete list of every Greystriars story published in *The Magnet* from its inception in 1908 to its closure in 1940, together with illustrations and biographical information on editors.

PLUS

An up-to-date Guide to Greystriars Press and Book Club editions.

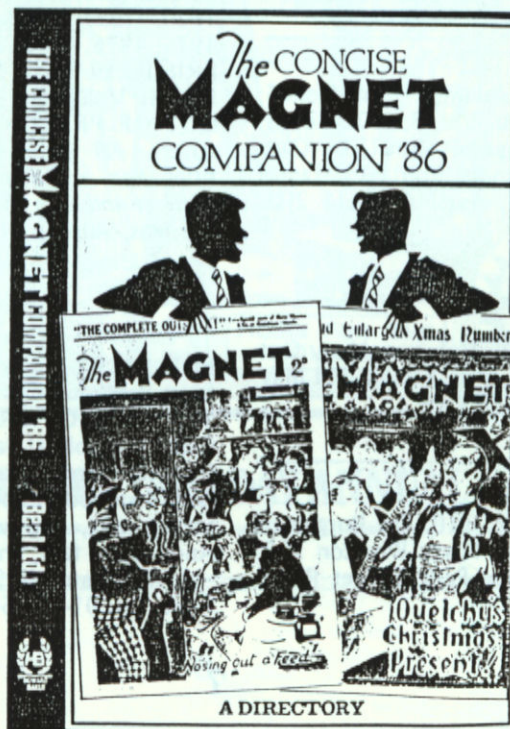
PLUS

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