



# The Greyfriars Gazette

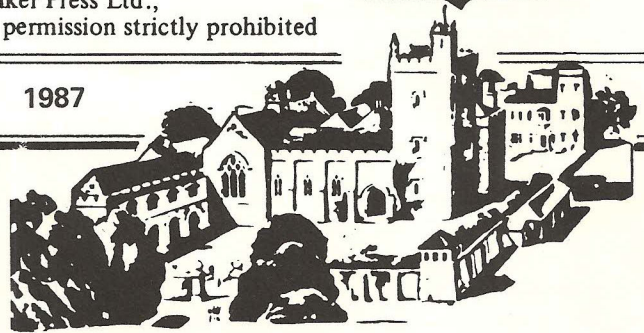
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NEWSLETTER No. 46 1987



The publication of this Gazette is, in itself, reassuring evidence that we have survived the 'summer crisis' and that our ongoing programme of world-famous Magnet volumes will continue until — hopefully — we have reproduced every issue of the entire series, from first number to last.

Our present score of collected facsimiles stands at 166 Magnet volumes (100 Greyfriars Press standard volumes plus 67 Greyfriars Book Club deluxe Magnet volumes), and to this, of course, can be added:

- 25 volumes of *The Gem* (Standard and Club)
- 26 volumes of *The Greyfriars Holiday Annual, Collectors Pies, &c*
- 4 volumes of *The Greyfriars Library*
- 3 Nelson Lee Omnibus volumes
- plus 7 miscellaneous titles.*

Counting on our fingers, this represents a staggering total of 230 volumes/collections to date (E & OE). In number of individual issues it must run into many thousands!

## HERE AT LAST

It was our hope that this issue of the Gazette and the Greyfriars 1987 Catalogue would both be ready in time to reach you for Christmas but, in the event, this proved impossible. However they should BOTH be with you now. If, for any reason whatsoever, a copy of the Greyfriars 1987 Catalogue fails to reach you, please do write to us at once, preferably with an SAE to guarantee immediate, same-day, by-return response.

The 1987 Catalogue lists all IN-PRINT volumes published to date, together with future Book Club titles

and any other books scheduled to be published under the Greyfriars (Miscellaneous) heading. It is comprehensive and it is definitive. It cancels all previous lists. It is thus an absolutely essential guide for every customer. Make sure you are not without your copy!

## EIRE OPTS OUT

Our readers in Eire may, or may not, be aware that the Irish Republic postal authorities (Oifig An Phuist) have opted out of the UK/Irish postal connection and have decided to be part of the European postal conglomerate, thus insisting that they be treated as a 'foreign' state so far as postal arrangements between our two countries are concerned.

In consequence, the amiable system by which our Eire customers were able to take advantage of the UK contract concession of up to five books in one parcel for £1.71 postage has been brought to an abrupt end. In future, Friars in the Irish Republic have to be deemed to be 'foreign', and are required to pay the Overseas postal rate of £1.30 per book. No "bulk order" concession is allowed by the Eire authorities.

## GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB

By now, Collectors should have received Club Volume No. 71: THE MISSING MASTER.

FROM



# HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Arterberry Road • Wimbledon • London SW 20

Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS

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





For the first part of the new year ahead, we will be publishing:

January – THE GREYFRIARS TRIPPERS

March – THE GREYFRIARS SUFFRAGETTE

May – A LESSON FOR PONSONBY

These and *subsequent volumes* are comprehensively described in the 1987 Catalogue. Each volume is priced £18. Still no price increases! In fact it should be noted – and, we hope, appreciated – that there has been no price increase whatsoever in the past three years.

Also, it should be noted that since the demise of the standard Greyfriars Press programme, the Book Club volumes are no longer exclusive to signed-up Book Club members. They are available to all Friars, regardless of whether or not they have made the Club commitment.

*In short, purchase of Greyfriars Book Club titles is now open to all.*

### POSTAL CHARGES

Needless to say, postal rates have increased since our last Order Form was printed. In particular, overseas rates have been advanced substantially. But we decided some time ago not to pass this increase on to our customers. We have absorbed it within our own budget. So, for the time being at least, our postal charges remain unchanged:

UK – From 1 to 5 books in one parcel: £1.71  
Overseas – including Eire – £1.30 per volume  
(No bulk order concession applies).

### CLUB NEWS London & Home Counties

Friar Maurice Hall has asked us to insert the following notice:

“Have you considered joining the Friar’s Club?

“ You can join in with running the club by becoming a committee member, or just attend those meetings that suit yourself. You could of course, be a postal member and enjoy the Friar’s Chronicles, our club magazine (Five issues per year).

“Whatever you decide, your suggestions and criticism are important to the committee. Postal members are as important as are those who can attend meetings.

“Your editors always need articles and observations on the hobby and of course letters; and we may wish to quote from these.

“Applications for membership (£4 p.a.) to:—  
Maurice Hall, Chairman/Treasurer,  
74 Hilldale Road,  
CHEAM,  
Surrey SM1 2JD.

“A happy year ahead to all collectors, wherever you may be, not forgetting our publisher, Bill Howard Baker”.

Editor regrets that reports from Clubs in North, Midlands, Middx and Cambridge were not forthcoming at time of Gazette going to press

## THE STORY PAPER COLLECTORS DIGEST

After twenty eight years of selfless service, the much revered Editor of Collectors Digest, Eric Fayne, of Excelsior House, Aldershot, has relinquished the editorial reins of his beloved hobby magazine. We wish him many happy years of ‘semi-retirement’. Nobody could be more deserving.

But rest assured, the editorship has been bequeathed into safe hands. The new editor of Collectors Digest will be none other than our distinguished Friar, author, expert on old-boys-and girls-books Mary Cadogan. With Mary at the helm of ‘C.D.’ all readers know the future of this monthly paper is bright and on-going.

For prices and subscription rates, write to: Mrs Mary Cadogan, COLLECTORS DIGEST, 46 Overbury Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2PY.

### COMIC ART

Comics aficionados will not want to miss two remarkable volumes advertised in our latest Catalogue. Two of the wondermen of British art are displayed in:

*The Comic Art of Roy Wilson, and in  
The Comic Art of Reg Parlett.*

Both volumes are available from us now, while stocks last. See our Catalogue for details, prices &c.





## BUNTER BY APPOINTMENT

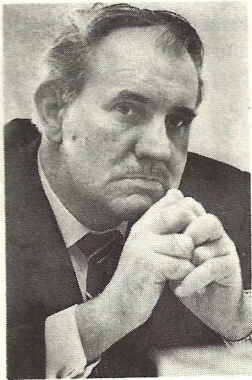
Following the success of his novel, *BUNTER SAHIB*, Daniel Green has written a sequel, recording the further hilarious adventures and misadventures of Billy Bunter's

Only in 1985, with the publication of *Bunter-Sahib*, did it become clear where Billy Bunter, the Fat Owl of the Remove, inherited his peculiar qualities. For that same instant cunning, that cowardice, that love of grub, that ability to triumph over every sort of adversity, and a good deal of his physique are the hallmarks of his great-great-grandfather and namesake.

William Frederick Augustus Bunter's experiences at school in the early nineteenth century and, after expulsion, his alarms and excursions in India form the highly diverting story told in *Bunter-Sahib*. Now *Bunter by Appointment* reveals, like the earlier book, not only Bunter's unexpectedly wide range of acquaintance among famous historical figures – seen from a very special angle – but also the influence of his royal connections, all the more notorious for being, as that old rogue Gurmakh Singh proudly puts it, 'wrong side of bloody blanket'.

great grandfather, the preposterous William Frederick Augustus Bunter [1st Viscount Buntingford] For 'who's who', see Page 2, Gazette No. 44.

Look out for publication in early May of *Bunter By Appointment*, by Daniel Green, published by Hodder & Stoughton, £10.95.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



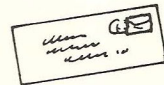
*The announcement in the last issue of the Gazette that Magnet Volume 100 – GOODBYE GREYFRIARS – would mark the end of the Greyfriars Press series of 'Standard' volume collections was universally received with a sense of shock and of loss. Yet it was a time for expressions of gratitude, too . . .*



Mr W.J. Rayner, 6 The Curlews, Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk IP33 2NL, wrote: 'Bad news received with sorrow. I have purchased all the books of both series from No.1 and hope the Book Club survives. In any case – thank you for the pleasure of the past'.

Sentiments echoed by Mr V.J. Powell, 35 Graham Road, South Yardley, Birmingham B25 8JU: 'I would like to say how sad it is that this is to be the last volume in the Magnet series. I hope you will continue to publish the Greyfriars Book Club. Thank you for all the wonderful hours of reading'.

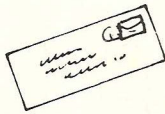
From Friar Alan Dacre, 7 Leopold Street, Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 3QL came a call to action: 'Let not the good ship *SS Greyfriars* founder. Not if we can help it. I, for one, would dearly love to achieve the great aim of possessing every Magnet from 1908 to 1940. I have dreamt of it since boyhood, and to let the chance slip away now, when we are so close to achieving our goal, would be a tragedy. So any financial salvation proposed – a Greyfriars disaster fund



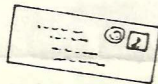


or whatever — I am all for it, and only hope I am not on my own. So rally round, dear boys, and between us let's keep the lovable old tub afloat! PS: Any increase in price welcomed. £75 enclosed for purchases herewith. Keep the change. Every little might help'.

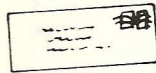
*Positive action all readers could take would be to request extra copies of the new catalogue and put them into the hands of interested friends — Ed.*



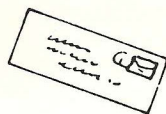
Some thought the news worse than it actually was. Friar D.H. Bott, of Waverley, 1 Clarksdale, Great Easton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, wrote: 'I greatly regret the ending of your venture. I have had a great deal of pleasure from reading the Magnet all my life and I still remember the unhappy disbelief I felt as a boy when the newsagent told me it had stopped in 1940'.



And Dr M. Baker wrote from 117 Dysart Road, Kirkaldy, Fife: 'Your sad news overwhelms me. To think after about forty years with Greyfriars and St. Jim's during my school, university and medical practice days, all finished! I hope things improve, but sincere thanks for years of pleasure. *Yach derach no chardan*'.

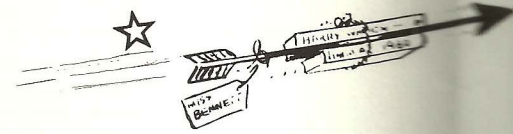


But not ALL has finished, of course, as the Reverend Anthony John Cooke, of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, 17 Cirencester Street, Paddington, London W2 5SR, was quick to note: 'I am sorry about the Standard series, but it's not really surprising. I wondered how long you could keep it up. *Best wishes for the future programme, however! Rely on my support!*'

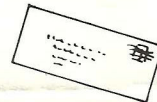


From the Old School House, Runwell, Wickford, Essex, Friar Johnny Burslem wrote: 'I'm shattered! But thank you for all the past years'.

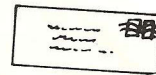
From 136 St Mary's Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8JB, Miss Julie Carver wrote: 'I just have to say how sorry I was to read that the 100th Greyfriars Press volume is likely to be your last. And I had to tell you how much enjoyment the Greyfriars Press has given me. Thank you so much.'



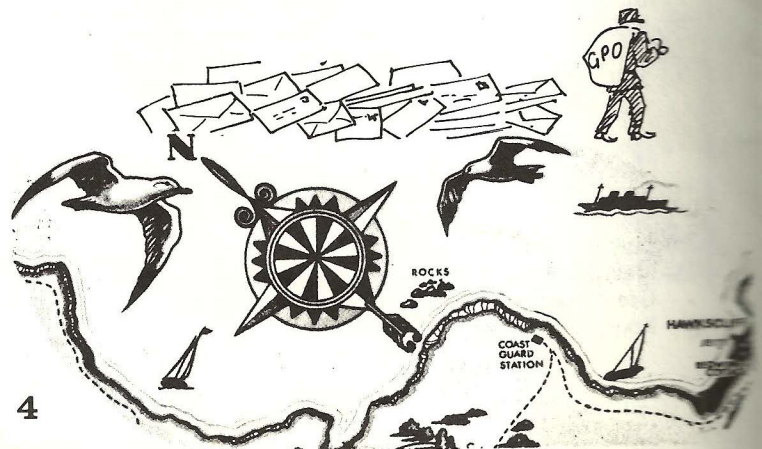
Sentiments echoed by Friar John Nicholls, 'Little Rill', 5 Stanbrook Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 3SW: 'I write to thank you for all those splendid Greyfriars books you produced right from volume No.1 to No. 100, and not least for introducing me to those other schools, St. Jim's, Rookwood, etc. It all had to come to an end sometime, I suppose, but I shall especially miss the Holiday Annuals with all their welcome surprises. I was even hooked by the stories of Cliff House! So, if there are to be no more Magnet volumes after 100—well done. And again all my thanks for many happy hours of reading — both past and future.'



Friar Geoffrey Lardner, Georgian House, Broad Street, Littledean, Gloucestershire GL14 3NH, agreed: 'Life will not be the same. But I hope you will be able to keep the Book Club running for a long time yet!'



Future possibilities are also seized on by Mr A.F. Sheil, JP., of 25 Hebden Road, Liverpool L11 9AJ: 'May I wish you *continued success* in your publication of the finest school stories of all times'.





# THE Magnet <sup>1d</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

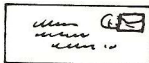


**WANTED**

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?

And Friar E.F. Billings, of 31 Stoneyfield Road Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 2HP, says: 'I hope you may be able to go on with the Book Club. I really do appreciate all you have done for Magnet readers of long ago . . . and not so long ago'.



'May I salute you,' says Friar Brian Doyle, of 14a Clarendon Drive, Putney, London SW15, 'for all the great work you have done, and are doing, for us 'old boys' over the years. We all owe you a dept of gratitude.'

*We are rewarded by your approbation — Ed.*

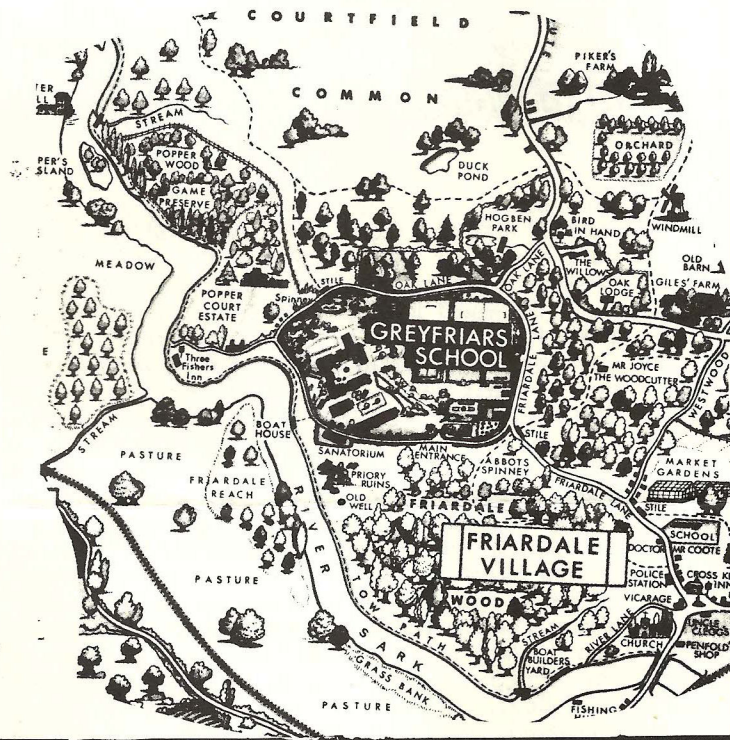


Friar Norman Kadish, of 126 Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8SS, had this to say: 'I am sorry that the H.B. editions have come to an end. It has become quite a happy ritual of anticipation to receive these well-bound books. Still, it seems that the general public is not attuned to these particular well-written vintage stories. They don't know what they are missing. Perhaps some St. Jim's and St. Frank's stories from time to time will sell better. You will be interested to know that looking through my bedside cabinet I have come across every pamphlet and catalogue that you have published since 1971, and before.'

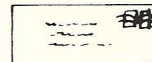
## THE MAP

New supplies of the Greyfriars Wall Map are now available Price £3.

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.



And Friar Lionel Galloway, of 9 Woodside, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 8PH, had an interesting idea: 'If, as you say, it is uneconomic to publish the Greyfriars Press volumes, would it not be possible to accelerate the Book Club issues, even if a price increase was involved. I feel sure you would be supported in this. As far as I am concerned, and I am sure that I am far from being alone in my sentiments, it would be a catastrophe if you were unable to complete your programme which has given so much pleasure to so many of us. Anyway, all I can say is, please, please keep it going!'



Friar James Merrills, of Exshaw, Alberta, Canada, had the same idea: 'We can only hope that the continuation of the Book Club will bring about a complete set of stories after so many years. Is there any chance of increasing the number of Book Club editions during the year, as it will take a considerable time to complete the series with the present set up. I had been hoping for an early completion date, so that a new series, such as Gem, Popular, etc., etc., could be started. Hoping for better news soon.'

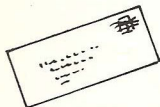


From 509 Windsor Avenue, Hastings, New Zealand, Friar J.R. Murtagh wrote: 'It was a sad day for me when I received your newsletter. Twice in my life I've received a sad blow. 1st in 1940 when the Magnet ceased publication and 2nd just now, to hear that the Greyfriars Press will cease publication with No. 100. This will leave approximately 300 Magnets to be reprinted and even with the Book Club carrying on will take ten years or so at the present rate - if the Book Club manages to survive. I had hoped that you and I would live long enough to see all the Magnets reprinted.'

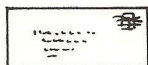
By air mail  
Par avion



From Dinyar H. Lala, 12, Southlands, 177, Colaba Road, Bombay 400 005, India. 'I was particularly grieved to note from your last Gazette that the demise of the facsimile reproduction of Magnets was imminent, and that Vol. 100 would in all probability be the last Howard Baker Press Magnet so published, apart from the Book Club volumes. I do realize that in today's world a commercial enterprise can no longer tolerate the kind of diversion of profits to subsidize a money-losing venture that Howard Baker Press must undoubtedly have subsidized out of its more profitable ventures, but I, and no doubt several other fans of Greyfriars, will be saddened by the loss. In particular, those of us of the younger generations, who became collectors late by virtue of our late births will now lose our hopes of ever completing our collections of the Greyfriars stories. I, with almost 45 Magnets and 17 Book Club editions now feel that the huge gaps that exist in my collection have no chance of being filled after the demise of the Magnet facsimile reproductions. I do hope that the auditors have a change of heart, but I do not think they will, for the joy that the Greyfriars stories instil in the hearts of millions is not a commodity that will reflect tangibly on the balance sheet of the Greyfriars Press division of Howard Baker.'



Mary Cadogan, of 24 Southend Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1SD, said: 'It is sad that the No. 100 volume may be the last in that format - but good news that the Club special series will continue. All of it represents a splendid publishing achievement. Thank you again for the many delights your books have brought to me - and to so many others.'



And one such reader is Mr J. Henwood, of 17 Second Avenue, Walthamstow, London E17 9QH: 'I am an O.A.P. and chairbound, so you can imagine the joy and relaxation that these books bring. To quote from the *New Statesman*, your publications are 'Richly nostalgic. Good bedside books for the over 30's - and they seem to be popular with other age groups, too! There are several volumes in our local library, but you can never find one on the shelves! Anyone who is sick of so-called 'modern' literature and depressed by the terrible state of the world should be given your books on prescription!'



Friar R.J. Hodge, of 29 Lampton Road, Long Ashton, Bristol BS18 9AL, says it all: 'So - we have come to the Hundredth and probably final volume of the Greyfriars Press standard 'Magnet' series. A memorable milestone if in one way a sad one - but all things must come to an end . . . unfortunately. I still vividly recall the pleasure of purchasing Volume No. 1, Billy Bunter in the Land of the Pyramids, and the anticipation of more to come, whilst, I must confess, wondering if your venture would 'come off'. Well, it did indeed, and much more, with the facsimiles of other associated papers. So will you allow me to express my thanks and my appreciation of your enterprise? It is one which has not only given so much delight to so many of us but has also ensured the perpetuation of the old papers in an enduring format. Unfailingly, the presentation - binding and reproduction - has done full justice to the content. I am glad also that you had the 'courage' to reprint the 'Sub' stories. Whatever their literary merits, and despite the 'Everlasting Controversy' they were part and parcel of The Saga. Once more, thank you, and my continuing good wishes.'

To which we reciprocate *our* good wishes to all our loyal readers world-wide.

You are splendid people, and deserving of the best continuing service we can give you.

We look forward to addressing you again with more news and views later in the year

Your Publisher



*Howard Baker*



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED  
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: At £14 each, the following out-of-print Magnet volumes (or would exchange on temporary or permanent basis): Vols. 2, 4, 7, 10, 15, 16, 25, 31, 35 and 37. Also many Armada/Merlin Bunter paperbacks. Write: Robert Carey, 369 Grace Park Heights, Dublin 9.

~~WANTED: Greyfriars Book Club Vol. 2. (LODER FOR CAPTAIN), £60 offered. Contact Paul McGinn, 22 Brooke Drive, Black's Road, Belfast BT11 9NH.~~

FOR SALE: Holiday Annuals 1921, 1940, 1973, 1974 H.B., 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981, Collectors Pie No. 1. Gem 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 - £5 each/Greyfriars Library S.O.L. 1, 2, 3, 4 - £3 each/O.P. Holiday Annuals: 1920, 1928, 1925, Gem No. 6 - £10 each/Holiday Annual 1974 - £16/Also O.P. G-P volumes from £14/Postage: 1 book - £1.50; 2 - £2; 3 or 4 - £2.40; 5 or more - post free. Write: Mr J.T.Hayes, 81a Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey.

FOR SALE: From the Estate of Friar Brian Crook: Book Club Vol. 34 - £10/ The following IN PRINT Gem volumes at £5 each: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15/ Gem Vol. 6. £10 - no dust cover/Greyfriars Holiday Annuals, 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1940, 1941, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1983 - IN PRINT £6, OUT OF PRINT £9/Nelson Lee volumes 1 and 2, £5 each/Billy Bunter's Own, Vol. 12 - £6/ Collectors Pie, Magnet/

Gem Vol. 15 - £5/HB Easter Omnibus 1978 - £6/ HB Summer Omnibus 1977 - £6/ Sexton Blake, Crime at Christmas - £6/ Magnet Vols. 1-97 inclusive - IN PRINT £6, OUT OF PRINT £10 (Some do not have dust covers) /All prices plus postage. Some Magnet/Gem single copies available. Write for details stating volume number and title required. All books in excellent condition - Ann Blood, 33 Lytham Gardens, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 2TR.

FOR SALE: OUT OF PRINT Howard Baker Magnet volumes: Vol. 5. Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksmen, £15; Vol. 6. The Downfall of Harry Wharton (no jacket), £10; Vol. 8. The Mystery of Wharton Lodge, £12; The Schemer of the Remove, £12; Billy Bunter and the Greyfriars Mutiny, £14; Vol. 19. The Greyfriars Hikers, £15; The Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974, £10. Write to: Gearge Beal, 48 Kings Drive, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8NQ.

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.

FOR SALE: OUT OF PRINT Magnet volumes Nos. 2, 5, 16, 17 and 19. Also Magnet Vol. 11 and OUT OF PRINT Greyfriars Book Club No. 9. Write: G.C. Dalley, 8 Albacore Road, Leegomory, Telford, Salop.



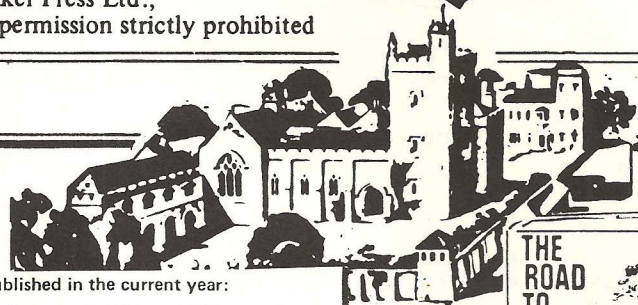


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## NEW BOOKS FOR 1987

Forthcoming GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB volumes scheduled to be published in the current year:

MARCH — Club Vol. 73.

### THE GREYFRIARS SUFFRAGETTE

by Frank Richards [circa 1914]

A selection of single stories from the halcyon years. Magnet issue Nos. 338. *The Match with St Jim's*; 339. *Self-Condemed*; 340. *Harry Wharton & Co.s Holiday (DN)*; 341. *Wild Women at Greyfriars*; 342. *Coker's Conquest*.

MAY — Club Vol. 74.

### A LESSON FOR PONSONBY

by Frank Richards

Where the odious Cecil Ponsonby suffers a series of hard knocks.

Magnet issue Nos. 343. *A Cool Card*; 344. *Ruictions at Highcliffe*; 345. *Spirited Away*; 346. *Hard Up*; 347. *Changed by Adversity*; 348. *The Greyfriars Spy-Hunters*.

JULY — Club Vol. 75.

### THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL RIVALS

by Frank Richards

Friars versus Grammarians and other stories.

Magnet issue Nos. 349. *Won by Pluck*; 350. *Foiling the Foe*; 351. *The Photo Prize*; 352. *Looking for Alonzo*; 353. *The Reign of Terror*; 354. *The Black Footballers*.

All of the above 'Red' Magnets are much valued, much sought-after collectors' items. Originals are virtually unobtainable.

Limited, numbered, signed de-luxe editions, in slip-case presentation box, with protective covering.

Available directly from the Publisher at £18 per volume

SEPTEMBER — Club Vol. 76.

### BILLY BUNTER'S UNCLE

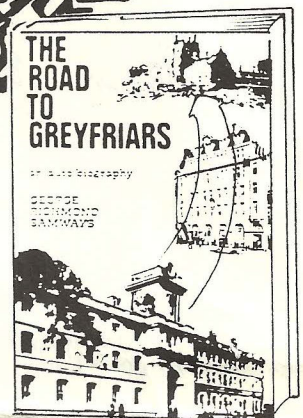
by Frank Richards

This volume includes a Christmas Double Number. Magnet issue Nos. 355. *Fagging for Coker*; 356. *The Snob of the Remove*; 357. *The Return of the Prodigal (DN)*; 358. *Billy Bunter's Uncle*; 359. *The Patriotic Schoolmaster*.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER — Club Vol. 77.  
THE CRUISE OF THE FAMOUS FIVE

by Frank Richards

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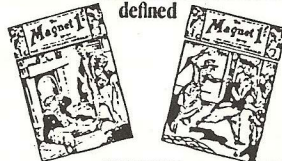
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