



The Greyfriars Gazette

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SOME FRIARS have taken us to task over the patchily-printed appearance of some of the pages in Club volumes 89 to 92. They are not up to our usual high standard at all, they declaim. They are, of course, correct.

Happily the total number of affected pages in volumes 89 to 91 is not great. Club volume 92 is another matter. It has more bad pages than the earlier volumes because although the final printed results in all of the books looks much the same the actual root cause is very different. The only thing that all of these poor pages have in common is that they were all caused by circumstances outside our control.

Nevertheless, we deeply regret every one.

As every Friar well knows, our books are facsimiles — intended to be faithful copies of the original issues we reproduce — which, in the past, have most frequently been drawn from the mint, uncirculated files of the Amalgamated Press. It follows that, in printing from such issues, there should be — and have been — very few problems.

In the case of volumes 89 to 91, the affected pages complained of were entirely due to the fact that we weren't using mint, uncirculated originals. These were missing from the old A.P. files. We appealed for help to known collectors with substantial resources but only one came to our aid. The copies he was able to provide were very far from being mint. Some pages had even been repaired — and it showed. Nevertheless, we had to use them, and we are very grateful to the late Friar Hall for his generous assistance. Without it — since on-one else was willing to help — *volumes 89 to 91 might never have appeared at all.*

But, as said earlier, the imperfections of volume 92 were due to other causes entirely. Still outside our control, but under the keenest scrutiny at the moment, and at present we can't say more.

But note that our very latest volume Club No. 93, THE DEFENCE OF HURREE SINGH is well up to standard — as will all future volumes.

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

FUTURE INDEFINITE

Future publication plans for the Book Club remain uncertain because of continued difficulty in obtaining the loan of suitable original Magnets for reproduction, covering the period January—June 1912 (Magnet numbers 204—231).

Consequently, we may well have to mark time for a few months and sell only existing stock until the missing half year comes to hand — as sooner or later it must. For it is unthinkable that the Great Endeavour should end incomplete, at the heel of the hunt, because of the selfish, dog-in-the-manger attitude of a few Collectors who have the copies to lend but are unwilling to lend them, despite every safeguard and assurance — and generous payment, in cash or kind.

So the pleasure of the many is sacrificed. But on what a sad and shameful altar.



MORE O/P TITLES

It should be noted that the following titles have recently gone out-of-print:

TIGER TIM'S OWN COMIC COLLECTION
THE GREYFRIARS HIKERS (*HBM No. 19*)
BILLY BUNTER'S CHRISTMAS (*HBM No. 22*)
THE CONCISE MAGNET COMPANION '86

A limited number of Hardback copies of THE MAGNET COMPANION '77 remain — still at the unchanged **bargain price of £4.95**. But this small stock won't last for ever.

RESURRECTION

In the deepest recesses of our warehouse, two titles long believed to be out-of-print have just surfaced. We have very limited stocks of each.

Titles are:

BILLY BUNTER'S CIRCUS (*HB Magnet Vol. 28*)
BILLY BUNTER'S CORONATION PARTY (*HB Magnet Vol. 40*)

If you want any **ORDER NOW**. Price £18 each, plus post.



BIGGEST AND BEST CATALOGUE OF ALL

A new and comprehensive catalogue of all currently available Greyfriars Press titles has just been published. It is of a size and style which we have never before attempted and provides full details of the contents of all available volumes. (E&OE) It is A5 in size (approx 8¼ inches by 5¾ inches) and runs to 28 pages. For your free copy please send a self-addressed envelope (A5 in size) bearing 22p in stamps.

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PAINLESS PAYMENTS FOR FAR-FLUNG FRIARS

Over the years many Friars have told us of the difficulties they have encountered in remitting pounds sterling from far-away places, wherewith to purchase their hampers of Greyfriars Press books.

Help is at hand. Lately, a lot of banking authorities have been doing a lot of things to make the transfer of cash easier.

For example: if you live in the Republic of Ireland, you can go into any branch of Allied Irish Banks and buy an Allied Irish *Sterling* Money Order or Bankers Draft cheque across the counter for the exact sum that you need, and simply remit that to us. Saves punting about with the Irish pound.

If you live in any of the EEC countries, you can go into any Post Office and obtain an International Giro-cheque payable in sterling, and International Giro will remit it to us.

If you live in Canada, the Canadian Post Office operates a most efficient International Money Order service - obtainable at virtually every Post Office -- which makes the transfer of money, in sterling, very easy.

And if you live in the United States, South Africa, and a whole host of other places, your local branch of Barclays Bank, or Barclays Bank International, can sell you a sterling money order across the counter for any amount you require at any time.

All Overseas accounts are payable in Sterling, either by International Money Order or Bankers' Draft drawn in Sterling on a London Bank.

If you don't remit in sterling, we will have to pass on to you the currency conversion charges that our Bankers charge us. And these are horrendous and best avoided. So...



'I SAY, YOU FELLOWS'

Publ. Wharton Press. Illustrated. £14.95.

After Mary Cadogan's biography of Frank Richards — THE CHAP BEHIND THE CHUMS — many Friars must have thought that there was nothing new left to say about the life and times of the Founder of Greyfriars School. But by dint of discovering and exploiting hitherto unavailable sources, Maurice Hall has achieved what many must have supposed to be impossible. In a most handsome production, he provides new anecdotes and new insights.

Over the years, this book will come to be regarded as a most valued addition to collectors' libraries. No doubt it will not entirely escape the cut and thrust of controversy but, after all, what biography worth its salt ever does?

THE REDISCOVERY OF 'WILLIAM'

For many of us, of course, Richmal Crompton's immortal scallywag was never lost. But, triggered off by the forthcoming centenary of the birth of his creator, publishers Macmillan have been doing their best to stir up a new surge of interest who may well prove to be one of literature's true indestructibles.

The actual centenary falls on November 15th. Meantime a William Exhibition has started at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood; a stage production is in the pipeline from Peter Hall; and the National Film Theatre is planning a 'William Film Week' — probably in November.

On the book front, Macmillan have produced something which they describe as a 'facsimile' of the very first William book — **JUST WILLIAM**. It is a paperback whereas the first book was hardcover, and the publishers have been unable to reproduce the original jacket illustration. It has been redrawn. The text pages are reproduced from one of the original books, but the overall page size is smaller. Not what *we* call a facsimile at all, in fact.

Much better value is **THE WILLIAM COMPANION** by our own Mary Cadogan — an indispensable handbook for every enthusiast. (Mac./£14.95)

Both are in the bookshops now.

POSTAL CHARGES

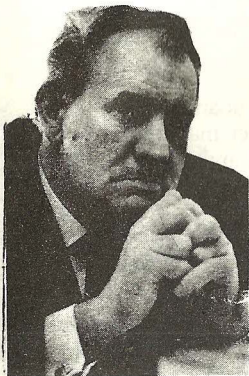
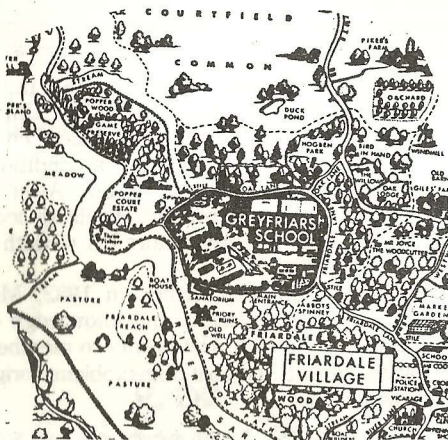
Needless to say, postal rates have increased since our last Order Form was printed. In particular, overseas rates have been advanced substantially.

United Kingdom : 1 to 5 books
in one parcel - £2. 25p
Overseas : £2.30 per volume.



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.



A FINAL WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

At this time of going to press it is impossible to say when the next Gazette will be published. It may be that one-page editions, containing only important 'news-flashes' will become the norm. But whatever eventuates, be assured that our regular customers will be kept informed of all future developments.

To make doubly sure that you don't miss out, Friars are advised to send us the occasional S.A.E. marked 'Next Gazette after —' (stating the number of the last one received). Thus you will always be in the Vanguard of informed Friars.



Sincerely,
Your Publisher

Howard Baker



HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED

27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8AF

MAURICE MICHAEL HALL

Requiescat in Pace

Dr. Peter McCall writes:

The death has been announced of Maurice Hall, the founder Chairman of the Friars' Club. He had been battling against ill health for most of his life. As a teenager, he spent two years in hospital — the then "cure" for a hip disease. During this time, he developed diabetes; a condition that he never allowed, (as do many sufferers), to dominate his life. After retiring early, his health deteriorated further, and, sadly, rapidly. His death occurred on 27th September 1990 in the U.S.A., just two days before his sixtieth birthday.

When the Friars' Club was formed in 1982, Maurice was unanimously elected Chairman. His enthusiasm, and knowledge of the subject made him an excellent officer to the club. His loyalty to members, the club, and his own ideals, were well suited to combat the problems original members will recall when the club was formed.

Many years ago, he wrote a biography of Frank Richards. It gave me great pleasure to help Maurice with the rewriting of this book — even though the pressures of work only allowed me to assist with the first half. Released not long before his death, "I Say, You Fellows", was privately published. Containing much new material, it is a fascinating account of Frank Richards' life. There is, perhaps, not enough literary discussion for some; but that was not his aim.

That the book was reviewed in *The Times* was, for Maurice, a real 'high'. The reviewer, most astutely, captured the point of the book, "*It is not really a biography at all, but one man's record of a very old gentleman who captured his imagination long ago and whose hold on it has not relaxed. You are on hallowed ground.*"

After a fair assessment of the book, Byron Rogers ends thus, "*As retirement finally comes, an accountant can record his tribute to a man who made him happy when he was young. You do not often come on books like this.*"

That he was able to publish his book, and see its success before his death is a blessing that gave Maurice much satisfaction.

After retirement from work, due, to declining health, Maurice devoted his time to the Club and Hobby which had always been so much of his life.

Once it became plain that the illness was terminal, he bravely determined to fly to the USA to see his family and grand-children. Sadly, while out there, he collapsed, and his condition rapidly worsened.

When I spoke to him only the night before he passed away, he was making plans for his return home the following day; and discussing the future of the Friars' Club.

While death is always hard to accept, it is comforting to know that the family, whom he always held most dear, had all been able to make their personal farewells. Many of us, too, were able to speak to him and, in our own ways, say our good-byes to a dear friend whom we will all miss.

Finally, we all extend our deepest condolences to Molly, his widow, his children and Denis, his brother, (also a member of the Club).



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CLASSIFIED ADVTs

Sales and Wants

WANTED— Urgently needed to complete my collection: GEM VOLUME No. 6. TOM MERRY'S HOLIDAY. Will pay top price. Write or 'phone. Anthony O'Farrell, East Wood, Coolnorr, Carrigaline, County Cork, Eire.

EXCHANGE OR PART EXCHANGE— I have a GHA 1926 which I want to exchange or part-exchange for a GHA 1924. F.D. Smith, 19 Helensmead Road, Watcombe Park, Torquay TQ2 8PD. Telephone: 0803 327826.

FOR SALE— Magnet Vols. 2, 5, 6 & 8—£20 each. Magnet Vol. 4—£12. Also WANTED—Book Club Vols. 3, 4 & 9. Write: David D. Ball, 42 Barnwell Road, Melksham, Wilts SN12 7DG.

WANTED— The majority of the first 40 Greyfriars Press Magnet volumes. Also Book Club volumes, especially Nos. 3 and 5. Write: W.L. Bawden, 14 Highland Park, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2EX.

WANTED— (Skilton) Billy Bunter's Postal Order and other Cassell/Skilton Bunter hardbacks. Write: David Conn, 99 Abercrombie Road, Fleetwood, Lancs. FY7 7AY.

FOR SALE— Book Club Vols. 8, 19 & 25—£10 each. Magnet Vols. 3, 32, 44 and 77—£6 each. Magnet Vol. No. 12—£7. Out-of-print Magnet Volumes 15—39—£15 each. All the foregoing very good condition with dust-jackets or slipcases. The following have slightly worn dust-jackets or small tape marks inside the covers, otherwise very good condition: Out-of-print volumes 1, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 34, 36, 37, 38 and 41—£9 each. Volumes 50, 54, 55, 64 and 65—£5 each. Also Gem Volumes 2, 8—£4 each. Sexton Blake Star of Union Jack—£4. Write: J. Burgess, 112 Ashford Road, Eastbourne, Sussex BN21 3TP.



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CLASSIFIED SALES AND WANTS

BUY, SELL or SWAP— All Howard Baker volumes, Original Holiday Annuals, Cassell/Skilton Bunter books, original Magnets, in fact most Hamiltonia. To buy, sell or exchange or for just a jolly good chat about the hobby, contact:— Colin Crewe, 12B Westwood Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Tel: 0268 693735 evenings. 7.15–9.30pm and weekends.

WANTED— The Rebellion of Harry Wharton; The Shadow Over Harry Wharton; The Burglar of Greyfriars; Billy Bunter's Hat Trick; The Sleuth of Greyfriars; Billy Bunter's Lucky Day — All offers and prices to Mr D.C. Pool, 129 Bentworth Road, Westway, London W12 7AA.

FOR SALE— Various in-print and out-of-print Magnet Volumes at fair prices. Send SAE for list to Mr I Donnison, 7 Side Cliff Road, Fullwell, Sunderland SR6 9JP.

FOR SALE— Six Boys In A Boat £22; Alonzo The Great £20; Bob Cherry's Big Bargain £22; Billy Bunter's Coronation Party £6; The Schoolboy Smuggler £6; Bunter's Christmas Party £6; Mystery Man of Greyfriars £6; Bill Bunter's Easter Trip £6; Bunter the Hypnotist £22; Bunter's Funny Turn £22; Expelled from Greyfriars £6; The Greyfriars Impersonator £6; Bunter's Orders £6; Bunter's Christmas Carol £6— Write to Mr A.G. Fordyce-Harvey, 29 Inkerman House, 14-18 Nevern Road, Earls Court, London SW5 9PH.

WANTED— Out-of-print Greyfriars Press Volumes — No. 1. The Worst Boy At Greyfriars; No. 4. Harry Wharton & Co in India; No. 6. Paul Dallas at Greyfriars. Offers, please, to: Mr. J. Wilkinson, 68 Crompton House, Wigan, Lancs WN1 3RH.

FOR SALE— 1925 Greyfriars Holiday Annual, ORIGINAL, excellent condition, £15.00. 1930 Greyfriars Holiday Annual, ORIGINAL, excellent condition, £15.00. 1940 Greyfriars Holiday Annual, ORIGINAL, very good condition, £10.00. BOOK CLUB VOLUMES: No. 2. LODER FOR CAPTAIN £25.00. No. 28. TOM REDWING'S TRIUMPH £12.00. No. 34. MICK THE GIPSY £12.00. All three in MINT condition, with wrappers and slip boxes. GREYFRIARS PRESS: No. 5. COURTFIELD CRACKSMAN series, very good condition, £12.00. *Postage extra, at cost.* Derek Vaughan, "Tregenna", Longmead, Lynton, Devon. Tel: LYNTON (0598) 53217.