

● “Well known as a Dickens character”

Billy Bunter joins the immortals



LONDON, Sat. — Britain plans to immortalise Billy Bunter, the bumptious bunteating bounder from Greyfriars.

A nation-wide hunt has started for every manuscript that Frank Richards (pictured) wrote about the school adventures of the fat, bespectacled Billy and his mates.

When collected they will form the basis of a Maidstone museum.

Frank Richards, who invented the fat boy who ate his way into the affection of millions of children and adults, lived the life of a recluse only a few miles

from Maidstone.

Richards created Bunter 54 years ago.

When he died last year, aged 86, Richards left only £11,000.

For nearly 70 years he churned out 25,000 words a week.

“But he had no regard for his own work,” says John Wernham, the man who plans to start the museum.

Wernham claims that if the manuscripts can be collected Billy Bunter will be as well known next century as Dickens' characters are today.

(Sunday Telegraph Service)