

THE STORY

JANUARY

1948

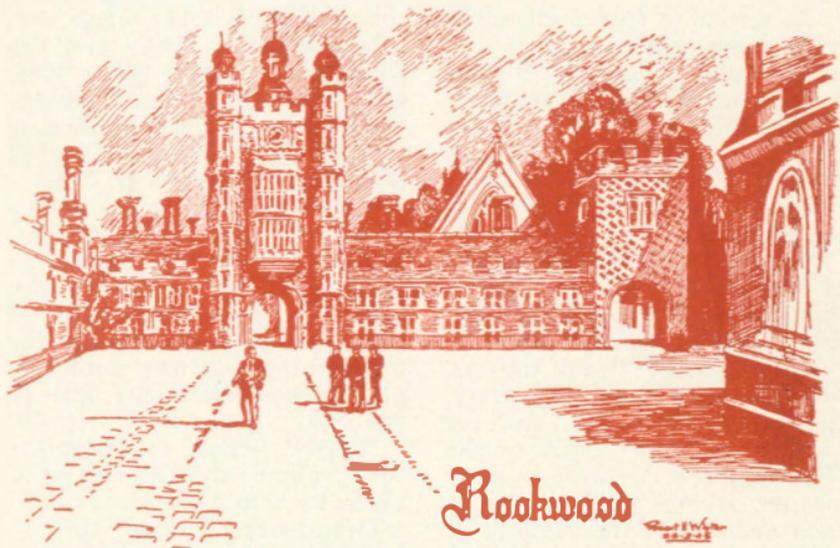
PAPER

No. 29

Vol. 2

COLLECTOR

A Magazine Featuring Articles of Interest to All  
Collectors of British Boys' Periodicals of the Past



: : AN AMATEUR MAGAZINE : :

# The Story Paper Collector WHO'S WHO

No. 3: H. M. BOND

**I**N ORDER to vary the style of this series I made a trip to Birchgrove, Cardiff, to call upon that eminent authority on "Blakeology," Herbert Maurice Charles Bond. Caerphilly Road, I found, was a main one with modern shops and houses, and the door of one-seven-two was promptly opened by Maurice himself.

We settled in the comfortable front room which might easily have passed for Sexton Blake's own apartment with its neat shelves housing the Bond collection of over a thousand tales of the great man whose portrait (after Jones) hung in a prominent position.

"So this is the headquarters of the Sexton Blake Club," I thought as my eyes rested on Eric Parker's bust of "S. B."

Although the Bond minors, Maurice, aged four, and Mary, eighteen months, have not yet commenced their course of the "Baker Street History," their mother devotes an hour or so each evening to the reading of a *Union Jack*.

Maurice Bond does much to

recapture the old popularity of the world-famous detective; this is confirmed by his activity in having a petition-letter sent to the Amalgamated Press. A familiar figure in these pages, Maurice has written many other short articles and rendered invaluable assistance when the writer compiled a new work describing the methods and characteristics of the man from Baker Street.

Reading the old *U.J.* and *The Sexton Blake Library* since 1926, he commenced "serious" collecting in 1944, aiming at a complete run of all Blake yarns. His favourite writer is G. H. Teed.

When Maurice is not selling or loaning out books from his mobile Library, he listens to radio drama and classical music.

My visit concluded with real Blakeata sentiment. It was the finest thing that man could say of man and simplicity was its keynote.

"Sexton Blake," said Maurice, "always acted towards the poorest as he would the richest."

Grand words, and an apt description of the master story paper character.



A Series of Short Articles About Our Contributors,  
Collectors, and Readers : : Compiled by H. R. C.



# The Story Paper Collector

Articles of Interest to Collectors of British Boys' Periodicals of the Past

No. 29

JANUARY, 1948

Vol. 2

## "MAGNET" MEMORIES

By T. W. PUCKRIN

IN COMMON with many other enthusiasts, I listened to the broadcast on the B.B.C. by Frank Richards during the last week of 1945. It brought to mind many memories of *The Magnet* and of outstanding stories in that fine publication. Some of them I will endeavour to recall.

After a lapse of so many years such recollections are at the best bound to be fragmentary. Memory, unlike good wine, does not improve with keeping, and I have to confess that many of the old stories have completely escaped my memory.

Two I remember quite distinctly were in Nos. 1 and 2 of *The Magnet*. The first was titled "The Making of Harry Wharton" and the second "The Taming of Harry."

No. 1 features Harry Wharton's first appearance at Greyfriars after his guardian's failure to deal with him at home. The old soldier realized that the rough-

and-tumble of school life would accomplish what he himself could not. It is in this story that that Harry dives into the Sark to rescue Frank Nugent, an incident that results in them becoming firm friends.

No. 2 shows him established at Greyfriars and meeting the flaxen-haired Bob Cherry. The cover-illustration depicts him with ink on his face, poured over him by Bob, an incident that lead to a fight in the study.

My next recollection brings me to the Cliff House girls, who were brought into the stories from time to time. Hurree Jamset Ram Singh makes his debut in "The Nabob's Diamond." "Inky," with his "speechfulness of the esteemed English," is now almost as legendary as Billy Bunter.

A whole article could be written about the great Bunter and still the subject would not be exhausted; it can be said that he

has passed into the language of schoolboy literature.

If my memory serves me rightly Wun Lung was next to make his bow. I can remember the Chinese schoolboy flying a kite with a dragon's head painted on it. Mr. Prout, that mighty hunter, saw it in the dusk and, taking it for a prehistoric monster, promptly shot it.

Then we come to "A Lancashire Lad," and Mark Linley appears upon the scene. Bulstrode, Skinner & Co. make things hot for Linley, who turns the tables on them and gives his chief tormentor a good hiding.

Mark Linley appears again in a series that concludes with the story "With Flying Colours." This series covered three or four numbers and dealt with the theme of stolen valuables. Harry Wharton and his three chums stand by the Lancashire lad who is unjustly accused of the thefts. Needless to say he is cleared of the charge.

READERS with good memories may recall "The Schoolboy Actors." This was a particularly good series and dealt with Harry Wharton & Co.'s ventures into the realm of Opera. Whether a group of schoolboys could give a presentation of "Carmen" is open to question. In this case they not only play "Carmen" but Bunter,

of all people, is the Toreador. This was one of the best of the halfpenny numbers.

Passing from juniors to seniors brings us to Ionides, the Greek Sixth-former. Like Carberry, another senior, Ionides was a contemptible character, a frequenter of "pubs" and an associate of bookmakers after lights out. Carberry got the "sack"; whether Ionides did is uncertain, but in any case he vanished from Greyfriars. He clashed with Harry Wharton & Co. on more than one occasion and always came off second best.

On one occasion the junior schoolboys are invited to a dance at Miss Primrose's academy for young ladies. The Greek Sixth-former, dressed to kill, "gate-crashes" and is taken for a waiter by Miss Primrose. The spectacle of the Greek dandy running about with glasses of lemonade is a great joke, except of course for Ionides.

In "The Schoolboy Sailors" Harry Wharton & Co. go to sea in a schooner and are boarded by "pirates," Temple & Co., their Upper Fourth Form rivals. Bunter figures in this story, in fact it is by means of his ventriloquism that Harry is persuaded to buy a vessel which had gone ashore in Pegg Bay.

Others of the halfpenny numbers bring in Dick Trumper of

the Pegg village Scouts. This would be about the time the Scout movement started. There is a contest between the rival patrols and Frank Nugent escapes through the enemy lines dressed as a girl. Unfortunately he meets Margery Hazeldene and her friends and they expose the imposture by pulling off his flaxen wig.

I should think it was about this time that the penny numbers began, but I cannot exactly remember. Anyway, the change was made and *The Magnet* went from strength to strength. The schoolboys gradually changed from their simple ways and became more “grown-uppish,” a tendency which increased as time went on.

ONE of the first penny numbers I can recollect was entitled “Cock of the Walk” and introduced the burly Bolsover. This truculent individual rides roughshod over the Greyfriars Remove until his downfall is brought about by Solly Lazarus of Courtfield.

Then there was another good series beginning with “Top Dog” and ending with “Bob Cherry’s Barring-Out.” Here we have one of the many feuds between Vernon-Smith and Harry Wharton. Vernon-Smith made his first appearance in “The Bounder of

Greyfriars” and was an outsider of the first water. As time passed the “Bounder” became partially reformed, but his perverse streak persisted to the very last issues of *The Magnet*. “Smithy” played a leading part in scores of stories, and I think Frank Richards must have had a liking for him. I think we all like a character who is not afraid of established authority.

Like Tom Merry & Co. in *The Gem*, the heroes of *The Magnet* went all over the world and thought nothing of tackling Arab slavedealers and halfbreed Portuguese adventurers. One of the best of this kind of story was “Bob Cherry in Search of His Father,” in which the chums of Greyfriars travel to the Red Sea to find Major Cherry, who has been captured by Arab slavers. The rescue is duly accomplished by the juniors, who use their magazine rifles with tremendous effect.

I can also remember the arrival at Greyfriars of Johnny Bull and his subsequent adventures in “John Bull Junior’s Weekly.” Johnny was a well-portrayed character, though he never seemed to get much of the lime-light.

The great Coker of the Shell — later promoted to the Fifth — made his debut, and together with his Aunt Judy took up a

good deal of Frank Richards' time. Like Vernon-Smith, Coker never grew stale, and his clashes with the Famous Five were frequent.

The Greyfriars chums were very fond of displaying their histrionic abilities, and I think it was in this type of story that Mr. Richards showed at his best. They were my favourites and I gained much knowledge from them.

THE first World War came, but *The Magnet* rode the storm, and after it Greyfriars swung back to its accustomed environment. The Greyfriars characters remained at their ages, but steadily increased their knowledge of the world. They made their periodical trips to France and Monte Carlo, and Bunter went with them, for everywhere Harry Wharton went Billy Bunter, like Mary's little lamb, was sure to go.

The Famous Five also toured their own country a good deal, as those who have read "The Trail of the 'Trike'" can testify, Here we have the cheery Removites on holiday, with a tricycle to carry the baggage. They are persistently dogged by a couple of vagrants who attempt to steal the machine. It appears that a part of the "trike" is made of platinum, a circumstance un-

known to the new owners. There are a good many exciting incidents before the chums discover the secret and return the tricycle to the makers, who duly reward them.

Then there was a Bunter series with Billy changing places with his cousin Wally. There are a good many complications here. Bolsover & Co. attempt to bully the new Bunter, with rather startling results. Wally puts in a lot of spade-work for his cousin and wins him quite a reputation. Unfortunately Billy gets tired and comes back to Greyfriars. Then there are more complications, especially when the imposture is revealed. These stories were "different" and made very good reading.

Another good series dealt with a circus owned by a Mr. Whiffle, in which Bunter appeared in a professional capacity. Then there was "The Bunking of Bunter," in which the Owl of the Remove leaves Greyfriars after catching Mr. Quelch with a booby trap. The Famous Five are sent to bring him back, and the subsequent adventures are in the best Frank Richards vein.

Tiring of France, the Famous Five travel to India, where they visit Bhanipur, the home of Hurree Jamset Ram Singh. This series deals with an attempt by his uncle to steal the Hindu

boy's state. There was a series of stories in which were told the adventures of Harry Wharton & Co. in Hollywood. Harry became a movie actor, a startling change from his first appearance at Greyfriars.

Then we find the boys in the South Sea Islands in conflict with the implacable Soames, an adventurer of the cool and ruthless type. I read this series again in *The Schoolboys' Own Library*, where the title was "The School-boy Castaways." Soames made a later appearance, this time in England.

The Famous Five turn up in China, and then they make another trip to the South Seas, where Bunter, through the use of his ventriloquism, becomes king of the cannibals. They make another visit to the United States, in company with Vernon-Smith, whose father owns a ranch which is being exploited by a dishonest foreman. The cattle-rustling and holdups give the schoolboys further chances to reveal their many-sidedness.

Readers of earlier issues of *The Magnet* will remember Alonzo Todd, cousin of Peter Todd. In a later series Alonzo, a guileless creature, holds the stage when a mysterious professor gives him a peculiar liquid which

makes the puny fellow a giant in strength. Unfortunately Alonzo, feeling that he can do as he likes, becomes intolerable. The potent fluid is destroyed and Alonzo returns to normal.

Another series brings Harry Wharton into the foreground: The Captain of the Remove has a double who comes to Greyfriars with the intention of ousting Harry. He accomplishes this by breaking various school rules and then putting the blame on Wharton. When he is near success Vernon-Smith intervenes and the plotter is expelled. Some of the later stories dealt with Vernon-Smith when he, too, was in conflict with a rival.

THE second World War commenced and brought about the end of *The Magnet* and many other papers. The writer makes no claim to chronological exactitude, for thirty years is a long time and memory is a frail thing. Charles Dickens created characters that entwined themselves around the hearts of his public. Frank Richards has done the same thing with his immortal schoolboys. *The Magnet* has gone and there are many who mourn its passing. But Greyfriars lives on and will be heard of again.



# CONCERNING A CERTAIN MR. TOLLIDAY

Or, The Search for the Lost Penny Dreadful



A gentleman named Tolliday  
Said to me one Saturday,  
"Let me have a look, old cock,  
At what you've got stuck in your pock."

I'd just been for a walk nocturnal  
And bought the old *Boy's Champion Journal*;  
A brand new tale had just begun,  
"The Huguenot Captain," that's the one.

With illustrations most exciting  
The tale looked really quite inviting.  
But now this Mr. Tolliday  
Looked down on it, to my dismay;

He wasn't at all enthusiastic,  
In fact he was a bit sarcastic.  
He said, "You should not spend your cash  
Upon this literary trash!"

A lecture he then did unfold,  
Which made me turn quite hot and cold.  
He pointed out the various ways  
In which I might end up my days

If I did not the lure resist  
Of "Penny Dreadfuls" and desist;  
A gallows-bird I might become,  
Or develop a taste for rum;

With cards I probably would gamble,  
Or on the highway I might ramble  
And cry to lonely travellers "Stand!  
And deliver up your cash in hand!"

With what he said I was impressed  
And with one purpose was obsessed—  
So straightway then I took some measures  
To tear up some of my old treasures.

You'll never know, Oh, Tolliday!  
What grief you caused that Saturday.  
A story that I much respected  
Was amongst the tales that I rejected:

"The Link Boys of Old London" was  
A favourite yarn of mine, because  
Of mystery doings it did savour,  
Of Sweeny Todd there was a flavour.

That story went, Oh, Tolliday!  
Because of what you said that Saturday.  
I tried to get that tale again,  
I took much trouble and much pain.

I tried for years without success,  
And then in nineteen-thirty-eight, I guess,  
The story came to hand. Oh, boy!  
I felt that I could jump for joy—

Forty-six long years, I will say,  
To get that tale, Oh, Tolliday!

—HENRY STEELE.



\* WRITING to me as long ago as September 20th, 1941, Mr. Steele included in his letter the above verses. It was always my intention to use them, but time after time they were pushed aside. Meanwhile they appeared, slightly changed, in John J. Corell's *Ye Occasional Idler* for 1944. It is probable that few of our readers had a chance of seeing them there, so they are printed here. — W. H. G.



## NOTES BY A READER

THE LONDON JOURNAL was a fine publication and had a very long run. I have culled a certain amount of information about it from the British Museum and have a list of the serial stories it contained from its commencement in March, 1845, until 1866 (the old series). The proprietors were C. W. Bradley & Co., Fetter Lane, London.

The first complete story to appear in the *L.J.* in 1845 was "The Castle of Asperoz; or, The Spectre Banquet." The first serial was "The Mysteries of the Inquisition." In Volume 2 Reynolds' "Faust" appeared; in Volume 3, "Monte Christo," by Dumas.

In Volume 27, 1858, appeared Scott's "Kenilworth," and in the next volume his "Fortunes of Nigel." "Ivanhoe" was in Volume 29, so he had quite a run.

My personal contact with *The London Journal* was in 1890-1, and I read those intriguing romances of Fairfax Balfour, "Nelly; or, The Companions of the Chain," "Pale Janet," and "Ida Lee." I also read the famous "Lady Audley's Secret" in its pages.

YEARS AGO I made two attempts to read Scott's "Rob Roy" but failed miserably on each occasion. Recently I had a desire

to try again, and get through it this time. I have accomplished this feat—I have read "Rob Roy" to the bitter end. I found it not as bitter as I had anticipated. In fact, towards the end I quite enjoyed it. I must admit, however, that he was a little long-winded in coming to the point. I began to wonder when I was coming to Rob Roy. He is, however, introduced as "Mr. Campbell," and not for some time does he show himself in his true colors.

MY INTEREST in Rob Roy is stimulated by the fact that as a boy I read "The Outlaw of the Highlands" in *The Boy's Standard* in 1891. I thought so much of this story that I cut it out and preserved it. The character of Rob Roy, as painted by the boys' author, appealed to me. I find, of course, that many sides of his character were carefully suppressed. In Scott's novel he points out some rather shady characteristics.

The writer of "The Outlaw of the Highlands" was obviously inspired by Scott and did not hesitate even to quote parts of "Rob Roy" word for word, as in the concluding part where he describes the battle of Sheriff-Muir. Rob Roy (on the Pretender's side) has taken up a posi-

tion on a hill and receives a message from the Earl of Mar to attack the enemy, but he says, "No! If they can't do it without me they cannot do it with me!" So the opportunity is allowed to pass. I forget what my impression about this incident was as a boy, for of course Rob Roy was the hero of the tale and for a hero deliberately to refuse battle with the enemy was an unheard-of thing in the annals of heroes.

A rather cynical verse was written about this:

*Rob Roy stood watch  
On a hill to catch  
The booty, for aught I saw, man,  
For he ne'er advanced  
From the place where he stanced  
Till nae mair was to do there at a',  
man.*

In Scott's novel the wife of Rob Roy is a big Amazon type of woman named Helen Campbell, but in the *Boy's Standard* tale she is of a more gentle type and is known as Helen Falkland.

I VISITED the British Museum Reading Room and inspected the last few volumes of the immortal *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday*. Perhaps "immortal" is not the best word to use as the *Sloper* type of humour is now "dead as mutton."

In its day it was a great comic. I did not buy it regularly but

when I did get hold of a copy I was as pleased as Punch. I have waded through the volumes of *Sloper*, at various times, from its commencement in 1884 to 1916, when it finished. It is quite a history of the times and one meets all the celebrities of the day in its pages.

This time I started with Volume 30, 1912. One of the first things I noted was an account of the performance of "Rob Roy" by the London Scottish Regiment at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

The front page caption of No. 1469 was "All in Harrow" and *Sloper* was shown with the famous Harrow straw hat and dressed as a schoolboy. It referred to the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to the school.

Even in 1912 there were spy scares. No. 1479 has the caption, "A Spy Scare at Dover," and shows *Sloper* as Von Schloperstein making a sketch of Dover Castle.

The 1912 Christmas Number was not the gorgeous affair that it used to be. Although enlarged it was more like an ordinary number, but the price was doubled. In No. 1530 (1913) is "The High Drop Plane at Dover," a skit on the hydroplane. I note that many of the illustrations were reprints with different captions. With No. 1571 there was a

complete change in the appearance of *Ally Sloper*. It was smaller, but there were more pages. Instead of the familiar front page cartoon there was the figure of Sloper writing the title of the paper and making a lot of blots. Below was a photo of Gladys Cooper, the actress.

Several numbers were published as war maps. No. 1788 was the last issue, the date being September 9th, 1916. Towards the end Sloper disappeared entirely from the pages of the paper. A similar thing occurred in the revival of *Sloper* in 1922.

—HENRY STEELE.

---

## SHOULDER TO SHOULDER\*

**D**URING the seven years we have issued *The Story Paper Collector* we have been able to comply with every request for back numbers—every request, that is, except the latest. Twice we have issued an appeal for unwanted copies, with some result. Once again we do so. Especially needed is No. 9; others are Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11.

ONCE MORE we are indebted to Mr. Robert H. Whiter for a picture of one of Mr. Charles Hamilton's famous fictional schools, Rookwood this time.

DESIRING to hear from anyone with original drawings by

R. J. Macdonald, long-time *Gem Library* artist, for disposal: Mr. Frank Whiteley, 7 Park Avenue, Hill Top, Wilmslow, near Manchester, England. These drawings were offered to readers of the "Companion Papers" some thirty years ago.

A SALUTE to Mr. J. A. Birbeck, of Dundee, who helped keep the O.B.B. flag flying during the war years with his series of *The Collector's Miscellany*, which should have been mentioned with S.P.C. in our last Chat column. His *Side Notes* is always a welcome visitor. —W.H.G.

\*Was the name of the Editor's Chat in "The Empire Library" (1910-11).

---

THE STORY PAPER COLLECTOR is edited and published by Wm. H. Gander, Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada

Member: National A.P.A., United A.P.A. Alumni, British A.P.A., Amateur Printers' Association, Lone Indian Fraternity, and Happy Hours Brotherhood

---