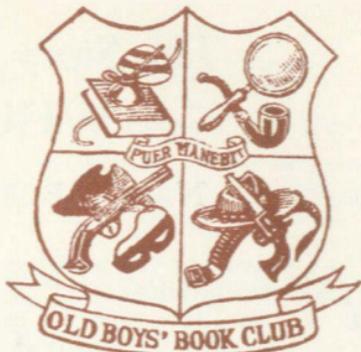


.....
Crest of The Old Boys' Book
Club, London, England : : :
.....



THE STORY PAPER COLLECTOR

APRIL, 1951
No. 42 : Vol. 2



YOUR EDITOR,
*Controller of THE BOYS' FRIEND, THE BOYS'
REALM, and THE BOYS' HERALD.*

Hamilton Edwards as His Readers Knew Him During the 1900's
(From a copy of *The Boys' Friend* published in 1904)

The Story Paper Collector

WHO'S WHO

No. 15: ROBERT H. WHITER

A READER OF THE PAPERS CONTAINING stories by Charles Hamilton since an early age, Bob Whiter is twenty-six years old. A photograph of him appeared in No. 1619 of *The Gem* when he was fourteen. He has a good knowledge of the D. C. Thomson papers of those days and saved all his *Magnets* and *Gems*, of which he has nearly 800 of each.

Bob also has all of the *Holiday Annuals*, some bound volumes of *Chums*, *The Captain*, *Boy's Own Paper*, and *Young Britain*, all the Billy Bunter and Tom Merry books, and some framed original drawings by C. H. Chapman, Leonard Shields, Miss E. B. Flinders, and R. J. Macdonald.

Being an amateur artist of some repute, Bob has had drawings of various subjects from old boys' papers printed in *Collector's Miscellany*, *Collectors' Digest*, and

S. P. C. He also had one of his drawings, a picture of the immortal Arthur Augustus D'Arcy, printed in the *London Evening News*.

Bob is something of an authority on classical and serious music, having a collection of over three hundred records, and also on guns and weapons of the past. A cycle engineer by trade, Frank Richards had Bob in mind when he introduced the cycle shop and engineer, where Bunter purchased his bike, into "Billy Bunter's Benefit."

Bob Whiter is the popular treasurer of the [London] Old Boys' Book Club, the only 100% attendance record-holder, and is one of the recognized authorities on the more popular papers of our youth. The best-attended meeting of the Club was held in Bob's sanctum.

—W. H. G.

"The Baker Street pair were well known at Yard headquarters, where for years they went up in the lift, and upon being admitted . . ."—From "The Case of the Spiv's Secret," by Anthony Parsons, *Sexton Blake Library* No. 225 (current series), page 39.

The Story Paper Collector

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

No. 42

APRIL, 1951

Vol. 2

JOTTINGS ON SEXTON BLAKE AUTHORS

By DEREK FORD

IN HIS ARTICLE "99 Authors and a Detective" (S.P.C. No. 27) Herbert Leckenby queried the name T. G. Dowling-Maitland or Max Hamilton as being the woman author of some Sexton Blake stories. She was, or is, I believe, Mrs. Richard Maitland Hamilton Dicker, formerly Miss Mildred Gerson; principal pen-name was Mildred Hamilton. Her husband was a newspaper correspondent whose special subject was the railway. They lived at Shortlands, in Kent.

IN A SURVEY of the literary tastes of seafarers, one of their most popular "thriller" writers was Gerald Verner, Donald Stuart of *The Sexton Blake Library*. His last yarn was "20 Years of Hate," published in 1940.

BOTH ANTHONY PARSONS and Walter Tyrer have been con-

tributors to correspondence courses in authorship, Mr. Tyrer, who was formerly a glassworks clerk, on "Serial Stories for the Women's Market."

GEORGE DILNOT, another Sexton Blake writer, author of "The History of Scotland Yard" and "The Romance of the Amalgamated Press," was also the General Editor of the Famous Trials Series. He lived at Teddington, in Middlesex.

THERE IS A MYSTERY about the authorship of *Sexton Blake Library* No. 734, "Riddle of Dead Man's Bay," a reprint of S.B.L. No. 358; in the first case it is attributed to Mark Osborne, the reprint to J. G. Brandon. Can any reader explain?

JOHN CREASEY, now living in Bournemouth, Hants, author of about half a dozen S. B. L. stories,

in a recent letter said that in the past ten years he had turned out 190 books, making 265 in all, plus 54 shorter novels.

REGINALD HEBER POOLE, who is Michael Poole, the Sexton Blake writer, was born in Northwich in 1885. Educated at Manchester Grammar School, he was editor of *Answers*, 1912-14. He lived at Woking, Surrey.

SOME TIME AGO I wrote to the editor of *Answers* suggesting that a Sexton Blake serial would have been of more interest than the American detective yarn that had just started. This met with no reply but in April of 1950 there was begun a serial, "The Night of the Full Moon," by J. Newton Chance — John Drummond of *The Sexton Blake Library*

—featuring his well-known character DeHavilland. So although we didn't get a Blake we at least got a yarn by a popular *Library* writer. The opening chapters were very reminiscent of S. B. L. No. 200, Drummond's "The Case of the 'Dead' Spy."

CYRIL MALCOLM HINCKS, born in London, privately educated, was on the staff of C. Arthur Pearson for six years. He had three sons and two daughters, and lived at Cranbrook, Kent.

NOT AN AUTHOR, but an editor, Percy Montague Haydon, M.C., was the Controlling Editor of the Amalgamated Press group which included *The Union Jack* and *The Sexton Blake Library* from 1925 on. He was born in London in 1895.

THE STRAND MAGAZINE

As Remembered by HENRY A. PUCKRIN

(Concluded from No. 41)

ATENTION SHOULD now be given to that other feature of *The Strand Magazine* which has been referred to briefly in the opening paragraph of this article. This is the advertisement section, which in its way was almost as popular

as were the literary pages. To look through the various commodities advertised there was an entertainment in itself, for one could read offers of anything from pins to pantotechnicons. It was the only feature of the magazine subject to adverse criti-

cism, for it seemed unduly large when compared with the literary section. This was even more noticeable in the Christmas double numbers, though the reading matter was also increased. But the proportion allotted to advertising was much larger. However the advertisement pages did not affect the magazine's popularity.

Another striking feature of *The Strand* was its cover, which carried an excellent engraving of a portion of the thoroughfare, at Southampton Street, that gave the magazine its name. With the old-fashioned buildings, the uneven roadway, hansom cabs, and frock-coated business-men, it was for long regarded as a faithful picture of that famous street. With the passing of the years its gradual conversion into the fine thoroughfare of today was in keeping with the forward policy which the magazine always pursued. The increased use of colour-printing enhanced the appearance of *The Strand* from cover to cover and made it something to look forward to.

Thus the magazine went on and its place in literature ap-

peared impregnable. But the progress of the age was both its help and its undoing. Gradually the public taste changed and slowly but surely this was reflected in its pages. Not that its popularity was affected so much, but the effect of two world wars made it imperative to come more in line with the spirit of the times.

Then rising costs, scarcity of materials, and doubts as to financial stability, all did their share towards making continued publication difficult and hazardous. To their credit the publishers countered these adverse factors with every known journalistic device. But the final chapter in the career of *The Strand* was but a matter of time. Its disappearance from the field of journalism had to some extent been anticipated by its readers, and the announcement that following the March, 1950, issue it would be combined with another journal, *Men Only*, was not a great surprise, though none-the-less regrettable. As far as the reading public is concerned *The Strand* is now but a memory.

CORRECTION—There is an error in the alternative title of the Frank Reade, Sr., serial, "The Steam Man of the Plains," as given in the short item on page 200, S.P.C. No. 41. It should have read: "or, The Terror of the West."

WAS THIS THE REAL SEXTON BLAKE?

IN THE MANY articles that have appeared in magazines devoted to the hobby of collecting "old boys' books" there is one series of short Sexton Blake stories about which little has been written. It is that which ran in *The Popular* during the year 1927.

Are they genuine Blake yarns or are they stories of someone masquerading as Sexton Blake? The question is asked because in them no trace is found of Blake's assistant, Tinker, of his housekeeper, Maria Bardell, or of the bloodhound, Pedro. This Sexton Blake had his residence in Baker Street, but when referring to his household he spoke only of his "servant," who was a m'an-servant, a sort of valet—never mentioned, one feels, in *Union Jack* or *Sexton Blake Library* stories.

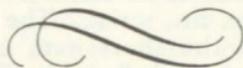
Then there was Bathurst, a newspaper man, whose first name does not seem to have been given; he and Blake were at the same school when they

were boys. (In one of the stories we learn that the school was St. Anne's.) Bathurst was met quite frequently in those *Popular* stories.

Other points noted were: this Sexton Blake speaks of "my secretary" (did *our* Blake ever have a secretary?), he is a member of the Baddeley Club (is *our* Blake a member?), and he says "I never read newspapers" and "newspapers as a rule don't interest me." Could those have been the words of the genuine Sexton Blake? Surely not!

In view of the policy of *The Popular*, usually adhered to, of being a reprint paper, it is more than likely that these stories appeared originally in some other paper. Which one would it be? *Penny Pictorial*? *Answers*? I have a recollection of Blake stories in one or both of these papers years before, and the absence of Tinker from the stories in *The Popular* could well indicate that they were written originally for adult readers.

—W. H. G.



THE BOYS' SUNDAY-READER
A MAGAZINE OF PURE LITERATURE

No. 3.—Vol. 1.]

EDITED BY EDWIN J. BRETT.

[PRICE ONE PENNY]



JANUARY 22, 1879.

"DON'T BURY HIM, PAST!" BOY CRIES.

No. 3 of E. J. Brett's Oddly-Named—Compared With
His Other Papers—Boys' Sunday Reader, Jan. 22, 1879

[Facing page 216.

THE GREYFRIARS GALLERY

Reviewed by WM. H. GANDER :: Part Twelve

TURNING THE PAGES of my volume of *The Magnet* for the year 1918 I come to No. 542, dated June 29th, and find that Uncle Clegg, the proprietor of the "tuck-shop" in Friardale, is Number 78 in The Greyfriars Gallery. Uncle Clegg has never played a leading part in any of the stories, and after noting that occasionally a "substitute" writer appeared uncertain of the location of his shop (sometimes it has been placed in Courtfield), I will let J. N. Pentelow's opening paragraph suffice for him:

"They always call him Uncle Clegg, but I do not think that the familiar title implies any particular fondness on the part of the Greyfriars juniors for the rather cross-grained old fellow who keeps the tuckshop at Friardale."

Of Mr. Hacker, master of the Shell, we read: "It cannot be pretended that Mr. Horace Hacker is a person who really matters in the Greyfriars stories." That may be said of many of those now left to be dealt with in the Gallery. "We should not miss him if he dropped out; and no one ever writes to suggest

that a story about Mr. Hacker would be welcome." However, it may be conceded that someone has to look after the Shell, and occasions can be recalled through the years when Mr. Hacker came rather more into the limelight than he did prior to the writing of the Gallery.

"His Form do not love him; I doubt if they even like him. . . . So, on the whole, Mr. Hacker is probably quite the least popular master at Greyfriars." But when he is compared with, say, Mr. Ratcliff or Mr. Selby of St. Jim's, "one begins at once to see redeeming features in him." Mr. Hacker is Number 80 in the Gallery.

In the next issue Number 81 is shared by two precious specimens, Ben Cobb, landlord of the Cross Keys inn at Friardale, and Jeremiah Hawke, who lives at the Cross Keys and plies several trades, none of them very legitimate or honest.

"Cobb is a publican and a sinner. Hawke is a bookmaker and a blackmailer. Both are swindlers, not to be trusted a yard." Those few words sum up Messrs. Cobb and Hawke. One may wonder why they have not

long since been driven from the locality of Greyfriars. Perhaps Dr. Locke has not taken steps to bring their removal about because of fears that the good name of Greyfriars might suffer.

FOR A WELCOME CHANGE, as Number 82 of the Gallery we find Patrick Gwynne, Irish, Sixth Former, prefect, and good fellow. "Now that poor Courtney . . . has passed from Greyfriars for ever," we read, "Patrick Gwynne is Wingate's closest chum. This is in itself a recommendation. For you may be sure that the closest chum of a fine, high-spirited fellow like George Wingate will be all right."

Tom Redwing first came to Greyfriars in the name of Leonard Clavering, who preferred Army life to school. Being big for his years, Clavering enlisted, after persuading Tom to take his place at the school. What happened then made an absorbing series of stories that appeared not long before Tom was given a place in the Gallery, where he is Number 83 (*Magnet* No. 547).

We read that " . . . he is so established a favourite, and he has played so conspicuous a part during the last few months of the stories, that it would seem wrong to leave him out of this series. There is little wonder

that he has achieved popularity. Among all the fellows in the Remove, hardly one can be counted his superior."

Number 84 of the Gallery deals with Mrs. Mimble and Trotter. "One must not say that Mrs. Mimble is not an important person. Does she not keep the [school] tuck shop?" She does, but that doesn't make her important in the stories. Neither does the fact that Fred Trotter is page-boy at the school make him of importance.

But there is the further fact that each of them, as do all the others, helps make the mosaic that is Greyfriars. Without them the yarns wouldn't be the same. It is but right, therefore, that, though their respective roles are humble, they should be given a place in the Gallery.

It is suggested that "Coker's Aunt Judy might well have been given an earlier place in this series. She is certainly of more importance than some of the people who have been allowed to precede her. . . . Horace is the very apple of her eye; she is the only other person upon earth who sees him somewhat as he sees himself—an Admirable Crichton."

A good sort, Aunt Judy, when we have allowed for her strange delusions regarding Coker. She

is an aunt many fellows would love to have, especially if they needed a little help in getting their remove from the Shell to the Fifth! Aunt Judy is Number 85 in the Gallery, in *Magnet* No. 549.

Mr. Benjamin Todd is Number 86 and he is also the uncle of the cousins Alonzo and Peter Todd—Alonzo, one-time member of the Greyfriars Remove but now of parts unknown, Peter, still of the Remove. Uncle Ben will be passed over lightly; in the process we will note that he is not so eccentric a person as Alonzo used to lead us to believe.

NOW WE COME TO ONE who has played parts in stories in various papers: Ferrers Locke, runner-up among Amalgamated Press detectives only to Sexton Blake and Nelson Lee. He was first met by this reader in *Gem* No. 16, halfpenny series, and he will doubtless be found one of these days in a Bunter or Tom Merry book. He has been described as both a cousin and a nephew of Dr. Locke of Greyfriars; he is more likely the Doctor's nephew. Without doubt Frank Richards knows just what the relationship is.

In Number 87 of the Gallery we read: "Ferrers Locke does not belong to Greyfriars, of

course; but his relationship to the Head gives him a connection with the school, and he has more than once been called in to solve mysteries there."

Another relative of Dr. Locke's takes her place as Number 88 in *Magnet* No. 552. She is his daughter, Rosalie. It is many years since she played her part on the Greyfriars stage, for in 1918 J. N. Pentelow wrote in the Gallery: "No doubt there are many readers to whom even the name of Miss Rosalie Locke will be unfamiliar. But there are others who will remember her vividly, for she was a prominent figure in one of the best stories which ever appeared in *The Magnet*—'Wingate's Chum.'"

Rosalie had been kidnapped when she was a small child; George Wingate, Captain of Greyfriars, became acquainted with her, not knowing her real identity; and through him she was restored to her parents. There was one other story, "The Prisoner of the Priory," in which Rosalie played a part. "Since then we have heard little about her."

In *Magnet* No. 553, September 14th, 1918, we find Paul Tyrrell as Number 89. He is another who appeared in the early days and then went his way, though he came back once or twice. Bob

Cherry's cousin, he was a very thorough ne'er-do-well, and he caused Bob a lot of trouble. His first appearance was before the 1914-18 war; his second was during that war, when he made amends by enlisting in the Army. Many years later (*Magnet* Nos. 1255, 1259, 1268) Paul Tyrrell was again in the stories, once more the dissipated character of the early yarns.

Before closing the 1918 volume of *The Magnet* for this time we must turn back the pages to No. 543, July 6th. In it, as Number 79 of the Gallery, will be found Herr Otto Gans, German master at Greyfriars, who has been overlooked. Herr Gans comes from Saxony and was prominent in quite a few of the early stories, but seldom came out of the background in the later yarns.

Part 13 Will Appear in the Next Issue

FIRST LONG-RUN BOYS' MAGAZINE

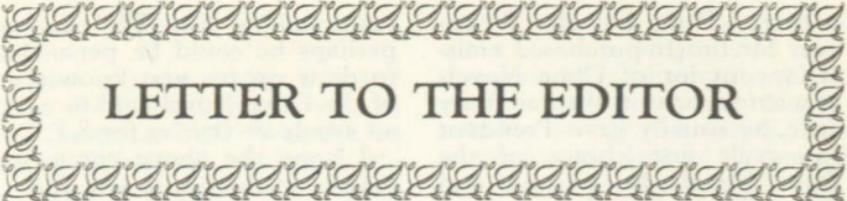
THE FIRST boys' publication to achieve a lengthy run was *The Boy's Own Magazine*, edited by S. O. Beeton. Established in 1855, it ran until 1874, its first serious rival being Henry Vickers' *The Boy's Journal* (July, 1863). Later came *Every Boy's Magazine*, edited by Edmund Routledge, which outlived the other two and after a run of 26 years was incorporated in the still-existent *Boy's Own Paper*.

Contributors to all three of these magazines included such well-known authors as R. M. Ballantyne, W. H. G. Kingston, Captain Mayne Reid, George Manville Fenn, and Jules Verne. The most popular with boys of

the period was Captain Mayne Reid, who at one time had serials running in all three, in addition to his contributions to a lesser-known publication, *The Boy's Illustrated News*, of which he was the co-editor. Mayne Reid also wrote for several adult journals including *Cassell's Family Paper*, *Penny Illustrated Paper*, and *Chambers's Journal*.

The composition of *The Boy's Own Magazine* and its rivals was very similar to that of *The Boys' Friend* and *The Boys' Herald* of the 1900's, with short stories and serials of the adventure type, together with puzzle and competition features. Sports and athletics, however, were not given much space.

— LEONARD M. ALLEN



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dime Novels and Distinguished People

To the Editor,
THE STORY PAPER COLLECTOR.

Sir:

In your excellent little journal, *The Story Paper Collector*, some of your contributors have made references to the delusions entertained by many people concerning the bad effect upon youth of "bloods" and "dime novels." Naturally, I agree that the horror many good people feel toward "bloods" is mainly inspired by ignorance and prejudice. However, it is not my intention to take up cudgels on behalf of the story papers, since many others better qualified than I have rallied to their defence. All I would like to say is, that many great men have read and collected the story papers, and perhaps it is not generally known that the late President Roosevelt was a collector of "bloods" and "dime novels"! My authority for this statement is Mr. Ellery Queen, the distinguished New York editor, who,

on page 113 of his publication *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* for July, 1949, has among other things the following interesting comments to make:

"In America, at this time, the lush period of our Dime Novel was in full flower. George Munro had started publishing the first Dime Novel Detective series in 1872—*Old Sleuth Library*; Old Cap Collier was soon to make his bow in 1883, 'piping' the *New Haven Mystery*; and less than a decade later Nick Carter was to begin one of the longest crime-crushing careers in history. Between 1870 and 1910 more than six thousand different detective Dime Novels were published in the United States. . .

The Ellery Queen collection contains all the known books of Dime Novels, secured for us by our good friend Charles Bragin, the foremost authority on and collector of Dime Novels. Mr. Bragin was the 'secret agent' of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who also

collected Dime Novels. Whenever Mr. Bragin purchased a miscellaneous lot of Dime Novels at auction, or out of some dusty attic, he usually gave President Roosevelt first choice of the Dime Novels he wanted, and Ellery Queen first choice of the Dime Novels of Short Stories. It is doubtful if President Roosevelt was ever aware that Ellery Queen shared some of his most precious finds in this field."

I do not know if Mr. Queen is on your mailing list or not, but in view of his interest in the field, and his enormous collection, I suggest you forward him some copies of *The Story Paper Collector* if he is not already on

your mailing list. Who knows, perhaps he could be persuaded to draw on his vast knowledge of the Dime Novel field to write an article or articles for *S. P. C.*

I hope the above comments may be of interest to you and to the readers of *The Story Paper Collector*.

ROGER DARD.

232 James Street,
Perth, Western Australia.

February 3rd, 1951.

[Thanks, Roger Dard, for bringing Mr. Queen's comments on Dime Novels to our attention. We will see that a copy of this issue goes to him, but perhaps it is too much to hope for a contribution to these pages in return!—EDITOR.]

NOTES BY A READER: 8

IN THE ISSUE OF *The Collector's Miscellany* for October-November, 1933, there was a reproduction of the front page of "May Turpin, the Queen of the Road," published by the Newsagents' Publishing Co. in 1864. My old friend Barry Ono possessed only Nos. 1 and 2 of this very rare publication and he would dearly have liked to secure the story complete.

Some time ago I was in the Reading Room of the British

Museum. Looking through the catalogue I came across "May Turpin, the Queen of the Road," Nos. 1-13. Here, I thought, was a chance to inspect at least the first thirteen numbers. I waited patiently, but all the attendant gave me was the slip of paper on which I had sent in my application, with the disappointing information that the book was not available, having been missing since about 1891. Some collector with more zeal than

honesty probably had annexed it.

Now who was May Turpin? Was she related in any way to the immortal Dick? Was she his sister, or his wife? I do not remember meeting her in any story of Dick Turpin. There is no record of her in the *Newgate Calendar*, though that does not prove that she did not exist. Possibly she was just the product of the inventive mind of the author.

The story is described as "a Romance by the Author of 'Dick Turpin, a Romance of the Road,' 'Jack Sheppard and Jonathan Wild,' etc., etc." The author's name (as was the case with so many of the old writers) is shrouded in mystery. I hope that some day a complete copy of "May Turpin" will turn up to gladden the hearts of collectors.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that traveling by coach was a hazardous proceeding in the 18th Century, and people who took long journeys (such as from York to London, lasting four days) did so at considerable risk, especially when the redoubtable Dick Turpin was on the prowl. How they must have dreaded that familiar cry, "Stand and deliver!" It is very pleasant to read "Black Bess" and revel in its

excitement and thrilling situations. It is nice, sitting in a cosy armchair by a blazing fire on a winter's night, to read of the robbery of the York mail. But it was not so pleasant to live in the days when that sort of thing was happening.

I LIKED THE reproduction of *The Wide Awake Library* that appeared in S. P. C. No. 40. *Wide Awake* has associations for me as it contained several of the boys' tales published by E. J. Brett and others, among them "Gentleman George," "King of Diamonds," "Claude Duval," "Dick Turpin," "Headsmen of Old London Bridge," "Adam Bell," "Jack Sheppard," and the Harkaway tales.

A NEWSPAPER headline reads: "The Boy of Today Has Not Changed." I suppose he hasn't. He still loves to read of exciting adventures, hair-breadth escapes, but his tastes have changed. His ideal hero is not now Dick Turpin galloping along on Black Bess, or Jack Sheppard escaping from the Bow Street Runners. His hero is the pilot who hurtles through the air at miraculous speed. He loves to read of attempts to reach the moon. Dick Turpin would appear tame in comparison. —HENRY STEELE

BY EVERY POST!*

OUR LAST ISSUE brought us an extra large number of acknowledgments. Roger Jenkins' article, "The Career of Ernest Levison," was thought by many to have been his best, and the reproductions of Frank Richards' portrait and the 1910 Christmas Number of *The Magnet* also brought much favorable comment. Our thanks to all who wrote; also to the senders of the many Christmas cards that came our way.

OUR THANKS are also due to the members of the Old Boys' Book Club, London, for voting us an Honorary Vice-President of the Club.

THROUGH THE COURTESY of Len Allen we have a typed copy of a letter we wrote to the Editor of *The Boy's Journal* in 1914, and which appeared in No. 31, dated April 18th. Strangely enough, we had completely forgotten ever having a letter printed in *The B.J.*

REFERRING TO *The Boy's Journal* reminds us of something written by E. S. Turner in the preface to his "Boys Will Be Boys": "Was

there ever a boys' paper which was discontinued on the grounds that it lacked support?" We haven't seen a copy of the last issue (No. 72, January 9th, 1915) of *The Boy's Journal* for about thirty-five years, but we think that if anyone who does have a copy will refer to it he will find

WANTED

No. 1341, September 30th, 1950
No. 1345, October 28th, 1950
of D. C. Thomson's
ADVENTURE

the statement made that so many of the paper's readers had joined the Forces that it could not continue publication and would be combined with *The Dreadnought*. This explanation of the paper's demise must be viewed with suspicion, however, unless one accepts the premise that the readers of *The Boy's Journal* were more patriotic than were those of other papers which continued publication. — W. H. G.

*Another heading for the Editor's page of *The Popular* in 1927.

The Story Paper Collector is edited, printed, and published by Wm. H. Gander, P. O. Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada.

This is an Amateur Magazine and it is mailed gratis to all who request it and who show continued interest by acknowledging receipt occasionally. This issue 250 copies.