

ROSE LAWN,
KINGSCATE-ON-SEA,
KENT.

November 5th, 1947.

Dear John Stokes,

Thank you for your letter, also the Gaelic cross-word, which I am very glad to possess. I must admit that it is far beyond my powers, at present; but you never can tell--perhaps I shall be able to handle it some time. Anyway I am very pleased indeed to have it.

So you have received your copy of the Bunter book? One delay after another---but it has come at last! I was as pleased as Punch when the first copy reached me. How long it will be before the second volume follows, goodness knows; it all depends on paper. But at all events I have written it, and the artist is now about to get busy with the pictures. It is called "Billy Bunter's Banknote"; and we hope that it may appear early next year.

The episode described in your letter must have been very exciting at the time. Such things would have seemed incredible to English readers, if they had been reported in our Press---which of course they never were. Some of us in this country are, I am afraid,

rather like the wise men of Laputa, who had their eyes fixed on the ends of the earth, and never noticed what was going on under their noses!

Now about that fragment of manuscript for your corner. Oh, yes, I often type sheets over a second time, and sometimes even a third time, thinking I can put in little improvements and round off corners. But the imperfect ones always go West at once. But as it happens, I have the original typescript of one of the "Carcroft" stories in Pie. That series has now come to an end, but this manuscript survives, so I am sending it along with this letter, and trust that you will like it for the "Corner".

Best of wishes, my dear boy, and kindest regards,

Always yours sincerely,

Frank Richards