

~~November~~ <sup>October</sup> 28th. 1952

ROSE LAWN,  
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,  
BROADSTAIRS,  
KENT.

Dear Leonard Packman,

Thank you for your letter this morning. The publishers certainly had the idea of a "Tom Merry Omnibus" book, for I was told about it some months ago: but whether they still have the idea, I have not heard. They seem to have found books at 1/6 not a paying proposition: which is not surprising in these days of incessantly soaring costs of production, and the "Omnibus" was an alternative idea. They still have two books not yet published ---- 'D'Arcy the Reformer' and "D'Arcys Day Off", for which Chapman I think has done the pictures. Probably these will be the material if the 'Omnibus' ever emerge!

I am very glad you liked the T.M.B. this year. I thought it a considerable improvement on the last issue. The next issue will contain a school play in verse--by Frank Richards of course--- which has hitherto been crowded out.

Probably you have heard that Cassell's are now publishing the Bunter Books. The next is due on November 20th.

Now, my dear boy, I am going to ask your opinion about another thing I have long had in mind. For a good many years I have been at work on a new translation of Horace's Odes, which is now getting ship-shape. My idea is to publish a small volume at about I/6 containing only the alcaics, to go on with as it were: leaving the sapphics, asclepiads, etc, for a later date. I persuade myself that in the present generation a new interest in the classics is growing up, and that quite an extensive public would like a readable Horace in English. Of course this may be only wishful thinking: the publishers to whom I have spoken about it certainly seem to think so! On the other hand, the chief characteristic of publishers generally is that they never know what the public want. What would be your idea, as a normal intelligent citizen, of a translation of the Odes by Frank Richards? Would it appeal to you, or does the mere idea give you a head-ache?

Kindest regards to Josephine and Eleanor,

Always yours sincerely,

*Frank Richards*