

No. 19, Vol. 2.

February, 1926.

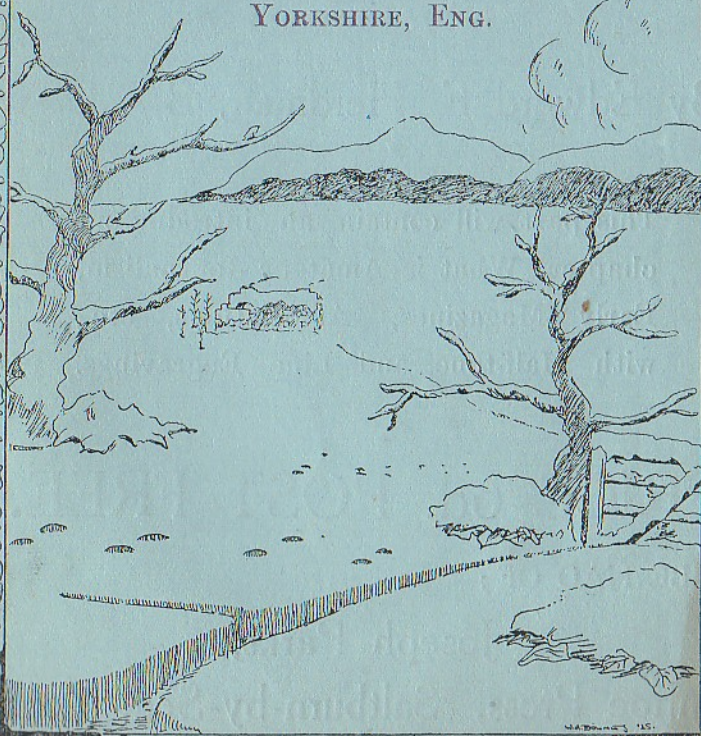
Price Threepence.

VANITY FAIR

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PART 1. NOW READY.

*British Amateur Journalism
in Ye Olden Times, with
Glimpses of the Present.*



By Edward F. Herdman, B.A.L.A.

This part will contain an introductory chapter, What is Amateur Journalism, Early Magazines, Associations, etc., with Half-tone and Line Engravings.

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Threepence.

February, 1926.

ARE YOU A PIRATE?

BY STANLEY L. WATT.

(continued from page 62).

The editor or the journalist working for a large newspaper has the power of the world at his elbow. His article can be the raising of a nation or the saving of a man's neck from the hangman's noose. Indeed, journalism is a fine thing, and there are many splendid posts waiting for the young man who has a keen interest in the work and is bright and alert.

But don't be a 'pirate', living on other peoples ideas. Remember, as the editor of a great paper told me one day, "An idea a day will raise your pay". It's true! I followed out his advice and I got that increase in my pay and better, a rise in position, all because I took the trouble to use my brains.

Someone said it could'nt be done,
But he, with a chuckle replied
"That maybe, it could'nt", but he would be one
Who would'nt say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing, as he tackled the thing
That could'nt be done, and he did it!

If I can help you in any way I shall only be too pleased to do so. Write to me with your difficulty and be sure of a prompt reply.

Stanley L. Watt, 48 St. Luke's Road, Kensington, W.11.

'Entered for the N.A.P.A. History Laureateship.'

IRISH AMATEUR JOURNALISM.

By *WILLIAM A DOWNES.*

(continued from page 67).

In the early days three magazines were published by the Association, namely the "Pembroke Echo", "The Newsletter" and "Notes". The second mentioned was a pass-round journal, the other two were duplicated.

The third name prominent was the late Shawn Ryan. As far as I know he was the oldest amateur. At the age of 8 he published a boys' magazine and continuously from then until the age of nineteen, when he died, he was an amateur journalist. He, however, did not come into the limelight until about 1918. "The Boys' Companion", which he edited, founded and published in 1919 is still going strong under my editorship.

In the foregoing I have tried to sketch briefly the outstanding features of Irish Amateur Journalism and the three figures in it being, as it were, all connected with the Irish Amateur Press Association, the history takes the form more of an explanation of this association than anything else. However, were it not for this same association there probably would be no visible amateur journalism in Ireland to-day.

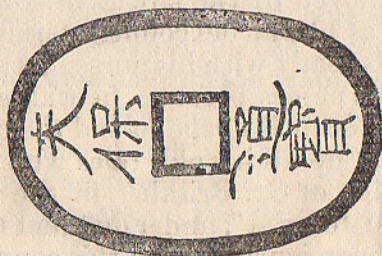
NUMISMATIC NOTES.

Answers to Correspondents.



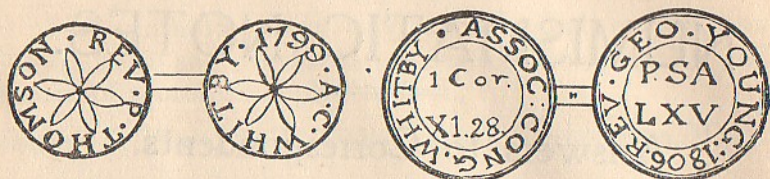
A Pattern Coin.

Your correspondent "Phillips," possesses what appears to be a pattern farthing of the reign of George I. From his description it is uniface—that is, bears an inscription on one side only. We cannot state its approximate value as he does not state in what metal the piece is struck. In any event it seems rare, as we have not seen it mentioned in any of the works on Pattern Coins.



A Japanese Coin.

"Nix" has a modern bronze coin of Japan, value about 6d. if in mint condition. The illustration shows the coin actual size.



A Whitby Token.

The lead token sent by E. Wilson, is not a Whitby Town Piece as he thinks. It is a Sacramental Token which belonged to the now extinct United Presbyterian Church in Cliff Lane. The Rev. Peter Thomson was the first minister. There were other two tokens belonging to the same Church. One is dated 1806, and bears the name of the then minister, who was the author of a well-known History of Whitby. The third token is more recent and is undated.

Edwd. F Herdman.

E. J. BRETT, ETC.

I have just had the pleasure of conversing with a man who was employed by the late E. J. Brett, and he told me that he was like an old country farmer—good natured and always ready with his purse. I think he concealed his author's names because he wanted their services exclusively. When Burrage joined the opposition shop, Brett "dished" up all his old tales which had appeared in "Young Men of Gt. Britain" in the last volumes of "Boy's Comic Journal", under different titles. The great pioneers of cheap journalism in this country, were, however, Rd. Carlile, Chas. Bradlaugh and Wm. Hone, who defied the Government of the day and made it possible for a cheap press, free from stamp duty.

J. J. Darby.

AN EARLY PENNY DREADFUL CIRCULATING LIBRARY.



IN getting together material for my "History of British Amateur Journalism," I came across a relic of my youthful days in the shape of a school exercise book. One portion of it may interest those of your readers who collect old boys' papers.

The book is endorsed—

Edward Herdman, Song Book. 12 years.

May 13, 1873. Stockton.

In it I had written several pieces of poetry, and towards the end a list of novels—now called "Penny Dreadfuls." This catalogue recalls a forgotten incident of my schooldays. Although then only 12 years old, I had formed a circulating library having for patrons my school chums and acquaintances. It appears from this old book that I had then 47 "Bloods" in circulation. Your readers, Mr. Editor, will be able to judge of the "choiceness" of the literature in the "Library" and the wide range of the subjects from the following extracts:—

- No. 1. The Branded Brigand.
2. The Track of the Avenger.
4. The Steel Belt.
7. Rovers of the Sea.
9. Clanronald.
11. The Young Tragedian.
14. The Ghost Hunter.
15. Jimmy Hirst.
17. The Cave of Death.
19. The White Captive.

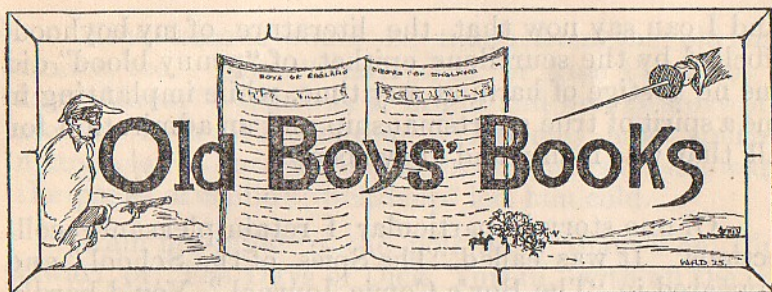
22. The Pirate Hunter.
26. Two Boys among Indians.
29. Arabian Nights.
31. The Wronged Daughter.
33. Jack Sheppard.
35. The Hand of Fate.
38. The Two Black Masks.
40. Paul Jones.
43. The Drunkard's Wife.
46. Old English Baron.
47. Black Privateer.

Most of the books had flaming coloured covers illustrating some breath-snatching episode recorded in the letterpress. These covers acted like a magnet upon we lads in those days in much the same way as the "stuff" vomited from Fleetway House do on the kiddies of today. I may say that my "library" was a decided success as I counted things in those days. At a somewhat later period I had close on 200 similar publications, and the charge of one half-penny for reading, brought many a copper into my exchequer.

I had then a mania for collecting anything which appealed to my fancy—a mania which has stuck to me ever since. I had very long runs of the "Boys of England," "Young Britain," "Wild Boys of London," (complete down to the suppression), "Boy's Standard," and other periodicals. But when the realities of life began to press upon me, and I had to go out into the world, I cut out of the papers any portions that interested me, and left the bulk behind to be destroyed. I have still some of the cuttings.

Mr. Jay could, no doubt, appraise the value of these lost journals. Probably I threw away a little fortune. Such are the vagaries of life.

Edwd. F. Herdman.



AN OLD BOYS PERIODICALS.

BY R. A. H. GOODYEAR.

When I am in a mood of mellow reminiscence, I take from the bookcase my catalogue of "The Old Boys' Book Club," and find a rich joy in browsing among the titles therein. Some of them are old friends indeed. In the reflective glamour of their titles I see myself again a boy of eight or nine, getting up in the chilly darkness of the winter mornings, sitting by candlelight at the table while the fire was kindled for breakfast, reading every word of every chapter of every serial of every boy's paper that I could buy, beg or borrow.

It never occurred to my broadminded parent that this was the sort of literature called "pernicious" by pompous magistrates; he never considered that "The Adventures of Ned Kelly, the Bushranger," or of "Strongbow, the Boy Chief," or of "Wildfoot, the Wanderer," were poisoning my mind and teaching me every kind of badness. Far from that, he would often spend his spare pence on copies of the "Boys of England" and "The Boy's Comic Journal" making his homecoming from work doubly delightful to me.

By this means he encouraged in me a love of romance that has ever been an abiding consolation to me,

and I can say now that the literature of my boyhood, libelled by the scurrilous epithet of "penny blood" did me no vestige of harm at any time, while implanting in me a spirit of true sportsmanship and an admiration for all that was manly and above-board.

Of one story in particular I retain pleasant recollections. It was called "The Spies of the School," and appeared in "The Boy's Comic Journal." You'd hardly believe how often those unfortunate spies, Peeping Tom and Knowall Dick, got it in the neck. I chuckle still as I recall the picture of them being tied up in the dog-kennels in the yard of the village inn. They had ordered a dinner of sausage and mash (such well browned sausages, such floury potatoes!), and this mouth watering meal the two young heroes of the tale (who had fastened the spies to the dog-chains) forthwith proceeded to demolish. Thus should all sneaks suffer thought I in my righteous indignation!

Roll your tongue round this title, and tell me if you do not think it an appetising morsel for a boy-readers' delectation: "The Young Apprentice, or, The Watchwords of Old London." Our librarian tells me that it is scarce, in two large volumes. Eager collectors snap up these old boys' books, and some of them have almost as great a value as the first editions of Scott and Dickens. They are treasured as much as anything for their quaint woodcuts by celebrated artists of the time.

"Phiz" who illustrated the works of both Dickens and Thackeray, was not too proud to draw vigorous pictures for these so-called "penny dreadfuls." He Sketched vivid scenes of sea-fights and shipwrecks, eloquent of Nature's primitive grandeur; my mental retina retains them yet, though memory has blurred the incidents they illustrated.

Fine lessons could be taken from the old boys' stories, too. Take "Charity Joe, or from Poor Boy to Lord Mayor"—that was a bright and breezy story of a modern Dick Whittington, which may have spurred many a lowly-born lad on to greater success in life when the pages of Smile's "Self-help" left him cold.

I am not blind to the possibility that "The Blue Dwarf, or, The Days of Dick Turpin," with all the coloured plates, in three large volumes—might have glorified the life of a disreputable highwayman somewhat; but the "Knights of the Road" were pet heroes of Harrison Ainsworth, and millions of young and old boys still pore over their escapades without ever deciding to imitate them. The tremendous popularity of the subject has been well exemplified by the recent film representations of it.

Moreover, in historical interest, these racy serials had an educational standard; their educational writers went to Green, Froude, and Macaulay for dates and facts, and I know that I, for one, learnt more from "The Boyhood days of Guy Fawkes," "The Hunchback of Old St. Paul's," and "The Traitor's Gate," than the dry-as-dust schoolbooks which formed the basis of my far-too-long and tedious homework.

CIGARETTE CARD COLLECTING.



By *ARTHUR L. BUDGE.*

“Give me ’yer cigarette card mister.” We have got accustomed to the little street-urchin’s request, for what to his thinking, is something to boast about to his small pals. Eagar, earnest eyes, look straight into

one's face, as he utters his pathetic appeal, and we pass along feeling that we have done one good turn. He awaits us again the day following, and on receiving the card this time, announces joyously, that he only needs three more to complete his set. Later, when he gets the last card for the set, his enthusiasm is great to behold, and there are many thousands like him. You may now and again come across suspicious looking groups of these youngsters, gathered together in out of way places, deeply engrossed in some secret matter. Do not imagine you are witnessing a miniature "Gunpowder Plot," or that they are developing "Bolshevik" tendencies; no, they are merely exchanging the priceless treasures to their mutual satisfaction. They can give you the details of any card if you simply mention the number of the card and the set to which it belongs.

What is there about these neat little "cigarette stiffeners" as the tobacco trade term them, to incite the youngsters fancy? Ask, and they will soon enlighten you, as to the cards great educational value. They teach them all about aeroplanes, animals, birds, engines, flowers, fishes, ships, wireless, and practically every subject we can mention. The illustrations are extremely well portrayed in every small detail, and the colouring too, is nicely got up.

How nice the cards look, fitted in albums of the "slip-in" variety, showing nearly a whole series at a glance. Have you seen what splendid cushion-covers and table-centres the members of the fair sex can make, with the aid of the pretty silk and satin cards.

I have been asked scores of times, as to when the crase began, and my reply is, just short of thirty years ago. The honour was claimed by the late Mr. W. B. Duke of New York, with his famous "Duke's Cameos," but personally I think Messrs. Ogdens Ltd., of Liverpool began about the same time. Most people will

remember their "Guinea Gold" series of glossy photographs, Actresses and Celebrities? These cards though were not the first issued in this country. One of the earliest of Ogden's series, was a tiny card, showing the photo of an actress on one side, and a playing card on the other.

Britains' largest individual collector, (Mr. Matthews), can proudly say that his collection now contains no fewer than 1,030, different complete sets, each series comprising from ten to six hundred cards. Can anyone else beat this great effort of collecting the street-urchins' treasure-trove?

[TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH].

WANTED—MORE MAGAZINES!

BY STANLEY L. WATT.

Just as the press have of late been deploring the lack of good short stories, and the editors of weekly periodicals waving their arms and growing grey long before their time, so are we amateurs longing and itching to see more magazines make their appearance on the market.

They say in the papers that men are becoming weak willed, and are helpless without the aid of the fair sex; but I don't think this can be an answer to the question of the shortage of amateur magazines.

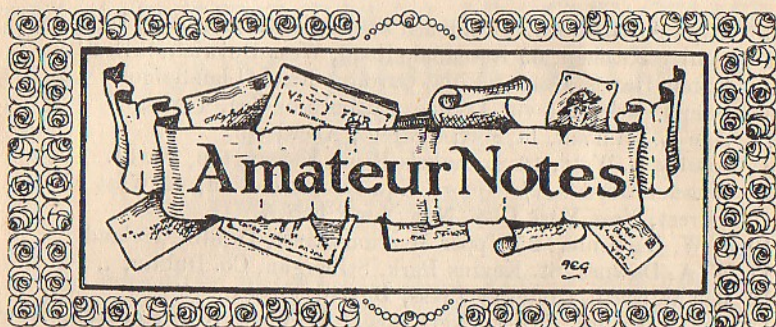
Many fellows to-day, who have the right talent to make budding editors, and hand out the real stuff, are afraid to do so—they draw back, rather than their efforts be criticised. It is mainly for this reason that we

are deprived of seeing some really good monthlies; but let me tell any of you who are keeping in the background for this sole reason, that there is nothing to be afraid of.

I do not believe there are more than fifty regular amateur magazines published in the British Isles. If there are, I for one have never seen them. The fact of the matter is that these would be enterprising journals do not receive sufficient encouragement from those interested in Journalism, and the result is that after a feeble attempt to make good the unfortunate editors are obliged to withdraw their magazines, utterly disheartened through the lack of enthusiasm shown, and the shortage of cash, caused through the bad sales on their first two or three numbers.

Most magazines have never gone to press with the fourth number—they have failed. This is in some cases entirely due to the editor, who supplies his readers with material that walked out of the Ark. So, I say to my fellow editors, study the contents of other magazines, before you set out on your own and you will gain experience. Hit on bright ideas, on pleasing features that are of interest to everyone, and you will be successful.

Much could be done to encourage those who are desirous of editing magazines. Perhaps one of the best ways of doing so is for the leading magazines to offer a prize for the best, brightest, and most original journal received. When I was assisting on a paper at one time the editor ran such a competition in the paper, and there was quite a good entry, and from the magazines received, I was convinced that there was some splendid talent that had never up to then been used in entertaining the many hundreds of amateurs in this country. The editor of the paper with which I was connected, gave away a copy of the best magazine with his following number, Of course he raised the price on that particular occasion. Could not our leading magazines follow suit?



“THE AMATEUR PRESS COMBINE.”

To enable the “Amateur Press Combine” to issue a printed official organ, recruiting literature, nomination forms, etc., the subscription has been fixed at 1/6 per annum. For the benefit of the younger members it has been decided to grant them the privilege of paying their subscription in two equal instalments. We cordially invite amateurs of the whole world to join with us, and help to further the interests of the “Cause.” The “A.P.C.” is open to all Amateur Journalists and Artists.

We extend a hearty welcome to all members of the “B.A.L.A.” and wish at this stage to state that the “A.P.C.” is not antagonistic to that organization, but wishes to work in harmony with it, and we extend a hearty welcome to all its members. Much activity has been induced already through the medium of the Combine and many printed and M.S. magazines are promised.

A pro. tem. board of officials have been appointed as under :

President : Edward F. Herdman.

Vice-President : Stanley Kitchell. Official Editor : Ralph A. L. Breed.

General Secretary & Treasurer : Tom Lamond.

Official Recorder : Ed. Herdman. Publicity Secretary : J. Parks.

Councillors :

Arthur Harris.

(Three more are still required)

The above will hold office until the First Convention which will be held in July or August. Further particulars can be had from any of the officials.

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

- 1 Edwd. F. Herdman, 47 Salisbury Place, Bishop Auckland.
- 2 Edward ,, 1 Southgate Street, ,, ,,

- 3 Ralph A. L. Breed, 4 Coldbath Street, Lewisham, S.E. 13.
- 4 Stanley Kitchell, 69 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, S.E. 21.
- 5 Arthur Harris, Gordon Villa, Caroline Road, Llandudno.
- 6 Joseph Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks.
- 7 Tom L. Lamond, 11 Forbes Street, Aberdeen.
- 8 Stanley L. Watt, 48 St. Luke's Road, Kensington, W. 11.
- 9 Wheeler Dryden, c/o Actors' Equity Association, 45 West 47th Street, New York City, U.S.A.
- 10 J. W. Carpenter, 25 Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, Ireland.
- 11 W. A. Downes, St. Kevins Park, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, ,,
- 12 Ben Winskill, Creteway Press, Buxted, Sussex.
- 13 Roy A. Evans, 118 Ollivers Road, Linwood, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- 14 Ben Holloway, 28 Heyburn Road, Tuebrook, Liverpool.
- 15 John W. Mayer, Emmanuel College, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask, Canada.
- 16 Victor King, 40 Townholme Crescent, Hanwell, London, W. 7.

If you are not already a member join at once and further the best interests of British Amateur Journalism. JOIN THE "A.P.C."

We have just heard from Victor King, another well-known "old-timer." He published "The White Rosebud" and "Weekly Report" in 1910. He will be pleased to hear from any "old-timers," and to subscribe to all amateur magazines.

The Competitions on page 92 are open to all members of the "A.P.C."

PETER PAN.

With all due respect to Mr. C. Hoare, we think he is entirely unjustified in utilizing the pages of the "Literary Amateur" for personal abuse. Our erring brother is certainly entitled to his own opinions, but that is no reason why they should be printed at the expense of other members of the "B.A.L.A." This is a matter upon which Mr. Hoare might well be taken to task by the officials of the Association. As to Peter Pan and the revived atrocities, we wonder if Mr. Hoare has ever heard about the naughty little boy who lived in a glass house and used to throw stones?

MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

British (M.S.S.) Pro Patria, June, 1925, Caledonian, December, 1925.

American (Printed) United Amateur, No. 1, Vol. XXV.

THE PERSONALIA OF THE "PENNY DREADFUL."

BY FRANK JAY.

(continued from page 74).

It was close upon Christmas when I saw him and he had a bottle of whisky and some choice cigars, which he made me help to consume. We had a fine long talk about the old bohemian days, but like Mr Burrage he kept aloft from the others, otherwise he would not have lived so long. He was a fine well cultured gentleman. He must have written some hundreds of all kinds of stories. I have the pleasure of possessing some of his M.S.S. and books from his private library, and I prize them highly.

Edwin J. Brett was the only publisher of the old boys journals that really did well and prospered, and he left a large fortune to his family which unfortunately did them but little good. His youngest son who inherited over £50,000 became a beggar, and lived for a time upon his wits. His wife used to come to my house with most pitiful tales of their distress. At one time they were without a home, but as Mr. Brett, junior. was neither a writer, artist or publisher, he cannot be considered one of the old bohemians. I merely mention him as showing that so little real good has resulted from the purveyors of boys literature of what may be termed the dreadful kind.

Harrison, the publisher of "Black Bess", etc., was practically a madman when he died, and the house he died in at Northlands, Kent, was for a long time untenanted, on account of some rumour of ghosts being seen in it. I could go further but time space won't permit.

MUSIC AND OLD BOYS LITERATURE.

BY HENRY STEELE.

From old boys journals to music may seem rather a long jump, but I see no reason why they could not be blended together in some sort of harmony. Let us suppose then, that a Grand Orchestral Concert is to be organised in aid of the Society for the promotion of Interest in Old Boys Literature. Here is a suggested programme—

1	March	<i>The Boys' Standard</i>	Fox
2	Waltz	<i>Lads and Lassies</i>	Brett
3	Patriotic Selection	<i>Sons of Britannia</i>	Emmett
4	Reverie	<i>Boys' Leisure Hour</i>	Fox
5	Chinese Patrol	<i>Ching Ching's Own</i>	Burrage
6	Adante Mysterio	<i>Sweeny Todd</i>	Prest
		Bell (yard) Soloist Mrs Lovett.	
7	Fox Trot	<i>Rags and Riches</i>	Burrage
8	Nautical Fantasia	<i>Sheet-Anchor Jack</i>	Emmett
9	Humouresque	<i>Boys Comic Journal</i>	Brett
10	Rustic Suite	<i>Lads of the Village</i>	Watkins
11	Argentine Tango	<i>King of the Pampas</i>	Borlase
12	Gallop	<i>Black Bess</i>	Viles

COMPETITIONS

- 1 (a) For the best amateur magazine (printed)
- 2 (b) " " " " " (hectographed)
- 3 (c) " " " " " (M.S.S.)
- 4 (d) " " " article (not to exceed 600 words)
- 5 (e) " " " cover design for "Vanity Fair"

A handsome bound volume is offered in each section. Competitors must be subscribers to V.F. All entries must be clearly marked "Competition Entry" and sent to the Editor of this paper not later than May 1st, 1926.

VANITY FAIR OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB.

SUBSCRIPTION 2/6 PER YEAR.

Formed for the purpose of the sale and exchange of old boys papers, and for drawing into closer companionship lovers of the old boys journals.

Each month a list will be published and mailed free to members. The list will be in three sections: for Sale, Exchange, and Wanted.

All that is necessary to become a member is to forward a postal order for 2/6 to Joseph Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, with list of what you have to sell; or wish to exchange; or what you are in search of.

Announcements must be kept as brief as possible, and consist of not more than 48 words, but can be changed monthly. The subscription merely covers postage, etc., but affords at once a reliable medium for collectors to add to their collection or dispose of their duplicates.

We solicit the support of all interested, for unless a sufficient number of members are enrolled it cannot be a success. Send that P.O. to-day, it may save you pounds, and bring to you that elusive item you have been searching years for.

JOSEPH PARKS, 2, IRVIN AVENUE,
SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.

"VANITY FAIR."

An Illustrated Monthly Amateur Magazine.

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EXCHANGE AND MART.

Advert Rates : Full Page 8/-, Half Page 4/6, Quarter

Page 3/3, undisplayed Adverts, 1d. for 4 words.

Minimum number of words, 16.

200,000 Brand New Cigarette Pictures. Sets 6d. each. Your own sets completed. Good allowance for clean exchange cards; send parcels. Speciality: Old Boys Papers, Cheap. Budge, Almondbury, Huddersfield.

WANTED. Old boys papers issued 1900—12. Boys Herald, Boys Friend, Boys Leader, Boys of the Empire, Big Budget, Nuggets, True Blue, Pluck, Marvel, etc. Also old printed and manuscript amateur magazines. J. Parks, 2 Irvin, Ave., Saltburn, Yorks.

FOR SALE. Ellen Percy, (Reynolds) vols 1 & 3, 2/-, Brett's Bob Blunt, 2 vols 2/6, History of old boys books, 6/-, Boys Own Paper, 6 early vols (bound) 18/-. All post free, will exchange for others. J. Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea.

WANTED Boys Periodicals for 1880—1900. Aldine Coy's publications including The Lambs of Littlecote, The Island School and The Brave Boy of the Basilisk. Also several boys papers, similar to dispose of, sale or exchange. Hunter, North Lodge, Sweethope, Musselburgh, Midlothian.

FOR SALE Metamorphoser Lantern, 306 Slides, 7 Rackwork, 26 Comic Slipping, 2 Slide Boxes, 2 Carriers, Bargain £5. Also 100 Gramophone Records. New condition and up-to-date. 8/- a dozen. All carriage paid. Parks, Ivanhoe Press, Saltburn-by-Sea.

MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

British (Printed) Le Cocq's Comment, No. 3, Literary Amateur, No's 2 & 3, Vol. 5, Interesting Items, No's. 536, 537, 538 & 539.