

December 16th, 1949.

Dear Benjamin Whiter,

Thank you for your letter of November 13th.

Please excuse delay in replying: what with Tom Merry, Billy Buntet, 'Jack of All Trades', Jimmy Silver and Co. and the Carcroft fellows, all scrambling over the typewriter, the time for correspondence seems to grow smaller by degrees and beautifully less! But I am very pleased indeed to hear from Bob's brother. I am glad you like Tom Merry's Annual so much: and I really do agree that it is a tremendous production: and how the publishers could produce it for seven and six, is one of those things that no fellow can understand. When I saw the advance copy, I was reminded of the old annuals in the 1880's--when annuals really were annuals!---but I have not seen anything to equal it for half a century. In comparison the old Greyfriars Holiday Annual is not in the same street, or even round the corner. I note in the C.D. that the T.M. Annual in the draw went to Newcastle-on-Tyne--not quite so far afield as you hoped-----but I hope it will give pleasure to

the lucky Novocastrian. I wonder if you noticed the misprint on Page 207, where the word "referens" is spelt "referees". Too bad of the printer to introduce referees into a cricket match! ~~Oh~~ Oh, those printers! I heard of a printer once who had to set up a description of a visiting African prince, who was described as "the greatest chief in South Africa". And he set up "the greatest thief in South Africa".!!!! Which must have given his Highness a shock!

~~Best of wishes for Christmas, and may the G. E. B. C. and~~
all concerned flourish in the New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank Richards