

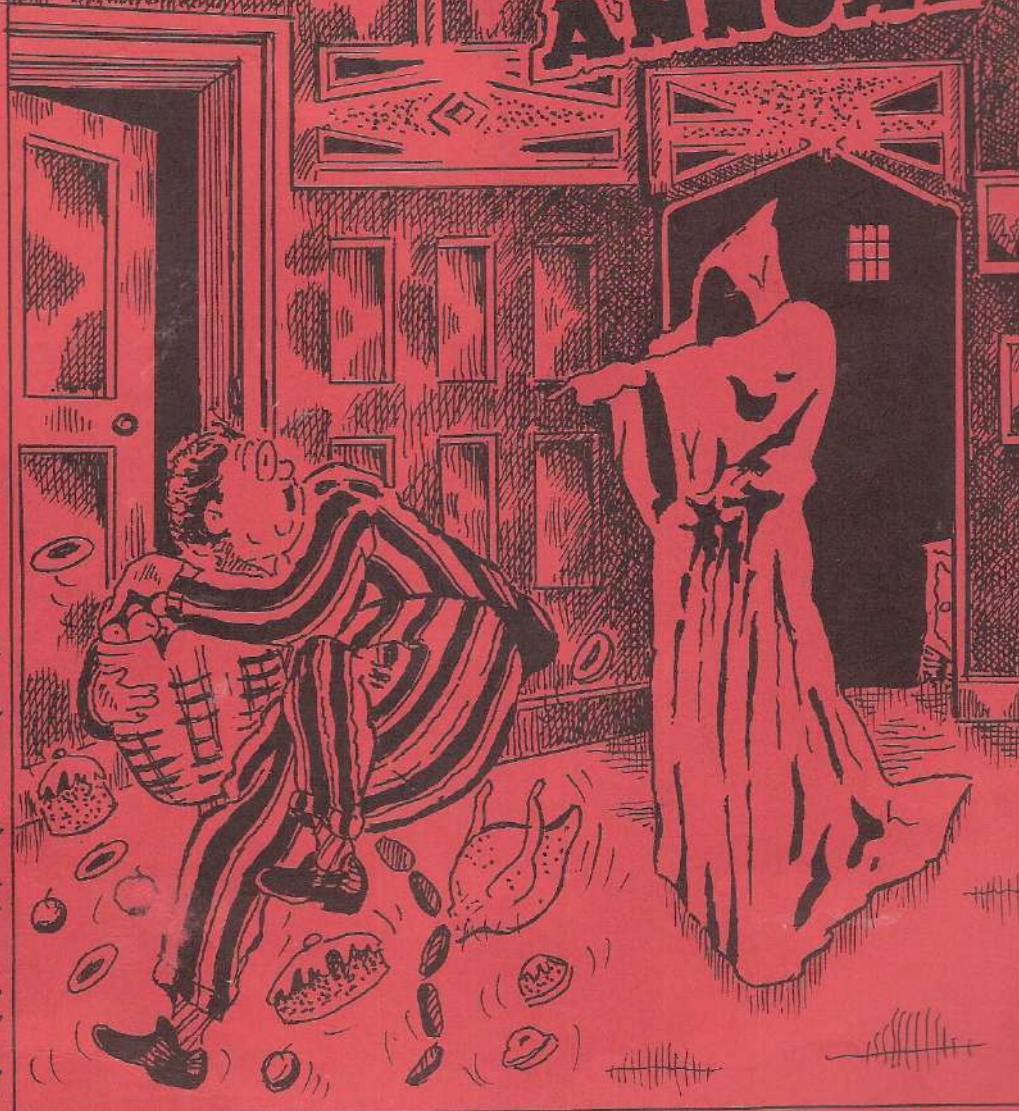
COLLECTOR'S

1996

DICET



ANNUAL





CONTENTS



Pages 3 - 7	The Great Foreign Holiday Series in the Magnet ..	Roger M. Jenkins
Pages 8 - 14	An Obsession with Words 'Can I Have a Word?' ..	Brian Doyle
Pages 15 - 17	Bunter Loses Out	Anthony Cook
Pages 18 - 22	Harold Avery, the Forgotten Man of Boys' Fiction ..	Richard Burgon
Pages 23 - 27	Floreat Blandings	Ernest Holman
Pages 28 - 33	Charles Hamilton - The Ealing Connection	Una Hamilton Wright
Pages 34 - 38	The Development of Norman Conquest	Norman Wright
Pages 39 - 45	The Extraordinary Journeys of Jules Verne	Laurence Price
Pages 46 - 48	Treasure Island: The Spin-Offs	Mark Taha
Pages 49 - 53	An Introduction to Elizabeth	Tony Glynn
Pages 54 - 55	Seasonal Greetings	Margery Woods
Pages 56 - 59	Quelch, Bunter and the Christmas Cake	Leslie Rowley
Pages 60 - 63	Of Underground Tunnels and Tree Top Prisons (St. Frank's in the Toils!)	Ray Hopkins
Pages 64 - 66	Bunter Knows How!	Frank Richards
Pages 66 - 68	It's Not War, It's Plain Bloody Murder! (A Bulldog Drummond pastiche)	A.E. Sims
Page 69	Colin Crewe	
Pages 70 - 74	The Colours of Christmas	Margery Woods
Pages 75 - 77	Sexton Blake's Partner	Derek Hinrich
Page 78	Guess These Hamilton Places	Bob Whiter
Pages 79 - 82	Cliff House Girls - and Others (As portrayed by two notable artists)	Dennis L. Bird
Pages 83 - 84	Memories of the early C.D. Annuals	Bill Lofts
Pages 84 - 88	Ponsonby the Psychopath	Dr. Nandu Thalange & Donald V. Campbell
Pages 89 - 93	Jack Keen of Film Fun	Introduced by Bill Lofts
Pages 94 - 100	Chisholm's Chequered Career	Peter Mahony
Pages 101 - 102	Second Sight	Ian Bennett
Pages 102 - 105	More Greyfriars "Pictures in the Fire"	Ted Baldock
Page 106	Quiz - Literary Connections	Peter Mahony
Pages 107 - 109	Villains and Heroes on Wheels	Donald V. Campbell
Pages 109 - 111	'The Pride and the Passion'	Jennifer Schofield
Page 111	Answers to "Guess these Hamilton Places"	
Pages 112 - 115	Matt Braddock, The Working Class Biggles ..	Des O'Leary
Page 115	Answers to Literary Connections Quiz	
Pages 116 - 119	Pony Books - A Brief Introduction	Clarissa Cridland
Page 120	The Greyfriars Club	

Treasure Island:

The Spin-Offs

BY MARK TAHA



I'd like to begin this article with a possible apology; I hope I haven't missed anything out. The following are all the spin-offs I've read.

It was obvious from the start that somebody would write a sequel to *Treasure Island*. Leaving aside the many hostages to fortune and the fact that Robert Louis Stevenson was only 44 when he died, Long John Silver was too good a character to lose. Indeed, his earlier life would undoubtedly be worth reading about (it definitely was) and he naturally appears in all the spin-offs. One can't help agreeing that Silver deserved either a seat in Parliament or a rope necktie (let's compromise - both!).

The first sequel, "Back to Treasure Island" by H.A. Callahan, came out in 1936; its author modestly said that "I have tried to write the story as Stevenson would have written it". The book is set three years later. Jim, whose wealth has gone to his head a bit, is still living at the Admiral Benbow; a young negress called Diana is hired as general help. Jim has buried half his treasure and invested the rest in the infamous "South Sea Bubble" with the Squire and Doctor. The squire returns with the news that the bubble's burst and they're all ruined. Jim suggests using some of the rest of his share to go to the island for the rest. They go with Abraham Gray from the original as captain, the Squire's business associate Blandly as mate, Diana as ship's cook, Ben Gunn in the crew, and some barrels of water. They get to the island - and Jim finds that the barrels contain not water but Silver and thirteen buccaneers. Diana's his wife, Blandly's his agent; the war this time sees Jim rescued from torture (Silver is depicted as an out-and-out villain) by Dick the castaway and Silver's men massacred; Silver himself loses his other leg and is left marooned with Diana. They are the sole survivors.

In Chums Annual for 1940 there appeared "The Treasure of Pirates' Island" by S. Walkey, which told of Gabriel Gold, a one-legged seaman with a black wife and parrot, and the local innkeeper. The young narrator, Ensign Martin Dane, accompanies his uncle, Admiral Sir Barnaby Broom, on a voyage to the West Indies with Gold as ship's cook. It turns out that several of the crew are working for the pirate Devilshoof - who naturally attacks the ship.

Gold and others find themselves on Devilshoof's ship after a sea battle; Gold talks them out of trouble and they escape when other pirates come after Devilshoof. They're eventually picked up by Captain Jeremy Clinker, who's sure he's seen Gold before. Gold first goes over to the other pirates - with a plausible explanation later - then eventually kills Devilshoof after discovering the treasure buried by Martin's ancestor, "Mad" Dane. All ends happily, with Gabriel a prosperous property-owner singing in the church choir and Captain Clinker musing that, when he'd seen Gabriel before, his name had been Silver, not Gold.

"The Adventures of Ben Gunn", written by R.F. Delderfield some years later, tells of how he became a pirate; he was forced to run away from home with scapegrace parson's son Nick Allardyce, who'd killed the local squire's revolting son. Nick became ship's doctor with Ben as his servant on a convict ship, the Walrus - it picks up a castaway slaver, Captain Silver. This story develops into a postscriptorial retelling of the "Treasure Island" tale from ^{Ben's} Silver's viewpoint. The 1954 film "Long John Silver" was turned into a book by Kylie Tennant. Jim, at school and fed up, is summoned to the West Indies by a letter from his uncle, "James Harbridge" (guess who?). His ship is taken by pirates led by one Mendoza, and he and the Governor's daughter are taken hostage; Silver and his men save Jim and win a battle with Mendoza's men over the contents of the Governor's warehouse. Silver and Jim again go on a voyage to the island - Jim doesn't care for the Governor's plan to make him a midshipman in the navy and Long John doesn't care for a woman called Purity Pinker's wanting to marry him!

Ultimately Jim and Silver's men arrive on the island - meeting Israel Hands, now a blind castaway, with an understandable grudge against Jim, and several men under his command. Jim gets away from him only to be captured by Mendoza - and again rescued by Silver. This time, Mendoza is left on the island and Silver decides to go straight, taking off in a sloop just in time to avoid his wedding! There were no more sequels until the 1970s: then they came thick and fast.

TREASURE ISLAND

BY

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Illustrated by N.C. WYETH

"Flint's Island", in 1973, was by Leonard Wibberley, who doesn't seem too well-informed ("For two score years I waited for a sequel from other hands"). Set in 1760, it's narrated by Tom Whelan, the 17-year-old quartermaster of an American trading brig, the "Jane". The island's recognised by Mr. Arrow, the mate and a non-drinker since going overboard from the

"Hispaniola"; he recognised it from a chart. He and Tom go ashore; Mr. Arrow is shot dead and Tom meets a castaway, the one-legged Long John Silver, who'd been there for four years and had found the treasure. Tom's uneasy about Silver and his commander, Captain Samuels, calls him "too nice for honesty". It turns out that he hadn't been alone on the island but had

commanded fourteen men, later reduced (best not ask how) to seven. They taken the ship and are overcome - then Silver turns out to be "a seaman to put beside Drake" who talks most of the crew round. Things finally end with Silver escaping in a boat and the mutineers getting off by legal tricks.

"The Adventures of Long John Silver" by Dennis Judd, published in 1977, was the first spin-off I read. The story is told by an 89-year-old Silver to Dr. James Hawkins. It seems that Silver was the son of a respectable shoemaker who hated the French, noblemen and popery and told his son "Don't you ever think the world must always be as you find it!" - views entirely shared by Silver's later commander Captain Flint! Young John drifted into smuggling and was jailed; he escaped, ran away to sea, and joined a slaver. On his second voyage, he meets Gabriel Pew, a mad captain. There is a mutiny, and Silver gets off hanging by claiming "benefit of clergy", being condemned to slavery instead. Sold to a French planter, he rises to become overseer and forms a liaison with the planter's daughter, whose father finds out. Fortunately for Silver pirates take the plantation and he joins them. After many vicissitudes (including the loss of his leg!) Silver returns to Bristol, leases an inn, and establishes a reputation as "honest, hardworking, scrupulous... staunch supporter of the Tory cause"!

"Return to Treasure Island", the sequel, deals with what Silver did afterwards; he bought a sugar plantation in Grenada and had made preparations to return to the island, but the French took Grenada and his property with it. He was imprisoned until exchanged in 1770; then he spent time in New Orleans before going to Boston with a Spanish mistress. He actually took part in the Boston Tea Party, along with an Irishman called John Kennedy; from there, he took a ship, recruited a crew, returned to the island, found the treasure - and was then captured by a British navy frigate. He meets his old comrade Black Dog there, stirs up a mutiny, and puts the non-mutineers to sea in a gig-commanded by a young midshipman who "looks sickly... can fight like a lion... Horatio Nelson is his full name". Unfortunately, the treasure is "confiscated" by the rebels in Georgia and sent to Washington's Army. Silver and his comrades

Black Dog and Isaiah Meek sign up as spies for the British and are taken on as kitchen staff to Washington. Silver ends up in Canada as a "pillar of local colonial society... an outspoken upholder of the rights of property and the rule of law."

"Silver's Revenge", by Robert Leeson in 1981, was both a sequel and a burlesque which cribbed a lot of dialogue from the original. Set some fifteen years later, it is narrated by Tom Carter, a runaway apprentice. The squire is now in financial trouble, Jim is landlord of the Admiral Benbow, and Ben Gunn a lodgekeeper. Tom's taken on at the inn and meets a black maid called Betsy; he's rescued from bounty hunters by a Mr. Argent, a mine-owner who seems to know Jim. He, of course is Long John - with a false leg. The upshot of all this is a fresh voyage with a motley crew including the aforementioned, Dr. Livesey, Captain Gray, miners, prize-fighters, and blacks - including women picked up in Jamaica, one of whom turns out to be Silver's wife (Betsy is his daughter). It ends with the whole lot of them marooned.

A more recent spin-off was "Return to Treasure Island", the book of the 1985 TV series. The necessity to end every episode with a climax no doubt accounts for the repetitive if exciting story line. Jim, at 22, is to go to Jamaica as the squire's agent; Silver turns up and finds himself soon committed to transportation. He becomes ship's cook and has his mutiny in operation when Spanish pirates turn up and take the ship. Silver, Jim, Ben, a Spanish beauty called Isabella, a big Dutchman called Vanderbrecke, and a Welsh preacher called Morgan escape; to cut a long and repetitive story short, things end with the Squire acting Governor of Jamaica, Jim marrying the Spanish beauty, and Silver again getting away - this time, freed by Jim.

Well, they're certainly all worth reading, Judd in particular. By the way, in "Flashman", Flashman tells us that his family fortunes had been founded by his great-grandfather, old Jack Flashman, who'd made a fortune out of "rum and slaves, and piracy I shouldn't wonder." Might Silver and the Flashman family have been related?



x and serves under



U.J. 1366
21/12/29

Queen Elizabeth Bardell: "Mr. Hansom, I wishes you the Con-diments of the Season and a Preposterous New Year."

Ruff: "Queen, you said a mouth-ful."