

GIRL'S OWN PAPER



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Do You Know?

From W.O.G. Lofts, London

Frank Richards in his Autobiography, gave the information that the name of Tom Merry his famous school-boy at St. Jim's, was taken from a famous black and white illustrator who was around at that period of 1907.

Recently whilst perusing some Victorian magazines, I came across an article about him, and found it most interesting. Seemingly, the real-life Merry was a Cockney, being born at Bow, London, in 1855. At an early age he showed great talent for art, later travelling all over Europe to gain experience. Later still he went to South America, gaining experience all the time. He was specially noted for the amazing speed at which he drew, as well as being extremely versatile in all other areas in the Art world. He even promoted plays, painting all the scenery.

A Bohemian, Tom Merry dressed in a colourful style. One picture I saw of him showed him in a big lace collar, apparently wearing a sort of Lord Fauntleroy suit! Readers may well recall poor Tom Merry arriving at St. Jim's in a similar outfit, dressed in this fashion at the insistence of Miss Fawcett, his Guardian. Whether Frank Richards had seen this photograph, and was inspired to use the idea for an amusing entrance for Tom, one will probably never now know.

From Mark Taha, London

Reading a Rookwood story in the **Schoolboys' Own Library** I was struck by Mornington's hiring a motor car to take the team to a cricket match. I find it hard to imagine a car big enough to hold eleven passengers plus the driver. May I ask those who remember the period if there were any cars like that in 1920? (I think the story was written about then.)

From Ian H. Godden, Victoria, Australia:

The March of the Centenarians by Brian Doyle (August C.D.) is a splendid article but I would like to correct him on one small point; Gerard Fairlie's autobiography was called **With Prejudice**. The wrong title **Without Prejudice**, is given in **The Men Behind Boys' Fiction** (by Lofts and Adley) which is, no doubt, what led Brian Doyle astray.

I particularly enjoyed Jim Sutcliffe's piece on Archie Glenthorne, a great favourite of mine in the Nelson Lee series and one of the best of the