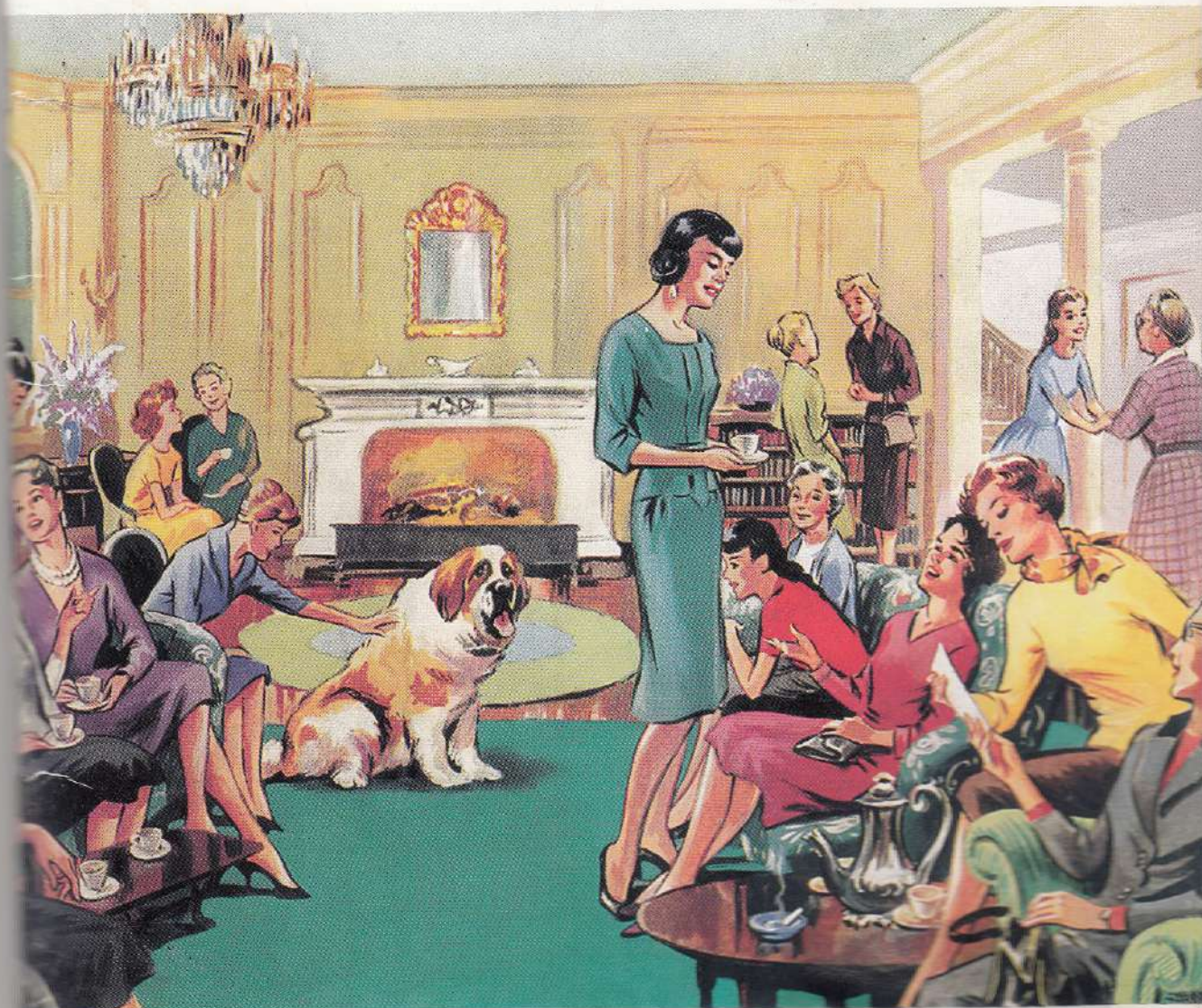


Friends of the Chalet School magazine

Onwards and Upwards



Number 81
August 2008



in the story! But the professor was more of the opinion that it was a very clever advertisement for the previous books – so that if you didn't remember or hadn't read the story in question, you'd be motivated to do a little shopping... especially when the publishers are kind enough to tell you in a footnote just which book you need!"

Friendly Greetings

Arabella Styles "I did feel very sad to read Peter Jones' comments on 'young people', which seemed to be very negative and rather sweeping. One of the wonderful things about FOCS is the huge range of ages interested in matters CS – I particularly love hearing about older members' experiences of the war, as well as more mundane details about clothing etc. To alienate one age group would be very sad and surely contrary to the spirit of the CS. I would rebuff his comments about people 'in their 20s or late teens' by remarking that last summer, approximately eight months pregnant on a hot summer day, the only person to get up and offer me a seat on a crowded bus was a teenage boy. His iPod may have been 'blasting away', but he had far better manners than any of the older people on the bus."

Belsornia Revisited

Nina Farthing "I enjoyed reading *Belsornia Revisited* and the description of the various buildings, but I can't

understand why Elisaveta was unable to own up to who she was! Surely if the Soviet influence had gone there was no danger for her and José. Wouldn't those who remembered their 'Little Lady' have been delighted to see her again, especially the lady-in-waiting – I'm surprised she wasn't suspicious!"

Heather Kaye "I absolutely loved this story – what an excellent idea, I was always sorry this was never covered, the story fits in perfectly after the upheavals in Eastern Europe. Wonderful!"

Sheila Smith "I would like to congratulate Pat Willimott on her story about Elisaveta. I thoroughly enjoyed it as we hear so little about Elisaveta after the main story about her. I do love these 'fill in' stories which our talented members supply. I marvel at (and envy!) their imagination and talent."

Eileen Stamper "As ever the May budget was full of lively and perceptive writing that witnesses our engagement with EBD's characters. I loved *Belsornia Revisited* and am sure it depicts just how Elisaveta would have felt after her wartime experiences."

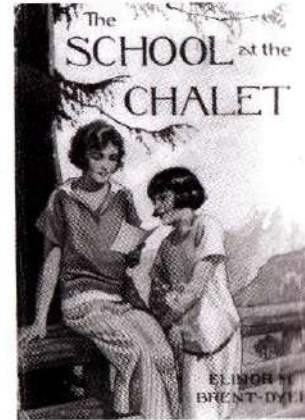
Mark Taha "When was *Belsornia Revisited* set? Elisaveta would be about 90 now. And surely there'd have been calls for her return when the Communists fell. The ex-King of Bulgaria was elected Prime Minister and I'd have thought she'd have wanted her property back. Queen Elisaveta returning in the early 1990s, interviewed by journalist Con Maynard. Her priorities include outlawing slang in schools,



requiring schoolgirls to curtsy to the Headmistress, and Josephine M.Bettany's books as set texts! Oh and veteran concert pianist Margia Stevens was to play at her Coronation."

Double Standards

Frances Bailey "Referring to Angela Porter's comments on how EBD's favourite characters get away with things that lesser ones wouldn't, I'm currently re-reading *School At the Chalet* and have reached the part where several of the girls encounter 'Frau Berlin'. Now, I know that she does turn out to be an awful woman, and the story being written not so long after WW1 would affect the attitude towards 'Berliners', but Joey's loud, rude, personal remarks about her looks, weight, etc., to the extent of saying 'If I were as fat as that I should go and drown myself' strike me as being rude in the extreme, especially from a schoolgirl in those days."



Educational and Social Customs

Arabella Styles "Regarding careers advice, I was at school between 1992-1999, and would wholeheartedly concur with Xanthe – when expressing interest in reading art history at uni, our careers adviser suggested I visit an art gallery!"

Rhonwen Vickers "At 14 I said to a careers officer that I'd like to be a librarian and was told, 'Oh no! you'd just better go on the dole'. I was dreadfully upset but hadn't quite the confidence to go and complain to the Headmistress who I believe would have been horrified."

Caroline Brown "Pauline Martin's comments on male-only postings struck a chord. In some cultures this is still the case. In my previous job I worked as a safety officer for a Korean company (based in England). When our site won a company safety award I was invited to the awards ceremony at headquarters in Korea. However, the Korean MD refused permission for me to attend: apparently the site would 'lose face' if a woman turned up, and people realised he had employed women in any positions of responsibility!"



Further Thoughts of Pertisau

Peter Jones "I have just found this site which gives some of the best views of Pertisau that I have seen. As well as the usual map, there are dozens of photographs. I thought that maybe some other members would also like it. www.panoramio.com."

How wonderful to have another story about the Tyrol and to have so much more information about Juliet, and about Grizel and Miss Wilson too. I so enjoyed all the extra info at the back, explaining why a pupil was included, or indeed was not. How carefully Caroline German has planned and researched. I was in tears twice and enjoyed a thoroughly good read. This story will fit seamlessly into EBD's series, but as I feared I am going to have to read, at the very least, all the other Tyrol ones again."

Problem Parents

Mark Taha "I would add Grizel Cochrane's parents, especially her stepmother, who should have married Juliet's father! Emerence's mother had been known to lose her temper and shake her."

Smoking and the Chalet School

Maeve Holt "I wonder if EBD kept referring to smoking because she thought of it as a grown-up thing to do which would distinguish adults from schoolgirls? For decades many people did see smoking as an indication that they had entered the adult world. Except for the occasional couple of lads trying it out behind the bike shed, children didn't smoke as some do now and smoking was viewed as a grown-up pastime. In the 1960s, I smoked for six months 'just because I could'. Having come from a family and an 'education' system based on 'Find out what people are doing and put a stop to it', I smoked as soon as I felt free to do so and very grown-up I felt, too! After six months I decided it was a filthy, smelly habit and a waste of money so I stopped and have never thought of it since. Health, at the time, didn't seem to have any connection."

Lynda Duff "I started reading the stories as a child in the 1950s and found nothing odd at all to smoking references. Although I've never smoked myself, I grew up in a society/time when smoking was the norm – non-smokers were the oddities!"

Mark Taha "I remember in *Oberland* that Bill didn't mind smoking but objected to card playing on Sunday."

Jenny Marshall "I agree that you should not apply today's standards to the books. Both my parents lived during the war and started smoking then, almost out of camaraderie, as it was the done thing. They both smoked during my childhood (Players' Guards to be precise!). However, I never remember their clothes – or mine – smelling of smoke/nicotine. Maybe the coal fire in the living room and the coke boiler in the kitchen had something to do with this? Although my parents smoked in company, including a cigar for my dad at Christmas, neither would have dreamt of smoking in public ... unless we were waiting for a bus. In this case, either one I was with would promise to make the bus materialise by lighting up. Sure enough, after a couple of puffs, the bus would appear around the corner and the cigarette would be hastily stubbed out. I

