

The

Friars'

Chronicles

Volume 37

Spring 2019

Number 151



'URRY UP!' CALLED OUT THE CONDUCTOR

## **Some Recent Reading –Mark Taha**

I treated myself to "A Tudor Christmas" by Alison Weir and Siobhan Clarke for Christmas. On page 76, it says that "the seasonal custom of barring out schoolmasters originated in Tudor times. Boys would stockpile provisions and barricade the school doors. Usually the teacher was allowed to enter on condition that he administered fewer beatings and permitted more holidays. The custom flourished until the nineteenth century, chiefly in in northern England, Scotland and Ireland." And in the twentieth century at Greyfriars, St Jims, Rookwood, St Frank's...

Have been following the editor's example and reading about Captain Coke and St Olaf's in the British Library. Have also been reading "In Your Aviary" for 1949-50 -he followed his article on cruelty to animals in the August issue with another one in the same vein the following month. He also wrote in Dec 1949 and Jan 1950 respectively two short stories with twists in the tail- "Uncle Comes for Xmas" and "No Pudding for Podgers!" – the first was accompanied by a picture of him smoking a pipe.

I rather enjoyed the Coke stories – did the contemporary Captain Kettle ones have anything in common with them? Coke went a bit over the top even for non-PC me but I enjoyed his reference to "Algy Smythe, of the Slumber-and-Red-Tape Department." I was also struck by Hamilton's writing of "Belgian cruelties."

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## Letter Rack

Dear Editor,

Cricket-I remember counting thirteen players in the Remove eleven during the Da Costa series. P. G. Wodehouse had teams playing two innings in one day and I've tended to take him, a real-life First Eleven man, as rather an oracle. Mauleverer turned out and did well once during the Stacey series.

Anglophile "Aliens" – I assume they all spoke in middle or upper-class accents, albeit with regional variations. I find it hard to believe that locals in Kent would have spoken in West Country accents. Ogilvy was far more prominent than Morgan. It was once said that Gwynne became more Irish when excited. Kildare of St Jim's was also Irish, by the way – along with the Mulvaney's and Reilly. I also remember a radio broadcast of "Christmas Party" in which Bull and Field both spoke with their regional accents. I don't recall him ever saying "Jumping kangaroos!" in the *Magnet*.

Tom Brown was captain of the Remove briefly in 1935 – how could he have been wicket-keeper when he was a bowler?

*[The Warwickshire captain and wicket-keeper, A. C. Smith, in a match against Essex in 1965, became so frustrated with his bowlers' lack of success that he handed his pads to someone else and put himself on to bowl. In true Hamilton style, he did the hat-trick. ed.]*

Roger's Way – Never knew he had such a sense of humour!

Mark Taha