

THE BEANO & DANDY COLLECTORS' CLUB

Founder Year 2006-7

February 2007

Issue 2



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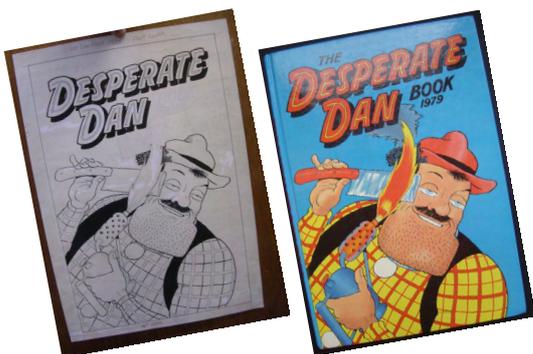
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COLLECTORS' CLUB INFORMATION

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EDITORIAL

Firstly, I hope you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities, and wish you all the best for 2007.

In the not-so-distant past I would always set myself numerous resolutions, often involving exercise, which inevitably became broken before the end of January, after it became clear they were highly unrealistic.

Last year, I set myself just two; 1) to give up chocolate, and 2) to give up crisps. I am proud to say that I did not eat a single crisp throughout 2006!

One of the resolutions (a *goal* would be a more suitable term) I have set myself for 2007 is to take the Collectors' Club from strength to strength. I believe this is a realistic 'goal' for three reasons.

Firstly, The Beano and The Dandy seem to be increasingly popular amongst collectors and the British public in general, emphasised by the recent success of the Dandy Monster Comic 1939 reprint edition.

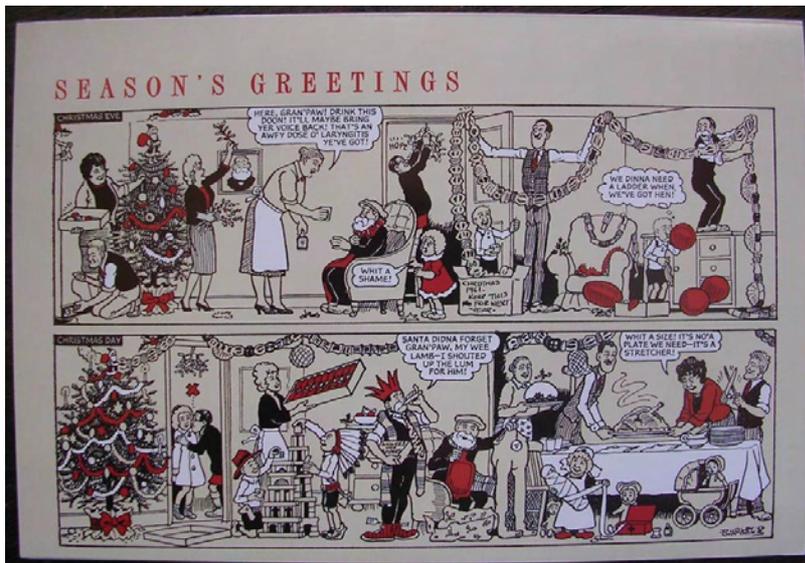
Secondly, a healthy level of correspondence was received following the publication of the first newsletter, all of which, I am pleased to say, was positive. One Edinburgh member hailed it "a triumph" and another, also from the

Scottish capital, described it as "an excellent start".

Thirdly, something has become very apparent with my eBay auction sales in the last couple of years in that the vast majority of people today pay for their items by PayPal, due to its hassle-free, instant nature. For that reason, I have

see pictured, incorporated 'The Broons'. The Broons were introduced in Scotland in The Sunday Post, in 1936, shortly before the arrival of The Dandy (1937) and The Beano (1938). The Beano & Dandy are undoubtedly the most popular comics in England, Scotland and Wales whilst The Broons are a

Scottish institution, aptly known as 'Scotland's Happy Family'. With artwork by Dudley Watkins, best known for his prolific work in strips such as Desperate Dan, Lord Snooty and Biffo the Bear, many collectors of The Beano and The Dandy share an interest in The Broons. South of the border we tend to struggle somewhat with the speech used within The Broons strips. This may have gone some way to influence DC Thomson to include a 'Glebe Street glossary' on the back of the card; a nice touch, which I have reproduced here.



had an online subscription form added to the Collectors' Club page of the website, alongside a link to pay the subscription fee instantly with PayPal. This has already encouraged more people to join, and I hope more overseas collectors will sign up as a result.

There were 47 members at the end of October when the newsletter was published, and that figure has now risen to 75. I hope all members enjoyed the club package and, if so, please spread the word to other collectors to whom you think may show an interest in joining.

In December I received a Christmas card from DC Thomson which, as you will

An important part of my collecting hobby is the trading, which essentially funds the buying of items for my own collection. As you will see in the advert opposite, we are seeking scarce items for auction, so if you have any spare items then please get in touch.

As you will read later, we have begun the 'Letters to the Editor' section which starts the process of getting you, the member base, involved. Nothing like a bit of group participation on a cold, wet winter's day!

All that is left now is to prove that Issue 1 wasn't a 'one-hit wonder' so without further ado, I give you Issue 2!

Best wishes,

Phil Shrimpton

LOST FOR WORDS?

Here's the Glebe Street glossary

Doon: The opposite of *up*!

Awfy: Not Gran'paw's interpretation of *au fait*, but a quaint word meaning *awful*.

Whit: Although the Broons are renowned for their *wit*, *whit* in this instance means *what*.

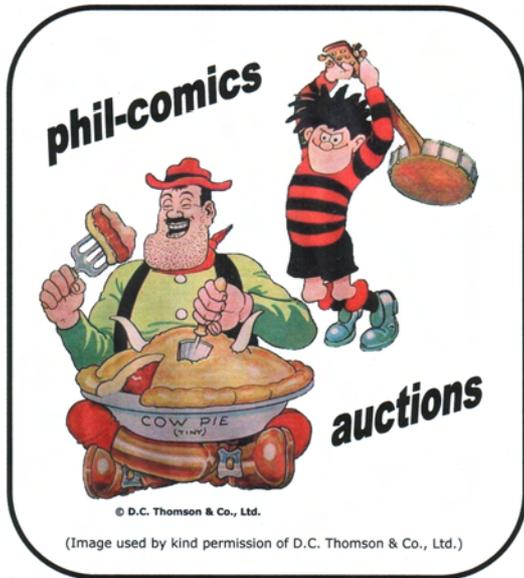
Dinna: It may sound like a meal, but really means *do not*.

Lum: The colloquial name given to a *chimney* by the residents of Glebe Street.

Yer: Not to be confused with a span of 365 days, *yer* simply means *your*.

Broons artwork from Sunday Post
ISSUE DATED 23.12.1962

LOOKING TO SELL A SINGLE ITEM OR COLLECTION OF COMIC BOOKS?



We commission the sale of pre-1980 British comics, annuals, books & artwork and achieve consistently high prices. Let us do all the work of grading, imaging, marketing, advertising, customer service, banking, packaging and posting and send you payment in installments or as a final total. We also buy items if you are looking to sell direct. We seek:

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We hope to hear from you soon!

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CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks to all members who sent their entries for the caption competition, in Issue 1.

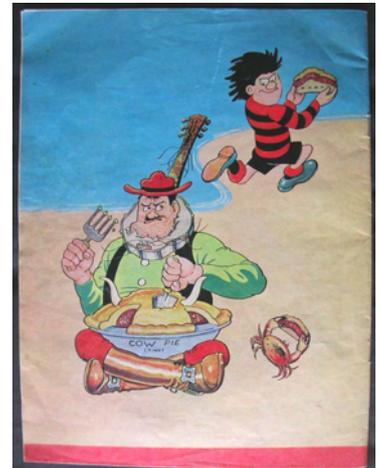
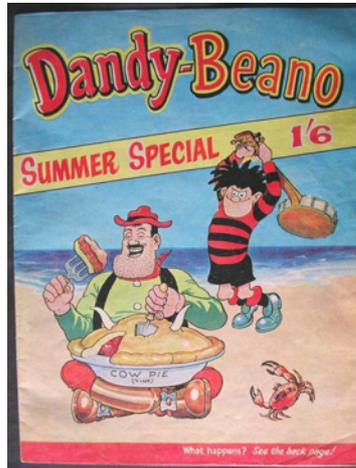
DC Thomson kindly agreed to judge them and, after they had "deliberated, cogitated and digested the offerings", came up with the following winning caption...

"Boy oh boy, am I going to enjoy this!!!"

... a great line as the reader would be left wondering who thought it, but of course, both Dennis AND Dan would be thinking it!

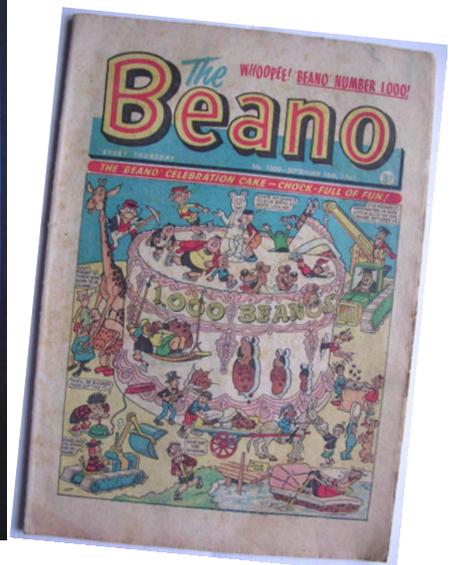
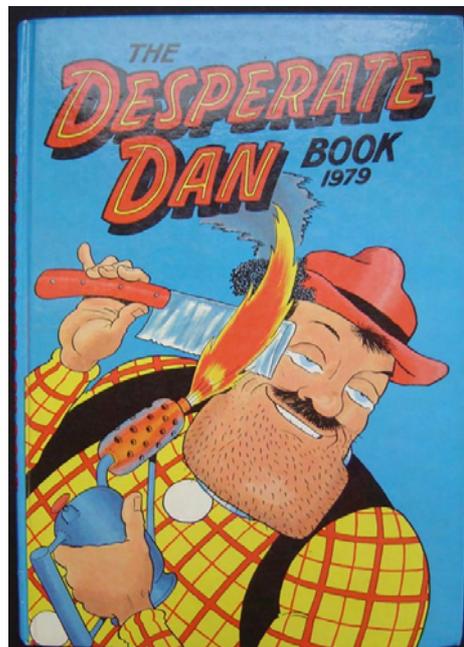
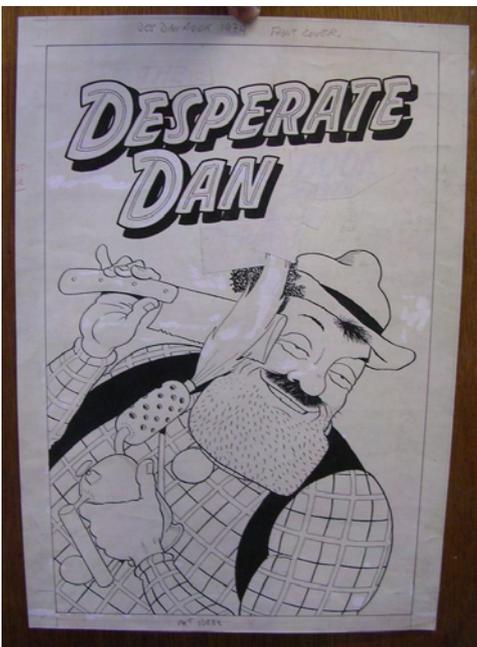
The winner, *Stan Mail* of Liverpool, was delighted to receive the Dandy comic Coronation issue of 1953.

The official aftermath of 'the event' can be found on the back cover of the 1963 Dandy-Beano Summer Special, seen to the right:



The first newsletter featured the artwork of the 1979 Desperate Dan annual. This is reproduced below alongside the finished product. As you can see, the Gillette has been cast aside for the 'blow torch / meat cleaver combi! What would Dan be thinking/saying as he attends to his morning shave? What would Aunt Aggie think/say as an onlooker? Come up

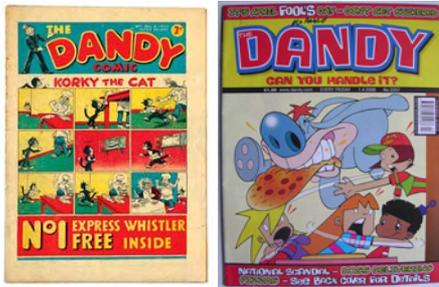
with a fun caption and submit it to us by March 15th, 2007, for a chance to win an original Beano comic #1000, the landmark birthday issue of 1961, seen below.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Thank you for starting The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club - I'm sure it will be a great success. Being 71 years I can remember my Mum, in 1941, taking me over the shops at Moulescoomb, Brighton, where she bought me my first Dandy, and the Beano two days later. Then on a regular basis via the paper boy. In 1943 the Daily Mirror asked for money for the Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund, and four of us little lads held a garage jumble sale where all my Beano and Dandy comics, with others from my mates; early numbers, singles and doubles were sold. Our efforts made £10.00 which was a lot of money in those days. I have had the Dandy and Beano all my life. I still take the Beano but stopped the Dandy when it became too "modern" a while ago.



The Dandy comic #1, 1937, and the 'New Look' Dandy comic, 2006.

My comics are passed to grandchildren now, although I have collected a lot of the old ones, from way back to the 1940s; Beano #25 my earliest.

Thanks again for the club.

Malcolm French, Lewes, East Sussex

Dear Sir,

I've just had my Club material and I wanted to say how truly impressed I am with the entire package. I wish the Club every success for the future and I really hope you get the support you deserve.

Yours sincerely,

John Roche, Pembrokeshire, Wales

Dear Sir,

Congratulations at your launch of The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club. I look forward to the continued success of the club.

I would have first met the two comics whilst in the junior school in the early part of the 40s. Although our family did not take these comics,

they were available in the playground and also at the barber's shop. We liked the balance of cartoons, picture stories and narrative. Over the years one saw the two comics frequently - including my period of National Service, in Egypt, in 1952/54.

I, too, enjoy the annual Thomson B-D compilations. I also like the Broons & Oor Wullie, and have a collection of the Big Four Boys comic from my schoolboy era - all bought over the last 20 years - fascinating social history.

G. Gregory, Andover, Hants

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sending me The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club first issue, plus badges etc. Your visit to see the D&B early annuals at DC Thomson, Dundee, must have been great.

I was born in 1930 and remember having the first Dandy & Beano comics, and was mad on comics then.

I have been collecting Dandy & Beano, Rupert and Film Fun annuals for about 35 years.

What a smashing idea of DC Thomson to produce facsimiles of the 1939 Dandy & Broons annuals.

Thank you very much,

Yours faithfully,

L. Blair, Manchester

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the first issue of the club letter; it is what has been missing in the comic world, especially to deal purely with the Dandy and Beano.

I enjoyed all the various articles, the insight into the origin of the comic names was fascinating, but I must admit the visit to 'the archives' was my particular favourite.

Two years ago we visited Dundee and yes, we stayed at the Apex Hotel, and yes, we visited Desperate Dan and Minnie in the City Square, and yes, we visited the DC Thomson building. We had 'phoned earlier in the month to enquire if there was any chance of having a look around or if there was a visitor's centre and, you guessed it, no centre, no tour, but I stood on the famous steps where many a great comic artist had trod; the likes of Dudley Watkins, David Law, Leo Baxendale and Paddy Brennan, so I wasn't too disappointed.



The infamous steps and plaque outside the Courier Building.

My own personal experience at 'getting hooked' on the Dandy & Beano goes back to 1973, when I was residing in Doncaster whilst serving in the RAF. I visited my Mum who lived in Ripley, Derbyshire, who had an attic crammed with boxes and trunks, a real Alladin's cave. My son loved to have a root around and on this particular day I decided to go up with him. He found a box of photos which he was laughing at, but I never heard him - I was too engrossed in the book I had found, my very own 1959 Beano annual (minus spine). I really enjoyed reading it again after all this time, and bringing the book back with me I was slowly, but surely, getting the bug.

At that time, car boot sales were just starting to become popular, and this became my main source of annuals. I then started to attend book fairs and book auctions (held locally in Work-sop) and of course, now I'm buying via the internet (eBay), my collection of Dandy and Beano annuals has grown and grown. I have gone back as far as the late 40s but the prices have gone so sky high that I started to diversify into other boys' annuals. I haven't specialised in any one subject or publisher, just anything that takes my fancy. My wife thinks I'm crackers and calls me 'an anorak', but what does she know... it's a man thing!

Well, that's my bit of nostalgia done and dusted. So once again, I hope the 'club' goes from strength to strength, it's something that has been lacking for a long time.. well done. I'm now awaiting the second instalment.

Regards,

George Day, Doncaster

Your letters are always welcome, so please write or email with any questions, enquiries or general comments.

We aim to publish as many as possible, but if you are writing to us by post and would like a reply, please enclose an SAE.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

CUT THE ADS, AND MAKE GIFTS FLAT!

by Phil Shrimpton

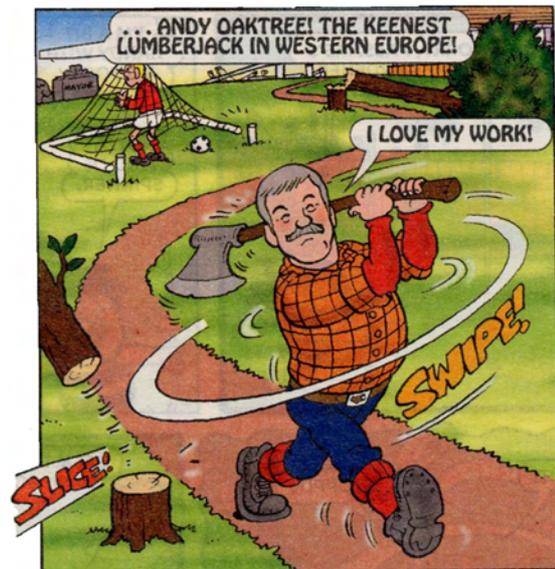
In my first editorial I mentioned Andy Oakley, of Coventry Silvercraft Ltd, who manufactured the Collectors' Club badges. I was pleased to meet Andy about a year ago, at his home in the Midlands, to discuss a deal on some Beano comics & annuals. He invited me to see his collection of annuals and duly escorted me to the downstairs toilet, where upon they all lay on a high shelf. An unusual home you'll agree, but I ask you, can you find better reading material?! On the wall I noticed a picture frame displaying two letters, one of which was from Euan Kerr, the (now former) Beano Editor. Andy and Euan have kindly provided permission for their content to be reproduced below:

Dear Mr. Editor,

**Come on Euan, don't let it slip,
Flex your muscle, get a grip.
What's goin' on in sporan land?
Have your ideas got too grand?
I'll tell you what I'm on about,
I'll rant and rave and scream and shout.
Now in free gifts I'm not lackin',
But it stops my Beanos neatly stackin'.
Then there's ads for flakes and chocs,
We get all that on the big square box.
But full page spreads? – it just ain't fair,
You've squeezed out Baby Face and Biffo the Bear.
Don't let the budget remove your will,
It's Dads like me who pay the bill.
Lost your way or just not eaten?
Or got the hump cos Hendry's beaten!
New stories are fine, I agree move on,
but don't lose sight of tradishee-on.
I've read The Beano forty years,
but 'splifficate' now never appears.
Has Tom Paterson retired he exclaims,
Cos I note the absence of Calamity James.
If Beano stories were on Mastermind,
I think I'd pass on none you'd find!
I'll take a snap of me for you,
With my fifty annuals, - all different too!
My loyalty will never die,
but come on Euan, don't be shy.
Half a page is enough for ads,
Think of me and all the Dads.
We want a laugh, we want old hat,
so cut the ads, and make gifts flat!
Yours, as ever,
Andy Oakley**

Dear Andy,

**A note to say I got your ode.
You're not a happy chap – it showed!
First to the gifts (all well received)
I'm sorry that they've made you peeved.
We're here to give you laughs and smiles,
Not cause you grief with lumpy piles!!
The kids love gifts, you must admit,
So don't be such a grumpy git!
I must agree it makes me mad
To drop a story for an ad.
But, then again, this revenue
Means pennies spent are forty two.
Buy other comics (heav'n forbid),
They'll set you back at least a quid.
When adverts first came on the scene
We tried to show we weren't mean
By adding on four pages more,
From twenty up to twenty four.
One final plea, my old mate Andy,
Don't jack us in and buy The Dandy.
Euan Kerr**



It transpires that the pair have been exchanging Beano rhymes for several years, in fact the above goes back to 1997. Andy informs me that there is plenty more from where it came from, so let me know your thoughts on the two verses as the 'Oakley/Kerr Chronicles' may become a regular feature...

The correspondence between Andy and Euan no doubt had an influence on Andy's claim to fame—appearing on the Big Breakfast, in 2001, with Euan and another avid Beano enthusiast, Dane Nutkins, who admitted on the show that he had sold his car to fund a Dennis the Menace fruit machine! It also led to Andy appearing in a Dennis the Menace strip, in issue 3074, as 'Andy Oaktree—the keenest Lumberjack in Western Europe', seen above.

CHANGING TIMES

by Phil Shrimpton

A week prior to the publication of Issue 1, in October 2006, DC Thomson reprinted the 1939 Dandy Monster Comic and Broons annuals. Both are superb presentations and collectors' items. The size of the Dandy reprint was slightly different to the original, the main anomaly being the thickness, due to the difficulties, and cost,

of acquiring the almost cardboard style of the original pages. However, DC Thomson were keen to reproduce the print within the original book exactly. This, however, caused a stir and the article below is taken from the BBC News website, along with a glimpse of the offending strip.

Below you can see the reprint annual side by side with an original, with two adverts that appeared in the Dandy comic in late 1938.

We are now offering the Dandy Monster Comic and Broons reprint books at **£11.99** each, plus P&P, (RRP £16.99). Please make contact if you would like to buy one or more.



Race complaint over Dandy reprint

Publishing giant DC Thomson has been criticised after it reprinted a 1939 annual which contained racist references to black people.

A reader condemned the inclusion of a comic strip from the original 1939 Dandy annual which included a term deemed unacceptable in modern society.

The issue has led to calls for the withdrawal of the "facsimile" publication from sale.

Dundee-based DC Thomson said it would be unfair to tamper with the reprint.

The row blew up after Winston Walker, who lives in the city, said he was left disgusted after buying the publication for a friend.

He was left feeling upset by one story strip which featured

blacked-up minstrels and the liberal use of a word considered highly offensive in modern day multicultural society.

Mr Walker said: "I found the material very offensive, the wording and the

amount of times the word 'nigger' was used.

"When you're trying to promote in Scotland that there's no place for racism, putting out literature like this is total hypocrisy."

The Glasgow Anti-Racist Alliance (Gara) called for the annual, which has been distributed to shops ahead of Christmas, to be removed from bookstores.

"This kind of thing cannot be permitted with ease at this point in our development as a society," said Gara spokeswoman Anita Shelton.

"It is an outrage and is terribly disturbing."

Facsimile copy

However, DC Thomson said the annual was "of its time" and it would not have published the word in the Dandy of today.

"It is a true facsimile copy and we don't feel it is something we should edit," a spokesman said.

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) said it had not received any complaints about the annual.

"We should celebrate the fact that we live in a time where such ideas around race are no longer seen as appropriate and our society does not condone this kind of language," said a spokeswoman.

Source: BBC News Website: Wed, 15th Nov, 2006.



THE CREAM OF THE CROP

by Phil Shrimpton

A few days before Christmas, I took a trip into town to finish some Christmas shopping and found myself in the children's annual section of Waterstones. In front of me were neat stacks of the 2007 Beano & Dandy annuals, all in tip-top condition, straight from DC Thomson. This reminded me of something I had written in my first editorial. I stated that my grandfather was a newsagent from the late 1950s, "...and would have sold multiple (MINT) copies of all the annuals..."

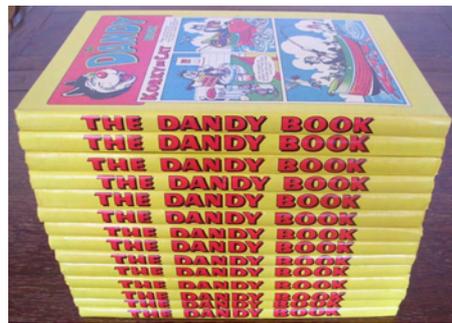
Shortly after the publication of the first newsletter, I received a call from a gentleman in London who said he had a 1958 Dandy and 1958 Topper Book, and asked whether I would be interested in buying them. I enquired as to their condition and was told modestly that they were in very good order, having been stored in brown paper for most of their life. They sounded like they were better than the copies currently residing in my collection, so I made an offer, which was accepted. What I did not expect to hear was the caller then stating he had a further thirteen copies of the Dandy, and four of the Topper, all in the same, seemingly 'near mint', condition.

It transpires that he was the nephew of a former newsagent in the late 1950s. In the Autumn of 1957 his uncle had ordered his supply of annuals from DC Thomson, to be sold in his shop in the run-up to Christmas. Shortly after receiving his order, he passed away, and all of his stock was put into storage where it lay, untouched, for nearly 40 years, until it

emerged recently in an attic clearout. The original posting box had become very grubby with age, and sadly discarded, but the books had survived, totally unscathed in 'as-new' condition.



I went to view the books in person, in London, and was astounded at how clean, bright and fresh they were.



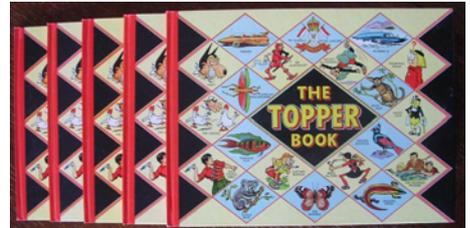
Despite the most miniscule of storage wear, I was so impressed I decided to buy the entire collection, so please feast your eyes on the surrounding pictures.

On the phil-comics auctions website

we have a grading guide, and top of the shop is 'near mint', defined as;



"The item is as close as one can imagine it to be when new. Clean, bright, tight, sharp, crisp. The cream of the crop and truly outstanding."



These books fit that description perfectly. We are offering them for sale on a first-come-first-served basis,



exclusively to members of the Collectors' Club. The Dandy Books are £115 each, the Topper Books £55 each, or the pair £160, which all include Special Delivery postage within the UK. Please make contact if you are interested in this unique offer.



THE THOMSON-LENG ANNUALS for 1958

EVERY ONE A TOP FAVOURITE!

NEW THIS YEAR!

THE DANDY BOOK
Jam-packed with more than 400 pictures of favourite "Dandy" characters — Desperate Dan, King-Beano, Charlie the Chip and others. 150 pages of picture stories. 128 pages in all.

THE BEANO BOOK
Crammed with funny and fast cartoon pictures and stories of Minnie the Moxie, Little Benji, Bonnie the Mimosa, Red Rory and others. Hundreds of pictures. Colourful throughout. 128 pages.

OOR WULLIE BOOK
Here's that funny little chap from the "Sunday Post" — in a fat book of 76 hilarious pages of his pranks. Each page has a complete story plus in about 20 comic pictures.

BLACK BOB
Back again!

THE ROVER BOOK
A smashing book of stories and pictures for boys. Famous characters — Rover, Dick Smith, the Track, and others. Thrilling picture stories. 64 pages in colour. 128 pages.

BERYL THE PERIL
Here she is — the life and soul of the world's "Topper" — in an astonishing new book. This is Beryl at her startling best in picture and story. Two-colour throughout. 80 pages.

THE TOPPER BOOK
New style cover. Printed in full-colour throughout. Packed with laughter and thrills featuring old and new "Topper" favourites. Printed on fine paper. 80 pages.

THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK
Francis Gay brings a daily message of good cheer and comfort — 32 beautiful photographs from all parts of the world complete a delightful volume. 192 pages.

PEOPLE'S FRIEND ANNUAL
The favourite authors contribute the finest charming stories, all beautifully illustrated. Attractive full colour cover. 128 pages.

Order Form

Please send the following copies—

.....THE BEANO BOOK 6/6BLACK BOB 5/5
.....THE DANDY BOOK 6/6THE ROVER BOOK 6/-
.....THE TOPPER BOOK 7/-OOR WULLIE 5/-
.....THE BEEZER BOOK 7/-PEOPLE'S FRIEND ANNUAL 5/6
.....BERYL THE PERIL 5/6THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK of Francis Gay 5/-

Name

Address

Complete this Order Form and return with remittance to cover cost and postage from Thomson-Leng Publications (Sales Dept.), 7 Bank Street, Dundee.

In various ways, the Beano & Dandy annuals found themselves on the shelves of news stands nationwide. DC Thomson would distribute wholesale order forms to newsagents around the country who would return a small form with remittance to the Sales Department. Taking full advantage of the artistic and design talent that DCT had at their fingertips, these would be bright, attractive forms, designed to entice newsagents to order their books. Pictured on page 7 is the order form for 'The Thomson-Leng Annuals for 1958'. The Beryl the Peril Book pictured was her first annual, and I quote the caption; "Here she is - the life and soul of the weekly "Topper" in an outstanding new book. This is Beryl at her startling best in pictures and stories. Two-colour throughout. 80 pages."

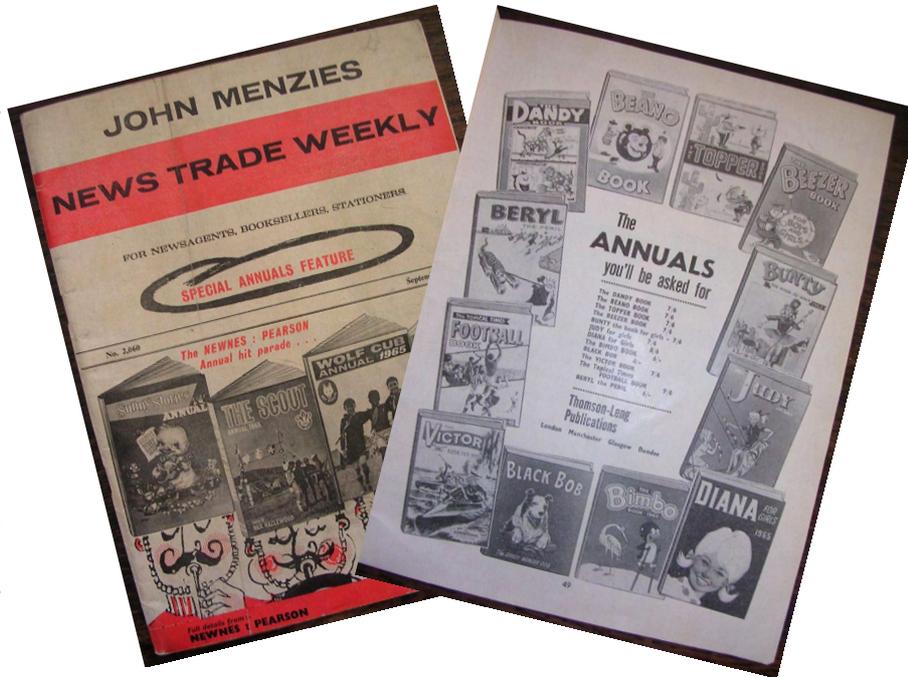
My grandfather was a sub postmaster, employed by The Post Office (now Royal Mail), but ran his newsagent shop independently, buying his stock from a warehouse in Birmingham city centre. As well as independent newsagents, there were, and still are, large chains, such as Stars News and John Menzies. I have an original John Menzies News Trade Weekly 'Special Annuals Feature'; a 64 page, A5 booklet detailing all the annuals available for Christmas, 1964. The images above and extract are taken from the booklet.

D. C. Thomson

"The annuals that sell themselves!" is the slogan used this year by the Dundee publishers of Dandy, Beano and the other tremendously successful weeklies for children. They include all the old favourites, a newcomer (DIANA) and two happy returns: BERYL THE PERIL and BLACK BOB. Here is the list: THE BEANO BOOK, with rollicking comic adventures of

strip and text about the famous Dandy sheepdog, also features. 96 pp., many in colour. 6s. ... THE TOPPER BOOK, full of tales about Mickey, Foxy, Figaro, Julius Cheezer and other top favourites from Topper, plus articles, 96 pp., full colour, 7s. 6d. ... BERYL THE PERIL, the tomboy from Topper, back again with more hilarious exploits, 96 pp., 2 colours, 6s.

I recently acquired a selection of six original newsagent's invoices, from the 1940s. The proprietor was one Mr. E Danks of 103 High Street, North Berwick (near Edinburgh), and each invoice shows his order for the Dandy Monster Comic, the Magic-Beano Book, the People's Friend Annual and the Friendship Book of Francis Gay. Two are from 1943 and four from 1945. All state *Non-Returnable* and were examined by James H. Dempster, Chartered Accountant. The 1945 invoices are dated 28th August, 28th September and 7th November (the fourth undated), so clearly Mr. Danks was eager to offer the annuals immediately on their publication, in September, and sold his supply relatively quickly. Books, annuals and comics, as well as toys, were some of the few items available for children at Christmas during the war, and these would have been in limited supply due to the war effort, making such items prized possessions.



well-known characters, stories in strip, tricks and teasers for puzzle fans. 144 pp., 2 colours, 7s. 6d. ... THE BEEZER BOOK, with more yarns about Ginger, Colonel Blink and Baby Crockett from the comic, action pictures, puzzles, etc. 96pp., full colour, 7s. 6d. ... THE DANDY BOOK, another bumper annual with new adventures of all the famous characters. 144 pp. all in pictures, colour throughout, 7s. 6d. ... BLACK BOB, now produced in an upright format, with stories in



ITEMS FOR SALE

A small selection of items are listed here for sale. The prices include postage within the UK. Please make contact to reserve items of interest.

- Beano Book 1953 G/VG £45
- Beano Book 1954 Fine £165**
- Beano Book 1959 Fine £99
- Dandy Book 1959 Fine £80**
- Dandy comic 1946 Complete Year (26 issues) in bound volume £299
- Topper comic 1953-4 £6 ea**
- Beano comic 1967 x 51 issues (one missing for full year) VG/VG+ £199

