



C S FORESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER No. 1 May 1999

First edition of the British newsletter from the C S Forester Society, just in time to mark the centenary of C S Forester's birth in Cairo on 27 August 1899!

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday 4 July 1999 at 2.00pm in the Luna Caprese Restaurant,
North Parade Avenue, off Banbury Road, Oxford

We will sing Happy Birthday to ??? as we eat our jelly and cake!

THE BEGINNINGS

'We welcome you with open arms...' replies Professor Steinberg

In the space of two days, two nearly identical letters dropped through a post box in Hawthorn Terrace in Berkeley, California. They were to spark off the CSF Society in September 1997. By coincidence Colin Blogg and John Forester, son of CSF, had each made the same requests – to visit C S Forester's former home and to take a photograph.

The recipients, the kindly Steinbergs sensibly sent John Forester's letter to Colin Blogg, who was to visit San Diego at that time (and naively thought that Berkeley was nearby) and also mailed Colin's to John. And so a meeting was arranged. They then spent a whole day visiting the sites of John's childhood, including several houses in Berkeley. The occasion was celebrated with dinner at one of CSF's favourite seafood restaurants, with more local fans. Over dinner, they agreed to set up

twin C S Forester societies in time to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

by Ralph Crane, Hollywood



C S Forester

It took a while. One never knows how much appeal anything has until it is tried.

John Perrott and John Norman (both C S Forester enthusiasts, collectors and dealers) agreed to help to start the British society. David Pott of Quality Book Fair gave space and free publicity, David Gower-Spence of Booklovers joined in with his (www.booklovers.co.uk) website. The Luna Caprese Italian Restaurant made available a room at short notice.

By coincidence, too, Meridian TV obliged by screening some of their adaptations of the 'Hornblower' series. BBC and ITV showed *The African Queen* and *The Gun* (as *The Pride and the Passion*) over the Christmas period. *Book & Magazine Collector* featured the Hornblower novels, and British Airways showed *Hornblower* to long-haul passengers! Penguin also brought out new editions and a flurry of new Hornblower-related books were published. The time was ripe.

Colin Blogg

THE FIRST MEETING AND SOCIETY BUSINESS

This was held on Sunday 7 February 1999. An unknown quantity might turn up! In fact there were eight, mostly local to Oxford and known to the gang of three who began it all.

Resolutions

- ❖ Promote interest in and knowledge of the life and works of C S Forester.
- ❖ Meet informally, perhaps three to four times a year, around the country.
- ❖ Arrange next meeting for the summer, (no decision was made about most suitable day of week to meet).
- ❖ Publish a regular newsletter.
- ❖ Write a biography of C S Forester.
- ❖ Levy an initial annual membership fee of £5.
- ❖ Open a bank account at Barclays Bank in Summertown, Oxford, requiring any two of the three officers signatures.
- ❖ The following were nominated:
 - Colin Blogg – Chairman
 - Patricia Millard – Hon Secretary & Treasurer
 - John Norman - Official

REVIEW SECTION

The Hostage. (C S Forester & Ian McNea). Travelman Publishing. 1-86092-014-4.
Slim line pamphlet. £1.00 (*The Hostage* is featured in *The Nightmare*)

Internet buying

This is a clever, easy-to-carry easily readable pamphlet. We found it, by chance, when 'surfing the net'. Being new to internet buying, we thought it should be tested and found the website (www.bookshop.co.uk) for the Internet Bookshop (WHSmith Online). When asked what they had on offer under 'C S Forester', an unknown, strange, and very cheap book appeared in the listings. Bravely we went through the easy process of inserting all the information requested by the computer and then sat back and waited!

If you use this mode of purchasing it is worth remembering to have your credit card close at hand! Delays frustrate the system. *The Hostage* arrived in two days. So, this is a very quick and easy way of purchasing – try it.

The worry about using credit card numbers over the internet is exaggerated; as long as you go via the security route, it is no more open to abuse than paying by your card elsewhere.

Review

The Hostage is one of a series of Travelman Short Stories, coloured-coded into categories – classics, comedy, crime, suspense, science, romance and adventure (*The Hostage* is under Adventure, colour-coded brown). They are pocket sized (3½" x 7½" approx). The sheet of paper when opened out is 21½" x 15½" and it is folded into the above size. You do not have to open it completely as it is designed to be read like a book.

The story itself is centred on a high ranking Nazi officer, who has been dismissed from the German

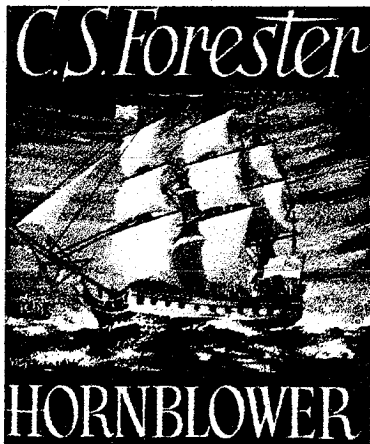
army. He is recalled and given an order that presents him with a dilemma that will affect many lives – not only German soldiers but also his own family. The story has a twist in it and needs reading to its conclusion for you to appreciate the complex story line fully. Although it is a short story, this does not detract in any way from its content. *The Hostage* soon has you completely engrossed and you will find it claims your complete attention to the end. Except for the war setting it has a theme which is far from CSF's usual writings.

I would thoroughly recommend this very portable, lightweight 'book' as something to read on a short journey. It is so easy to carry with you – just pop it in your pocket or bag.

Pat Millard

Bookdealers with special interest in C S Forester

Isis Books (*J Perrott) 01865 779430
Booklovers (David Gower-Spence) 01235 533613
Surprise Books (*J Norman) 01453 887403
(*member of CSF Society)



Clearwater Books 01308 898044
Blackwell's Rare Books 01865 792792
Christopher Heppa 01245 267679
Hawthorne Books
Nigel Williams Rare Books 0171 836 7757
Ulysses 0171 831 1600

Books for sale/exchange/wanted

Wanted: C S Forester. *The African Queen*.
1st edition, fine + dw. Colin Blogg

Books for sale: Surprise Books

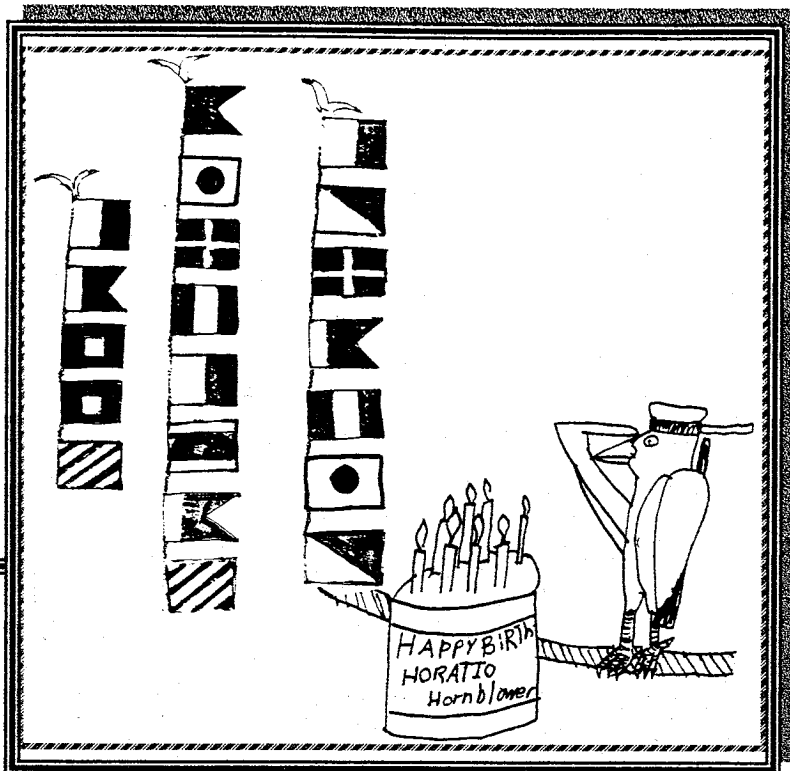
<i>The Annie Marble in Germany</i> 1930 VG	£120
<i>The Gun</i> 1933 VG	£75
<i>Hornblower in the West Indies</i> VG/VG	£30
<i>Hornblower and the Crisis</i> FIF	£30
<i>Hornblower and the Hotspur</i> VG/VG	£30
<i>The Happy Return</i> VG with copy dw	£75
<i>Hornblower Companion</i> FIF	£80
<i>Napoleon and his Court</i> 1924 VG	£90
<i>Lord Hornblower</i> VG/VG	£35
<i>Lieutenant Hornblower</i> VG/VG	£30
<i>Victor Emmanuel II</i> 1927 VG	£75

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wish to be included in the newsletter to the above address or by e-mail:
csforester@hotmail.com

We are also moving into the modern age and will soon have our own
website: www.csforester.org

Current members of Society

Ms Christina Bargery	Mrs Patricia Millard
Dr Colin Blogg	Mr Richard Miller
Mr Ray Bowes	Mr Chris Moss
Dr Peter Colvin	Mrs Jill Moss
Dr Chris Glynn	Mr John Norman
Mr J R M Harvey	Mr John Perrott
Mr T C Hickman	Mr Chris Ruhl
Mr Bill Hills	Mr David Shannon
Mr Andy Hooker	Mr Adrian Taylor
Mr D R James	Mr Mark Thomas
Mr Simon Kamer	Mrs A M Waymarke
His Hon. Judge David Lynch	Mrs Beryl Whipp
Mr D N Mackay	



FOR THE FUTURE

1. A war game for Hornblower fans:
Hornblower vs history
Hornblower vs O'Brian

If we have volunteers to build a chart and pieces, any scenario becomes possible.

2. A centenary dinner – perhaps on *HMS Indefatigable* in September 1999



FUN SECTION

Quiz

1. Who is believed to be the model for Horatio Hornblower?
Sir James Gordon Sir Edward Pellew Cecil L Troughton Sir Edward Boscawen
2. Match biographies of Sir Edward Pellow, Sir James Gordon, and Horatio Hornblower with their biographers.
Bryan Perrett J F Forester C Northcote Parkinson
3. Arrange the following ships in the order in which Hornblower served in them.
Indefatigable *Atropos* *Lydia* *Nonsuch*
4. Which of the following has not been named after Hornblower?
An inn in Rutland A harbor-cruise company in San Diego
A race horse A moon crater A species of butterfly
5. Which of these countries did Hornblower visit?
Spain Russia Africa France Italy Sweden
6. Why was the 'Annie Marble' in which C S Forester travelled in Germany, France and England so called?

Answers in next newsletter



STILL AVAILABLE

Books

Admiral Hornblower Omnibus: Flying Colours, Commodore, Lord Hornblower and Hornblower in the West Indies. Penguin. 0-14-011940-X
 African Queen. Large print. Chivers P. 0-7451-2936-6
 African Queen. Large print. Chivers P. 0-7451-2945-5
 Brown on Resolution. Bodley Head. 0-370-00680-1
 Captain Hornblower, RN: Hornblower and the Atropos, Happy Return and Ship of the Line. Penguin. 0-14-008177-1
 Death to the French. Pan Books. 0-330-02067-6
 Good Shepherd Naval Inst. P, US. 0-87021-230-3
 Hornblower and the Hotspur. Penguin. 0-14-002901-X

Hornblower Companion. Chatham Publishing. 1-86176-098-1
 Hostage The. (C S Forester & Ian McNea). Travelman Publishing. 1-86092-014-4.
 Lieutenant Hornblower. Large print. Chivers P. 0-7451-2654-5
 Lieutenant Hornblower. Large print. Chivers P. 0-7451-2666-9
 Mr Midshipman Hornblower. Large print. Chivers P. 0-7451-2603-0
 Mr Midshipman Hornblower. Oxf. UP. 0-19-421663-2
 Plain Murder. Bodley Head. 0-370-00650-X
 The Gun Ulverscroft large print. 0-85456-206-0
 Young Hornblower: Mr Midshipman Hornblower, Lieutenant Hornblower, Hornblower and the Hotspur. Penguin. 0-14-011939-6

Audio cassettes

African Queen (C S Forester & Michael Kitchen). Sterling Audio, US. 1-56054-966-1
 African Queen (starring Humphrey Bogart & cast). Mr Punch Audio. 1-900912-31-7
 Happy Return (C S Forester & Christian Rodska). Chivers Audio Books. 0-7540-0137-7
 Hornblower and the Atropos. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-977-2
 Hornblower and the Atropos. (C S Forester & Rob Inglis). ISIS Audio Books. 1-85695-786-1
 Hornblower and the Commodore. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-999-3
 Hornblower and the Flying Colours. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-998-5
 Hornblower and the Happy Return. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-996-9
 Hornblower and the Hotspur (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-995-0
 Hornblower and the Hotspur. (C S Forester & Rob Inglis). ISIS Audio Books. 1-85695-786-1

Hornblower and the Ship of the Line. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-997-7
 Hornblower. Giftpack: Mr Midshipman Hornblower; Lieutenant Hornblower; Hornblower and the Atropos. Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-84032-126-1
 Lieutenant Hornblower (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-975-6
 Lieutenant Hornblower. ISIS Audio Books. 1-85695-771-3
 Lord Hornblower (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-84032-100-8
 Mr Midshipman Hornblower. (C S Forester & Christian Rodska). Chivers Audio Books. 0-7451-5940-0
 Mr Midshipman Hornblower. (C S Forester & Ioan Gruffud). Hodder Headline Audiobooks. 1-85998-975-6
 Randall and the River of Time. Audio Theatre Classic, AT 7719. 1-84048-719-4
 Ship of the Line (C S Forester & Christian Rodska). Chivers Audio Books. 0-7540-0195-4

Film/TV connections

Mr Midshipman Hornblower. Penguin. 0-14-027173-2
 Young Hornblower: Mr Midshipman Hornblower, Lieutenant Hornblower, Hornblower and the Hotspur. Penguin. 0-14-027173-2

The making of C S Forester's Horatio Hornblower. (McGregor). Boxtree. 0-7522-1189

Related books

Hornblower's Navy. Life at sea in the age of Nelson. (Steve Pope). Orion Media. 0-75281-774-4
 Michael Joseph – Master of Words. (Richard Joseph). Ashford Press Publishing. 0-907069-66-5
 The Real Hornblower. The Life and Times of

Admiral Sir James Gordon, GCB. (Bryan Perrett). Arms & Armour. 1-85409-496-3
 The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar. (Roald Dahl). Jonathan Cape. 0-224-01547-8
 Puffin Plus 0-14-032888-2

