

C S Forester AGM 2023 at Lechlade

“The Publications of the C S Forester Society”

- The purpose of this talk is to reintroduce, or even to introduce, members of the Society to what I regard is a **Treasure Trove** or (*Cornucopia*) of articles published over the years since the formation of the Society.
- I am in the course of preparing a paper for later publication in *Reflections Online* that will re-introduce these publications and cross-reference the **major** articles in them to each of CSF's books that are mentioned in them. Today I am concentrating on the principal publications of *Reflections* and the *Newsletters*. I will later briefly touch on the other interesting papers found under the other headings of *News*, *Meetings and Events*, *Quotes* and the wide coverage under the *Links* heading.
- I am leaving to one side for today any details of what can found in *Reflections Online*.
- The Society published the old *Newsletters* and *Reflections* between May 1999 and November 2013. I very much hope that what exists now of these publications will remain safe online.
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- Now for some background. The C S Forester Society in this country held its first meeting on Sunday 7th February 1999 in time to mark 100th anniversary of the birth of CSF on 27th August 1899. **This means that on 7th February 2024, it will be the 25th anniversary of the Society!**
- In all, the Society's website firstly holds 16 *Newsletters*, dated between May 1999 and November 2004. One of the Society's founders, **Colin Blogg**, edited them.
- The *Newsletters* were then followed by 26 editions of *Reflections*, the first 13 edited by **David Stead** and the second 13 by **Jetse Reijenga**. This last edition was published in November 2013.
- There was an overlap of just over two years during which 8 copies of the *Newsletter* and its 3 *Supplements* were published at the same time as the first 8 *Reflections*.
- It is clear that all three editors were working extremely hard to produce so many editions in such a short time. At that time, they were receiving many contributions from many members of the Society.
- Following the death of Jetse Reijenga, the production and distribution of printed publications ended. In their place, the Society started publishing suitable contributions online under the *Reflections Online* heading.
- On some of the old *Reflections* publications, the title is followed by the sub-heading; “*A Literary Supplement to the C S Forester Society Newsletter*”. In other words, I think it was always the intention of the Society to produce a permanent body of writings that complemented CSF's work in order to provide both a background to it and to act as a source of research for all present and future members. The first *Newsletter* following the founding of the Society reported that **the Society wished to “promote interest in and knowledge of the life and works**

of C S Forester". These publications are the Society's shop window and we should not forget that the website is open to the entire world with no passwords needed.

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- A look through the various publications between 1999 and 2013 will show how these publications have evolved. Early *Newsletters* contained quizzes and lists of books, videos and DVD's for sale. The early ones used to list new members with 25 already in existence by the first edition. In later *Reflections*, among the usually very readable and enjoyable articles, there were occasionally some much more learned or academic pieces published that sometimes to critical comments in the next editions from some members.
- As I indicated earlier, when I complete my preparation of this introduction to the CSF Society publications for *Reflections Online*, I shall be adding a list of the major topics and subjects covered in each edition cross-referenced to each of CSF's books, as appropriate. Currently, a list of the contents in each of the 26 Reflections may be found in the News section of the Society's website.
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- Now to finish – in addition to the principal headings of *Newletters*, *Reflections* and *Reflections Online*, there are several other categories listed under the *Publications* heading. These include *Archive*, *News*, *Meetings and Events* and *Links*.
- The *Archive* currently carries a mixture of AGM minutes from several years, copies of some Christmas cards issued by the Society for a few years, a copy of the Society's Constitution and a few other items. The *News* section is another mixed bag but mainly there are reports of the Society's meetings from several years and other miscellaneous items. The *Meetings and Events* section continues with details of another ten or so past AGM's. The *Links* section is a further mixture of interesting articles that are worth perusing. In particular, you can go online and listen to any or all of some 46 serialised Hornblower radio shows from the early 1950's. The sound quality is not very good but it is worth a try listening to them. Finally, under the heading of *C S Forester*, there are three pages of quotes attributed to him and various photographs. I leave it to you to explore these sites.
- "My take-home message" is that I would like to recommend you to look through the entire Society website and "dip" into each of these publications wherever your curiosity takes you. You might find something that for you is of great interest or of useful relevance to the C S Forester book you happen to be reading at the time. Good hunting!

John Maunder. (September 2023).

