

Budgett's Budget

Overview

This magazine was created by some members of staff employed by James Budgett and Son Limited. This company began as a wholesale grocer in 1857 in central London, and became a wholesale tea and coffee company in 1875. In this year, they moved up the road to Eastcheap, while the business for its sugar, rice and fruit was conducted by a new company that remained at their old premises at Monument Yard.

The magazine was intended to be 'the commercial Edition' of the popular and hugely influential *Punch*, and its creators were keen to make clear that it was produced 'off the firm's premises' and not on company time. Its audience was to include the other employees of the company, and the hope was that they might contribute to its numbers: 'We cordially invite suggestions and shall be glad to receive any items of news or gossip likely to prove of interest to our readers' (W. Aitch, 'Editorial', *Budgett's Budget*, No. 1, Vol. I, April 1909, p. 8). The contents of the issues did indeed include such 'news or gossip', and also regular features such as: amusing biographies of staff members; cartoons; 'Chatter', which consists of in-jokes regarding company employees and policies, and humorous poetry and 'Proverbs' on the same; and an editorial column at the back.

The first issue was produced in April 1909, and issues appeared monthly for the following five months. The next issues were created in March and April 1910, between April and June 1914, and the last extant issue appeared in October 1919, for a total of 11 numbers usually consisting of eight pages each. The production of this magazine was subject to the business cycle, at least in the case of the first year of its production, and no magazines were produced when the fruit season ended.

While the first issues were hand-written, starting with the April 1914 issue, the magazine was typescript. Beyond a change in the use of technology, by at least 1919, the readership (and contributors?) included women company and magazine staff members. The contributions in the last extant issue often mention the First World War and the national railway strike, reflecting the personal and commercial impact of these events on staff and the company itself.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(Company staff at James Budgett and Son Limited) (London)

Date of Existence

1909?-1910?

Dates of Magazine

Apr.-Sept. 1909, Mar.-Apr. 1910, Apr. and June 1914, Oct. 1919

Number of Issues

11

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript and later typescript

Contents and Contributions

Art/Illustrations (original); Biographies of staff; Cartoons; Editorials ; Jokes; Photographs; Poems (original); Prefaces; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

London Metropolitan Archives

Reference

CLC/B/133/MS20372

**Friends' Hall Literary Society MSS
Magazine**



Friends' Hall Literary Society, *Friends' Hall Literary Society MSS Magazine*, [cover page], No. 2, 20 December 1907 (Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, S/BGL/2/1). This image was kindly provided and permitted for use on this webpage by Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives.

Overview

The society that produced this magazine had its origins in the adult school classes run by Quakers held at Friends' Hall, located on Barnet Grove in Bethnal Green in the East End of London. Amongst the fairly complete set of records for this group is a history of the society by one of its members, its President, Arthur Hadley. From this, we learn that as members of the adult school classes, several of the men formed a discussion group that later became a Shakespearean Reading Circle, then a literary and debating society in 1906. Ladies were allowed as guests at the meetings; it would later become a mixed-gender group. Hadley describes their object or purpose as being the members' mutual improvement.

The group initially met in the Red Room at Friends' Hall on Friday nights. Following a dispute with the school's superintendent, the society shifted their venue to The

Traveller's Rest, a 'Coffee Tavern' that was located on Bethnal Green Road. The group not only changed their meeting place but changed their name as well to the Bethnal Green Literary Society. Shortly after this, they moved their meetings to the Town Hall on Cambridge Road. Along with reading papers, listening to lectures and holding group discussions, the society had a study group, a summer reading programme, and a manuscript library comprised of the members' original pieces (see below). In addition, in order to raise funds for the group, members wrote and performed original plays. The group founded a manuscript magazine fairly early on when they were still members of the adult school classes at Friends' Hall.

Twice a year (generally in May and December), members would send their contributions to the magazine's Editor, who would select from them the pieces to be read aloud at a society meeting held for the purpose. These were then collected and variously bound (see below). The number of contributions to these issues varies generally between half a dozen and a dozen pieces, and include mostly original prose fiction and poems. In addition, there are also puzzles, some humorous advertisements, letters to the Editor and a correspondence column. Contributors mostly use pen-names and only occasionally their own names or initials. As is fairly typical for the periodicals that were produced in the early twentieth century, the pieces are a mixture of typescript and manuscript within a single issue.

Unlike most periodicals produced by mutual improvement and literary societies, the magazine that this group produced lacks uniformity: it does not show the same consistency between issues or even within a single issue. The covers, when present, and the binding of each issue differ. Further, the size of paper used by the different contributors is quite dissimilar. These factors are a reflection of the oral medium, or the 'magazine nights', for which the contributions were produced and the decision taken to simply collect and use the submissions in the issues as they were. Further, the less polished appearance of the society's magazine belies the importance that the group attached to their original literary pieces: in 1909, they voted to start a library to preserve these issues and other papers that were given at the meetings. The members of this literary group would go on to become prominent writers and novelists (e.g. Beatrice Kean Seymour), local politicians (e.g. Edmund Dutton), scholars in various fields (e.g. Horace Shipp), and eminent members of their respective communities.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Friends' Hall Literary Society; later became the Bethnal Green Literary Society (London)

Date of Existence

9 Feb. 1906-1916

Date of Magazine

No. 2, December 1907; No. 3, May 1908; No. 4, Christmas 1908; No. 5, May 1909, No. 6, Christmas 1909; No. 7, May 1910; No. 8, December 1910; No. 9, June 1911; (loose contributions for the manuscript magazine dating from December 1911 to June 1912)

Number of Issues

8 extant, along with some loose contributions not attributed to any issue

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Typescript and manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements (humorous); Circulation Lists; Correspondence columns; Dialogue (fiction); Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Jokes; Poems (original); Postcard; Puzzles; Readers' Criticisms; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Reference

S/BGL (S/BGL/2/1; S/BGL/2/2; S/BGL/2/6)

GENII, A Monthly Circulating Magazine



GENII, A Monthly Circulating

Magazine, edited by F. J. Osborn, [title page], No. 1, March 1904 (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, DE/FJO/A11/1). Permission for the use of this image has kindly been granted by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

Overview

This literary group was a bit unusual in that the members formed solely for the purpose of producing a magazine of original works. While they referred to their group as an 'Association' and collected subscriptions, it appears that they did not hold any formal meetings. It started as a group of 10 young men (women were allowed later) that were initially asked to join by F. J. Osborn, who would act as the magazine's Editor.

Osborn, in his 'Editorial' in the first number, explains his methods of persuasion to elicit contributions: after convincing one young man to contribute an article, he would then approach another acquaintance and tell him that 'Fizgog' has sent in his contribution. He would then go on to say it was such a poor production that surely he (the acquaintance) could produce something better. This 'harmless subterfuge' appears not to have been necessary after the launch of the first issue as contributors were more forthcoming thereafter.

According to the magazine's rules in the first number, each member of the group was to aim for contributing an article every month, but was certainly to do so at least every three months. The magazine was to be kept for four days only (this would later change to 48 hours) and then passed on to the next member on the list or he would have to pay a fine of 1d per day. Friends were allowed to read the magazine, but the listed member was responsible for its condition. Later on, contributions were accepted from non-members. In the first issues, the Editor re-wrote each of the pieces submitted, and the authors' artwork was cut and pasted in.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

(Currently unknown) (Hertford)

Date of Existence

1904?-1911?

Date of Magazine

March 1904 - May 1911

Number of Issues

70

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript and Typescript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements (humorous); Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Circulation Lists; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Jokes; Letters to Editor; Magazine Rules; Notices; Prefaces; Puzzles; Readers' Criticisms; Sketches; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) (Hertford)

Reference

DE/FJO/A11/1-70

**Kelvinside Parish Church Literary
Society Magazine**



Kelvinside Parish Church Literary Society Magazine, 1903-04, [title page] (Glasgow City Archives, CH2/1149/9/2/2)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Kelvinside Parish Church Literary Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

There is only a single extant issue of this society's (yearly?) magazine, which is bound with a softcover and imprinted with the title and year on the front. With the exception of the title page, this magazine is entirely in typescript. There are 80 pages with a total of 25 short contributions, being mostly prose essays, a couple of sketches, and only three original poems. If the two articles on Robert Burns that include extracts of his poems is added, the number of pieces with poetry rises to five.

Unlike other periodicals of this type, this society devoted a larger percentage of its magazine to its own activities: over a quarter of the contributions were on the literary society's meetings and socials. Most of the pieces are anonymous, with authors signing with pen-names, and only one essay's author using initials.

Included in this issue is a page of jokes and a piece called, 'Do you Know?', which lists thirteen trivia questions about the society, some of which are jokes. The five pen-and-ink illustrations were all done by the same artist (E.N. Payne).

At the end of the magazine is the society's eighth annual report (Session 1903-04) and its financial statement for the same session.

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Kelvinside Parish Church Literary Society (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1895-1926?

Date of Magazine

1903-04

Number of Issues

1

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Type-script, with illustrations

Contents and Contributions

Annual Report; Art/Illustrations (original); Essays; Financial Statement; Jokes; Poems (original); Poems (republished material); Sketches; Title page

Repository

Glasgow City Archives

Reference

CH2/1149/9/2/2

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Kelvinside Parish Church Literary Society](#) on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).