

GRAMMARIAN



FIRST THINGS FIRST  
STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# GRAMMARIAN

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## Stanley Grammar School Stanley, Co. Durham

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*Readers:*

Miss Allison and Mrs. Jones.

*Staff Representative:*

Miss Thompson.

*Business Manager:*

Mr. Seed.

*Committee:*

One representative from each form.

### EDITORIAL

The new school buildings have at last been completed. The gymnasium, with its changing-rooms and showers, the assembly hall and the biology laboratory have now been in use for some time, while an imposing new entrance has been added to the main building, and the old school hall has been converted into three new rooms. A new lighting system has been installed throughout the school and this is a great improvement on the old system, for each room has six lights, or eight in the case of the larger rooms, besides blackboard lights, and in addition there are two plugs in each room for projectors and radio sets.

The new buildings were officially opened by Mrs. Jolley, J.P., on 31st October.

It was with great regret that we learned that Mr. Carr, our headmaster, intends to retire in December. Mr. Carr has been with us for many years and will be a great loss to the school. Mr. Carr has spared no time or effort in furthering the interests of the school and yet he has always been ready to advise his pupils and many have benefited from his sympathetic understanding of their problems. We offer Mr. Carr our good wishes for a long and contented retirement, and we hope he will always visit us on such occasions as Speech Day, Sports Day, and the Past Students' Reunions.

We were very sorry to lose Miss Hakin, who left us shortly before her marriage (which took place in January). Miss Hakin is now living at Manchester and we hope that her married life will be a long and happy one. Miss Mather, a welcome addition to the staff, temporarily filled Miss Hakin's post as French mistress, and we hope she enjoyed her short stay with us.

We were also sorry when Mr. Robinson left us after he had been appointed Organiser for Further Education in the north-east area of the county, from the 1st June. His new post will, however, allow him to come back to the school from time to time, for a short while at least.

Mrs. Pearson, who filled the post of gym-mistress as well as teaching History and English, for seven years, was a great miss to the school when she left us at the end of the summer term, for she was a friend as well as a teacher.

We extend a hearty welcome to four new members of the staff, Miss Baxter, Miss Rose, Mr. Cousins and Mr. Robertson. Miss Baxter teaches French, Miss Rose is the new gym-mistress, Mr. Cousins fills Mr. Robinson's post as Chemistry master and Mr. Robertson takes Biology. We hope they will enjoy being with us and that they will remain at the school for many years to come.

This year four boys have brought very great honour to the school by gaining State Scholarships. We offer hearty congratulations to Jack Wilson, Eric Rainbow, Dick Rose and Brian Price, and hope they will continue their success. Eric and Brian are now at Bristol University; Dick is at Manchester and Jack hopes to go to Oxford or Cambridge after completing his two years of National Service in the R.A.F.

We also congratulate Edwina Rogerson, a past student, who has gained a State Scholarship from Consett Grammar School. Edwina was at our school for five years, and left us after gaining nine distinctions in School Certificate in order to take biology at Consett. We wish Edwina every success.

On Speech Day, the school gave a very enjoyable performance of "The Dear Departed". Our thanks go to Mr. Proud, who produced and directed the play, and to those

members of the school who took part in the acting or helped behind the scenes.

Unfortunately, the school is not to have the new tennis courts which we previously expected, for, although tenders for the courts were approved by Durham County Council, they were rejected by the Ministry of Education in view of the new economy cuts.

WENDY HERDMAN, VI.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED

(Hong Kong)

"... Although I am nearly 10,000 miles from home, I saw all the old faces in the photographs, attended the Society meetings in the accounts and I was with you on Sports Day.

"The magazine, *Grammarians*, is a precious link with S.G.S. and home; a link many chaps don't have and, although they have not attended our School, they are, even now, as I write, reading it with great interest."

(London)

"I like to receive the *Grammarians* and wish to proffer my congratulations to those involved in maintaining its artistic standards.

"I am dismayed at the number of your contributors who are either anonymous or are 'Cynics'."

A very friendly letter from Japanese students was read to the assembled school. We were pleased to receive it and hope that it will be the means of beginning a healthy and interesting correspondence between the youth of Japan and ourselves. For any boy or girl who would like to write individually, we give the address. Japan Correspondence Club, 260, Oka-Shinmachi, Hirahata City, Osaka, Japan.

## HANDEL

Handel, who was born in Germany in 1685 (the same year as Bach) and lived until he was 74 years old, experienced his most serious troubles when he was young. His father disapproved of music, and it is said that he burnt his son's toy instruments. Soon after, Handel smuggled a clavichord (a keyboard instrument similar to a piano) into an attic, where he continued his studies and practising in secret. Eventually his father let him have his own way, and he became known as an infant prodigy. After beginning his career as an organist in Hamburg, he went

to Italy, where he met Domenico Scarlatti, who was impressed by his playing of the harpsichord. Scarlatti himself had written some wonderful music for the harpsichord, very quick and elaborate, rather like Bach's. Handel eventually obtained another post in Germany, but he was able to enjoy long holidays, during which he was a frequent visitor to England. Here he wrote a successful opera, and finally he came to live in London. He made an enemy of a rival musician whose operas were being sung by a popular lady called Faustina. Handel found a lady called Cuzzoni who could do justice to his own great compositions, but he unwisely wrote an opera for both these ladies. Unfortunately they fought one another and tore out each other's hair. The audience enjoyed this immensely. Handel hired a theatre where he ventured to stage his own works, but he lost all his savings. In attempting to find favour with the public, he had several times to lose all his money, and some of his best work was sold to pay off his debts. One of the best and most famous compositions that Handel wrote to meet the demands of the creditors was his "Messiah". It was written in 23 days. He continued to write oratorios and he was at last immensely successful, even financially. Like other musicians who have over-strained their eyes by writing music, he became ill and blind. In a comparatively short time he died, and was buried with much honour and great public mourning in Westminster Abbey.

MARGARET WANLESS, Form IV.

## WINTER TIME

Soon it will be Winter,  
Robins will appear;  
Then it will be Christmas,  
Season of good cheer.

Then the large white snow-flakes  
Will begin to fall  
And we'll see some icicles  
Hanging on the wall.

Then I'll get my sledge out,  
Oh, won't it be nice!  
Perhaps I'll do some skating  
(If there's any ice).

If the snow is really deep,  
A snowman I will make;  
Then I'll sing glad praises,  
For our dear Lord's sake.

For in dear old Bethlehem,  
On a Christmas morn,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
Was in a manger born.

So I love old Winter,  
Time of ice and snow;  
Remembering that first Christmas  
In days now long ago,

### AN APPRECIATION OF MR. CARR, OUR HEADMASTER

Most pupils of this school, past and present, will regret very much the retirement of Mr. Carr, our Headmaster, at the end of the Christmas term. He has been Headmaster for 19 years, and in that time, his pleasant disposition, his sincerity and his sense of humour have made him the friend of all the pupils as well as the Staff. In all his actions he is very considerate and thoughtful, and always does his best to try to please everyone. He takes a keen interest in school activities and is a member of the Debating, Geography, Music and Photographic Societies. It is only through his willingness and enterprise that the Chess Club came into being again. The interest of the school and pupils is always first in his mind. He is always eager to hear the pupil's point of view about the various aspects of the running of the school, and is quite prepared to give a great deal of his valuable time to discussing any suggestions raised by pupils.

I am sure we shall all miss him, but sincerely wish him the best of health and much happiness in his retirement.

J. NICHOLSON.  
(Senior Prefect).

### A HOLIDAY ON THE CONTINENT

On Thursday, 30th July, a party of scholars left Newcastle Central Station on the first stage of a 400-mile journey to Ostend. Too excited to sleep, we travelled overnight and arrived in London at 4.30 a.m. We travelled by Tube to the Strand for breakfast and, after visiting Trafalgar Square, we went by Tube to Victoria Station, where we caught the boat train. The 70-mile journey from London to Dover was very interesting, as we saw oast-houses and hop fields. At 11.30, we went on board and after a tiresome wait

set off on our voyage in fine weather, with the sea calm and blue. The white cliffs of Dover were seen in all their splendour. While crossing, we saw the Goodwin Sands and several wrecks. After 3½ hours, we caught the first glimpse of our destination, Ostend, where we arrived at 3.50 p.m. After docking, we were relieved of our luggage and met by a guide, who accompanied us to L'école Athénée, our lodgings. After dinner we walked along the promenade.

On Saturday morning we had an interesting talk with a beach attendant and, when we went for a swim, we discovered we had to pay 6 francs (11d.) to go into the water. After lunch, we discovered some pedal cars which were for hire and we had a very good time touring the town in these. The next day was very warm, so we stayed on the beach, which was a very short distance away. Here, we made friends with a French girl, who lived in Bruxelles.

Monday was devoted to a trip to Bruges, where we were met by a fourteen-year-old girl, who was to be our guide. She took us to the landing stage of the canal and we had a marvellous tour of the city by boat. We saw most of the famous buildings, including the Town Hall, the belfry and the church of Notre Dame of Bruges, as well as people making lace and some artists at work painting pictures of the beautiful parts of the city. The shops are famed for their lace and jewellery.

On Tuesday we had a most enjoyable day in Holland. We travelled by coach and crossed the Scheldt by ferry boat to the Isle of Walcheren.

We then visited Middleburg for lunch and continued our journey to Goes, with its famous market. Here, we made many purchases as the sweets were unrationed! Many people wear national costume, the women with wide white head-dresses having ornamental ear pieces, small triangular shawls and very wide long skirts, and the men with large wooden sabots. Everywhere in Holland we saw windmills lazily turning. The countryside was very flat, clean and neat in appearance. We considered our day in Holland to be the highlight of our holiday.

The following day we went to Dunkirk, which was very interesting but, as it was still in ruins, it was very depressing. We were shown the submarine bases, left by the Germans. On the return journey we stopped at Meli's Gardens, where we wandered about in the maze. When we eventually found our way out, we visited the interesting zoo.

















































