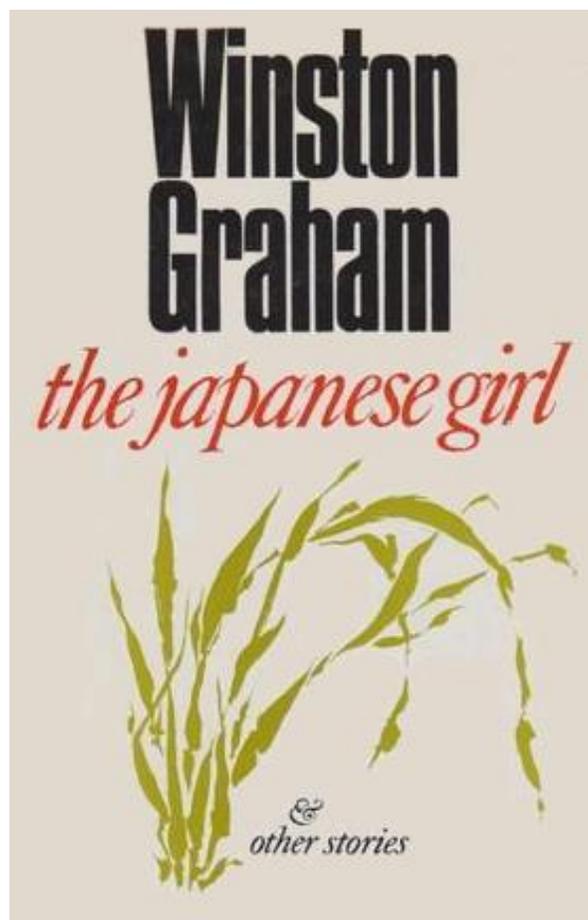


WG's Short Stories

Winston Graham was not a prolific writer of short stories, as the list below confirms. In fact, in his seventy years (1934-2003) as a productive, published author, he wrote more novels than short stories. Nonetheless, sporadically but without cease, he continued to dabble in the form. In 1971 Collins collected fourteen tales, most but not all previously published, in *The Japanese Girl and other stories*. But in the near half-century since, no further original collection has appeared (*The Cornish Farm* from Chivers Press in 1982 can be discounted, since it comprises eight of *The Japanese Girl's* fourteen stories, but nothing else). I am moved to write these lines because there is a good case to be made for **a second collection of WG short stories** which, sympathetically edited, would present, in conjunction with *The Japanese Girl*, the author's short fiction in its entirety.



Collins, 1971

This list of WG short stories is ordered chronologically by year of publication or writing, with a little necessary guesswork as noted:

(1) THE MEDICI EAR-RING

First published in *Windsor Magazine*, October 1935, then subsequently in:

- *Argosy*, July 1965
- *The Ladies' Home Journal* (as *The Earring*), November 1971
- *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971
- *Sabrang Digest*, ed. Shakeel Adilzada, September 1972
- *My Favourite Story*, ed. Denys Val Baker, Kimber, 1977

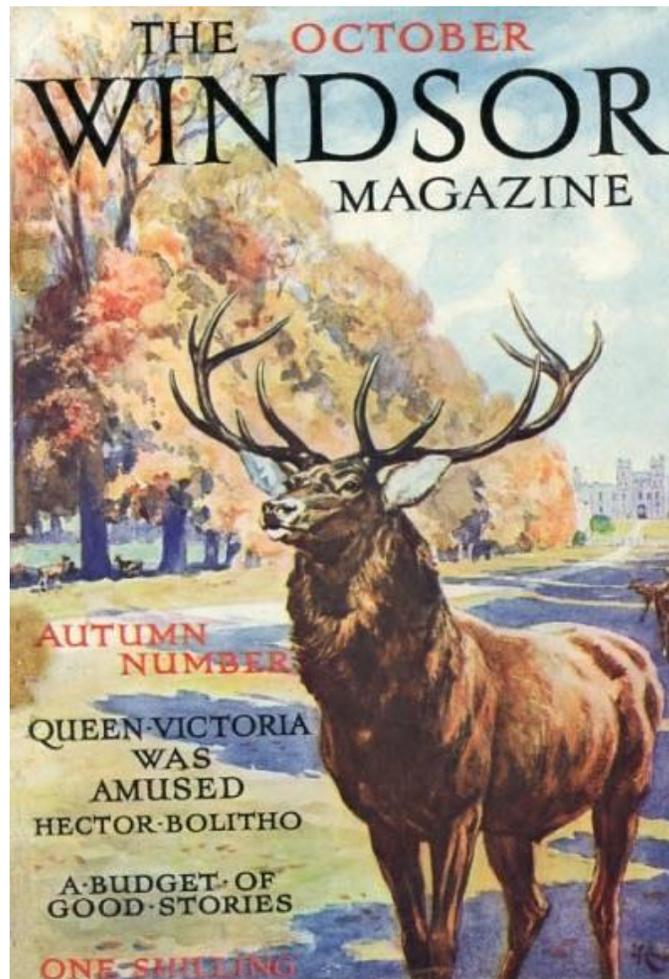
The original story was substantially revised before republication in 1965 and then further revised before inclusion in *The Japanese Girl* in 1971. **The 1935 and 1971 versions are different enough to warrant belated republication of the original work.**



Windsor Magazine, 1935: illustration

(2) CRYSTAL CLEAR

This enjoyable yarn appeared in *Windsor Magazine*, October 1936 (below) only. Last published more than eighty years ago, thus **eminently suitable for collection.**



(3) SERGEI'S BROTHER

Unpublished, 1937: an important "lost" work that prompted the reader of WG's then literary agent to write:

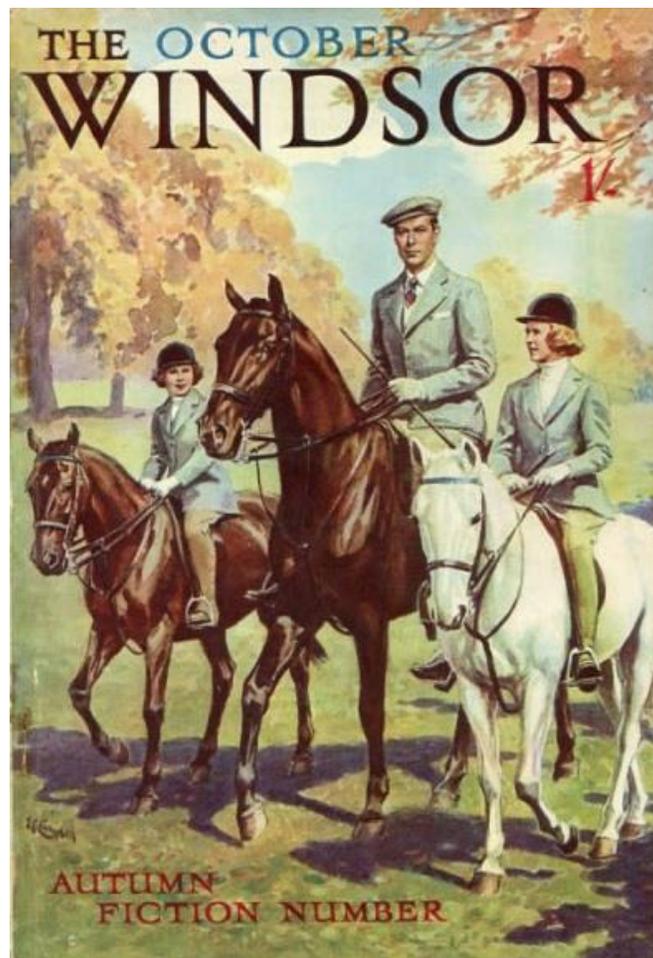
This story is neither a commercialised affair, written mechanically to a formula, nor is it a shapeless product of esoterism. It has a plot, very good background, and it is about something.

This theme is religious, suggesting that the experiences of a priest flying incognito from Russia in 1917 may be related to the feelings of Peter in Matthew Ch. 26. This is my own crude version: Mr. Graham is careful to underline nothing ... This story seems to me to possess real literary distinction: I have a high regard for Mr. Graham's writing.¹

Assuming a manuscript copy still exists (both of those listed in RIC's Truro archive² are missing), **eminently suitable for collection.**

(4) MYSTERY AT BROME

As (2) above: an engaging tale that appeared only in October 1938's *Windsor Magazine* (below). Another obscure work **well worth collecting.**



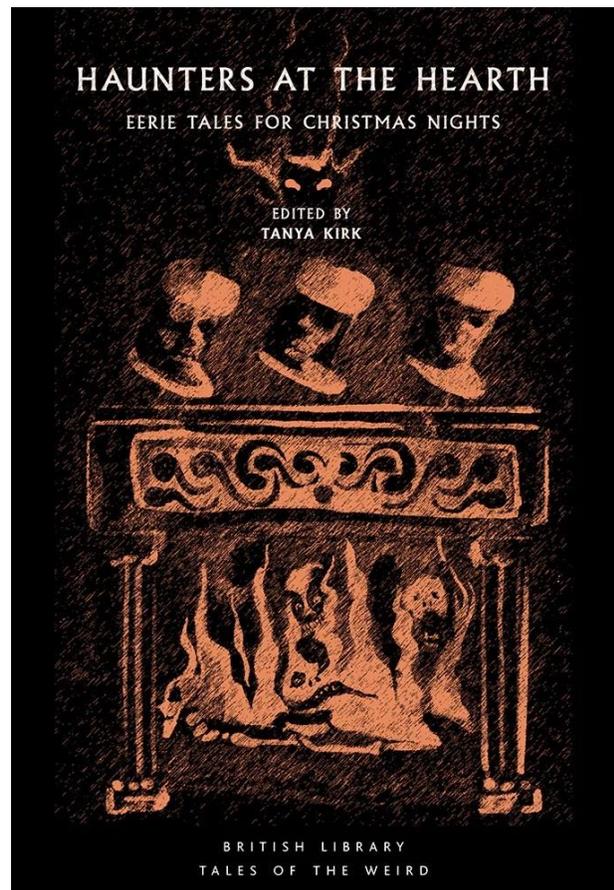
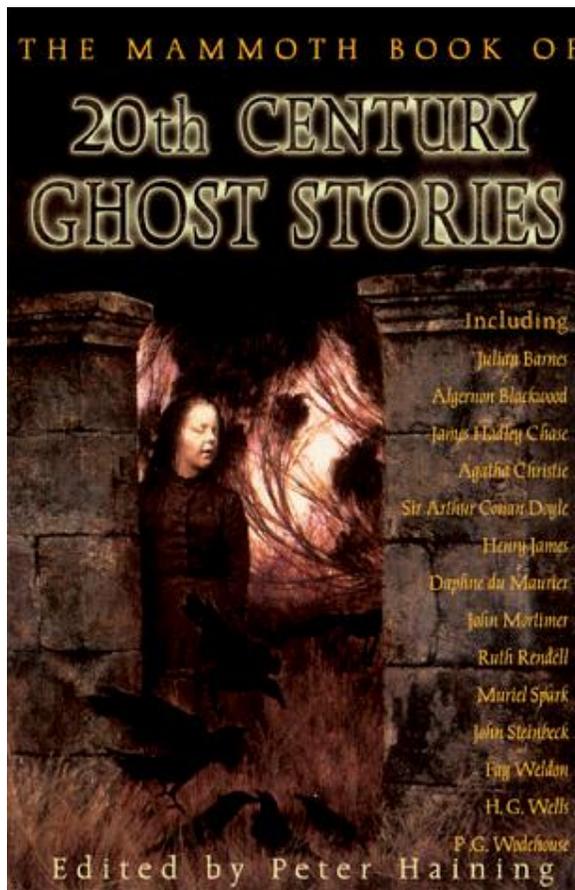
(5) SIGH NO MORE, LADY

The content of this 29-page story, one undated copy of which is held in the Truro archive, indicates that it was written circa 1939. **Worth publishing**, perhaps with a better title.

(6) AT THE CHALET LARTREC

Published in *John Bull*, 31 May 1947, followed by (among others):

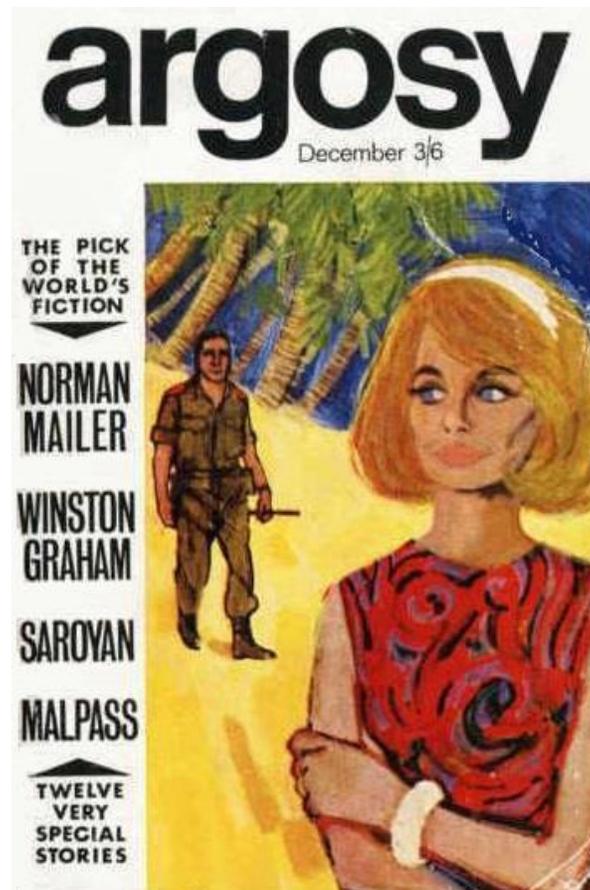
- *Argosy*, April 1967
- *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971
- *Stories of Haunted Inns*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1983
- *The Mammoth Book of 20th Century Ghost Stories*, ed. Peter Haining, Robinson, 1998
- *Haunters at the Hearth*, ed. Tanya Kirk, British Library, 2022



As with (1) above, this story underwent significant revision between first magazine and first book publication, in 1947 and 1971 respectively. Since both iterations reward finding to read, **the original merits republication.**

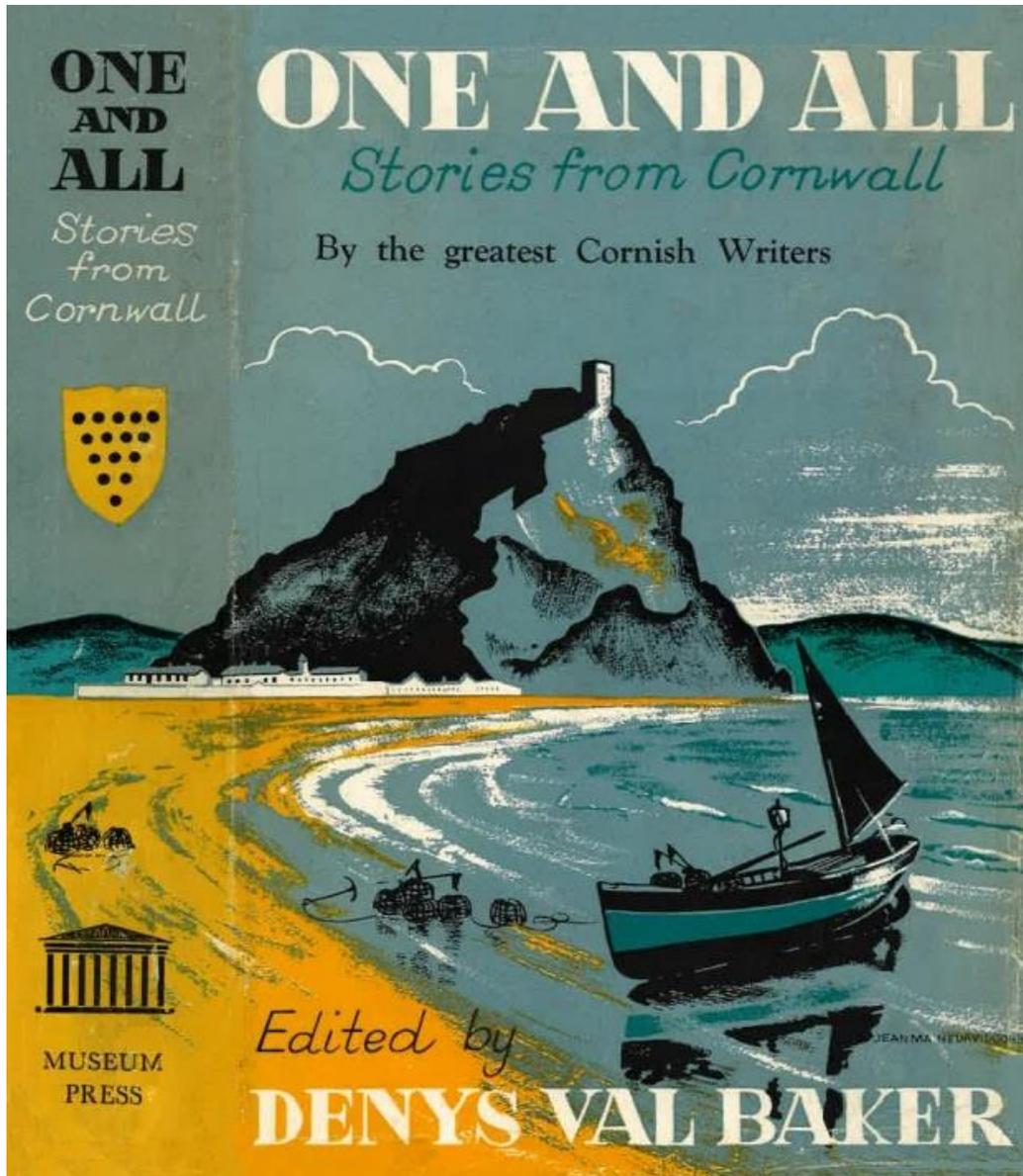
(7) THE CORNISH FARM

This story was first written for radio broadcast and first heard on *Stories Old and New* on the BBC's Home Service on Tuesday 15 July 1947. Subsequently published in *Argosy*, December 1965 (below) and *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971. (For more on *Argosy*, see Appendix Two.)



(8) COTTY'S COVE

First written for and published in *One and All*, ed. Baker, Museum Press, 1951 (below), followed by republication in *Argosy*, February 1968, *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971 and *Cornish Harvest*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1974.³



As was his habit, before its *Japanese Girl* resurrection, WG carefully revised this splendid 1951 story – but in this case, whilst a comparison of the two variants is fascinating for what it reveals of the writer's method, the 1951 original is neither better than nor sufficiently different from the 1971 rewrite to merit republication.

(9) THE SUNCHURCH WONDER

Published only in the 7 June 1958 edition of *John Bull* (below, left), this is a third story – see also (2) and (4) above – to receive a single magazine airing

before slipping into obscurity. Though slight by WG's standards, **republication is merited.**



(10) THE MAN FROM THE MOOR / GIBB

This story was first published in *John Bull* on 24 January 1959 (above, right) as *The Man from the Moor*. After significant revision it then reappeared in *Argosy*, June 1970 and *The Japanese Girl*, 1971 as *Gibb*. As with (1) and (6) above, the original and reworked versions are sufficiently different that **republication of *The Man from the Moor* is warranted.**

(11) THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

This unpublished short story about a broiler chicken that escaped from a livestock wagon and ended up in WG's garden was written while the author was living in rented accommodation in Uckfield in 1961. A copy is held in the WG archive in Truro. Though brief and minor, **collection is merited.**

(12) THE OLD BOYS

Published in *Argosy*, May 1966 and *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971

(13) VIVE LE ROI

Published in *Argosy*, October 1966 and *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971

(14) THE WIG-WAM

Published in *Argosy*, September 1970, *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971 and *Stories of Fear*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1980



(15) I HAD KNOWN SAM TAYLOR FOR YEARS

Published in *Argosy*, January / February 1971 (above) and *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971

(16) JACKA'S FIGHT

Published in *Argosy*, May 1971, *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971 and *Cornish Short Stories*, ed. Baker, Penguin, 1976 (above)

(17) THE ISLAND

Published in *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971 and *Stories of Horror and Suspense*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1977

In Chapter 1.2 of *Memoirs of a Private Man* (Macmillan, 2003), WG acknowledges that *The Island* is partly autobiographical. Recalling his parents Arthur and Annie and his childhood home in Victoria Park, Manchester, it begins:

I am nine years old, and I live in The Park three miles from the centre of the city. I have lived there all my life. My mother is a delicate woman with catarrh, a weak heart and a resolute will. My father is my mother's husband. He is a merchant, a small tubby vigorous man with a fair moustache, a bald head and keen twinkling eyes. They are both over forty when I am born and they have not much in common with my youth ... We live in a tall, semi-detached house with a long narrow garden. On the ground floor there is a drawing room, a kitchen and a dining-room, connected by a long hall. The dining-room has a big square mahogany table covered between meals by a green velvet cloth with tassels. A white tablecloth is put over this for mid-day dinner, for high tea and for supper. There is a bookcase with Chambers' Encyclopaedia, Darwin's *Descent of Man* and Morley's *Life of Gladstone*. There is a cane-bottomed rocking-chair before the fire and almost always a fire. The walls are hung with a heavy crimson flock paper, and there are big paintings of cattle sitting beside lakes with dark mountains in the background.

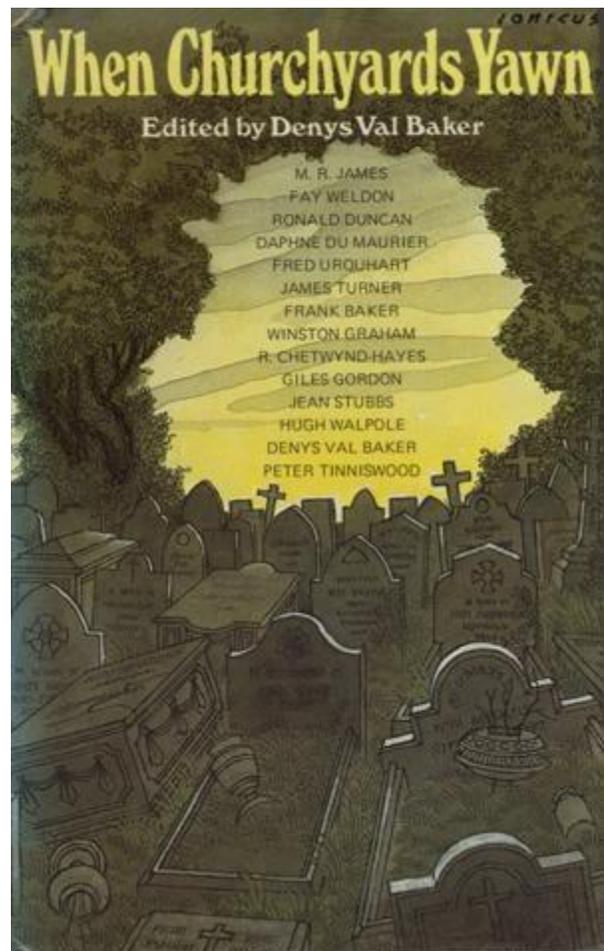
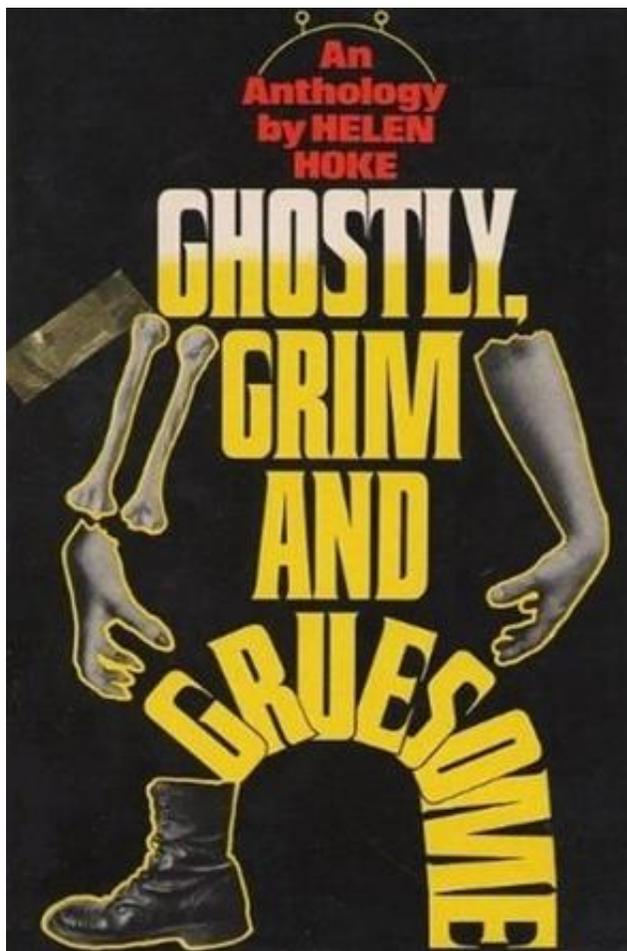
The drawing-room is for entertaining and for Sundays. It is a lighter room with moquette velvet armchairs, casement curtains drawn in at the waist by a cord, and a 'cello and a piano. My mother and my father play together and they also sing. They sing 'The Keys of Heaven' and other duets. My mother sings 'The Indian Love Lyrics' and 'In the Gloaming'. My father sings 'I Hear You Calling Me' and 'Absent' and 'Sun of My Soul'.

* * * * *

(18) THE BASKET CHAIR

Published in *Winter's Crimes 2*, Macmillan, 1970, followed by:

- *The Japanese Girl and other stories*, Collins, 1971
- *The 7th Fontana Book of Great Horror Stories*, ed. Mary Danby, Fontana, 1972
- *Ghostly, Grim and Gruesome*, ed. Helen Hoke, Nelson, 1976
- *Stories of the Occult*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1978
- *When Churchyards Yawn*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1982
- *65 Great Spine Chillers*, ed. Danby, Octopus, 1982 *et al.*
- *Murder Most Foul*, Octopus, 1984



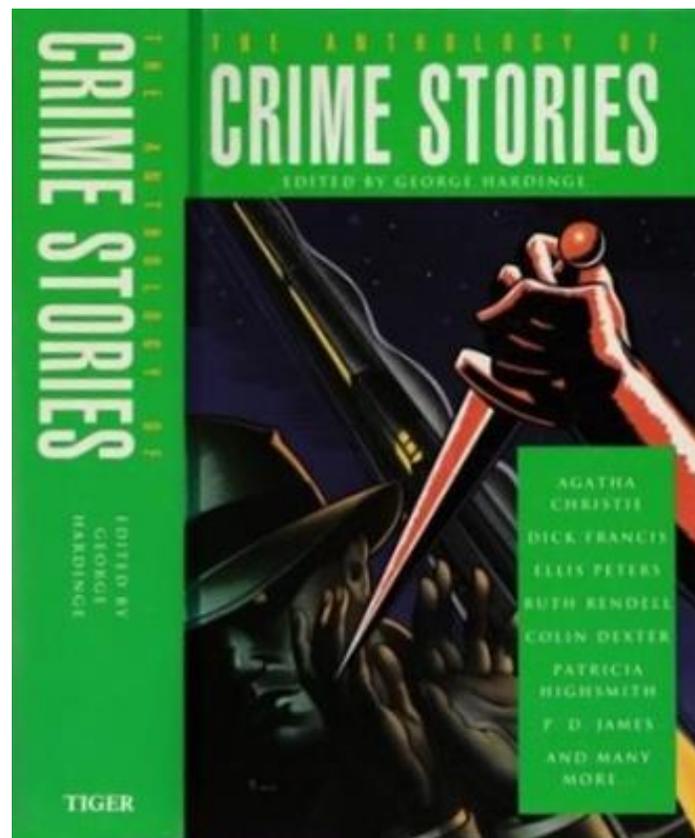
(19) BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

Published in *The Japanese Girl*, Collins, 1971 and *Personal Choice*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1977

(20) THE JAPANESE GIRL

In the *Daily Sketch* (two parts) on 28 and 29 October 1969 and *The Japanese Girl and other stories*, Collins, 1971 only

(21) THE CIRCUS



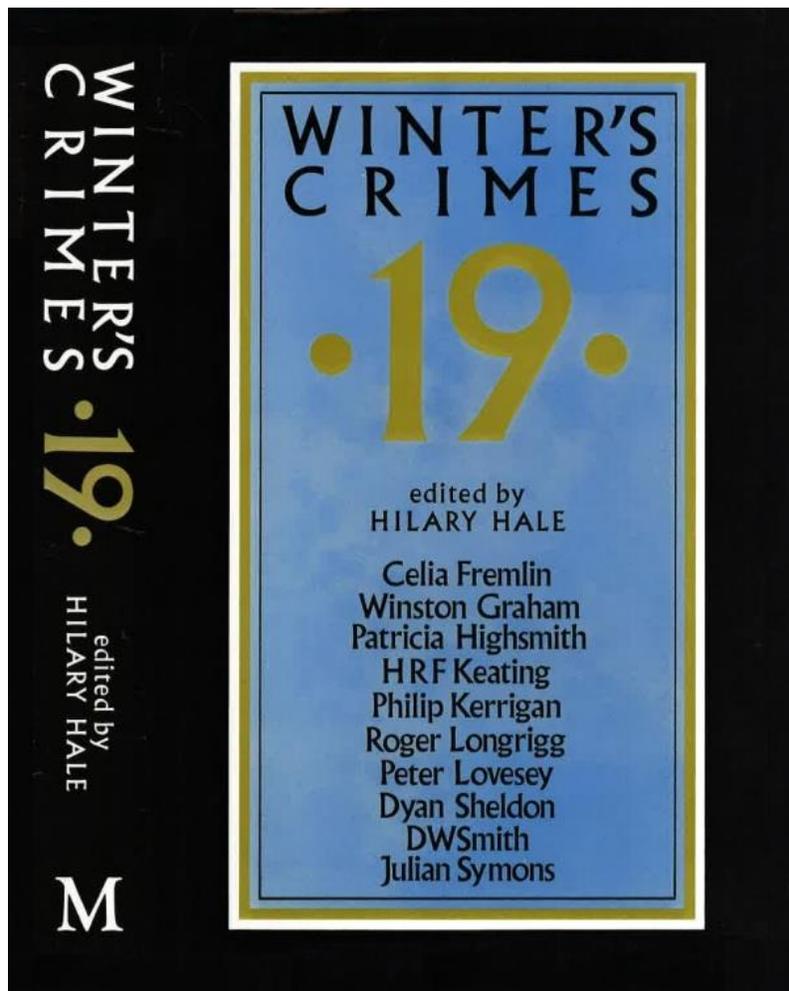
Published first in *Winter's Crimes Volume 6*, ed. George Hardinge, Macmillan, 1974, then subsequently in, among others:

- *The Australian Women's Weekly*, 23 April 1975
- *Stories of the Macabre*, ed. Baker, Kimber, 1976

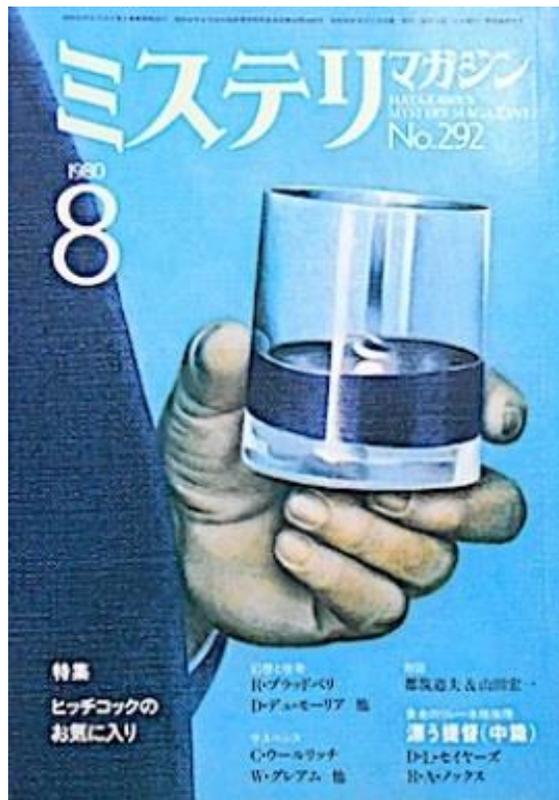
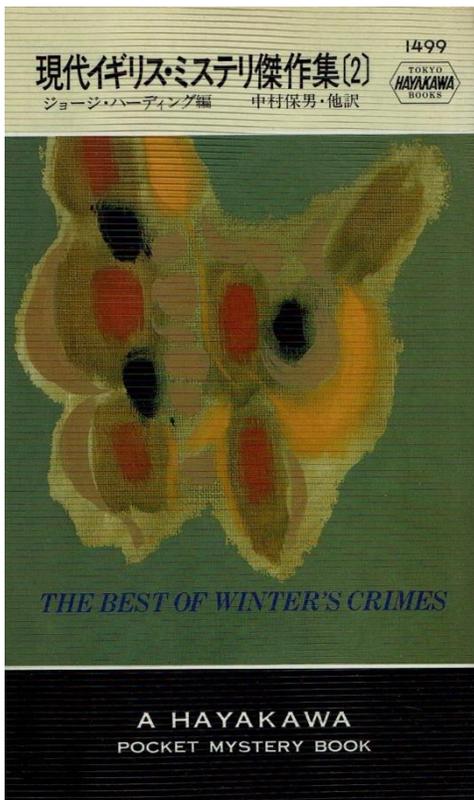
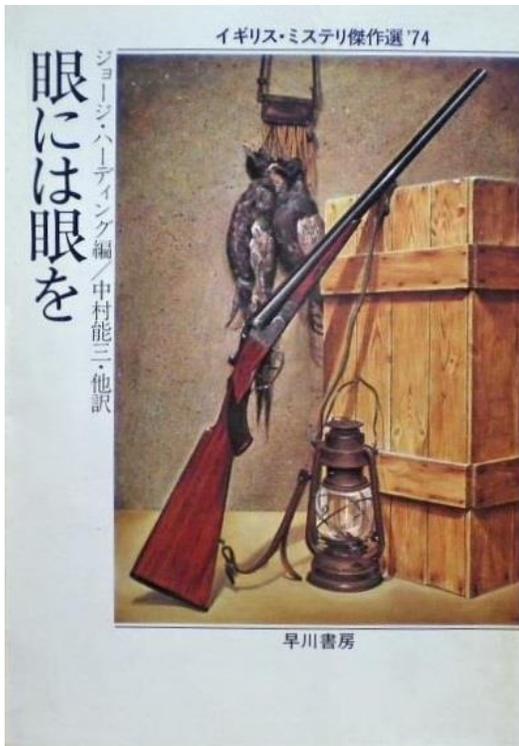
- *Realms of Darkness*, ed. Danby, Octopus, 1985
- *The Best of Winter's Crimes, Volume 1*, ed. Hardinge, Macmillan, 1986
- *The Mammoth Book of Modern Crime Stories*, ed. Hardinge, Carroll & Graf, 1987 *et al.*
- *The Anthology of Crime Stories*, ed. Hardinge, Tiger Books, 1994 (see previous page)

A terrific tale **well worth collecting.**

(22) NOTHING IN THE LIBRARY



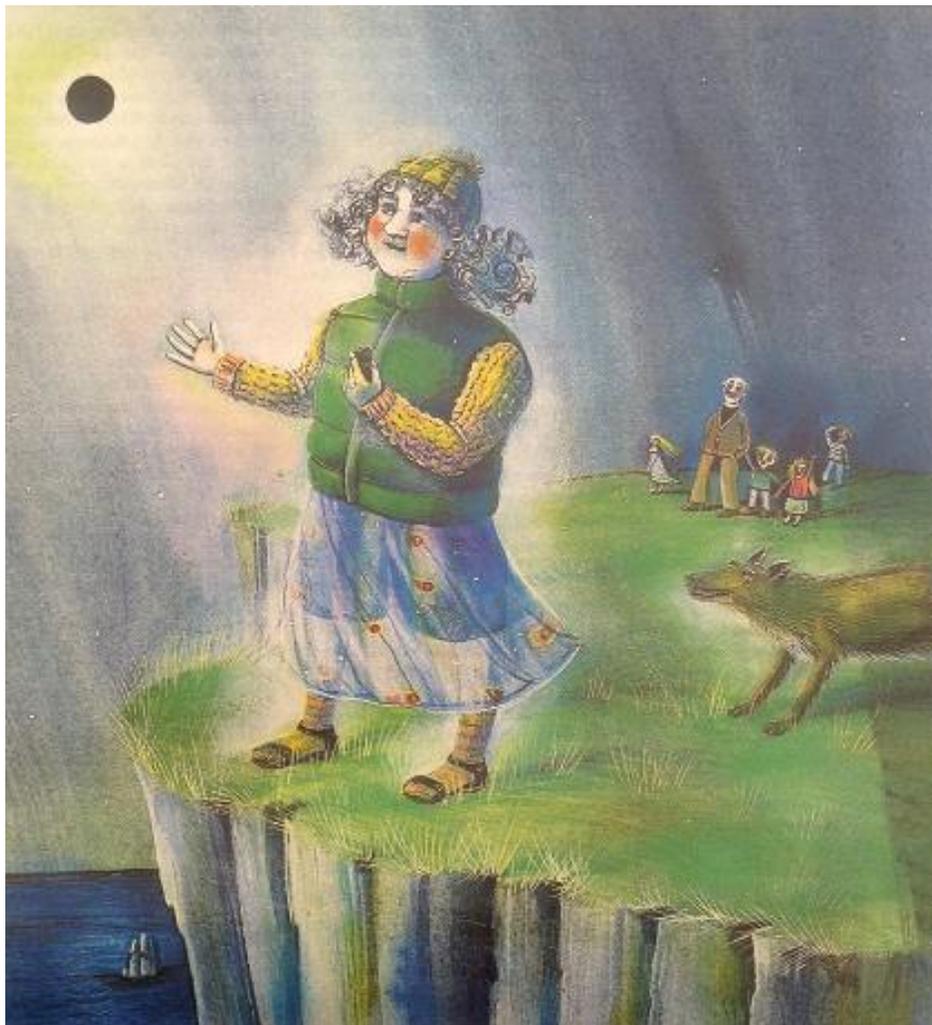
In *Winter's Crimes Volume 19*, ed. Hilary Hale, Macmillan, 1987 only. Less of a *tour de force* than *The Circus*, perhaps, but **worth republication** still.



WG in Japanese Top: *Winter's Crimes* Vol. 6 (1974) and 19 (1989); bottom: *Best of Winter's Crimes* (1986) and *Mystery Magazine* (1980), all from Hayawaka. WC19 features *Nothing in the Library* and the other three *The Circus*.

(23) ECLIPSE

This entertaining little squib, published in *The Sunday Express Magazine* of 8 August 1999 to help promote Pan's paperback release of *The Ugly Sister*, is, while slight, **worthy of reclamation**.



Eclipse: illustration

(24) MILLENNIUM

The Truro archive includes an unpublished story of 3,530 words called Millennium. Probably written in 2000, it reprises the character Miss Hester Trelawney-Trewoofe first introduced in *Eclipse* (see above). Though very far from WG's best, **collection is merited**.

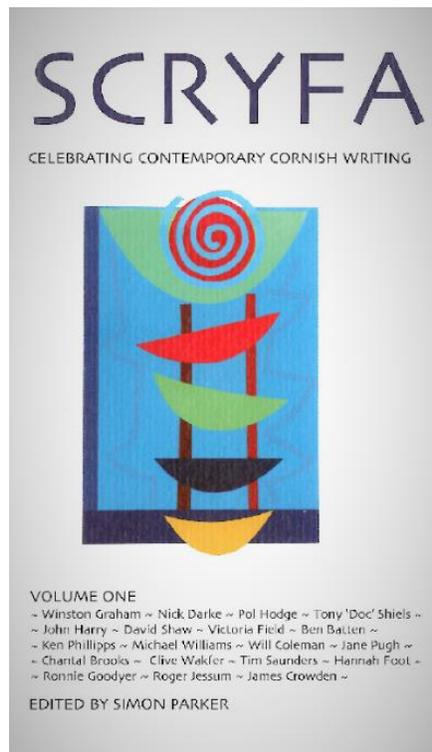
(25) THE HORSE DEALER

A Jud Paynter story serialised in three parts in regional newspaper *The Western Morning News* on 23 April, 30 April and 7 May 2002. Published to help promote the last Poldark novel, *Bella Poldark*. A fun piece **well worth collecting** nonetheless.

(26) CHRISTMAS AT NAMPARA, 1820

This unpublished coda to *Bella Poldark*, held in the Truro archive on 24 double spaced, typed pages, carries WG's venerable saga a shade further than the twelfth and last novel, on to Christmas 1820, and in so doing provides an elegiac adieu to his beloved characters and their story. Given the immense popularity of all things Poldark, **publication would surely be widely welcomed.**

(27) MEETING DEMELZA



It is perhaps fitting that the last work from WG's pen to be published during his lifetime was yet another Poldark spin-off: Volume One of *Scryfa*, edited by

Simon Parker, from Giss 'On Books in March 2003 includes Meeting Demelza, a short, sweet, sentimental reverie **well worth collecting**.

In summary, the following stories, either uncollected or unpublished, would make a splendid *WG Short Fiction, Volume Two*:

- The Medici Ear-ring (1935)
- Crystal Clear
- Sergei's Brother
- Mystery at Brome
- Sigh No More, Lady
- The Chalet Lartrec (1947)
- The Sunchurch Wonder
- The Man from the Moor
- The One That Got Away
- The Circus
- Nothing in the Library
- Eclipse
- Millennium
- The Horse Dealer
- Christmas at Nampara, 1820
- Meeting Demelza

Hope springs eternal.

* * * * *

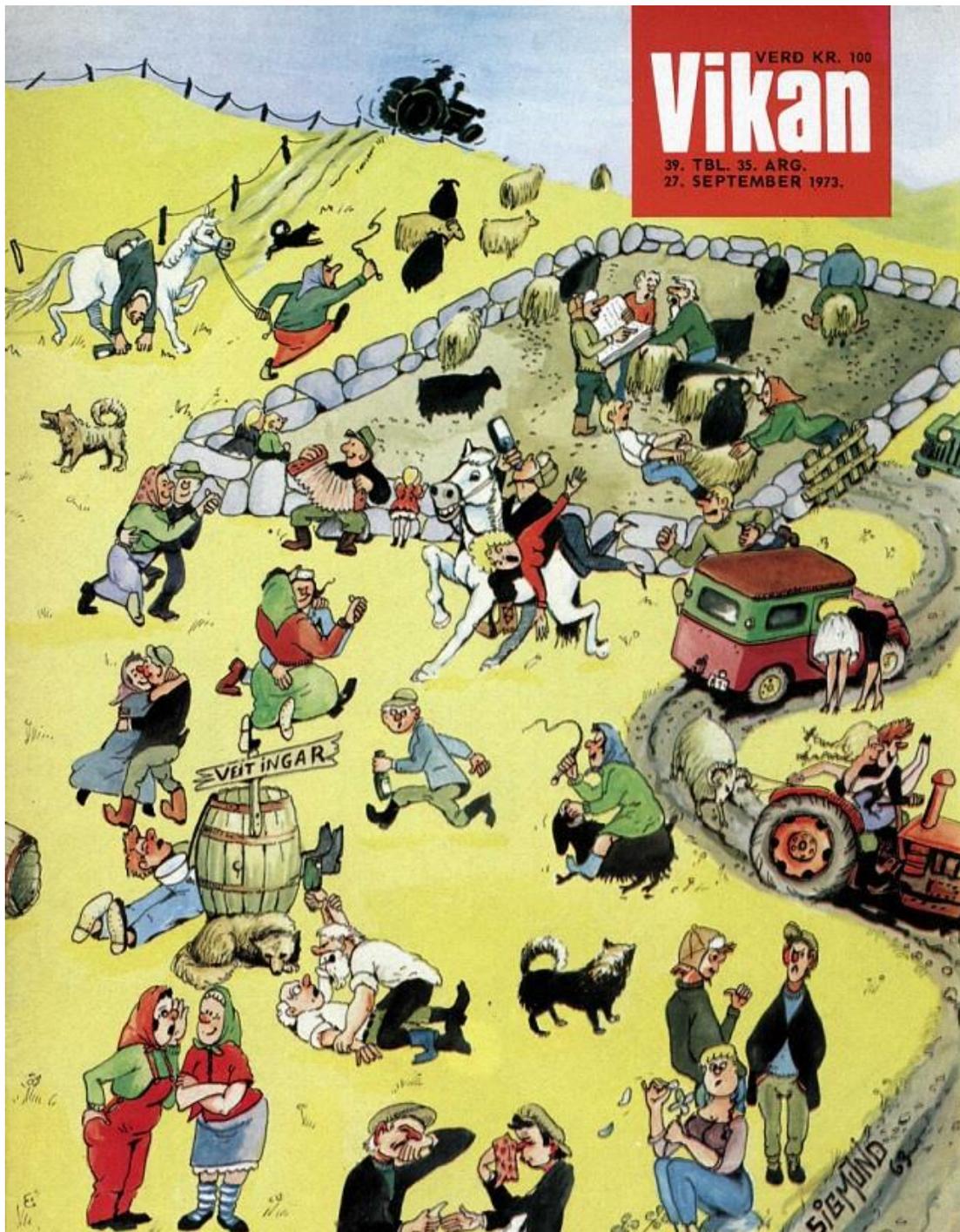
(1) NOTES AND SOURCES

¹ From a letter dated 23 December 1937 from A. P. Watt & Son to WG

² Held by The Courtney Library, The Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro, TR1 2SJ

³ COTTY'S COVE has made at least one other appearance, in the 27 September 1973 edition of Icelandic magazine *Vikan*,

where it surfaced under the title of HELLIRINN (= THE CAVE). This makes at least three WG works to have been translated into Icelandic, the others being his novels *Fortune is a Woman* (1952) and *Marnie* (1961), both of which were serialised in Icelandic daily papers (for further detail, see [SERIALISATIONS](#)).





Previous page: *Vikan*, 27 September 1973, front cover. Above: start of the story, which is spread over several pages.

* * * * *

(2) WG in Argosy

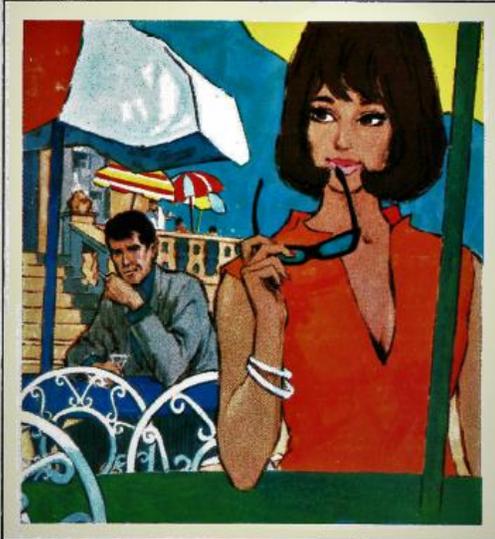
The December 1967 issue of *Argosy* featured a ten-page profile of WG, based on an interview given to Arthur Pottersman. But between July 1965 and May 1971 the magazine also featured no fewer than ten of his short stories, all subsequently collected in *The Japanese Girl*. Two of the relevant issues are shown on pages six and nine above; the other eight are reproduced below.

Page 20: July 1965 / May 1966 / October 1966 / April 1967

Page 21: Feb. 1968 / June 1970 / September 1970 / May 1971

argosy

SUMMER FICTION July 3/6
BY 12 OF TODAY'S AUTHORS



argosy

MAY 3/6



GEOFFREY HOUSEHOLD . . . plus the best stories
from Europe, USA, Russia, Australia . . . etc

argosy

OCTOBER 3/6

**ALISTAIR
MACLEAN'S
EXPLOSIVE NEW
SERIAL
WHEN
EIGHT
BELLS
TOLL**



PLUS THE BEST NEW STORIES

THE SHORT STORY MAGAZINE

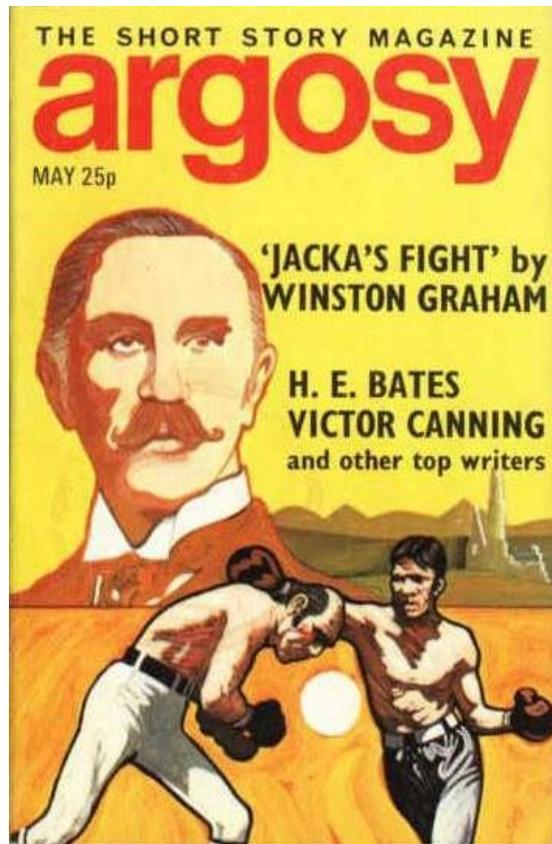
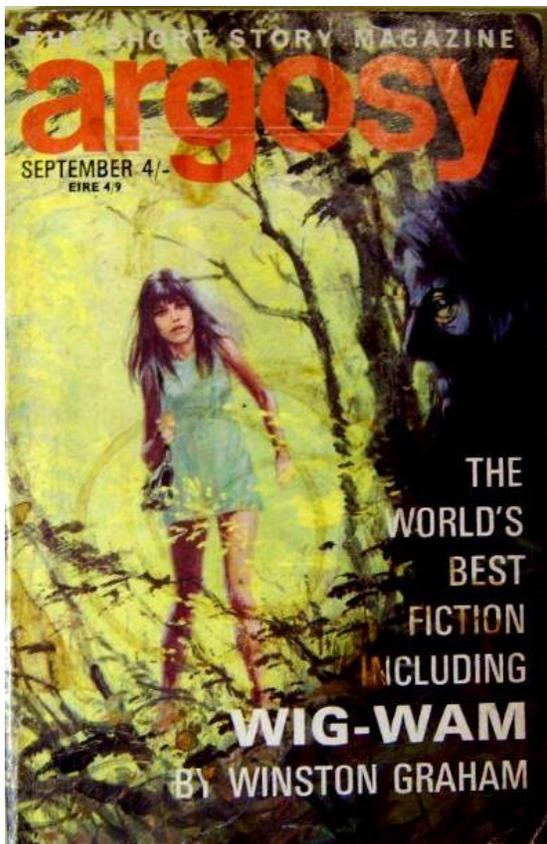
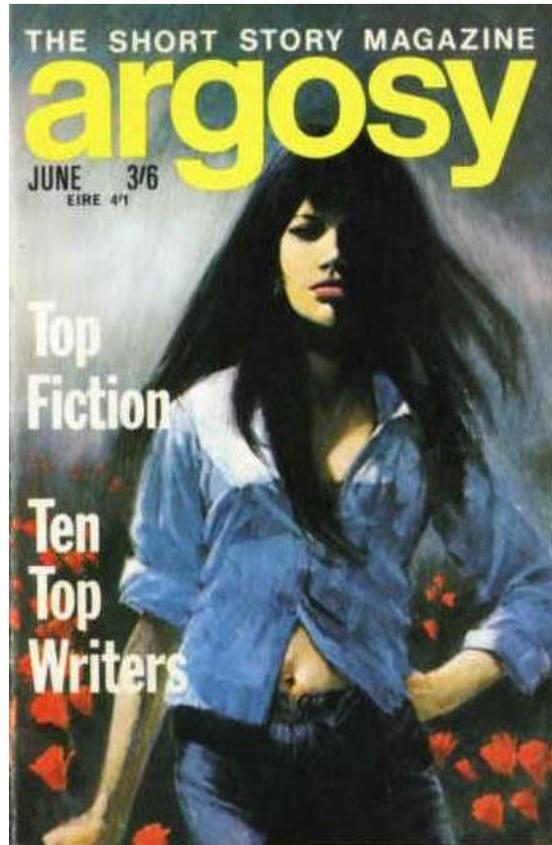
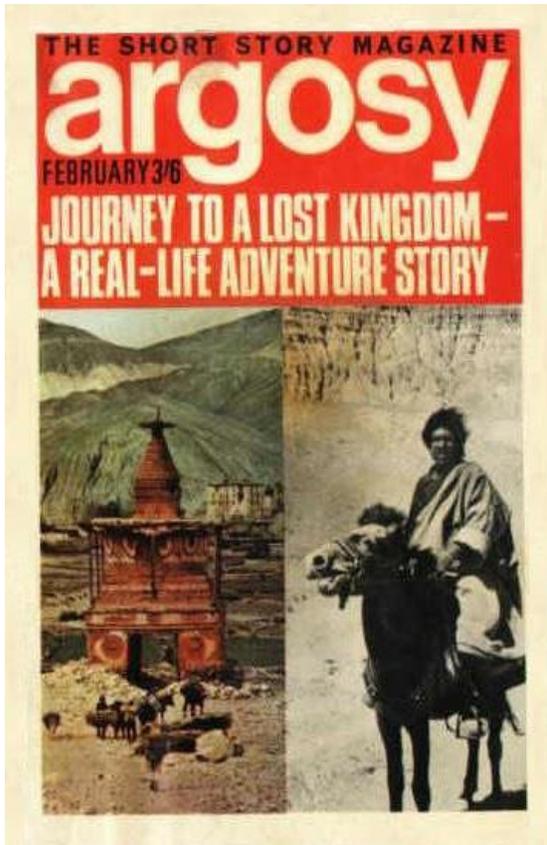
argosy

APRIL 3/6

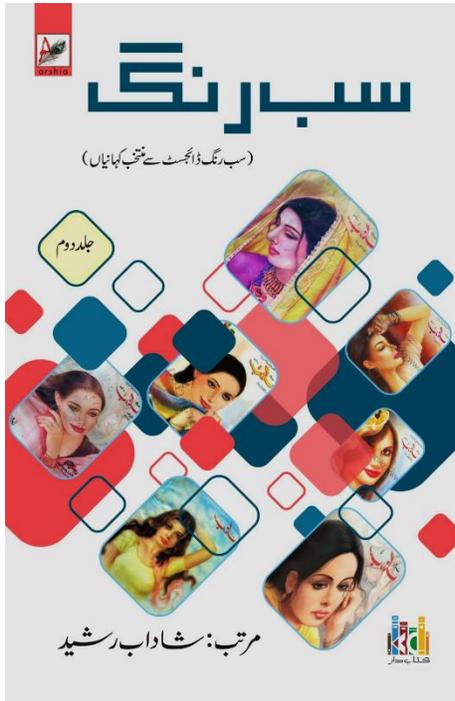
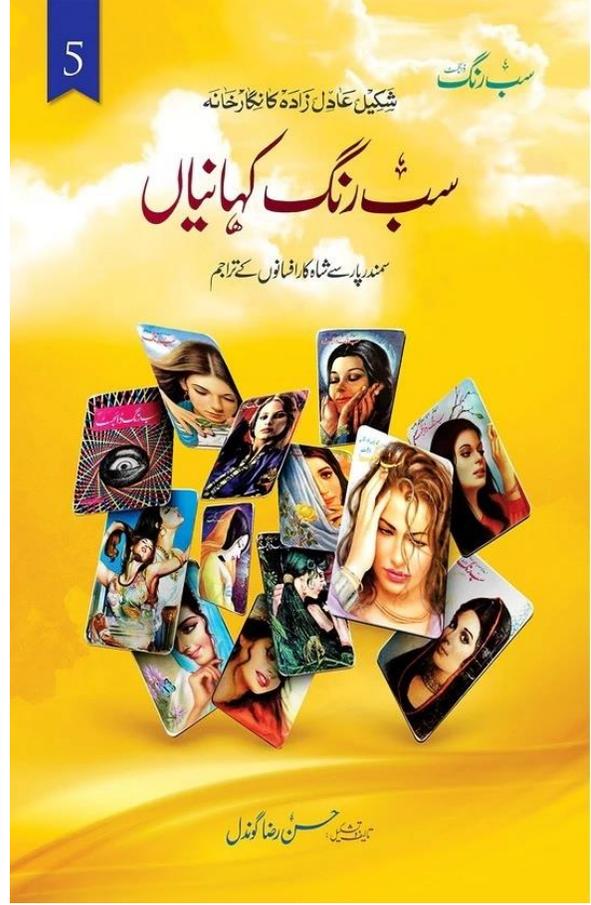
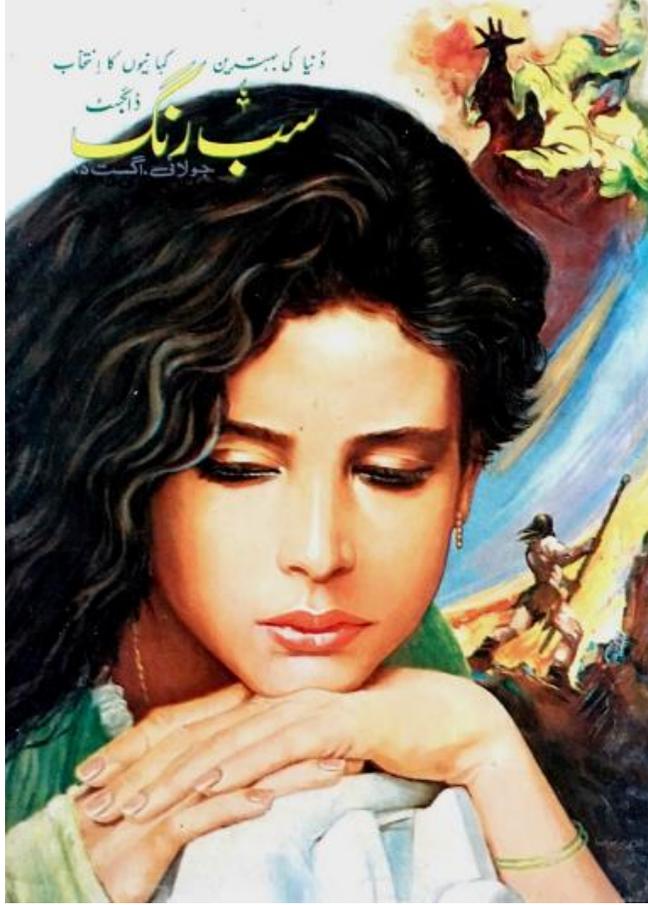


WINSTON GRAHAM □ WILLARD MARSH
HARRY SUTTON □ MICHAEL GILBERT
JOHN SALT □ JOYCE CAROL OATES

**A BLANDINGS CASTLE
STORY BY P. G. WODEHOUSE**



(3) AT THE CHALET LARTREC in Urdu



These three publications all contain the same Urdu translation by Rajpoot Iqbal Ahmed of AT THE CHALET LARTREC (as THE CONFESSION):

- (1) *Sabrang Digest*, July / August 1985
- (2) *Sabrang Kahaniyan*, Volume 5, Book Corner, 2022 and
- (3) *Sabrang (Selected Short Stories)*, Kitabdaar Publications, 2020

From more, see [URDU](#)

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