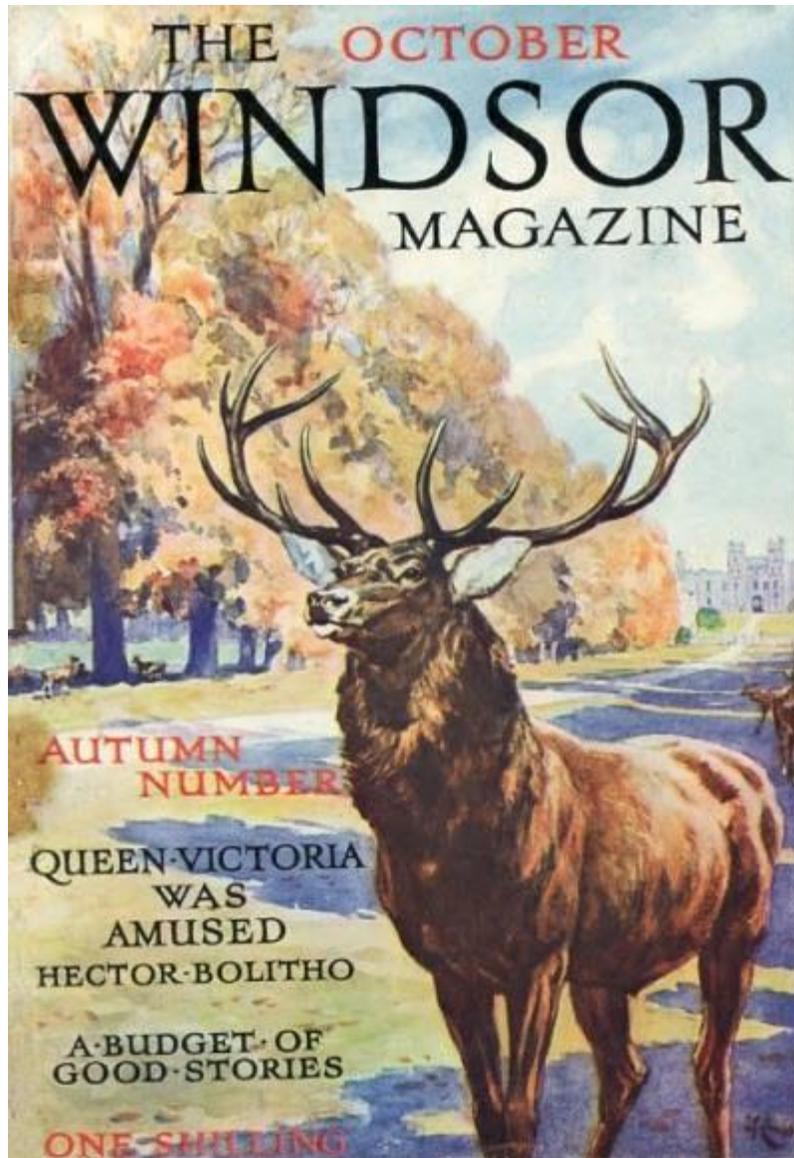


WG and *The Windsor Magazine*

The Windsor Magazine, described on its title page as *An Illustrated Monthly for Men and Women*, was published by Ward, Lock & Co. in an unbroken run of 537 issues from January 1895 to September 1939. Then, ten days after the outbreak of WWII on the third of that month, *The Times* announced that due to "the present difficult circumstances" publication of the magazine was being suspended,¹ which it was, and never resumed.

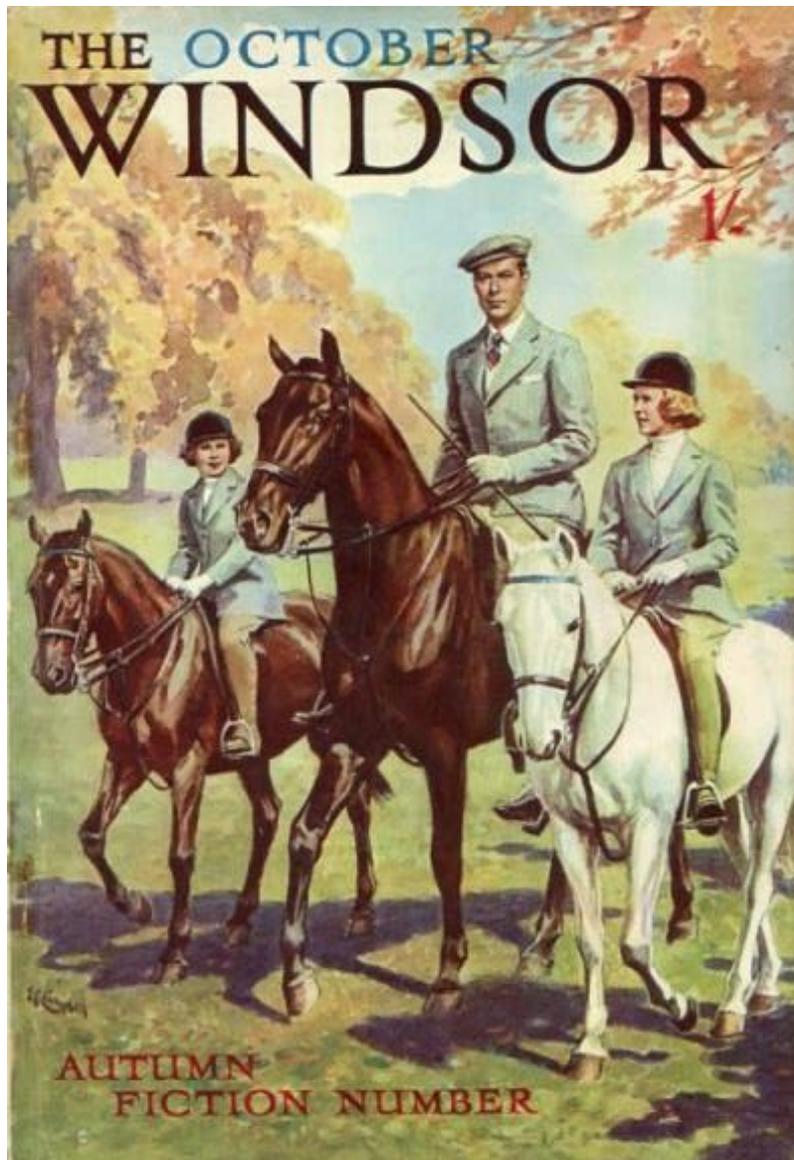
Perhaps fortuitously for WG, Ward, Lock & Co. published not only *The Windsor* but also all of his early novels. In the five pre-war years October 1934 to September 1939 they worked hard to launch their fledgling author, issuing no fewer than seven of his titles: *The House with the Stained Glass Windows* in October 1934, *Into the Fog* in March 1935, *The Riddle of John Rowe* in September 1935, *Without Motive* in April 1936, *The Dangerous Pawn* on 11 March 1937, *The Giant's Chair* on 18 January 1938 and *Keys of Chance* on 6 January 1939 (with *Strangers Meeting* following in October of the same year). But, in addition, as a secondary means of helping to gain him a public, they also placed three of his short stories in *Windsor Magazine*: "The Medici Earring" ran in issue 490 (October 1935), followed by "Crystal Clear" in issue 502 (October 1936) and "Mystery at Brome" in issue 526 (October 1938). For the last-named he was paid fifteen guineas (not bad when compared to the £25 advance he received for each of the novels), which, he noted phlegmatically in a letter dated 16 January 1938, was "slightly more than they gave me for the last one."² On 23 December 1937, a reader of his then literary agent A P Watt reported on a WG short story entitled "Sergei's Brother" in terms so glowing (*This story seems to me to possess real literary distinction: I have a very high regard for Mr. Graham's writing ...*)³ that it is unthinkable that agent and writer would not both seek thereafter to affect its publication. Yet no trace of it can be found; in view of the publication dates of the three of his stories that did appear in *The Windsor*, it is intriguing to conjecture that it might have been lined up for the October 1939 issue that never was.

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The Windsor Magazine: above, issue 502, published in October 1936, including WG short story "Crystal Clear" (7 pages) and below, issue 526 from October 1938, including WG's "Mystery at Brome" (12 pages). No image of the cover of issue 490 from October 1935, in which "The Medici Ear-ring" (14 pages) makes its first appearance, is available. (NB: all page counts include illustrations.)

A rewritten version of "The Medici Ear-ring" was included in *The Japanese Girl* (Collins, 1971); the other two stories appear to have been forgotten and read by virtually no one for the past eighty-odd years. Both are worth finding.



SOURCES

¹ *The Times*, 13 September 1939, page 4

² Letter held in the A P Watt Archives at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

³ Letter held in the Graham Archives at the Courtney Library, The Royal Cornwall Museum, The Royal Institution of Cornwall, River Street, Truro, TR1 2SJ

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