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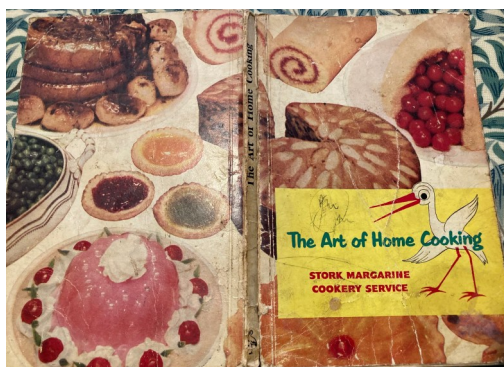
Earphones

Annette MacKay “Thank you, Hilary Hartley, for the photo of your mother. While I can’t say I could ever be a fan of the style it does make it much more elegant. I used to have the picture of Fraulein Schweger, the third-place contestant in the *Sound of Music* contest, in my head, when I thought of a female with that style, though Dorothy Brook’s illustrations helped a bit.”

Trex Cards and Stork Leaflets

Kathleen Westhorp “Jenny Marshall’s point about the Trex cards reminded me of the Stork cookery leaflets. We had a rep from Stork come to our school to demonstrate and we all received one. I think they printed others covering more exotic recipes.”

Patricia Lowe “I don’t have Stork leaflets but this was my mother’s 1954 cookery book which we both used until the 1980s.”



Inspiration for the Chalet School

Susan French “I liked Jane’s article. I think it’s entirely possible that EBD knew of the North London Collegiate School. ‘Miss Buss’ reminds one of the similar sounding ‘Miss Bubb’ who enters as temporary headmistress in *Gay*. Miss Bubb was another strong woman educator and Classics mistress. She was authoritarian in her methods. Maybe Miss Bubb is an homage to the famous North London headmistress”.

Kathleen Porter “I was just wondering if perhaps Elinor knew about two ladies who painted in the 1920s. I read about them in a letter in the *Stamp Magazine* from July 1914 by Jan Winchester. Well, what I noticed was one of the painters was called Miss M J Maynard. I thought perhaps it had

given her the name. They did the pictures that later were used for stamps of Iraq. I wonder if Elinor saw it and thought it a nice name.” [This is the picture of that stamp.]

The title is always an interesting starting point. Sometimes the book ends up with a title that is not the working title I have been using since the book began. For instance, some of my early title ideas included:

The Chalet School at Peace (rejected because it had parallels with *The Chalet School At War* and that was a paperback title and not the hardback one)

The Müllers Come to the Chalet School (I don't recall exactly when or how this changed, but it was felt that having a title that paralleled *Highland Twins* would be a better fit)

A Chalet School Girl From Belsornia (I liked this title a lot because I thought it was fun to have the secret double meaning of it referring to José as much as Elisaveta, but Clarissa decided to do a public call-out for names so she clearly didn't like it as much as I did)

Juniors, *Cornelia* and *Guernsey* have had no changes to their titles

Cover images and frontispieces undergo as much, or more, change in the move towards publication. For *Peace*, I had no real idea of what image I wanted, and had a series of conversations with Clarissa about images they had in their collection that they thought would work. One of these was a girl clad in a pink dress in front of a piano. I confess it didn't really appeal to me as a reflection of 'my' book, so we continued the search and finally landed on the delightful *Maris of Glenside* image that spoke of school and Guides and national pride and all of the things I felt reflected the story well.

By the time of my second book, I had much more definite ideas about the sorts of image I wanted to appear on and inside my book. I spent hours on Abebooks searching out images that were from books published in the correct year (basing this on when the book might have appeared in the publication list had EBD actually written it). I now have a list of dozens of illustrations from dustwrappers and frontispieces that might, one day, inspire scenes or storylines in future books.

Whatever my current book is, when I have an image that I think works, I first present it to Ann and Clarissa for approval.

For *Peace*, the *Maris of Glenside* picture provided by Ann and Clarissa, needed little amendment, other than a different hat style and changing the colour of the uniform to match what was standard for Guides in 1945 in England.



Guernsey - rejected frontispiece

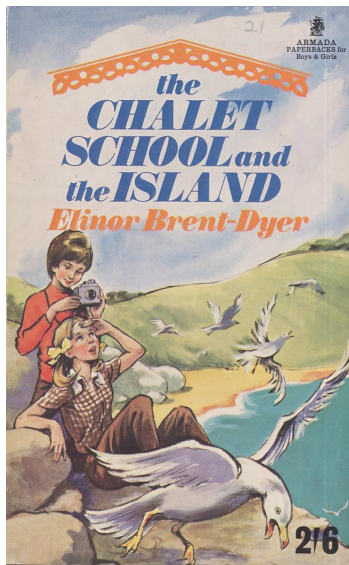
marzipan for the Sale when a saucer flies up and Margot gets green dye on her hair. Then in chapter 13, at the Sale, Mary-Lou shows off “her dainty green frock” to Vi Lucy.

It’s not just clothes, but interiors and furnishings are green too. In *The Chalet School and Jo*, chapter 8, when Margia and Ruth end up covered in sticky paste, it marks “the pretty green walls of the passage”. In chapter 3 of *The Chalet School Reunion*, in Grizel’s room, “the hangings, the rugs on the polished floor and the couvrepied were a soft green.” In *The New Chalet School*, chapter 17 “A Hair Raising Adventure” even the curtains in the charabanc are “thick dark green.”

However, the best example comes in *The Highland Twins at the Chalet School*, chapter 4, when Flora and Fiona are given a room: green carpet lay on the floor, green eiderdowns to match, two wicker chairs with green cushions, curtains with a pattern of green leaves, green linings, dark green blinds, the lights had green shades and the hearth was tiled in green. Let’s hope the colour suited the twins!



What Was Your First Chalet School Story? by Lorna Jarman



Recently I wasn’t well, so thought I would unwind by re-reading from the start of the Chalet School series, which was brilliant... such comfort reading!

Then I reached *The Chalet School and the Island*. Suddenly I remembered that it was the book that triggered my collection of EBD! My copy of *Island* was an Armada, dated 1967 and looked very 50s when you focussed on the front cover! The fact that the story was set around a school on an island was enough for me to buy it (secondhand at 30p) around 30/40 years ago. This was because family holidays from the 1950s were spent on Scottish islands and I am drawn to books about islands. I was hooked !

Now I have the full set in paperback of various vintages and 20 to 30 hardbacks as well. Because I am not a purist they are different editions, not necessarily firsts, as I just wanted to read the series. So we are lead into a different

author sometimes by a subtle route. In my case it was a very happy accident.