School Fees

Shirley Sim "I was re-reading *Princess Anne* by Katherine Oldmeadow and I was struck that the year's fees for sending her to the school was £30. I know Dick thought Madge charging £120 a year was a bit steep but Madge said it was only what decent boarding schools charged. (Chalet School definitely a better school). *Princess Anne* was published in the same year as *Chalet*. There is electric light but the girls still need to use candles to light them to bed. They have no grounds to speak of despite it being set in Yorkshire and the meals are standard stodgy school fare. A far cry from the good food and comfort of the Chalet School."

Sayings in Books

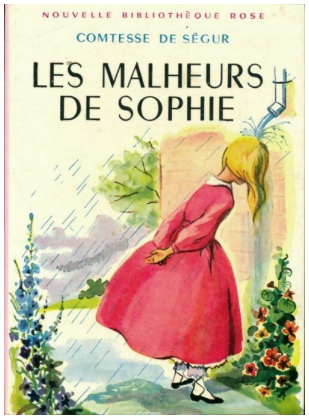
Susan Preston "I started to clear out the loft (not before time) and found a stash of Georgette Heyer paperbacks from years ago. Of course they had to be thoroughly examined at once. In one I came across the phrase 'he is the outside of enough' which I always assumed was an EBD saying, but, given that Heyer was always spot on with Regency detail, it must have been in use in the 1920s? Still haven't tackled the loft."

Anne Maclean "The phrase 'the outside of enough' became more commonly known through Jane Austen's novel *Sense and Sensibility* (written 1795-1811), though its exact origin is debated."

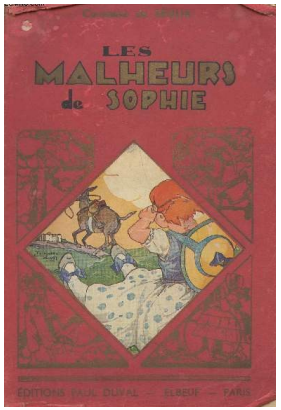
Cookery Books

Elizabeth Boardman "I also have the Stork cookery book mentioned by Patricia Lowe, inherited from my mother. But it is in very good condition, so can have been little used by either of us. However, both of us were given free copies of the *Be-Ro* recipe book when we were at school, and I have found many women from all over the country who are familiar with the various editions because they were given copies in the same way. Mum's was black and white and must have been a fairly early edition (the first one was 1923 and she left school in 1935). It completely disintegrated over the years; I don't remember its ever having a cover, so the deterioration must have started long before I started to use it. Although the book is long gone I still have its recipe for Family cake (a fruit cake) in my head and I make it often. My own copy is the 31st edition from 1966 and is now much

Les Malheurs de Sophie: Comtesse de Ségur
by Jo Shields

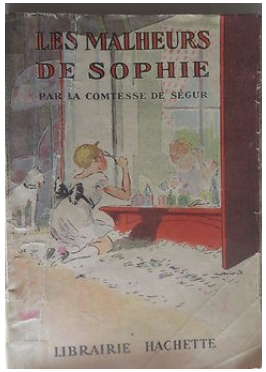


"Erica was especially anxious to improve her vocabulary because the book Upper IVb was using for translation was *Les Malheurs de Sophie.* It was one of the standard French storybooks and recounted the misdeeds of Sophie, a small girl. Peeping at it, Erica had been instantly enchanted by odd sentences she was able to understand. In addition, the edition they used was illustrated with the most delightful line drawings. Erica felt that she simply must be able to read it as soon as possible." *Summer Term at the Chalet School,* chapter V.



At some point a few years ago I realised that I rather regretted never getting good enough at French when studying it at school to actually use it for anything interesting, like reading books in French, and decided I rather fancied having a go at re-learning what little I'd learnt before and seeing if I could get to a useful level for reading books. It occurred to me that one way of trying to achieve this goal might be to start by reading French children's books, but I didn't know of any; I didn't really want to read English books translated into French, but to read real French books in the original language. Then, when re-reading my way through *Summer Term*, I came across the quotation above, so I bought myself a copy of *Les Malheurs de Sophie* and set to work.

As a language learning exercise I feel this was a success: it has introduced me to the strange past historic tense that only gets used in written French and to lots of new vocabulary. But as a piece of children's literature I found this book very troubling, and not at all what EBD had led me to expect.



Sophie is a very young girl – she has her fourth birthday halfway through the book – living in a large chateau in the French countryside in the mid-nineteenth century with her mother, sometimes her father (he is usually away in Paris on business but he sends her several presents and appears from time to time) and lots of servants, including a succession of nursery-governesses who don't seem to me to be doing a very good job of keeping her out of mischief. She has a

Innsbruck

high-end shops. Nobody will make the horns at you, and it has its own helicopter centre.

- If you want to see somebody in traditional Tyrolean clothing, go to a hotel, as the staff there are often in Lederhosen or laced bodices. Just don't look at their shoes, which will probably be sensible trainers rather than something traditional!
- Embroidered Lederhosen can cost £300. But you can buy men's Tyrolean underpants at the gift booths in Pertisau (Briesau) if you are on a smaller budget.
- It's no longer possible to paddle in the Ziller at Mayrhofen – it's fenced off, and there are warning signs about the danger of sudden surges of water.
- The cows do wear bells.
- The meadows are full of flowers. Well – we saw *one* which was full of flowers. The rest had been harvested for hay.
- It's possible to harvest hay on a 70 -degree slope, using a petrol mower and a hay fork. At least, that's what it looked like!

The River Inn

- The train running along the Ziller valley is only occasionally a steam train nowadays. Usually, it's one of those little trains which looks as if it were made from buses. Children use it to commute to and from school.

The funicular at Innsbruck

- The Ziller valley has a lot of car dealerships, but dairy farming and tourism seem to be the biggest businesses in the area. We also saw an impressive timber yard, stacked high with telegraph poles, clearly harvested from the valley sides.
- There are religious shrines dotted all over the place, and people light candles each night in cemeteries.
- Many of the buildings have religious frescoes and almost all of them are in the traditional chalet style,

network to good effect, as apparently having the daughters of a Herr Rittmeister at the School is an excellent recommendation to other parents.

She states her short-term objectives (12 girls at first), and I suppose providing education, healthcare and a home for Joey could be seen as a long-term objective, but at this stage she doesn't give much thought to how, or whether, the School might grow much larger than that. She doesn't discuss her sales targets. Maybe she and Dick do this off-screen, as it's a fairly important consideration.

The 4 Ps are *almost* covered – she knows the product, she knows exactly where the location will be, and she has a price in mind, which she has researched. She just isn't offering any promotions at this stage.

Task 4: The learner has provided an overview of the management structure and an overview of the staffing structure, and has accurately outlined the supports available to a start-up business and evaluated their usefulness.

Madge has certainly considered the staff she needs and where to recruit them. Some go with her, and others she can find locally. She knows she will be the headmistress, and she has enough contacts to recruit maids, cooks, and so on. She also has a good idea of the structure of the student body, and appoints prefects and Head Girl early on.

I expect there were no state supports available for an immigrant setting up a business in Austria, so we can discount that part.

Task 5: The learner has provided details of the production and operation plans, including relevant premises and legal considerations, any equipment required, and identified relevant quality issues.

We do see a good bit of discussion about this one, as Madge has to answer for all of it to Dick. She has enquired about the premises and considered what they