

PONY BOOKS



Publisher: Stamford House, Stamford, CT: #45 – 54
[same], New York, NY: #s 55 – (64)

Distributor: none given

Format: short pb

Price: 25¢

The copyright registration for #45 identified Stamford House as a “dept. of Periodical Publishers Bureau, Inc.” I have no further information. The Connecticut address was probably the printer’s; Stamford was a common publication address in the 1940’s. It may even be that this is one of those instances where a printer made a short foray into publishing. More research is needed.

Only 22 **Pony Books** were published, numbered from 45 to 66. All books give a year of publication, with 3 dated 1945, 18 dated 1946 and 1 dated 1950. Two or three pairs of the early books are advertised reciprocally in back cover ads. These are followed by a short string, through at least #54, that advertise the immediately prior number on the back cover. No later than number 57, back cover ads were discontinued. There were no interior ads or book listings in any of the volumes I’ve seen. All this suggests that this series had only newsstand distribution and made no attempt at alternate distribution. The somewhat childish logos reproduced above might give the impression that this was a children’s series, but the contents of the books themselves belie that.

Only 2 books appear to have been copyrighted, and that information gives us only minimal clues as to when and how they were issued, but what information we do have suggests that they were not issued in strict numerical order.

Number 45, the lowest-numbered one, has a publication date in Jan 1946, and has a reciprocal ad with #47, indicating that it may have been issued out of order and retroactively numbered. Numbers 46 and 48 were probably issued before them. Number 61, with a publication date of Jan 1947, is followed by 5 more numbers, all dated 1946. Either those dates are wrong or #61 was issued much later than the others. In any case, the line has to have begun as early as December 1945 and probably ended by February 1947 at the latest, suggesting an irregular schedule of less than 2 books a month. To the best of my knowledge, there is no evidence that any Pony Book had multiple printings.

Bruce Black has kindly provided me with scans of # 65, verifying the 1950 date. I’m still not sure what to make of it; it can hardly be a typo. Otherwise, one assumes that the company behind **Pony Books** remained in business and, deciding in 1950 to issue a crossword puzzle book, revived the old logo and assigned a book number that had previously been skipped. If so, this would seem to add credibility to two previously stated inferences: that the books were issued out of order, and that publishing was a secondary business for its owners.

Six books were originals, the other 16 were reprints. More than half (14) were mysteries; two each were westerns and romances. There was one adventure novel, two non-fiction titles, and one book of puzzles.

20 of the 22 covers are in the Bookscans database. The cover of the puzzle book is a graphic design; #45 has a photo. All the other volumes had painted covers. About a third of the covers have visible signatures, the most common one being not quite decipherable; I have included a scan of it the Artist Index.

PONY BOOKS

NUMERICAL LISTING

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------|
| 45 | Craig, Captain John Houston | Your Life in the Atom World | [© 1/10] | 1946 |
| 46 | Dougall, Bernard | The Singing Corpse | T. | 1945 |
| 47 | Williams, Valentine | The Orange Divan | | 1945 |
| 48 | Clark, Dale | The Narrow Cell | | 1945 |
| 49 | Walling, R. A. J. | The Corpse with the Red-Headed Friend | | 1946 |
| 50 | Oursler, Fulton | The House at Fernwood and The Wager | | 1946 |

(Collection, first and only edition)

Contents:

1 The House at Fernwood

89 The Wager

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| 51 | Baldwin, Faith | The Heart Has Wings | Phillips | 1946 |
| 52 | Bailey, H. C. | A Clue for Mr. Fortune | | 1946 |

(Collection, reprint, Doubleday, Doran, 1936. Complete.)

Contents:

3 The Torn Stocking

41 The Swimming Pool

83 The Hole in the Parchment

127 The Holy Well

175 The Wistful Goddess

227 The Dead Leaves

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| 53 | Markey, Morris | Unhurrying Chase | | 1946 |
| 54 | Reeves, Robert | Cellini Smith, Detective | Hoffman | 1946 |
| 55 | Norris, Kathleen | Second Hand Wife | | 1946 |
| 56 | Allingham, Margery | Wanted: Someone Innocent and other stories | | 1946 |

(collection, first and only edition. Not seen, contents from World Catalog, Hubin.)

Contents:

Wanted: Someone Innocent

The Sexton's Wife

'Tis Not Hereafter

He Was Asking After You

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| 57 | Leonard, Charles L. | The Stolen Squadron | | 1946 |
| 58 | Nye, Nelson C. | Salt River Ranny | | 1946 |
| 59 | Roberts, Cecil | One Small Candle | | 1946 |
| 60 | Bailey, H. C. | The Bishop's Crime | | 1946 |
| 61 | Adams, Caswell | Fifty Famous Sports Stories | [© 1/30/47] | 1946 |

(Anthology, first and only edition. Reprints of news coverage of prominent sporting events, interspersed with several poems and a selection of cartoons. No method of counting the contents adds up to 50 items.)

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| 37 | Battle of the Bills | by Lester Rice |
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| 52 | Ballad of Ready Kale | by Damon Runyon |
| | | by Gene Fowler |



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| 54 | The "Long Count" | | by Gene Fowler |
| 57 | Ty Cobb, Manager | | by John Kieran |
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| 63 | The Queen's Comeback | | by Thomas C. Watson |
| 70 | The Big Race | | by Bill Corum |
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| 84 | Wrong-Way Riegels | | by Warren Brown |
| 87 | Winter Olympics | | by Lewis Burton |
| 93 | Professional Football Debut | | by John Kieran |
| 96 | No Hit Game | | by George E. Phair |
| 99 | Under Protest | | by Lewis Burton |
| 105 | A Portfolio of Indoor Sports | <i>cartoons</i> | by Tad |
| 113 | Casey at the Bat | <i>verse</i> | by Ernest Lawrence Thayer |
| 115 | Casey at the Bat [parody] | <i>verse</i> | by George E. Phair |
| 118 | Terry Eats his Words | | by Sid Mercer |
| 122 | Blooming Rookies | <i>verse</i> | by John Kieran |
| 123 | Willie Hoppe | | by James Cannon |
| 125 | The Master Mind | <i>verse</i> | by J. L. Dafter |
| 127 | Series Sidelights | | by (Arthur) "Bugs" Baer |
| 129 | The Biggest, Freest Spectacle | | by Austen Lake |
| 133 | The Great Greyhound | | by Lewis Burton |
| 136 | The Horizontal Champion | | by Dan Parker |
| 139 | Pirates Win the Series | | by Damon Runyon |
| 143 | Triumph at Troon | | by Harry N. Flory |
| 145 | Hockey | <i>verse</i> | by John Kieran |
| 147 | One the Crowds Missed | | by Caswell Adams |
| 150 | A Peg in a Poke | | by Westbrook Pegler |
| 154 | Golf Marathon | | by Lester Rice |
| 157 | U. S. Victory in Berlin | | by Lewis Burton |
| 162 | Johnny on the Spot | | by Sid Mercer |
| 165 | Death in the Ring | | by Edward Frayne |
| 168 | Tennis Tramp | | by Robert Considine |
| 171 | The King Is Dethroned | <i>verse</i> | by John Kieran |
| 172 | Duel of Men and Machines | | by Sid Mercer |
| 177 | Sudden Boom in Parchesi | | by Caswell Adams |
| 180 | Cup of Victory | | by Lewis Burton |
| 183 | Worthy Son of Man o'War | | by Robert Considine |
| 187 | Match Race | | by Dan Parker |
| 191 | Triple Champ | | by James Cannon |
| 193 | Yankee Holiday | | by Damon Runyon |
| 199 | The Mighty Babe Ruth | | by Bill Slocum |
| 203 | Bugs Baer at the Ringside | | by Bugs Baer |
| 205 | The Title Changes Hands | | by Damon Runyon |
| 209 | Poor Old Umps | <i>verse</i> | by George E. Phair |
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| 215 | The Defeat of Joe Lewis | | by Damon Runyon |
| 221 | Return Bout | | by Robert Considine |
| 224 | Louis Becomes Champion | | by Robert Considine |
| 228 | The Almost-Champion | | by Hype Igoe |
| 233 | Blanchard and Davis | | by Bill Corum |
| 237 | A Song of Iron-Armed Hurlers | <i>verse</i> | by George E. Phair |
| 238 | Fight Crowd | | by Margery Miller |

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| | 242 | The English Are Beaten at Their Own Game | by Herbert Reed | |
| | 248 | Triumph of Skinny Willie | by Lester Rice | |
| | 252 | Bugography | by Arthur "Bugs" Baer | |
| | 254 | Gluttons for Punishment | <i>verse</i> by George E. Phair | |
| 62 | Fenwick, E.P. | The Inconvenient Corpse | | 1946 |
| 63 | Whelton, Paul | Death and the Devil | | 1946 |
| 64 | Bailey, H. C. | Mr. Fortune Wonders | | 1946 |

(Collection, reprint, Doubleday, Doran, 1933. Complete.)

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| | 159 | The Fairy Cycle | | |
| | 197 | The Oleander Flowers | | |
| | 235 | The Love Bird | | |
| | 275 | The Old Bible | | |
| 65 | Adams, John Paul | The Quiz Crossword Puzzle Book | | 1950 |
| 66 | Hendryx, James B. | Blood of the North | Barye Phillips | 1946 |

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| Adams, [William] Caswell (1907-1957) US | | | |
| <i>Fifty Famous Sports Stories</i> | (anth, non-fiction, original) | Pony Book | 61 1946 |
| Adams, John Paul ps of Alexander Samalman (1904-1956) US | | | |
| <i>The Quiz Crossword Puzzle Book</i> | (non-fiction, original) | Pony Book | 65 1950 |
| Allingham, Margery [Louise] (1904-1966) UK | | | |
| <i>Wanted: Someone Innocent and other stories</i> | (coll, original) | Pony Book | 56 1946 |
| Bailey, H[enry] C[hristopher] (1878-1961) UK | | | |
| series: Reginald <u>Fortune</u> | | | |
| <i>The Bishop's Crime</i> | [<u>Fortune</u>] (Doubleday, Doran (CC), 1941) | Pony Book | 60 1946 |
| <i>A Clue for Mr. Fortune</i> | [<u>Fortune</u>] (coll, Doubleday, Doran (CC), 1936, c/u) | Pony Book | 52 1946 |
| <i>Mr. Fortune Wonders</i> | [<u>Fortune</u>] (coll, Doubleday, Doran (CC), 1933, c/u) | Pony Book | 64 1946 |
| Baldwin, Faith (1893-1978) US | | | |
| <i>The Heart Has Wings</i> | (Farrar & Rinehart, 1937, c/u) | Pony Book | 51 1946 |
| Clark, Dale ps of Ronal Kayser (1905-1988) US | | | |
| <i>The Narrow Cell</i> | (Lippincott, 1944, c/u) | Pony Book | 48 1945 |
| Craige, Captain John Houston | | | |
| <i>Your Life in the Atom World</i> | (non-fiction, original) | Pony Book | 45 1946 |
| Dougall, Bernard (1908-1972) US | | | |
| series: Steve <u>Borden</u> | | | |
| <i>The Singing Corpse</i> | [<u>Borden</u>] (Dodd, Mead, 1943, c/u) | Pony Book | 46 1945 |
| Fenwick, E[lizabeth] P. (1920-) | | | |
| <i>The Inconvenient Corpse</i> | (Farrar & Rinehart, 1943, c/u) | Pony Book | 62 1946 |
| Hendryx, James B[eardsley] (1880-1963) US | | | |
| series: Corporal <u>Downey</u> | | | |
| <i>Blood of the North</i> | [<u>Downey</u>] (Doubleday, Doran, 1938, c/u) | Pony Book | 66 1946 |
| Leonard, Charles L. ps of M[ary] V[iolet] Heberden] (1906- 1965) US | | | |
| series: Paul <u>Kilgerrin</u> | | | |
| <i>The Stolen Squadron</i> | [<u>Kilgerrin</u>] (Doubleday, Doran (CC), 1942, c/u) | Pony Book | 57 1946 |
| Markey, Morris (1899-1950) US | | | |
| <i>Unhurrying Chase</i> | (original) | Pony Book | 53 1946 |
| Norris, Kathleen [né Thompson] (1880-1966) US | | | |
| <i>Second Hand Wife</i> | (Doubleday, Doran, 1932) | Pony Book | 55 1946 |
| Nye, Nelson C[oral] (1907-1997) US | | | |
| <i>Salt River Ranny</i> | (Macmillan, 1942, c/u) | Pony Book | 58 1946 |
| Oursler, [Charles] Fulton (1893-1952) US | | | |
| <i>The House at Fernwood and The Wager</i> | (coll, original) | Pony Book | 50 1946 |
| Reeves, Robert [B.] (1912-1945) US | | | |
| series: Cellini <u>Smith</u> | | | |
| <i>Cellini Smith, Detective</i> | [<u>Smith</u>] (Houghton Mifflin, 1943, c/u) | Pony Book | 54 1946 |
| Roberts, Cecil [Edric] [Mornington] (1892-1976) | | | |
| <i>One Small Candle</i> | (Macmillan, 1942, c/u) | Pony Book | 59 1946 |
| Walling, R[obert] A[lfred] J[ohn] (1869-1949) UK | | | |
| series: Philip <u>Tolefree</u> | | | |
| <i>The Corpse with the Red-Headed Friend</i> | [<u>Tolefree</u>] (Morrow, 1939, c/u) | Pony Book | 49 1946 |



Whelton, Paul [Francis] (1894-1953) US

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Death and the Devil [Dean] (Lippincott, 1944, c/u) Pony Book 63 1946

Williams, [George] Valentine (1883-1946)

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The Orange Divan [Manderton] (Houghton Mifflin, 1923, c/u) Pony Book 47 1945

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'Tis Not Hereafter Wanted: Someone Innocent Pony Book 56
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