

Letters, Malcolm Saville to Mary Cadogan, starting 1978.

12th September 1978

Dear Mr. Saville,

I have been asked to write a piece on you for a forthcoming PENGUIN book about children's writers, and I am at present enjoying a good dip once again into many of your stories.

I have a pretty comprehensive collection of the Lone Pine, Puckingham, and Susan and Bill books but I do not have any of the Marston Baines series. I particularly want to stress the way in which you write for different age levels so I feel I must read these books. Do you by any chance have any reading copies which I might have? Failing this a complete list of the titles in this series would be very helpful, please.

I understand that a new Lone Pine book is due shortly and I think your publishers will be sending me an advance copy of this.

I would appreciate any comments from you that might be helpful in connection with your work, but of course I do not want to take up too much of your time. I have a copy of your Newsletter No. 17 which gives me quite a lot of material. I presume that the biographical information about you in Brian Doyle's 'Who's Who of Children's Literature' is correct; I feel sure it must be because I know that he is extremely conscientious about such details.

Thank you for your consideration, and I do hope that I am not imposing on you in my requests.

With kind wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mary Cadogan

If you are able to send me any books or papers  
to put these to my new address, and if it is  
always someone to take in a package, please.

Chelsea Cottage  
Winchelsea . East Sussex  
TN36 4HU  
Winchelsea 449 (std 079 76)

18th September, 1978

Ms. Mary Cadogan  
46 Overbury Avenue  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 2PY

Dear Ms. Cadogan,

Thank you very much for your letter of September 12th. I have been away for a week, so you must excuse me for not replying earlier.

I am most interested in your proposition and, of course, will do all that I possibly can to help you, and I have posted to you this morning by first-class mail THREE TOWERS IN TUSCANY, which is the first of the Marston Baines series, and the last, which was published last May and is called MARSTON, MASTER SPY. These happen to be the only copies that I have, but if you would care to keep them I can easily have them replaced by Heinemanns. Incidentally, if you want any more, the Director to whom you should write is Nigel Hollis. In any case I will let him know that we are in touch.

I enclose some of the material which I send out to all children who write to me, which will give you an idea of my present activities. I also enclose a copy of an article on my work in the current issue of "Sussex Life", which you may find helpful. Actually the sales of all my books must almost certainly have now reached about 4 million.

The latest news about Lone Pine is that going back to 1943, when MYSTERY AT WITCHEND, was first published, Collins are about to announce that the total sales of the books in this series from all editions have just about reached the two million copies. The last book, HOME TO WITCHEND, which will be out in a week's time is an "Armada Original".

The four books in the Nettleford series, originally published by Hodders and then in Knights, have vanished, but on the whole the record is a good one.

I am extremely interested in the problems of appealing to "teenagers and shall be most interested to have your own valuable opinion on Marston Baines, which we cannot seem to get paperbacked, and I think Heinemanns are almost as baffled as I am about this. You will soon discover that the issues put before young readers in this series are very "black and white" and it just may be that there is a little too much obvious moralising in the series as a whole. Nevertheless I do not really regret putting before young readers these issues, but the problem is a fascinating one and I wish it were possibly for you to come down here, so that we can talk it over.

from Malcolm Saville  
author of  
Dark Danger  
Power of Three  
The Purple Valley  
Three Towers in Tuscany  
White Fire  
The Dagger and the Flame  
Come to Land!

Chelsea College  
Winchelsea  
Sussex TN36 4H1  
Ach 15/11/78

10 NOV 1978

Dear Henry Cadogan.

Hope you are now safely  
back & have had a wonderful  
trip. Here in my latest  
Newsletter just jelling out to  
about 500 readers who have  
reserved it. 'Home to  
Witchend' seems to be doing  
well. I'm having a few  
'Forsyde' copies bound & am  
going to send you one  
duly autographed in due  
course. Meanwhile I've

seen a copy of Brian Doyle's  
piece in "20th Century Children's  
Writing". It is substantially  
correct except for his reference  
to Marston Baines which is his  
"early twenties". And actually  
my output is nearly 90  
words is not 80.

Let me know if there is  
anything else you want. I should  
like it very much if you could  
spare the time to lunch with  
me in London one day. Or  
are you too busy?!

Best wishes

Anthony Sanku



Ad

Chelsea Cottage  
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December 5/12.78.

Dear Mary.

Please suffer my handwriting. Thank you for your letter. By now you should have the parcel. I have asked Nigel Booth of Hermanns to let you have what you would like to read & also told Jenny Drunken of Lutterworth of our meeting & talk together. I hope she will send you copies of what I have written as Foreword to 'Words for All Seasons' & Intro to each season. She is one of the best & most sympathetic editors with whom I have ever worked & I have great admiration for her. I do hope you will like this book but it is vital that they do not launch it as 'just another kids book by MS'.

I don't know much about the Bodley Head monographs & don't think I've ever seen one, but of course I'd be very happy & proud if you did write about me & my work.

I used to see 'Junior Booksellers' occasionally but I don't think they've ever done anything for me. Maybe I'm 'too popular & prolific' for them?

The fact is that I've never been 'recognized' by the pundits. Some librarians reluctantly acknowledge that children do like what I write, but I have an idea that librarians prefer to advise children on what they should read rather than be asked for the books by any one author. But perhaps that is unfair. My reward comes from such letters as I sent you to read \_\_\_\_\_ and the generous appreciation of professionals like yourself.

Let's keep in touch.

Michael

I never thanked you properly for pushing me into that taxi! I just caught the 3.30

Hdv - 7 DEC 1978  
from Malcolm Saville

ining

Dear Henry -

I've just dug out  
these two from the chaos  
on my desk. They are  
both good & you might  
find the comments

helpful when you resume  
your study of Harston!

No need to acknowledge  
but please return

them some time. I'm  
particularly impressed

---

Chelsea Cottage, Winchelsea, Sussex, TN36 4HU

with Emory's letter.  
All the best  
Malcolm

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12th February, 1979

Mrs. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 1SD

Dear Mary,

I was really very pleased indeed to hear from you this morning.

There is no need to return the Marston Baines letters, but I have just seen Michael Horniman again, and, as I told you in my last letter, he has nothing much to add to the solving of this particular problem. He did tell me, however, that there are now so many young editors in the children's paperback field, that they do tend to shy away from anything which they think is 'old fashioned'. I am absolutely sure, and I think you are too, that basically most children are old fashioned, and I am still certain that with some luck and a lot of expertise and the knowledge of how to go about it, we may get them into this vital market one day.

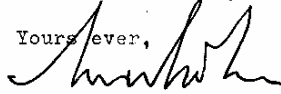
It must be nearly ten years ago now that they were offered to America - presumably by the publishers - and the answer came back that they were good stories but young American readers of about that age wanted 'sex' in their stories. How true this is I do not know, but I think it is quite time that the American market was tried again.

Thank you so much for talking to Livia Gollancz. I do want to do this book for her and I will write her a friendly note this week to tell her that I am still interested, and what my present situation is and the difficulties confronting me for writing the sort of book we both want dealing with the Shropshire Hills.

Of course, I am interested in your approach to Bodley Head and I should like you to take that on.

When you first got into touch with me last year - lucky time for me - I think the purpose was that you were including me in a paperback about children's writers that you are doing for Penguin. Presumably this is still on? If so, of course, I would like to know how you are getting on. As I said before you would be welcome down here at any time, providing you give us some notice.

Yours ever,



*I'll keep in touch & Hanbyne so much for you  
interest & support*



As from

24 Southend Road,

Beckenham, Kent. BR3 1SD.

16th February 1979

Dear Malcolm,

Many thanks for your letter of  
12th February.

Why I thought the Marston Business  
~~books~~ might do well in America is that they are  
quite outspoken concerning certain social  
values in a way that I feel, might  
appeal to publishers there. I think in  
England that there is a tendency for  
publishers of children's books to play  
safe - not to offend any minority  
group, especially of the left, etc.

or "middle-class" The fear of being "old-fashioned"  
that many publishers here have possibly involves  
this. If they carried <sup>to its logical extreme</sup> the policy of  
only publishing books that offended  
no-one, that didn't relate to  
environments different from that  
known by the majority of readers, etc.,  
we'd end up with just a bland,

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boiling  
^ and ghoustly selection of kitchen-sink/  
Comprehensive school/repetitive stories.

We know, of course, that children often want something quite different in fiction from their own social milieu; the "magical" Greyfriars was for many poorer children of the 1920s & 30s a place of warmth & light & joy; it didn't matter a bit that it was a rather unreal public school, & that many <sup>of its</sup> readers attended elementary schools. It was time to live in what mattered - characterization & relationships, & these were spiced with the glamour of the excitement of a new world & environment.

Basically it's the same principle that comes up with fairy & fantasy stories; on the one hand they can be seen as an escape from reality, but actually they are an enrichment

of the child's imaginative experience  
of life, and therefore much more than  
mere "escape".

So - rather long-windedly, I  
thought American publishers might  
appreciate (a) the internationalism  
of M. Baines; (b) the romantic  
element - romantic not only in  
in the sense of the boy/girl  
relationships but in the feeling  
for place & adventure, and (c) the  
stress which you place on the value  
of the individual rather than on  
any ~~utilitarian~~ ~~or~~ ~~the~~ politically  
expedient view. I think American  
society still has more confidence  
in the cherishing of the individual,  
whereas regrettably our own may be  
going through a phase of  
obsessive group justice which <sup>rather</sup> reflects this!  
There is another important  
factor, as I see it, re. the M. Baines

books. You mention that in the past American publishers have said that they are unsuitable as their older juvenile readers wanted more sex in their stories. My view is this, & it is backed up by the letters which you receive from readers: children & young people enjoy reading about characters older than themselves.

It is true, as you have said, that innocence seems to disappear now at a much earlier age than, say, in the 1930s, 40s & 50s. And therefore many teenagers do want the hard-hitting, precociously sexed atmosphere of the James Bond type thriller.

However, because children "mature" now younger, there is also a very large group of readers in the 9 to 12 or 13 bracket who are still not attracted to the Bond'ish atmosphere, but who are old enough for "romance" & adult adventure, & who would, I think, identify with M. Barnes's young helpers.

5.

I can't believe that I'm wrong in this. It seems to me that, if I may once again refer to the Siegfried stories to illustrate this point, certain juvenile stories succeed by creating boys & girls, or young adults, who, though young enough <sup>in spirit</sup> for even a bright 8 or 9 year-old to identify with, have in them also the stirrings of truly adult qualities. Children like to read about these, & can sense whether or not the author has got it right; it doesn't require sex, masturbation, violence, hard-drinking or any of the other tricks some "teen-ape" writers use to suggest the world of the adult to child readers.

But you know all this already! I'm simply putting it on paper as a suggestion of how another kind of approach might be made to publishers, etc. Forgive the wordiness!

I do hope you do the Shropshire hills book for Lina. I'll be looking forward to it!  
I've been in touch with



6.

The Bodley Head, but, sadly, they ended their series of monographs in 1972! So there is no joy there. I might suggest it to Diana one day; I wonder if she'd feel that a series of monographs on children's writers would be a good plan?

Re. the Penguin book, this is to be a large ~~volume~~ book in more than one volume, with a wide circulation, I hope, as it will be paper-backed & not over-expensive. I was asked to contribute some articles, and I chose to write about certain authors <sup>including yourself</sup> and certain magazines.

There will be other contributors of course dealing with ~~the~~ <sup>different</sup> authors.

Regarding my piece on you, I think I have all the information I now need - though from memory (I am at my office & my books are at home) I don't know as if I have the name of your school? - or schools. If you like to tell me these I could include

7.  
The names in the biographical section of  
the article.

I can't get a copy of Pomeroy  
Thore in the M. Beines series from  
Heinemann as it is at present out of  
print. This is a disappointment, more  
from the personal ~~point~~ than the critical  
point of view. I can easily  
finish the article without it, but  
I would like to have had a collection  
of the whole series for my own enjoyment!

When we get over the snow I'd  
love to visit you + tape records more  
about your life & work. Some day  
I may be able to do a book  
in the "First Lene-Piner" or "The  
Lene Pine Story".

Warm greetings.

Yours ever,

P.S. I hope the proof of Mary  
"Words for All Seasons" (many  
soon be available. I look forward to it.)

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19th February, 1979

Ms. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 1SD

Dear Mary,

I hope you have got my only copy of POWER OF THREE by now, but I do want to thank you most sincerely and warmly for what you have said to me in your letter of February 16th. You have expressed my ideas quite clearly about what prompted the Marston Baines series, and I am very, very grateful to you for putting it all so clearly - particularly the point you make about my belief in the value of the individual. I am going to let my agent see extracts from your letter and see exactly where we stand with regard to America.

I think I told you that I have written personally to Livia and I am already making arrangements to try to go to Shropshire in May and to drop all my other work until I have got down some preliminary material which I can discuss with her.

But I do hope that before that you will be able to find the time to come down here for the best part of a day.

Finally, may I say, that for years I have wanted to find somebody who would write THE LONE PINE STORY under that title.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Saville

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March 18 79

Dear Henry.

I hope all goes well with you & yours  
in this disgusting winter. As you are  
good enough to be so encouraging about my  
work I thought it time to bring you up-to-date  
with some news which would be mentioned in  
my next Newsletter.

I'm sure you will be interested to read  
the enclosed letter about 'Home to Witchford'  
from a Paxon & his wife who, whose it or  
not, are actually named 'Pakunovski'.

About 3 years ago my wife & I shared a  
railway carriage with this couple on a  
train from Charing Cross to Ashford where we  
have to change for Baye. We exchanged  
courtesies & just before Ashford, Mrs P  
asked, or rather confirmed, that I was  
who I am. She was, or had been a  
Lithuanian & a "fan". Their parents - or  
in laws - live in Folkestone, but they have

him to see us here & we have become  
friends. Naturally I am naturally very letter  
writing me to go on with L.P. but I'm  
fairly sure that would be a mistake although  
Colman are behaving rather oddly.

And so are Heinemann dear old monster!  
'Power of Three' is O.P. & they cannot promise  
to reprint this, or any other of the titles  
when they go out. This is a very serious  
matter for me, but I have found a young  
playwright who has just had two original  
plays accepted by Radio & together we are  
trying to tempt the BBC cheap running the  
series for teenagers. We shall see &  
more of this when we meet again which  
I hope will be soon. London perhaps  
before you can spend a day down here?  
My wife has been ill with bronchitis so  
I am very pressed at present. I must  
admit that I don't like the present



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situation in Publishing any more than the  
political scene.

But I do like the way Hutterworth are  
handling Words For All Seasons: I'm  
sending out the enclosed with the Newsletter.  
As soon as we get a decent set of  
proofs I'll send you one. Our January  
Oration will I'm sure. You might  
like to see my letters to each of  
the 4 seasons. Or did I send you  
these.

We had a blizzard yesterday but today  
is better.

All the very best.

Hutterworth

—

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May 28 '79

Dear Mary -

I've been wondering whether it would be easier for you if our proposed meeting was to be in London again? Don't hesitate to say so although you will always be welcome here. Actually I have a few very interesting & I think significant scope of matters I would like to share with you. Some of the developments in children's publishing I think most intriguing, & I know how concerned you are in this subject. And thank goodness you are, because it needs some informed champions!

I'm not quite sure <sup>how</sup> the two of us now stand with what you are - or mine - writing about me. As far as I remember you were going to do a piece on me & my work for the new Penguin on Children's Writers. Have you done this, or are you still getting information?

Anyway I think it time that the question of children's reading, the children's market & the Publisher's attitude to it needs airing. First there is the problem of hardbacks of children's fiction which are now, or quickly becoming,



extinct. For the first time since 1943 I have only one  
hard Pine story in handback & that is the 20th. & last  
both in the series published by Severn House. Collins  
have allowed every other title to go out of print  
not only of hard Pine but of the Buckinghams which  
were specially commissioned by them. Heinemann are  
doing the same with Martin Barnes & this means that  
only paperbacks of h.p. are available for libraries.  
We are still unable to get Martin Barnes paper backed  
& yet my readers have never been more enthusiastic  
& the problem<sup>is</sup> that Publishers cannot find my readers  
- & not only there!

I also believe that  
there is a bigger chance of using Radio drama for  
children rather than TV. I hear constantly that  
the TV adaptations distort - sometimes deliberately,  
the author's characterization. Children have warned  
me that there is some to happen if hard Pine is  
attempted.

I have been having some  
fascinating exchanges of views with Tom Baker  
of Children's Book Centre. He has most interesting  
& definite views on children's fiction. He doesn't  
want so many new, "trendy" books by comparative  
new comers, but reprints of old favourites. And

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<sup>1</sup> You should have been on the borders of Children's Books Editors all trying something new to strengthen their own standing with their Publishers — & then moving on somewhere else!

I'm sure you have some very definite views on these subjects, but every day of my working life my big belief in the new generations which do read books is strengthened, but not enough is being done to get at them.

I've just heard that 'Words For All Seasons' will be published at the end of July. This is not primarily a book for children as you know — I think Jenny Oxton is going to send you proofs — but what is needed for this, under my title — is a Radio Programme, possibly even Radio 3, but I'm not so sure of that. Have you ~~ever~~ done much broadcasting? I wish 3 or 4 of us could get together to invent some programmes on 'Children & Their Books', because if we're not careful the market will dwindle away.



Is there anything we can do to wake up the sleepy  
"Booksellers"? There's so much to work for, but of  
course it's time that there are no children  
left after the age of 12-!

Apologues for drivelling on so, but wouldn't it be  
a good idea to have an exhibition of children's  
books ~~at~~ selected by readers themselves & not  
by self-appointed critics?

Do think over some of these points before we  
meet again & if you are finding it difficult to  
find the time to come down here, lets try  
another lunch in London.

All the best — & thank you for listening!

Arncliffe



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15 NOV 1979

Dear Henry -

I don't think you will be surprised to hear that Livia has returned my material - Frankly I don't think that your treatment is either strong or deep enough for ... to fit into our series.

This is the first work in my career to have been turned down, but I do feel that if we had had some sort of editorial discussion earlier we might have got somewhere. I don't think I've wasted my time & will ~~not~~ approach Collins through Jean Chilton the Publisher.

Director. I can't remember now  
how you got implicated in this  
except that you were keen for me  
to do it & I'm grateful for  
your support. I'm not suggesting  
that Lisa's judgement is wrong  
for them, but I think you'll agree  
that she hasn't handled me very  
cleverly! I still think there is  
a market for my work & I'm  
still getting great support for  
Head Pine.

We've had a few nice notices  
for 'Words' & I may have  
told you that I had two good  
interviews on Radio Brighton.

I wish you could interview  
me or that we could do a



Chelsea Cottage

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Radio Programme together - I'm  
having a piece I wrote for  
'Births For New Children' & I'd  
send you a copy in a few days.

It might give you some ideas.

Anyway thanks for all your  
help & interest.

As ever

Leslie

Would you like to borrow the  
tape of my Radio Brighton  
interview?

from **Malcolm Saville**

author of

Dark Danger

Power of Three

The Purple Valley

Three Towers in Tuscany

White Fire

The Dagger and the Flame

Come to London

Chelsea Cottag

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22 NOV 1979

Dear Mary -

At the risks - which I am  
purposed to take - of becoming a  
bore I'm sending you some  
enclosures which I hope will  
interest you. Belladonna Kitch's

hand-out for Sea Witch is also  
going to Local Radio &

believe & the letter from Dawn

Penney is really a remarkable

tribute which surely can  
be used somehow, some day

Did you ever tell me that  
you have done some work



with Woman's Hour? What about  
an interview with me & on my  
relationships with my children?

On thinking this over I remembered  
a piece I wrote for Peter  
For Your Children some years  
ago & thought you might  
like to see a copy. I still  
hold to what I wrote then,  
& have been wondering if I  
re-wrote it should it  
would interest Sunday  
Telegraph magazine. What  
do you think? Not really  
fair to involve you, but  
I do value your opinion  
This is the sort of situation

from **Malcolm Saville**

author of

Dark Danger

Power of Three

The Purple Valley

Three Towers in Tuscany

White Fire

The Dagger and the Flame

Come to London

Chelsea Cottag

Winchelse

Sussex TN36 4HU

Rec 23/11/29

I should be discussing with  
my Agents, but that unhappy  
situation is adding to my  
daily work & anxieties.

What do you think of the  
situation at Collins? Not  
perhaps as worrying as is  
suggested in this week's

Bookletter, but it looks as  
if there will be changes on  
the Children Publishing side.

I've written to Joan Chilton



↳ mentioned 'Silent Idiot' &  
sent her a copy of my introduction  
but not mentioned Giannini!  
Have you had a word with  
your friend there? I still  
think that if Livia had  
asked me up to have an  
editorial discussion with  
perhaps one of her editors  
at an earlier stage we  
could have sorted things  
out, but she has a right  
to consider her series  
before the sales possibilities  
of one book!

Are you going to the  
Abbey Wood Bonanza next



from **Malcolm Saville**

author of

Dark Danger

Power of Three

The Purple Valley

Three Towers in Tuscany

White Fire

The Dagger and the Flame

Come to London

Chelsea Cottage  
Winchelsea  
Sussex TN36 4H

Well? I was asked by nice  
Tamsyn who was at our  
Party but can't manage such  
a lengthy journey at this  
time of year.

All the best

Malcolm

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12th November, 1979

Ms. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
Beckenham  
BR3 1SD

Dear Mary,

I have been very busy since I returned from Italy, but this problem of THE SILENT HILLS has to be faced, and although I have written some more of the Stiperstones Chapter, I felt that I must write to Livia and I am enclosing a copy of the letter, which is being posted to her today.

Frankly I am surprised that she does not want the sort of factual treatment, which is obviously essential and I must give a book which is so personal. As you know both you and I felt strongly, when I first talked to you about it, that it must be factual and show the reader literally how THE SILENT HILLS have changed my life.

I think that you told me on the telephone that you thought that what I had done was interesting and readable and I think, but I am not sure, you have some sympathy for Livia's point of view.

I am very grateful to you for your interest and counsel, and although I think that Collins are going through rather a difficult patch at the moment, I should be interested to know whether you have mentioned this project to your friend, who has recently joined them. If not I think that the approach should be made to Joan Clibbon, who I have known for a number of years. The important thing about Collins is that they have Fontana and it seems to me that this is a book that could go straight into paperback.

I have had two excellent visits to both Exeter and Shrewsbury Book Fairs and two admirable interviews with Radio Brighton for WORDS FOR ALL SEASONS. One of these has been taped and although it is at present with Lutterworth, if you would like to hear it, I will see that it is sent to you. Of course, I am hoping that we shall get more reviews before long for this book, but there have been two excellent ones in the Church Times and the Methodist Recorder.

I hope all goes well with you and all the best.

Yours ever,

