

Who Wrote the Hardy Boys? Secrets from the Syndicate Files Revealed

by James D. Keeline

Although complete contract records from the Stratemeyer Syndicate have not yet been seen, some information about the authorship of the three principal series produced by the Syndicate can be revealed. It has been generally known that Leslie McFarlane (1902-1977) was heavily involved in writing the Hardy Boys series from his autobiography, *Ghost of the Hardy Boys*. However, relatively few other names connected with this series were known. Syndicate partner, Nancy Axelrad prepared a list of the Bobbsey Twins, Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew series in her effort to compile a history of the Stratemeyer Syndicate. This and many other papers were donated to the Beinecke Manuscript Collection at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Although the files from the Syndicate are scheduled to be donated to the New York Public Library, cataloging requirements will not permit access to this information for nearly three years. Once available to researchers, this information may be confirmed and we may be able to learn the names and identities of all Syndicate series large and small. Several of the names revealed below are new and worth our collective investigative time.

1 The Tower Treasure	1927
2 The House on the Cliff	1927
3 The Secret of the Old Mill	1927
4 The Missing Chums	1928
5 Hunting for Hidden Gold	1928
6 The Shore Road Mystery	1928
7 The Secret of the Caves	1929
8 The Mystery of Cabin Island	1929
9 The Great Airport Mystery	1930
10 What Happened at Midnight	1931
11 While the Clock Ticked	1932

Leslie McFarlane was definitely the ghostwriter for these volumes of the Hardy Boys series. The outlines for volumes 10 and 11 were supplied by Stratemeyer's youngest daughter, Edna C. Stratemeyer (1895-?) who left the Syndicate in 1942 after her marriage to C. Wesley Squier. Earlier outlines may have been supplied by Edward L. Stratemeyer (1862-1930).

12 Footprints Under the Window	1933
13 The Mark on the Door	1934
14 The Hidden Harbor Mystery	1935

Leslie McFarlane was listed as the author, but this is doubtful since the writing style is different than the volumes before or after these. References to food and the Bayport police are different. These volumes contain the most obvious examples of

the borderline racism for which the series has been criticized. The outlines for volumes 12 and 14 were supplied by Edna Squier and the outline for volume 13 was supplied by Harriet S. Adams (1892-1982).

15 The Sinister Signpost **1936**

16 A Figure in Hiding **1937**

Leslie McFarlane wrote these two volumes. The outline for volume 15 was by Harriet S. Adams and volume 16 by Edna Squier.

17 The Secret Warning **1938**

18 The Twisted Claw **1939**

19 The Disappearing Floor **1940**

20 The Mystery of the Flying Express **1941**

21 The Clue of the Broken Blade **1942**

John Button was listed as the author of these volumes. The outlines for volumes 17, 19, and 21 were by Edna Squier. Volumes 18 and 20 were by Harriet S. Adams.

22 The Flickering Torch Mystery **1943**

23 The Melted Coins **1944**

24 The Short-Wave Mystery **1945**

Leslie McFarlane wrote these volumes based upon outlines by Harriet S. Adams.

25 The Secret Panel **1946**

Harriet S. Adams wrote the outline and manuscript to this volume.

26 The Phantom Freighter **1947**

Oddly, this volume was listed as having been written by an “Amy McFarlane” based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams.

27 The Secret of Skull Mountain **1948**

The original outline and manuscript was written by Harriet S. Adams. It was rejected by Grosset and Dunlap and rewritten by George Waller Jr. A “George Macgregor Waller” (b. 1919) has been mentioned in *Contemporary Authors* volume 9R.

28 The Sign of the Crooked Arrow **1949**

29 The Secret of the Lost Tunnel **1950**

30 The Wailing Siren Mystery **1951**

One of Andrew E. Svenson’s (1910-1975) first projects after joining the Syndicate was to write these stories based upon outlines by Harriet S. Adams. Volume 30 was almost completely rewritten by Harriet S. Adams.

31 The Secret of Wildcat Swamp **1952**

William Halstead wrote the original manuscript. Grosset & Dunlap refused the story and William Dougherty rewrote it.

32 The Crisscross Shadow **1953**

Richard Cohen wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson.

- 33 The Yellow Feather Mystery** **1954**
William Dougherty wrote the story based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson.
- 34 The Hooded Hawk Mystery** **1954**
Charles S. Strong (1906-1962) wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams. Extensive editing and rewriting was performed by Harriet S. Adams. Charles Stanley Strong wrote several children's books about dogs between 1948 and 1961 for a variety of publishers including *We Were There With Byrd at the South Pole* for Grosset & Dunlap in 1956.
- 35 The Clue in the Embers** **1955**
- 36 The Secret of Pirate's Hill** **1956**
John Almquist (b. 1913) wrote the manuscripts for these two volumes. The outline for volume 35 was by Harriet S. Adams. Volume 36 was based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson, however much editing, rewriting, and revision was necessary.
- 37 The Ghost of Skeleton Rock** **1957**
- 38 The Mystery at Devil's Paw** **1959**
- 39 The Mystery of the Chinese Junk** **1960**
James Duncan Lawrence (b. 1918) wrote the manuscripts to these volumes. He was also responsible for the majority of the volumes in the Tom Swift Jr. series. Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline for volume 37. The outline for volume 38 was prepared by Harriet S. Adams while the last three chapters were written by Andrew E. Svenson. Svenson wrote the synopsis and outline for volume 39.
- 40 The Mystery of the Desert Giant** **1961**
- 41 The Clue of the Screeching Owl** **1962**
James Buechler wrote the manuscripts for these two volumes. Harriet S. Adams contributed to the outlines for both volumes with help from Andrew E. Svenson on volume 40 and Grace Grote on volume 41. A "James N. Buechler" (b. 1942) was listed in the *Dun and Bradstreet Reference Book of Corporate Management* volume for 1979. He would have been eighteen or nineteen when writing volume 40.
- 42 The Viking Symbol Mystery** **1963**
Alistair M. Hunter wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson. An "Alistair John Hunter" (b. 1936) was listed in *Who's Who* for 1982.
- 43 The Mystery of the Aztec Warrior** **1964**
Harriet S. Adams wrote the outline and manuscript.
- 44 The Haunted Fort** **1965**
David Grambs wrote the outline and manuscript. Andrew E. Svenson, Jocelyn Starzyk and Harriet S. Adams edited. Starzyk was a Syndicate employee.
- 45 The Mystery of the Spiral Bridge** **1966**
Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript; Jocelyn Starzyk edited.

- 46 The Secret Agent on Flight 101** **1967**
 Tom Mulvey wrote the outline and manuscript. Harriet S. Adams rewrote the manuscript. Andrew E. Svenson and Jocelyn Starzyk edited. Tom Mulvey wrote one Tom Swift Jr. (volume 8) and rewrote another (volume 30) and was responsible for editing Syndicate series with an aviation content.
- 47 The Mystery of the Whale Tattoo** **1968**
 Jerrold Mundis (b. 1941) wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson. Svenson and Lilo Wuenn edited. Mundis was listed in the *Writer's Directory* for 1980 and *Contemporary Authors* volume 69.
- 48 The Arctic Patrol Mystery** **1969**
 Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 49 The Bombay Boomerang** **1970**
 Vincent Buranelli (b. 1919) wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson. Lilo Wuenn edited. Vincent John Buranelli was listed in the *Writer's Directory* for 1976, 1980, and 1982 and *Contemporary Authors* volume 9R and volume 5 of the New Revision series.
- 50 Danger on Vampire Trail** **1971**
 Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 51 The Masked Monkey** **1972**
 Vincent Buranelli wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 52 The Shattered Helmet** **1973**
- 53 The Clue of the Hissing Serpent** **1974**
- 54 The Mysterious Caravan** **1975**
 Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outlines and manuscripts for these stories; Lilo Wuenn edited the manuscripts.
- 55 The Witch-Master's Key** **1976**
- 56 Jungle Pyramid** **1977**
- 57 Mystery of the Firebird Rocket** **1978**
 Vincent Buranelli wrote the outlines and manuscripts; Lilo Wuenn edited. The outline for volume 55 was supplied by Andrew E. Svenson.
- 58 Sting of the Scorpion** **1979**
 James D. Lawrence wrote the outline and the manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

Who Rewrote the Hardy Boys?

As times changed, stories became outdated in subject matter and social content. It became necessary to revise the stories to make them acceptable to a new generation of readers. Beginning in 1959, the stories in the series were revised and in many cases, substantially rewritten.

1 The Tower Treasure **1959**

2 The House on the Cliff **1959**

Harriet S. Adams wrote a completely new story based upon her own outline.

3 The Secret of the Old Mill **1962**

Alistair Hunter wrote a completely new story based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams who also edited the manuscript.

4 The Missing Chums **1962**

James Buechler wrote a completely new story based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams who also edited the manuscript.

5 Hunting for Hidden Gold **1963**

Alistair Hunter wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams; James D. Lawrence and Harriet S. Adams edited.

6 The Shore Road Mystery **1964**

David Grambs wrote the outline and manuscript; Harriet S. Adams edited.

7 The Secret of the Caves **1965**

Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript.

8 The Mystery of Cabin Island **1966**

Anne Shultes wrote the outline and manuscript. Andrew E. Svenson and Harriet S. Adams revised the manuscript.

9 The Great Airport Mystery **1965**

James D. Lawrence created precis for new story. Harriet S. Adams wrote outline. Tom Mulvey wrote manuscript; Harriet S. Adams edited.

10 What Happened at Midnight **1967**

Tom Mulvey wrote outline and manuscript; James D. Lawrence edited.

11 While the Clock Ticked **1962**

James Buechler wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams, Grace Grote and Andrew E. Svenson. Harriet S. Adams edited the manuscript.

12 Footprints Under the Window **1965**

David Grambs wrote the outline and manuscript.

13 The Mark on the Door **1967**

Tom Mulvey rewrote the story.

- 14 The Hidden Harbor Mystery** 1961
James Buechler wrote the story based upon an outline by Grace Grote.
- 15 The Sinister Signpost** 1968
Tom Mulvey wrote the outline and manuscript; Harriet S. Adams revised.
- 16 A Figure in Hiding** 1965
17 The Secret Warning 1966
James D. Lawrence wrote the outlines and manuscripts for these two stories.
- 18 The Twisted Claw** 1969
Tom Mulvey wrote the outline and manuscript; Harriet S. Adams edited.
- 19 The Disappearing Floor** 1964
James D. Lawrence wrote the outline and manuscript.
- 20 The Mystery of the Flying Express** 1970
Vincent Buranelli wrote the story based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson.
- 21 The Clue of the Broken Blade** 1970
Richard Deming (b. 1915) wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson. Deming was listed in *Contemporary Authors* volume 9R and volume 3 of the New Revision series. He was also listed in *Something About the Author* volume 24 and the *Writer's Directory* from 1976, 1980, and 1982. In the same year, he wrote a book for the Whitman TV series: *Dragnet: Case Histories from the Popular Television Series*.
- 22 The Flickering Torch Mystery** 1971
Vincent Buranelli wrote the story based upon an outline by Andrew E. Svenson.
- 23 The Melted Coins** 1970
Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript.
- 24 The Short-Wave Mystery** 1966
Patricia Doll rewrote the old story. Priscilla Baker-Carr edited and rewrote the story. James D. Lawrence wrote a new outline. David Grambs wrote the new manuscript. James D. Lawrence edited. A "Patricia H. Doll" (b. 1937) was listed in the *Dun and Bradstreet Reference Book of Corporate Management* for 1979.
- 25 The Secret Panel** 1969
Priscilla Baker-Carr cut down the original story; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 26 The Phantom Freighter** 1970
Priscilla Baker-Carr cut down the original story. Lorry Rickle did not like the story. Andrew E. Svenson edited the story with considerable revision.
- 27 The Secret of Skull Mountain** 1966
David Grambs cut down the original story.

28	The Sign of the Crooked Arrow	1970
Priscilla Baker-Carr cut down the original story.		
29	The Secret of the Lost Tunnel	1968
David Grambs, June Dunn, Priscilla Baker-Carr cut down the original story.		
30	The Wailing Siren Mystery	1968
31	The Secret of Wildcat Swamp	1969
32	The Crisscross Shadow	1969
33	The Yellow Feather Mystery	1971
34	The Hooded Hawk Mystery	1971
35	The Clue in the Embers	1972
36	The Secret of Pirate's Hill	1972
37	The Ghost of Skeleton Rock	1966
38	The Mystery at Devil's Paw	1973
Priscilla Baker-Carr cut down the original stories.		

Who Wrote the Wanderer Hardy Boys?

In 1979, the Stratemeyer Syndicate moved its publishing rights to Simon & Schuster, the company that would later purchase the Syndicate in 1984. These new volumes were published under the Wanderer imprint.

59 Night of the Werewolf 1979

60 Mystery of the Samurai Sword 1979

James D. Lawrence wrote the outlines and manuscripts; Lilo Wuenn edited.

61 The Pentagon Spy 1980

Vincent Buranelli wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

62 The Apeman's Secret 1980

James D. Lawrence wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

63 The Mummy Case 1980

64 The Mystery of Smuggler's Cove 1980

65 The Stone Idol 1981

Vincent Buranelli wrote the outlines and manuscripts; Lilo Wuenn edited.

66 The Vanishing Thieves 1981

Richard Deming wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

67 The Outlaw's Silver 1981

James D. Lawrence wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

68 The Submarine Caper 1981

Conrad Fuchs wrote the manuscript (in German); Lilo Wuenn translated and edited.

69 The Four Headed Dragon 1981

Laurence Swinburne (b. 1924) wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited. Laurence Swinburne was listed in *Contemporary Authors* volume 61, *Something About the Author* volume 9, and *Who's Who in the East* 1979. He has written several volumes of nonfiction for children.

70 The Infinity Clue 1981

Karl Harr III (b. 1952; Harriet S. Adams grandson, Son of Patricia (Stratton Adams) and Karl Harr, Jr. (b. 1922)) wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

71 Track of the Zombie 1982

Vincent Buranelli wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

72 The Voodoo Plot 1982

Karl Harr III (Harriet S. Adams grandson) wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

73 The Billion Dollar Plot 1982

Laurence Swinburne wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.

- 74 Tic-Tac-Terror** **1982**
James D. Lawrence wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 75 Trapped at Sea** **1982**
Vincent Buranelli wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 76 Gameplan for Disaster** **1982**
Laurence Swinburne wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 77 Crimson Flame** **1983**
Vincent Buranelli wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 78 Cave-in** **1983**
Karl Harr III (Harriet S. Adams grandson) wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 79 The Roaring River Mystery** **1984**
Authorship of this volume was not recorded in the Beinecke papers.
- 80 Sky Sabotage** **1984**
Karl Harr III (Harriet S. Adams grandson) wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 81 Demon's Den** **1984**
Authorship of this volume was not recorded in the Beinecke papers.
- 82 The Blackwing Puzzle** **1984**
Authorship of this volume was not recorded in the Beinecke papers.
- 83 The Swamp Monster** **1985**
Neal Barrett Jr. (wrote the outline and manuscript; Lilo Wuenn edited.
- 84 Revenge of the Desert Phantom** **1985**
Authorship of this volume was not recorded in the Beinecke papers.
- 85 The Skyfire Puzzle** (advertised as Mystery of the Space Shuttle) **1985**
Authorship of this volume was not recorded in the Beinecke papers.