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

2. **The House on the Cliff** 1959
   Alistair Hunter wrote a completely new story based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams who also edited the manuscript.

3. **The Secret of the Old Mill** 1962
   James Buechler wrote a completely new story based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams who also edited the manuscript.

4. **The Missing Chums** 1962
   Alistair Hunter wrote the manuscript based upon an outline by Harriet S. Adams; James D. Lawrence and Harriet S. Adams edited.

5. **Hunting for Hidden Gold** 1963
   David Grambs wrote the outline and manuscript; Harriet S. Adams edited.

6. **The Shore Road Mystery** 1964
   Andrew E. Svenson wrote the outline and manuscript.

7. **The Secret of the Caves** 1965
   Anne Shultes wrote the outline and manuscript. Andrew E. Svenson and Harriet S. Adams revised the manuscript.

8. **The Mystery of Cabin Island** 1966
   Tom Mulvey wrote manuscript; Harriet S. Adams edited.

9. **The Great Airport Mystery** 1965
   Tom Mulvey created precis for new story. Harriet S. Adams wrote outline.

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

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.