



Library Bulletin



**Wynberg-Allen School, Mussoorie
September 2009 Issue**

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2009

Special points of interest:

- We reveal the secret behind the 'SSS' Library...
- Get a sneak peak into the latest additions to the library!!!

Dear Readers,

This being the first ever library bulletin, is just an attempt to try to keep all you Allenites informed about the latest from the literary world. With the library constantly being expanded, this bulletin is aimed at keeping you up to date with the newest additions to the School Library as well as encouraging more and more students to take up reading as a habit.

As this issue is a novelty, we would appreciate your opinions and suggestions on this first issue so as to make the upcoming issues better. We would also appreciate it if you the readers could send in book reviews of any interesting books that you have read or are presently reading so that it could be included in the next issue. Until then **"Keep Reading"** and remember **"SILENCE PLEASE..."**

Vinith Kurian
Editorial Board

The SSS Story...

This is the substance of a talk given by Mrs M Biggs, wife of Rev Biggs Principal Emeritus, at a Saturday morning assembly at the Senior School in 1975.

Many years ago, there was a mistress in Wynberg named Miss Sarah Sankey. After some years she left to be married to Mr. Ben Simmonds of "Way Side Hall". Sad to say, before they had been married very long, she developed a malignant disease from which she had been suffering for some years. Mr. Simmonds did all he could for her with doctors and medicines and took every care but nothing could save her.

A few months after her death, one day Mr. Simmonds came to the Principal's office and handing him an envelope he said "I want to give this small gift to the school in memory of my wife. It is not much but I thought it might buy some books for the library." When Mr. Biggs opened the envelope to his surprise he found that the "small gift" was a cheque of Rs 2000/-.

The Allen library then consisted of two almirahs standing in a class room. Two thousand rupees was too much to spend on books in those early years of World War II. So this set Mr Biggs thinking.

Just at the time the rooms which are now the Staff Dining Hall and Common Room were being built, it was planned that down below them there should be two large godowns for storing coal and wood. With this cheque in his pocket, Mr. Biggs went and met the faithful Mr. Sant Ram who was in charge of the work and asked him if he thought it would be possible that instead of two godowns one large room could be built that would serve as a library. Together they surveyed the area and Mr. Sant Ram said it would be quite possible. He worked out an estimate and found that this could be done nicely for Rs. 2000/-. The next year, when the school re-opened there was the library ready for use.

When Mr. Simmonds came to Mussoorie for the next summer, Mr. Biggs asked him to come and see the building. He was so thrilled with what the money had accomplished that he had a brass plaque made which read 'SSS Library, 1942'.

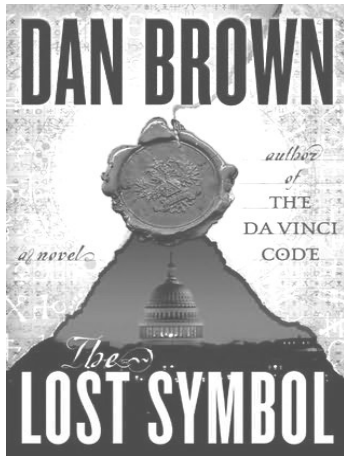
This was placed on the wall just inside the door on the right as you enter and was there for some years until somehow an almirah was placed in front of it and it was hidden.** Early this year, Mr. Macmillan, Principal, was asked if it was still there and finding that it was, said, "This must not be hidden". So he had it removed and placed prominently above the Library catalogue.

This is the story of how the Sarah Sankey Simmonds "SSS Library" which is so much used and appreciated came to be built.

** Editor's Note. This was in the days when the entrance was at the swimming pool end and at present the Girls Rest Room. The library was later shifted when the new science block was built.



THE LOST SYMBOL: DAN BROWN



Dan Brown's new novel, the eagerly awaited follow-up to his #1 international phenomenon, *The Da Vinci Code*, which was the bestselling hardcover adult novel of all time, was published on September 15, 2009.

The Lost Symbol will once again feature Dan Brown's unforgettable protagonist, Robert Langdon.

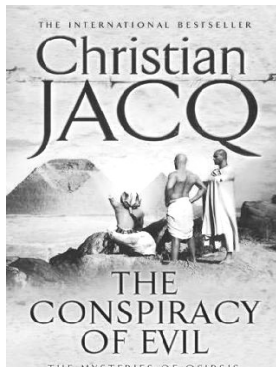
'*The Lost Symbol* is a brilliant and compelling thriller. Dan Brown's prodigious talent for storytelling, infused with history, codes and intrigue, is on full display in this new book. This is one of the most anticipated publications in recent history, and, it was well worth the wait,' said Sonny Mehta, Chairman and Editor in Chief of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group.

Brown's longtime editor, Jason Kaufman, Vice President and Executive Editor at Doubleday said, 'Nothing ever is as it first appears in a Dan Brown novel. This book's narrative takes place in a twelve-hour period, and from the first page, Dan's readers will feel the thrill of discovery as they follow Robert Langdon through a masterful and unexpected new landscape. *The Lost Symbol* is full of surprises.'

"This novel has been a strange and wonderful journey," said Brown. "Weaving five years of research into the story's twelve-hour timeframe was an exhilarating challenge. Robert Langdon's life clearly moves a lot faster than mine."

FACT: In Milan, Italy, there is a law on books that requires a smile on the faces of all citizens at all times. Exemptions include time spent visiting patients in hospitals or attending funerals. Otherwise, the fine is \$100 if they are seen in public without a smile on their face, if they have a book with them.

THE CONSPIRACY OF EVIL: CHRISTIAN JACQ

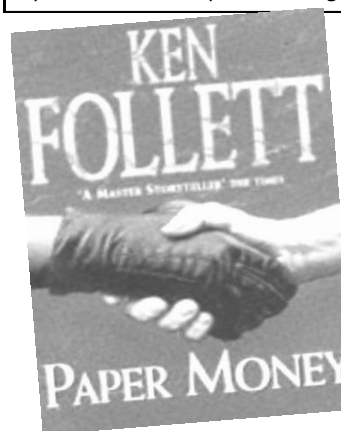
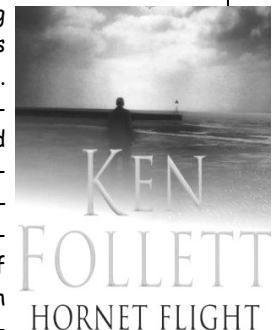


Despite the Pharaoh Sesostris III's determination, despite the combined efforts of his generals who are searching, in vain, for the culprit, despite daily prayers and the devoted care of the queen and the seven priestesses of the goddess Hathor, the beautiful acacia

tree of Abydos is dying. But the most mysterious of the priestesses, the one who haunts the nights of young Iker the scribe, has an idea: to save the 'Tree of Life', a new pyramid must be built at Dachur, dedicated to Osiris. Sesostris agrees, and work is set to begin. But what Sesostris doesn't know is that a triple conspiracy has been hatched against him. On the one hand, the Herald, the bearded devil who preaches to the desert tribes, has decided to seize power by having the pharaoh murdered. On the other, at the king's court, an ambitious, thieving traitor has only one solution: to get rid of his master. Finally Iker himself, deceived by appearances, believes that the moment has come to settle his scores. The conspirators have only to await their opportunity ...

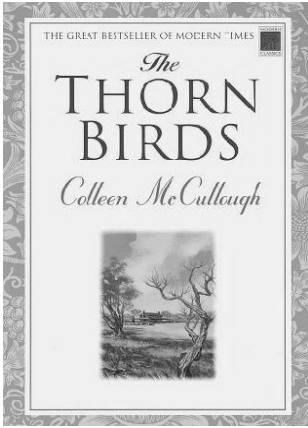
HORNET FLIGHT: KEN FOLLETT

From the master storyteller, a startling new thriller set amidst the Danish Resistance It is June 1941 and Denmark is under German occupation. On the rocky coast of Denmark, two brothers, Harald and Arne Olufsen are straining against the rigid confines imposed by their elderly parents. Meanwhile, a network of MI6 spies is attempting to decipher an encrypted Luftwaffe radio signal which mentions the new Freya-Gerat - a rudimentary form of German radar equipment. Arne's relationship with Hermia Mount, an MI6 analyst draws him into underground politics, putting him under surveillance by the Danish security forces - and by one man in particular who has a personal motive to see Arne fall. It is only a matter of time before the brothers' paths converge in a united effort to overcome the Nazis. A disused Hornet Moth biplane is their only means of getting a vital message to the British...



PAPER MONEY: KEN FOLLETT

A politician wakes with a beautiful girl; a criminal briefs his team; a tycoon breakfasts with a Bank official. Then three stories break: an attempted suicide, a hijack, and a takeover bid. They seem unrelated - until Evening Post reporters ask questions. Why is a Jamaican bank in trouble? Who drove the Rolls-Royce seen near the raid? Who was the man with gunshot wounds? As the day wears on, new questions arise - about paper money.

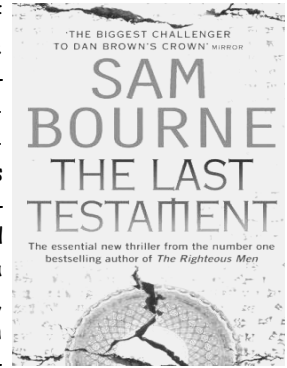


THE THORN BIRDS: COLLEEN MCCULLOUGH

The story begins in New Zealand at the turn of the twentieth century when Megan Cleary and her poor family are struggling to make ends meet. Megan's mother has a dark secret about the birth of her first son, Frank, who also happens to be her favorite child in comparison to the others. Megan is ill-treated because she is a girl and her mother's actions indicate that boys have "more worth". After several years of struggle in New Zealand, Megan's family moves to Australia to help their elderly aunt, Mary Carson, run a sheep station in the Outback. Their lives improve economically and socially with the introduction of Ralph de Bricassart, a kind hearted Roman Catholic priest that has a soft spot for Megan. This is the beginning of a golden period in Megan's life when she is finally getting the attention she deserves and craves, and Ralph sees no problem in giving these things to Megan because she is still a little girl. However, as she becomes older their association becomes more scandalous and Mary Carson becomes more jealous. Upon Carson's death she bequeaths her estate to Ralph, which prompts him to leave the presence of Megan to pursue more prestigious positions in the Catholic Church.

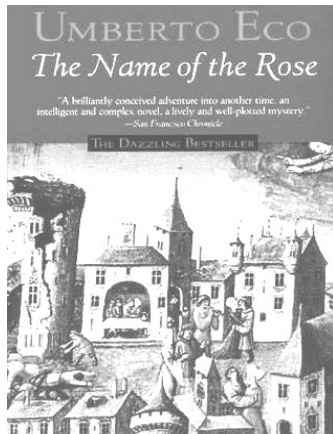
THE LAST TESTAMENT: SAM BOURNE

The new, brilliantly high-concept religious conspiracy-theory thriller from the author of 'The Righteous Men', set against the backdrop of the world's bitterest conflict. April 2003: as the Baghdad Museum of Antiquities is looted, a teenage Iraqi boy finds an ancient clay tablet in a long-forgotten vault. He takes it and runs off into the night! Several years later, at a peace rally in Jerusalem, the Israeli prime minister is about to sign a historic deal with the Palestinians. A man approaches from the crowd and seems to reach for a gun -- bodyguards shoot him dead. But in his hand was a note, one he wanted to hand to the prime minister. The shooting sparks a series of tit-for-tat killings which could derail the peace accord. Washington sends for trouble-shooter and peace negotiator Maggie Costello, after she thought she had quit the job for good. She follows a trail that takes her from Jewish settlements on the West Bank to Palestinian refugee camps, where she discovers the latest deaths are not random but have a distinct pattern. All the dead men are archaeologists and historians -- those who know the buried secrets of the ancient past. Menaced by fanatics and violent extremists on all sides, Costello is soon plunged into high-stakes international politics, the world-wide underground trade in stolen antiquities and a last, unsolved riddle of the Bible.



THE NAME OF THE ROSE: UMBERTO ECO

Set in Italy in the Middle Ages, this is not only a narrative of a



murder investigation in a monastery in 1327, but also a chronicle of the 14th century religious wars, a history of monastic orders, and a compendium of heretical movements.

FACT: A machine has been invented that can read printed English **books** aloud to the blind, and it can do so at speed half again as fast as normal speech!!!

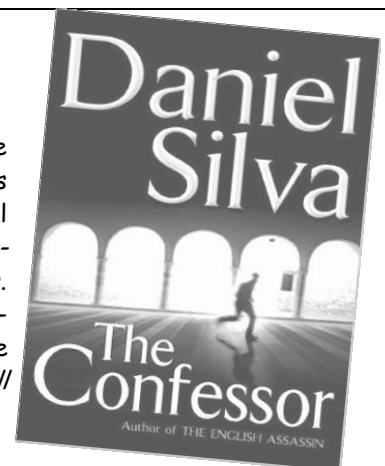
The World of
of
BLANDINGS
P.G.
Wodehouse

THE WORLD OF BLANDINGS: P. G. WODEHOUSE

An anthology of the five Blandings titles: Something Fresh, The Custody of the Pumpkin, Lord Emsworth Acts for the Best, Pig Hoo-o-o-o-ey and Summer Lightning.

THE CONFESSOR: DANIEL SILVA

"Who the hell are you?" Benjamin Stern's rude question to the intruder in his apartment was answered quickly by an equally rude -- and fatal -- bullet. This is only the first shot in *The Confessor*, Daniel Silva's rapidly thrusting thriller. This adroitly plotted, multilayered novel features Gabriel Allon, the ex-Mossad operative art restorer who held us enthralled in *The Kill Artist* and *The English Assassin*.



Teens' Top 10 Books...

The following list was compiled by the Teens' Top Ten Best Books Task Force, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Books were chosen by two teen focus groups using YALSA's "Best Books for Young Adults 2008."

International Literacy Day, 8 September

On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally.

Despite many and varied efforts, literacy remains an elusive target: some 776 million adults lack minimum literacy skills which means that one in five adults is still not literate; 75 million children are out-of-school and many more attend irregularly or drop out.

1. "Eclipse" ~ **Stephenie Meyer**
2. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" ~ **J. K. Rowling**
3. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" ~ **Jeff Kinney**
4. "Vampire Academy" ~ **Richelle Mead**



5. "Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports" ~ **James Patterson**
6. "City of Bones" ~ **Cassandra Clare**
7. "The Sweet Far Thing" ~ **Libba Bray**
8. "Extras" ~ **Scott Westerfeld**
9. "Before I Die" ~ **Jenny Downham**
10. "Twisted" ~ **Laurie Halse Anderson**

Author Of The Month: Stephenie Meyer

Stephenie Meyer's life changed dramatically on June 2, 2003. The stay-at-home mother of three young sons woke up from a dream featuring seemingly real characters that she could not get out of her head.

Meyer invented the plot during the day through swim lessons and potty training, and wrote it out late at night when the house was quiet. Three months later she finished her first novel, *Twilight*.

Twilight was one of 2005's most talked about novels and within weeks of its release the book debuted at #5 on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Among its many accolades, *Twilight* was named an "ALA Top Ten Books for Young Adults," an Amazon.com "Best Book of the Decade...So Far", and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year.

The highly-anticipated sequel, *New Moon*, was released in September 2006, and spent more than 25 weeks at the #1 position on *The New York Times* bestseller list.

In 2007, *Eclipse* literally landed around the world and fans made the Twilight Saga a worldwide phenomenon! With midnight parties and vampire-themed proms the enthusiasm for the series continued to grow.

On May 6, 2008, Little, Brown and Company released *The Host*, Meyer's highly-anticipated novel for adults which debuted at #1 on *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. *The Host* still remains a staple on the best-seller lists more than a year after its debut.

On August 2, 2008, the final book in the Twilight Saga, *Breaking Dawn* was released at 12:01 midnight. *Breaking Dawn* sold 1.3 million copies in its first 24 hours.

The Twilight movie, directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, was released on November 21, 2008. Twilight debuted at #1 at the box office with \$70 million, making it the highest grossing opening weekend for a female director.



Here are a list of the best e-book sites on the internet...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. www.ebooks.com | 4. www.manybooks.net |
| 2. www.pdf-search-engine.com | 5. www.feedbooks.com |
| 3. www.gutenberg.org | 6. www.booksinmyphone.com |

