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enabled him before he was through to create such authentic mirror-worlds as *Owen Glen*, *Come Spring*, and *House Divided*. From the beginning he applied himself with relentless dedication. “I read,” he said, “and thought and studied and tried.”

Even when the advisories were starkly diametric — one chiding him for too much plot, another for not enough; one, too gruesome, another, too bland — he strove unspareingly to reconcile, reaching all the while for a style and idiom entirely his own. He had not attained the mark by 1920, but he was well on his way.

Any overview of Williams’ first phase as author would be wanting if it did not embody — would in fact be tangential if it did not conclude with Robert Davis’ two ebullient cheers as Williams broke out of his pulp cocoon. The first: “The pore fellow wrote more than eighty stories and three novelettes and didn’t get no encouragement a tall. But by gosh he had intestines, that fellow had! — and he, now, *stayed*; and dod-gast my eyes, danged if he didn’t ketch on.” The second: “I’m not a prophet; but I do know a writing guy when I see him and when I announce that a new star is rising in the east, by the jumpin’ gods of war, a new star *is* rising in the east.”

*Selah.*

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**BEN AMES WILLIAMS IN PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS**

*By Richard Cary*

Carlyle damned political economy as the dismal science; he had obviously never dabbled in bibliography. Comparative to most authors, Ben Ames Williams (1889-1953) kept exceptional records of his literary output and his appearances in print. For four decades he maintained a weekly journal in which he noted work accomplished and items sold, typed a chronological roster of his published titles from the first in July 1915 to the last (actually the antepenultimate) in May 1949, compiled more than twenty scrapbooks of his published stories and articles, and an alphabetical index of titles and locations. Zealous though he was, he failed to include better than three-
score entries; provided wrong dates or sources; tallied reprints as original titles, and stories sold but never published; omitted sundry publications in British magazines and American newspapers; duplicated identical stories printed under different names.¹ On half a dozen occasions he estimated his total of works written and total published. Never twice the same, they spread from 685 to 1200 and 400 to 500, respectively. Neither of these figures seems likely ever to be established with absolute precision.

Anyone who has wet a small toe in bibliographic research will know that this is not written in disparagement, particularly in the case of a harried author writing so copiously for so diversified a clientele. On the contrary, Williams’ assorted files yielded an opulence of data seldom vouchsafed a bibliography. Additionally, his profuse correspondence with editors and agents was a seedbed of hints to go by, leading to many a time-obscured item nowhere else cited. The rest was a matter of rifling all the standard (and some sub-standard) indices; of dogged page-by-page search through relevant time-spans of dailies, weeklies, and monthlies; of inquiries by mail, telephone, and teletype; of dependence on dedicated reference librarians in three countries; and of serendipity.

The aggregate arrived at in this listing, 279 items,² is tentative. Wraiths and fugitives are certain to turn up from time to time in sources not recalled even by Williams. All entries below describe original appearances. The popularity of Williams’ writings invited frequent reproduction in reprint and analysis magazines, syndicated newspapers, and digests (sometimes under variant titles). No benefit seems evident from incorporating all these in detail, so they are not documented here. Suffice to indicate the immense reach of their reappearance.

¹ For example, a series of four stories with Biblical themes which first appeared in Collier’s early in 1922 were reproduced shortly thereafter with altered titles in Maclean’s. Another confusing case: Williams gave the same title, “A Brother Offended,” to different stories which ran in Country Gentleman, May 3, 1924, and in Collier’s, March 15, 1941.
² In addition to this number, Williams published 179 short stories, serials, and articles in the Saturday Evening Post, subject of a separate essay and checklist in a special issue of CLQ next year, marking the twentieth anniversary of his death.

In instances where stories are carried over into multiple, discontinuous pages at the rear of magazines, only the first page of each entry is cited.

Not to be overlooked in any checklist of Williams' newspaper appearances are his “three highly inflammatory rhymes” printed in the Boston *American* in 1914, well before Charles Agnew MacLean accepted his first narrative for *Smith's Magazine*. For the record, they are: “Set Aloft the Flag,” (April 22, 1914), 3; “The Rubaiyat of Abos Tonfan,” (October 8), 8; “Everybody Up,” (October 9), 13.

1915


1916

“Marker's Hobbies,” *Popular Magazine*, XXXIX (February
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20), 138-142.
"Glissez, M'Sieu' Kellee, Glissez!" All-Story Weekly, LIX (July 1), 640-650.
"Worth a Leg," All-Story Weekly, LX (July 29), 736-744.
"The Sure Thing," All-Story Weekly, LXII (September 9), 320-326.
"The Yank," American Boy [accepted in July 1916 but the relevant issues of this magazine were not available for checking.]

1917

"The Whale-Buster," All-Story Weekly, LXVI (January 6), 385-393.
"The Powder of Midas," All-Story Weekly, LXXII (June 16), 177-198; (June 23), 470-486; (June 30), 614-629; LXXIII (July 7), 98-114.
"Swords of Wax," All-Story Weekly, LXXIII (July 28), 555-585.
"The Squealer," Collier's, LIX (September 1), 15.
"A Voice From the Fog," All-Story Weekly, LXXV (September 15), 375-384.
"Three in a Thousand," All-Story Weekly, LXXVI (October 20), 529-549; LXXVII (October 27), 77-97; (November 3), 277-291; (November 10), 475-487.
"Coogan's 'Killing,'" All-Story Weekly, LXXVIII (December 8), 514-519.

1918

"Trapped," All-Story Weekly, LXXIX (January 5), 353-375; (January 12), 587-607; LXXX (January 19), 118-138.
"A Charge to Keep," Country Gentleman, LXXXIII (January
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26), 6; (February 2), 20; (February 9), 17; (February 16), 18; (February 23), 17.
“Scented Dusts,” Farmer’s Wife (February 1918).
“The Dust of Death,” All-Story Weekly, LXXXI (March 2), 383-412.
“The Devil’s Violin,” All-Story Weekly, LXXXIV (May 11), 1-19; (May 18), 246-264; (May 25), 456-472; (June 1), 696-708.
“The White Rat,” Country Gentleman, LXXXIII (June 15), 10; (June 22), 10.
“The Right Whale’s Flukes,” Bellman, XXIV (June 29), 713-720.
“The Jumping Spark,” Detective Story Magazine, XV (July 2), 3-19; (July 9), 90-108; (July 16), 87-104; (July 23), 126-145; (July 30), 119-134.
“The Murder Ship,” All-Story Weekly, LXXXVI (July 6), 1-21; (July 13), 304-321; (July 20), 538-551; (July 27), 724-738.
“The Treasure of the Peak,” Railroad Man’s Magazine, XXXVI (August), 593-610; XXXVII (September), 49-66; (October), 284-304; (November), 538-559.
“Once Aboard the Whaler,” All-Story Weekly, LXXXVIII (September 7), 193-216; (September 14), 446-467; (September 21), 669-687; LXXXIX (September 28), 105-119.

1919

“After His Own Heart,” All-Story Weekly, XCII (January 4), 353-370; (January 11), 564-577; XCIII (January 18), 105-121; (January 25), 300-316.
“The Field of Honor,” American, LXXXVII (March), 20.
“The Unconquered,” Everybody’s, XL (March), 32.
“The Sea Bride,” Munsey’s, LXVI (March), 197-212; (April),
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393-411; (May), 713-731; LXVII (June), 175-192; (July), 366-384; (August), 559-576.

“All the Brothers Were Valiant,” Everybody’s, XL (April), 15; (May), 38.


“A Well Known Clubman,” All-Story Weekly, XCVI (April 12), 29-36.


“In the Redbrush,” All-Story Weekly, XCVII (May 17), 177-204; (May 24), 384-407.


“Death in the Pot,” Popular Magazine, LIV (October 7), 117-123.

“The Man Who Had Everything,” People’s Home Journal, XXXIV (November), 8; (December), 8; XXXV (February 1920), 8; (March), 10.

“Black Pawl,” Redbook, XXXIV (November), 23; (December), 59; (January 1920), 63.

“Another Man’s Poison,” Collier’s, LXIV (December 6), 9.

1920

“Mine Enemy’s Dog,” Collier’s, LXV (January 10), 5.

“Barber John’s Boy,” Munsey’s, LXIX (April), 385-403; (May), 656-674; LXX (June), 65-82; (July), 322-338.

“Not a Drum Was Heard,” Collier’s, LXV (June 12), 5.

“Sheener,” Collier’s, LXVI (July 10), 5.


“Most Disastrous Chances,” Collier’s, LXVI (August 14), 5.

“More Stately Mansions,” Good Housekeeping, LXXI (September), 18; (October), 14; (November), 34.

“The Immediate Jewel,” Redbook, XXXV (October), 27; XXXVI (November), 58; (December), 76; (January 1921), 68.

1921

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"So My Luck Began," *Collier's*, LXVII (February 5), 5.
"The Man Who Looked Like Edison," *Cosmopolitan*, LXX (May), 70.
"His Honor," *Cosmopolitan*, LXXI (July), 40.
"Jeshurun Waxed Fat," *Century*, CII (September), 723-730.
"None Other Gods," *Collier's*, LXVIII (November 5), 3.
"A Name in Vain," *Collier's*, LXVIII (December 17), 3.

1922

"In Danger of the Judgment," *Collier's*, LXIX (February 25), 7.
"Thus Shall Israel Be Cleansed," *Collier's*, LXIX (March 18), 7.
"Folly," *Collier's*, LXIX (May 13), 5.
"The Adventurers," *Good Housekeeping*, LXXV (September), 18; (October), 20; (November), 70; (December), 60; LXXVI (January 1923), 66.
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1923

"Thrifty Stock," *McCall's*, L (May), 12.
"The Road Runner," *Designer*, LVIII (August), 5; (September), 14.
"With Empty Hands," *Good Housekeeping*, LXXVII (August), 49.
"The Cigarette," *Collier's*, LXXII (September 8), 3.

1924

"Recognition," *Collier's*, LXXIII (May 31), 8.
"The Mountain," *Collier's*, LXXIV (July 19), 5; (July 26), 13; (August 2), 15; (August 9), 17; (August 16), 17; (August 23), 15.
"His Own Petard," *Collier's*, LXXIV (September 20), 5.
"A Finished Story," *Good Housekeeping*, LXXIX (October), 14.
"Money," *Woman's Home Companion*, LI (December), 16; LII (January 1925), 30; (February), 36.

1925

"The Little Foxes," *Everybody's*, LII (June), 79-85.
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1926

"A Lusty Winter," Collier's, LXXVII (January 9), 20.
"A Return to Hanover," Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, XVIII (February), 331-338.
"The Nurse," Harper's, CLII (April), 549-557.
"The Fighting Point," American, CI (May), 11; (June), 61; (July), 53.
"Chris'mus Gif'," Youth's Companion, C (December 2), 929-931.

1927

"Dark Sayings of Old," Delineator, CX (February), 6; (March), 42.
"Tup," Redbook, XLVIII (March), 35-40.
"Victory," Collier's, LXXIX (April 30), 17.
"Upon the Children," Collier's, LXXIX (June 11), 17.
"Wrathful Rebukes," Collier's, LXXIX (June 25), 12.
"Red Hair," Collier's, LXXX (July 2), 13.
"Sudden Fear," Redbook, XLIX (September), 70.
"Habit," Collier's, LXXX (October 1), 11.
"Pounds of Flesh," Collier's, LXXX (October 29), 10.

1928

"Laughingstock," Country Gentleman, XCIII (February), 9.
"Texas," Outdoor America, VI (July), 5; VII (August), 8.
"Authorial Ideals and Beliefs," The Editor (October 6), 7-8.
"The Mystery of the Swaggering Man," Redbook, LII (February), 40.
"How to Recognize a Short Story," The Writer, XLI (April), 102-103.
"Pricking Thumbs," Country Gentleman, XCIV (September), 11; (October), 33; (November), 28.
"A Prudent Man," Collier's, LXXXIV (October 5), 32.
"Touchstone," Ladies' Home Journal, XLVI (November), 3; (December), 28; XLVII (January 1930), 45; (February), 55.
"Can Good Food Be Ruined by Poor Cookery?" Modern Priscilla, XLIII (November), 2.

"Creatures of the Night," American, CIX (February), 32.
"From Strange Beginnings," Woman's Home Companion, LVII (October), 7; (November), 27; (December), 25; LVIII (January 1931), 31; (February), 25.
"An End to Mirth," Ladies' Home Journal, XLVII (December), XLVIII (January 1931), 16; (February), 21; (March), 27.

"Treasure Trove," American Forests & Forest Life, XXXVII (October), 579-582.
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“What a Hair Cut!” Cosmopolitan, XCI (November), 62.
“Possible Johnny,” Elks Magazine, X (November), 7.

1932

“The Uncapapas Arrow,” Country Gentleman, CII (May), 7.
“Sod and Twig,” Country Gentleman, CII (September), 3; (October), 16; (November), 16.
“All the Aged Poor Valiant,” New York Evening Post (December 12), 3.

1933

“I’m Growing Wings at 43,” American, CXV (March), 48.
“Whiteface,” Country Gentleman, CIII (June), 7.
“Personal Appearance,” American, CXVI (December), 32.

1934

“Not Dictated,” Collier’s, XCIII (April 21), 14.
“Corkscrew,” Country Gentleman, CIV (June), 8.
“Three Shuttered Houses,” Redbook, LXIII (August) 115-150.
“Owner Absent,” Collier’s, XCIV (August 4), 30.
“Justice of the Law,” Country Gentleman, CIV (September), 12.
“Stranger of the Light,” *Woman’s Pictorial*, XXVIII (September 8), 4; (September 15), 4; (September 22), 8; (September 29), 8; (October 6), 18; (October 13), 20; (October 20), 20; (October 27), 22.


“Love Is an Angler,” *Woman’s Home Companion*, LXI (October), 12.

“The Belligerent Goat,” *Collier’s*, XCIV (October 13), 12.


“Cheating Dice,” *Country Gentleman*, CIV (December), 10.

1935


“Overnight Guest,” *Redbook*, LXV (June), 127-156.


“The Dead Man’s Candle,” *Progressive Farmer*, L (September), 7.


“A Letter From China,” *This Week* (December 1), 3; (December 8), 6; (December 15), 11.

1936


“Roots at Second Hand,” *Old Farmer’s Almanac*, CXLIV (1936), Maine 4-5.

“Senior Skip,” *Maclean’s*, XLIX (January 1), 12.


“Purpose,” *The Star*, No. 14863 (January 22), 5.
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“Homework,” Ladies’ Home Journal, LIII (February), 5.
“The Noble Lord,” Maclean’s, XLIX (March 1), 7.
“Ways That Are Dark,” Country Gentleman, CVI (April), 16.
“As Big a Fool . . .” Liberty, XIII (April 18), 46-50.
“Strange Language,” Collier’s, XCVII (May 16), 19.
“Thinking Up a Story,” The Writer, XLIX (June), 171.
“The Pelican and the Porcupine,” Good Housekeeping, CIII (October), 58.
“The Head’s Star,” Ladies’ Home Journal, LIII (October), 36.
“Wolf’s Clothing,” Woman’s Home Companion, LXIII (October), 14.
“Turn About,” This Week (October 4), 14.
“Snatch at a Straw,” Country Gentleman, CVI (November), 8.

1937

“Parachute,” New York Sunday News (January 3), 75-76.
“Slowspoke,” Cosmopolitan, CII (February), 48.
“An Errant Knave,” Country Gentleman, CVII (February), 12; (March), 16; (April), 18.
“Girl Adrift,” Collier’s, XCIX (March 20), 16.
“Fisherman’s Folly,” Hunting & Fishing, XIV (April), 10.
“Quillet and Quiddities,” Country Gentleman, CVII (May), 20.
“Pie Before Meals,” American Cavalcade, I (June), 29-33.
“A Life Well Lived” [John Drinkwater], Mark Twain Quarterly, I (Summer), 5.
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"Hero’s Son," *This Week* (November 7), 4.

1938

"Beaver Bogan," *Maclean’s*, LI (March 1), 5.
"Lion Lady," *Collier’s*, CI (March 26), 20.
"A Proper Husband," *Collier’s*, CI (April 30), 16.
"Kenneth Roberts," *Saturday Review of Literature*, XVIII (June 25), 8-10.
"Something to Tell the Wife," *Collier’s*, CII (October 8), 16.
"Fog Loom," *Collier’s*, CII (December 1), 15.

1939

"Deep Waters," *Maclean’s*, LII (March 15), 5; (April 1), 18; (April 15), 18; (May 1), 20; (May 15), 16; (June 1), 20.
"See You in the Funnies," *This Week* (March 26), 5.
"High as Haman," *Collier’s*, CIII (April 1), 21.
"How to Catch Fish," *Collier’s*, CIII (June 3), 19.
"Magnificent Fool," *This Week* (July 2), 3.
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“The Old Block,” Collier’s, CIV (August 26), 26.
“A Man of Parts,” Collier’s, CIV (October 14), 32.
Review of Michael Beam by Richard Matthews Hallet, Atlantic Monthly, CLXIV (December), n.p., front advertisement section.
“Grit,” This Week (December 31), 3.

1940

“Fishing Can Be Fun,” Collier’s, CV (April 6), 13.
Review of Penobscot Man by Frank G. Speck, Boston Evening Transcript (May 18), Section 5, p. 1.
Review of Three Centuries of Freeport, Maine by Florence G. Thurston & Harmon S. Cross, Boston Evening Transcript (August 17), Section 5, p. 2.
Review of My Seven Sons by Lilian Washburn, Boston Evening Transcript (September 7), Section 5, p. 1.
“Puzzle Head,” Liberty, XVII (October 5), 13-17.
“Grim Hunt,” This Week (November 10), 7.

1941

“A Brother Offended,” Collier’s, CVII (March 15), 13.

1942

“We Should Know Past to Plan Our Future,” Cleveland News (December 3), 21.
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“The Service Flag,” Collier’s, CX (December 26), 30.

1943

“Straight Shooter,” Cosmopolitan, CXV (September), 64.

1944

“Pruning Made It Grow,” The Writer, LVII (July), 197.

“Three Noted Americans Comment on Germany,” Columbus Citizen (August 27), 2D.

1945


“Idealism Backed by Atom Bombs,” unidentified newspaper (December), 22.

1946


1947


1948

“My Current Reading,” Saturday Review of Literature, XXXI (April 10), 31.


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“Fiction’s Fourth Dimension,” Saturday Review of Literature, XXXI (October 16), 8.
“Steerageway,” Collier’s, CXXII (December 18), 20.

1949
“Pig in a Poke,” Woman’s Day (May), 38.
“A Young Man Marred,” Collier’s, CXXIII (May 28), 14.

1950
“The Jawbreaker,” Esquire, XXXIII (June), 74.