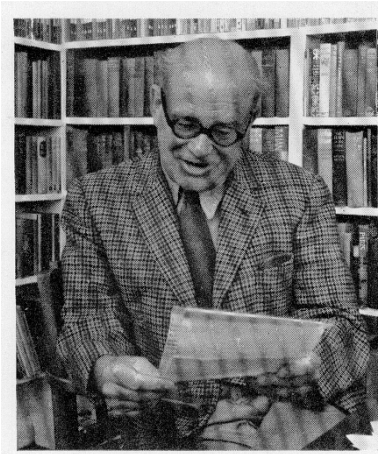


## MALCOLM SAVILLE ARCHIVE: INTRODUCTION

This is a collection of letters and books by the children's author Malcolm Saville (1901-1982), and papers on his work. We are always pleased to receive copies of personal letters from Malcolm Saville for research purposes.



### **Biographical note: Malcolm Leonard Saville, children's author.**

Malcolm Saville, born in Hastings, published 87 books for children alongside a full-time career in publishing. His most famous are the Lone Pine series of 20 books, 1943-78, starting with *Mystery at Witchend* in which children form a secret club. All stories are set in real places which Saville encouraged readers to visit - Shropshire and Sussex being particularly favoured, but also Dartmoor, Southwold, Yorkshire and London. Other series were the Jillies (6 books, 1948-53) starting in Norfolk with two families, the Jillions and Standings who meet on holiday in Blakeney, in *Redshanks Warning*. They meet up again in London, the Pennines, Ely, Austria and finally the home counties. In the Buckingham's series (6 books 1950-74 starting with *The Master of Maryknoll*), children befriend the son of a famous exiled Polish violinist. Venues range from Ludlow, Shropshire, to north Yorkshire, Brighton, London, Italy, Amsterdam and more. In these series for older children, friendship and romance are never far away. For older teenagers, came the Marston Baines thriller-romances (1962-1978) (echoing James Bond) in which a master spy's university student friends get into some serious difficulties with terrorists, anti-semites, drug dealers, black magic and mafia. For younger children there were two series: Mary and Michael (1945-57) were Londoners who were sent to the country and get to Cornwall, Dorset, Sussex, and the Grand Union Canal. The first book, *Trouble at Townsend* (1945), of their life on a farm, became a film featuring Petula Clark. Susan and Bill were children who moved to a new town (unspecified): stories describe their settling in experiences as well as their holidays, including one in a railway camping coach. The Nettleford series are experiences of village and farm life for young children. Two books never resulted in series, although this was contemplated: *Treasure at the Mill* (1957); and *The Thin Grey Man* (1966).

Malcolm Saville also wrote non-fiction, generally on country themes (such as *Country Scrapbook*, *Open-Air Scrapbook*, and *Seaside Scrapbook* of the 1940s, encouraging post-war outdoor pursuits and holidays. There were two main religious books, *King of Kings* (1958, a life of Jesus) and *Strange Story* (1967, the crucifixion seen through the eyes of contemporary Roman children).

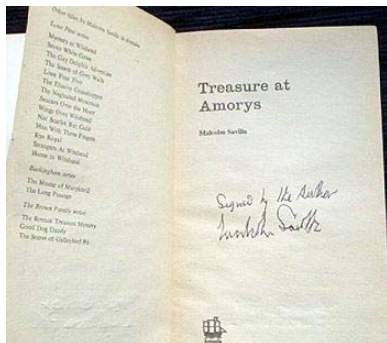
## Signatures.

Collectors are always concerned that their signed copies are genuine. Here are three examples:

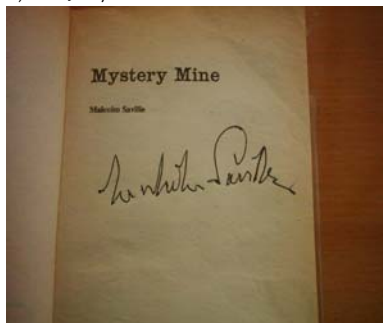
a) Early, 1949:



b) 1960s/70s:



c) 1970s/80s



O'Hanlon, M. (1996) *The Complete Lone Pine* Worcester: Mark O'Hanlon

O'Hanlon, M. (2000) *Beyond the Lone Pine* Worcester: Mark O'Hanlon

[The Malcolm Saville Society](#) (link [here](#)) own the collection of letters which started this archive. They have a magazine named *Acksherley!*, a favorite word of the twins in the Lone Pine books.

Letters.

Holroyds,  
Barcombe, Lewes,  
Sussex.  
Barcombe 61

Aug 14. 59

Dear Philip Wabbling.

It was my find of you to write to me  
I appreciate your letter very much. It is  
time, very gratifying, that the Lone Pines  
be indeed written. The twelfth book about  
them will be out before Christmas. I dare  
not let the character grow up although I  
am growing a little weary of them. I know  
them pretty well now!

I am an editor in London as well as a  
professional writer but when I retire - the  
a grandfather, too! - from the former I  
shall certainly write for adults although not  
necessarily fiction.

I thought you might like to see a more  
or less complete catalogue of my books. The

booklet of pictures of the Englishman country is a  
novelty. The photographs were taken by a "fan" who  
is now older than you but who was introduced  
to Shakespeare by my books & has been there again  
& again.

I hope you're not finding your National  
Service too irksome. Both my sons have their  
behind them & have been to Oxford since. You  
should at least enjoy Cyprus.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely  
Malcolm Saville

Holroyds,  
Barcombe, Lewes,  
Sussex.  
Barcombe 61

5th December, 1960.

A. E. L. Cook, Esq.,  
134, Chairborough Rd.,  
High Wycombe, Bucks..

Dear Mr. Cook,

Thank you for your letter which far from  
being presumptuous gave me very great pleasure.  
I do get a great many letters from children, but  
those from discriminating adults are particularly  
welcome! How very kind of the four of you to  
acknowledge that my work has given you so much  
pleasure through the years. I appreciate this  
very much.

I do get a few requests from time to time for  
the Lone Piners to grow up, and most of these come  
from girls and I think this is a very healthy sign.  
They want to know, of course, whether David and Peter,  
Penny and Jon, Tommy and the incurably romantic Jenny  
are eventually going to get happily married.

I am beginning to think that fifteen Lone Pine  
books will be quite enough, so that in the last two  
we must get some of these youngsters settled.  
The trouble up to now has been that the irritating  
twins are so popular with young readers that many  
of them start reading the Lone Pine books at the age  
of nine, and I do not think that children under the  
age of about twelve are very much interested in  
romance. I must, as a professional, keep my readers  
as long as possible, so I have been trying to com-  
promise.

Anyway, my thanks to you all, and my very best wishes  
- together with those of the Lone Piners - to you for  
Christmas and in case you would like to know something about  
my other books I am sending you lists of them all.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Saville  
Malcolm Saville.