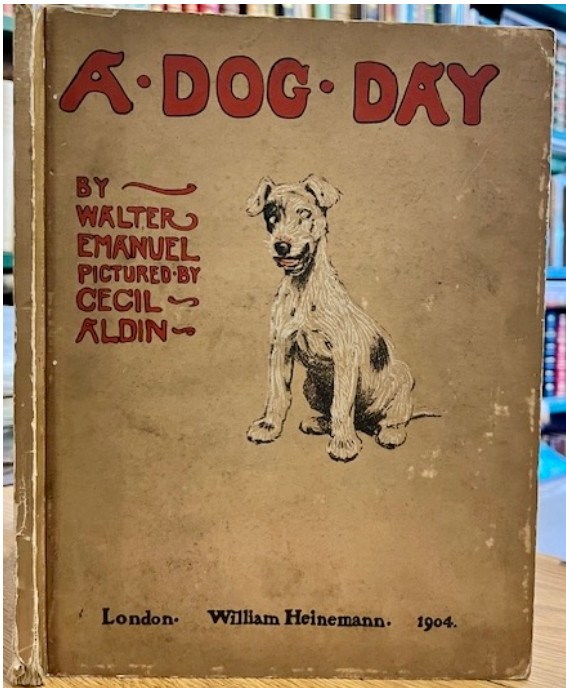


# A Dog Day by Cecil Aldin



First published in 1902, *A Dog Day*, written by Walter Emanuel and illustrated by Chiswick artist Cecil Aldin (*below*), went through numerous editions and reprints and has been continuously in demand ever since. The story of a day in the life of a lovable scamp, told by the dog himself, it has captivated generations and has the rare quality of appealing to young and old alike.

‘Quite the best dog story ever written’ – *Guardian*

‘One of my favourite books of all time’ – Jilly Cooper

This is an extract:

1.25pm. Upstairs into dining-room. Family not finished lunch yet. Young Mr Brown throws a bread pellet at me, hitting me on the nozzle. An insult. I swallow the insult.

## Cecil Aldin with four dogs in Bedford Park, West London

Cecil Aldin (1870-1935), British artist and illustrator, seen here (*right*) as a young man with four dogs in Bedford Park, Chiswick, West London. Date: 1890s.

*Mary Evans Picture Library makes available wonderful images created for people to enjoy over the centuries. © Mary Evans Picture Library*

- Two years ago, Stephen Foster of Foster Books donated the 1904 edition of the book (shown above) to be given as a prize in the Chiswick Book Festival Quiz.

- Cecil Aldin also illustrated an early edition of *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell.



# Cecil Aldin: *Mainly About Bedford Park People* entry

ALDIN, Cecil Charles Windsor 1870-1935; 46 Flanders Road 1895-99, 41 (now 47) Priory Road 1899-04. He later moved to Henley-on-Thames. An artist, etcher and draughtsman, his best-known works featured old inns, hunting scenes and animals. He also designed wooden toys which were made by the Chiswick Art Workers' Guild (qv). At one time he had 13 dogs, two monkeys and a fox cub, and could be seen "exercising half-a-dozen of his bulldogs in leashes" (MAP 1899). He also acquired a hunter and, to make room for it in his stables, gave his donkey and trap to the Gould sisters (qv). Sybil Pearce (qv) recalled this as a pony and trap, which the sisters kept in a shed at The Yews (qv) in Woodstock Road. Jean Webster Brough (qv) modelled for him and may appear in some of his hunting or inns series. He married Marguerite Dorothy Morris in 1895. Their red-haired son Dudley Cecil Aldin, born in 1897, is among the dead listed on the St Michael's war memorial seat outside the church hall.

## Cecil Aldin and *The Art of Black Beauty*

**Michael Partridge, writing in *The Eastbournian* school magazine**

Cecil Aldin went to Eastbourne College (School House 1879-80)

The book *Black Beauty, The Autobiography of a Horse* by Anna Sewell was first published in 1877 by Jarrold and Sons of Norwich. In 1912 the artist Cecil Aldin was asked to produce 18 colour plates as illustrations for a fresh edition. This he did and was paid just £189. Rare copies of this edition can occasionally be found on the internet for prices upwards of £2500. It is one of the most read children's books of all time. Tragically Anna Sewell died just a few months after publication and so never saw the immense popularity of her book, which was written as an autobiography of a horse in the first person singular. Between July and November 2017, the Bridewell Museum at Norwich mounted an exhibition *Cecil Aldin – The Art of Black Beauty* with 13 watercolours by Aldin provided by Jarrolds, an independent department store in Norwich, which still owns the paintings. I was fortunate to be in Norwich in September to visit my brother David (Blackwater 1948–51) and so was able to visit the museum and see the excellent exhibition. Aldin (1879–1935) was an immensely popular and talented artist who specialised in watercolours, particularly of horses and dogs. He illustrated *The Second Jungle Book* (1894) by Kipling, *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* (1910) and wrote and illustrated his own books such as *Sleeping Partners*, *Old Manor Houses* and *Old Inns*. The College can be truly proud of him.

We have two signed limited edition prints and several of his books in the College archives.