

# Merton at Cambridge

## Impressions by his contemporaries

Excerpts from *The Oakhamian*, the termly magazine of Oakham School. No author is given.

*from Cambridge Letter in Vol. 49 – Christmas Term, 1933:*

. . . We are getting more interesting, you say: but wait. Our last is T. F. Merton. He, having been 'broke' at the World's Fair in Chicago, and taken a job as a 'barker,' arrives with us quite beyond comprehension. He boxes, he plays rugger; he has started to row; he is already a confirmed journalist, publishing in the 'Granta.' He too has been seen in fair company: taxed with this, he vehemently asserted that it was involuntary—mere politeness, in fact. But we, knowing Merton, held our peace.

*from Cambridge Letter in Vol. 50 – Easter Term, 1934*

J.L. Barber . . . rows in a very successful boat, which has already made three 'bumps,' one of which at the expense of . . . T. F. Merton, whose boat now has the thankless position of sandwich-boat: in consequence they toil up the course twice a day and so far have caught nothing. Merton is on the staff of a paper called 'The Gownsmen,' less exacting than the 'Granta,' and less critical of Rabelaisian humour. His interests are varied: he is secretary of a club self-explanatorily called the 'Pink Elephants', but also belongs to the Arts Society. He is going to the O.T.C. camp at Colchester. He sits in a room hung with Gaughins and talks about hot-jazz.