

SAS Jingles, Rhymes, and Tunes Through the Ages

Compiled and Edited by Stephanie Chen '23

With over 100 years of history, generations of SAS teenagers (and teachers) in need of entertainment have written many jingles, poems, and songs. They were repeated by students throughout the halls during their time at SAS and then decades later, by nostalgic alums at reunions. Some pieces were simply meaningless love songs made by students obsessed with the romance of the Jazz Age, others satires of major events of their time which today have become history. Much of the story of SAS is contained within its people—their writings a first person account of the tribulations of their generation and their memories a testament to SAS's unique position in Shanghai's modern history. This compilation represents an incomplete highlight of some of the fan favorites through the ages.



The Guys From SAS

Richard Vanderburgh arrived at SAS in the 1920s as a member of the faculty. A sports enthusiast, he was disappointed at the lack of athletic spirit at school. He took it upon himself to introduce American cheers and songs, in the hope of transforming SAS athletic events into a lively celebration of athleticism and sportsmanship. Of the songs he introduced, one of the most popular to this day was the cheer “We Are the Guys from SAS”, sung to the tune of “Solomon Levi”. Even today, alumni sing the song at reunions, gathered in front of the old campus in downtown Shanghai.

We are the Guys From SAS
By Richard Vanderburgh

We are the guys from SAS,
You hear so much about.
The other schools all envy us
Whenever we go out.
We are too shy to talk about
The many things we've done;
The tricks we've played,
The records made,
The many games we won.

Chorus:

As we go marching,
And the band begins to play,
Rah! Rah! Rah!
You'll hear us shouting,
SAS will win the day!

Jazz Age Blues

Despite being a world away from the US, SAS students have rarely fallen behind the American fads and trends of the times. In the early 1930s, with the Jazz Age in full swing back in the States, students at SAS were also quick to catch on. Accompanied by a ukulele or the school piano, songs like “My Blue Heaven” and “Me and My Shadow” became extremely popular among students. Most notably, the students wrote their own set of lyrics to the Bing Crosby song “Let Me Call You Sweetheart”, dedicating it to Shanghai’s very own Huangpu River instead of the unnamed “sweetheart” in the original.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart (SAS Remix)

Meet me by the slop chute
 On the old Whangpoo
 Bring along your dinner
 There’ll be room for two.
 We’ll have mashed potatoes
 And some Irish stew,
 Meet me by the slop chute
 On the old Whangpoo!

I ain’t got no money,
 I ain’t got no chow,
 So you see that everything
 Is *ding bu hao*.
 Bring along your girlfriend,
 There’ll be room for two.
 Meet me at the slop chute
 On the old Whangpoo!

"Ditty Daffles"

The special column "Ditty Daffies" began with the 1938 October issue of the school publication *The Shanghai American*, and continued to be published through the war years until the late 1940s. The column never carried an explanation, and the author remains anonymous to this day. One of the most popular pieces published in "Ditty Daffies" was the column's inaugural poem "Evolution", tracing the journey of an SAS student from freshman year to graduation.

Evolution

From "Ditty Daffles"

He weighed ninety pounds and measured five-foot six
 When he came to SAS from somewhere in the sticks.
 The haughty seniors looked at him and said 'My Gosh!
 They're coming smaller every year! Brassy little frosh!'

Time mooches on and he's a scrawny sophomore;
 All hands and feet, perpetually sore
 Bolstering his feeble frame with cod-liver oil;
 Having mumps and measles and between time, a boil.

Next he is a junior and learns some parlor games;
 Scrubs his neck and ears sometimes; notices the dames;
 Daubs his hair with 'sxacomb;' uses Lifebuoy soap;
 Massages his dimples with strident drugstore dope.

This year he's a senior standing six foot, one;
 Wears clothes that fit him and weighs part of a ton;
 Looks with pitying contempt on this year's frosh;
 Says, 'They're coming smaller every year! My Gosh!'

Chamberlain's Refrain

With a world war on the horizon in Europe, World War II, SAS students of the late 1930s participated quite enthusiastically in war-related activities. At the 1939 All-School Variety Show, the senior high put on the self-written skit *Parliamentary Procedure,—1939 English Style*. The skit satirized the British parliament under Prime Minister Neil Chamberlain, whose policy of appeasement in dealing with Hitler became the subject of much of the skit's mockery. One of the songs sang in the skit was created by Lawrence Howes '40, who provided the lyrics, and Robert Henry '40, who composed the music.

Song From *Parliamentary Procedure,—1939 English Style*

Lyrics by Lawrence Howes '40

<p>If Hitler scraps another treaty, If Indians complain, If ship's torpedoed off Tahiti. If all the world's insane</p> <p> Mister Chamberlain, Mister Chamberlain, Mister Chamberlain takes a plane.</p> <p>It doesn't matter what the cause; Here and there without a pause, Never heeding loud guffaws,</p> <p>If spies into some country filter, Italians wax profane, If anything is out of kilter, From Spain to the Ukraine,</p> <p>Oh, crises come and crises go,</p>	<p>Rain of summer turns to snow; Be it fair or foul or blow,</p> <p> At every criticism scoffing, Powers he'll arraign, With some new crisis in the offing, Short respites to gain.</p> <p> Another nation is bemoaned, Another country Al-Caponed, But the war has been postponed.</p> <p> He's always calling conferences To ease relations' strain. To settle big and small offenses. The premier takes a plane.</p> <p> Mister Chamberlain, Mister Chamberlain, Mister Chamberlain's home again.</p>
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