

John Scandrett Millward
1924 –1998
Headmaster—1973 to 1984



JSM's Portrait in The Library — which accurately replicates what
Simon Leese characterised as his 'litter look'

How he became “Hench”

From the Leicester Mercury on 4th December 1972

Former RAF pilot Mr. John Scandrett Millward, aged 48, will take over as headmaster of Loughborough Grammar School in September from Mr. Norman S. Walter who announced in August that he was to resign. Mr. Millward, at present headmaster of Tudor Grange Grammar School, Solihull, was chosen from 76 applicants. Married, with an 18-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son, he was educated at Bristol Grammar School, which like Loughborough, is a direct grant school. He obtained a BA in history and an MA at Merton College School, Oxford, and subsequently taught history at Magdalen College School, Oxford for 10 years from 1949. Before taking up his present position in 1964, he spent four years as senior history master at his old school in Bristol. Mr. Millward is a founder governor of the City of Birmingham Polytechnic. He writes historical documents and is general editor of an eight-volume series entitled "Portraits and Documents". He has arranged numerous visits between Solihull and the United States and is a keen ornithologist.

In April 1974, sixth months into JSM's headship, the name of Ronald Milhench became known internationally after he was arrested over an alleged forgery of Harold Wilson's signature. The New York Times, for example, carried the story — as did every British newspaper and news bulletin — and the school's pupils were quick to latch on to the coincidence of the arrival of Millward and the notoriety of Milhench.

It was not long, therefore, before their new headmaster was being referred to by them as Milhench: shortly after that, as just "Hench".



RONALD MILHENCH, 23 APRIL 1974 — AGED 37

From the BBC News Archive, 8 November 1974

Man jailed for forging PM's signature

Businessman Ronald Milhench who forged Harold Wilson's signature to help pull off a deal has been jailed for three years. The letter, on Harold Wilson's personal note paper, purported to show the prime minister's support for a property deal in which Milhench was involved. The project in Wigan, Cheshire, had run into financial problems and Milhench hoped the PM's name would bring in backers. His forgery was discovered when he tried to sell the letter to a newspaper journalist for £25,000.

In contrast to LGS pupils, Milhench was not very bright, as the following from the United Press International archives demonstrates.

He did, however, have a schoolboy's fevered imagination.

HONG KONG, May 10, 1995 -- A 57-year-old British tycoon who experienced James Bond-like fantasies has been jailed for five years after admitting to having an unlicensed gun and a false passport, local media reported Wednesday. Ronald Milhench, who fantasized about being a secret agent leading a life of intrigue and adventure, told the court he was trying to expose crime but ended up on the wrong side of the law with his flamboyant escapades. Milhench owns a \$1.4-million penthouse in Manila, a string of yachts and a substantial share in a gold mine, the South China Morning Post reported. Despite the financial security, the former British Army sergeant major felt compelled to fuel his addiction to danger and excitement, reports said. He was arrested last November at the British colony's Kai-Tak Airport carrying a briefcase filled with stink bombs. During the investigation, police also found a loaded revolver and a bogus passport in a bank safe deposit box. The court heard how Milhench decided to assume the role of the fictional Secret Agent 007 after meeting British aristocrat and fellow freemason Lord Moynihan in the late 1980s. Milhench reportedly obtained the fake passport from the late English lord after he was invited to participate in an aborted undercover mission to bust drug smugglers, reports said. A psychiatrist's report said Milhench suffered from mild hypomania which manifested itself in increased sex drive and energy and turned the sufferer into 'a bit of a character,' leading to unnecessary risk-taking.