

## *The Strange Adventures of Handel Archimedes*

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, June 20, 1929

### The Humorists

“The Strange Adventures of Handel Archimedes” by Claud W. Sykes (John Hamilton, 7s. 6d.) is a lively and entertaining piece of work.”

*Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Pictorial*, July 9, 1929

### Local Authorship

“Now welcome one who writes in a lighter vein, and has only once before blossomed into fiction, but whose English you often read in this journal in reports of tennis and Rugby football. He is Mr. Claud W. Sykes, of Gernon Road, Letchworth, and his new story is called ‘The Strange Adventures of Handel Archimedes’ just published at 7s. 6d. by John Hamilton.

The story would form the basis of an excellent film for a Fatty Arbuckle. A gross, fat man, saddled with a name that is a permanent memorial to one of his father’s sudden and violent enthusiasms, takes a little walk in Manchester to escape from his wife, meets an old friend, gets into the wrong train, goes to London, and then, on the merest whim, to Paris with the jolliest unconsciousness of time, place and space.

There he gets mixed up with gangs of confidence tricksters, a pseudo-detective, international crooks, an American millionaire, charming young ladies, and old hags at a sanatorium. All finally meet in a little hotel at Arosa, and after a most bewildering melee, the tangled threads are sorted out and Handel dutifully returns to Manchester.

Mr. Sykes has made his characters the masters of their particular means of expression. They can reel off American slang by the thousand feet, throw off phrases which scintillate with smartness, and Handel, especially is like a gramophone record of the dialogue of romantic films and the language of the cheaper kinds of detective fiction.

It is all excellent fooling, and makes most entertaining reading. In parts the story reads like a burlesque.”