

COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

FOUNDED IN 1917 BY JOSEPH PARKS



The above illustration is from the cover of the rare Brett reissue of *Roving Jack, the Pirate Hunter*. [Block by courtesy of Mr Medcraft]

Notes and News

Practically all the British boys' papers and comics are now being published once a fortnight.

* *

A duplicated paper, 'The Swiss Cottager,' has been written and published in the Swiss Cottage Underground railway station air-raid shelter for the benefit of shelterers.

* *

The second number of 'The Story Paper Collector' (William H. Gander, P.O. Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba) is devoted to a very informative article on 'The Magnet Library.' There is also a reprint of an article by Arthur L. Budge on Periodicals of 1900-1912 from our predecessor, 'Vanity Fair.' Mr Gander is to be complimented on the typography and presswork of 'The Collector.'

* *

'How strange it is to know your type case. My first issues were quite laborious; a diligent hunt was needed for every second letter. Now I seem to pick them out sans thought. Setting these two pages was only a matter of four hours; is that fast? slow? medium? Let me know, somebody . . . And printing, the actual "labor." Timing on the first two pages, just for the hell of it, revealed I can slipsheet, ink plate, and attend to trivia, and produce 600 an hour. And you?' Thus spake Edgar Allan Martin in 'The Contributor' (Broad St., Manchester, Connecticut). Well, Edgar, I might be faster on the typesetting, but you have me beaten easily on the printing.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS WANTED

The publisher will be pleased to receive newspaper clippings about old boys' books, juvenile theatres, song sheets, book sales, and so on. Kindly write source and date on each clipping.

The Collector's Miscellany

ESTABLISHED OVER TWENTY YEARS

SENT FREE TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN OLD BOYS' BOOKS, TYPE SPECIMENS, JUVENILE THEATRE, CHAPBOOKS, BROADSIDES, STREET BALLADS, DYING SPEECHES, AND OTHER PRINTED EPHEMERA.

Number Two, Fourth Series

Winter, 1941

Juvenile Theatre

Same Scene but Different Play

By CHARLES D. WILLIAMS

THOSE who have, as children, played with Pollock's sheets will remember most of the scenes, but some will not know that certain of these are reproductions from Green and Park, and, one, from Lloyd. Further, some of these scenes served for plays which Pollock does not include in his list.

The familiar First Scene in Aladdin, a rocky cavern with a waterfall tumbling and termed The Magician's Study, where Abanazar is discovered consulting the Magic Book, was used for Harlequin & Oliver Cromwell, Scene I, and Flying Dutchman, Scene II.

The background of the Open Sesame scene of The Forty Thieves (a forest), also used for Aladdin before the Palace of Aladdin descends, was used for Rookwood, or Turpin's Ride to York (somewhat unnaturally, as it depicts palm trees!), and also for Green's Forest of Bondy.

The corridor in the Villa of the Brigand, which also serves for a room in Sir Rowland's Castle where first Apathy is discovered at table in The Children in the Wood, saw enacted scenes of Belphegor the Conjurer (Pagliacci), Jack Sheppard, and Tom Thumb. This same Children in the Wood contains two wood scenes, which also served for Rookwood, Richard III, Harlequin and Robin Hood, Harlequin & Oliver Cromwell, and Tom

Thumb. It also has a Library scene which made do for Green's Dred.

The very familiar first two scenes of Lord Mayor's Fool, the second of which serves for Bluejackets, came in Rookwood, Tom Thumb, Jack Sheppard, and Wreck Ashore ; also, slightly different, for Skelt's Woodman's Hut and Inchcape Bell.

The Village of Marchienne scene, which shows mostly water, once familiar with Green's Maid and the Magpie, Robert Macaire, and Sixteen-String Jack ; and the Interior of the Farm (or inside of Walter's cottage)—a scene in Skelt's Poll and My Partner Joe—now adorn The Battle of Waterloo and The Children in the Wood.

In my opinion, Pollock reprinted the best of his plays. His father-in-law, Redington, had six new plays of his own, namely, Don Quixote, Oliver Twist, Baron Munchausen, Mistletoe Bough, Charles II, and, I believe, Paul Clifford ; but he kept a stock, at one time of upwards of ninety different plays.

At the last of Redington, this meant there were twenty-seven in print. Pollock reprinted two in addition. These were Green's The Sleeping Beauty and The Battle of Waterloo, making twenty-nine in all.

I believe a lot to be due to Redington, and perhaps to Pollock. The plays are all uniformly good, and great attention must have been paid to the books of the words, which are excellent.

As a child I had known the name Pollock, and my first play was King Henry, or The Miller of Mansfield, and what a perfect little cameo it is. This can be said of most of Pollock's plays.

It was only after reading Wilson's book [Penny Plain or Twopence Coloured] in November, 1937, that I became acquainted with the name of Webb, and found W. Webb was an originator.

Redington was a compositor and no professional artist,

and did not draw these six new plays, though he introduced them.

W. Webb apparently drew almost all his twenty-two plays, and also 'engraved, coloured, published, and sold' his own work. He also let Redington sell it for a while. Both started business about 1838.

Other publishers started business after the time of Webb and Redington and Pollock—and gave it up.

To-day, I believe Mr Webb, the grandson of Webb, does a certain amount of business, and Miss Pollock, the granddaughter of Redington. These are the only well-known names still in business.

We are always having Stevenson's 'Essay' quoted at us, but he appears to have done Webb's business a lot of harm in the long past by this essay, evidently written in hot temper, and inflamed by the cantankerous genius, W. Webb.

The authorities tell us, and among them Dr Francis Eagle, that W. G. Webb, was artist, etcher, printer, and publisher of his own sheets, and Webb was born in 1819, while Pollock, a mere publisher but a very artistic one at that, was born in 1856.

Webb, too, uses some of his scenes for the same plays. But the use is alternative only. For instance, indoor scenes in Uncle Tom's Cabin serve also for the Battle of Alma, Forest of Bondy, Three-Fingered Jack, and Union Jack. An outdoor scene in Dred is used for Red Riding Hood. Outdoor scenes in The Miller and his Men are used for Robin Hood and The Forest of Bondy. Only about three of the plays Webb published are not his own original design, and these are Skelt's Aladdin and Maid and the Magpie, and Green's Bluebeard.

TO the next issue of 'C.M.' Mr Williams contributes an authoritative article about the plays of Webb.

Old Boys' Books**Authors and Illustrators of Old Boys' Journals**

By HARRY DOWLER

I am tremendously interested in the men who gave us such splendid periodicals as the *Boy's Friend*, *Boy's Realm*, *Boys' Herald*, and so on, and would be pleased to exchange information on the subject. By careful research in reference works, letters from one or two of the authors who are still alive, and similar means, I have collected a lot of information about old boys' books. I have a memo book devoted to authors and illustrators.

Here is a little of the information I have gathered. John Goodwin, David Goodwin, and John Tregellis are the same person. Real name, Sidney Gowing, born in 1878. Reginald Wray's real name was W. E. Home-Gall. William Murray Graydon and Alfred Armitage are the same, born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1864. Roland Quiz (real name, Richard Martin Howard Quittenton) was born 1833, and died in 1914. Henry St. John was Henry St. John Cooper. Also wrote under the name of Mabel St. John. Claude Heathcote was James Harwood Parting.

An article appeared in *Boy's Herald*, Volume 4, about Maxwell Scott, with a portrait, but I don't know whether that was his real name or not. I shall be glad of information on this point. I also, particularly, want information about Allan Blair, Craven Gower, Jack North, Cecil Hayter, and Morton Pike.

Many of them wrote under two or three names. Henry St. John sometimes called himself Lieut. Lefevre; T. C. Bridges, Christopher Beck; Max Hamilton also called himself T. G. Dowling-Maitland and sometimes Tristram Monck—what his real name was, heaven knows!

If any reader can give me information about these or any other authors or illustrators of old boys' books, will they communicate with me at 86 Hamilton Road, Longsight, Manchester 13?

WANTED.—Certain Pollock and Webb sheets, and others. Might exchange.—Charles D. Williams, Flat C, 15 Portland Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2.

Sidelights on Sweeney Todd

By J. MEDCRAFT

MANY people still cherish the delusion that Sweeney Todd was a real person and that the famous chair and trap actually existed. Some even profess to be able to approximate the site of the shop and trace the underground passages to the vaults of St. Dunstan's and Mrs Lovett's pie shop.

Alas for this fond belief, Sweeney Todd was but a figment of the imagination of Thomas Peckett Prest, who wrote the first popular version for Edward Lloyd in 1850, under the title of 'The String of Pearls; or, The Sailor's Gift,' in countless murders and 92 penny numbers.

Although Prest certainly created the character of Todd, he was inspired, according to the late Frank Jay, by a story entitled 'A Terrific Story of the Rue de la Harpe, Paris' which had previously appeared in a monthly publication called 'The Tell-Tale,' in 1825.

Another version of 'The String of Pearls' appeared as a short serial in Lloyd's 'Peoples' Periodical and Family Library,' in 1846-7, Prest being credited with the authorship, but I doubt if he wrote it. In many ways I consider this the best version, but the illustrations, with the solitary exception of the bakehouse scene, were very tame.

In almost every case the popularity of the Lloyd romances can be gauged by their length; if well received a story ran indefinitely—but if it failed to catch on, then the closure was applied promptly.

Some of the latter only ran to six or seven numbers, whereas Gentleman Jack and Claude Duval passed the 200 mark, so 'The String of Pearls' must have been very popular in its day. But it was left to Charles Fox to exploit the story properly, and right well he did it.

So we come to the early 1880's, when the late C. A. Ransom, having obtained a Lloyd version for a trifling sum, chanced to see Fox in his office and showed him the book. Fox was interested and asked Ransom how much he wanted for it. "I had a brainwave," said Ransom afterwards, "and asked thirty shillings; to my surprise he

Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Round-Up

A monthly magazine devoted to the collection, preservation, and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by:—

Ralph F. Cummings

Box 75, Fisherville, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Price one dollar a year, or ten cents a copy.

WANTED—Early numbers penny Boy's Friends, Realms, Big Budgets, and similar papers, 1895-1918. Odd numbers welcome. Large number for exchange.—H. Dowler, 86 Hamilton Road, Manchester, 13.

100 Different Matchbox Labels for 4/-

Floyd's Label Review

6 monthly issues, four shillings

FLOYD,

22 Ryecroft Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol

NOTICES.

As this is an amateur paper we prefer NOT to be noticed in the professional press. Thank you!

Readers are warned not to attempt to send money, however small the amount, out of the country, without consulting a banker.

Will publishers of collectors' papers kindly put us on their exchange lists.

gave it to me. I didn't think there was so much money in the world!"

Well, he certainly learned more about money matters later, and, maybe, this successful early deal germinated in the stratospheric prices and take-it-or-leave-it attitude for which Ransom was well known later in life. Even so, we know that Fox really got the better end of that early deal.

Under Fox's guidance, the tale was rewritten, furnished with fresh and more appalling illustrations, garnished with a gorgeous folding coloured plate of a 'delivery' on its first stage of the journey to the pie shop, and issued in the final and best known form under the title of 'Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street,' first as a serial in the Boys' Standard and then in 48 penny numbers.

Apart from E. Harcourt Burrage, nothing is known of Fox's authors except that they turned out little original stuff, but I have reason to believe that the author of this version of Sweeney Todd was Charlton Lea, later identified with the Aldine Dick Turpin and Claude Duval Libraries. I am also of the opinion that Lea wrote a number of other piracies for Fox, including Paul Jones the Rover, Spring-Heeled Jack, Captain MacHeath, and Cartouche.

Although I could name scores of far scarcer items, Fox's Sweeney Todd is easily the most desirable of the Dreadfuls, and once acquired is seldom parted with, only the death of a collector and subsequent sale of his collection brings a copy on the market.

Perish the thought, but should the sad day ever dawn when the Cult of the Penny Dreadful has waned and its altars fallen, its priests forsworn, and the devotees scattered and worshipping other gods, still will Sweeney Todd remain on his Dreadful throne.

And the wiseacre passing St. Dunstan's will still remark to his companion, "It was just about here that Sweeney Todd lived . . ."

Replies to Readers' Queries

- JUVENILE THEATRE (C.J.).** 'Penny Plain, Twopence Coloured, a History of the Juvenile Drama,' by A. E. Wilson. A secondhand copy should cost about 10s. 6d.
- LUNDY ISLAND (E.E.).** Two coins were issued in 1929, but as they were unauthorised they were withdrawn from circulation. They were bronze puffin and half-puffin. The inscriptions were, obv., MARTIN . COLES . HARMAN. Rev., LUNDY . ONE . PUFFIN (HALF PUFFIN).
- CASLON (R.D.).** Most of the matrices were taken over by Stephenson, Blake & Co., in 1937, and the types can be obtained from that firm at The Caslon Letter Foundry, Sheffield. The Figgins foundry was acquired by R. H. Stevens & Co., Southwark Street, London.
- BARRY ONO (V.N.).** We regret to say that 'Barry Ono' died in February following a severe heart attack.
- IRISH BADGES (E.O.G.)** The regiments disbanded in 1922 after the establishment of the Irish Free State were Connaught Rangers, Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Royal Irish Regiment, Royal Munster Fusiliers. The R.A.S.C. has been variously called 'The Commos,' 'London Thieving Corps,' 'Moke Train,' and 'Murdering Thieves.' Probably not without reason.
- SIGNATURE (E.R.)** suspended publication in December, 1940, with the fifteenth number.
- HARRINGTON (T.S.).** According to Partridge a Harrington was a brass farthing, so called after a Lord Harrington, who, in 1613, obtained the patent of coining them.
- WOODCUTS (N.R.).** Charlton Nesbit, one of Bewick's pupils, was born at Shalwell, near Gateshead, in 1775. He engraved a few of the tail-pieces in 'Land Birds' and most of the head- and tail-pieces in the 'Poems' of Goldsmith and Parnell. Was employed by R. Ackermann and other publishers. His best work is supposed to be 'Rinaldo and Armida' for Savage's Hints on Decorative Printing. Died in 1838.

Mr Joseph Parks

In reply to numerous queries I am pleased to state that our mutual friend Mr Joseph Parks is alive and well, although he says his 'premises are a bit bent'!

Match Labels, Mid-1941

Since my previous article was printed, matches have been imported from many distant countries, including Portugal (Press), India, also Burma (Horse Head), China (Bridge), and Thailand (Elephant).

Some well-known Scandinavian brands are now 'Made in England,' and this designation now appears on the following labels: Pioneer, Vulcan, and Ship (all of Sweden), and Blue Cross (of Norway).

My guess in the Spring 'Miscellany' that the average contents of matchboxes would steadily decline was written long before this state of affairs came to pass. The new labels I then foreshadowed have arrived. The form taken is the elimination of the contents figure, and now no statement of the quantity of matchsticks appears on the following brands: Alpha, Turkey, Three Torches, Front Line, Anglia and Nemco among others.

At the time of writing there is a shortage of matches, but I venture once again to make a prediction, in that this difficulty will be considerably reduced by the arrival of American brands on the market before long. G.F.

Some of our readers might like to get into touch with Mr James S. Wood, Teneriffe, 2 Westley Avenue, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, who has a fair assortment of match label duplicates for exchange.

CALLING CANADA AND U.S.A.!

"Our Empire"

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S AMATEUR MAGAZINE

No. 1 was published Summer, 1941

No. 2, out Winter, 1941, will incorporate Curio Times and Western Exchange Magazine. Sample copy 6d. to any address within present limits of Defence Regulations. No. 2 contains Empire news, articles by star amateur writers. Prizes given every issue.

ADVERTISING RATES TWOPENCE or 4 CENTS A WORD

Large circulation. Many old books for sale.
Stamps accepted. Will be published in Canada
after the war.

CLEEVE SCULTHORPE

COLESHILL, WARWICKSHIRE, ENGLAND

WANTED—Hobby World (Herdman) 1, 2, 4, 6, and any after 8; South Eastern Amateur (Breed) 6 and any after 18.
—J. A. Birkbeck, 52 Craige Avenue, Dundee.

ALWAYS WANTED—Penny dreadfuls, bloods, and old boys' journals published by Lloyd, Newsagents' Publishing Co., Fox, Harrison, Vickers, Emmett, Lea, Henderson, Temple Publishing Co., Aldine Co., etc. Single items to whole collections purchased. J. Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

MOXON'S MECHANICK EXERCISES (reprint only) wanted. J. A. Birkbeck, 52 Craige Avenue, Dundee.

HOBBIES

The Magazine
for Collectors



\$2.50 a year
from the

**LIGHTNER PUBLISHING
COMPANY**

2810 S. Michigan Avenue
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

MAIL-ORDER PRINTING

Billheads	Visiting Cards
Memos	Labels
Handbills	Circulars
Notices	Postcards
Menus	Price Lists
Envelopes	Tags, etc.

JOSEPH PARKS

Printer & Publisher
2 Irvin Avenue

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA

Story Paper Collector

An amateur paper devoted to old boys' books
and sent free to anyone interested by the editor

W. H. GANDER

P.O. BOX 60, TRANSCONA, MANITOBA
CANADA

Printed and published occasionally for private circulation
by J. A. Birkbeck, at his dwelling-house, 52 Craige Avenue,
Dundee, Scotland.