

Fourth Series, No. 7

Christmas, 1943. 3d. Post Free

# COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

OLD BOYS' BOOKS · TOY THEATRES · CHAPBOOKS · TYPE  
SPECIMENS · TRANSPORTATION TOKENS · MATCHBOX  
LABELS · NINETEENTH CENTURY PRINTING

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Double-English Plain Black

A B C D E F G  
H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U  
V W X Y Z  
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n  
o p q r s t u v w x y z

Notes Inside

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Printed and published occasionally for private circulation at the amateur Press [established 1919] of J. A. Birkbeck. Address communications: J. A. BIRKBECK, 52 CRAIGIE AVENUE, DUNDEE, SCOTLAND. Please enclose a stamped envelope if immediate reply is required.

## NOTES ON NINETEENTH CENTURY COCKS, ETC.

F.T.S. 'Cocks' are 'fictitious narratives in verse or prose of murders, fires, or terrible accidents, sold in the streets as true accounts. The man who hawks them (a "Seven Dials patterer") often changes the scene of the awful event to suit the taste of the neighbourhood he is trying to delude' (Hotten's Slang Dictionary). Mayhew ('London Labour and the London Poor') says many of these cocks were stereotyped and at the time of writing (1851) no new cocks had been printed for several years.

C.J.E. Suggest Floyd's Label Review.

W.S.B. No room for general stamp notes in CM.

F.M. Thanks for peepshow sent (The London Tunnel).

Eric Lumer. Papers addressed to Eric Lumer have been returned. Can anyone send us his present address, please?

A.B. Puppet & the Puppet Stage, by Cyril W. Beaumont, was offered recently by a Guildford bookseller (T. Thorp) for 10s.

R.V. Mr Arthur Harris, Caynton, Llanrhos Rd., Penrhyn Bay, has the best collection of amateur magazines in Britain (over 5000).

W.E. The 1738 Caslon specimen sheet was most likely extracted from Chambers's Cyclopædia. Our copy cost 6s. some years ago.

Reckless Ralph. Although our motorcycling days are over, we could still find a use for one of your 'handy little cycling wenches'!

L.D. You might get a secondhand copy of the earlier edition. It will, of course, lack Updike's valuable second-thoughts. New edition costs 35s.

Fred T. Singleton (19th Century Peep-Show) recommends James Greenwood's 'Little Ragamuffin' as a record of ragged lad life, pickpockets' apprentices, resurrection men, Shoreditch gaffs, etc.

International Amateur. We have received a copy of this publication, edited and published by Mrs Olive Teugels, 81 Bradford Rd., Brighouse, Yorkshire. It is out of our line, but amateur authors might like to send Mrs Teugels eightpence for a specimen copy.

F.R.W. James Catnach, best known of the old Seven Dials ballad mongers, printer of the broadside you mention, started business at No. 2, Monmouth Court, Seven Dials, about 1813 or 1814. William Corder was executed outside Bury Jail, August, 1828. Hindley, in his Life and Times of Catnach, says 1,166,000 copies were sold of Corder's dying speech.

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## READERS' MISCELLANEOUS WANTS

Clean razor-blade wrappers, exchange or buy.—Cassel, Pantglass, Garn Dolbenmaen, North Wales.

Comic Papers, 1890-1906.—Harris, Caynton, Llanrhos Road, Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno, Wales.

Magnets wanted, 1909-1933; also Boy's Friend Libraries with stories by Frank Richards.—Shaw, 6 Colney Hatch Lane, London, N10.

Rovers, pre-1927; Bubbles Comic, pre-1929; Red Arrow and Vanguard, any.—A. F. Slater, 12 Caton Street, Blackburn, Lancashire.

Printed amateur magazines, 1910-12. Odd copies wanted.—Birkbeck, 52 Craigie Avenue, Dundee.

# Wallace, the Hero of Scotland

*A Note by Henry Steele*



It is interesting to discover the origin of our favourite boyhood yarns. Many were based on classics. A particular favourite of mine was 'Wallace, the Hero of Scotland,' which I read in *The Boy's Champion Journal* in 1889. This, however was not its first appearance. It was printed in that extremely rare journal *The Rover's Log*, in 1872. In this it was called, 'Wallace, the Lion of Scotland.' I have never seen a copy of *The Rover's Log*, nor do I know anyone who has. (Barry Ono hadn't a copy.) It ran to 57 numbers, then merged into *The Young Englishman*.

Some time ago I got hold of 'The Scottish Chiefs,' by Jane Porter (1841). Then I found where the writer of 'Wallace' got his inspiration! The murder of Wallace's wife (Marion) by the English governor was lifted almost word for word from Jane Porter's romance. Compare these passages:—

## WALLACE

Hamilton: 'Madam, I am Governor of this shire. You are now before one who represents Edward of England, your lawful sovereign, and at the peril of your life I command you to answer me certain questions . . . Kneel not to me, I grant no mercy.'

Marion: 'I kneel to Heaven alone, although I pray not for mercy, but to ask its protection for my Wallace against such tyrants as you and your king.'

Hamilton: 'Blaspheme no more! And in an instant he had plunged his sword into the fair defenceless breast.'

## SCOTTISH CHIEFS.

Heselrigge: 'Woman, I am the Governor of Lanark. You now stand before the representative of the great King Edward, and on your allegiance to him and on the peril of your life, I command you to answer me three questions. . . Kneel not to me for mercy. I grant none unless you confess your husband's hiding-place.'

Marion: 'I kneel to Heaven alone, and may it ever preserve my Wallace from the fangs of Edward and his tyrants.'

Heselrigge: 'Blasphemous wretch! And at that moment he plunged his sword into her defenceless breast.'

'Wallace appeared in *The Boy's Standard* in 1882 and 1892, and in *The British Boy's Paper* in 1888 as 'Lionel Graeme.'

[According to Wyntoun, Wallace attacked the English garrison at Lanark and slew Sir William Heselrigg, the sheriff. This was Wallace's revenge for the murder of his young wife. A complete edition of Wyntoun's 'Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland' appeared in 1872—the date of 'Wallace's' first appearance.]

# Pinned Colour-Plates On Wall

R. A. H. Goodyear

HOW passionately I loved the perfume of the colour-printing oils used in the production of the truly delightful colour-plates in *The Boys of the Empire*.

'The name of Leighton Brothers will be a sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the colour printing,' said Edwin J. Brett. It was. I have always contended that the illustrations were the chief charm of the old boys' books. They were, in the main, incomparably superior to the letterpress. Do you recall those vivid pictures in *The Blue Dwarf*? All about Dick Turpin and packed with incident. From a collector's standpoint, my perfect copy of it was ruined because I couldn't resist taking out the plates and pinning them on the walls of my study as an inspiration to me in the many school and adventure stories I wrote for *Hendersons* and *Lloyds*.

Whenever I felt jaded those boldly-coloured pictures were a stimulus to me; the mere sight of them refreshed me.

Brett had been an engraver himself before he started *The Boys of England*. This will account for the undoubted judgment shown in his choice of artists. His great success with his juvenile weeklies and his women's paper, *Something to Read*, followed by the amazing furore which the Jack Harkaway series of yarns created, is all the more astonishing when it is remembered that he kept no books and was satisfied if he found a good balance in the bank at the end of the year.



## Facsimile Newspapers

BESIDES myself, is there another collector of the facsimile copies of professional papers issued for advertisement purposes before the last war and this? I started collecting them with the appearance of the 'News of the World' in that form. Later, I added:—'News of the World,' May 3, 1908; 'Daily Mirror,' March 15, 1909; 'Daily Sketch,' June, 1909; 'Daily Mirror,' July 8, 1909; 'Daily Sketch,' April, 1912; 'The Weekly Telegraph,' April 12, 1913; 'Chuckles' and 'Punch' (both undated). There must be others. A complete list would be interesting.—ARTHUR HARRIS.

THE BRITISH

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## The Printer to the Reader

**A**S I have promised several readers, I am giving in this issue a complete showing of the two-line english Plain Black which I used for CM title last time. A few lines of the great primer and double-pica sizes are shown in Updike's 'Printing Types' (fig. 335). See also De Vinne's 'Plain Printing Types,' page 301. My promise to show the egyptian used in No. 1 will be kept some day! William Chalmers, inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, used this typeface in his Dundee printing office in 1824. By the way, there is an interesting booklet on the invention of the adhesive stamp. This is, 'How the Adhesive Postage Stamp was Born,' by Leah Chalmers [London: P. S. King & Son, Ltd., 14 Great Smith Street, Westminster, SW1, price 1s 6d.] The Ruthven hand press used by Chalmers is still in existence. I saw it a year or two ago. ¶ I am occasionally taken to task about some of the types used in CM. My answer to these critics is: CM is a demotic ('obviously!') publication and if I had a bigger page-size I might stagger them! ¶ The type used for these notes is Stephenson, Blake's Westminster Old Style, first cast about 1905. I think Eric Gill had the capitals of this face in mind when he designed his famous 'Gill sans.' Remove the serifs, and there you are! Note particularly the tail of the R. ¶ Green, the publisher, disappeared from business from 1814 to 1832. Does anybody know what happened to him? ¶ There was an interesting article on German boys' stories in the October (1943) number of 'World Review,' with an illustration reminiscent of Buffalo Bill. ¶ I need newsy paragraphs and interesting SHORT articles for CM. No payment; for love only! ¶ I have received a few exchanges and catalogues since last CM, perhaps rather less than usual. But Story Paper Collector and Round-Up appear regularly. Keep it up!

## The Exchanger

Send sixpence for a specimen copy  
post free from the editor-publisher

W. E. NEAVE

5 Surrendale Place, Maida Hill, London, W8

# 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

**Reckless Ralph's**

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Prints, Books, Bills, etc., wanted.—GEORGE SPEAIGHT,  
6 MAZE RD., KEW, SURREY (marked 'Please forward').

### COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

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Advertisements: One penny a word; 5s. an inch displayed. Please  
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Life subscription, 10s. (two dollars). Pleased to exchange with all  
other amateur publishers. PLEASE DO NOT MENTION C.M.  
IN THE PROFESSIONAL PRESS. [See also imprint.]

# Do You Remember Sam Loyd ?

*W. R. Anderson*

MY INTEREST in puzzles arose from conjuring, a hobby of my youth. Later, it was amusing to search the old Caledonian Market for puzzles. Among the varieties obtained were movable disc or movable block puzzles, wire complications, and those beautifully-made boxwood affairs that Jaques used to sell. Of these, I found the second series of ten, including the cross-keys, the churn-to-be-opened, and the cannon-and-ball, to be separated from their joining cord. The first series I have never yet seen. I should be glad if anyone can tell me what it contains.

Wire puzzles were on sale again just before the war, but there is less variety in other kinds than our grandfathers knew. I miss the diversity of wooden puzzles, although even of these I haven't seen a great number. Many paper ones were given away as advertisements by enterprising firms.

Sam Loyd, the chess champion, was undoubtedly the greatest master of puzzle invention. Nothing more admirable has ever been devised than his 'Get Off the Earth' puzzle of the thirteen Chinese, who by a slight move of the card become twelve.

Sam Loyd's books are now difficult to find. I still seek, after more than twenty years, his big 'Cyclopedia of Puzzles,' which I could not get even in America, although I secured a mint copy of the Chinamen there. In Boston, a few years ago, I bought a puzzle called 'Takitapart.' I have, however, been unable to take it apart! It consists of ten pieces of wood—four rectangular blocks, two crosspieces, and four pegs, loosely put together. I can see now how it ought to come apart: by the retraction of one of the pegs; but the trouble is—no peg retracts sufficiently!

The greatest puzzle master of recent times was the late Henry Dudeney, whom I once had the pleasure of meeting. Like Sam Loyd, he was a fine mathematician. Lewis Carroll's puzzles will be known to some CM readers by their appearance in the Everyman 'Alice.'

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## J. MEDCRAFT

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