

The Collector's Miscellany

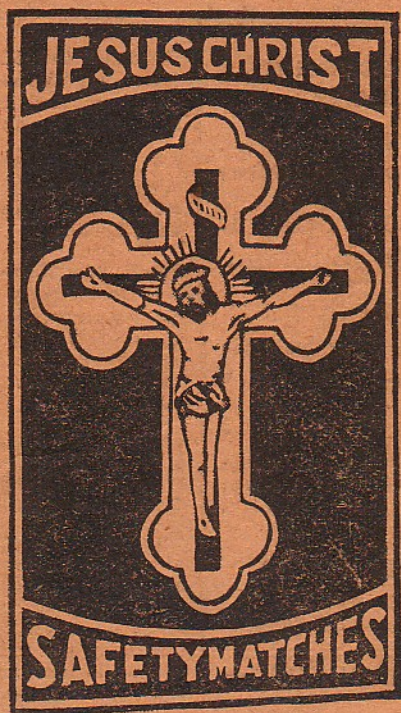
Incorporating The Bookworm

*A Journal for Collectors of Old Boys' Books, Books, Stamps, Coins,
Juvenile Drama, Cigar Bands, Postmarks, Xmas Stamps, Curios, etc.*

6 issues, as published, 1/6 post free ; U.S.A. and Canada 37 cents

New Series No. 2. Price Threepence Jan-Feb. 1932

Editor & Publisher :—J. Parks, Windsor Road, Salterburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.



ANTI-RELIGIOUS MATCH-BOX LABELS—See Article on Page 24

Special Offer Open to New Subscribers Only :
One Year's Subscription and 20 Word Free Advert 1/6
(United States and Canada 37 cents)

Wanted For Sale Exchange

WANTED

Newnes BLACK BESS LIBRARY, 2d nos. (small series). Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and any after 13.

Newnes DICK TURPIN LIBRARY, 4d & 3d. nos. Nos. 1 to 24, 26 to 28, 30 to 36, 39 to 43, 62, 136, 138 and any after No. 138.

Aldine ROBIN HOOD LIBRARY, 2d. nos. Nos. 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 63. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

THE COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

(Established April 1917).

Editorial and Advertisement Office :

Windsor Road, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, England.

Advertisement Rates :

	Per insertion
WHOLE PAGE ...	£1 10 0
HALF PAGE ...	£0 15 6
QUARTER PAGE ...	£0 8 0

Australian readers can send their subscriptions direct to Mr. Leon Stone, P., allamana," Elgin Street, Gordon, N.S.W., Australia.

Price 3d. per copy, post free.

Published every alternate month by The Ivanhoe Press.

Annual Subscription:—

1/6 per annum post free.
(America, 37 cents).

Match-Box Labels. Wanted "Nursery Land" labels. Really old labels in any numbers and old collections. Yates, Oak Cottage, Dunks Green, Tonbridge, Kent

Expired Subscriptions.

If a blue cross appears in the space below, your subscription has expired and no further issues will be sent unless renewed.



Wanted "Roderick Dhu" (published by Harrison), "Varney the Vampire" 1st. half, or sell 2nd. half. Taylor, 1 Kimberley Road, Stockwell, London c

For Sale Mysteries of the Court of London (Reynolds), old boys' books, etc Steele, 92 Knollys Road, Streatham, London c

Stamp Collectors all over the world read the "Stamp News" Do you? Articles, news, illustrations. Published quarterly, 1/., (25c) per year. Specimen copy 4d. (8c) Stamps accepted. W. M. Thompson, Box 3595s, Sydney, Australia sa

Wanted. Buy or exchange current coins of all countries, also stamps, (pictorials) L Fien, 34 Stanley Street, Townsville, Queensland, Australia c

Wanted Agencies, propositions for magazines, printing machines, wireless sets, and any other good selling line. Excellent references produced. Specimen copies of magazines, journals, (especially new ones), mail order men's literature. Wanted to hear from amateur editors. Any person interested in Australia send sixpence (for postage) and receive interesting literature. Everyone write. Eric J. Robson, Advertising Agent Club Agencies, Rosedale, Caswell, N.S.W., Australia sa

Match-box labels for sale. Selections of old and rare labels sent on approval against references. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorks., Eng.

The Collector's Miscellany

Incorporating The Bookworm

A Journal for Collectors of Old Boys' Books, Books, Stamps, Coins,
Juvenile Drama, Cigar Bands, Postmarks, Xmas Stamps, Curios, etc.

6 issues, as published, 1/6 post free ; U.S.A. and Canada 37 cents

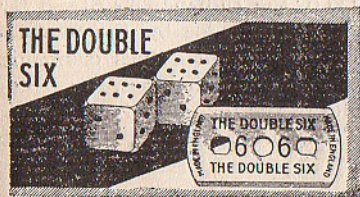
New Series No. 2. Price Threepence Jan-Feb. 1932

Editor & Publisher :—J. Parks, Windsor Road, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

UNUSUAL HOBBIES

At the request of various readers we commence herewith the first of a series of short articles dealing with the collection of various out-of-the-usual collectable objects of which a representative collection can be acquired for little or no outlay—Editor.

SAFETY RAZOR BLADE PACKETS



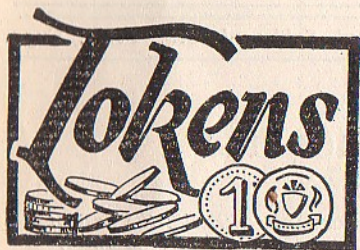
THE collection of safety razor blade packets does not seem likely to command the interest of the average collector. But try and inspect a collection of these—examine a page neatly mounted and arranged, and you will be surprised at the way they blend themselves into artistic display.

Following my usual arrangement I mount all my specimens upon sheets of thin quarto bank, with a few spare sheets reserved for miscellaneous and unnamed packets. Of course, like all other collections, it is left to the individuality of the collector as to whether his or her collection is a pleasure to the eye, or an unsightly mass of specimens.—there is much in the arrangement of them. The same remarks apply to the collection of safety razor blade packets that apply to the collection of stamps or to any other collectable object—add only specimens that are clean and perfect.

The collector who takes up this hobby will find that the packets are printed in and on every colour of the rainbow and may prefer to arrange by a colour scheme. Almost everything under the sun is to be found depicted upon these packets from "Bonzo" to "Micky Mouse," and the

range is indefinite. A great feature of their collection, which should appeal to many collectors, is the small space occupied by a fairly large collection, as they take up little more room than stamps or cigar bands and certainly less than many match-box labels. The packets are best kept intact.

JOAN INGRAM

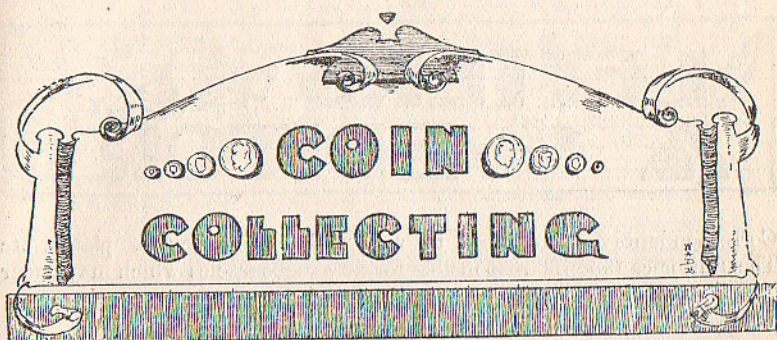


TRANSPORT TOKENS OF THE U.S.A., ETC.

BY ROLLO E. GILMORE

HONOLULA, Hawaii, not to be outdone by the cities of the U.S. issues a transport token about the size of a dime with obverse "Honolulu Rapid Transit Co. Ltd. 1924" and reverse "Good for one full fare." To date no transport tokens have been found which have been issued by railroads in the state of Maine. A token issued by the Indianapolis Street Ry. Co., depicts on obverse a monument which original is located in one of the public squares in that Indiana City. There are now many bus companies who issue bus tokens, one of which is "American Coach Lines, Inc.," and depicts a modern motor coach on both sides of the token. A street car token of the Public Service Coordinated Transport of Newark, N.J. depicts a modern street car on both sides.

Some companies formerly issued tokens, until they increased the fare adapting a dime or some other even amount and forthwith destroyed all they had in their possession. The collectors who have the tokens issued by such companies, prize them very highly for they are practically unobtainable today. A few cities where tokens are now obsolete are Detroit, Mich; Salt Lake City, Utah; Quincy, Ill; Hannibal, Mo; Arkansas City, Ark; Muskegon, Mich; Watertown, Wis; Decatur, Boston, Mass, etc. Tokens stray and wander away possibly through absent minded tourists who unintentionally advertise the token's home city all over the world, especially so among employees of the transportation companies, who find them jingling in the motorman's coin boxes, often thousands of miles from home. One company reports 6.5% disappearing from circulation annually. Hundreds of communities in the United States alone issue transportation tokens so the collectors of these may start at home, and as he desires obtain them from the nearby cities and later those from the remote communities.



COIN NOTES AND FACTS

Homer speaks about brass money, 1184 B.C.

The invention of coin is ascribed to the Lydians, whose money was of gold and silver. Both were coined by Pheidon, tyrant of Argos about 862 B.C.

Money was coined at Rome under Servius Tullius, about 573 B.C.

The most ancient known coins are Macedonian of the 5th. century B.C. Brass money only was in use at Rome previously to 269 B.C. when Fabius Procter coined silver. Gold was coined about 206 B.C.

Iron money was used in Sparta, and iron and tin in Britain.

In the earlier days of Rome the heads were those of Deities, or of those who had received divine honours. Julius Cæsar first obtained permission from the Senate to place his portrait on the coins, and the example was soon followed.

The first coinage was at Camalodunum, or Colchester.

Coin was made sterling in 1216, before which time rents were mostly paid in kind, and money was found only in the coffers of the barons.

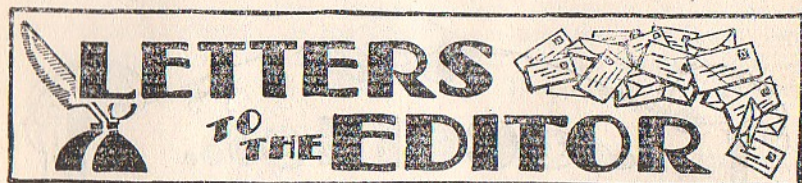
Edward VI reformed coinage, 1547-53.

Queen Elizabeth caused the base coin to be recalled and genuine issued 1560.

During the reign of the Stuarts the coinage was greatly debased by clipping, etc. A commission was appointed by William III to reform the coinage; an act was passed, withdrawing the debased coin from circulation.

In 1732 broad pieces were called in and recoined into guineas.

FRANK COLTMAN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondents are requested to verify all dates, names, places, etc. The Editor cannot be responsible for any inaccuracies which may occur.

FIRST FLIGHTS

DEAR SIR,

I have an air mail envelope of the first U.K. Aerial Post 1911, with postmark dated Sept. 14, 1911.

Half the envelope, the left hand side, is taken up by an aeroplane flying over a castle, the title being :

"A.D. Coronation 1911

First U.K. Aerial Post

By sanction of H. M. Postmaster General.

I know it to be valuable, but would be glad if your readers could give me any information.

G. P. GRAINGER

EDINBURGH

EARLIEST U.S. TRANSPORT TOKEN ?

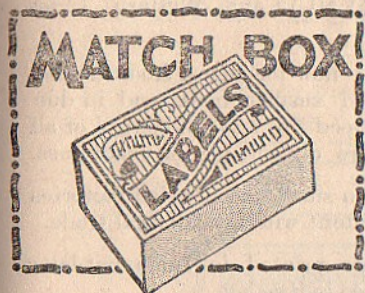
DEAR SIR,

I believe that I have the earliest U.S. transport token which is dated 1871. On the obverse is the wording "Oakland—Brooklyn—&—Fruitvale—R.R.—Company." On the reverse along the upper periphery is "ONE FARE," along the lower periphery "1871," and in the centre a horse drawn street car facing left. The whole is on copper and about 18 mm across. It is somewhat worn from age, but still clear enough for all the details to be made out.

This token was used in the Oakland, California district, or as is sometimes known, the "East Bay District," having reference to the fact that it is on the East side of the bay across from San Francisco. Mr. Rollo E. Gilmore, who often writes for you, once told me that he thought my specimen to be the only known copy. It is certainly old and scarce.

RICHARD J. BECK

NEW YORK



INDIAN MATCH FACTORIES

I HAVE been asked sometimes by collectors for information on the Indian match factories, and perhaps the following may be of interest to collectors generally. It is in no way official or collected from government sources, but merely a short study of the subject made by myself.

Before the war India was supplied with matches chiefly by Austria and Japan ; to a smaller extent by Sweden, and only a little by England.

The Austrian matches were chiefly from the Solo firm of Vienna and are known to collectors as having particularly well-designed labels of great variety. The Japanese labels were of two classes ; the large thin paper type showing pictures likely to appeal to Europeans or Indians.

The Swedish labels were nearly all made to appeal to the Indians.

Competing in this foreign market were a few small Indian Factories. They were Amrit Factory of Kota ; a factory at Belgaum ; Bombay M. Coy ; Central Indian M. Coy ; Deccan M. Coy and Mehata Bros.

The few labels that they issued were not well designed or printed, and being obsolete are now of course rare.

During the war the supply of matches from Europe practically ceased ; but India did not take advantage of this opening and allowed Japan to monopolise the market. Only after the War did they try to seize the market and then with Government encouragement they did so feverishly.



PAN—a scarce Indian label

Factories sprang up all over India. Some of these were fairly large and properly financed, but many were small and doomed to a short life. I give a list of as many factories as I can trace from labels issued.

The letters in brackets after the name of a factory are the initials used by that factory on its labels.

Andheri (AMCO) ; Bedike ; Borivili (B.M.M.C.) ; Calcutta ; CoMCo ; Essavi ; Datar ; Deccan ; Dharamsey (D s C o) ; Gizrat Islam (GIMCO) ; Haydari (H.M.F.) ; Imperial ; Kharimbooy ; K.M.M.C. ; Kaulson ; Kurla (K.M.C. or K.M.M.C.) ; Malabar ; M.S.M.Co. ; National ; New Cambay ; Noor ; Pioneer (MPM or MMCo.) ; Rajratna Syndicate (RMS) ; S. Indian ; Santa Cruz ; Swadeshi (SMW) ; Shree Krishna Agency (S.K.A) ;

Thana; Titvala; U.M.F.; Veraval (VMC); and Western India (WIMCO).

Numbers of these factories do not exist now for almost from the beginning larger factories cut out or absorbed smaller ones, and in due course the Swedish Match Federation stepped in and got control of all the better class factories, making it still more difficult for the small ones.

In spite of the control however, certain small uncontrolled factories do exist and may continue to arise, being content with a small local trade.

At first the labels for all factories were printed in India, but later under Swedish control they have been printed in Sweden.

The difference in the printing of these labels is noticeable to a careful collector.

There are certain small factories that do not print on their labels either name or the country of origin (India); but in spite of this such labels are easily recognisable as being Indian from their size; their paper; and the style of printing and design.

GUY WUY

ANTI-RELIGIOUS MATCH-BOX LABELS

IT has been extremely difficult to secure definite information relating to the anti-religious match-box labels said to have been issued by the Soviet Government as part of their anti-God campaign. The one illustrated in this issue depicts the crucifixion of Christ and bears the words "Jesus Christ Safety Matches." This label is understood to be one of a series, as there are said to be others depicting the Sacred Heart and various other religious subjects.

These matches which have been the subject of much comment in the daily press, are said to have been hawked upon the streets of London by gutter merchants and that a member of Parliament raised the question in the House of Commons as to whether any action was being taken by the British Government.

One thing is certain, and that is that these labels are likely to be rare; I do not know of any collector in this country fortunate enough to secure a specimen. A London correspondent assured me that the matches were never sold in London but were produced by the Krishna Match Co. of India, who also issue a BUDDHA MATCH, and others featuring various Indian religions. Personally I am inclined to favour this statement, as the box in question, said to have been bought in the New Cut, may easily have been brought from India by some seaman.

JOSEPH PARKS

AMERICAN CIGARETTE CARDS

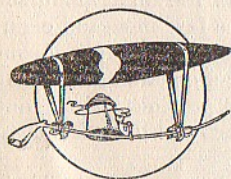
THE great era for cigarette cards in the U.S.A. was from 1888 to 1912, when many thousands were issued. The popular brands of cigarettes during this period include Old Judge, Duke's, Arabs, Richmond's, Mecca, Sweet Caporal, Hassan, Murad, Helmar, Turkish Trophies, Jack Rose, Safties, etc., most of them now obsolete. Cards depicting base-ball players were in great majority, although prize fighters ran a close second in popularity among the juveniles who comprised the main collecting element of the time. So far as I am aware there are no post-war U.S.A. cigarette cards, although Canada still issues them in extremely limited numbers. Many of us old codgers would give considerable for complete sets of the cards we swapped about so blithly thirty years, or more, ago.

I am quite a versatile smoker, and indulge in cigars, cigarettes, and the pipe with equal joy. During my three trips into Mexico I purchased a goodly number of native cigarettes, chiefly El Buen Tono and Numero Dose. But I cannot recall ever seeing a cigarette card in Mexico.

Cigarette cards from Cuba are a thing of the past. Under a new law passed in Havana, in January 1931, manufacturers are prohibited from placing any pictures, cards, or other objects in packets of cigarettes in Cuba.

Cigarette cards in the Argentine usually depict Spanish dancing girls, bull fighters, and other subjects dear to the heart of the Latin American. When I was in Buenos Aires, about five years ago, horse racing and the inevitable lottery that goes with it was quite the vogue, and the customary picture in the cigarette packets had been very largely supplanted by a card that took the form of a lottery ticket.

ALFREDO



CIGAR BAND NOTES

CIGAR band collectors will frequently notice that the same word may appear prominently on the bands of different makes of cigars. Such words, for instance, as Pantela, Senior, Matinee, Blunt, Ambassador, Londres, etc. This does not mean that the manufacturers are trying to steal the name from each other, for these words simply have reference to the size or shape of the cigar. Thus, the Ambassador is a thickly rolled cigar, while a Pantela is a thin cigar.

As an example, the Morelight cigar is made in three different sizes, i.e. — "Matinee," "Special" and "Parsifal." This explains why you sometimes come across cigar bands bearing the same identical name and design, but of different lengths.

A writer in the *Collector's Miscellany* recently explained that Cuba was the original home of the cigar band. I'm afraid the poor original cigar band would'nt recognise its' old home now. Owing to the present terrible business conditions on the island the manufacture of the better grades of cigars has fallen off tremendously in Cuba, and many cigar makers thus thrown out of work are manufacturing cigars at home and sending their children out on the streets to peddle them at one and two cents each, and none of these cigars have labels or bands of any kind. From the standpoint of quality these "bootlegged" cigars are very good smoking, and they have supplanted the regular trade-marked and banded cigars to a very large degree in Havana, and the rest of the island as well.

In normal times the output of large cigars in the U.S.A. is approximately four billion per year. A large per cent of these are banded. This explains why cigar band collecting is more highly developed in the U.S. than in other countries. By the same token cigarette card collecting is neglected here as practically no cards have been issued in packages of cigarettes since the war.

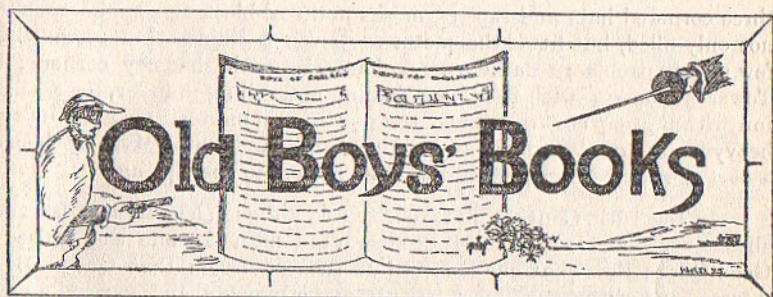
I believe it is quite possible to assemble a collection of 25,000 different cigar bands, although I know of no collection approaching that figure. Among my correspondents Mrs. Frank Souza, of Alameda, Calif. has a collection of 11,000 varieties, the result of 25 years of collecting. Mr. W. W. Roath of Harrisburg, Pa., has 10,000 varieties. Another friend, Mr. F. W. Gardener, of Dubuque, Iowa, only recently took up the hobby and succeeded in accumulating 3,000 different cigar bands in the short period of nine months.

The manufacturers of White Owl cigars (New York City) announce that during the 12 month period just past they have sold 425,000,000 White Owl cigars during the year. I myself have countless White Owl cigar bands tied up in bundles of 100, and these again tied into bundles of 1,000. And every incoming batch brings still more.

The varieties in cigar bands are not found among the standard advertised brands but among the failures and bankruptcies of the small manufacturers and "one man cigar factories," who only roll a few thousand cigars until failure overwhelms them and they realise the impossibility of competing with the big companies who expend millions of dollars annually in advertising. From the private brands (treated in a previous article) and the transient small manufacturers come the real scarce and desirable cigar bands.

To the courtesy of Mr. J. M. Cole, general manager of the Edwin Cigar Co., New York City, I am indebted for a complete set of all the bands now in use by this company. This is one of the leading American companies, and they make 25 different brands of cigars. Among the higher priced ones each cigar is made in two or three different sizes. Altogether they use 26 different bands. Oddly enough the plainest and most unpretentious band is found on their highest priced cigar. This is the Lord Edwin, retailing at \$30.00 per 100, and wearing a plain narrow gold band with the lettering in white.

ALFREDO



THE MAN OF MYSTERY

IN one of the Brett journals—the *Boy's Comic Journal* to be exact, there appeared, round about 1886 or 87, a tale by Justin P. Lambe, entitled "Under Royal Warrant, or The Man of Mystery," and which attained that measure of success and popularity that usually attended a Lambe serial with Brett's readers. It is not however, the intention, of this article to deal with that particular serial, but rather with the character of the "Man of Mystery" himself, and the various guises and shapes under which he made his appearance in Penny Dreadful Literature.

One of the most prominent features in the old P. D. serial was the "Man of Mystery". He was a very popular character was this mysterious and elusive individual, and in the various yarns, appeared in many guises, and, on all occasions, either as a friend or foe of the hero, but it must be admitted to his credit, that it was generally as a friend. Generally speaking there was no period in English History in the average Penny Dreadful story, from the time of the Conquest down to the 18th. Century which was not liable to have him in some shape or another. To run over the many and varied guises in which he was wont to appear, make, for an idle moment, a rather engaging occupation, and is to recall the memory of many an old and familiar friend and in whose company one spent many a pleasant and enjoyable hour.

For instance, there was the "Mysterious Knight" of the early historical tale. That was one of our Man of Mystery's favourite roles, although he varied it at times, with that of the Mysterious Monk, the Impish Dwarf, or some other wierd character of the type of "Herne the Hunter". Taking him all in all, however, there is no gainsaying the fact that this historical side of him was only accidental as it were and it is only when we come to the 15th. 16th. and 17th. Century that we find him occupying his own particular stage. It may be granted that to the early English type of historical tale he lent both colour and interest, but there is no doubt when he was given for a back ground, ruffles and plumes,

three cornered hats and rapiers, masks and coal-black steeds, he certainly not only filled, but fitted the picture. Given a wainscotted room with a few sliding panels ; a darkened London street with shadowy corners ; the Tower of London with flashing lightning and rolling thunder, or a village inn with a group crowded round the roaring fire on a winter evening with heavy snow outside ; given any of these and our Man of Mystery became a part of it and was as natural to it as flowers to the Spring.

In the 16th. Century his favourite role although he varied it occasionally was that of Headsman. Indeed so often did he assume this guise for Good Queen Bess that one is forced to the conclusion that Queen Bess's "custodians of the axe" must have been both many and varied, and, in addition, considering their many activities, had a considerable amount of leisure on their hands.

But at any rate, no fault could be found with the manner in which our friend carried out his duties as headsman. One reads in history of a headsman having occasionally to repeat the stroke of the axe but our "Man of Mystery" was no such blunderer. His dark eyes were invariably piercing ; his glance was keen and sharp ; his aim sure and his stroke swift, so that when he took the task of applying the "last stroke of Fate," there was a swift flash and a head rolled on to the scaffold." He was, certainly a most efficient workman, and one, who, apparently took a real pride in his work.

But in spite of all these admirable and excellent qualities, perhaps where we envied him most, was in his intimate knowledge of the internal arrangements of the Tower of London. The manner in which he could release springs that swung open solid stone doors in solid walls simply made our mouths water with envy. And how often, with envious eyes, have we watched him in his apartments, the furniture of which incidentally, appeared to consist chiefly of grindstones and axes intermixed with a few swords, sitting in gloomy meditation in front of the fire ; then seeing him arise, don a heavy cloak, and with bated breath, followed him as he stepped across the room to a blank wall, touch a spring and pass out while "the heavy door swung back silently into its place."

It was "some" door that, and what we would have given to have had the pleasure of touching that spring and so shifting a few yards of solid masonry is not to be estimated in mere figures.

Afterwards, on visiting the Tower in person, we have endeavoured when the Guide's back was towards us to locate some of the secret springs attached to heavy stone silent doors, but never with any success. It is possible, of course, that the lapse of time may have had something to do with our lack of success to locate anything of the kind, for secret springs will get rusty and fall into disrepair, and it may be that we were punching away at a secret spring all the time and that it was simply out of order. But we do not think so. We may be wrong, but somehow or

other, we feel certain that if our old friend the Man of Mystery had been there, these springs would have worked all right and "heavy stone doors" would have swung open as silently and efficiently as ever they did. You could not stick our friend the Man of Mystery with such a simple or little thing like a rusty spring. And when one comes to think of it, it is difficult to recall one instance, in which the spring did not work or the door did not swing open unless where the villain tried his hand at it in an endeavour to escape, and then it stuck all right. There is no getting over it, they had good sensible secret springs and doors in those days.

In the 18th. century we meet our old friend once again, and like good wine, he improves with age, for he is even more attractive here than formerly. He has, as might be expected, changed somewhat. The massive muscularity of the Headsman, has given place to a tall lithe figure with an erect carriage; the deep bass voice has modulated into one pleasing to the ear, but given, at times, to assuming an icy even emotionless tone; the awesome anger has given way to an incisive biting politeness. But the eyes are still as piercing; his aim, (now with a pistol) as sure, and the stroke, (transferred to a sword or rapier) just as swift and as deadly as of yore. The Hallmark is unmistakable; it is our old friend the Man of Mystery and under the guidance of a Vane St. John or Justin Lambe, we follow his mysterious movements with a zest that is undiminished by familiarity and long acquaintanceship.

For the "Old Boy" and the Penny Dreadfulist, it may be assumed that the "Man of Mystery" died when the Penny Dreadful ceased to exist. It is true that our modern novelists have tried to resuscitate him, and it may be added with a great deal more profit to themselves than ever the old P. D. author was able to accomplish, but, to the Penny Dreadfulist, in their hands he is but a poor shadow of his former self, a thing of much show but of small accomplishment, a mere pretender wearing the cloak of one whose coat he is unable to carry and with credit. Anyhow he is not the "real Mackay" and to the Penny Dreadfulist with his boyish recollections of what the Man of Mystery was, that much admired individual of his boyhood days, lies buried in the pages of the old Penny Dreadful.

MATTHEW M. HUNTER

DICK TURPIN

ONE of the most popular series dealing with highwaymen was the penny *Dick Turpin Library* which related the daring deeds of Dick Turpin, Blueskin, Tom King, Pat O' Phelyn, Peters and the nigger Beetles (who delighted in tormenting "Massa Peterers" about his fiery red whiskers) and their favourite old inn, "Fox Under the Hill" where the French waiter, Francois attended to the needs of the merry band and the horses, including "Bonny Black Bess"

As I write this item I have a number of copies of the *Dick Turpin Library* before me. Number 93, "The Rival Highwaymen;" No. 107, "At Odds with a Traitor;" No. 124, "A Creature of the Night;" No. 118, "Alive or Dead;" No. 180, "The Vanishing Highwaymen."

The books were written by Stephen H. Agnew, Charlton Lea and Jack Tempest. Perhaps there were other authors whom I have not heard of. All of this library was published by the Aldine Publishing Co., of Crown Court, Chancery Lane, London, and sold for one penny per copy.

I am the proud owner of hundreds of copies in excellent condition.

Before the conclusion I might also mention *Claude Duval Library* which were also popular and printed and published by the same company. The most interesting one I have read of Duval is No. 20, entitled "Kidnapping A King."

ERIC J. ROBSON

* * * * *

NOTES AND NEWS

The well known Australian Bookseller and authority on old boys' books, Mr. J. P. Quaine, recently broadcast to Australian radio fans, an exciting talk on old bloods. The talk, which was well received was entitled "Tales of Terror" and dealt with the ever popular Sweeny Todd. We understand that Mr. Quaine is to shortly broadcast another talk on similar lines.

"Black Bess, or the Knight of the Road," was first published in 1868, in 254 penny numbers. There were many reprints, and with each succeeding re-issue, the type, impression and paper, grew steadily worse.

"The Mysteries of Paris," (1845) was issued in 33 double numbers.

"Robin Hood and Little John" was issued in 35 numbers.

"Charley Wag, the New Jack Sheppard" was issued in 73 penny numbers.

"The Days of Hogarth" (Reynolds) was published in 31 penny numbers.

The first edition of Reynold's "Pickwick Abroad" is very difficult to distinguish from the second edition.

What has happened to our American contemporary *Dime Novel Round-up*? We feel sure it is greatly missed.



THE STAMP COLLECTOR

The Editor will be grateful for early information relating to new issues or discoveries, or for any news of interest to Stamp Collectors.

AUSTRALIAN COMMEMORATIVES

Australia has recently placed before the public a number of new issues which should prove of interest to collectors.

- 6d. Design of Kookaburra.
- 1/- Design of Lyre Bird.
- 2d. Design of Sydney Bridge, (red).
- 3d. Ditto. (blue)



U.S.A. NATIONAL XMAS SEAL

The illustration depicts the U.S.A. 1932 Xmas seal. It was designed by Edward Volkman of Weehawen, N.J. and lithographed by four different firms. The firms in question are: Columbian Bank Note Co., Chicago, Illinois; Edwards & Deutsch Lithographing Company, Milwaukee, Wis; Eureka Speciality Co., Scranton, Pa., and U.S.

Printing and Lithographing Co., Brooklyn, N.Y. All are smooth gum, perf. 12½. Copies perf. 12 have been noted but no doubt are samples. Colours are yellow, red, and two shades of blue. There are no booklets.

Everybody is talking about the "Amateur Writers' Annual Guide, 1933." Contains comprehensive Directories to all leading Amateur Magazines and Clubs, articles, notes, news, &c — a wealth of information! 7d P.O. secures your copy. A. Horton, M. R. I., Oxford Road, Manchester, 13.

LONELY ?

Meet your sweetheart. Receive interesting letters, photos. Have rich attractive friends. Write to Mrs. Stella Braun, 353 W. 47th St. Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

Vanity Fair Nos 14-31 Plates clean. What offers. A F. Arnold, 49, Trinity Square, Brixton, S.W 9. b

Match Box Labels for sale. 50 all different. 50c., 100, \$1., 200, \$2.50c., 300, \$4., 400, \$6. No Japs included unless requested. Selections of rarer labels sent on approval to collectors supplying references. All above sent post free and registered. Limited supply only. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yks., Eng.

THE SWINGING BOARD

Some years ago we published in our columns an article on old inn sign-boards. No doubt the following, which was written by Cruickshank the famous clown, whilst appearing in Swansea, will be of interest to our readers. All the titles printed in heavy type are from hotel signs most of which are still to be found in Old Swansea Town—Editor.

I dreamt that I travelled all round the World with **Albert Alexandra** and the **Princess Royal**. We left the **Castle**, and made our way to the **Harbour**. We embarked aboard the **Ship**, weighed **Anchor**, and were bound for a trip around **Cape Horn**. We were to start at the sound of the **Six Bells**, but before doing so hoisted the **Royal Standard**, and the **Rifleman** fired a salute, which frightened the **Red Cow**, that it ran right over the **Greenfield**, upset the **Plough & Harrow**, and knocked over the **Coach & Horses**. At that moment out came the **Rising Sun**, shinning all over the **Globe**, startling **Adam & Eve** who were sitting under the **Apple Tree** while the **Greyhound** was chasing the **Old Swan** all over the **Ivy Bush**. Just then up came **Lord Napier** riding the **Black Horse**, who gave us a **Welcome to Town**, and told us that the **Duke of Wellington** and party were having a **Rum Punctureon** in the **Corner House**, while **Lord Nelson**, like a **True Briton** was sitting on the **Cask**, playing **Hearts of Oak** on the **Welsh Harp**, who seeming to be in a rage, deliberately threw the **Cross Keys** at the **Prince of Wales** but they missed him and struck the **Old Duke**; they upset the **Crown**, smashed the **Three Lamps**, and cannoned off the **Fountain**, knocking the **Boar's Head** right over **Flint Mill** into the **Butcher's Arms**.

Wanted British Bloods and Penny Dreadfuls, in volumes or runs also old songsters, sheet music, broadsides, playbills, etc. James Madison, 465, So. Detroit Street, Los Angeles, Cal., U.S.A. London references furnished

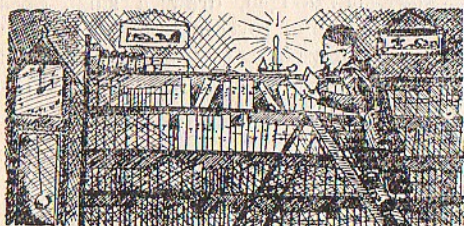
'**Cosmopolitan**' girls, Doctors, Teachers, Students, Rich widows, Aristocrats, and gents seek friends. Social exchange on 125 hobbies, ideas, education, languages, travel, migration, occultism, sports, journalism, nudecult, music, sex, law, domestic economy, philately, cards, money, diverse etc., Prospectus-2d. International Coupon. Editor, 'Cosmopolitan' Friends Correspondence Club, Delhi, 43, India, Asia. lc

Am interested in buying unusual Match Box Labels. J. B. Rieder, Ashland, Ohio, U.S.A. b

Posters (postcards, postmarks,) exhibitions, fairs, congresses etc aviation, philatelic events, war, welfare, christmas seals, antitubs, airmails, paper-metal, wood-money, transport tokens encased postage stamps, military decorations, sale, exchange (giving also postage stamps). Hummel, Innsbruck, Allerheilighof, Austria. c

The Collectors & Dealers Monthly No. 6 now ready. Specimen copy 2d. or 2/- a year with 36 word advert free. Private advert 12 words 6d. with voucher copy free 3 insertions price of 2. Neave 204 Cambridge Rd, Kilburn N.W. 6.

Genuine Egyptian Antiques. B.C. 1200 to B.C. 500, Amulets, Scarabs 5/- Ushaptiu Figures 7/- Necklaces 10/- Owen 47 St Lukes Rd, London W. 11. b



THE GENIUS OF O'HENRY

BY A. F. ARNOLD

FAME comes to us in many ways, but few have attained it in such a way as O'Henry.

An American of Southern origin he became a bank-clerk and was accused of embezzlement. He fled to S. America but after a few months was brought back to serve a term of imprisonment in the Ohio State prison. Here amongst drab companions and dismal surroundings he determined to take up something to pass his time away. By chance he thought writing stories, an excellent pastime, and began to write short stories of life in the West. Somehow or other his stories touched people's hearts, and in 1899 *McClures Magazine* published his first story "Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking." Then followed a series of Western and South American tales, and finally fame was thrust upon him, for his remarkable output of stories dealing with the comedy and tragedy of life in New York.

Nowhere is there one quite like him—he is unique. The soul of his art is unexpectedness. Humour at every turn, sentiment, philosophy and surprise. One may never be sure of him—the end is always a sensation. No foresight can guess it, and the sensation is always genuine. Whatever else he was, he was undoubtably an artist—a master of plot and diction—a genuine humorist. He was an entertainer bent on surprising the reader.

His characters with few exceptions are extreme. Even his shop girls are not real individuals, rather are they symbols. To-day his stories are reprinted in the leading English and American magazines, and his style is the foundation of many a modern short story writer's fame.

Some of his stories I have read time and time again. They give one encouragement to face the world, and at the same time each story has a freshness of its own.

I have before me now one of his most liked volumes of short stories "Whirligigs" and possibly a few extracts would be of interest to readers. In the "World and the Door," he writes "As a money power a one-millionaire is of small account in a city where the man who cuts your slice of beef behind the free lunch counter rides to work in his own automobile." What whimsical humour! Further on in the same story we have the following "Hedge rose quickly, seized his chair swung it once and smashed

it down on Merriman's head. Merriman dodged, drew a small revolver and shot Hedges in the head. The leading royster tumbled, fell down in a wry heap and lay still." Here we have in as few words as possible a forceful description of a tense dramatic situation. Fate gave O'Henry his opportunity, and certainly he made good use of his genius.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge the receipt of the following collector's publications, received since our last number was issued :

Monthly Air Mail ; Hobbies ; Linn's Stamp Weekly ; Supplement to Catalogue of U.S.A. Fund Stamps ; Collector ; Die Gelegenheitsmarke ; Novel Mart ; International Post.



REVIEW

“TRANSPORT TOKENS, TICKETS,
PASSES AND BADGES OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND.”

By Edward F. Herdman

THIS is the title of the only work so far published dealing solely with the subject of British Transport Tokens. Mr. F. Herdman the author of the book was one of the first collectors to specialise in this class of token. Consequently, his collection has formed the ground-work of the Catalogue, but the collections of other leading collectors have been requisitioned. The result has been the compilation of a most interesting and valuable addition to numismatic literature. The best feature of the work is the large number of tokens illustrated by the half-tone process taken from pencil rubbings, the first instance of that method being adopted in a book on numismatics. There are extra illustrations of an early stage coach, the first British omnibus, and the first British tram car. Historical notes of value are interspersed throughout the book.

We strongly advise collectors of Transport Tokens to acquire a copy of this book, which can be obtained from the publisher of the *Collector's Miscellany*. The price is 4/3 (one dollar 10 cents) post free.

Wanted For Sale Exchange

Nudelife. Clean, wholesome, educational magazine. Single copy 4d; trial half-year 1/9 post free (U.S.A. 8c copy, 40c half-year, post free. Nudelife publishers, 30 (cm) James Street, Coalville, Leicester, England. 17

Flag-day Flags Wanted British Flag-day flags, or pin-stamps. A few duplicates for exchange. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks., Eng. 6

For Sale or Exchange. World war covers, post-cards, commemorative and military medals, royal tokens, coins, transport and merchant tokens, old letters (1750-1830) with postmarks, Epinal images, engravings, posters, military insignia and buttons. Mint commemorative and air mail stamps of all countries, also unused current mint stamps in sets accepted in exchange. L. Nicolas, 6 Passage Ricaut, Paris - 13 France c

50 Diff. Stamps, Duke's Cigarettes Booklet, 10c. I want cigarette cards, especially Fatima 1913-1917. Fred Schaffner, 5 Pine St., Whitesboro, N.Y. U.S.A. c

HOBBIES

The most interesting magazine in the world. Covers every phase of the fascinating business of collecting. A consolidation of twelve magazines devoted to the collecting of rare books, stamps, autographs, arms, Indian relics, and hundreds of other interesting subjects.

Lightner Publishing Corp., 2810 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. Sample copies 10c. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

Wanted "Penny Dreadfuls" in volumes or sets. Cash prompt, pleasant dealings. James Madison, 465, South Detroit Street, Los Angeles, Cal. U.S.A. s

Will Exchange match-box labels, or exchange whatever you collect for match-box labels. Send yours mine will follow. Henry H. Grossman, 1st Floor, 242 Kaighn Ave., Camden, N.J. U.S.A. c

Stamp Collecting Outfit FREE!

Album with spaces for 4000 stamps 1500 illustrations, Standard Guide to Stamp Collecting 100 stamp hinges 150 Postage stamps, all countries, and Perforation Gauge, all above given with our stamp magazine, three years for \$1.00.

HOBBIES-FOR-PROFIT,
Box 58, WARM SPRINGS, GA., U.S.A.

Wanted gum wrappers, beer and spirit labels, match, tobacco, snuff, cigar and cigarette revenues, safety razor packets foreign cigarette cartons etc. Similar for exchange or what you wish. Parks Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

Catalogue of all U.S.A. Funds stamps (Christmas seals, etc.) 50c. post free or exchange for 2/- net value charity stamps. Collector-dealer-trader in all poster stamps, (non-postal). Dick Green, 152 So. 4th East Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. 16

Juvenile Drama. Wanted plays published by Brett, and other publishers. Also plays in packets loose sheets, books of words, etc. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

Wanted Card and Gaming Counters of all description. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Eng.

Exchange match-box labels with other collectors. Will also give match box labels for cigar-bands. John Parks, 63 Stockton St., Middlesbrough, Eng

Match Box Labels. Send P.O. for 1/- and receive 25 different Indian labels and my full price list of labels of all grades. Exchange of labels considered. A. A. Siddiqui, Mahboobpoora, Hyderabad Deccan, India 22

Printed and Published by
JOSEPH PARKS, Windsor Road, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorkshire, England.

Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

Readers' small advertisements are inserted in this page at the prepaid rate of one halfpenny per word per insertion. Minimum sixpence.

Santa Claus Industries, dealers in books, periodicals, stamps, coins, curios; Souvenirs, and all of the things used by normal folks in riding hobbies. Santa Claus, Indiana, U.S.A. 21

Japanese Genuine Matchbox Labels (not advertising labels). 100 different mailed for 20 penny stamps. Have over 1000 varieties. Karl Lewis, Box 69, Yokohama, Japan 23

For Sale.-Registration labels, transport tickets, crests, war postcards, postmarks. What offers for each of the above items per 100? M Gatt, 145 Forni, Malta. 20

Wanted British and American poster stamps, railway and bus parcel stamps Xmas seals, cigar bands, etc. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Eng.

Capener's Magazine 16 8 x 10½ pages monthly; sample copy 10c and variety circulars sent in for us to mail. 12 issues (one year) 25c. Advertising 3c per word 3 months, 10c per word 1 year. J. W. Capener, 849 Almaden Ave., San Jose, California, U.S.A. 1c

The Amateur Mart, an amateur magazine, specimen copy sent to those interested on receipt of stamp. J. O. Ventura, Formby, New Bournemouth Road, Ferndown, Dorset. 1c

Hobby World, the up-to-date journal for collectors. Always well illustrated. Specimen copy 1½d. E. Herdman, 1 Southgate, Bishop Auckland, Eng. 1c

Wanted Old Songsheets, songbooks: chapbooks, ballads, early children's books, valentines, etc. A few duplicates for exchange only. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Eng.

Wanted: Fox's Boys Standard, Boys Leisure Hour, Boys Champion Journal, Halfpenny Standard, Vol 7 and 8 Boys Comic Journal, Vol 37 Boys of England Also Young Ching-Ching, Green as Grass, That Rascal Jack, The School on the Sea, Cheeky Charlie, Robert Dodds, 3 Garngad Hill, Glasgow. u/s

Wanted. Match Box Labels by collector. Prefer rare or obsolete varieties. Do not send, write first, and describe what you have to offer. State price. I am interested in large or small collections. (Safety Only) Alfred J. Radgens 5419 Michigan Ave., Detroit, Michigan U.S.A. 1/0

Poster Stamps of exhibitions, fairs events, political, welfare, war, etc. I will buy for my collection or exchange against others. Paul Lebrecht, Nurnberg, (Bavaria), mittl. Pirkheimerstr. 20.

Wanted Bullseye 4-9, 12, 13, Plucks any Jack, Sam & Pete items, Aldines, De Witt's Claude Duval, etc. Have for exchange Boys of England, vol 13, Comrades, vol 3, Tom Tartar, etc. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-the-Sea Eng.

Cigar Bands, for Sale 200 diff. \$1, 100 different 60 cents Money Order only. J. Parks, 63 Stockton St., Middlesbro. Yorks, Eng.

12 Word Stamp advert only gratis in Collector Dealers Mart also 12 Canada to approval applicants, postage extra. Neave 204 Cambridge Rd., Kilburn N. W.6 a

I Want Fatima cigarette cards of 1913-1917 Sweet Caporal poster stamps of ball players. Fred Schaffner, 5 Pine St., Whitesboro, N.Y., U.S.A. c