

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. 5. Price Threepence August-September 1933

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

An illustration from the front cover of No. 1 of the 1902 Aldine "Dick Turpin Library." This number is entitled "Driven from Home," and depicts Dick Turpin, mounted on bonny Black Bess, neatly clearing the turnpike gate to the great confusion of his enemies.



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

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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

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Thirty Country Mixture, Foreign and Colonial, with frequent finds. 1000 1/3, 2000 2/- Gray, 40 Grange Road, Lewes. 6

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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

Wanted any Stephen Crane first Editions, including Magazines and Newspaper articles. Pellico Francesca, English translation, Crawford Francesca, English, or French. Quartier Latin, after Vol. 4. Book Exchange, Station, A. Toledo, Ohio. 4

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

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

100 Different Match Labels 60 cents, 200 different, \$1. John Parks, 63 Stockton Street, Middlesbrough, Eng.

12 Word Stamp advert only gratis in Collector Dealers Mart also 12 Canada to approval applicants, postage extra. Neave, 23 Elgin Tce, Ma'ida Vale, W 9.

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HOBBIES, THE SPICE OF LIFE!



NOTHING will do more to give joy in life than the cultivation of a hobby. There is always one more thing to look forward to and anticipate, and the consequent pleasure of possession. It keeps one young, and busy, and happy, with no time for boredom.

I collect several things, but I think the one I enjoy the most is the hobby of extra-illustrating a book. Take some biography or history that appeals to you, remove sheets from binding and separate. Take one of these sheets to a printer and have additional ones cut to size, and of same quality. Then make a list of every person or place mentioned in the book and try to secure autograph letters, prints, newspaper articles, or something pertaining to each subject.

For instance, take Strachey's "Queen Victoria." I added to this a franked envelope autographed by the Queen, and a penciled note by Prince Albert, engravings of them at all ages, and also of Lords Melbourne, Disraeli, Gladstone and others. There is the printed announcement sent out when Prince Albert died, and the newspaper account of the marriage of the Prince of Wales. Mount these by just a touch of paste on upper corners, on a sheet inserted opposite the person mentioned, and draw lightly an ink line around print, thereby framing it neatly. An autograph of the author is also of interest and the whole is then rebound into two or three

volumes.

A book on old prints was made into two volumes by adding as many prints of the artist mentioned as possible. A fine National Geographic article on Holland made a superb book when gaily-coloured Dutch prints were added, together with Netherland stamps, several pieces of paper money, and items from Holland newspapers.

These books can be made expensive or not, as you choose. Valuable autograph letters add a lot, but are not absolutely necessary. The main point is, there is great sport in hunting and acquiring those bits of paper, and a worth-while possession when your work is done.

SADIE U. RAYMOND



FROM
FAR
AND
NEAR

The oldest cast iron objects in existence have been placed on display in the Chinese archaeological collections at the Field Museum of Natural History. The collection includes a cast iron stove, vase, cooking utensils, lamps, axes, and other articles used as burial offerings and ranges in date from A.D. 25 to 220.

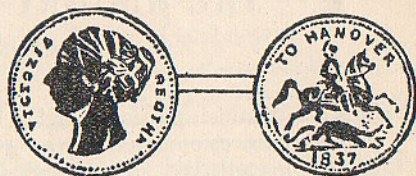
A cane, symbolic of "Old Hickory," carried by Andrew Jackson while he was President of the United States is to be presented to the Missouri Historical Society by Conrad Mann, president of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

A rare grandfather clock made by Daniel Quare, the Quaker clock-maker to William III., was sold at Hurcomb's, London, for £425. The clock, by a peculiar gearing made by Quare, shows the month of the year with one hand and the equation of time with the other.

Quare was a great favourite with the King, who wished to make him Royal clockmaker, but the Quaker could not take the oath of allegiance.

The King would not allow anyone but Quare to touch his clocks, so Quare was allowed to enter the Palace by the back door and go unobserved to all the private rooms. Quare had a public funeral at Bunhill Fields.

FACTS ABOUT COINS



It is interesting to note the guinea derived its name from having been first coined of gold brought by the African company from the coast of Guinea in 1663, valued then at 20s. In 1695 it was worth 30s. The first guineas bore the impression of an elephant, having been coined of this African gold.

Gold 6s. pieces introduced, and nobles of 6s. 8d., (hence the lawyer's fee), afterwards half and quarter nobles. 1334.

Edward IV. coined angels with a figure of Michael and the dragon, the original of George and the dragon. 1465.

Shillings first coined 1503 or 1504.

Crowns and half-crowns coined 1553.

Irish shillings struck 1560.

Milled shilling of Elizabeth, 1562.

First large copper coinage, which put an end to the circulation of private leaden pieces. 1620.

In 1633-4 2-guinea and 5-guinea pieces were circulated.

Quarter guinea coined 1716.

In 1797 two-penny copper pieces were struck.

Four-penny pieces coined 1836-56.

Half-farthings coined 1843.

Farthings in silver were coined by King John; the Irish farthing of his reign (1210) is very rare. They were coined in silver by Henry VIII. First coined in copper by Charles II. 1665; and again in 1672, when there was a large coinage of copper money.

The English floren was so called after the Florentine, because the latter was of the best gold. A florin was issued by Edward III. which was current in England at 6s. in 1337.

The ancient silver penny was the first silver coin to be struck in England, and the only one current among the Anglo-Saxons. Until the reign of Edward I. the penny was struck with a cross, so deeply indented that it might be easily parted into two for half-pence, and into four for farthings, and hence these names.

THE HISTORY OF MONEY

(Conclusion)

THEN the Spanish pieces of eight began coming up from the South and soon the colonies were crowded with more Spanish coins instead of English coinage. By now the Spanish pieces of eight were called "pesos" in Mexico. In Spanish it signifies eight "reales" and in English it is now spoken of as eight "bits." A "bit" is twelve and a half cents and in the South and West it is still customary to say "two bits" and "four bits" and "six bits."

In 1794 the colonies started their first coins—a half dime, half dollar, and a dollar. And in 1795 came the half eagle and eagle in gold. The silver dime and quarter appeared in 1796, as did the quarter eagle. It was not until 1850 that the double eagle was struck. By now we do not have a silver half dime but a nickle five cent piece. Also the one-cent pieces we have now was not in use then.

There were several other denominations issued such as: a three-dollar gold piece in 1853 to 1890; a one-dollar gold piece from 1849 to 1890; a trade silver dollar for use in China, that was heavier than the standard coin, from 1873 to 1887; a three-cent silver piece from 1851 to 1873, a three-cent nickel piece from 1865 to 1890; a two-cent bronze piece, a big one-cent copper and a half-cent copper were also minted.

If we look at the Bible we see these excerpts: "More to be desired are they than gold, ea, than much fine gold," and, "I love Thy commandments above gold, ea, above fine gold," we see the value and scarcity of gold. And then in 1848, an event occurred which changed the money course of the world, for at Eldorado County (which means the "City of Gold") California gold nuggets were discovered. Three years later gold was discovered in Australia.

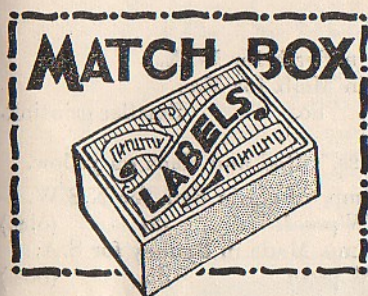
And in 1885, Africa came into the money world and thus helped matters along for the gold market. Then in 1890 a process was discovered making it possible to get more gold out of the once worthless ore after the smelting.

Thus we come to the end of our history of money and incidently we see what it meant in developing new nations, starting and stopping wars, and discovering new lands. It also meant the object that we struggle (if we are not rich, and who is now?) for throughout our lives.

EDWIN BROOKS

Since the issue of soverigns, 1 July, 1817, guineas have not been coined.

The gold florin was first struck in 1334 in the reign of Edward III.



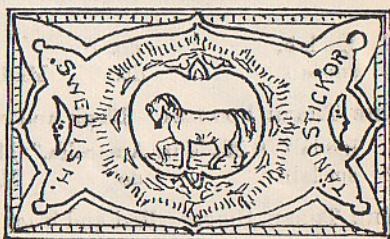
THE NEW LABELS OF AUSTRALIA

EARLY in 1930, when the Scullin Labour Government took charge of the affairs of the Commonwealth, they, being an ironclad protection government, prohibited the importation into Australia of matches of all kinds. The Swedish Match Co. at that time

had well established markets in all the States, and they then decided to establish factories in one or two of the States, to manufacture matches in Australia. Finally the Swedish Match Co., and the firm of Messrs. Bryant & May were incorporated and only one new factory established, that being in Perth, W.A.

Several of the old Swedish labels are still retained and issued from the new factories, in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, the only change being "Made in Australia," in place of "Made in Sweden."

Only one new design was placed on the market, that one being the BLACK SWAN, made in the Perth W. A. Factory and issued in that State. This label, as also the others, which have been issued to date, are shortly to be changed, new ones probably taking their places, the BLACK SWAN being the first to go.



An Early Swedish Label

For the benefit of readers of the *Collector's Miscellany* the following is a complete check list of all labels issued to date.

AUSTRALIAN

CHECK LIST

THREE STARS. Red and black on yellow.

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------|-----------------|--|--------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia" | "av. cont. 60." | Made in Melb. | (obs.) |
| 2 | sm lab. | do. | | Made in Syd. for N.S.W. & S.A. | |
| 3 | sm lab. | do. | "av. cont. 60" | Made in Sydney for S.A. | (obs.) |
| 4 | lge lab. | do. | | Made in Melb. & Syd., used in Vic., & N.S.W. | |

VULCAN. Red and green on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | sm lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Perth for W.A. |
| 2 | lg lab. | do. | Made in Melb. for Vic. |
| 3 | lg lab. | do. | do. Smaller printing. |

THE KOOKABURRA, OR LAUGHING JACKASS. Red and black on yellow.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia." | Imp-Imp. | Made in Syd. for N.S.W. |
| 2 | lge lab. | do. | Imp-W'proof. | do (obs.) |
| 3 | sm lab. | do. | Imp-Imp. | Made in Sydney for S.A. |
| 4 | sm lab. | do. | Imp-W'proof | do. (obs.) |

BULLDOG. Orange yellow and brown on white.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | sm lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Syd. & Perth for S.A. & W.A. |
| 2 | sm lab. | do. | do. but lem. yel. & brn. on wh. (obs.) |

THE STAG. Red and black on yellow.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------|--|---|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia" | "av. cont 60" | Made in Melbourne and Sydney for Vic. & N.S.W. (obs.) |
| 2 | lge lab. | do. | do. | do. |
| 3 | sm lab. | do. | Made in Perth & Sydney for S.A. & W.A. | |

THE THREE POODLES. Black and red on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Sydney for N.S.W. |
| 2 | sm lab. | do. | Made in Syd. & Perth for S.A. & W.A. |

THE THREE BIRDS. Red and black on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Sydney for N.S.W. |
| 2 | lge lab. | do. | do. smaller printing (obs.) |

THE MAGIC SQUARE. Red and black on yellow.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia." | Small print. | Made in Melb. for Vic. |
| 2 | lge lab. | do. | Large print. | do. |

THE BLACK SWAN. Black and red on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | sm lab. | "Made in W.A." | Used only in W.A. (obsolete). |
|---|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|

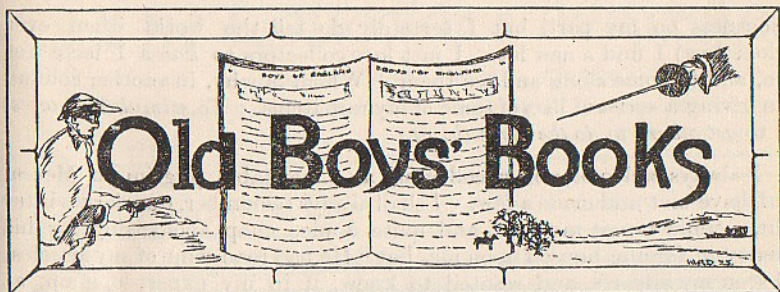
SYR-REB. Black and red on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | sm lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Sydney for S.A. |
|---|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|

THE LANCER. Black and red on yellow.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | lge lab. | "Made in Australia." | Made in Syd. for N.S.W. & Queensland. |
|---|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|

Labels marked (obs.) are not now in use, having been superseded by the others. Labels mentioned as being made at Melbourne, Sydney and Perth are made and sent out from the factories there. (Lge lab.) large label is the ordinary size; (sm lab.) small label being slightly smaller.



“WHERE ARE THE COLLECTORS,
AND WHO ARE THEY?”

IF the “Old Boys Books” and the cult of the “Penny Dreadful” is not to die of inanition, it occurs to me, that its devotees must get a move on to stimulate the interest. I appeal not only to the camaraderie, but to self interest, as when the hobby wanes, so do values, and those with important collections, will see their hardly won treasures, for which they have paid fancy prices, gradually depreciate in value. What with match box labels, razor blade covers, tram tickets, and the various weird hobbies now invading the pages of the *Collectors' Miscellany*, poor old “Blueskin,” and that imposing run of vols. of the “The Boys Standard” the joy of some proud collector's heart, looks like falling into the discard.

Why is this? There must always be cause for every effect, and I think the late J. J. Wilson was right, when he used to say that unless we kept on continually banging the big drum, and fanning the dying embers, the fire would go out. I think the main trouble is, that collectors are prone to be selfishly exclusive. If they meet a new collector chum, and do a bit of selling and exchanging with him, or manage to buy some small collection for a mere song from the widow or son of the late collector, the fact is sedulously preserved as a dark secret, the while other collectors in their hermit caves, get blase over looking at their own hoard, and hearing nothing of what is happening to other collectors.

Now I have no knowledge of any son who has followed in his father's footsteps with this hobby, while the wife, during her husband's life time, is prone to look on it as a kind of amiable lunacy on his part. Whether the wives of the future will look with more tolerance or even reverence on collections of tram tickets and razor blade labels, remains to be seen.

I do however know of tragic instances of treasured collections that have met with short shrift on the demise of their owner. The question is—Where do they go, and who gets them? Now it may be sheer vain

gloriousness on my part, but I certainly do tell the world when ever (seldom now) I find a new lot. I just love collectors to *know* I have got them, and to come along and see them. Which is why, in another column I am giving a series of lists of some of my rare items. *To stimulate interest and to get others to do the same thing.*

I always welcome a *new* collector, as a veritable pilgrim to Mecca, and I have met and made a few. I shall always remember, one dark winter night, a timid tap at my door, and quite a nice chap apologising for his temerity in forcing himself upon me, but "He had read some of my articles, and seen my adverts, and wanted to know, if in my expert opinion, at such a late period, he could make a start and get together a decent collection?" I took him in, showed him my little lot, at which he expressed amazement. gave him an exhaustive lecture on the subject, and incidentally sold him a few duplicates I did not want. Now that gentleman has a wonderful collection, that looks like rivalling, if not some day passing my own, and I guess he knows as much about the hobby as I do.

THE COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

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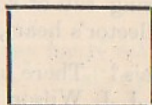
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WANTED

Newnes **BLACK BESS LIBRARY**, 2d nos.
(small series). No. 16.

Newnes **DICK TURPIN LIBRARY**, 3d.
nos. Nos. 1 to 24, 26 to 28, 30 to 36.

Aldine **ROBIN HOOD LIBRARY**, 2d. nos
Nos. 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
40, 41, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53
54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 63. Parks, Printer
Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

You all know him, Mr. R. T. Herring, of Norbury, and I am proud to have started such a genial comrade on the road. Another big collector is Mr. H. A. Hall of Newport, to whom I once introduced a £100 collection, which he bought, generously allowing me to buy many eagerly desired

items out of it. I supplied my friend Du Calion with practically the whole of his collection which he recently sold for £175. Just three instances of many in which I have pleased others and profited myself, and only by making myself inter-communal, and avoiding silly secrecy.

I was at Hodgson's Sale Rooms, Chancery Lane, last week. A portion of the A. E. Waite collection was up for sale. I expected to find Messrs. Jeffery, Ransom, Jay, and others of the old brigade there. To my surprise, two perfect strangers were bidding against me, and judging by the prices the paid (I bid to the limit myself) they must have been veritable Monte Christos. Well, one of them is calling on me to-morrow. Think of the sheer romance of it. *A new collector*, meaning a new interest. Who knows, he may have a copy of "May Turpin," or Emmett's "Rover's Log," and I'll bet he is just tingling with anticipation to see what I've got.

A bit more of that sort of thing, and Mr. Parks would have to enlarge this fine little journal, he'd get so many articles and adverts. Well, I still like my "Ching-Ching" and "Charley Wag" better than tram tickets, and if a few of the real old brigade will only rally to these columns, as of yore, maybe we'll start a few circulating, and once again revive full interest in the *Old Boys Journals*, and *Penny Number Romances*.

BARRY ONO

* * *

SCARCE "DREADFULS" IN THE BARRY ONO COLLECTION.

2nd LIST.

(Continued from No. 4.)

- "Sweeny Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street," 48 numbers. Chas. Fox, 1883.
- "Jonathan Wild; or, the Thieftaker's Daughter," 13 nos. W. Winn. 34 Holywell Street, Strand, no date.
- "Charles Peace, the Burglar," 100 nos. G. Purkess, 1888.
- "Colonel Jack; or, the Life of a Highwayman," 104 nos. H. Lea, 1864.
- "The Boy Rover; or, the Smuggler of the South Seas," H. Lea, 62 nos. 1866.
- "The Boy Brigand; or, the Dark King of the Mountains," 32 nos. H. Lea 1864
- "Charley Wag, the New Jack Sheppard," 72 nos. W. Grant. 1861.

- "Fanny White, the Young Lady Thief," 21 nos. George Vickers. 1862.
- "Woman with the Yellow Hair," by author of Charley Wag, 24 nos. United Kingdom Press, 1864.
- "Outsiders of Society ; or, the Wild Beauties of London," 20 nos. H. Lea, 1865.
- "Cartouche, the French Jack Sheppard," 14 nos. Chas. Fox, 1887.
- "The Gipsy Gentleman," 9 nos. Chas. Fox. 1888.
- "Merry Wives of London," 26 nos. G. Vickers. No date.
- "The Poor Boys of London ; or, Driven to Crime," 12 nos. Chas. Fox.
- "Women of London ; or, Glimses of a Fast Career," 24 nos. G. Vickers, 1862.
- "Work Girls of London," 40 nos. Newsagent's Pub. Co., 1865.
- "Night Hawks of London ; or, the Noble Highwayman, and the Miser's Daughter," 12 nos. Newsagent's Pub. Co. 1850.
- "The Mendicants of London," 10 nos. A. Vickers. 1849.
- "Life in London," 15 nos. E. Dipple. 1846.
- "The London Errand Boy," 20 nos. H. Vickers. 1865.
- "The Mystery of Marlborough House," 50 nos. E. Harrison. 1862.
- "Calcraft the Hangman," 30 nos. G. Purkess, 1871.
- "Mother Shipton," 12 nos. G. Purkess, 1874.
- "Black Bess ; or, the Knight of the Road," 254 nos. E. Harrison. 1868.
- "Black Highwayman," 2nd series of "Black Bess," 86 nos. E. Harrison. 1874.
- "Blueskin," 158 nos. E. Harrison. No date, about 1870.

(To be continued)

None of the above are for sale, only inserted to interest readers of "The Collector's Miscellany."

DICK TURPIN LITERATURE

BY JOSEPH PARKS

(Conclusion)

PERHAPS one of the most fantastical stories of Turpin that was ever conceived was "The Blue Dwarf" which was published in three volumes by Hogarth House. The author was the celebrated Percy B. St. John, and it must certainly be the most wretched composition that he ever concocted. In fact to anyone with an acquaintance of his work it is really difficult to believe that he was the author. "The Blue Dwarf" is a typical "blood" and numerous coloured plates were given away with it during the course of publication. It is often described as scarce, but this is far from being the case.

A story featuring Dick Turpin as one of the leading characters was published in *Comrades* Vols. 2-3, 1894. This was titled "Wild Dick," and was by the author of "Who Killed John Cameron?"

In 1890 the Aldine Publishing Co. issued their first "Dick Turpin Library" but I have been unable to trace a single copy, although I have it on good authority that it actually appeared. The second series commenced in 1902, the first number being entitled "Driven from Home." It ran to 182 numbers. Charlton Lee wrote the first 111 numbers, and Stephen H. Agnew most of the others. Charlton Lee also wrote many of the stories for "Claude Duval," "Spring Heeled Jack," "Jack Sheppard" and other Aldine publications. He is credited as being the author of "Mysteries of Newgate," and "Chronicles of Old London Bridge," but I have been unable to trace either of these publications. Shortly towards the end the publishers commenced to reprint the earlier stories, but under different titles. Richard Prowse illustrated many of the covers which are really works of art.

This library was followed in 1908 by the "Black Bess Library," which ran to 18 numbers. Each alternative number was a story of Claude Duval and his comrades. Many of the stories were also abbreviated and reprinted in the "Boy's Own Library."

A series of complete stories dealing with the gallant highwayman appeared for some considerable period in the early penny numbers of *Pluck*, and there were also some in *Lot-o-Fun* round about 1909. Twelve stories of Dick Turpin appeared in the *Jester* a little previous to this date.

Between 1908-10, David Goodwin wrote two or three Dick Turpin stories which were published as serials in the *Boy's Herald*. One was entitled "The Black Mask," and another "On Turpin's Highway." Both

of these were reprinted in *Pluck* and in the "Boy's Friend Library" and of recent years in the *Nelson Lee Library*. Not so many years ago one of the "Boy's Friend Library" contained a story of Turpin entitled "Dick Turpin's Double."

In 1920 Messrs George Newnes commenced to publish a "Dick Turpin Library" in 3d. numbers, which ran to 138. nos. Nos. 1—48, were, with slight alterations, reprints of the early Aldine issue, but all published after No 48 were new material, and the bulk of them poorly written and not a patch on the older authors' conceptions of the same characters. The covers, however, are of a very high standard and were illustrated by various prominent artists.

In 1920 the same firm issued a "Black Bess Library" in 18 small 2d. nos. The most outstanding feature of this series is that the bulk of the plots and in many cases whole chapters, have been lifted from the pages of Viles' "Black Bess." This was followed in 1921-22 by the "New Black Bess Library" which ran to 38 numbers. These were all, with certain modifications, reprints of the Aldine series. A serial story dealing with Jack Sheppard runs through the earlier numbers.

"Dick Turpin's Ride to York" was always a prominent feature of the old-time circus and the clown with his "Ring the bell, Sammy," "Yes, Father!" never failed to draw applause. A version of Ainsworth's "Rookwood" has also been filmed.

Skelt, Webb and other publishers added "Dick Turpin" to their lengthy list of the juvenile drama, and the play of "Dick Turpin's Ride to York" was given away with the Hogarth House publication of "Tyburn Dick." All the characters were coloured, but the book of words of the play cost a penny.

"Dick Turpin" was also a favourite drama on the stage, and Purkess, Dicks and other publishers of stage plays added this play to their stock.

And thus I draw to a conclusion, although probably there are hundreds of Dick Turpin stories of which I have never heard. Perhaps Mr. Barry Ono will overhaul his collection and tell us more? That the love of the old highwayman romances is not yet dead is shown by the fact that until only a few weeks ago an highwayman serial was appearing in the pages of *Comic Cuts*, and this even has been succeeded by a pirate yarn.

JOSEPH PARKS

"The Red Inn" which appeared in *Chips* nearly thirty years ago, was at that time an up-to-date version of "Sweeny Todd." I remember it as a very exciting serial. A similar series appeared early this year under the title of "The Inn of a Thousand Secrets." This was in the *Bullseye*. Both yarns omit the mutton pie part of the original story.

AMERICA'S FINEST TRADE CARD SET.

IN my opinion the finest set of trade cards ever issued in the U.S. is the "Useful Birds of America" series issued at intervals between 1908 and 1932, in nine series, by the Church & Wright Co., Inc., New York City, makers of baking soda.

"Series A." a set of 30 cards, was issued in 1908. Then from 1911 to 1932 eight numbered sets were issued, such as "1st. Series," "2nd. Series," etc. up to "8th. Series." The first four of the numbered series contained 30 cards to the set, and the last four of the series 15 to the set. The entire "Useful Birds of America" series thus comprises 210 cards in 9 issues extending over a period of 24 years, although in the later sets some of the pictures in the earlier sets are repeated.

In the earlier sets the fronts were slightly marred by a rather prominent display of the company's trade mark, but this defect was remedied in the later issues.

These cards are beautifully reproduced in colour from the famous bird paintings of Hy Hintermeister and M. E. Eaton. In colour, design, printing, and general quality they are far superior to the average American trade card. Of all the sets I have examined depicting birds (including trade cards and cigarette cards from many parts of the world) this is by far the finest bird series, although their range is limited to American birds.

All the earlier sets have been discontinued, and cannot be procured from the company. And as there are but few trade card collectors in America, and no dealers, it is practically impossible to secure them. I consider "Useful Birds of America" the most valuable display in my trade card collection.

ALFREDO.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

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

Collector; Hobbies; Happy Hours Magazine; Blood and Thunder; Cosmopolitan; International Post; Dime Novel Round-up.

* * *

We are still in need of short original articles and notes of interest to collectors for publication in this journal.

FAMOUS ESCAPES

The following information is taken from a set of cigarette cards issued under the title of "Famous escapes" and no doubt will prove of interest to our readers and collectors.—*Editor.*

BY far the best-known escape in history is of course that of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Mary Queen of Scots escape from Loch Leven is also common property.

For sheer audacity perhaps the Comte de Richmond and two friends "take the biscuit." During 1835 the Comte with Duclerc and Rossignol were imprisoned in France. Richmond managed to smuggle in a pass-key giving access to the sentry walk. Disguising themselves as best they could they walked boldly out lead by the Comte with head erect and a file of papers under his arm—the Director of the prison with his Chief Clerk and Architect? The sentry saluted smartly and let them pass, so letting three daring men escape.

A prisoner in the fortified island of Mont St. Michel, discovered with relief, that the ramparts on one side were unguarded. Breaking out of his cell, and taking two of his bed sheets, he tore one into shreds and fastened them to the corners of the other sheet, making thereby a rough parachute. Holding this aloft, he leapt from the ramparts and descended a distance of about 200ft. He safely alighted on the sand and made good his escape.

Count Lavalette under sentence of death, (1815), was awaiting execution in the Conciergerie, Paris. On the eve of the fatal day, his wife paid him a visit accompanied by her little daughter and an old nurse. Lavalette, disguising himself in his wife's clothes, and holding a handkerchief over his face—crying (what a thrill) walked gently past the soldiers out of the prison, with his daughter and nurse. The Countess was detained six weeks before she was liberated.

Admiral Sidney Smith, M.P. for Rochester, and defender of Acre, 1798, was imprisoned in the Temple prison, Paris. Some friends disguised as French Soldiers, presented to the Concierge a document purporting to be an order of the Minister of War, for the removal of the prisoner to another prison. The illiterate concierge fell into the trap, delivered the prisoner, and a few days later Sir Sidney was safe in England.



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.

PENNY DREADFUL VALUES

DEAR SIR.

Mr. Barry Ono in his masterful and interesting article under the above heading in your recent issue agrees that he does not know the value of a penny dreadful and enquires "who does?"

This is a question that cannot rightly be answered because there is no intrinsic value attached to this class of literature. What value there is must be purely sentimental, and dealers and collectors, (who collect to sell again), place their own idea of value upon penny dreadfuls, according to the desire or financial position of those who wish to possess this literature.

If sold under the hammer at Messrs. Hodgson's or Sotherby's, half a ton weight of such literature would only realize waste paper price, even if it was accepted by the auctioneers which is rather doubtful. A collection might be accepted for public sale if it came from the library of some well known nobleman or gentleman collector, along with real literary gems. It might then be added as a kind of make weight.

I don't think the real value has ever been put to the test in a public sale room except in one or two isolated cases. I, myself, attended a sale at Messrs. Hodgson's, Chancery Lane, some few years ago when 50 vols. of the *Boys of England* in absolute clean publisher's cloth only realized 10d. per volume. The buyer resold them at 2/6 each, in not less than 8 vol. sets, so that to obtain one particular volume you really wanted, you had to purchase seven you did not want.

I commenced to collect about thirty years ago, my first deal being from a young fellow who was going to Canada. I bought from him a small truckful of choice items, including *Boys' Standard*, *Boys' Leisure Hour*, *Boys' Champion Journal*, etc. Shortly afterwards I purchased about 20 vols of these publications at 2/- per volume. This gave me a good start, and I was not long before I added many other choice and rare items to my collection.

When Messrs. Edwin J. Brett Ltd. closed down, the whole of their

stock was cleared at waste paper prices, so much per cwt., and it was a common thing to see copies of their well known literature for sale on costermonger's barrows at 1d. and 1½d. each volume.

Round about 1912 I had the option of purchasing the entire stock of Hogarth House publications approaching 4,000 vols. in pink condition at 1d., 1½d., and 2d. per volume, the conditions being that I must take the entire stock. Not having the necessary room to store them, and being unable to sell many, even at 3d. 4d. and 5d. per volume during my three months option, I was obliged to let them pass.

I can trace the era of inflated prices for this class of literature since that date. I have bought up several fine collections since then at less than a fourth of the cost to the original collectors.

There is no royal road to collecting such literature, consequently there is no properly established data of prices to rule its sale and exchange. You obtain the best price you can, presuming the buyer does not know the true value of what you offer. It is all a case of the "spider and the fly," and the latter has now practically "passed out."

I venture to assert that in less than ten years from now the penny dreadful will be absolutely worthless. The rising generation will not tolerate such publications and it will only be in museums that you will be able to see copies, preserved not because of their value, but simply as curiosities

S.W. 15.

FRANK JAY.

Apparently Mr Frank Jay was not aware of the recent sale at Messrs. Hodgsons when he wrote the above.—*Editor.*

* * *

ROBIN HOOD LIBRARIES

The Aldine "Robin Hood Library" came out about 1903, but I believe that there was an earlier edition. It was also reprinted in 1912 in a smaller form. It was reprinted again in 1923. There are two issues of this last set, one with the price "2d" and the other without any price stated. All the above sets consisted of 88 numbers. The Amal. Press Co. commenced a "Robin Hood Library" in 1919 in 1½d numbers. This ran to No. 57 when it was incorporated with the "Nugget Weekly" (1½d.) The "Detective Weekly" and the "Prairie Library" were also incorporated with the "Nugget Weekly" at the same time. The Amalgamated Press Co. issue of "Robin Hood" is entirely different to the Aldine series.

Wanted For Sale Exchange

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

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.

The Collectors & Dealers Monthly 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.

Exchange wanted. Safety razor blade packets, beer labels, cigarette cartons, tobacco labels and wrappers, British poster stamps. Xmas seals, flag day flags. Similar for exchange or can offer match labels, cigar bands, cigarette cards, coins, postmarks, etc. Parks Printer, Ivanhoe Press, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorks., Eng.

Wanted to buy or exchange; Almanacs before 1860 autographs, antiques books American coins. Currier & Ives prints, old firearms, Godeys book, relics, stamps (in album). Send your list. Reference. Collector, Box 9, Pratt Sta., Brooklyn, N.Y. U.S.A. d

What offers? An unique war-time collection of British military cap badges, 129 all different, including several of famous regts now disbanded. Would form splendid basis on which to form a collection. First reasonable offer secures. F. Stanley, 336 Grove Road, Mitcham, Surrey, Eng. e

Wanted. Cigarette Cards prefer rare and pre-war issues and sets issued abroad in perfectly clean condition only, any quantity bought or exchanged in sets only. Also require Match Box Labels and Poster Stamps for exchange Edwin J. Ellis, 36 Clonmel Road, Fulham, London, S.W. 6.

Cigar Bands for sale, 200 diff. 60c. money order only. Also exchange cigar bands for Booklets and match labels. John Parks, 63 Stockton St., Middlesbrough, Yorks., Eng.

Stamps and Accessories. Get the best only. Cheapest approvals, Sets and packets a speciality. Send stamp for approvals, Marvellous value Hayward, 9 Victoria Row, Northgate, Canterbury. d

25 Diff. Stamps. 3 pieces War money 2 cigarette cards, foreign coin, 10c (insert equivalent English money) Fred Schaffner, 5 Pine St. Whitesboro, N.Y. (U.S.A.) 6

Exchange Matchbox-Labels and correspondence with collectors in other countries. No Book matches wanted. E.A.J. Brown, "Honeysuckle Cottage," Frampton, Dorchester, Dorset. d

Sale or exchange match labels, will give labels for booklets. John Parks, 63 Stockton Street, Middlesbrough, Yorks. Eng.

Wanted. Badges and Buttons relating to Police, Fire Brigades, Railways, Tramways, etc. Also American and Canadian Masonic Chapter Pennies and Dog tags or discs. Cash or exchange—Herdman, 47 Salisbury Place, Bishop Auckland, Eng. d

Catalog all U.S. Charity Stamps 1930 50c: Supplement revising lists and prices to 1932, 50c. or exchange. Want all European poster stamp catalogs and publications, old or new. Dick Green 152 So. 4th East St., Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. s

Wanted For Sale Exchange

Sale or Exchange: Collection of over 2300 different cigar bands, neatly mounted; small but attractive collections of metal, mother-of-pearl and bone card counters; theatre, music hall, coffee tavern, restaurant, printers', Yorkshire, Clubs and Institutions, and newspaper advertising tokens; Cop checks, old regal copper, foreign coins, etc. Write me what you have to offer. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Yorks, Eng.

Wanted. "Penny Dreadfuls" and fierce Boys Journals 1840 to 1900, Large collection ditto for **Sale or Exchange.** 3d. for list, World's Biggest Collector, Buyer, Exchanger. Barry Ono, 100, Ferndale Road, Clapham, London. d

To anyone interested in such things from Poland as military signs and decorations, coins, match box labels; tramway, omnibus and bridge (only paper) tokens, stamps (new issues also); beer, spirit, alcohol, labels etc., cigarette tobacco boxes etc., the packings of safety razors, etc. My address: Stanislaw Mus, Krakow, Boiego Mitosiardria 4, P'olska. d

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

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-Rizaut, Paris - 13 France. c

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