

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.

New Series. No. 15.

Price Threepence

August, 1936.



Small corner of the "Barry Ono Penny Dreadful Exhibit" at the recent Selfridge's "Hobbies Exhibition" Oxford Street, London, with Mr. Ono lecturing on the subject.

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.

Cigarette Cards sold and exchanged. List on application. Also require No's 1 to 9 Champion Library. Douglas May, 205 Beresford Street, Hastings, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. 19

Give Commemorative and pictorial stamps, cards, magazines, etc., for match box labels. 100 copies of each kind accepted. Exchange also. Send at least 150 labels to Mr. Kalevi Savolainen, Philatelic Publisher, Helsinki, Turuntie, 31. A. Finland. St.

Wanted: Young Men of Great Britain. Numbers 880, 890, 925, 926, 935, 966. New Series, Volume one, No's 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. Volume three, No's 54, 55, 56, 57, 58. Volume 41. A. Hall, Ben Nevis, Brynhyfyd Road, Newport, Mon. 15

Cigarette Cards; exchange wanted abroad, especially Nature Subjects. L. Capener, Osmington, Weymouth, England. 15

Will Exchange Match Box Labels with any other collector, label for label. All letters answered. J. Marren, 3860 Aspen St., W. Phila., Pa., U.S.A. 16

Wanted: Aldine Frank Reade's, also old music and songs with coloured illustrated covers. P. Moulson, 17 Beltran Road, Fulham, London. 15

3/- offered for No. 27 Aldine "Claude Duval." 3/- for No. 5 Aldine "Spring Heeled Jack." 1/- per number for Aldine "Dick Turpin" Nos. 51-52-77-82-86 183 to 188 inclusive. Barry Ono, 36 North Side, Clapham Common, London, S.W. 4.

The Stamp Journal 3rd year of publication. Specimen 2d. Neave, 23 Elgin Terrace, Maida Vale, W. 9.

Collectors & Dealers Monthly Specimen copy 1½d above address.

3 Mint Jubilee Stamps, or set 25 Sweden, Packet of stamps mounts. Postage 2d, state which gift when ordering to approval applicants address above.

I will send directly to your address First Air Mail Covers from all flights of the Air Ship Count Zeppelin. Otto Edenharter, Muenchen-19, Germany.

Zeppelin-Mail Price List post free Poste-Zeppelin Prix-Courant gratis. Zeppelin-Post Preisliste umsonst. Otto. Edenharter, Muenchen 19, Allemagneo, Germany. 14

Barry Ono's Penny Dreadful Mart & Old Boys Journal Exchange, 36 North Side, Clapham Common, London, S. W. 4. I am still the unchallenged World's Biggest Buyer of all such items as, Boys' Standardss Boys of London and New York, Sons of Albion, and all fierce Boys' Journals, Moonlight Jack, Blueskin, Sweeney Todd, Spring Heeled Jack, Aldine Turpin, & Duvals, and thousands that appeared in penny nos. 1840 to 1900. Big commission paid for introduction to collections. Report single titles for spot cash. Hundreds for sale or exchange. 12

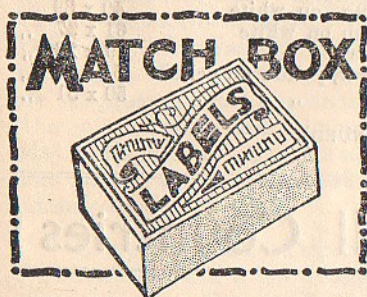
40 different Malayan stamps 1/-, 10 different matchbox labels 6d, c.w.o., Tilaka & Sons, Seremban, British Malaya. 14

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A CATALOGUE OF
MATCH-BOX LABELS
AND WRAPPERS
COMPILED PRIMARILY
FROM THE DR. RADGENS
COLLECTION

Being a continuation of the
Blue Moon Booklets

(Continued from No. 14).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

326	ZILNA BRAND, buildings in distance, navy, red on white	50 x 30 mm
327	MUNICIPAL, 2 figures, red, navy, cream on cream	50 x 28 "
328	INVALIDENHEIM, large bld. key at top, Solo, gn. wh. on wh.	51 x 31 "
329	(THE) MOTOR BUS, a bus with people, red, black, yel. on yel.	49 x 28 "
330	SPORTZUNDER, woman bathing, navy, white on navy	32 x 50 "
331	" " playing tennis, white, navy on navy	31 x 49 "
332	" " boy kicking football, navy, white on navy	31 x 50 "
333	" " man boxing, " " "	30 x 50 "
334	" " woman playing tennis, brn. wh. navy on navy	31 x 50 "
335	" " man boxing, navy, white on navy	31 x 50 "
	SPORTZUNDER SET, Solo, navy, white on navy	51 x 31 "
336	Man swimming and playing ball	
337	Woman diving	
338	CONSUM ANSTALT, bear in silhouette, black, yellow on yel.	51 x 30 "
339	ESKIMO, Eskimo in centre, red, black, yellow on yellow	37 x 20 "
340	BEST SCHUHCREAM, box in centre, red, black, yellow on red	51 x 30 "
341	CAVALIER, Solo Wein, red, black, yellow on red,	32 x 52 "
342	FLAMING, Wolow Wein, red, black, yellow on yellow	38 x 32 "
343	VERSALE, Solo Wein, red, white, navy on white,	51 x 30 "
344	BAHN FREI, " " navy, yellow on yellow	34 x 55 "
345	CARTITAS, cross in centre, red, yellow, white on white	30 x 50 "
346	(THE) BANANA, bunch of bananas, red, green, yel on yel.	32 x 51 "
347	" " " " " yel. navy, no border,	34 x 54 "
348	" " GOLDEN INDIA, map of India, brown, cream on cream	30 x 45 "
349	SOLO SAFETY MATCH, crown at top, red, green, yel. on green	30 x 45 "
350	" " " " ten comandments, red, yel. blk. on yel.	44 x 24 "

351	" " " fish in centre, red, black on white	46 x 27	"
352	(THE) STRONG MAN, man standing, red, white, navy on red	30 x 49	"
353	" " " Solo, " " "	30 x 45	"
354	LEAF CUTTER, native & leaf, red, green, yellow, no border	35 x 55	"
355	FLAMING, Solo, pocket vestas, red, yellow, green on yellow	39 x 30	"
356	" " " " green, yellow "	37 x 31	"
357	(THE) TAJ, a temple, multicoloured red border	45 x 30	"
358	" " ditto	47 x 25	"
359	" " ditto	39 x 27	"
360	SOLO BRAND, paraffin, red, white, navy on white	51 x 32	"
361	" " " " green on white	22 x 31	"
362	" " red, navy, white on white	51 x 32	"
363	" " " white, green "	51 x 31	"
364	" " paraffin, red, navy, white on white	49 x 39	"
365	" " " red, white, green on white	61 x 37	"
366	" " " green, white "	39 x 28	"
367	CLUB HOUSE, bldg. in centre, red, black, yellow on yellow	51 x 32	"
368	A.B.C., star " " " " "	50 x 51	"

(TO BE CONTINUED).

Collectors of All Countries!

Will you enter into exchange relations with a real collector? Please send today your duplicate labels (100—1000) different, and I will send others in return. I am known all over the world as a large collector. I also give complete sets of German and Austrian cigarette cards for labels, three cigarette cards for each label.

Ferdinand Semmel,

BERLIN-WEISSENSSE, BERLINER-
ALLEE 62, GERMANY.

Collector of
Cigarette Cards
and Match-box
Labels.

That particular country which it is so difficult to get. Collectors and hobbyists why not let the Guiana Hobby Club help to overcome your difficulties?—Hobbyists and collectors in practically every part of the Globe. Write for particulars of the world's largest and most popular hobby club—The club that gives its members good results. C. W. Lockwood, 33 Civic Gardens, Mile Cross, Norwich, England. 15

Wanted: They Ride Again by Colin Brooks (1934), Aldine Claude Duval Nos. 35 and 45, 3/- each offered, Buffalo Bill Library, 32 page 1d issue 1902-1908. A. L. Fulker, 50 The Chase, Coulsdon. 15

OLD TIME CIGARETTE CARDS

A RATHER fine old set of Players which I have not made much mention of before is a military series of 50 Regiments. The cards show the head and shoulders of soldiers of various regiments, with either the drum banner below or the regimental standard. On the back is a list of the battles in which the regiment fought, but no other reading matter. Two other rare sets by the same firm are "England's Military Heroes" and "England's Naval Heroes." These are sets of 25 and are narrower cards. With the exception of "Old England's Defenders" I should think these must be about the first cards issued by Players. They certainly issued cards worth looking at in those days for the present issues appear to relate either to Sport or Film Stars. The only military series I know of for years has recently been issued by Major Drapkin & Co., manufacturers of "Greys." This is "Officer's Full Dress" and consists of 36 coloured and highly glazed cards with adhesive back.

Except for Lea's "Pottery and Porcelain," "Miniatures," Players "Miniatures" and a few others there have been no cards dealing with these subjects. Carreras have followed up "Kings and Queens of England" with "Celebrities of British History" so we can perhaps look to this firm for more interesting sets in the future.

To return to the old issues, a later set of military interest was Players' "Victoria Cross" series. Incidents are shown from various battles up to the time of the Boer War, including Lieut. R. J. Lindsay with the Colours at Alma, 1854; Lieut. Havelock at Cawnpore, 1857; Pte. A. H. Hook at Rorke's Drift in 1879, where 139 British soldiers kept 3,000 Zulus at bay until relieved by Lord Chelmsford, and Pte. T. Edwards a highlander at the battle of Tamai (Soudan) 1894.

The American Tobacco Company have issued many fine series. From Pritchard & Burton's Cigarettes I have a series of "Female Beauties" of the naughty ninties in various undress poses, a series of head and shoulder portraits, and also a series of full length Actresses with adverts for "Old Gold Tobacco", on the back of the card. There are also many other series of Beauties and Actresses of the period, many finely coloured, unnumbered, and printed on cards of varying thicknesses. About the time of the Boer War there were also series of "Soldiers and Generals" printed in sepia. A numbered series of 27 "Soldiers" in colour included a pioneer of the Northumberland Fusiliers with pick and apron, and a private of the 20th. Punjab Infantry. A more recent issue I believe of the American Tobacco Co. (name not stated on the card), is a set of 50 "Indian Chiefs" including Red Shirt, White Swan, Many Horns, Iron Bull and others, decked out in feathers

and other finery. A rarer set is a series of 20 "Types of North American Indians." These give the names of tribes but not the names of the warriors depicted, (the former series gives both). There are Crows, Blackfeet, Sioux, Iroquis and all the others that gave us thrills in our boyhood days.

The only other set of Red Indians I can recollect is the set issued by Godfrey Phillips, but these I think are rather crude. This series includes Pocahontas, daughter of the Chief Powhatan who saved Captain John Smith from being clubbed to death when a prisoner of her father. She fell in love with him, but he went away. Later she married John Rolfe, a Virginian settler, and came to England and settled down. She died at Gravesend in 1617. This is according to the information on the back of the card.

Another report I have states that when she came to England and was received at court, she found that Captain J. Smith was still alive, and died of a broken heart. Her bones are now completely lost, her descendents having been looking for them for the last twelve years or more. Experts have searched at Gravesend in vain for her. Elderly Mr James Isherwood thought the bones were in the crypt of the church of St. John the Evangelist in Waterloo Road, as over 60 years ago he was taken by an Uncle into the crypt to see a tarnished silver coffin which he was told held the remains of a Red Indian Princess. The shelves where she lay have long been bricked up, and although the Vicar was prepared to have a hole knocked in the wall to see if a coffin was behind it, Mr. Isherwood had to confess that he could not remember the spot. The Vicar's Warden states that there is a record of the burial in 1835 of another Indian Princess—Ah-Mik-War-Begum-O-Je.

UNNUMBERED SERIES OF CIGARETTE CARDS

THE following is a list of the coloured series "Beauties of All Nations" a rare set issued with the cigarettes of A. Baker & Co. Ltd. On the back of each card is a list of their brands of cigarettes, which include, "Houris," "Selim II," "Medina," "Thebes," "Marc Antony," all Turkish; and, "King Lear," "Blue Stocking," "Tamberlane," "Great Auk," etc. Virginian. The first five depict head and shoulder, the rest being full length.

1—English, 2—American, 3—French, 4—Belgian, 5—German, 6—Scotch, 7—Dutch, 8—Australian, 9—Russian, 10—Brazilian, 11—Canadian, 12—Swiss, 13—Irish, 14—Italian, 15—Norwegian, 16—Albanian, 17—Japanese, 18—Chinese, 19—Grecian, 20—Turkish, 21—Roumanian, 22—Persian, 23—Hindoo, 24—Spanish, 25—Egyptian.

H. A. OWEN

U.S. PHILATELIC EVENTS POSTER STAMPS

By Dick Green

(CONCLUSION)

- 1930—Indianapolis, Ind., Tri State Stamp Collector's Meeting June 14—15 (Hotel Lockerbie), a) blue, b) brown, c) green, d) maroon, e) black VR Imperf
- 1931—Memphis, Tenn., Nat Phil. Exhn. and A.P.S. 46th. Conv., (2c red and 5c blue Confederate locals in center in proper colors), souvenir set, imprint "Press of Dietz Printing Co., Richmond, Virginia"; frame: a) green, b) gray, c) violet, d) brown. HR Perf
- N B. These are printed in sheets of 25, 5 x 5, with center stamp in each sheet inverted, resulting in tete beche pairs.
- 1932—(Harrisburg, Pa.) Capital City P.S. 5th. Ann. Exhn. May 17—21 (capital dome) blue HR Imperf
- 1932—Los Angeles, Cal., National Phil. Exhn. and A.P.S. Conv., Aug. 15—20, Souvenir set, (Pony Express rider in center vignette, after Wells Fargo local); vignette in second color: a) brown and blue, b) purple and black, c) red and green, d) black and orange, e) green and brown VR Imperf
- 1932—Berkeley, Cal., P.S.S. 10th. Conv. Aug. 29—Sept. 1, (seal of Golden Gate Precancel Society) blue HR Imperf
- 1932—Brooklyn, N.Y. (Long Island Stamp Club) Stamp Exhibition April 29—May 1, "Eagle Building" (Belgium postage stamp) black on orange VR Imperf
- 1933—Seattle, Wash, Washington State Philatelic Soc. 21st. Anniv. Feb. 22 (bust of Washington in gray) overprint in black VR Imperf
- (1933)—Brooklyn N.Y. (Long Island Stamp Club) Stamp Exhibition Mar. 23—26, Eagle Building (Hungarian postage stamp) blue and red on yellow HR Imperf
- 1933—Indianapolis, Precancel Stamp Soc. 11th. Ann. Conv. Aug. 28—31, a) red VR, coil, roulette vert; b) blue, coil, roul Horiz; proofs, c) black, VR Imperf; d) black on orange VR Imperf
- 1933—Riverside, Ill., Suburban Collector's Club 2nd. Ann. Exhn.

Feb. 22—26, a) red, b) blue, c) green HR Perf
 Proofs: d) red, e) blue, f) orange, d) brown; circular design
 Square Perf

1933—Syracuse, N.Y., International Mail Society, 1st Ann. Conv. and International Airmail Exhn., October 29—31, (seal of society), a) green, b) blue, c) orange, d) brown; circular design
 Square Perf

1933—Chicago, Ill., A.P.S. Convention, August 21—26, I (seal of society, Old Ft. Dearborn replica) blue and red VR Imperf
 II Souvenir set, seal of society, "Federal Building Century of Progress" a) black on orange, b) violet on green, c) red on yellow, d) blue on blue VR Perf
 e) die proof, black on white, wide margins VR Imperf

MAGAZINES RECEIVED

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

Nordia-Post; Universal Stamp News; Die Weltkorrespondenz; Novel Mart; Happy Hours Magazine; Collector: Hobbies; Kaw Chief Stamp Journal; Western Stamp Collector; Stamp News; International Post; Mail Order Philatelist; Historican; Welcome News; Georgiaman; Stamp Collector's Bulletin; Cigarette Card News; Hobby News; Rare Swedish Labels (3).

Special Offer Open to all Subscribers:

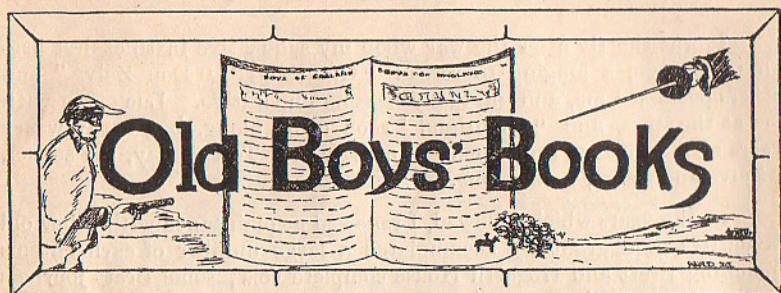
One Year's Subscription and 20 Word Free Advert 1/6
 (United States and Canada 37 cents)

BACK NUMBERS — All numbers prior to No. 9 of the current series are out of print. Copies of nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 can still be supplied at 3d. each, post free.

A Pleading Hand here denotes that your subscription expires with this number, and renewal will be esteemed.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: Handsome Harry, Cheerful, Daring, Wonderful Ching-Ching, Lambs of Littlecote, Boys of the Empire, Boys of England, many others: similar wanted. Medcraft, 64, Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED: Any copies of "The Bee" published by Ben Holloway before the War J. A. Birkbeck, 52, Craigie Avenue, Dundee, Angus.



THE LURE OF "PENNY DREADFULS AND BLOODS"

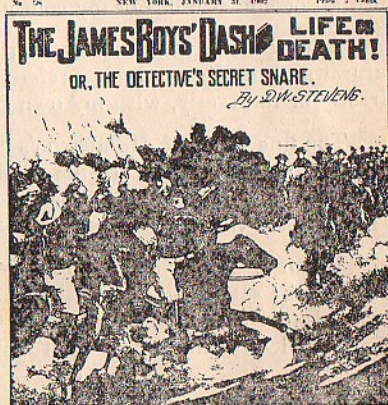
By J. Medcraft

IT was round about 1903 when my inquiring, youthful mind first sampled the delights of sensational literature. The old "Penny Dreadful" was dead and unknown to me as a current publication, although I gained an insight later when I "inherited" a pile of dilapidated *Boys of England* and other journals and oddments purchased years before by my eldest brother.

The Aldine complete libraries were going strong at that time, and I well remember "Dick Turpin," "Black Bess," "Springheeled Jack," "Claude Duval," *True Blue*, "Robin Hood" and others.

Henderson's papers were my favourites, however, and I revelled in *Nuggets*, in which many of the best tales from *Young Folks* were reprinted, *Scraps* and "Wild West Library."

At times I experience a feeling of sorrowful regret that the old journals and romances finished before my time, and with the exception of a few of Henderson's reprints, I have no sentimental link with the era of the "Penny Dreadful." Still, I find consolation in the reflection that this lack of early personal association has not diminished my interest, nor hindered the formation of my present fine collection.



An Early American "Blood."

It was shortly after the war when my acquisitive instinct first began to emerge; a longing to reread "Giantland" "Don Zalva" and others possessed me, and gradually became imperative. Luck was with me at the start, and "Giantland" soon came along, but many weary years elapsed before I obtained "Don Zalva". To this day, the sequel, "Zalva and Selim," eludes me.

In the years which followed, I renewed acquaintance with other old favourites, and gradually accumulated a large number of earlier items including Brett and Hogarth House complete vols., some Brett journals the inevitable "Black Bess" and sundry others. With the acquisition of "Sweeney Todd", "Blueskin" and "Charley Wag" my collection gained status and my interest greatly increased. "Sweeney Todd" in particular, always appealed to me as the most desirable "blood" of all and my collecting self was now rampant. Hitherto I had sought only those books which appealed to me, now I wanted a representative collection.

Certain long standing prejudices died hard; Lloyd's publications failed to interest me for a long period, now I regard them as one of the most absorbing sections of my collection.

Amongst the wide variety of items which I now possess, I have a natural and understandable preference for those which are connected, directly or indirectly, with my own boyhood days.

The fine runs of Henderson's "Wild West Library" and Aldine "Invention Library" afford me much greater satisfaction than the mere pleasures of possession; while for *Young Folks*, which I never knew as a boy, I have the greatest regard of all.

When I glance around my well filled shelves, I feel a glow of pleasureable satisfaction, a better hobby I could not wish for. It has afforded me the maximum diversion and relaxation and, most important of all, has led to the formation of many sincere and lasting friendships.

WHEN THE GOING WAS GOOD

By Barry Ono

TO the little band of Devotees, who collect the old "Penny Dreadfuls and old boys' journals, I would give a word of advice. Never, unless you want to get sour on your collection, and thoroughly miserable, be misguided enough to look through the "For Sale" or "Exchange columns of the *Boy's Standard* of the Eighties.

Could I be placed, with £20 in my pocket, into "The Time Machine" of Mr. H. G. Wells, and switched back to say the year 1885,

anybody could have the entire Barry Ono collection as a gift before I started, and I would guarantee to come back with a lot that would make the said Barry Ono collection look like a joke.

You would have to make a noise that sounded like a five pound note today, to get hold of many that were offered then, for just as many coppers. If you offered the wealth of the Vanderbilts you wouldnt get some of them, because they just don't exist. I'm supposed to be a bit of an oracle, but I feel strangely humble when I see "Demon Dan the Highwayman" offered for 1/6. I never knew such a book existed. Did you? My fiver is waiting right now, for a mint copy of "Dan" with coloured wrapper and large folding plate. Got it anybody? Not likely! Then "The Wild Beauties of London" offered by John Jeffery (happily still with us) for 2/6. Now just what sort of a thing was the "Wild Beauties?" Sounds like a "Newsagent's Publishing Co." item to me. Then "Morgan, King of the Black Flag," That sounds good to me at 1/6. Just haphazard I have taken a few more examples, *Young Folks' Weekly Budget* 1 to 143, at 3/6, *Boys Standard* 1 to 209, at 3/6 (the lot, please understand, not per vol. or per year. What a little ass the boy must have been at that time, to have made such a sacrifice). *Sons of Merry England (complete issue)* 2/-, "Sons of Old England," ditto, 1/-, "Wild Boys of London" 2/6, "Spring Heeled Jack" 9d, "Tom King" 9d, *Young Folks Vols.* 1 to 25, 1/- each, "Kings of the Highway" 6d, "Moonlight Jack" 1/6, "Blueskin" 4/6.

Here's a peach—"Tyburn Tree, or the Highwaymen of England," "Lion Limb, the Boy King of the South Sea Islands," "Red Wolf the Pirate," "Paul the Reckless," "Boy's Book of Romance" and a lot more, 7/6 the lot. We find ourselves wondering just what the "lot more consisted" of. Just fancy getting any one of them now for 7/6. These as I say are just picked at random.

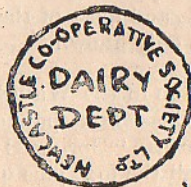
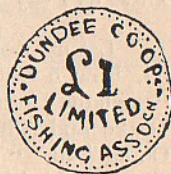
Let me resume. "Spangles and Gold" (the famous Burrage yarn) 5d, First 5 vols. *Boys' Leisure Hour* 7/6, "Skeleton Horseman" 2/6, "Skeleton Crew" 2/6, "Varney the Vampyre" 2/6, "Captain Tom Drake and Admiral Tom" 2/6, "Handsome Harry" 9d, "Cheerful Ching" 4d, "Wonderful Ching" 4d, "Young Ching" 6d, "Daring Ching" 2d (cheap Ching series that) and so on and so on. So much for the sale columns in the journals, not only in the old *Boy's Standard* but in the *Boy's World* and most of them you will find the "What might have been, had we only known."

There was a little shop in the Waterloo Road, London, that had stacks and stacks of the Chas. Fox publications when that firm passed out, 6d. a vol. mint in wraps. "Spring Heeled Jack," "Sweeny Todd," "Turnpike Dick" and all the lot, plus quarterly divisions in wrappers of the *Boy's Standard*, *Boy's Leisure* and *Boy's Champion* at 3d. each.

At another second-hand shop also in the Waterloo Road, a shilling used to be my limit for such items as "The Boy Detective, or the Crimes of London," "Gentleman Clifford," etc., etc. Seems incredible now, and all a fantastic dream. Yes, my £20 would have gone quite a long way then, wouldn't it? And many now completely unknown and unheard of rarities would have been saved. Well, since I acquired belated wisdom, many a tattered old derelict have I rescued from that oblivion it was hastening to, midst unfeeling and heedless vandals, carefully have I doctored it, gorgeous has been the half calf overcoat in which I have had it arrayed, and now a more careful posterity I am thinking will at least honour it on my demise as "Curiosa." I think I have been the "Scarlet Pimpernel" of the "bloods," rescuing them not from the guillotine, but from the flames and the dustbin.

Good old E. Lloyd's "Claude Duval." I think that was my surgical masterpiece. Friend Harry Steele sold it to me with its 202 nos. literally in festoons of rags and tatters, for 7/6. I spent my waking hours for three weeks over it, grafting paper of the period into some of the fractures. Then I had it bound by a real expert. When Steele saw it, at first he wouldn't believe it, then I think he could have shed tears. It had an honoured place on my shelves for quite ten years. Then a mint and perfect copy came my way. I sold my surgical operation for a big figure to the late R. T. Herring. When I acquired his collection it came into my hands again, and now a most ardent young collector has it, and I know it would take a burglar to shift it. Yet I suppose in the old days, friend Jeffery would have listed it at 2/6. Alas; had we only *known*. Now we reverently repair derelicts.

CO-OPERATIVE CHECKS—A Numismatic Sideline



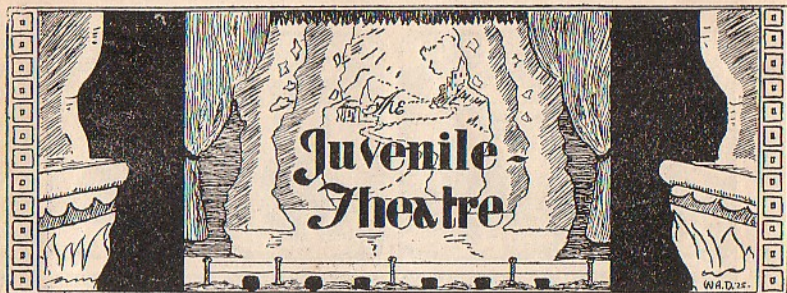
RARE SWEDISH MATCH-BOX LABELS



Eight examples from the picturesque "Shah" Series



An interesting series issued during the Boer War and depicting various Generals, etc. engaged in this campaign. Both above blocks reproduced from 'Rare Swedish Labels,' by the courtesy of the publisher, Mr. Sw. Johansson, Jonkoping, Sweden.



PRACTICAL PERFORMANCES ON THE TOY THEATRE

By G. V. Speaight.

JUVENILE Drama enthusiasts are divided into two opposing camps : —on the one hand we have those who maintain that the Toy Theatre plays were originally introduced as a form of theatrical souvenir, not intended for practical performance, and that they did not become childrens' toys till perhaps 20 years later ; on the other hand there are those who ridicule this idea, and claim that the plays were meant for children to perform from the very beginning. It only shows how much there is still to be discovered on this subject, when the two questions of how and why the Juvenile Drama started remain in dispute. The main arguments of the rival camps may be summarized as follows.

I. Considerable care was exercised by West, Hodgson and other good early publishers to copy the exact details of the scenery and costumes of the original stage performances ; even the names and faces of the actors were sometimes reproduced. It is very unlikely that such trouble would have been taken for children ; moreover the price of the plays, 3/- or 4/- perhaps, - was beyond the reach of a child's pocket money in those days. A close study of the books of words issued in the early years of the business would throw much light on the question of practical performances ; unfortunately these are extremely scarce, and I should welcome comments from more experienced collectors on this subject, but my impression is that the early books were merely re-issues of the acting editions, - sometimes pruned, but without any special directions for Toy Theatre performance. I have Orlando Hodgson's book of *Chevy Chase*, issued as late as 1832; the title page bears the inscription "Printed from the acting copy, to which are added, a description of the costume, cast of the characters, entrances and exits, relative positions of the performers on the stage, and the whole of the stage business. As now

performed at Astley's Royal Ampitheatre." But there are no directions at all for Toy Theatre performance, - indeed such a procedure would be impossible; how could a pasteboard Douglas "look angrily at Elwina, - then as if to drown all thought, snatch a huge goblet and pledge the knights, who all join in the toast"? Or what could a drawing room stage manager make of this direction "Lord Douglas and Elwina express thier different emotions"? A close comparison of the text and the sheets of characters and scenes shows that they did not in many ways correspond, - there are situations and scenes in the play that could not be represented with the figures and vice versa. Now with Skelt's books of words, some five years later, there is information as to which character should be put on, and from which plate; even such directions as "Young Tom is seen in a boat saving a man, pl. 8; and Mr. Turnbull and Guests rush on to know the cause of alarm, pl. 4" are practicable at any rate in theory. It would be interesting to know the first book in which special Toy Theatre directions occur; perhaps other readers can help in this valuable search; for the present there seems to be quite a case for the "theatrical souvenir" school of thought.

2. Against this theory one can certainly advance the arguments that from quite the beginning the business was known as the "Juvenile Drama"? in other words Drama for Juveniles or Plays for Children; and also from the very beginning plays were issued with side-wings etc. obviously with a view to mounting up on the stage, and of course the arrangement of the characters suggests they should be cut out. The earliest contemporary references seem to bear out this second school of thought; Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" (1847) tells how Georgy Osborne and young Todd "performed indeed many of the plays to the Todd family and their youthful friends, with West's famous characters, on their pasteboard theatre". This refers to the year 1826, when Georgy would have been eleven. The same theory is born out by Charles Dickens essay "The Christmas Tree" (1850), in which he speaks of the pleasure he had "in the getting up of 'The Miller and his Men' and 'Elizabeth or the Exile of Siberia' when he was a child". We are told that he staged "The Miller" and others when he was at Wellington House Academy, which he attended between the ages of 12 and 14 from 1824 to 1826. These two genuine references certainly show that by about 1825 Juvenile Drama plays were being practically performed by boys of say 10 to 14 years of age.

That, I think, fairly represents the two points of view. There is, of course, no doubt at all that the trade was catering entirely to children by about 1835, but did it originate in this form, or as something more pretentious and adult? There are difficulties in taking up either position. Possibly the truth is that it began as a form of theatrical souvenir (West describes himself as a Theatrical Print Publisher), con-

structed to be set up attractively but not actually performed, that it very soon came to be used as a high class toy for intelligent upper class children, and that it catered for this double purpose until the Skelts got the bulk of the business into their hands and popularized it with their half-penny sheets.

NOTE—Two corrections should be made to my article in the last issue of *The Collector's Miscellany*; during the last years of the 19th. century, the plays re-published by A. How Mathews were not priced at a penny a sheet plain, twopence coloured, as were those of Pollock and Webb; Mathews issued his plays in a cheaper lithographed style, complete with the book, at round about 6d. uncoloured, 1/3d. on card-board, and 2/6d. fully cut out; this succeeded to a certain extent in bringing the trade back to popularity, but owing to the death of most of the skilled workmen the venture came to an end in 1906. It should also be pointed out that the price of the books of words was originally 6d., and they did not come down to 4d. until the sheets came down to a half-penny.

OLD MUSIC COVERS—AN UNUSUAL HOBBY



UNDER this heading, my dear old pal, and most esteemed patron, Mr. J. Medcraft, has certainly discovered a mare's nest, that is when he describes the collection of old song frontispieces as unusual and wonders if there are any other collectors besides the gentleman he discovered. The description sounds to me like my old friend Mr. Iles, but it may be yet another collector I wot not of. Suffice it to say there are many collectors of this subject, and I suppose they probably outnumber collectors of "penny dreadfuls."

I suppose the biggest known collection belongs to the manager of Messrs Walsh & Holmes, the Music Publishers of Charing Cross Road. W. Paxton, Publisher of New Oxford Street has a big collection, while Jas. Ian Sinclair of Hammersmith only recently offered me his very large collection. Another big collector is Mr. Wilson Disher, of B.B.C. fame, who is now writing up the old songs in "Music Hall Memories" published weekly at 7d. with reproductions of the frontispieces from his own collection.

It's a small world, and Mr J. Medcraft who has bought the major portion of his enormous collection of "penny dreadfuls" from myself, has been to my house numerous times, and I wonder my own collection of about 500 never caught his eye. Too much obsessed with the "dread-

fuls" I suppose. I could have shown him Geo. Leybourne's "Champagne Charley" Vance's "Walking in the Zoo" and "Slap Bang, Here we are Again" Stead's "Perfect Cure". From Harry Clifton and E. W. Mackney in the Fifties, down to Eugene Stratton, Dan Leno, Marie Lloyd, G. H. Chirgwin and all the stars up to 1900. Where my friend J. Medcraft *was* lucky, was in getting "Spring Heeled Jack" right from under my very nose. That was the discovery.

BARRY ONO

SCARCE "DREADFULS" IN THE BARRY ONO COLLECTION.

12th. LIST.

THE E. LLOYD SECTION (NO. 3)

(Continued from No. 14)

- "Captain Hawk, The Gallant Highwayman." 66 nos. 1851.
 "Oliver Twist, The Workhouse Boy." The impudent and rare Dickensian Piracy, by Thos. Prest. 78 nos. Edited by "Bos" 1839.
 "The Penny Pickwick." Another Piracy. 118 nos. About 1840.
 "Valentine Vaux." Ditto. By Timothy Portwine. 32 nos. 1840.
 "Current American Notes," by "Buz." 9 nos. 1840.
 "The Robber's Wife." 9 nos. 1852.
 "The Wife's Secret." 14 nos. 1850.
 "Blanche Heriot, or the Chertsey Curfew." From the drama. 18 nos.
 "The Appointed Hour, or the Murderers of Venice." 20 nos. 1845.
 "Rose Somerville, or the Double Crime." 22 nos. 1847.
 "Nick of the Woods." 22 nos. 1847.
 "Pedlar's Acre, or the Murderess of Seven Husbands." A romance of Old London. 29 nos. 1848.
 "Adventures by Night." By the author of "Newgate." 22 nos. 1846.
 "Roderick the Rover, or the Jolly Roger." 12 nos. 1847.
 "The Oath, or the Buried Treasure." 16 nos. 1846.
 "Angelina, or the Mystery of St. Marks Abbey." 25 nos. 1849.
 "The Orange Girl of Venice." 12 nos. 1840.
 "Julia St. Pierre." A Horrible Story of the French Revolution. 11 nos. 1842.
 "The Apparition," by the author of "Newgate." 22 nos. 1846.

- "Jeanette and Jeannot, or the Conscript's Vow." 24 nos. 1846.
 "Gems of Romance." 28 nos. 1836.
 "The Twin Roses." 31 nos. 1853.
 "The Death Ship, or the Pirate's Bride, and the Maniac of the Deep."
 32 nos. 1846.
 "The Child of the Battle Field." 54 nos. 1856.
 "Retribution, or the Murder at the Old Dyke." 37 nos. 1847.
 "Paul the Reckless, or the Fugitive's Doom." 12 nos. 1846.

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

SELFRIDGE'S HOBBIES EXHIBITION

THE great firm of Selfridge just recently gave the best part of its top floor in the vast Oxford Street Emporium, to probably the greatest assembly of "Hobbies" ever to be assembled in one building. Matchbox labels, tramway tickets, Geo. Robey's violins of his own make, ancient pianos commencing with the spinet, lent by Messrs. Broadwood, china, cigarette cards, lead soldiers, and last but not least, our contributor Barry Ono with his "penny dreadfuls" and old boys' journals. Barry by the way, has recently moved to 36 North Side, Clapham Common. While scarcely a hobby of any note, even down to a collection of thousands of WISH BONES from chickens, by a firm who pot them, the Directors were good enough to say that the "penny dreadful" section was the most successful and attracted the largest audience. Mr. Ono gave half hour lectures during the day on the origin of "Sweeney Todd," the rise and fall of the Emmett, Fox and Brett publications, and thrilled his audience by producing the actual faded signature of William Corder, who murdered Maria Marten in the Red Barn. Mr. Ono was asked by the B.B.C. to broadcast his lecture, but as only three minutes is allowed, Barry is still considering how to condense so much data. Our front page shows just one tiny little corner of this large and interesting exhibition, with Mr. Ono demonstrating.

On finishing his two weeks contract, Mr. Ono was told it was quite likely his services might be required at every Selfridge branch in the provinces, so look out for the "Cult of the Penny Dreadful" in maybe your own native town.

Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

India Silver Jubilee used $\frac{1}{4}$ a. 9 pies, 1d and $1\frac{1}{4}$ a. \$2. 25, sh 9/- per 100 sets, postage extra, Indian Mail Order Circular, Dariba Kalan, Delhi, India.

Wanted. Penny Dreadfuls and bloods, 1840 onwards. Lloyd, Fox, Newsagents Pub. Co. and any similar items, Fox and Emmett journals, Young Folks, Ching-Ching's Own, etc. Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Rd., Ilford. 14

Wanted. Match boxes, wrappers, labels showing Steamship Company advertisements. Michels, 68-01 Central Ave., Glendale, Queens County, New York, United States. 14

Handsome Harry, Black Bess, Tom Wildrake, etc. for sale, list $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Similar wanted. Stickland, 2 Firsby Rd., London N. 16 14

Reynolds Mysteries of the Courts, 8 vols, 12/6, Flagellation A History of the Rod, 4/-, 6 vols Floral World, 1866 onwards, 7/6, 2 vols Mudies British Birds, Baxter Vintettes, 5/6, Little Folks vol 1, 1/6, Every Boys' Annual 1868, vols 3 and 4, Boys Own Mag, 5/- lot, 4 vols Ladies Treasury, Fashion Plates, 1869-77, 5/6, carriage paid. Kennedy, 152 Lea Farm Rd., Kirkstall, Leeds 5. 14

Outstanding offer of the day, 5 cents brings sample copy of "Novel Mart" the big interesting paper devoted to boys old novels. Containing lots of interesting articles, depts., jokes, etc. etc. Send now and get an American comic paper free, lots of fun in them. A big bundle of comic papers 25c, no stamps accepted. R. Burns, Box 36, Dunalk, Maryland, U.S.A.

Exchange Australian and New Zealand stamps for other countries. Jubilee and commemoratives especially. C. Allen, 199 9th Street, Mildura, Vic., Australia. 13

If you havn't heard of "Golden Mail" and "Welcome Post." Send 3d now to J. Feasey, Hulme Road, Sale. 15

Exchange Viewcards, Match Labels, Postmarks. Wanted Mail Order and Hobby Publications. 50 copies mailed free. Leonard Weiser, Fairview Avenue, Schuylkill Haven, Pa., U.S.A. 15

The Postal Times (Edited by E. H. Reason). The most interesting paper published for Postal Traders, Hobbyists, Self Improvement Seekers, Stamp and Cigarette Card Collectors. Copies $2\frac{1}{2}$ posted from J. Hawkins, Publishers Agent, 25 Park Lane, Liverpool. 15

50 different U.S.A. Postage Stamps 1/- (25 cents). Paul Feason Williams, P.O. Box Y. 33, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A. 15

Match Box Labels or Christmas Seals. For each one sent me in good condition, I will return 1 U.S. or Foreign Stamp. Please send at least 10 at a time. Have some nice 10c. packet of U.S. or Foreign Stamps. No Junk. Mint Stamps of any Country accepted as payment. Joseph Conklin, 599W, 178 Street, New York City, New York, U.S.A. 15

Private Collector wants to buy and exchange Cigarette Cards, Coloured Prints, Military, Sporting & Transport. Autographed letters of Celebrities. Also wanted Collector's Miscellany new series, No's 1, 2, 3, 5 & all numbers old series. F. G. Denison, 33 Queen Annes Road, York, England. 15

Cigarette Cards. Scarce sets and odd cards available, also post-war issues at moderate prices. List of Cards of any particular interest, supplied on application. Burt, 34 Regent Square, W. C. 1. 15

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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 6a

Exchange: Match-box Labels, Cigarette Cards, Stamps, and British Poster Stamps with collectors at home or abroad. Parks, Printer, Amber Street, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, Eng. 12

Cigarette Cards. An ideal hobby for all. Hundreds of interesting and instructive series. Send at once for free lists. *Spotless* cigarette and trade cards wanted from *all* countries either for cash or in exchange. Alexander S. Gooding, 354 Norwich Road, Ipswich, England. 11

Nudlife. An interesting, illustrated, clean, wholesome, educational magazine. Its discourses on Free Body Culture, Sunbathing and Nudism are unique, 4d. (8c) copy. Trial six issues 1/9 (40c) post free. Publishers, 30 (c.m) James Street, Coalville, Leicester, England.

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The Amateur Mart, an amateur magazine, specimen copy sent to those interested on receipt of stamp. J. O. Ventura, Grand Avenue, W. Southbourne, Bournemouth. 1c

Match Labels. I buy, sell and exchange labels. Mexican labels 25 for One Dollar. Send cash or International Money Order. F. M. Reed, 174 So. Sardusky St., Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. All letters answered. 15

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Bloods wanted. The Bullseye, nos. 8-156-157-159 to date, The Surprise, nos. 90 to date, The Thriller, nos. 179-244 to date, The Nelson Lee, no. 1, date around 1930, Dick Turpin Library 3d, nos. 22-27 33-44-46-47-48-50-118, Modern Boy, nos. 1-40, Detective Weekly, nos. 47 to date, Aldine Bloods between 1900 and 1910. Also R. b Roy, Spring Heeled Jack and others wanted. send list and prices to—Ralph F. Cummings, Box 188, Grafton, Mass., U.S.A.

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