

The Collector's Miscellany



"HOLD OFF!" CRIED ULE, THE BRITON; "I AM AN ALL-BRASSIER!"

THE MASTER OF THE LIONS,
 OR,
THE TROUBLE WITH THE LIONS.
 A TALE OF THE ROMAN ARENA.
 BY CHARLES STEVENSON, Author of 'The Roman Arena' and 'The Roman Camp'.

CHAPTER I.
 THE STORM.

THE dusk of an autumnal evening was fast darkening into night; an unhealthy stillness filled the hot, sultry air; while the heavens,

lowering in wild, murky clouds, and the western horizon, burning with a lurid, wrathful glare, foretold a coming tempest.

At the distance of about three miles from the Flaminian gate stood a small and modest wayside inn, with its red-painted sign depicting the drunken Silenus mounted upon an ass and crowned with vine-leaves, attended by a sobriquet rabble of Satyrs and Bacchantes.

Before the door of this place of public entertainment stood a large wagon drawn by a yoke of powerful oxen.

The vehicle supported a huge den or cage, strictly secured by thick iron bars, over which was thrown a large tarpaulin cover.

Sitting under a vine-mantled arbour were three rowdy fellows, regarding themselves upon a substantial repast of roasted kid's flesh, bread, and cakes of dried figs, supplemented by a flask of cheap Sabine wine.

The prospect under the wild and gloomy effects of the stormy sky and the fiery blood-red gleam of the sunset, was one of impressive grandeur.

From the Barry One Collection, companion journal to 'The Sons of Britannia', and as rare.

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.

Old Magnets wanted, from the year 1908 onwards. Also few Nos. between years 1924 and 1932. Jacobs, 18 Ingledeu Road, Plumstead, London. S.E. 18. 17

For Sale: Collection of Cigarette Cards, well over 400 sets. Many old and rare, the bulk mounted on quarto cards. Would sacrifice at £25, or might split the collection. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks. Eng. 17

Wanted: Any numbers Boy's Standard 1883. or Boy's Champion Journal 1889, containing "Link Boy of Old London." Steele, 15 Ross Road, South Norwood, London. 17

Matchbox Labels Collectors duplicates, many obsolete, 100 different, 1/7½ U.S.A. 40c. Labelist, 220 Shirley Road, Southampton, Eng. 17

Collectors should send postcard for particulars of The Collectors Club. Townley Searle, hon. sec. 30 Gerrard Street, London. W.1. 17

Wanted: Magnets and Gems 1910 to 1915 and Penny Populars. Write, numbers, prices: Osborne, 93, White Horse Hill, Chislehurst, Kent. 17

Wanted: Aeronautical Medals and Buttons, and Typographical Medals, any period. Thomas Warburton, 15 Humphrey Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 8. 17

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 2½ posted from J. Hawkins, Publishers Agent, 25 Park Lane, Liverpool. 15

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.

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

India Silver Jubilee used ½a. 9 pies, 1d and 1¼a. \$2. 25, sh 9/- per 100 sets, postage extra, Indian Mail Order Circular, Dariba Kalan, Delhi, India.

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 Rob Roy, Spring Heeled Jack and others wanted. send list and prices to Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U.S.A.

Printer & Publisher : — J. Parks, Amber Street, Saltburn-by-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.*

New Series, No. 17. Price 3d. December, 1936.

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

CIGARETTE CARDS OF THE PAST

BY H. A. OWEN

LOOKING up some of the early issues of Salmon & Gluckstein, Ltd., I find they have turned out some very nice cards. Their "Shakespearean Series" comprising 22 of the most popular characters of Shakespeare's plays such as Portia in "Merchant of Venice," "Romeo and Juliet, etc. are all finely produced. Another set consists of thirty of the most popular characters on the Music Hall at that time ; Kate Carney, Vesta Victoria, Bransby Williams and others, depicted full length, as they appeared on the stage. An un-numbered series features forty-eight illustrations of the methods employed for conveying mail in different parts of the world. The post of the United States of America is shown as a sledge drawn by three dogs, the scene being set in the Backwoods. "Owners and Jockeys" consists of 20 cards, the jockey being shown full length with the owner, in one case the Prince of Wales, (the late King Edward) in a circle. "Billiard Terms" is a series of 15 and shows games of billiards in progress, while a set of "Queen Victoria" consists of 6 cards only with portraits of the Queen from 1820 to 1897, when the set was issued. "Heroes of the Transvaal War" was another un-numbered series, this time of 40 cards. One card shows the head and the shoulders of Lord Roberts ; another depicts Major General Baden Powell who joined the 12th. Hussars at the age of 19 in 1876, and others of a similar character. A description is given on the back of this series, but is lacking on the others mentioned which are doubtless earlier. All these are coloured series.

An un-numbered series of Faulkner's, consists apparently of "Actresses," there being no reading matter on the back except "W. & F. Faulkner Ltd., Manufacturers of High-Class Cigarettes, Blackfriars Road, London." None of them are named and the set probably consists of 25 or 30 cards. "Our Colonial Troops," a set of 90 by the same maker have a perfectly plain white back, and include the West India Regiment, Hong Kong Chinese Police, Malay States Guards, etc. on a

white background. "Street Cries" is a set of 12 cards such as a Lavender Girl—"Will you buy my sweet lavender," "Muffins," "Scissors to grind", etc. Another series of 12 has a title to each one ending with "ation." Perhaps a good name would be the "A-tion" series. A lady consulting her doctor is "Consultation," a scene in a Police Court "Affiliation," and so forth. "Nautical Terms" from "Union Jack" and "Grenadier" Cigarettes, illustrate various humorous situations. "Striking Colours" happens to be a lady in a gaily coloured dress with sunshade passing two sailors.

Another set issued by A. I. Jones & Co. is after the same style, and shows a sailor nursing a baby in long clothes, the title of this being "Stranded," and others of a similar nature.

"The Language of Flowers" is also a humorous set of 12 cards. "Purple Lilac—First Emotions of Love" depicts a servant girl who has offered a soldier a bunch of lilac, but he walks by and leaves the flowers lying on the ground, "Ivy I cling to thee" shows a man climbing up an ivy-covered wall to escape the attentions of a dog. There are also similar series such as "Sporting Terms," "Military Terms," "Football Terms" and "Golf Terms." All these are sets of 12 and were issued from 1900 to 1902.

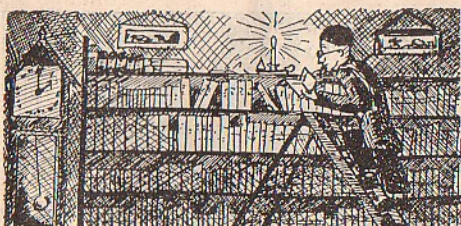
The "Kipling" series is another series worth mentioning, illustrating various scenes abroad such as "He saved the Empire," "Each of them doing his Country's work" (drinking mugs of beer), "Wiping something off the slate," etc. The main colour of the set is khaki.

Cigarette Card Collectors, (Great)

Over 1,000,000 German cigarette cards in complete sets in the best of condition, and which you can have from me by exchange. Send me 1000-2000 cards per printed matter, (you save postage). Desire especially cards featuring military, uniforms, technic, aviation, animals, birds, etc. Cards must be clean and complete.

Prefer Sets before 1920. I send my cards in return exchange within 3 days. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Ferdinand Semmel, Berlin-Weissensee,
Berliner-Allee 62,
Germany.



A LITTLE ABOUT OURSELVES

IN view of the fact that so many of our new subscribers are anxious to obtain back numbers of this journal and its predecessor *Vanity Fair*,

perhaps the following brief history of its inception and progress will be of interest.

The first number of *Vanity Fair* was published in June 1917, and consisted of 8 pages, demy 8vo. The first six issues were crudely printed on a small wooden home-made press and devoted entirely to Amateur Journalism. No. 8 contained our first article on old boy's books "The Boys World" which was written by the late Frank Jay who was also the author of an article on the Juvenile Drama which appeared in No. 9. From thence onwards, both these topics were fairly regular features. Commencing with No. 13 the journal was enlarged to large post 8vo. The first of Mr. Barry Ono's popular articles appeared in No. 14. *Vanity Fair* concluded its career, under that title, with No. 31, May-June 1927. It included among its regular contributors such stalwarts as the late Edw. F. Herdman, J. Daniels, J. J. Wilson, and many others who have since passed over.

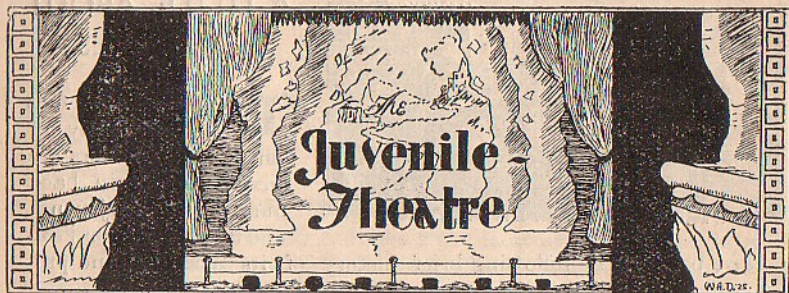
It was continued again in April 1928 under the title of *The Collector's Miscellany*. No. 1 contained our first article on match-box labels. This series was also large post 8vo. and ran to 12 numbers; Vol. 1, Nos. 1—6, and Vol. 2, Nos. 1—6. In September 1930 it was enlarged to crown 4to., the first issue being numbered No. 7. This series finished at No. 18, August-September, 1932.

The first number of the current series is titled "New Series, No. 1," and dated November-December, 1932, and up-to-date brings us to No. 17, making the grand total of numbers issued, 72. Mr. Ono's "List of Scarce 'Dreadfuls'" commenced in No 4 of the current series, and the "Catalogue of Match-box Labels" in No. 11.

JOSEPH PARKS.

**A Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year
To All our Subscribers,
Advertisers and Contributors.**





THE JUVENILE DRAMA ABROAD

BY GERALD C. T. MORICE

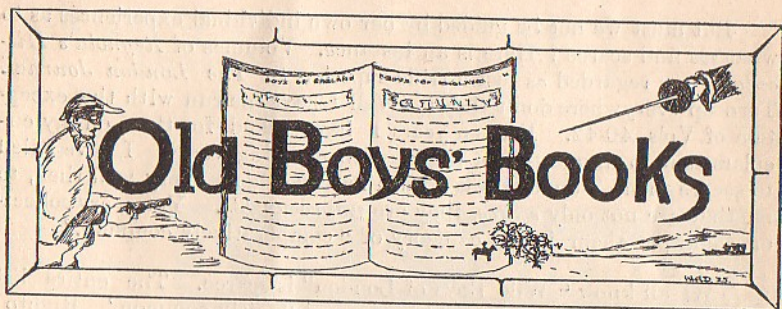
(Continued from No. 16)

IN Berlin I met a number of people who were very helpful to me, and who are in themselves very charming; thus, Herr Karl Hobecker who has the finest collection of old (and new) Children's Books in Germany, and who too has a number of interesting items of the Toy Theatre and associated interest, a true collector with wide knowledge and subjects. Dr. Wolfgang Bruhn, Curator of the Lippeheyde Costume Library, a fascinating affair, and who has done some exquisite series of cigarette cards for the firm of "Haus Neuerburg" of Cologne: one being "300 Years of Costume," in an album of great beauty. These cigarette cards are not put into the packets, but coupons are supplied, and when one has the requisite number the coupons are exchanged for the cards. Dr. Karl M. Feldhaus, an authority on technical matters and writer of several standard works on various aspects, collaborator on the French opus "Le Monde des Automates." And the Heidelberg Dr. Wilhelm Fraenger, Editor of the "Yearbook of Popular German Art," wherein appeared his masterly essay on the 150 year old firm of Gustav Kuehn in Neu Ruppin near Berlin, which firm in the middle of the last century also published toy theatre sheets, wood engraved, vigorously crude.

I was sorry to have to leave Berlin whither I shall return on my way to Kiel to meet Dr. Georg Jacob, the authority on the shadow theatre, whose standard work "History of the Shadow Show" has already had four editions.

I am writing this in Vienna in September, whither I have come via Germany and Salzburg, where Herr Aicher, fresh from successes in Russia with his newly built travelling theatre with figures twice as large

Continued on page 97



“PENNY DREADFULS”

WHAT DOES SCARCE MEAN ?

BY BARRY ONO

I SUPPOSE I have been responsible for the creation of quite a dozen little dealer-collectors, who armed with scant knowledge, pose as experts. In some cases they have started with a few visits to my collection which is open to all, plus the hour or two of lecture which I willingly give to those interested. Then they inveigle me into correspondence, my great weakness being, that I am prone to dilate at considerable length. That however is quite all right, and all are welcome to what I can teach them, and I just love to meet a new chum who is commencing as a collector. Comes however the aggravating sequel I receive in about six months, a list of books for sale, and against some quite common place item, I see in parenthesis (this is very scarce). The novice has commenced to “Teach his grandmother how to suck eggs.” Or worse still, he will assure me with awe and reverence, that inscribed on the flyleaf of the rarity in pencil is the legend “Very rare, £2-10-0.” I suppose I am silly to let it annoy me, but it does. You see, it is so often a book I should list at about 7/6. Whether some poor mug ever paid that price for it, or whether my informant has written it in himself, makes no odds, it doesn't alter the status of the book. Which brings me to the question—What IS “scarce,” and just what does it mean ?

I know of about a dozen “Sweeny Todds,” and have supplied about six myself. But it is a book that is wanted, and when acquired seldom parted with, it remains on the shelves of collectors. I know of only one *complete* copy of “The Skeleton Horseman, or the Shadow of Death” and that is my own copy. I know of one other minus one penny number. So all things being comparative “Todd” becomes common compared to the “Skeleton.”

But must we not be guided by our own individual experiences as to what *we* find scarce? Here is an instance. Volumes of *Reynold's Miscellany* are regarded as just a trifle superior to *The London Journal*. Turn up everywhere don't they? Well I have the run with the exception of Vols. 40-42. For ten years I have asked for them on my circulars sent to all quarters of the English speaking world. I have failed to secure them, I doubt if ever I shall secure them. Very well then, to *me* they are not only *scarce*, they are *unprocurable*. Yet every collector would put them in the category of "comparatively common."

We all know "Wild Boys of London" is scarce. The entire list of Brett's sixpenny issues would be deemed "fairly common." Right! Will some good Samaritan tell me where I can procure "True to Each Other, or Boyhood's Trust," "Young Pickwick's Schooldays" and the odd dozen I want to make up the Brett lot? To me they are *scarce*, because I cannot find them. At this stage let the new beginner start trying to build a complete "Jack Harkaway" run and see how "common" he will find them. Oh! yes! he'll get six easy enough, but get the *lot*. "Ned Nimble" he will find even a tougher proposition. *Ipsa facto*—then they must be *scarce*. The only difference is, when a "Wild Boys" is located, it is anything from £5 to £10, whereas, when the elusive Brett is found, it still only fetches a Brett price.

But that is largely the fault of collectors themselves, for don't forget it is the collectors who make the prices. A book may be ever so "scarce," but if nobody wants it, you can list it at 5/6, and it lives with you for life. It may be the only one on earth, but if not wanted, what does that matter? So it boils down to this, they are *all* scarce, if we want them very badly, and fail to get them, after using every possible effort.

So the legend inscribed on the fly leaf "Very scarce, £2-10-0," may be true, and in some cases quite reasonable, on the other hand may mean, that some collector, some time and somewhere, thought he wanted it very badly, and was duly held up to ransom.

The rarest of the rare, may also have 9d. written inside, and that 9d. may have been the price written in it by the bookstall keeper who sold it fifty years ago.

Such a price as £3-15-0 may also have been written by the fellow who was asking 15/- for it, well knowing that 10/- was its maximum value.

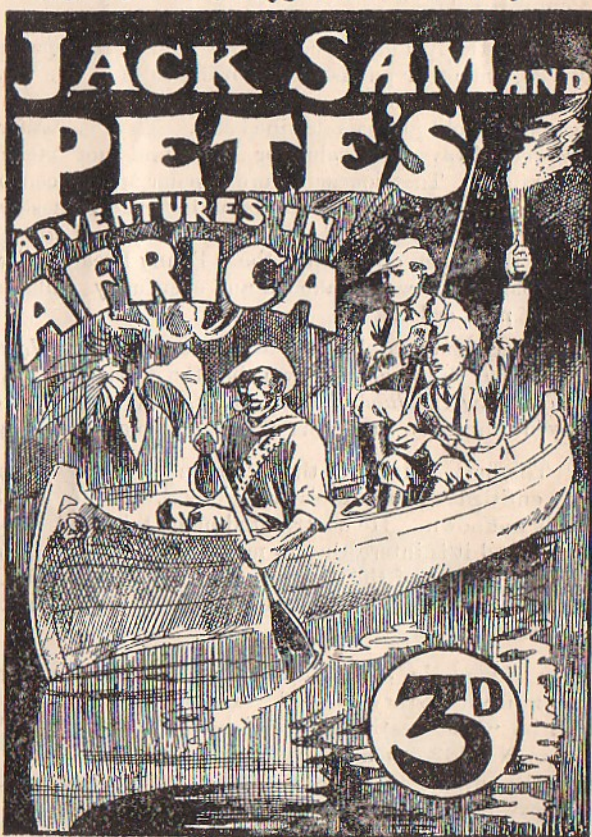
In a former article I asked "What is the *Value* of a Penny Dreadful?" I now ask, just exactly, as applied to the "Penny Dreadful," what does *scarce* mean?

THE DAWN OF THE MODERN ERA OF BOYS'
LITERATURE—S. CLARKE HOOK

BY J. MEDCRAFT

THE old order changeth. In 1893, the old "Penny Dreadful" was nearing the end of its long run and the dawn of the Harmsworth regime was approaching. The advent of the *Halfpenny Marvel* in November of this year heralded the new order in boys' literature. Hitherto, this had been of the penny weekly variety and dismal failure predicted for those pioneers who ventured to publish at half this price. The *Halfpenny Marvel* consisted of 16 pages

No. 1 of "The Boys' Friend" Library.



in a green illustrated cover and contained one complete tale weekly, embellished with several illustrations from half-tone blocks. Later a serial was included and this became a permanent feature. The youth of the period, realising that here was better value than provided by the old penny number romances, gave the new venture whole hearted support and this encouraged the publishers to issue two more books conducted upon similar lines, first the *Union Jack*, resplendent in a mauve

coloured cover in May 1894, followed by *Pluck* with a yellow cover in November 1894. Not to be outdone, Bretts followed suite on Nov. 2nd. 1894 with the *Halfpenny Surprise* in a red cover; and so there were four books of identical construction appearing at the same time and meeting with equal success. Undoubtedly, this was an important factor in the decision of Bretts to reduce the price of their penny number romances to a halfpenny and eventually hastening the end of the "Penny Dreadful."

With the Aldine Co. concentrating mainly upon complete weekly libraries, and other publishers following suite in one way or another, inevitably the penny number romance waned. Although apparently not affected, the old journals declined also. This is rather surprising for they were always good value for money and not menaced by the new publications. That journals were popular is evinced by success, years later, of the *Boy's Friend*, *Realm* and *Herald*: these were little different from the older journals excepting the type of story. One can only assume that when one prop of the "Penny Dreadful" was undermined, the whole edifice was weakened and eventually collapsed making way for the new order.

After a successful run of about 12 years, the *Halfpenny Surprise* ended when Bretts closed down, but the *Marvel*, *Union Jack* and *Pluck*, reinforced by the *Boy's Friend*, went from strength to strength and enjoyed unbroken runs extending from 24 to 36 years approx.

The first number of the *Halfpenny Marvel* commenced with a story entitled "Dead Man's Land" by S. Clarke Hook, then comparatively unknown. He contributed many tales and serials to the above papers, and it is interesting to note that a negro character was introduced into many of the stories. All unknowingly, S. Clarke Hook was gradually evolving his world famous character long before Pete actually appeared.

In *Marvel* No. 385 23/3/01, Jack, Sam and Pete made their initial appearance in a story entitled "The Eagle of Death." This was followed by "The Death Sentence" in No. 387 and "The Black Horseman" in No. 389. Then followed at short intervals "The Lake of Death," "The Haunted Fort," "Lost in the Catacombs," "A Witness from the Grave," "The Hermit of the Ice," "Phantom Raiders," "The Deathless Horseman," "The Haunted Mountain," and others with equally alluring titles. In all, about 36 of these stories appeared in the *Halfpenny Marvel* prior to No. 530, the last of the old series. Fred Bennett perpetrated the illustrations to the first few titles, very poor stuff, his characters were nondescript and his conception of the aboriginal inhabitants of South America and the Phillipines was ludicrous.

Two others were exceedingly well drawn by Willis Reading, brother of the famous "Val" who illustrated Burrage's "Dick Strongbow"

and many of the earlier Harmsworth journals. The majority were drawn by R. J. Macdonald, who illustrated the *Gem* for a long period some years later.

Even in those early days, Jack, Sam and Pete were very popular, and at the height of their fame they were regarded by the youth of the period with an affection equal to that bestowed upon Ching-Ching, Jack Harkaway and Tom Wildrake by the youth of an earlier generation.

Jack Owen was portrayed as a stalwart Englishman of good birth and education, Sam Grant a shrewd American, and Pete a herculean negro with a large heart and heavy hand.

With No. 530, the halfpenny series ended and the new series of the *Marvel*, double size and price, started off at No. 1 again with an extra long tale of Jack, Sam and Pete entitled "The Isle of Fire." These stories now appeared more frequently and from No. 21 became consecutive, continuing so for over 15 years. The popularity of the *Marvel* increased enormously during the next few years; the famous trio became veritable demi-gods with the juvenile population, and a penny tendered to the local newsagent accompanied by the mystic word *Jassampete* was deemed quite sufficient to secure a copy.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

AUTHORSHIP IN THE BLOOD

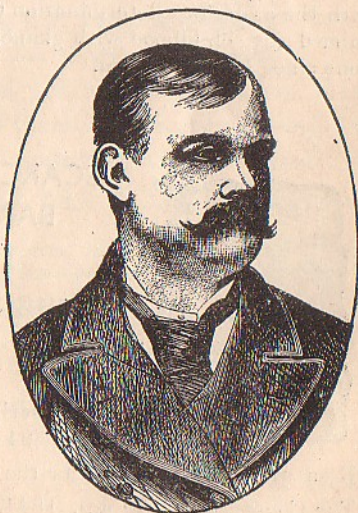
oOo

A WRITING DESCENDANT OF "JACK HARKAWAY"

IT is a pleasing little coincidence to me that Sampson Low, Marston & Co., in listing my latest story of school life, "Pulling Templestone Together," place it immediately above a yarn called "The Flying Midget," by Bracebridge Heming.

The old familiar name leapt to my eye and set me wondering. Could this be a descendant of "Jack Harkaway's" creator, or was it someone who had taken up the name as a good non-deplume? Our fondly remembered

"Harkaway" author spelt his surname "Hemyng." this new writer



with his story of crooks and aeroplanes, put an "i" where the "y" was.

To settle it, I asked Sampson Low about it. Their answer was "With reference to your enquiry concerning Bracebridge Heming, yes, he is of the same family as the author of 'Jack Harkaway's School-days.' He is the nephew of the writer of that book and of all the other Harkaway stories, and curiously we have another book of his in from the printer alongside of your own."

For zuld lang syne, I shall buy young Bracebridge Heming's book and read it, while not expecting to get the thrills from it that warmed my blood as I sat rigid over "Jack Harkaway" in my schooldays. Another Sampson Low story of his is called "Air Aces of the North." Many of your readers will also be familiar with the books of A. Harcourt Burrage, son of E. Harcourt Burrage of "Ching-Ching" fame. I recollect the joy I felt when the *Boys Comic Journal* (I think it was) gave away a coloured plate bearing the title "A Chip of the Old Block." Well, here is a chip of the old block in two cases: a Bracebridge Heming and a Harcourt Burrage writing books for boys of the twentieth century, even as their illustrious forbears wrote for us in late Victorian days.

It was such cheery writers as Bracebridge Heming and Harcourt Burrage, together with authors of lesser reputation—J. N. Pentelow, T. Podmore Charles, Guy Ranger, and Edwin S. Hope—who fired me with the ambitious determination to become a boy's author myself. They imbued my childhood with glamorous romance and all that I have done since I owe to them.

R. A. H. GOODYEAR



SCARCE "DREADFULS" IN THE BARRY ONO COLLECTION

14th. LIST.

THE E. LLOYD SECTION (NO. 5)

(Continued from No. 16)

"Manuscripts from the Diary of a Physician,"
24 nos. 1847.

"Brentwood of Brentwood, or the Oath." 52 nos. 1846.

"The Conspirator." 20 nos. 1844.

"Felicia, or the Temptor and His Victim." 43 nos. 1850.

- "Alice Home, or the Revenge of the Blighted One." 52 nos. 1848.
- "The Deceiver's Doom." 29 nos. 1848.
- "Gold, or the Stranger of the Wreck." 30 nos. 1847.
- "Tales of Minstrelsey" 20 nos. 1848.
- "Woman's Life, or the Trials of the Heart." (By author of "Varney the Vampyre.") 32 nos. 1846.
- "The First False Step, or the Path of Crime." (By author of "Varney.") 22 nos. 1846.
- "Yarns of the Ocean." 24 nos. 1852.
- "The Christmas Log." (Rare piracy on Dicken's "Christmas Carol.") 10 nos. 1846.
- "Fanny Goodwin, or the Delusion of Pride." 29 nos. 1852.
- "The Witch's Cliff." 10 nos. 1839.
- "Ernest Clavering, or the Fatal Marriage." 9 nos. 1847.
- "Mary Bateman, or the Yorkshire Witch." 24 nos. 1840.
- "Marriette, or the Forger's Wife." 17 nos. 1847.
- "The People's Periodical." 52 nos. All that were published. (Sweeny Todd first appeared as a short serial in this). 1846.
- Lloyd's Penny Atlas. Vols. 1 & 2. 104 nos. (This and the following Lloyd journals, contained the serials afterwards issued in separate penny number form, as in this and preceding lists). 1843.
- "Lloyd's Miscellany." Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. 240 nos. 1843.
- " " " New Series. Vol. 1. 26 nos. No date.
- " " " Entertaining Journal. Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. 156 nos. 1844.
- " " " " New Series. 38 nos. All published. 1847.
- " " " Family Portfolio. Vol. 1. (Apparently all published). No date.
- THIS CONCLUDES, SO FAR, THE E. LLOYD SECTION.

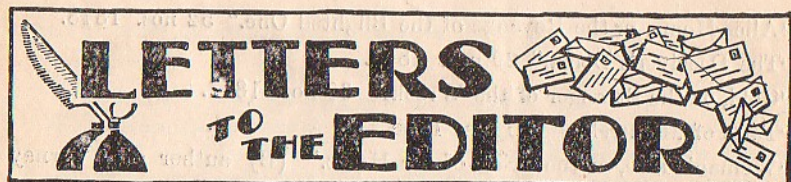
None of the above are for sale, only inserted to interest readers of "The Collector's Miscellany."

(To be continued)

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. 10 of the current series are out of print. Copies of nos. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 can still be supplied at 3d. each, post free.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLD MUSIC COVERS—STILL NOT UNUSUAL

WITHOUT friendly argument, the minor hobbies are wont to languish and die, and always providing they do not get acrimonious, should be welcome to the *Collector's Miscellany* and kindred magazines.

I was amazed, that my old friend (and risking another repudiation, I will add protagee") John Medcraft, in answer to my few lines on the subject, thought it worth while to devote two whole pages, to repudiate a whole lot that he imagined I meant to convey, that I did not. With delicious humour, having caned me well and good, he then says he will in future retire from the argument, and hand me over to the world's heavyweight champion on the subject, a Mr. E. P. Moulson, who will wipe me off the face of the earth. Naive: but "I'm not having some," as quite honestly I don't know enough of this subject to take on "champions." But I may not be so abysmally ignorant as John assumes.

Yes; I know of Mr. W. Imeson and his book on the subject, in fact my "Mr. Iles" was a slip of the pen for "Imeson." I also know that the Baxter craze was probably the start of the alleged "unusual hobby," plus Cruikshank, etc. So Barry is not unaware of the book or the larger subject. Such illustrations as "Napoleon," "Princess Royal," "Princess Louise," three of "Jenny Lind," "Holy Family," "News From Home," and "Fruit Girl of the Alps" are I believe among those sought.

The reason my own collection is so paltry is because I only specialise on *Music Hall Celebrities of the Nineties*. In other words I am not a bona fide and all out collector of covers, and never even suggested that I was. Because one collector, for reasons of space, likes to sabotage the song (which some would consider vandalism) I cannot agree as between those who keep the item intact, and those who destroy part of it, that "they are two distinct hobbies." As regards my contention that the hobby is not "unusual," my friend Mr. Chas. Salkeld, bookseller of Clapham Rd. (intimately acquainted with Mr. Imeson) has been supplying varied clients for many years past, as have other booksellers the length and breadth of Great Britain.

I am in conclusion sorry, if I trod on friend John's susceptibilities, when I said I thought I had "supplied the major portion of his collection of 'penny dreadfuls.'" I made the statement in all good faith, but admit my data is two years old. I can only say, if in these last two

years, John has added another two thirds then not only must be the world's most amazing hustler, but he must have had the most amazing luck, plus spending what must have been a small fortune.

Two years ago, I let friend John have the first run over, what was considered to be the next biggest collection in Great Britain to my own, that of the late R. T. Herring, whose collection I bought en bloc, and with the exception of those items I lacked in my own collection, and took for myself, he had what he liked. Some collection too, believe me. However, as I know from a happy personal experience of many years, friend John is the impersonification of truth and honesty, I can only accept with astonishment, this "two thirds more."

Now as to "Music Covers" I must positively refuse to meet John's deputy "World's Champion Moulson." Don't know enough about it, and don't want to. "Penny Dreadfuls" and "Fierce Boy's Journals," that is my subject, and on that subject *only*, friend John can muster all the champions he likes, and I'll take on the lot. I merely said the collection of Music Covers (with or without the song as you please) was not, speaking comparatively an "unusual hobby." I've seen too many pro's. pubs., in too many provincial towns, positively lined with them, if not the Baxter and Cruikshank section, certainly the bulk of the others, and in divers other places. At that I leave it, and do so hope I have said nothing that can hurt, or be misconstrued.

BARRY ONO

ORIGINAL "PENNY DREADFUL" POSTERS

THE collection of the original illustrated posters of old "penny dreadfuls" and "bloods" is a very fascinating hobby. Most collectors have a copy of "Charity Joe," "Tom Wildrake's Schooldays," "The Blue Dwarf," etc., but who can boast of having a rare collection of the original illustrated posters depicting the tales contained in the books? These posters, illustrated by the best artists of their day, would be an adjunct to their respective books which they illustrated. The following are in my collection and I shall be pleased to show them to anyone interested if they care to give me a call.

"Spring Heeled Jack, the Terror of London," "Sweeny Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street," "Turnpike Dick, the Star of the Road," "Jack Sheppard," "Tom King and Jonathan Wild," "The Blue Dwarf," "Jack O' the Cudgel," "Jack Harkaway and His Son's Adventures in Greece," "Bob Blunt the Traveller," "Roderick Dhu," "Ned Kelly, the Ironclad Bushranger," "Nailed to the Mast," "Poor Boys of London," "Life History of Barnum," "Young Tom's Adventures," "Young Ching-Ching," "The Gipsy Schoolboy," "Tom Wildrake's Schooldays,"

"Tom Floremall's Schooldays," "Captain of the School," Tom Tartar at School," "Young Pickwick's Schooldays," "Dashing Duval, the Ladies' Highwayman," Follow my Leader," "Handsome Harry," Marwood the Hangman."

R. MEREDITH,
STATION ROAD,
FOLKESTONE

A NEW OLD FAVOURITE

TRIUMPHANT REVIVAL OF RARE "TIM PIPPIN"

AN ever growing band of devotees, beseege second-hand booksellers, asking (usually in vain) for "Any of the Henderson publications," and increasingly in the book trade journals do we see them asked for under "Books Wanted." Most wanted of all has been the well nigh extinct "Tim Pippin" series. Messrs. Joiner & Steele, Publishers, have apparently waved a magic wand, for Phoenix like, we see rising from the ashes, the wonderful "Tim" of our youth, that so many hundreds of us wish we had preserved. Written by Roland Quiz, with its positively brilliant illustrations by "Puck," the like of which have never been seen before or since, all the originals have been most faithfully reproduced, and under its title of "Giantland," at 7/6, there will be no finer present this Xmas, for boys and girls, both young and old, as I can see Dad buying it for Tommy, and re-reading it himself with sheer delight. This book, now preserved for posterity, should go down with "Gulliver's Travels" and "Alice in Wonderland" as just as big a classic, and from a fabulously rare item on collector's shelves, should now find its way into every home. Its revival will be glorious news for many, and I can honestly say to all collectors, delay not, but get your copy now.

BARRY ONO

MAGAZINES RECEIVED

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

Cigarette Card News; Georgiaman; Stamp Collector's Bulletin; Dime Novel Round-up; Novel Mart; Collector's Guide; Welcome News; Collector; Hobbies; Dime and Nickel Novel Catalogue (1937); Near East Stamp Review; Wide World Hobbist.

WE are informed, that well-known collector, and old contributor to this journal, Mr. Matthew Hunter, has disposed of his entire collection of rare "dreadfuls" and journals to that omnivorous buyer, Mr. Barry Ono. Several of the items we have reason to believe are unique.

THE JUVENILE DRAMA ABROAD—*Cont'd from page 86*

as usual, has been giving a series of performances in the Municipal Theatre; in Vienna there has just taken place the 9th. Congress of the International Society of the Theatre, at which I represented our Guild.

At the same time there was the International Exhibition of Theatre Art, with a survey of modern theatre activities in the European and American Theatres. Dr. Joseph Gregor, Director of the Theatre Collection in the National Library in Vienna, is responsible for the planning and execution of this very successful exhibition which has also an historical section, based mainly on the achievements of the Austrian Theatre during the last three centuries. Dr. Gregor has included examples of the puppet and of the shadow theatre.

Thus there was to be seen the Mirror Theatre of Professor Richard Teschner (which has already paid a visit to England; it was at the Austrian Exhibition in London a few years ago), and also shadow figures from Java and China from the collection of the Professor. There was also a Polish puppet theatre, figures from crib plays from St. Poelten and Steyr, popular Vienna Marionette figures of the '80's," a room full of properties and figures of a mechanical theatre, etc.

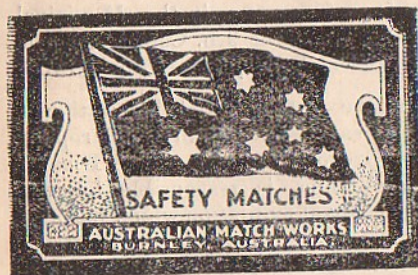
In this connection and with respect to the activities of the "Unima" (International Union of Marionetteers) and so on, I gave a talk in German on the 7th. of September from "Radio Wien." Later, I made the valuable acquaintance of Herr Heinz Ruprecht, who is especially well informed as regards the past and present history of Puppetry in Vienna.

I am now journeying North over Germany and hope to be home at the beginning of October.

During the summer I found in a well-known bookseller in the Charing Cross Road, some 25 original copper plates of the Juvenile Drama, including the almost complete "Floating Beacon" of Skelt, and a number of Theatrical Portraits. On the reverse side of some were Regency Political Caricatures, apprentices' work, etc. The B.P.M.T. G. may re-issue some of the scenes later.

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*Being a continuation of the
Blue Moon Booklets*

(Continued from No. 16).

CUBA		m.m.
1	LA COMMERCIAL, Habana, top side and bottom, peacock, woman, multicoloured, yellow border	107 x 43
2	EL DOMINO, dominos, one side & bottom, red, navy, yellow	102 x 45
3	ERRASTI Y PEREZ, Republica De Cuba, top side & bottom, red, navy, yellow	44 x 105
COLUMBIA		
1	COLOMBO, phosphoros, Da Fabrica Mercurio, black, yellow on yellow	52 x 31
2	COLUMBIANA, Estrella, star in corner, red, black, white on white	45 x 30
3	COLOMBO, a foreign inscription, red, yellow on yellow	46 x 34
4	LAS PALMAS, Gran Canaria, a star in corner, brown, yellow on yellow	42 x 33
5	AGUILA, eagle and globe, Honduras, navy and yellow	58 x 35
CANADA		
1	CANADA SOL, on one side; Canada Match Co. on other, red, white, blue on white, top and bottom	63 x 90
2	COLUMBIA, top, sides and bottom, red, white and blue	53 x 97
3	NATIONAL, All Canadian, top, sides and bottom, red, white, and blue on white	56 x 100
4	DOMINION STORES, Eddy Match Co., red, white, " " " "	52 x 82
5	EDDY'S PONY MATCH, man playing polo, navy, cream, top, side and bottom	62 x 103
6	RED AND WHITE, Eddy Match Co. Ltd., red, white, blue, top, side, and bottom	53 x 100
7	DE LUXE, red, white & navy, top, sides & bottom	54 x 98
8	PINE TREE, a pine tree at side, red, navy, white on red, top and bottom	67 x 86
9	MAPLE LEAF, leaf at side, red, white, navy on white, top & bottom	54 x 64
10	" " " " white on navy " "	66 x 70
11	" " " " navy on white " "	53 x 80
12	" " " " " " " " " "	54 x 66
13	DOMINION MATCH, "D" in centre, red, black, yellow on yellow	53 x 33
14	CAPITAL SAFTIES, capital buildings, red, cream	51 x 30
15	ALLUMETTES, aeroplane in centre, red, white, navy on white	52 x 31
16	CAPITAL, capital building in centre, brown, cream on cream	54 x 35
17	" " " " brown, blue, yellow on yellow	56 x 36

(TO BE CONTINUED).

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