

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. ~~23~~²² Price 3d. August-December, 1938.

Now Ready.

IN PENNY WEEKLY NUMBERS.

Now Ready.

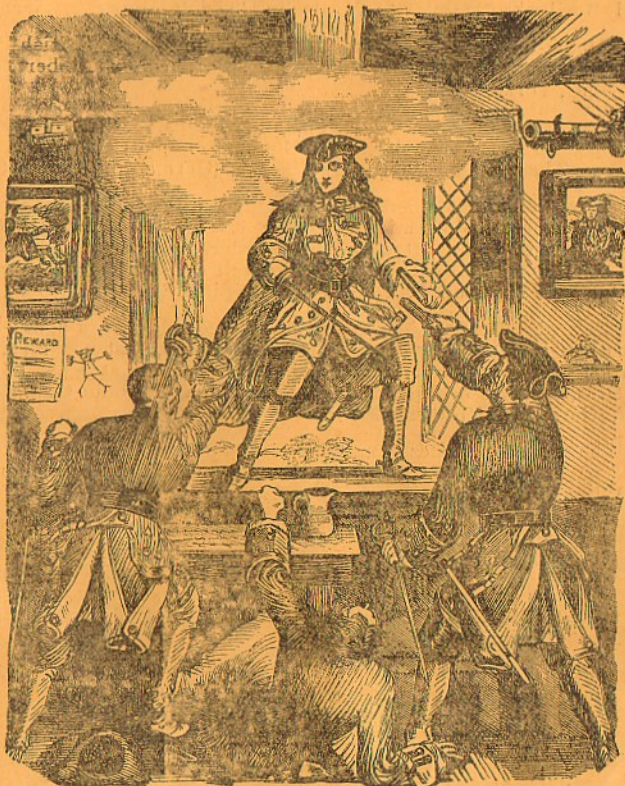
STARLIGHT NELL,

QUEEN OF THE HIGHWAYMEN;

OR, THE

SCARLET RIDERS OF HOUNSLOW HEATH.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "CAPTAIN MACHEATH."



No. 2 and a Splendid Engraving Gratis with No. 1.

TEMPLE PUBLISHING COMPANY, 45, Essex Street, Strand, London.

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.

Always exchange match-labels with all collectors, label for label. I give Austrian (glazed), Czechoslovakian, South American, Swedish, Russian, etc. An advanced collector of over 20 years I have many duplicates and also rarities. Send me your labels, wrappers (not cut out), and dozen-labels for exchange. H. Bresinsky, Schluterstr 71, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Germany

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

Exchange Always: Cigarette Cards, Postage Stamps, Match-box Labels, Poster Stamps, Entires, Necessity Paper Money, Bookplates, Fiscal Stamps, Tram-tickets. Theodor Geh, Berlin-Templehof, (Germany), Moltkestr. 20.

All Match Label Collectors should read the only book published on Swedish match labels. Over 200 illustrations. Only a few copies left. Price is 50 cents (2/2), which may be remitted by money order, coin, or mint stamps of this value. Copies may also be ordered through the Editor of this paper. Published by Sw. Johansson, P.O. Box 95, Jonkoping, Sweden.

Exchange Cigarette Cards: Sets against sets, and odd cards against odd cards in spotless condition. Exchange also match labels, poster stamps, tram tickets, propaganda postmarks, registered labels, postage stamps, (Michel, Yvert), entires, air-mail bookplates, fiscals (revenue). Theodor Geh, Berlin-Templehof, (Germany), Moltkestr 20.

Wanted: Wholesale catalogues of merchandise or postage stamps. Will pay cash for old paper money, large silver coins and magazines. Raymond H. Rigor, P.O. Box 207, Elwood, Indiana, U.S.A. 22

Join The Blue Moon Club. Largest club in the world. Devoted entirely to match labels. Over 200 active members in fifteen countries. Yearly Membership costs but \$1 or 200 different match-box labels, exclusive of Japan or India. Also publishers of the first match-box label catalogue. For full information write to M. A. Richardson, Secy., P.O. Box 411, Ticonderoga, New York, U.S.A.

2/- per number offered for Marvel, new series, Nos. 181, 186, 191, 195, 197, 212, 288. Aldine Invention, Nos. 66, 67, 68, 121, 131, 146, 155, 159, 160 Henderson's Wild West Library, Nos. 179, 180. 1/- per number for Wild West Nos. 263, 264, 269, 270, 271, 272, 277, 278, 279, 280, 282, 283, 284. Henderson's Nugget Library Nos. 19, 20, 89, 105, 127, 138, 139. Also wanted, Magnets, Plucks, Union Jacks, Gems, Boy's Friend Libraries up to 1915. Medcraft 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex, England.

Exchange match labels with advanced collectors. A. R. Rogers, 219 S. Alden Street, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A. 22

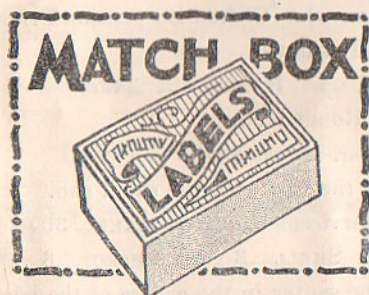
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6 issues, as published, 1/6 post free; U.S.A. and Canada 37 cents



THE LABELS OF BELGIUM

THE regular contributor to this page having failed our Editor this month, I have been invited to write a few lines. Having just completed the re-arrangement of a small collection of some 350 or so

Belgium labels, I thought that to mention a few of the issues of this country might interest collectors, so off we go.

ABYSSINIAN—40, blk on yel., 50—blk and red on yel., 50—do. a var.

AGRICOLA—40, blk. and bn. on yel., 50 do.

ARGOSY—3 varieties. One no av. and two 50's, blk and red on yel.

BARD—5 vars., two saf. gn. and red on yel., and three par., blue and red on wh.

BRIDGE—50, 4 vars., blue and red on wh., one var. in violet. Count the bricks on the pillars.

BLACK PRINCE—50, blue and black on yel., 2 vars.

CAMP—40, 45, 50, 6 vars., blk. and red on yel., one var. red on wh.

CONGO FALLS—no av., blk and gn. on wh., 2 vars., up.

DOUBLE HORSE—6 vars. DICK TURPIN—50, 2 vars., saf. and par.

EXCELSIOR—5 vars. EGYPT—blk. and red on yel.

ELLERIDE—no av., muli., up. (volcano).

FOX—5 vars, note the various type of tail. FLANDRIA—3 vars.

FALSTAFF—50, blk. and gn. on yel., 50 do. blk. and red on yel.

- FIR TREE—gn. and red on wh., up. GONDOLA. HUSSAR.
 INDEX—45, 50, blue and red on wh.
 KNOCK-OUT—50, blk. and red on yel., (boxing match).
 LORDSHIP—(Judge). LADDIE. LUSTRINE—5 vars. LEAGUE—5 vars.
 MAID OF KENT. MOTHER HUBBARD—up.
 MOTOR BUS—par. blue and red on wh. saf. blk. and red on yel.
 NORTH STAR—3 vars., up. par., and a var. (saf.) which depicts a diamond instead of a star.
 OLD TALE—no av., 43, up. OLD VINDICTIVE—35, blue and blk. on wh.
 PARK—35, blk. and red on wh., pur. and saf.
 PRIDE OF THE WEST—gn. and red on wh. Clifton Suspension Bridge.
 PRESS. PICKWICK. PARACHUTE. PEGASSUS.
 PUFF—40, man smoking a cigarette, up. RAMBLER—2 vars.
 ROSE OF PECKHAM—up. and obl. ROBIN HOOD.
 ROCKING HORSE—45, 50. The up. var. always eludes me.
 RISING SUN—45, 50. I cannot get the var. with the small sun.
 REMEMBER—2 vars. Made by Ex-servicemen. SNOWFLAKE—30
 SALVATOR—5 vars. SIMPLEX—3 vars. SHELL—3 vars. SELECT—6 vars.
 SENTRY—Cannot get the one with the sentry in the centre of the label, but I have this variety from Finland.
 ST. GEORGE—45, 50. SONNY—5 vars. Note the different collars.
 SOWING MAID—6 vars., one printed and issued for use in France.
 ST. PAUL. THE SPAHI. TOP SCORE. STORK—2 vars.
 TYNESIDERS—features a map of Durham and Northumberland.
 TRILBY. TRITON—10 vars. THREE XXX's—(2). THREE ARABS.
 THREE STEAMERS—(6). THREE KNIGHTS. THREE PARACHUTES—(6).
 THREE SPIRES—(5). THREE HALBERDS—(3). THREE HORSES—(3).
 THREE MUSKETEERS—(3). THREE TORCHES—(13).
 THREE FRIENDS—(3). VIOLET. VESURVIUS. WOODS—2 vars.
 WOODMAN. WINDMILL. WILLIAM TELL—2 vars., ETC.

This is but a brief outline of a few of the more outstanding of labels from Belgium, as the space at my disposal would not permit of mentioning more of these labels, nor of detailed descriptions.

Wanted : Old Boys Books from 1850 to 1905 particularly Spring-Heeled Jack. Sweeny Todd, Moonlight Jack, Blueskin, Jack Rann, Captain Macheath. Also Aldines, Dick Turpins and Spring-Heeled Jacks, and many others. Lists and prices to Brooks, 15 Ipsley Street, Redditch, Worcs. 22



NEWS AND NOTIONS

MAINLY ABOUT BOOKS

BY J. R. PROCTER

THE focus of interest lately for many who are interested in books has been the SUNDAY TIMES National Book Fair.

The Fair was held this year, for the first time, at the new Earls' Court Exhibition Buildings. I met many old friends there and all regretted the passing of the cosy intimacy of be-carpeted Dorland Hall but agreed that it was pleasant to have more air and space. Nevertheless, so popular has this annual event become, it was impossible when I was there—the first Saturday—to walk up to any of the demonstrations or more “exciting” exhibits without having to take one's place in a queue to secure a place in the front row of spectators.

This year the Fair was held in the Richmond Hall, the main hall being occupied by the Cycle Exhibition. I wonder how long—or how short a time it will be before the Fair requires the MAIN Hall to house it?

—o—O—o—

The Book Fair proved a happy hunting ground for collectors of literary autographs. Each day three or four well-known authors lectured and afterwards, at a special stall, signed copies of their works purchased at the Exhibition.

But perhaps the best autographed bargain was the two-guinea edition of a book called “Consequences” pub'd by the Golden Cockerel Press. This is described in their catalogue as “a complete story in the manner of the old parlour game in nine chapters, each by a different author.” Limited to 200 copies and printed in red and black on hand-made paper, bound in blue morocco, this edition is signed by all nine authors—Elizabeth Bowen, A. E. Coppard, John Van Druten, Sean O'Faolain, Ronald Fraser, Norah Hoult, Hamish Maclaren, G. B. Stern and Malachi Whitaker.

—o—O—o—

Of great interest to collectors, too, was the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association's exhibit which included historical documents signed by Henry VIII, Mary Tudor and Queen Elizabeth, and a lease of Blackfriars Theatre to Richard Burbage, friend of Shakespeare, besides many other rarities.

—o—O—o—

Collectors of miniature books looked with admiration and awe at the smallest ever—made for Queen Mary's doll's house. This was displayed on the stand of William Clowes, the printers.

—o—O—o—

Scorn not the Old Boys' Book enthusiasts. Sixty-five-year old Mr. Ernest Callard, deputy librarian at Wandsworth and London's oldest serving librarian admits that it was "penny dreadfuls" which first gave him an interest in books and inspired him to become a librarian. Mr. Callard is shortly to retire.

—o—O—o—

It must be difficult to preserve one's sense of humour when a hooligan has just smashed your shop window. But Mr. _____, bookseller of St. Martin's Lane, W. C. 2., manages to do so. He has posted the following notice :

"If the gentleman who smashed my window will call, I shall be pleased to return his brick and present him with a copy of "Chats on Old Glass."

—o—O—o—

MAGAZINES RECEIVED

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

Match Labels ; Hobbies ; Dime Novel Round-up ; Novel Mart ; Rare Book Speculator.

Special Offer Open to all Subscribers:

One Year's Subscription and 20 Word Free Advert 1/6

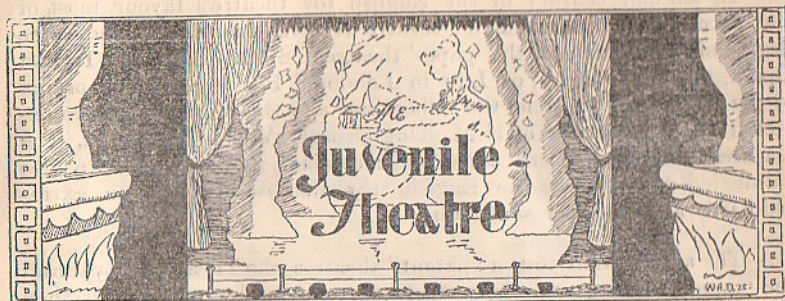
(United States and Canada 37 cents)

BACK NUMBERS— All numbers prior to No. 10 of the current series are out of print. Copies of nos. 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 can still be supplied at 3d. each, post free.



**The Compliments of the
Season to all our readers,
Contributors and Advertisers.**





THE TOY THEATRE

THE toy theatre has recently been news again and while to many people this has been the substantiation of a memory, many others, perhaps, have but little idea of what is meant or implied.

The toy theatre is essentially a nineteenth century product, although, of course, it has also present day uses. It is essentially a replica of the human theatre, the characters and scenes being drawn or printed on paper, then mounted on cardboard and cut out. A certain degree of convention is required, for there can be but little movement on the part of the figures which are controlled from the sides. The ensuing stylisation need not be too much of a drawback, but can indeed attain a positive value in, say, the portrayal of narrative. The toy theatre has had and still has a very great many friends, well known and otherwise. Thus Dickens, Millais, Ellen Terry, Winston Churchill, C. K. Chesterton, all had toy theatres. The "toy" or "paper" theatre was and is still very popular abroad.

In England it had in its printed state an especially attractive form with one hundred and twenty-five years history, the earliest known sheets of characters being dated 1811. Publication proceeded on a creative scale until well into the 'sixties. At the time of the "theatre madness," in the 'thirties and 'forties,—the Licensing Act was repealed in 1843—there were a number of "publishers," for the makers seemed to have preferred to distinguish themselves thus from other "jobbing printers." The first printer was probably "W. West, Strand," who had the Cruikshanks to work for him. The sheets were printed off copper plates; later—and by other publishers—lithography was used. Finally, woodcut productions contributed largely to the decline, which, with the march of science and its introduction to the children's sphere, would probably have set in of itself.

In the half century of the English toy theatre's favour, most of the successes of the "human" theatre received translation and some degree of immortality in the 'paper' theatre. Shakespeare, the Italian Opera, "Tom and Jerry, or Life in London," Pierce Egan's panorama of the fast life of the time, the "Shockers" and the Pantomimes are depicted. The Coronation of H.M. King George IV. was illustrated. The features of famous actors, actresses, comedians and clowns were also delineated, and of these the English toy theatre provides an extraordinarily accurate representation.

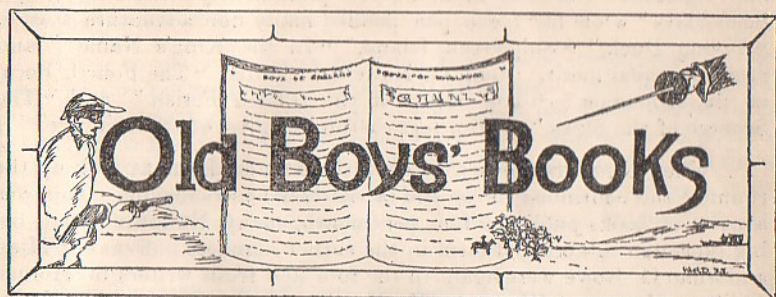
The artists went to the "patent" theatres, the Theatres Royal and the "minor" houses, and there made sketches and notes, which they later amplified and transferred on to copper and stone. The toy theatre is not only a kind of 'theatrical museum in miniature'; in its scenery and figures it is a record of the life and times, modes and manners. The London of the nineteenth century stands reviewed. Old Westminster Bridge, the streets of Clerkenwell, the Old Bailey, the Royal Exchange, the small multi-paned windows of the shop fronts and the streets are all there, awaiting the waving of Harlequin's magic wand to be transformed into something still different for the merry pranks of clown and Pantaloon.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in the *MAGAZINE OF ART* for 1884, an essay "Penny Plain, Twopence Coloured," later to be reprinted in a volume of collected papers, "Memories and Portraits." He wrote of his own childhood's toy theatre and its delights, and went on to eulogise one, Skelt, a publisher in the Minories, just off Tower Hill. Skelt of course did a great deal of work in the 'forties and 'fifties, but it was in no way more outstanding than that of many other publishers. I have a feeling that the very sound of his name must have especially appealed to Stevenson, for it is a toy theatre name. Stevenson further mentioned one of the then only two existent publishers, saying, "If you love art, folly and the bright eyes of children, speed to Pollocks. Mr. Pollock, who was over eighty, died last year.

In the little shop in Hoxton, just beyond the City and in the shadow of the great Britannia Theatre, the Drury Lane of the East End, where so many plays were produced of that type of drama on which the toy theatre thrived, Mr. Pollock for sixty years, passed his time printing and colouring the Juvenile Drama. He married into the trade. His father-in-law was J. Reddington, to whose business he succeeded. Reddington himself was for many years a toy theatre publisher and had taken over the stock-in-trade, including the plates, of other publishers, as did later Mr. Pollock.

GERALD MORICE

Reprinted from *DRAMA*



The Later Henderson Publications

By J. Medcraft

OF the earlier Henderson publications and the glamorous days of "Tim Pippin" much has been told in these columns and elsewhere, but the later output of this famous firm is seldom mentioned.

YOUNG FOLKS in the great days of Roland Quiz, J. A. Maitland, John Proctor, A. R. Phillips, C. E. Pearce and other fine authors and artists were unsurpassed for 20 years but in the declining years under the title of OLD AND YOUNG this once fine paper deteriorated rapidly. THE FOLKS AT HOME which followed on was even worse and had a very short life. Two new papers in NUGGETS and VARIETIES, the latter renamed later as THE GARLAND to prevent clashing with Music Hall interests, were then running but the serials were all reprinted from the earlier volumes of YOUNG FOLKS and it was not until these reprints were nearly exhausted that fresh authors and new material appeared.

First and foremost I place Derwent Miall, my Beau Ideal of a school story writer; he blended the old and new types of school stories in a particularly interesting style and his fine stories in the last volumes of NUGGETS, "The Armordale College Mystery," "The Fifth Form Rebels," and "The Secret of Galloping Jack's Cave" lingered long in my memory. Other new writers were John G. Rowe, who wrote "Gentleman George" and W. Murray Graydon who penned some thrilling stories of tropical adventure. Roland Quiz also wrote a belated sequel to the "Giantland" series in NUGGETS Nos. 348 to 405, entitled "The Prince of Giantland"

In Jan. 1901, the BOY'S CHAMPION STORY PAPER commenced, first at a halfpenny, later doubled in size and price. It contained some of the inevitable YOUNG FOLKS reprints in "Desdichado," "Thundersleigh," "Glaucus" and a few more but the majority of the stories were fresh

and vigorous. Derwent Miall figured prominently with "Slingsby's Schooldays" while his facile pen penned many fine adventure stories, "Diving Duck," "Shipwreck Island," "In the King's Name" and others of equal merit. John G. Rowe contributed "The Fourth Form at St. Etheldreds," "The Secret of the Golden Fetish" and "The Scourge of the Skies," a grim fore-cast of our present troubled age.

When NUGGETS finished in 1905 the NUGGET LIBRARY took up the running and continued to the end of the Henderson regime. This was a series of books published four per month, many NUGGETS serials being reprinted in abridged form in the earlier numbers. Derwent Miall and John G. Rowe were again to the fore and fresh writers in Horace Phillips, Montague West, A. M. Burrage, C. L. Pearce, and E. H. Egliston also contributed many fine stories, while R. Andom of "Troddles" fame had two stories to his credit. Some of these names suggest relatives of older favourites. But the most interesting name of all is that of R. A. H. Goodyear, well known in our own little *C.M.* Despite modest disclaimers, he wrote many fine school stories for the NUGGET LIBRARY and I well remember "Bob Gwynne, or, the Worst School in the County," "Mystery at Mount Oliver," "Roy Maitland's Schooldays," "The Tyrants of the School" and "The School's Dishonour." Like Derwent Miall, R. A. H. Goodyear combined the old and new types of school stories in an absorbing style of his own, and even in these cynical days of lost ideals and vanished illusions they re-read well. Truly, the acid test.

In 1906, Hendersons issued their final reprints of the fairy tale serials from YOUNG FOLKS in a series of penny books entitled YOUNG FOLK'S TALES. The "Giantland" series was reissued with many additional illustrations in creditable reproduction of Proctor's style, and the "Silverspear" series, "Prince of Giantland," "Prince Goldenwings," "Fairydome," "Goldyanna," and "Funnyland," were all reissued with original illustrations, but "Jack the Valiant," "Tor" and "Marvelland" did not appear. "The Giants of the Wood" by Roland Quiz which was also reissued is noteworthy as the very first "giant" story published in OUR YOUNG FOLKS' WEEKLY BUDGET, Vol. 1, 1871. This story was well received and thinking that a serial along similar lines would be attractive, James Henderson commissioned Roland Quiz to write it. And so Tim Pippin was born.

In 1904 the WILD WEST LIBRARY started and ran for 284 numbers, four being issued each month. Practically all of the Prentiss Ingraham and Ned Buntline "Buffalo Bill" stories appeared in this library forming the finest series of Buffalo Bill stories published in this country if only on account of the really gorgeous coloured covers which maintained a consistently high standard of merit throughout the entire run. Poster illustrations of the current four numbers, each depicting a breath taking incident from the story, displayed by newsagents were

reminiscent of the penny dreadful posters of an earlier day and no less attractive to the youth of the period.

These covers were drawn by Fritz Braun who contributed in his youth to the YOUNG FOLKS' "Literary Tournament" and later secured a permanent position on the staff. Two other old time writers who graduated in this way were S. Dacre Clark (Guy Rayner) and Edwin S. Hope. Of the great number of youthful aspirants to literary fame who contributed to this tournament, one often wonders how many attained their ambition or, at least, their livelihood in after years in the world of art and letters.

The TRIUMPH LIBRARY and the LION LIBRARY were near end and short lived publications and call for little comment. The latter was a continuation of the WILD WEST LIBRARY but only ran for 28 numbers.

Faced with powerful opposition during the last few years, Hendersons finally closed down at the end of the war period. So ended the last but one of the old time publishers.

SHORT LIST OF MODERN OLD BOYS' BOOKS IN THE MEDCRAFT COLLECTION

AS a section of our subscribers are more interested in the comparatively modern old boys' books of the present century than in the older "dreadfuls," John Medcraft has furnished a selection of these, together with a few notes, from his fine representative collection which ranges from the remote Lloyd of 1838 to the earlier numbers of the familiar MAGNET of today.

—oO—

- BOYS' CHAMPION STORY PAPER. Henderson. Nos. 1 to 120. 1901-3.
 WILD WEST LIBRARY. Henderson. Nos. 1 to 284, 1904 onward. 12 nos. required for complete set.
 LION LIBRARY. Henderson. Nos 1 to 28. Complete issue. 1913.
 NUGGET LIBRARY. Henderson. Nos. 1 to 210. 1905 onward. 8 nos. missing from the run.
 NUGGETS. Henderson. Nos. 70 to 651. Last number was No. 714.
 VARIETIES. Henderson. Complete issue. Then renamed THE GARLAND.
 GARFIELD BOYS' JOURNAL. Aldine Pub. Co. Vols. 1, 2, 3. All issued.
 CLAUDE DUVAL. Aldine Pub. Co. Nos. 1 to 48. Complete issue.
 ADVENTURE, TRAVEL AND INVENTION LIBRARY. (Franke Reade) Aldine Pub. Co. Nos. 1 to 198. 18 nos. missing from run.

- HALFPENNY MARVEL.** Nos. 1 to 530. (1893—1904). complete issue. Jack, Sam and Pete first appeared in this paper but no other series of note.
- MARVEL.** (New Series). Nos. 1 to 610. 1904 onwards. 8 nos. missing from run. Jack, Sam and Pete series ran throughout the MARVEL, and new series, which ended in 1922.
- UNION JACK.** (New Series). Nos. 1 to 240, 1903 onwards. Famous for the Sexton Blake stories which ran continually for 25 years.
- PLUCK.** (New Series) Nos. 1 to 290. 1904 onwards. This paper had no settled policy like the MARVEL and UNION JACK. Several fine series were introduced, but none lasted very long. These include the St. Jims series which later ran in the GEM for 30 years, Specs & Co. by H. Clarke Hook, Captain, Cook and Engineer series by Harry Belbin, and the Wycliffe series by Jack North. Prior to the advent of the new series, both the UNION JACK and PLUCK ran concurrently with the HALFPENNY MARVEL for 10 years as halfpenny papers.
- GEM** (Halfpenny Series). Nos. 1 to 48. Complete issue. 1907.
- GEM.** (New Series). Nos. 1 to 1,000. 1908 onwards. The oldest boys' paper (excluding B.O.P. and CHUMS) of the present day. Still running and nearing the 1,600th. number. Has had four changes of cover, the earliest blue covered issues being very much sought.
- MAGNET.** Nos. 1 to 850. 1908 onwards. Companion paper to the GEM and still running with nearly 1,600 numbers not out. The most popular boys' paper of the present century. Has also had four changes of cover, the earliest red covered issues being extremely scarce and highly prized.
- PENNY POPULAR.** Nos. 1 to 290. 1912 onwards. Acted as makeweight for GEM, MARVEL and UNION JACK, with reprints of the earliest St. Jims, Sexton Blake and Jack, Sam and Pete stories. Later MAGNET and BOYS' FRIEND reprints replaced the two latter series making the PENNY POPULAR an all school story paper. Was restarted in 1919 with the same policy of reprints and ran for several years.
- BOYS' FRIEND 3D. LIBRARY.** Nos. 1 to 300. (Few numbers missing) 1906 onwards. A reissue of serials from BOYS' FRIEND, BOYS' REALM and BOYS' HERALD with many original stories of Sexton Blake and Jack Sam and Pete. A very popular book and still being published in modified form.
- BOYS' FRIEND.** (New series). Vols 1 to 6. Yearly vols, 1901 onwards. Ran for several years as a halfpenny paper prior to new series.
- BOYS' REALM.** Vols 1 to 8. Yearly vols. 1902 onwards.

BOYS' HERALD. Vols. 1 to 4. Yearly vols. 1903 onwards. The last three papers were the modern equivalent of the old journals and extremely popular in their day, but, owing to their large size, comparatively few copies survived. I know of no complete file. The BOYS' FRIEND ran to 1927, but the other two did not survive the war period.

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ERRATA.

STARLIGHT NELL is in 46 numbers not 86 numbers as erroneously stated in the article on The Temple Publishing Co. in our last issue. We reproduce on our cover this issue, the rare wrapper of that name, probably the scarcest highwayman item extant, from the Medcraft collection.

THE "PENNY DREADFUL" CONCERT

BY HENRY STEELE

DOUBTLESS the average lover of "Penny Dreadfuls" occasionally feels a desire to hear a good orchestra perform. He goes to a concert and on his programme sees items such as "Selection from Iolanthe," "Hungarian Rhapsody by Liszt," and so on. How much more interesting it would be for him if the music to be played bore the titles of some of his boyhood favourites, something after the following fashion.

PROGRAMME

March	"Boys of England"	<i>Brett</i>
Selection of Light Music	"The Link Boy of Old London"	<i>Vane St. John</i>
Fox Trot	"Boy's Leisure Hour"	<i>Fox</i>
Nautical Fantasia	"Trafalgar Jack"	---
Spring Song	"Spring-Heeled Jack"	---
Oriental Novelty	"Ching-Ching"	<i>Burrage</i>
Selection of Pirated Music	"Captain Kydd"	---
String Quartette	"Sixteen-String Jack"	---
Russian Rhapsody	"Siberian Tom"	---
Trio	"The Three Cavaliers"	<i>Vane St. John</i>
Spanish Serenade	"The Brigands of Legovia"	---
Humoresque	"The Jester's Revenge"	<i>Lamb</i>
Gallop	"Mazeppa"	<i>Borlase</i>

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

BY W. R. BRACE

ONE of the collections off the beaten track is that of Cigarette and Tobacco labels or cartons, and there is quite a big field open of unusual interest. The despised empty cartons which are thrown away are in many cases quite an artistic piece of designing, and when mounted in an album prove most interesting.

There is more personality about them than match labels in my opinion; Players, Wills' "Gold Flake" and "Woodbines" are quite institutions but when some of the older issues are seen, and some foreign brands, there is a definite interest attached.

I started this hobby some years ago, then for a long period did not collect at all: lately my interest has been revived, also I have got into touch with sources of supply not previously known.

There are quite good opportunities of obtaining interesting specimens in the British Isles alone, as many brands in the North of England are quite unknown in the South and vice versa. When it comes to abroad, collectors there are usually quite willing to send packet fronts in exchange for cigarette cards, match labels, or stamps of our own country.

Some brands have a vogue for a short time, and are then withdrawn from the market, if one has such a piece it becomes quite a collectors' piece. Rareties are the oval paper packings of "Richmond Gem," also the wage packet type envelopes for "Player's Weights" they were sold by weight—hence the name.

The best method of mounting specimens is to gum them to blank leaves, either white or dark tinted paper according to taste; if mounted in a loose leaf album one can shuffle the pages about as the collection grows, keeping either manufacturers or country of origin together. Regarding sources of supply, the first is of course one's long suffering friends; then one or two tobacconists are usually helpful. As time goes on and your interest increases, you will find it profitable to get in touch with foreign sources.

In conclusion, as this is a specialist hobby in the byeways of collecting it leaves plenty of scope for individual search, which once started gives a great deal of pleasure. To anyone interested in this hobby I should be most pleased to render any help possible through the publisher of this magazine.



LIEGE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

May to November 1939

AERO-PHILATELY

THE 26th. Gordon Bennett Cup Trial will be held at Liege next summer, under the auspices of the Liege International Exhibition.

Philatelists and many English tourists whom the Belgian Government hope to attract to the Exhibition will be interested in the special Air Mail issue and novel "Aero-Gram" balloon post which will be entrusted to M. Ernest Demuytri, leading Belgian Balloonist. All aero-grams will be handed to M. Demuytri before he takes off and will be posted in whatever country his Balloon alights.

The price for postage, including aero-gram, special Belgian air mail stamp, and stamp of country where the Aeronaut lands, has been fixed at 7 francs (about 1/-). If 10 or more aero-grams are sent, a 1 franc reduction per aero-gram will be made. The number of letters sent out will be published by the Royal Aero Club of Belgium.

Keen philatelists may reserve now the number of aero-grams desired by application to the Royal Aero Club of Belgium, Courier Postale, Coupe Gordon Bennett, Brussels.

SALE OF THE LATE WILLIAM H. CROCKER'S COLLECTION OF RARE STAMPS

POSSIBLY the most important sale of rare stamps this century took place in the auction rooms of Messrs. Harmer Rooke and Co. Ltd., philatelic auctioneers of the Strand, London, on November 23, 24 and 25. The United States of America section came under the hammer on November 24. This collection is so rare and outstanding that it has been on exhibition in New Orleans and New York.

Stamp collecting is now more widely practised than ever since the realisation that the practice may not only be a hobby but a fruitful investment. William Henry Crocker was born at Sacramento, California, on January 13, 1861. He died last September at the age of 76. His collection is almost as old. He was President of the Crocker First National Bank and head of many other business enterprises. The orig-

ins of his collection of stamps go back to the earliest period. Many of its treasures have never been in an auction at all. A block of four 24-cent stamps, purple and green, with an inverted picture, was the gem of the collection. Offers of £1,500 had already been made for that block alone.

A commentary on the sale was given by the B.B.C. on November 24 at 2.00 p.m from the Regional.

CEYLON'S £75 STAMP

Ceylon is to issue a stamp with the highest face value in the British Empire 1,000 rupees, or about £75. It is issued for revenue purposes.

NEW ISSUES

GREAT BRITAIN. George VI. 4d. and 5d.

CANADA. 13c.

JAMAICA. George VI. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

BULGARIA. Economic series. 15st. and 1 leva.

GERMANY. Sudeten Occupation. 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 1kr.

Czecho stamps overprinted with the inscription "Wir sind frei!" (We are free!) and a Swastika.

ITALY. Ordinary. 10, 20, 25, 30, 50, 75c., 1.25c., 1.75., 2.75 and 5L. Air Mail. 25, 50c., 1L., 2L., 3L., 5L.

SPAIN. Sagunto. 45c and 1.25c.

Wanted : Philatelic literature Postage Stamp Vols. 17, 24 et seq.; British Philatelist Vols. 12, 14; Godden's Gazette Vols. 1, 2; West End Philatelist Vols. 5-7; English Specialist's Journal Vol. 2 Nos. 2-4, 8; Foreign Stamp Collectors' News Vol. 3; Stamp Collector's Magazine Vol. 9 No. 6 (June 1871); also Mount Brown's, Gray's, Bellars & Davie's, Potiquet's catalogues, all editions. Send list and prices asked to L. N. & M. Williams, 7, Woodberry Down, London, N. 4. 22

Wanted : Boy's Friend (weekly), Aldine First Rates, O'er Land and Sea, Invention, Tip-Top, True Blue, Spring Heeled Jack, etc. Libraries. 1d Hendersons Wild West Library. $\frac{1}{2}$ d & 1d Union Jacks, Plucks & Marvels, Boys Comic Journal, Boys of Empire & Young Men of Great Britain, Vol. 7, Young Folk's Budget, Young Men of Great Britain Vol 3, New Series, Boys of the Empire 207-221, 233-275. Some for sale. Grainger, 89 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh. 22

For Sale 59 numbers of Black Highwayman. Box 29, C.M. 22

Exchange Cigarette Cards : Clean sets, also match labels, with collectors abroad. Halewood, 11 Newsham Drive, Liverpool 6, England. 22

Matchbox Labels and booklet matches for exchange. Please send to F. Huntley, 6 The Grove, Isleworth, Middx. 22

CIGARETTE CARD, PLEASE ?

UNDER the above heading an article appeared recently in the NEWS CHRONICLE.

Here is a picture of Colonel Charles L. Bagnall, founder of the London Cigarette Company Limited as described in the article :

"In appearance he is cheerful ; his manner is faintly shy. He is middle-aged, heavily built, and broad shouldered, with a round face and round spectacles, and white hair neatly parted and brushed."

"He is a shipbuilding engineer who lost his money soon after the slump came in 1929. In six years he founded and nourished a trading concern whose present size entitles him to the rank of Cigarette Card King. He had been a stamp collector since he was a boy and a conversation with a small cigarette card dealer turned his thoughts into the new channel."

"He calculated that the status of cigarette-card collecting might easily be raised if the job were organised and tackled intelligently. The first two essentials, he saw, would be the complete rejection of all cards not in brand new condition and the conclusion of some kind of agreement with cigarette manufacturers whereby their surplus stocks of cards might be bought and resold in sets."

"In 1931, when he had set up the business, he had contrived to secure a stock of half a million cigarette cards. He paid £700 for one collection and took over another stock valued at £300. Moreover, he lunched with one or two of the big cigarette-making chiefs and interested them in his idea."

"The limited company that he formed he called the London Cigarette Card Company. Twice in six years the firm has had to move to larger premises."

"Col. Bagnall says the firm's present stock is about 60,000,000 cigarette cards. He can supply 3,000 different complete sets (a set may contain anything from six to 4,000 cards : the most common number in a set is 50) and unnumbered thousands of odd cards from incomplete or duplicate sets."

"Most expensive are the sets (mostly 6, 12 & 25 cards to the set) issued with cigarettes of the '90s. They cost up to £20 each set. Among these rare gems, kept in impeccable transparent-paper wrappers, are Duncan's and Gabriel's 'Types of Soldiers,' Huddon's 'Types of Smokers' and Goodbody's 'Eminent Actresses.' At the other end of the scale are recently-issued cards at 6d. a set of 50."

"The Colonel publishes an annual catalogue, now the standard work of the cartophilic world. Listed also are some hundreds of series issued abroad. There are six and a half pages of German series costing from 2s. to 15s. a set. Siamese cards are 7s. 6d to £1 10s. a set; Chinese 5s. to 15s. Cigarette card sizes vary between stamp and postcard."

"Col. Bagnall states that at this moment there are at least 120,000 British collectors here and overseas, and thousands of others in foreign countries."

"Half a dozen rooms in the big house in Chiswick are filled with crates, parcels, boxes and drawers packed with cigarette cards. Parcels of thousands go out each day, new consignments come in. In a day and a half recently 15 tons of cards passed along the roller-conveyor."

"Ninety-nine per cent. of new cigarette cards are wasted Col. Bagnall says; but the salvaged one per cent. is steadily assisting the onward march of business."

"From the printing presses of the cigarette firms meanwhile pour more and more cards as, helped by advertising and the trend of life in these days, cigarette-smoking increases all over the world."

"About 140 new sets of cards now appear in a year. One firm has reached a print of 450,000,000 cards for a series, and issues a fresh series every three months or so. Several other firms are printing 280,000,000 cards each a year."

This article will do much to draw collectors' attention to the possibilities of cigarette card collecting, which will soon be a good second to stamps as a collecting hobby for the person of limited means.

MATCH-BOX LABEL COLLECTORS !

I desire exchange with *real* collectors of all countries. Basis: label for label. I have a very large stock of duplicates. Return sending within 5 days guaranteed. I give also 3 cigarette cards for 1 label, in complete sets from Germany or Gt. Britain. I want also complete sets of cigarette cards in exchange for German sets. Basis 1 for 1.

I desire clean cards only.

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

Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

For Sale or Exchange Turnpike Dick, Sixteen String Jack, Black Rollo the Pirate, Crusoe Jack, Frank Fearless, Black Bess, Black Highwayman, Tyburn Dick, Captain Tom Drake, Rupert Dreadnought, original edition, Charley Wag the New Jack Sheppard, Boys of England Vols. 1-4, Young Men of Great Britain Vols. 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, Boys of the Empire Vols. 1, 2, 6, Young Englishman's Journal Vols. 1-3 in original monthly parts, and many others. Similar wanted, exchange or purchase. Medcraft, 64, Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex, England.

Wanted: Penny Dreadfuls, "Bloods" and Old Boys' Journals. Anything published in penny numbers 1840 to 1910. String of Pearls, Captain Hawk, Newgate and all Lloyd items. Moonlight Jack, Skeleton Horseman, Red Ralph, Sweeney Todd, Spring Heeled Jack, Lambs of Littlecote, May Turpin, Boys' Standard, Sons of Britannia, Boys' Leisure Hour, Young Briton, Ching Ching's Own, Boys' Comic Journal, Young Folks, Nuggets, Aldine Invention and all similar items. Collections purchased at fair prices and generous commission paid for introductions. Medcraft, 64, Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex, England.

Wanted: The Bulleseye Nos. 8, 156, 157, 159 to 173, 175 to end. The Rocket Nos. 15, 17 to 58, 70, 79, 84 to end. The Detective Weekly Nos. 18, 19, 20, 21, 47 to end. The Boys' Favourite Nos. 1 to 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16. The Thriller Nos. 179, 244 to 248, 250 to 294, 478 to end. Modern Boy Nos. 1, 2, 4, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 to 30, 37, 39, 118 to end. Dick Turpin Library (3d. issue) Nos. 22 to 27, 33 to 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 118. 4/- offered for No. 1 of the Nelson Lee Library (2d) New Series (date around 1930). Also want early copies of Mr. Parks' Vanity Fair, Vol 1, Nos. 1 to 15.

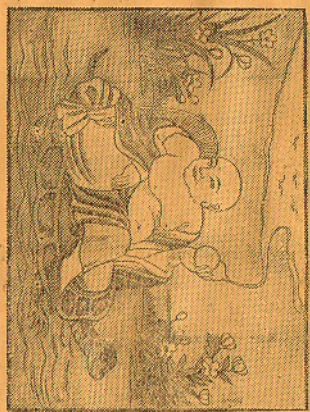
For Sale: Deadwood Dick Library Nos. 1 to 64, and Beadle's Frontier Series Nos. 1 to 100 at 5½d. each, or what have you to offer in exchange? Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass., U.S.A.

I have the Largest Stock of Rare Match Labels in Europe

Approval selections against reference or deposit. 150 rare labels from Syria, Spain, Portugal, India, Mexico, Central America, Jugo Slavia, China, Trinidad, etc. Post free for 8/- or \$2. Cash with order.

A large variety of foreign book match covers in stock. Send stamp for list of rare labels. **WANTED FOR SPOT CASH.** Early collections, or stocks of unused labels. J. CURTIS, 120, Leonard's Avenue, Hove, Sussex, England.

An illustration of a few years ago from one of the "Tom Merry" stories appearing in the "Gem."



Two early labels from Japan.

