

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 24 Price 3d January-June, 1939

No. 2, GIVEN AWAY WITH No. 1.

SIXTEEN-STRING JACK

THE DARING HIGHWAYMAN.

HIS SINGULAR EXPLOITS AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.



THE MARE SAVES THE LIFE OF SIXTEEN-STRING JACK.

OFFICE:

NEWSAGENTS' PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, 147, FLEET STREET.

ONE PENNY WEEKLY.



Two early Bryant & May Labels as mentioned in our article on page 83

SALE EXCHANGE WANTED

Wanted : Cigarette Packings. Bought or exchanged. W. R. Brace, Thornford, Kentisbury, N. Devon. 24

Sale : Bound vols. Union Jack containing Sexton Blake, Boys of England, Sixteen String Jack, Black Bess, Paul Jones, Black Highwayman, Funny Folks, Ally Sloper, Judy. Meredith, 35 Station Road, Folkestone. 24

Wanted : Old highwayman romances published Lloyd, London. Meredith 35 Station Road, Folkestone. 24

Japanese Matchbox Labels, 100 for 10 penny stamps. 1,000 all different for money order 8/-. Karl Lewis, Yokohama, Japan.

Juvenile Drama, sheets, books, papers, duplicates, wanted by private collector recently interested. Write Williams, BM/PTGE, London, W.C. 1. 24

Cards bought, exchanged. Send for my Free Bargain List of Cigarette Cards. Richard Vaughan, Room A, 4 Moscow Place, Bayswater, W. 2. 24

Advertiser wishes to exchange foreign postcard views for match labels. 6 postcards for 12 labels. 6 Penfold Road, N. 9, London.

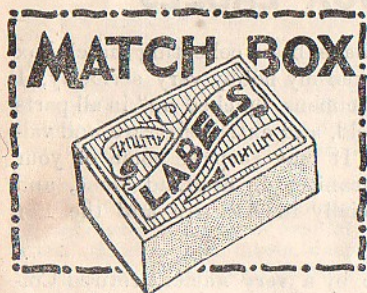
Confidential Information and full instructions for working three Mail Order lines. Highly profitable. Send P.O. 1/-. Brace, Berryarbor, N. Devon. 24

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 24 Price 3d January-June, 1939



EARLY MATCH-BOX LABELS OF BRYANT & MAY

the Swedish Match Industry. One of their very early labels, with text only, tells us that B. & M. were sole importers of "Jonkopings Tandstickor."

DURING the year 1852, Messrs. Bryant & May the well known English Match Company began to have dealings with

Later, when this firm commenced to make their own matches, empty boxes were supplied by different factories in Sweden and sent to England. Later still they commenced to print wrappers in place of the plain single label. These wrappers were in use for many years, and an expert can distinguish by the printing, the approximate year of issue. I do not know how many labels were actually issued, but in a very large collection I once had the pleasure to inspect I found 125 different labels, and no doubt there were many more.

Amongst these was series entitled L'AMOUR with a very pleasing design which was lithographed at Genoa. This was not the first series as I have mentioned before, as there was a prior series which was very crudely printed, and the subject very lack, but the B. & M. series are really works of art in comparison to these. One of the worst of the first series was issued by a firm of grocers in Groningen, Holland. We illustrate on the cover a number of the early labels of B. and M. referred to, and the following is a brief description.

L'AMOUR is printed in multicolour on white paper, and in the corner you see the text "L'amour en France."

THE RUNAWAY MATCH is printed in black on yellow paper. There are countless different varieties of this label.

UNION JACK is produced in blue and red on white paper. All the other labels are multicoloured on white paper, six of them featuring a large building which I think would be the Head London Office of Messrs. Bryant & May.

COPYRIGHT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

LUCIFER

EARLY MATCH-BOX LABELS

FOR well over half a century I have been collecting match-box labels, and as I have always taken my hobby very seriously, I have now well over 30,000 different specimens, "picked up" in all parts of the world. Many of them are very old, and extremely rare and valuable from a collector's point of view. It may surprise some of your readers, but there are hundreds of "Vulcanites" in England alone, and thousands throughout the world, especially in America and the Far East.

My oldest labels were given to me by a very ancient retired Colonel in St. Lucia (British West Indies) when I was stationed there over thirty-five years ago, and he told me that he had formed his small collection when he was a little boy, which must have been round about 1830, or earlier.

Several kinds of the "Lucifer" brand were made by different firms. Here are a few names I can spot at random: S. Jones, 201 Strand, London; J. Hynam, of Bath; H. Bell, of Baring (this firm is still in existence at Bow); and Watts, of 17 Strand, near Hungerford Market, City.

Another very popular brand of the period, issued by many firms, was called the "Congreve" no doubt so named after Sir William Congreve, who, when he was Controller of the Royal Laboratories at Woolwich, invented his famous "rocket" in or about 1812, which, at first, was not a very great success; but in 1825 he was created a baronet and elected a fellow of the Royal Society. He died in Toulouse on May 16, 1828. The firms I can find at the moment who manufactured this brand were: Molyneux, of Ripon; Halford of New Cut, Lambeth; Rigby's, of Hull; and Robarts, of 20 Lower Sloane Street, Chelsea.

All these labels were of the miniature size we buy to-day, and the reason for this is obvious, prior to 1825 the same "sticks" were packed in small, round cardboard boxes and in tins, and I have several of these, complete with some of the original matches, in my collection.

Concluded on page 97

Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

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.

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.

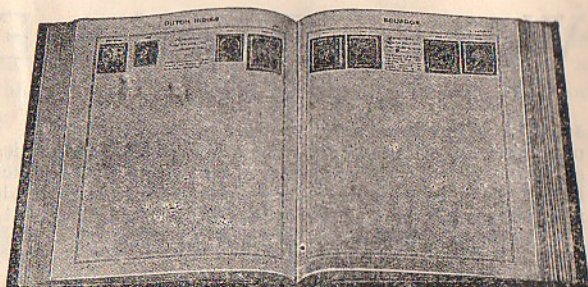
All Match Label Collectors should read the only book published on Swedish match labels. Over 200 illustrations. Only a few copies left. Price is 50 cents (2/2), which may be remitted by money order, coin, or mint stamps of this value. Copies may also be ordered through the Editor of this paper. Published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

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.

HISTORY ON STAMPS
 Special issue for
 Southern Rhodesia's
 Jubilee



DESIGNS for a special issue of eight postage stamps to commemorate the Jubilee of Southern Rhodesia in 1940 have been officially approved.

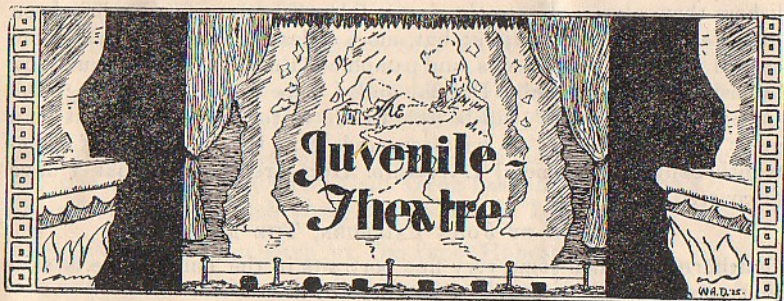
The aim of the designs is to depict various features of the country's progress in the first fifty years of her history.

The 1½d stamp, which is the most commonly used, will bear the head of Cecil Rhodes. The designs of the other seven will be as follows :

- (1) The Coat of Arms of the British South Africa Company, with the caption "1890-1923." On one side of these arms will be a Matabele warrior in full regalia, and on the other a native askari sounding a bugle. The idea is to indicate the progress made by the natives.
- (2) Hoisting the flag at Fort Salisbury by the Pioneer Column.
- (3) The old fort at Fort Victoria with a mail coach in the foreground.
- (4) Rhodes making peace with the Matabele in the Matophos Hills.
- (5) The bridge below the Victoria Falls.
- (6) The statute of the late Sir Charles Coghlan, the first Premier, with the Bulawayo Law Courts in the background. This stamp will bear the National motto "Sit Nomine Digna" and expresses the ideal of Responsible Government the movement for which was led by Sir Charles Coghlan.
- (7) The heads of Queen Victoria and King George VI., linked in the centre. In the top left-hand corner an ox-waggon and in the top right-hand corner an aeroplane. In the bottom left corner King Lobengula's kraal, and in the bottom right corner Government House, Salisbury.

The idea here expressed is the contrast between 1890 and 1940.

The date of issue has not yet been decided.



Side Lines of Toy Theatre Publishers

BY GEORGE SPEAIGHT

THE names of William West, Orlando Hodgson, Skelt, Webb, and the rest immediately call to our minds those fine sheets of Characters and Scenes that appeared above their name. It is, however, as well for us to remember that these publishers did not always confine their activities to the Toy Theatre. The little shop in Exeter Street, in which "Willy" West produced the earliest "Theatrical Prints" that have come down to us, bore on its facia the legend "Circulating Library, Haberdashery, etc." (as portrayed in West's *New Pantomime Tricks*, No. 7, 1813). There is no doubt that many of the small shops that sold Toy Theatre plays during the Nineteenth Century combined them with the sale of Paper Novelties, Valentines, Tobacco, and miscellaneous articles of all kinds—to say nothing of the penny "bloods" (either on sale or loan), and of course all the apparatus for tinselling. Such a shop is described in "The Struggles and Adventures of Christopher Tadpole" by Albert Smith (1844), and it was in just such a shop that Mr. Johnathan King, who later formed a magnificent collection of Christmas Cards, Valentines, Tinsel Portraits, and Toy Theatre Sheets, served his apprenticeship.

Reddington's Books of Words, published in the Seventies, contain a magnificent list of well over a hundred articles for sale, ranging from Snuff and Tobacco Boxes to Apartment Cards, from Viola Strings to Waistcoat Buttons, from "Every description of Paper that is made" to Bodkins and Thimbles, concluding with the offer of "Poetry at Wholesale Prices." The appearance of his shop at this period can be seen portrayed in Scene 8 of the pantomime "Baron Munchausen."

But I want to examine here not so much the shops that made a side line of Toy Theatre sheets, as the side lines of the Toy Theatre publishers themselves. Up to the present hardly any research has been undertaken in this direction; but, more or less by chance, I have succeeded in noting a few books and pamphlets that have been issued by publishers of the Juvenile Drama, and I hope that readers of "The Collector's Miscellany" will be able to add to the list; there must be a great many more titles to be discovered from the vast mass of Nineteenth Century Ephemeral Literature. Here are the few that I have discovered.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN FAIRBURN, THE MINORIES.

(Fairburn published some very fine portraits in the Thirties; he is said to have purchased some of Hodgson's stock).

"Description of the Popular and Comic New Pantomime called Harlequin and Mother Goose, or the Golden Egg, as performed at Covent Garden Theatre." With a coloured frontispiece of Mr. Simmons as Mother Goose, 35 pp. N. D. (c. 1806).

"The Uproar, or John Bull and the Manager. AMelo Drama, —." Price Sixpence. 38 pp. N.D. (1809). (A skit on the O.P. Riots at Covent Garden).

"Remarks on the Cause of the Dispute between the Public and Managers of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, and on their right to raise the Prices of Admission; —. By John Bull." Illustrated with a large Caricature Frontispiece of The House that Jack Built (i.e. the new Covent Garden, built by John Kemble). Price Ninepence. (1809).

"Critical Remarks on the Astonishing Performance of Mr. Kean, at Drury Lane Theatre, in the characters of Shylock, Richard and Hamlet." With a folding coloured frontispiece, containing full length portraits of Kean in each of the above characters. N.D. (c. 1814).

"Tamberlane." By Nicolas Rowe. (c. 1815). With a stipple engraving by Page, after G. Craikshank, of Edmund Kean as Bajazet.

? "The Duke of Milan" by Philip Massinger. (c. 1816). With a stipple engraving of Edmund Kean as Sforza.

"Don Juan. Cantos I to V." By Lord Byron. N.D. (1819). With six coloured plates by I. R. Cruikshank, and engraved title with vignette head of Lord Byron.

"Trial between Robert Albion Cox Esq., Plaintiff, and Edmund Kean, Defendant, for Criminal Conversation with Plaintiff's Wife,

including the Evidence, Speeches of Counsel, and all the Curious Love Letters." 74 pp. (1825).

PUBLISHED BY HODGSON & Co., 10 NEWGATE STREET.

(Hodgson was one of the very best publishers, and appears to have issued a vast number of plays during a very short period.

"Modern Flash Dictionary" Price Sixpence. (c. 1822). This is advertised as a Key to the Cant Terms used in Pierce Egan's "Life in London," of which Hodgson published a Toy Theatre version).

PUBLISHED BY ORLANDO HODGSON

(It is not certain whether this is the same man as Hodgson & Co., or a relation. Personally I incline to the theory that the Company had to close down, but that Mr. Hodgson reformed the business and carried on on his own account. All his plays and portraits are of the very best quality).

"Quiddities; or Cordials for Cold Weather: a choice and Comical Collection of Amusing Anagrams, Curious Charades, Right Merrie Conceits, Humorous Transpositions, and Entertaining Arithmetical Puzzles. By Timothy Touchstone." Price Sixpence. 71 pp. (1832). With a coloured frontispiece. 10 Cloth Fair.

"Interesting Lives and Adventures of Celebrated Pirates." 12 Pamphlets bound together, with engraved frontispiece. N.D. (c 1840). Published from 111 Fleet Street; printed by Orlando Hodgson, Isleworth.

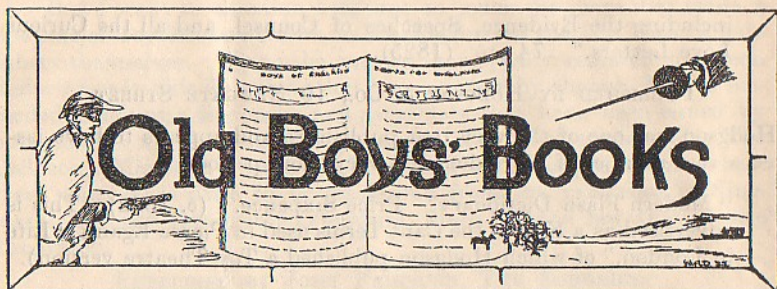
"The Life of Richard Turpin." Small pamphlet. N.D.



Special Offer Open to all Subscribers:

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

(United States and Canada 37 cents)



RANDOM REFLECTIONS OF A "BLOOD HUNTER"

BY J. MEDCRAFT

APON two occasions during the past few months certain eminent speakers have lauded the "Penny Dreadful" as a necessity to the mental development of modern youth. According to these authorities, literature of this type satisfies a natural craving for sensation and materially assists in the formation of character. Shades of our Victorian forebears, not merely tolerance but praise for the modern equivalent of pernicious literature. Truly we have progressed or haven't we?

During an outstanding period of modern progress, crisis week last September, having sent my wife and daughter to a safe refuge in the West country, I was busily engaged in the unwelcome but necessary task of constructing a gas-proof (I wonder) room when a parcel arrived. Forgotten was the grim menace of war in the rapt examination of a fine copy of "Red Ralph" and the sequel, "Wild Will" which I had just purchased. It is a far cry to the days of the mythical Red Ralph and the more substantial Dick Turpin but are the dictators who levy blackmail upon Europe in the same old way, albeit with far deadlier weapons, very much different from these dubious heroes of mask and pistol?

A never failing source of interest tinged with amusement is the ALDINE INVENTION LIBRARY and the weird and wonderful creations of that inventive genius, Frank Reade. Truth is stranger than fiction and many of the ideas embodied in these fearful and mirth provoking contrivances are now accomplished fact and commonplace. Conventional ideas were hard to dispel in those pioneer days; the popular conception of an airship was a fantastic modification of a sailing vessel

complete with rigging, sails, anchor and occasionally ventilation tubes. The steam man and electric horse vied with mechanically propelled vehicles and interesting anachronisms are presented by scythe blades on wheels and delightful yard long spikes at the front. The newspaper sized **BOYS OF LONDON AND NEW YORK** in which the Frank Reade stories first appeared is extremely scarce and even the **ALDINE INVENTIONS** are very hard to find, so to all fortunate owners of either issues, I say, treasure them.

While on the subject of scarcity, it has been suggested recently that "old bloods" as a class are now almost unobtainable, that all, or nearly all, are on collectors' shelves to be redistributed only in the event of the demise or insanity (some would include return to sanity) of the aforesaid collectors. Now, if this really is the case then the cult of "Penny Dreadful" must be on it's last legs, for no hobby can survive without fresh material or circulation. Actually, it is very far from being a correct statement and a new enthusiast could amass a respectable collection of Brett, Hogarth House, Reynolds, Egan and similar items without difficulty and at a reasonable outlay. Furthermore, I venture to assert that he would get as much pleasure from his modest collection as any of the big collectors do from their expensive hoards.

Obviously, there are hundreds of scarce and semi-scarce items outside the orbit of the modest beginner, many of which such as "Black Wolf the Boy Highwayman," "May Turpin," "Socialist Girl," "Tom Turpin," Lloyd's "Tom King," "Vice, or the Secret Crimes of London" and others are practically unobtainable, if, indeed, complete copies exist at all. Even of the smaller fry, it is not suggested that any particular item could be obtained at any given time, but, undoubtedly, a large number of comparatively common items are available to delight the heart and satisfy the soul of the embryo collector without unduly straining his finances.

But although hard to find, the scarcer bloods are not all cornered, they keep turning up from time to time and in proof of this contention I am furnishing a list of scarce and semi-scarce items which I have brought to light during the past four years. Few, if any, have graced collectors' shelves until they found safe harbourage on mine.

"Spring Heeled Jack," "Merry Wives of London," "Red Ralph," (two copies), "Wild Will," "Roving Jack," "Charles Peace," (two copies), "Calcraft the Hangman," "Crusoe Jack," "Dance of Death," "Jolly Dogs of London," "Rupert Dreadnought," (original edition), "Black Hawke," "Cartouche," "Penny Pickwick," "Handsome Harry," (several), "King of the Beggars," "George Barrington," "Boy Pirate," "Black Mask," "Women of London," "Black Highwayman," "Blueskin," "Charley Wag," Purkess' "Life of Buffalo Bill," **BOYS' LEISURE HOUR** Vols. 1—6, **BOYS' STANDARD** 4 vols., **BONNIE BOYS OF BRITAIN**, Harrison's **YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S**

JOURNAL Vols. 1—3, Dick's BOY'S HERALD Vols. 1—4, (two com. sets), BOYS HALFPENNY JOURNAL, YOUNG FOLKS' BUDGET Vols. 7—12, and numerous lesser items and journals. To use a familiar phrase, none of the above are for sale, all duplicates having long since been passed on.

TO BE CONTINUED



SCARCE DREADFULS IN THE MEDCRAFT COLLECTION



2nd List

- ♦ Rook the Robber, or, London Fifty Years Ago. 30 nos. J. Dicks, 1863
- Ruth the Betrayer, or, the Female Spy. 52 nos. J. Dicks. 1863.
- ♦ De Lisle, or, the Shipwrecked Stranger. 49 nos. W. Caffyn. 1849.
- Santo Sebastiano, or, the Heiress of Montalvan. 68 nos. W. Caffyn. 1847.
- Jolly Dogs of London, or, the Two Ways of Life. 14 nos. Newsagent Publishing Co. 1866.
- Kenilworth Castle, or, the Days of Queen Elizabeth. 13 nos. W. Strange. 1841.
- Mysteries of the Old Castles of France. 44 nos. W. Strange. 1847.
- The Demon Huntsman. 8 nos. W. M. Clark. 1838.
- Cockney Adventures and Tales of London Life. 21 nos. W. M. Clark. 1838.
- Rochester Castle, or, the Test by Fire. 23 nos. H. Elliott 1851.
- Rosaline, or, the Outlaw's Bride. 48 nos. G. Vickers. 1842.
- Marmaduke Midge the Pickwickian Legatee. 11 nos. G. Vickers. 1840.
- The Monk, a tale of the Inquisition. 36 nos. G. Purkess. 1851.
- Adam Bell, or, the Archers of Englewood Forest. 24 nos. G. Purkess. 1849.
- Library of Romance. Nos. 1—25. G. Purkess. 185-
- Miser of Shoreditch, or, the Curse of Avarice. 38 Nos. R. Beard. 1855.
- The Indian Chief, or, the Savage's Vengeance. 20 nos. Hextall & Wall. 1843.
- Richard Ceour De Lion. 48 nos. G. Peirce. 1842.
- Lady Jane Grey, a Legend of the Tower of London. 7 nos. Foster and Hextall. 1840.
- The Lady in Black, or, the Widow and the Wife. 71 nos. E. Lloyd. 1847.

The Black Mantle, or, the Murder at the Old Ferry. 54 nos. E. Lloyd.
1846.

Jane Shore, or, London in the Reign of Edward IV. 40 nos. E. Lloyd.
1846.

The Black Pirate, or, the Phantom Ship. 36 nos. E. Lloyd, 1843.

The Brigand, or the Mountain Chief. 104 nos. E. Lloyd. 1841.

Almira's Curse, or, the Black Tower of Bransdorf. 25 nos. E. Lloyd.
1849.

Heads of the Headless, a romance of the Reign of Henry Tudor. 33 nos.
E. Lloyd. 1847.



DEAR SIR,

I am intrigued by the statement in your "Errata" on page 73 of No. 23 of the "Miscellany." Referring to the reproduction of the wrapper of "Starlight Nell," a book in Mr. Medcraft's collection, you state that this book is "probably the scarcest highwayman item extant."

Certainly the word "probably" absolves you from making a specific claim, but on what data is the surmise based?

With the advent of Mr. Medcraft's copy, there are now three known copies of this book. Or, in the unlikely event of Mr. Medcraft having obtained one of the hitherto known two copies, there are two existing. Mr. A. E. Waite is, I believe, the owner of one of the copies of this tale, the first issue of what was afterwards published by Hogarth House under the title of "Will Dudley; or, the Scarlet Riders of Hounslow Heath." This great collector and authority on these books has spent, I have reason to believe, a lifetime searching for a copy of "Black Hawke, the Highwayman, which was not afterwards rehashed as was "Starlight Nell." There is only one known copy of "Black Hawke," the one in Mr. Ono's collection.

There are several others in Mr. Ono's collection which I have seen and which might, I submit, more reasonably be claimed to be probably the scarcest highwayman items extant. I can instance the sequel to "Red Ralph," entitled "Wild Will; or; the Pirates of the Thames,"

assuming this can be styled a highwayman item. Also, for example "Tom Turpin ; or, Life on the Road."

The following I should rate far above "Starlight Nell" in the matter of rarity : " May Turpin, the Queen of the Road," Lloyd's "Tom King," and "Black Wolf, the Boy Highwayman." And what of "Starlight Sall," not "Nell?" I could also mention others which are reposing in Mr. Ono's and other big collections.

On the above information "Starlight Nell" does not seem entitled to the description of the scarcest highwayman item extant, especially as "Will Dudley" is practically the same book.

Yours sincerely,

SOUTH NORWOOD.

HUGH W. FENNEL.

A DICK TURPIN LIBRARY

I DO not suppose that there will be any local celebration of the execution, just 200 years ago, of Dick Turpin, but an octogenarian in Wallasey, Mr. George Gilbertson, tells me that he, at least, holds the highwayman's memory green.

Mr. Gilbertson has preserved a great quantity of "penny number" journals, that were as high in favour with the average boy of seventy years ago as the "thrillers," "shockers," and "penny dreadfuls" of today. Among his many literary treasures, Mr. Gilbertson especially esteems two stout volumes, labelled "Black Bess." They contain 254 "numbers," running to some 2,000 pages, and of all this letterpress Dick Turpin is sole hero!

Mr. Gilbertson recalls the days when the publication of these weekly numbers was as keenly anticipated among his contemporaries as was the monthly issue of "Pickwick" among adults. And, now, at eighty, he wonders whether anybody else survives for whom Dick Turpin retains his glamour.

Liverpool Daily Post

Dick Turpin was executed at York on April 19th., 1739.

BACK NUMBERS.— All numbers prior to No. 21 of the current series are out of print. Copies of nos. 21 and 23 can still be supplied at 3d. each, post free.

CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO COVERS

BY. W R. BRACE

I SAW a cigarette card dealer's catalogue the other day in which was on offer a collection of 300 cigarette and tobacco covers at the price of £1. To my mind this is encouraging to collectors, for once the financial aspect of any hobby is shown it proves that there is a fairly strong interest attached. I do not suggest that all the collector has to do is to quickly accumulate a few hundred covers, and then sell out—the results would be apt to prove disappointing!

In the first place there are comparatively few devotees of this particular hobby at the moment, also, the basic value in coin of the realm of the majority of covers which are most likely to come to hand is extremely small. The real "plums" are very obscure local brands, foreign brands, and early issues; these are the items for which a keen collector would be willing to pay cash. One day I hope to see a catalogue published of rare, and early items; after all why not, this branch of collecting is certainly akin to match labels).

An offshoot of "Tobacco Trade Covers," if I may coin the term, is the collection of the special Xmas packings issued annually by the majority of firms, these covers, usually in 50's and 100's sizes are beautifully printed, and are a most convenient size for mounting. The makers seem to vie with each other to produce the most attractive design, and the covers being changed yearly give the newer collector encouragement to form an interesting collection in a short time.

My advice to anyone who already possesses any of these covers is—hang on to them—for the time is coming when they will be greatly sought, and if you want to sell they will prove a good investment for your trouble in collecting. But what real collector of anything ever wants to sell?

If you have already started your collection of brands, do what I did. Keep adding fresh items week by week, and see how interesting this little known hobby becomes.

If you want a check list of brands I advise you to obtain a copy of "The Smoker's Handbook" price 6d., published by "Tobacco," 49 Wellington Street, Strand, W.C., 2; this lists all the brands under the various manufacturers, and proves indispensable if your collection is a growing one, for with it's aid you can trace an obscure item, and put it under the correct makers' heading. Some idea of the scope given by this handbook to the collector can be gauged by the fact that the index gives 1,320 different brands of cigarettes and pipe tobaccos!

Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

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.

BELGICA. Club Intern. D'Echange et de Correspondance. Internationale Ruil — & Korrespondentie Club. Bestuurder—Directeur—Director Jacques Janssens, 3 Rue du Midi, Ostende, Belgie (Belgique). Cotation 15 frs.—Prospectus Gratuit—Specimen contre 1 Coupon Rep. x/a

Wanted: Aeronautical medals and buttons, and typographical medals, any period. Thomas Warburton, 15 Humphry Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 8.

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.

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; Baltika; Belgica; Collector's Guide; International Post; British Guiana Advertiser.

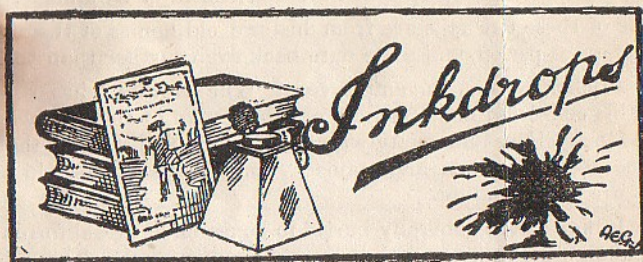
EARLY MATCH-BOX LABELS—*Continued*

There seems to be no doubt that the first match-box labels were issued during the last few years of George IV's reign, roughly, between 1825 and 1830. Friction matches were invented by Mr. John Walker in his chemist's shop, 12, The Square, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham, in April, 1827.

As the first match-box label was issued round about 1827-30, and the first stamp was not invented until 1841, over ten years later, we "Vulcanites" can claim seniority as collectors over philatelists.

SUNDAY TIMES

MAJOR PAT A BECKETT



The wrapper reproduced on our cover this month features "Sixteen String Jack," and is again from the collection of Mr. J. Medcraft.

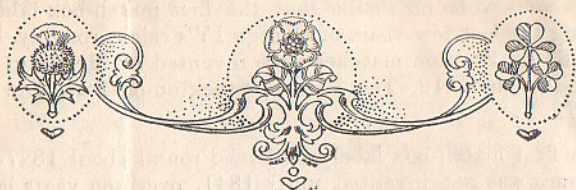
The article on "The Toy Theatre" in our last issue was written by Mr. Gerald Morice. Mr. Morice is Editor of "Punch and Puppet Pars" appearing every Saturday in the "World's Fair," the Showman's paper published in Oldham. He is also Co-founder of the "British Puppet Guild" and Press Officer to the "B.P.G."

Owing to a printer's error our last number was given as No. 23. It should have read No. 22. To prevent further confusion we have numbered this issue No. 24, but readers please bear in mind that No. No. 22 does not exist.

We apologise for the delay in the appearance of this issue, but it has been the result of circumstances over which we have had no control.

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

NOTES FROM FAR AND NEAR



NAILS ARE HIS HOBBY

EVERYBODY has a hobby, but it has just developed that Clyde L. Fischer's hobby is the gathering of nails. He has a collection of more than 200, the entire group of which are blacksmith or handmade.

Some of these old nails are from historic old homes of the war between the states period, and some date back even further than that.

Mr. Fischer, who is an employee of "The Herald," has recently added to his collection nails from an old graveyard of the Monache Indians, on Rocky Hill, immediately east of Portersville, Cal., at the foothill of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Some ruins of the old adobe buildings are still standing.

The Indians were generally buried in boxes made of California redwood (Sequoia), probably furnished by the government. These boxes have long since decayed and crumbled to dust, although a small piece may be found occasionally. The boxes were put together with the nails such as Mr. Fischer has in his collection.

COLLECTED 25,000 TICKETS

A HAMBURG collector claims that his collection of bus and tram tickets is one of the largest in the world. And it ought to be. There are 25,000 different specimens in it.

His oldest ticket is Italian; dating back to 1887, while another must bear the world's highest face value—2,000,000 marks—a relic of the days of German inflation.

His collection includes tickets from every part of the world, and he even has one issued for the the first Zeppelin trip between Germany and America.

MONEY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

THE Confederate States of America did not have a coinage for circulation. Preparations for coining silver half dollars were made in 1861, four pieces were struck, but one now known, valued at \$2,000; later restrikes are valued at \$5. Several large issues of paper currency were made between 1861 and 1864. The millions outstanding became valueless. The denominations were: 50c, \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$1,000.

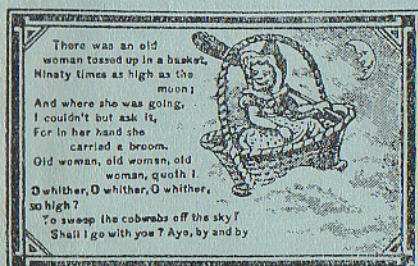
Wanted: For Sale: Exchange

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

Nursery Rhyme Series. A few duplicates of these rare old labels for sale, or will exchange for good Colonial stamps. Sw. Johansson, P.O. Box 95, Jonkoping, Sweden.

BALTIKA. The largest Philatelic and Collector's Magazine in the Baltic States. Stamp, Postcard, Coin Exchange and correspondence. 4,200 members' addresses in 150 countries! Issued 4 times yearly in Estonia. Full particulars may be obtained from the General Secretary; Alfons Rungis, P.O. Box 35, Valga, Estonia, Europe.

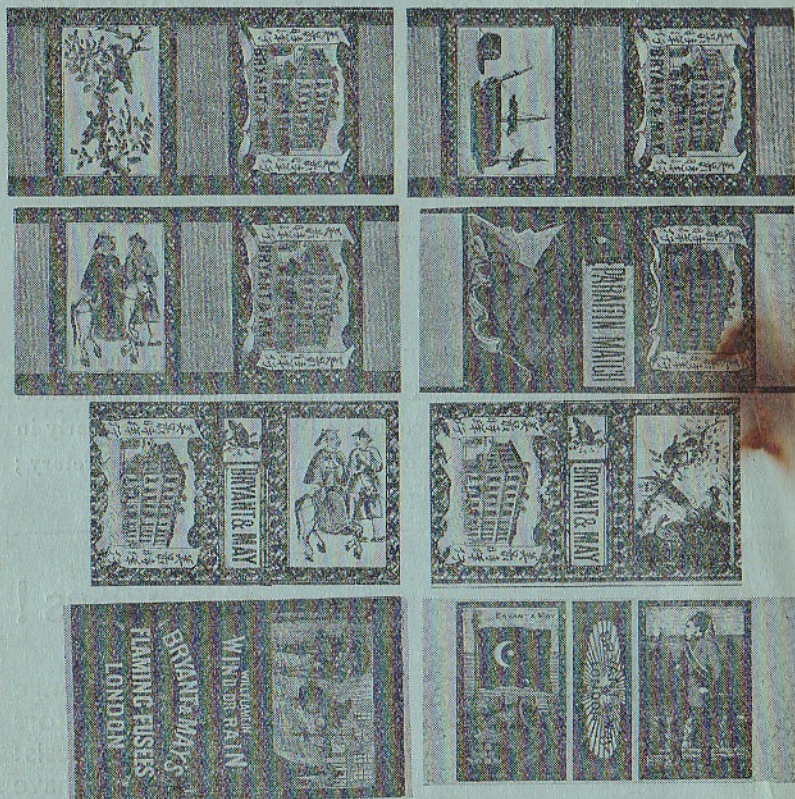
Match-box Label Collectors!



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.**



A few of the early match-box labels issued by Bryant & May, which are referred to in our article in this issue