

The ESTABLISHED OVER 20 YEARS **COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY**

A paper for collectors of old boys' books, juvenile theatre, match-box labels, books, stamps, coins, tokens, curios, etc.
Edited by Joseph Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn, Yorkshire.

Short articles are wanted on any subject of interest to the collector of moderate means. They should be between 500 and 1000 words long, and can be illustrated if desired. No payment is made. The Editor also particularly needs regular contributions on Old Boys' Books, Juvenile Theatre, Stamps, Match Labels, Coins and Tokens if the paper is to be kept on the active list,

NUMBER ONE (FOURTH SERIES) SPRING 1941

Old Boys' Books in 1940

At the outbreak of the war the majority of collectors clamped the lid down on their hobby, to await the problematic resuscitation at the end of the war. A great pity, because now more than ever do we need a hobby and a distraction from the worries of the present conflict.

The few who declined to be rattled, and maintained an active interest in their hobby, are now amply compensated for their loyalty to the cult of the penny dreadful by the increased pleasure and distraction gained thereby in these unsettling days.

A few of the wise men of the danger areas removed their treasures to safer places (some, with a sagacity worthy of a noble cause, removed themselves also!); but the majority of us, with a job of work to hold down and a spot of duty to perform, are unable to emulate these cautious gentlemen.

No sensible person would make unnecessary purchases nowadays, but the alert collector has plenty of chances to pick up attractive items, and even an occasional rarity, without suffering any qualms of conscience or dipping too deeply into his pockets.

A large number of old bloods have undoubtedly been lost, while the capacious maw of the pulping plant will drain the undiscovered lode from which the optimists hope someday to obtain Lloyd's Tom King, May Turpin, Black Wolf, Varney the Vampire, or, who knows, perhaps some hitherto unknown item.

The remaining portion of the huge collection of the late C. A. Ransom has been totally destroyed by fire, together with his entire business premises. Fortunately, most of the books were duplicates, and only a few rare items were included, the cream of the collection having been sold earlier, otherwise this disaster might have been an irreparable loss to the hobby.

Although scope is greatly restricted, many important finds have been made since the outbreak of war. In the middle of 1940 a huge stock of Aldine file copies came to light. They had for years lain neglected on shelves exposed to light and air, with the result that the majority had browned and brittle edges. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful bag for the lucky finder.

Many smaller lots and individual items have turned up, including the following (Continued at foot of page seven)

The Collector's Miscellany

AN AMATEUR JOURNAL
FOUNDED AND EDITED
BY JOSEPH PARKS

SPRING, 1941
FOURTH
SERIES

Here and There

 HIS number of 'The Collector's Miscellany' is rather in the nature of an experiment. We don't know whether there is a sufficient number of people interested to warrant publishing again. The printer is willing to carry on as long as he is able in the present circumstances, providing there is support from our readers. This issue is being mailed to all old subscribers, therefore, on the understanding that only those who acknowledge or exchange will receive possible future numbers. Please write direct to the printer.

Etymology Extraordinary

We offer the following item to our readers without further comment. 'A writer in "The Irish News" says, "The monks gave printing its terminology, which even to-day is mostly derived from Latin. Since monastic chapels were first used as composing rooms, such rooms still are called chapels. Holy-water fonts were convenient receptacles for the wooden blocks used as type, and a case or a particular style of type still is called a font."' I am quoting from 'The Sales and Wants Advertiser.'

Coke on Collectors

'Those scientific know-alls, who can create everything except Life and cure everything but Death, persist in telling us that the Collecting Instinct starts in youth with the hoarding of cigarette cards, crests and coins. Some of them, it is true, put forward a more continental explanation; but I utterly refuse to regard the pure delight of collecting as something unpleasantly abnormal. I prefer to look on the scientists themselves as freaks.' This is the first chapter of a delightful book called 'Confessions of an Incurable Collector' by Desmond Coke. He writes pleasantly of panoramas and peep-shows and penny dreadfuls and Rowlandsons and I can thoroughly recommend it. It isn't a new book, it was published in 1928, and if your public library hasn't it, you'll probably be able to get it second-hand for about ten shillings.

Readers' Notes and Queries

Here are replies to one or two of the large number of queries which have accumulated since the last issue of C.M.

TANAGRA FIGURES (F.S., Leamington). The ancient little figures to which you refer are usually called Tanagra figurines and are of terra-cotta. According to Pijoan they were pressed in moulds, which accounts for their abundance in the museums and private collections of Europe. There is an illustration and account of them in Pijoan's *History of Art* (1933), vol. i, p. 367.

BOYS' FRIEND, ETC., AUTHORS (H.D., Longsight, Manchester). I am afraid I can refer you only to articles on old boys' authors which have appeared from time to time in the pages of C.M.

BOOK ON MODERN COINS (J.A., Stockton). Coins of the Modern World, by M. Comencini. Methuen, 7s. 6d.

ALL-ROUND TYPE FOR AMATEUR PRINTER (R.D., Newcastle-on-Tyne).

I should say the most useful type you could buy is Caslon Old Face. It can be used for almost any kind of work. The imposition you ask for is given herewith. This, of

4	2	9	3
1	8	7	5

course, is the position of the pages on the imposing surface. You will realise that quite a lot of type will be required to set up eight pages: Messrs. Burrill, of Pudding Chare, in your own city, will supply type. Caslon is made by Messrs. Stephenson, Blake & Co. Ltd., typefounders, Sheffield.

POSY RINGS (H.B., Chesterfield). English Posies and Posy Rings, by Joan Evans, published by O.U.P. at half a guinea, is the book you are enquiring about.

JOHN JOHNSON. Does any reader know anything of the dispute between John Johnson, author of *Typographia*, and the Lee Priory Press as mentioned in his Preface? J.A.B.

TYPE ON C.M. COVER. Can anyone identify the two-line egyptian on our cover? It is probably over a hundred years old, and appears to have been cut by the same hand as the egyptian displayed by De Vinne in *Plain Printing Types*, page 324, No. 1.

Matchbox Label Collecting in Wartime

Almost eighteen months of war have passed, and several trends are noticeable in matchbox supplies at retailers.

In the early months, foreign brands were available. But with depleted stocks variety has fallen considerably.

It was supposed that labels marked 'foreign made' originated in Russia or Germany, and these were numerous before the war. To-day, boxes bearing this mark of origin are almost unobtainable, which supports the conjecture as to the source of manufacture.

Even before the end of 1939 the purchase of matchboxes originating in Czechoslovakia, Austria, the Baltic States, and Holland had become quite an event. The labels of Finland, too, are practically unobtainable.

It is particularly gratifying to find many apparently common labels are really new additions, for though the labels may be identical in design, the country of origin is found to be different.

I would instance the well-known 'Regular' brand, and by careful comparison and a close search I have been able to locate this label no fewer than six times: Belgium, 2; Finland, 2, and Estonia, 2.

Two others may be mentioned. 'Three Spires,' four varieties, and 'Porter,' three varieties.

To-day the customary average content is 50 matches, a fall to 45 is, I think, inevitable, and a figure of 40 or even 35 cannot be ruled out. Should these predictions prove true, then all these labels become 'new' from the collector's angle, as a specimen cannot be considered a duplicate if the wording is different in any way.

J.F.

AMATEUR PAPERS WANTED

The publisher would like to receive copies of amateur papers, backdaters or otherwise, and will cheerfully refund postage

Book Notes

We are still receiving book-sellers' catalogues, and the latest received includes one from Mr Thomas Thorp, of Guildford. It is composed mainly of books from the library of Sir Elliot Philipson Stow and the antiquarian library of the late Rev. H. R. Huband, F.S.A. We notice an interesting copy of the first collected edition of the works of Beaumont and Fletcher, 1647, for £10 10s. Very cheap, too, is an illuminated copy of Meyrick's *Ancient Armoury* with 80 fine plates, 72 in colour, at £6 10s. Among others received, from Mr John Grant, of Edinburgh, comes a catalogue of archaeology, Egyptology, etc., and Irish, Highland, and general English literature. For a fairly good copy of the first edition of Beaumont and Fletcher's *The Wild-Goose Chase* (H. Mosely, 1652) £8 10s. is asked. J. Wright's *Dialect Dictionary* is priced at £5 5s., which, I think, is rather less than prices ruling before the war. *Idylls of the King*, autographed by Tennyson, can be had for the modest sum of eight guineas. Collectors of proverbs can get Ray, 1768, for 4s. 6d.; Cheviot, *Scotch Proverbs*, 1896, 4s.; and Vaughan's *Welsh Proverbs*, 1889, for 6s. For the first edition of *Bab Ballads*, not, however, in fine condition, Mr Grant is asking £3 7s. 6d. From Mr Thorp's London bookshop, which is now located at 75, Jermyn Street, S.W.1, comes a hundred-page catalogue of printed books and tracts issued during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries. For moderate collectors there is a nice selection of Elzevir and Aldine books at prices ranging from as little as five shillings. Ten guineas is asked for Richard Atkyns's *Original and Growth of Printing*, 1664. From a collector's viewpoint this is a very desirable item, although, of course, as a contribution to printing history it is worthless. What is believed to be a unique copy of a little blackletter primer of the sixteenth century is offered at £15. J.A.B.

CURIO COLLECTORS
SHOULD READ

Curio Times

Send sixpence or 12c.
for a specimen copy.
Two shillings or 75c a
year. We pay for 250
word articles, amateur
writers please note.

SCULTHORPE

Printer

Coleshill, Warwickshire,
England

No printing orders accepted

The Story Paper Collector

is the title of a nicely-printed new amateur paper from the press of William H. Gander, P.O. Box 60, Transcona, Manitoba, Canada. This first number is devoted to a history of the old Boys' Friend, ably written by the publisher himself. We are pleased to see this new paper, as it is the only amateur journal we have received for a considerable time. Mr Gander will, we have no doubt, be pleased to send a copy to anyone interested.

OLD BOYS' BOOKS IN 1940

(Continued from Page 2)

really scarce items Spring-Heeled Jack (Newsagents' Publishing Co.), Three-Fingered Jack (Fox), Roderick Dhu (Harrison), and Life of Buffalo Bill (Purkess).

I remember a collector who once told me that he intended to devote his leisure on retirement to reading for the first time the whole of G. W. M. Reynolds's romances, commencing with *The Mysteries of London*. I never learned if he carried out this ambitious programme, but it would be a good thing for the hobby if collectors adopted it on a limited scale. The interests of the average collector are generally restricted to the cherished and hallowed period of his boyhood, or else he has a preference for a particular author, publisher, or type of story, to the exclusion of others.

So the present time affords a fine opportunity for the Burrage enthusiast to sample the fine historical novels of Charles Stevens and Justin Lambe; for the Henderson fan to peruse *The Boys of England* and other journals; and for the pirate and highwaymen addict to seek to discover the merit of school stories, and vice versa.

So to all collectors I say, keep the hobby active despite the present clouds, which will pass; profit yourself and preserve for posterity by adding to your collection whenever a suitable and reasonable chance occurs. For all we know, the comparatively common pre-war item may be scarce or maybe unobtainable when peace comes. J. MEDCRAFT.

Only one picture was saved from a fire which destroyed Dunstaffnage House, Oban, recently. This is a Murillo, 'A Peasant and Her Child.' Valuable Romneys were lost.

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2 IRVIN AVENUE . SALT BURN-BY-THE-SEA . YORKS

EXCHANGE cigarette cards with collectors anywhere.
Pelluet, 132 Bohemia Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, puzzle-books and puzzles, wood, metal and cardboard (especially Lloyd's). No crosswords. Also want Dickensiana. Anderson, Devonian, London Road, Brighton.

WANTED: periodical called Chokee Bill and the Area Sneaker, published at the same time as Ally Sloper. H. L. Mare, P.O. Box 383, Pretoria, South Africa.

MATCHBOX LABELS for sale. Send postcard for lists of specimens and details of special bulk packets of labels for beginners. Collections bought. Floyd, 7 All Saints Road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED: Chronology of Books and Printing; Moxon's Mechanick Exercises (reprint); Hotten's Slang Dictionary; Sea Slang, by F. C. Bowen. State lowest price, including postage. J. A. Birkbeck, 52 Craigie Avenue, Dundee.

ALWAYS wanted: Penny dreadfuls, bloods, and old boys' journals published by Lloyd, Newsagents' Publishing Co., Fox, Harrison, Vickers, Emmett, Lea, Temple Publishing Co., Henderson, Aldine Co., etc. Single items to whole collections purchased. Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

EXCHANGE 'The Collector's Miscellany' with amateur publishers in any country within the limitations of the Defence Regulations. J. A. Birkbeck, address as above.

Printed and published for private circulation by J. A. BIRKBECK, at his dwelling-house, 52 Craigie Avenue, Dundee, Scotland.