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DEAKIN'S

OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

LIBRARY
Vol. I.

Chicago, August, 1871.

No. 1.

ODD WATCHES.

Early watchmakers, patronizing the vegetable kingdom, adopted the forms of fruits and flowers. In the Bernal collection there was a Nuremberg watch in the shape of a pear, in parcel-gilt silver. Another, shaped like a melon, was made by a Frenchman. It is only one inch and a quarter in diameter, and has a key in the form of a melon-leaf. At the South Kensington Museum is a very small apple-shaped watch, about a century old, with a gold enamel case studded with seed pearls. One of the old watches of Nuremberg has the form of an acorn, and is provided with a very small wheel-lock pistol, which is supposed to have been used as an alarm. One watch, talked about by the archæologists, is in the shape of a tulip, with three crystal faces. Another, having the same form, but scarcely an inch in diameter, is so constructed that the leaves or petals of the flower open a little at the bottom of the watch, disclosing a small spring, which, when pressed, pushes up the lid and shows the dial-face.

Mr. BERNAL had a watch in which the works were contained within the body of a tiny eagle; the imitative bird opened across the centre and displayed a richly engraved dial plate, while the exterior was rendered classical, by the story of Jupiter and Ganymede; it might either be worn suspended from the girdle by a ring or be rested on a table by means of three claws. Ducks have sometimes had a share of watchmaker's attention bestowed upon them. Witness a duck-shape watch about two inches and a half long, in the South Kensington Museum, and another in a private collection, in which the feathers of the duck are chased in silver, and the lower half, when opened, exhibits a dial-face decked with jewels.

A whole class of watches were for genera-

tions known as Nuremberg eggs. One, supposed to have belonged to JAMES I., is of a flat-tish egg-shape, the outer case plain, the inner elaborately engraved; the face has a calendar, and wherewithal for showing the moon's age. Another, existing in a private collection, is an egg cut out of a jacinth, with the dial-face visible through the transparent jewel—a very beautiful mode of indulging in these crotchets. In the Dover Museum is a double-cased egg-watch with two movable dials, one for showing the hours of the day in the usual fashion, and the other for the names and days of the month; there are also means for denoting the day of the week and the position of the sun in the zodiac; and—an oddity indeed—the hands go the reverse way from those in ordinary watches, or from right to left, as if the artist's notion of time took a backward direction. In HOLLAR's set of four engravings of the Four Seasons, a lady is represented in the character of Summer, with an egg-watch suspended from her girdle.

Surely the most dismal of all watches must have been those shaped in the form of a skull or death's head, intended, doubtless, as mementoes of the fleetness of time and the brevity of man's existence. Many examples of this class are contained in various public and private collections. One of these, small in size, is of silver, and has a ring at the top to suspend it from the girdle; the lower jaw of the skull opens, and there displays the dial-face. Another of the doleful family, made in the seventeenth century, opens at the lower jaw to show what's o'clock, and has inscriptions on the outside. When DIANA of Poitiers became mistress to HENRY II. of France she was a widow, and the courtiers of the sovereign, to ingratiate themselves with the favorite, wore death's-head watches as a kind of complimentary mourning. But the most celebrated death's-head watch, once belonging to MARY, Queen of Scots, was that which the royal lady gave to Mary Seaton, her maid of honor, and which afterward came into the possession of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. It is of silver gilt. The forehead of the skull bears the symbols of death, the scythe and the hour-glass, placed between a palace and a cottage, to show the impartiality of the grim destroyer; at the back of the skull is Time destroying all things, and at the top of the head are scenes of the Garden of Eden and the Crucifixion. The watch is opened by reversing the skull, placing the upper part of it in the hollow of the hand, and lifting the jaw by a hinge, this part being enriched by engraved representations of the Holy Family, angels and shepherds with their flocks. The works of the watch form the brains of the

skull, and are within a silver envelope, which acts as a musically-toned bell, while the dial-plate serves as the palate. This very curious work of art, which was made at Blois, is too large to be carried as a pocket watch.

TO BE CONTINUED.

NUMISMATICS.

MEDAL SALE.—An auction sale of medals, etc., took place at the rooms of W. A. Butters & Co., 5 & 7 Randolph St., April 14, 1871. Bronze—Presidential—Winfield Scott and Z. Taylor, \$5 each; Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Quincy Adams, \$2 each. Daniel Webster, by Wright, \$1.50. Colonel Armstrong, Kittanning, \$1.60. Bust of John Paul Jones; rev. naval action, \$3.00. N. Y. Crystal Palace, 1855, \$1.25. Philadelphia Sanitary Fair, proof, \$2.25. N. W. Sanitary Fair, \$1.75. Washington Cabinet, \$1.75. Washington before Boston, \$2.25. Berlin Humboldt Medal, 1828, 8.50. Medal struck by the University of Jena, to commemorate a meeting of naturalists, 10.00. Milan Cathedral, 6.00. Cathedral of St. Paul, Phila., \$6. Liberty and Security, small size, 1.50. Erie Canal, large size, white metal, 5.50. Paris Exposition of 1853, superb head of Napoleon, comp., 4.00. London Crystal Palace, white metal, 40c. N. W. Sanitary fair, white metal, 75c. Washington Cent, 1791, 4.60. Washington and Independence Token, 1783, 2.00. "A List of Washington Memorial Medals," by W. E. Woodward, 5.00. "The Medallic Memorials of Washington," by John Ross Snowdon, 5.00. "Prime's Coins, Medals and Seals, 4.00. A set of "Woodward's Catalogues," 5.00.

A circular has been issued by the Russian Ministry of Finance prohibiting the trade in two-copek pieces. The facts connected with this circular are rather singular. In 1863 a large quantity of gold was missed from the mint in St. Petersburg, and no trace of it could be found. Now, however, it appears that a workman had stolen the gold, and suspicion having fallen on him he was not able to dispose of it. He, therefore, in order to rid himself of the corpus delictic, threw it into a

smelting caldron filled with copper for the making of two-copek pieces. Some sharp speculators having found out this fact, instantly set about buying up the whole of 1863 two-copek coinage at twice and thrice its ordinary value. This remunerative trade is now to be stopped, and the golden coppers are to go back to the government.

The Paris Mint has temporarily ceased to coin French money. It appears the government is not satisfied with present model, and a new one is to be offered for competition. EN ATTENDANT, the mint is hard at work coining several millions of bronze pieces for the Egyptian Government.

AUTOGRAPHS.—Some interesting letters have recently been sold in London. John Wesley, a very painfully written letter, on the differences between him and his Wife, \$34; another, of a more pleasing character, 13.00; another, relating to Mrs. Wesley's keeping his papers, in which he says, "Will not even men of the world say, what a wretch is this, first to rob, then to dispose her own husband?" 10.00.

CURIOSITIES, ETC. FOR SALE.

Chinese God, Ivory, very fine.	\$25 00
East India Idol, brass.	2 50
Chinese Idol, brass.	2 00
Antique Silver Chain, found in Mexico.	1 50
Chinese Junk, finely carved.	5 00
Indian Pipe, large and fine, from Montano.	6 00
Chinese Chop Stick and Knife, in a case.	2 00
Antique Silver Watch.	5 00
Rebel Soldiers' Buttons.	each, 25
A collection of 100 different Foreign Coins.	10 00
" " " " " "	5 00
A large and finely polished Agate.	25 00
A piece of a Petrified Snake, from Dakota.	1 00
A large piece of Petrified Wood, from California.	5 00
Book printed in the Chinese language.	1 00
Union Envelopes, 66 varieties.	2 00
Western Antiquarian, Nos. 1 & 2.	each, 20
Federal Gazette and Baltimore Daily Advertiser.	75
Am. Journal of Numismatics, No. 1.	25

COIN CATALOGUES.

John Allen, priced.	\$5 00
McCoy, priced.	1 50
Addenda to Bangs & Morwin, Oct. 24, 1867.	50
W. A. Butters, Feb. 1864, priced.	1 00
Gilbert & Sarapson, March 5, 1865, priced.	1 50
D. Scott, Jan. 16, 1867, priced.	1 00
D. Scott, March " " "	1 00
" " " " addenda.	50
W. Deakin, private sale.	50

Deakin's Old Curiosity Shop

Published by W. & H. Deakin, 73 Wells street, Chicago.
Terms, single copies, five cents.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

TURKEY.—The 10 paras adhesive is now issued in pale brown, surcharged with black inscription, and with pricked perforations, and a 2 piastre vermilion similarly perforated.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A proposal was made in the House of Commons last month, that its postmaster should be empowered to use a hand stamp to mark prepayment of the members' letters, that the members may be saved the trouble of sticking stamps on them.

FINLAND.—New envelopes have at length appeared for this province. The design is that of the existing adhesive series, and the value is expressed in pennia,

20 pennia	blue
40 " "	rose

AUSTRIA.—Danubian Steam Navigation Co. The color of the 10 soldi has been altered from lilac to orange-red.

FRANCE.—The projet de loi submitted to the National Assembly by the French finance minister, contained a proposition to raise the rate of postage on home letters (single weight) from 20 to 25 centimes. As our readers are aware, the minister has, in effect, withdrawn his budget; and the very retrograde measure above referred to, which would have led to the recal of the old 25 c. blue stamp of the republic, will probably not be insisted on. It is a pity that the minister has not the good sense to take a leaf out of our book, and, by reducing the present rate by half, treble or quadruple the number of letters.

There is another proposal on the TAPIS which may lead to the emission of a 3 centime stamp. It is proposed to separate the duty on journals from the postage, instead of representing both as at present by one stamp, and the postage alone would be at the rate of 3 centimes. Again, it having been proposed that newspapers should be sent in packages by

rail at a charge of 40 centimes per kilogramme (34 ounces), a counter suggestion has been made that the rate should be one franc, the former rate being too low, and this if acted on, as it probably will be, would necessitate the reissue of the 1 franc republic.

The unperforated republic are getting daily rarer; it is quite a chance to meet with even a 20 centime. The 20 c. perforated is showing signs of deterioration. The ground work in the angles is disappearing, and we have met with several copies in which it is barely visible. The error in the setting up of the sheet of the 20 c. appears to have been rectified.

SPAIN.—The intelligence which arrives respecting the new stamps is very conflicting. The latest reaches us from a Madrid correspondent, and is to the effect that they are far from being on the point of emission. Several drawings have been made, but the type has not been designated as yet.—S.C. MAG.

List of Postage Stamps for Sale.

ANTIGUA.			
1 penny, pink,		6	5
6 " green,			10
ALSACE AND LORRAINE.			
1 centime, green,			3
2 " brown,			5
4 " gray,			5
5 " green,			8
10 " bistre,			10
20 " blue,			20
25 " brown,			25
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.			
5 centavos, rose,	1864		10
10 " green,			15
15 " blue,			20
5 " red,	1867		10
10 " green,			30
15 " blue,			35
AZORES.			
5 reis, black,			5
10 " yellow,			10
20 " straw,			10
25 " rose,			15
50 " green,			20
80 " orange,			30
100 " lilac,			50
120 " blue,			70
240 " lilac,			130
PACKETS.			
No. 1—Contains 6 Rare Stamps, Mexico, Victoria, &c.			30
No. 2—Contains 10 Foreign Stamps, New Zealand, South Australia, Hong Kong, Queensland, &c.			30
No. 3—Contains 8 Scarce Stamps, 5c blue Sandwich I.			30
No. 4—Contains 40 Foreign Stamps, including Russia, Italy, South Australia, &c.			50
No. 5—Contains 100 different Foreign Stamps			200

RARE BOOKS.

Some important additions to the collections in the British Museum may be mentioned. These are—1. A service-book, c. 1500, of German origin, to which is inserted cuttings from an illuminated volume of 'Virtues and Vices,' of probably Neapolitan origin, of about two centuries earlier date. These illustrations, if such they can be called, comprise a picture of the siege of a city that stands upon a promontory, with a bay below it, in which are afloat galleys of the knights of St. John; also, representations of the persecution of Christians. 2. A fine example of probably Provencal Art, made for a member of the Saluces family, 1470, and containing, among other noteworthy pictures, representations of funeral games and a procession, price \$650, bought at the Yemeniz sale. 3. A very early copy of 'The Book of the Chase,' by Phœbus, Count de Foix, c. 1400. 4. A small Bible, French, with beautifully illuminated letters of rare quality and unfrequent character.

Some Shakspearean works of interest were lately sold at auction in London. The following rare works of our early English dramatists were included:—Preston, T., Lamentable Tragedie, mixed full of pleasant mirth, containing the life of Cambises, King of Percia, 4to., black letter, \$110. Munday, A., The Death of Robert, Earle of Huntingdon, other wise called Robin Hood of Merrie Sherwodde, with the lamentable tragedie of Chaste Matilda, his faire Maid Marian, 4to., black letter, \$36. The Jovial Crew, or the Devill turn'd Ranter, being a character of the roaring ranters of these times represented in a Comedie, frontispiece, 4to., \$33. A Midsommer Night's Dream, first edition, 1600, \$207. The excellent History of the Merchant of Venice, first edition, \$155. The first part of the True and Honourable History of the Life of Sir John Oldecastle, the good Lord Cobham, first edition, \$80.00. The Chronicle History of Henry the Fifth, with his battall fought at Agin Court in France, together with Ancient

Pistoll, 1608, \$60. Shake-Speare, William, His True Chronicle History of the Life and Death of King Lear, and his Three Daughters, 1608, \$155. Shakespeare, W., Most pleasant and excellent conceited comedy of Sir John Falstaffe and the Merry Wives of Windsor, with the swaggering vaine of ancient Pistoll and Corporal Nym, 1619, \$130. Shakespeare, W., A Yorkshire Tragedie, not so New as Lamentable and True, 1619, \$60. Shakespeare, W., The most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedie of Romeo and Juliet, 1637, \$78. It will thus be seen that the original quarto single plays of Shakspeare are gradually rising in value.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

Crummell, Alex. The Future of Africa. Presented by the author to Lincoln.	\$5 00
Springfield Directory, 1855-6. From Lincoln's Library.	5 00
Kenyon, W. A. Poems, Chicago, 1845. Rare.	3 00
Campbell, Thomas. Gertrude of Wyoming and other Poems. 12mo, cf. London, 1810.	1 00
Alsop, S. A Treatise on Surveying. Svo, half cf.	2 00
Rau, G. L. Organon of the Specific Healing Art.	75
Edrehi, Rev. M. Historical Account of the Ten Tribes, settled beyond the River Sambatyon.	1 25
Baker, Rev. Wm. M., The Life and Labors of.	1 00
Fotherby, Martin, Fovre Sermons, lately preached by. 12mo, hf cf. London, 1668.	5 00
Sinding, Rev. Paul C. History of Scandinavia.	1 25
Sherman, Major General William T. and his Campaigns.	1 00
Milton, John, Treasures from the Prose Writings of.	1 50
Cruden's Complete Concordance. Svo, calf.	2 50
Dolcino, Fra. A Historical Memoir of, and his Times.	1 00
Poetry, A Budget of Humorous.	75
Rodenberg, Julius, The Poems of.	75
Kilpatrick and our Cavalry. By James Moore.	75
Wilson, Tobias, A Tale of the Great Rebellion.	75
Stroud's Slave Laws.	50
Scott, W. C. Genius and Faith; or, Poetry and Religion.	75
Locke on Christianity.	50
Burke on the Sublime.	30
American Parlor Aquarium.	1 00
Wax Flowers, How to Make Them.	1 00
Fremont, Capt. J. C. Report of the Exploring Expedition to Oregon and California, 1843-4.	1 75

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