# Table of Contents

Summary Information .................................................................................................................. 3
Biography/History .......................................................................................................................... 4
Scope and Contents ..................................................................................................................... 4
Administrative Information ......................................................................................................... 5
Controlled Access Headings ....................................................................................................... 5
Bibliography ................................................................................................................................ 5
Collection Inventory ................................................................................................................ 7

The Birt Family ........................................................................................................................... 7
Henry Disley ................................................................................................................................ 9
John Marks .................................................................................................................................. 12
Neesom's or Taylor's Song Mart ............................................................................................... 13
Henry Paul ................................................................................................................................. 15
John Pitts and Elizabeth Hodges .............................................................................................. 16
Henry Parker Such .................................................................................................................... 19
Printer unnamed ...................................................................................................................... 23
### Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>University of Pennsylvania: Rare Book &amp; Manuscript Library Print Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Balfe, M. W., (Michael William), 1808-1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Bunn, Alfred, 1796?-1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Dibdin, Charles, 1745-1814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Fitzball, Edward, 1792-1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Lover, Samuel, 1797-1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Sharpe, Richard Scrafton, d. 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Work, Henry Clay, 1832-1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Nineteenth-Century English Broadside Ballads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call number</strong></td>
<td>EB8.B2102.830c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>circa 1800s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>49 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>Nineteenth-century London printers of broadside ballad sheets supplied both traditional and original songs to &quot;hawkers and the trade,&quot; as well as selling to customers in their own shops. Most compositions are anonymous (though their authors are sometimes named or identifiable) and they enjoyed a wide audience. This collection contains 49 publications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
from a variety of printers, including the heirs of John Pitts and James Catnach (Elizabeth Hodges and Anne Ryle, respectively) and Henry P. Such. Researchers interested in nineteenth-century popular song or the London printing trade will find this collection of use.

Cite as:

Nineteenth-Century English Broadside Ballads, circa 1800s, Rare Book & Manuscript Library Print Collections, University of Pennsylvania.

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**Biography/History**

Nineteenth-century London ballad printing was centered on and around Monmouth Street in the parish of St. Giles. In the early part of the century it was dominated by rivals James Catnach and John Pitts: "Together the two men established the Seven Dials [in St. Giles's parish] as the center of the broadside trade in the nineteenth century" (Hepburn, p. 34). The following generation saw Henry Parker Such take a leading role in the industry. These printers supplied their wares to "hawkers and the trade," as many ballad sheets advertise, as well as selling to customers in their own shops. Their stock comprised both traditional ballads and original compositions, including contemporary popular song -- according to Hepburn, a "large ... proportion of broadside ballads began life in concert room or book or on stage" (p. 75-76) -- parody, and occasional verse on events and subjects of topical interest (e.g. the royal family; crimes and executions; law and politics). Most of these compositions are anonymous, but some authors are named on the sheets or identifiable from other sources. They enjoyed a wide audience; as Hindley notes of Catnach, "His stock of songs was very like his customers, diversified. There were all kinds, to suit all classes" (p. 222). Broadside ballad sheets were cheap enough to be purchased by the poor, but sufficiently varied in subject and genre to act as an instrument of mass culture.

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**Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of 49 broadside ballad sheets printed in London in the nineteenth century. The collection is arranged alphabetically by printer: Thomas Birt (and family), Henry Disley, John Marks,
Neesom's (or Taylor's) Song Mart, Henry Paul, John Pitts (and Elizabeth Hodges), and Henry Parker Such. (A few items on which the printer's name is not given are listed under "Printer Unnamed.")

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Rare Book & Manuscript Library Print Collections
Finding aid prepared by N.E. Broadwell.

Sponsor

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources’ “Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives” Project.

Controlled Access Headings

Form/Genre(s)

- Ballads

Subject(s)

- Broadsides--EngInd--London--19th century

Bibliography

*The British Book Trade Index*. Ed. Maureen Bell. University of Birmingham. 9 February 2012 (http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/).
Curiosities of Street Literature. London: Reeves and Turner, 1871.


Publisher’s Introduction: Madden Ballads From Cambridge University Library. Gale Cengage Learning. 9 February 2012 (http://microformguides.gale.com/Data/Introductions/30330FM.htm)


### Collection Inventory

**Series 1. The Birt Family, after 1833. 7 items.**

**Biographical/Historical note**

Thomas Birt (d. 1841) traded from 1824-1841 in Great St. Andrews Street, Seven Dials, London: at no. 33 in 1824, at no. 10 from 1828-1829, and at no. 39 from 1833-1841. Other members of the Birt family who traded at no. 39 are Ann Birt (1842-1843), Mary Birt (1844-1851), and George Birt (1852). BBTI records Ann Birt as "[p]robably widow & successor to Thomas Birt," but Shepard (p. 76) identifies Mary Birt as "widow of Thomas Birt [who] carried on the business" and notes her age in 1844 as 43 and Ann Birt's as 23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Imprint Description</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Decoration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>FAREWELL TO THE MOUNTAINS</strong>, after 1833.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BIRT, Printer, 39, Great St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials, London.</td>
<td>163 x 75 mm.</td>
<td>Tail-piece (vignette: landscape with trees and factory?); typographical ornaments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>The Loss of One Hero</strong>, between 1833 and 1841. 1 leaf.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Printed by T. BIRT, 39, Great St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials.</td>
<td>200 x 80 mm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Imprint:**

Printed by T. BIRT (wholesale and retail,) 10, Great St. Andrew-Street, Seven Dials, London. Country Orders punctually attended to. Every description of Printing on the most reasonable terms Children's Books, Battledores, Pictures. &c.

**Dimensions:**

153 x 82 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**


4. **Mr. Walker, The Two-penny Postman,** between 1828 and 1829. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

Printed by T. BIRT, wholesale and retail, 10, Great St. Andrew-Stree[t,] Seven Dials, London[,] Country Orders punctually attended to. Every description of Printing on reasonable terms.

**Dimensions:**

242 x 83 mm.

5. **Ri-fum ti-fum,** between 1828 and 1829. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

Printed by T. BIRT, wholesale and retail, 10, Great St. Andrew-Street, Seven Dials, London. Country Orders punctually attended to. Every description of Printing on reasonable terms. Children's Books, Battledores, Pictures, &c.

**Dimensions:**

249 x 90 mm.

**Imprint:**
Printed by T. BIRT, wholesale and retail, 10, Great St. Andrew-Street Seven Dials, London. Country Orders punctually attended to. Every description of Printing on reasonable terms. Children's Books, Battledores, Pictures, &c.

**Dimensions:**
250 x 90 mm.

7. *WILLIAM of The WAGGON TRAIN*, after 1833. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
BIRT, Printer, 39, Great St. Andrew St., Seven Dials, London.

**Dimensions:**
245 x 87 mm.

**Decoration:**
Head-piece (vignette: grouping of 2 shields and 3 banners surmounted by a crown).

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**Series 2. Henry Disley, between 1860 and 1878. 9 items.**

**Biographical/Historical note**
Henry Disley, publisher, traded from 1860-1878 at 57 High Street, St. Giles, London, and possibly also at 16 Arthur St. in 1850. Shepard notes that in 1844 Disley was a printer's apprentice living next door to the Birt family (then at 39 Great St. Andrews Street, Seven Dials), adding, "Young Disley, who had worked for [James] Catnach, was to become the pre-eminent printer of murder broadsides in Seven Dials, some fifteen years later, when he set up on his own" (p. 76-77).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>COME TO THE OLD OAK TREE</strong>, between 1869 and 1878. 1 leaf.</td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Imprint:**

H. DISLEY, Printer, 57, High Street, St. Giles. W.C.

**Dimensions:**

153 x 84 mm.

**Decoration:**

Vignette (woman and child walking beside a gate).

| 9. **JOHN BARLEYCORN**, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf. | **9** |

**Imprint:**

H. DISLEY, Printer, 57, High Street, St. Giles.

**Dimensions:**

241 x 88 mm.

**Decoration:**

Head-pieces.

| 10. **JOHN BULL'S Nothing More**, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf. | **10** |

**Imprint:**

H. Disley, Printer, 57, High-street, St. Giles.

**Dimensions:**

249 x 89 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**

"Air--Nothing More. Written by F.C. Perry."

**Imprint:**
H. Disley, Printer, 57, High-street, St. Giles.

**Dimensions:**
245 x 93 mm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. <strong>Henry Clay Work.</strong> <em>WE ARE COMING SISTER MARY</em>, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Imprint:**
Disley, Printer, 57, High-street, St. Giles.

**Dimensions:**
253 x 99 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**

13. *WEDDING DAY!*, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
Disley, Printer, 57, High Street, St. Giles, London.

**Dimensions:**
252 x 96 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**
"Tune--Nelly Gray."

15. William and Harriet, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf.

Imprint:
H. Disley, Printer, 57, High-street, St. Giles.

Dimensions:
256 x 98 mm.

16. YOUNG NAPOLEON or, The Bunch of Roses, between 1860 and 1878. 1 leaf.

Imprint:
H. Disley, Printer, 57, High-street, St. Giles.

Dimensions:
197 x 80 mm.

Imperfect:
First words of last line of text wanting.

Series 3. John Marks, between 1836 and 1857. 1 items.

Biographical/Historical note

BBTI has no entry for Marks at 206 Brick Lane (though it does give a John Powell there, following Todd, who locates him at that address in 1849). Curiosities of Street Literature reprints a broadside reporting the birth of the Prince of Wales in 1841 with imprint: "John Marks, 206, Brick Lane, Whitechapel". OCLC also contains entries for a number of broadsides printed by John or J. Marks at this
address datable by their content (e.g. political events) to 1854-1855. The online version of the publisher's introduction to the microform collection *Madden Ballads From Cambridge University Library* gives 1836-1857 as J. Marks's trading dates.

**Item 17.** *The Widows' LAST PRAYER. Answer to "Mother is the Battle over." (Copyright)*, between 1836 and 1857. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
Marks, Printers, 206 Brick Lane, Spitalfields. Wholesale Dealers and the Trade Supplied.

**Dimensions:**
169 x 77 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**
Text signed at end: W. GARBUTT.

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**Series 4. Neesom's or Taylor's Song Mart, circa 1800s. 5 items.**

**Biographical/Historical note**

BBTI has no entry for Neesom or Taylor at 93 Brick Lane. (It does record Charles Hodgson Neesom as the owner of a circulating library at 90 Brick Lane, Spitalfields, in 1846, as well as a Neeson [sic] at 166 Brick Lane, Spitalfields, ca. 1840.) Hodson's 1855 directory of the English book trade, however, does list a "Neesom, C." at 93 Brick Lane. In addition, a "Neesam [sic], 93 Brick Lane, Bethnal Green" advertises as a publisher in several issues of The London Investigator (vol. 1) during 1854-1855.

The broadside ballad "Wedding of the princess royal on Monday, 25th of January, 1858" (not part of this collection) is reported in OCLC to bear the imprint: "Taylor, printer, 93, Brick Lane, Bethnal Green, near the railway arch." Another ballad based on contemporary events, "Baron of Parliament," regarding the seating of Baron Rothschild in Parliament in 1858, is similarly recorded in OCLC with the imprint: "Published at Taylor's song mart, (late Neesom), 93, Brick Lane, Spitalfields near the Railway."
This gives a potential *terminus post quem* for Taylor. Neuburg lists "Taylor at 92 & 93 Brick Lane, Spitalfields," as one of four London printers still specializing in broadside ballad printing in 1871 (p. 208, n. 10) and Hindley confirms "Mr. Taylor, Printer of Ballads &c." at that address ca. 1870 (p. xv).

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**Item 18. THE BRAVE MUSKETEER**, probably before 1858. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

Printed and Published at NEESOM'S Song Mart, 93, Brick Lane, Bethnal Green, near the Railway Arch. Hawkers and the Trade Supplied.

**Dimensions:**

153 x 73 mm.

**Decoration:**

Type ornaments.

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**Item 19. THE VILLAGE BORN BEAUTY**, probably after 1858. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

London:--Printed and Published at TAYLOR'S Song Mart, 93, Brick Lane, Bethnal Green. (near the Railway Arch.) Hawkers' and the Trade Supplied.

**Dimensions:**

Item 19: 219 x 78 mm.

Item 20: 210 x 79 mm.

Item 21: 216 x 79 mm.

**Imperfect:**

Item 20: First line of title ("THE") wanting.

Item 21: First line of title ("THE") wanting.
20. **WARRIOR'S RETURN**, probably after 1858. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
Published at Taylor's Song Mart, (Late Neesom), 93, Brick Lane, Spitalfields, near the Railway. Hawkers and the Trade Supplied.

**Dimensions:**
158 x 79 mm.

**Decoration:**
Type ornaments.

**Authorship/Attribution:**
"[Copyright.] Tune.--'Nightingale.'"

Text signed at end: W. GARBUIT.

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Series 5. Henry Paul, between 1840 and 1845. 1 items.

**Biographical/Historical note**

Henry Paul traded from 1840-1845 at 22 Brick Lane, Spitalfields, London, according to Todd. (BBTI, citing Todd, gives his address as 22 Brick Lane, Whitechapel, and his dates as 1839-1845.)

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**Imprint:**

**Dimensions:**
248 x 85 mm.
Series 6. John Pitts and Elizabeth Hodges, between 1820 and 1855. 10 items.

Biographical/Historical note

John Pitts (1765-1844) traded from 1802-1844 in Great St. Andrews Street, Seven Dials, London: at no. 14 (occasionally recorded as 4) from 1802-1819 and at no. 6 (occasionally recorded as 9), advertised as a Toy and Marble Warehouse, from 1820-1844.

Elizabeth Mary Ann Hodges was John Pitts' housekeeper and a legatee of his estate, from which Shepard infers she "obtained some of his stock of sheets and set up in business ... for a number of years, maintaining a 'Toy and Marble Warehouse', just as John Pitts had done, and issuing broadside ballads" (p. 85). She traded at 31 Monmouth Street, Seven Dials, London, from 1844-1845, when the name of the street was changed to Dudley, and at 31 Dudley Street until 1855. Thereafter she traded at 26 Grafton Street, Soho, until at least 1861.

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Item 22. **THE MECHANIC'S BOY**, between 1820 and 1844. 1 leaf.  

**Imprint:**

*Pitts, Printer, wholesale Toy and Marble warehouse, 5 Gt. St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials.*

**Dimensions:**

128 x 86 mm.

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Item 23. **Charles Dibdin. THE WOODMAN**, between 1820 and 1844. 1 leaf.  

**Imprint:**

Pitts, Printer, Wholesale Toy and Marble Warehouse, 6, Great St. Andrew-street, Seven Dials.
Dimensions:

Item 25: 197 x 77 mm.

Item 26: 198 x 81 mm.

Authorship/Attribution:


24. **Edward Fitzball.** *THE COTTAGE NEAR ROCHELL*, between 1845 and 1855. 1 leaf.

Imprint:

E. Hodges, from Pitts Wholesale Toy and Marble Warehouse [blank] Street, (late Monmouth St.) Dials.

Dimensions:

124 x 82 mm.

Authorship/Attribution:

Text attributed to Edward Fitzball.

25. **I DON'T MEAN TO TELL YOU HER NAME or, my VILLAGE FAIR**, between 1844 and 1845. 1 leaf.

Imprint:

E. Hodges from PITTS Toy and Marble Warehouse, 31, Monmouth Street, 7 Dials.

Dimensions:

Item 28: 203 x 85 mm.

Item 29: 212 x 86 mm.

Decoration:

Typographical ornaments (left margin).

**Imprint:**
E. Hodges, from PITTS' Wholesale Toy and Marble Warehouse, 31, Dudley Street, 7 Dials.

**Dimensions:**
154 x 84 mm.

**Decoration:**
Head-piece; imprint between two rows of typographical ornaments.

27. *the VILLAGE ROSE*, between 1845 and 1855. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
E. HODGES, Printer from PITT'S, Wholesale Toy Warehouse, 31 [blank] Street, Seven Dials.

**Dimensions:**
Item 31: 140 x 84 mm.
Item 32: 140 x 84 mm.
Item 33: 142 x 83 mm.

**Imperfect:**
Items 31 and 32 cropped at head margin with loss of first word of title.


**Imprint:**
Below title: HODGES, Printer from PITT S) wholesale Toy Warehouse 31, [blank] Street 7 Dials.
At foot of sheet: 26, Grafton Stre [sic].
Series 7. Henry Parker Such, between 1849 and 1875. 10 items.

Biographical/Historical note

Henry Parker Such (1808-1882) traded at 123 Union Street, Borough, London from 1849-1862, when the street was renumbered and no. 123 became no. 177, where Such traded until 1875, at which time the business passed to his children. Shepard notes that they were still printing as late as 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Imprint</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td><em>Fair Shines THE MOON To Night</em>,</td>
<td>H. Such, Printer, &amp;c. 123, Union Street, Borough, London. Hawkers &amp; The Trade Supplied.</td>
<td>156 x 70 mm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td><em>Sylvia's request AND WILLIAM'S DENIAL</em>,</td>
<td>London:--H. SUCH, Printer &amp; Publisher, 177, (late 123), Union Street, Boro'.</td>
<td>230 x 92 mm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decoration:
Type ornaments.

31. **UNDAUNTED FEMALE**, between 1849 and 1862. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
Printed and Sold by H. Such, Newsveder, &c. 123, Union Street, borough, London.
HAWKERS SUPPLIED.

**Dimensions:**
225 x 83 mm.

32. **What Man Would BE WITHOUT A WOMAN**. No. 56, between 1849 and 1875. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
LONDON:--H. SUCH, PRINTER.

**Dimensions:**
234 x 82 mm.

33. **WILLIE Safe at home, ANSWER TO WILLIE WE HAVE Miss'd you**. 139, between 1849 and 1862. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**
London:--H. Such, Printer, 123, Union St., Boro', and at 83, White Cross, Street, St. Luke's.

**Dimensions:**
245 x 95 mm.

**Decoration:**
Coat of arms of Great Britain with supporters above title. Two lines of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint). One column of type ornaments (right margin).
General note

Appears to have been cut from a larger sheet with headline: "Oh dear! what ca[...]".

34. **M.W. Balfe and Alfred Bunn.** *THE HEART BOWED DOWN.* 281, between 1862 and 1875. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

London:--H. P. Such, Machine Printer and Publisher, 177, Union-street, Boro', S.E.

**Dimensions:**

260 x 182 mm.

**Decoration:**

Vignette (woman and soldier embracing). Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint). One column of type ornaments in center of sheet.

**Contents:**

John Barleycorn -- I've Journeyed Over Many Lands -- The Heart Bowed Down.

**Authorship/Attribution:**

"The Heart Bowed Down" is from act 2, scene 4 of *The Bohemian Girl* (libretto by Alfred Bunn; music by M.W. Balfe), first produced in London in 1843.

36. **OLD KING COLE ; LITTLE MARY, THE SAILOR'S BRIDE.** 357, between 1862 and 1875. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

London:--H. SUCH, Printer & Publisher, 177, Union Street, Borough.--S.E.

**Dimensions:**

249 x 181 mm.
### 35. *The Marianne Hymn*; *The Harvest Home*

No. 386, between 1862 and 1875. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

London:--H. P. SUCH, Machine Printer and Publisher, 177, Union Street, Boro'.

**Dimensions:**

252 x 180 mm.

**Decoration:**

Vignette (man walking toward steps). Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint). One column of type ornaments in center of sheet.

### 37. *The Pretty Plough Boy*; *Young Edwin in the Low Lands Low*

228, between 1849 and 1862. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**


**Dimensions:**

248 x 182 mm.

**Decoration:**

Vignette (shepherd and shepherdess in landscape with sheep). Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint).
Imprint:
London:--H. P. SUCH, Machine Printer and Publisher, 177, Union-street, Borough.

Dimensions:
250 x 183 mm.

Decorations:
Illustration (5 Black musicians). Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint). One column of type ornaments in center of sheet.

Contents:
Sambo -- Bonny Light Horesman Slain in the Wars!

39. THE SKIPPER and HIS BOY, or, FATHER AND I; MY Lov'ly, Lowland CAROLINE. No. 351, between 1862 and 1875. 1 leaf.

Imprint:
London:--H. P. SUCH, Machine Printer and Publisher, 177, Union-street, Borough.

Dimensions:
250 x 181 mm.

Decoration:
Vignette (sailboat with sailors). Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint). One column of type ornaments in center of sheet.

Series 8. Printer unnamed, circa 1800s. 4 items.

Biographical/Historical note
Ann Ryle (d. 1870), sister of publisher James Catnach (1792-1841), took over his business in 1838 at 2 and 3 Monmouth Court, Seven Dials, London. In 1841 she took James Henry Paul (d. 1870) into
partnership and traded as Ryle & Paul (or Paul & Ryle) and Paul & Co. until 1845, when Ryle bought Paul out. She then continued to trade as Ryle & Co. at the same address until 1859.

40. **Samuel Lover.** *THE FAIRY BOY*, probably between 1841 and 1859. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

[Blank space] & Co., Printers, 2 & 3, Monmouth Court, 7 Dials.

**Dimensions:**

141 x 74 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**


41. **Samuel Lover.** *THE FAIRY TEMPTER*, probably between 1841 and 1859. 1 leaf.

**Imprint:**

[Blank space] and Co. Printers, 2 & 3, Monmouth Court, Seven Dials. and at 35, Hanover Street, Portsea, where upwards of four thousand different sorts of ballads are continually on sale. together with 40 new penny song books.

**Dimensions:**

138 x 71 mm.

**Authorship/Attribution:**


42. **Minnie (Sung by Madame Anna Thillon, at Drury Lane Theatre, with immense applause)**, probably between 1841 and 1859. 1 leaf.
Imprint:
[Blank space] and Co., Printers, Monmouth Court, Bloomsbury.

Dimensions:
149 x 73 mm.

Decoration:
Two rows of type ornaments (1 each above and below imprint).

43. *THE STAG*, circa 1800s. 1 leaf.

Dimensions:
237 x 87 mm.

Decoration:
Vignette (sailing ship).