

Pollock's Toy Museum & Toy Theatres.

Numéro d'inventaire : 1979.18842.1

Type de document : prospectus, catalogue publicitaire

Éditeur : Pollock's Toy Museum (London)

Date de création : 1970 (vers)

Description : Brochure agrafée. Couv. ill.

Mesures : hauteur : 214 mm ; largeur : 148 mm

Mots-clés : Musées (y compris musées de l'école)

Jeux et jouets (ou représentation de...)

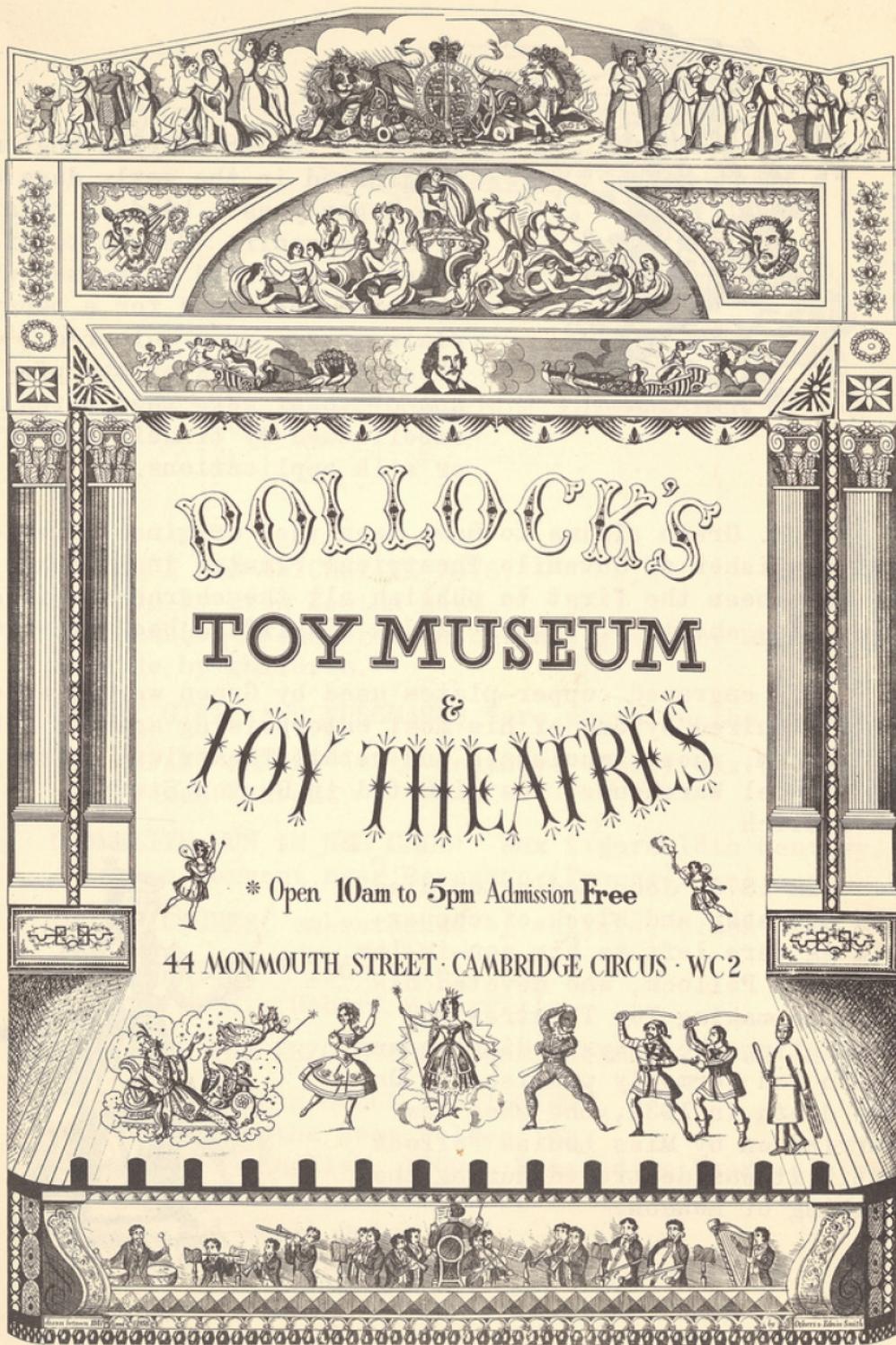
Filière : aucune

Niveau : aucun

Autres descriptions : Langue : Anglais

Nombre de pages : 23

ill.





The Toy Theatre in England originated in the early days of the Regency as a kind of theatrical souvenir. Portraits of famous actors and actresses of the time were sold for a penny plain or twopence coloured. These forerunners of the pin-ups of today were then often embellished by tinsel, velvet or silk applications.

J.K. Green claims to have been the "original inventor and publisher of Juvenile Theatrical Prints" in 1808 and to have been the first to publish all the characters in a play plus sheets of scenery and a simplified book of words.

The engraved copper-plates used by Green were eventually acquired by one of his most enterprising agents, John Redington, whose "Wholesale and retail Theatrical print and Tinsel Warehouse" was situated in Hoxton Street, Shoreditch.

In 1876, John Redington died and his shop and stock of copper-plates were left to his son-in-law, Benjamin Pollock, who devoted his life to making Toy Theatres and reprinting the plays Redington and Green had formerly published. On his death in 1937, the shop was carried on by Miss Louisa Pollock until it was destroyed during the bombing of London.



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STAIRCASE, STARTING FROM THE GROUND FLOOR

1. MATCHBOX AND MATCHSTICK TOYS:
a Made by Miss Yootha Rose.
b Matchbox Rooms from Barcelona, given by Mr. Billiet.
c Made by children.
2. RECENT GIFTS AND PURCHASES, are shown in the small case.
3. THE INFANT JESUS: 18th Century. Small wax figure from a French Convent.
4. CARMELITE NUN IN HER CELL: Wax figure 18th Century.
From a Convent near Besançon (France).
5. WOOL PICTURES, embroidered by sailors, circa 1820.
6. LEAD SOLDIERS: 1900-1918,
given by Sir Robert Somerville.
7. TOYS FROM THE ERZGEBIRGE: East Germany, 1890-1960.
8. DOLLS AND DOLL'S HOUSE FURNISHINGS,
from the Yootha Rose collection.
China Doll: English, 1900. Dressed in Peeress's robes
as worn at the Coronation of Edward VII.
Cradle, and small Dutch doll.
Egg, with small jointed Dutch doll.

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9. VICTORIAN NEEDLEWORK PICTURES.
10. INDIAN TOYS: Painted clay dolls and swing, 1920.
Wooden horses and other pitch toys.
Unpainted traditional wooden dolls.
"Indian Village Life": Collection of figurines made of painted pitch, given by Mr. Rogers.
Traditional Chinese Toys, made from white wood.
One dates from 1910, the others from 1956.
Peking Figures, representing characters in the Chinese theatre - modern.
Chinese Wax Doll and 3 sets of clothes made for Rita and Vida Hay in Shanghai 1900.
Chinese Dolls, in ceremonial costume, late 19th Century. Given by Mrs. May Rhoda.
Chinese baby, circa 1900.
- X 11. MR. PUNCH: Glove puppet, formerly used by Mr. Crick.
12. "COTTAGE ORNÉ": Victorian moss and fern work.
13. SAMPLERS, 19th Century.

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14. PHOTOGRAPHS, of Mr. Pollock and his shop.
15. SIR OSBERT SITWELL AND MR. POLLOCK, inside the Hoxton shop. Drawing by John Goodall, given by the artist.
16. "YOUNG TROUBLESOME": Coloured engraving by John Leech. showing the finale of "The Miller and his men", this was Sir Winston Churchill's favourite play. Given by Mr. Ian Sargint.
17. MODEL OF MR. POLLOCK'S SHOP, made and given by Mr. Sage.
18. DRYING RACK, used by Mr. Pollock when printing in the Hoxton Street shop.
19. LITHO STONE, used by Mr. Pollock.
20. COPPER PLATE, used by John Redington.
21. COLOUR BOXES AND STENCILS: Until 1947 "Twopence Coloured" meant hand colouring. Whole families were employed and the colours were natural pigments. Some colourists used stencils; this set was cut for Miss Lucy Adlam by her grandfather. Miss Adlam started colouring sheets at the age of four and continued until her death 70 years later.



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