

Byers' Choice® Ltd. Caroler Chronicle



Edition I, 1992

Pam Byers, Editor

Cries of London 1992



“The Baker”

Second in the Byers' Choice “Cries of London” series is a man selling fresh bread. Do you remember this tune from your childhood?

*“Oh do you know the muffin man,
the muffin man, the muffin man?
Oh, do you know the muffin man
who lives in Drury Lane?”*

Songs like “The Muffin Man” were favorites of nineteenth century children who made up these lively ditties about the costermongers who visited their streets daily with cries like:

*“Hot cross buns, hot cross buns
One a penny two a penny hot cross buns”*

This cry—which even small children know today

despite the fact that many have never seen a hot cross bun—was used on, only one morning of the year: Good Friday.

The street vendors of breads and cakes warm from the oven carried their wares on trays slung with straps around their shoulders when they were offering goods for sale, and on their heads when they were not engaged in business. None of these “cake-men,” as they were also called, baked the goods they sold. Each baker in a town would specialize in baking one type of bread. The vendors would purchase from many bakers to assure a large, fresh variety of breads and treats such as “coventrys,” chonkeys, Dutch butter cakes, muffins and rolls, to name a few.



The French Horn Player

Nineteenth century street musicians were described by a contemporary, Henry Mayhew, as being "...of multifarious classes. As a general rule, they may almost always be divided into the tolerable and the intolerable performers, some of them trusting to their skill in music for the reward of their exertions, others only making noise, so that whatever money they obtained is given to them merely as an inducement for them to depart."¹



We hope you enjoy the Byers' Choice 1992 French Horn Player. This character, fourth in our series of waits, is meant to accompany your caroling figures with a very pleasurable performance.

¹From "Mayhew's London", by Henry Mayhew, Ed. by Peter Quennell
© 1951 William Kimber & Co. Ltd.



Salvation Army Woman and Kettle

The Salvation Army is truly one of the strongest symbols of the spirit of Christmas and the joy that comes with giving. We are very pleased to announce that the Salvation Army has given Byers' Choice permission to create a group of musicians depicting this fine organization. This character is our first figure in the series and will be introduced in 1992. She will be a Salvationist holding a bell and standing next to the familiar red kettle. This is significant as the Salvation Army is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the red kettle. Future years will see other members join our Salvation Army Band. We hope this will be an inspiration to many to join in the Army's spirit of caring and sharing. With each purchase of this figure, you will be contributing to this very special mission.

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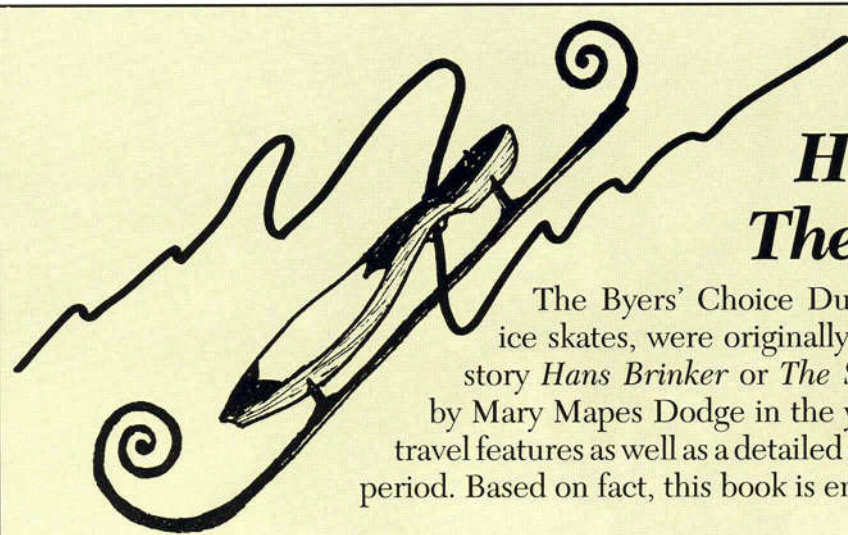
The School Teacher



In the early eighteenth century a Christmas tradition began in the single room rural schools of Pennsylvania. A few days before Christmas, the students of the school would lock the teacher out of the classroom. The teacher was then given a list of demands and the negotiations would begin. Normally the children would ask for candy, cider, apples, and ginger cakes so that they could have a party. Other terms of the agreement would include the length of their Christmas vacation, then called "Christmas play." The teacher also had to agree that no one would be held responsible or punished for the lock out. When an agreement was reached and put into writing, the teacher was allowed back into the room and the Christmas party began. Normally the children would settle for a cookie or mint stick and a few days of Christmas

play. When the teacher handed out his gifts to the children, the boys and girls who had been good were rewarded with bigger portions than those who were bad.

"Barring the schoolmaster," as it was called was overlooked by the schoolhouse teacher because of the structure of the education system of the day. Since a teacher's salary was far too low to survive on alone, the children in the class would pay the teacher by the day, usually a penny or penny and a half. The teacher was dependent on this additional income and was easily extorted. The tradition was well accepted by the schoolmaster and appreciated by the children. Although there may have been few lessons learned on the day that the schoolmaster was barred out, there were plenty of Christmas memories to last a lifetime.



The Story of *Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates*

The Byers' Choice Dutch children, Hans and Gretel, holding ice skates, were originally inspired by the 19th century Christmas story *Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates*. This narrative was written by Mary Mapes Dodge in the year 1865. This wonderful story includes travel features as well as a detailed glimpse of life in Holland during that time period. Based on fact, this book is enjoyable to readers of all ages.

Kids of the World

***The only way to obtain
one of these pieces is by
taking the coupon below to
a store that sells the Carolers.***

We are happy to announce that, for the first time, Byers' Choice will be issuing a LIMITED EDITION piece available only to those who receive the Caroler Chronicle. Since many of you have shown an interest in the Dutch Children pictured in our 1991 Summer issue of this publication, we have decided to start a CHILDREN OF THE WORLD series. These pieces will not be available in stores. The only way to obtain one of these pieces is by taking the cou-

pon below to a store that sells the Carolers. The store will take your name, address and other pertinent information and send it to us. When your Dutch children have been completed, we will send them to the store where you placed your order. The store will then notify you so that you will be able to pick up your special pieces. Our production time is very limited and, consequently, we can offer no more than one of each figure per customer.

Byers' Choice Ltd. 1992 Redemption Card

Dealer Coupon **Dutch Children 1992**

Customer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) ____-____

Signature _____

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER THE FOLLOWING

- Dutch Boy\$50.00
- Dutch Girl\$50.00

Dealer must send this card to Byers' Choice by April 1, 1992

This offer is limited to 1 pair per collector

Customer Coupon **Dutch Children 1992**



Store Signature
Details of offer on the reverse side



Lil' Dickens

A frequent request is for caroling figures of various ages. Our first toddlers arrived in 1991. These figures were sitting or kneeling on a sled with their arms wrapped around a dog. How to integrate the toddler into the caroling family became a challenge to us because the toddlers looked very unnatural standing on a base and singing. We felt a toddler should be carried. This started us thinking about a free-standing figure with movable arms and legs allowing him or her to be posed in more natural positions. The result is our group of 1992 toddlers, aptly named, Lil' Dickens. These characters can be positioned in the arms of their parents. To us, the delight of a toddler is not singing Christmas carols, but instead, their first romp in the snow. Being bundled from head to toe, catching snow flakes on their tongues, and making angels in the snow are all happy memories of toddlers. What fun for adults to become children



again just long enough to help build that first snowman.

We couldn't resist – you will find some of our Lil' Dickens rolling snowballs, holding shovels and sitting on sleds. Of course, we had to make a snowman to round out the group.

Many of our collector friends tell us how much they enjoy developing scenes in their homes with Byers' Choice Caroler figurines. We hope that the toddlers will spark the kinds of memories you wish to create as part of your Christmas traditions.



How to order the 1992 Dutch Children

- 1) This redemption form can only be found in the Winter 1992 *Caroler Chronicle*.
- 2) Those collectors interested in purchasing one of these pieces must fill out this card and turn in one half to your favorite Byers' Choice dealer. (Byers' Choice is unable to accept any direct orders.)
- 3) The redemption card will be documented by the store and sent to Byers' Choice no later than April 1, 1992.
- 4) We will send your pieces to the store no later than August 1, 1992.
- 5) The store will contact you when your pieces arrive.
- 6) We must limit this order to one Dutch boy and one Dutch girl per redemption card.

Dealer

Please make a copy of the customer and order information from the reverse side of this redemption card and send the original portion to Byers' Choice Ltd. by April 1, 1992.

Store Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Contact Name _____





Skating kids join their parents on the ice in 1992.

Byers' Choice[®] Ltd.

P.O. Box 158, Chalfont, PA 18914
(215) 822-6700



*Workshop Santa and
seated Mrs. Claus*