

E300

Drawings and designs for the theatre

E301 The Insect Play, Tavistock Little Theatre, 25 & 26 November 1932 (W), costume designs.

E302 The Insect Play, Little Theatre, opened 23 June 1936 (preceded by three performances for members and friends on 20 and 22 June) and ran for at least three months; revived with the same cast at the Playhouse on 27 April 1938 and at the Duke of York's Theatre, 4 July 1938, costume designs.

The programme bears a drawing by MP on the front, as does a leaflet used to advertise the play (reproduced in MPR 17:21).

Reviews: Theatre World, August 1936, Vol.26, No.139, p.93 (with photographs); Bystander, 16 September 1936.

London Mercury, August 1936, Vol.34, No.202, reproduces two of the designs (D306).

E303 The Son of the Grand Eunuch by Albert Arlen, Arts Theatre Club, January 1937, costume designs.

Review: London Mercury, February 1937, Vol.35, No.208, pp.409-10, by A. V. Cookman ('the costumes by MP, which are a continual delight, deserved a better play'). A drawing of 'the Grand Eunuch's costume' is reproduced on p.409 (omitted from Part D).

E304 Man and Superman, King's Theatre, opened 9 April 1946, 1 original drawing for the programme. Reproduced in MPR 17:25.

E305 Boy in Darkness, 1971, drawing of a boy on the poster and programme for the Alexander adaptation (E254b).

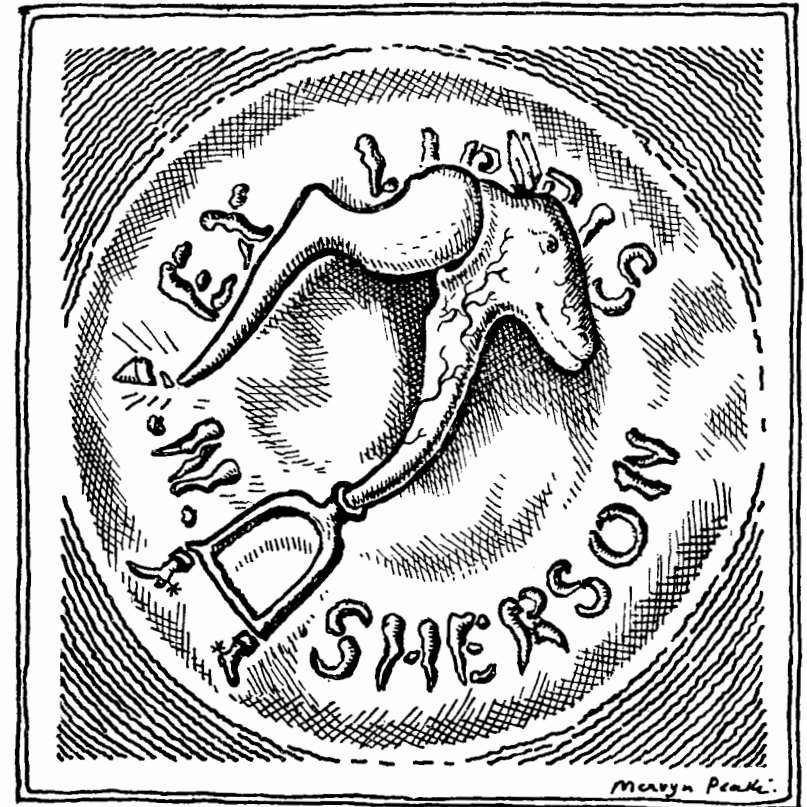
The drawing is reproduced in Drawings 1974, pl.8.

E306 Titus Alone, 1981, wash drawing of figures on the poster for the Merton Floats performance (E258).

Notes on the bookplate (E421) reproduced opposite

Nehemiah Asherson is a retired Harley Street ear nose and throat surgeon who operated on Maeve Gilmore and all her children. In lieu of fees, Mervyn Peake presented him with paintings and with drawings made specially for him. Learning that Mr Asherson collected first editions of his books, Peake made sketches of characters on the endpapers, adding that, to avoid slandering anyone, he always used his own face for caricatures. The idea of a bookplate was suggested by Mr Asherson, who showed Peake a historiated capital in Cowper's Myotomia (1724), but the design Peake produced is entirely his own. The original drawing is some eight inches square. The three little bones of the middle ear - the malleus (hammer), incus (anvil), and stapes (stirrup) - are used to form both the letters of the words and the horse, where they are in an anatomically correct order against a background depicting the inner wall of the middle ear. It also figures a fourth ossicle, a bone which has since been shown not to exist.

We are much obliged to Mr Asherson for these details and for his kind permission to reproduce his bookplate.



E400

Other printed ephemera

E401 An Exhibition of the Artist, Adolf Hitler. A new Order. [1943]

'A book of twelve drawings in the form of an exhibition catalogue, commissioned by the Ministry of Information for propaganda purposes' (WD, p.45). [Not seen.]

E402 Black Magic

Film poster for Ealing Studios, 1944.

Reproduced in Projecting Britain by David Wilson (1983).

Shown at Gillian Jason Gallery (42 Inverness St.), 17-21 January 1984.

E403 'Harriet'

Oil painting portraying a daughter of Sir John Walley, printed as a Christmas card, 1945.

Not otherwise printed or exhibited.

Mervyn Peake was commissioned to produce a series of drawings to accompany advertisements for beer. According to the files of the Brewers' Society, they were released on the following dates for publication in various periodicals. Examples we have located are given in parentheses.

Weeks commencing:

E404 1 December 1946, 'There is nothing like a game of darts'