

CHAPTER IX

COMPARATIVE RARITIES

THE PREVIOUS chapters have recorded and described all the games known at the present time. This publication may be the means of stimulating interest in the subject, and will certainly act as a check list to which doubtless many more titles will be added as the years pass.

Respecting values it is admittedly difficult to speak; in and around 1934 the author frequently bought copies of the engraved editions for a few shillings each—15 years later those same copies were fetching between £2 and £5.

To place a value on games of which the author has seen only one copy, e.g. John Jeffery's *Play of Geography*, or others which he has never seen, e.g. Wallis's *Tour of America*, is quite impossible; they must be exceedingly rare.

A copy of *The Eventful Career of Napoleon Buonaparte* is in the Hull Municipal Galleries; the author knows of none other.

John Speed's *Middlesex*, with plans of London and Westminster and views of St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey (1610), sold for 20 guineas in 1946.

John Rocque's *London and The Country Round* was published in 1746 (about the time of *Goose*), and maps taken from it sell to-day for about 5 guineas each.

At a sale in Paris in 1929 the following prices were realized (the franc then being worth about twopence):

| | | | <i>Francs.</i> |
|---|------------------|------|----------------|
| <i>Geographical Tour Through Scotland</i> | Wm. Darton Junr. | 1812 | 125 |
| <i>Travellers of Europe</i> | Spooner | | 400 |
| <i>Universal History & Chron- ology</i> | Wallis | | 250 |

| | | | <i>Francs.</i> |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Useful Knowledge</i> | Wm. Darton | | 200 |
| <i>Voyage of Discovery</i> | Spooner | 1836 | 400 |
| <i>Wanderers in the Wilderness</i> | E. Wallis | | 300 |
| <i>Waddling Frog</i> | Dean & Munday | | 1500 |
| <i>Why, What & Because</i> | Sallis | 1850 | 80 |
| <i>Tour of England & Wales</i> | J. Wallis | | 200 |
| <i>Reward of Merit</i> | Harris | 1801 | 600 |
| <i>Road to the Temple of Honour & Fame</i> | Harris | 1811 | 500 |
| <i>Pence Table</i> | D. Carvalho | (<i>circa</i> 1830) | 400 |
| <i>Peter Parley's British Sovereigns</i> | ? Darton | (<i>circa</i> 1840) | 300 |
| <i>Produce & Manufactures of England & Wales</i> | J. Passmore | (<i>circa</i> 1830) | 400 |
| <i>Mansion of Happiness</i> | Laurie & Whittle | 1800 | 200 |
| <i>Mirror of Truth</i> | J. Wallis | 1811 | 500 |
| <i>Monkey</i> | E. Wallis | (<i>circa</i> 1810) | 200 |
| <i>Survey of London</i> | Wm. Darton | 1820 | 350 |
| <i>Journey</i> | Spooner | (<i>circa</i> 1840) | 350 |
| <i>Journey to Lindley Murray's</i> | Betts | (<i>circa</i> 1840) | 200 |
| <i>Human Life</i> | Wallis & Newbery | 1790 | 1250 |
| <i>Fortunio & His Seven Gifted Servants</i> | Spooner | 1846 | 500 |
| <i>Cottage of Content</i> | Spooner | 1848 | 350 |
| <i>Adventures of Lord Pudding</i> | ? | | 300 |
| <i>Ascent of Mont Blanc</i> | A. N. Myers & Co. | (<i>circa</i> 1850) | 400 |
| <i>Most Remarkable Events in the Life of Moses</i> | ? | 1813 | 300 |
| <i>Destruction of Jerusalem</i> | E. Wallis | (<i>circa</i> 1824) | 250 |

Condition surely must have influenced prices; *Destruction of Jerusalem* is infinitely rarer than Wallis's *Tour of England & Wales*. So also is *Life of Moses*.

Demand, too, is a factor; *Human Life*, for example, at 1,250 francs is not so rare as Darton's *Tour Through Scotland* at a tenth of its price, but for attractiveness the former is in a class of its own.

These old games are indeed works of art, and their collection provides a most fascinating occupation.

