

# Tissue paper commemorative programmes and napkins

Gavin Holman – July 2019

During a fascinating few hours with Steve Hughes in June, discussing and examining the wealth of Besses o' th' Barn historical material he is working on, I came across something I had not seen before – a programme for a Besses' concert printed on a square of thin tissue paper.



*Besses' final concert before embarking on their first world tour in 1906*

There were three examples of these commemorative "tissue paper" programmes (about 14" square), very fragile, looking like the sort of thing you sometimes get in restaurants as place mats. They dated from 1906, 1909 & 1937, and I've since found a few other

examples - one of the Garde Republicaine visiting London in 190? and another celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Salvation Army in 1923.

**Co-operative Hall, Radcliffe.**  
**MELLOR CONVALESCENT FUND.**  
**Grand Last Farewell Concert**  
*In the Co-operative Hall, Radcliffe, previous to their great World's Tour, by the FUSION.*  
**BESSES O'TH' BARN BAND.**  
**Monday, Oct 18th, 1909, at 7-30 p.m.**  
 Conductor - Mr. Cass Smith      Soloists - Mr. Alan Ouse

**PROGRAMME.**

GRAND MARCH	"Solemn"	Mr. Ouse
OVERTURE	"Serenade"	Mr. Ouse
XYLOPHONE SOLO	"Wooded Solace"	Mr. Ouse
<b>Sport and Statement - Major convalescent fund - by Mr. George Hill, Hon. Sec.</b>		
COONET SOLO	"Dance of Love"	Mr. Ouse
SELECTION	"The W. Ouse"	Mr. Ouse
	"Piped Dances" (Arranged by A. Ouse)	Mr. Ouse
<b>INTERVAL</b>		
INTERMEZZO	"Solemn"	Mr. Ouse
TRUMPET SOLO	"Favourite Pastimes"	Mr. Ouse
	Soloist - Mr. E. P. Ouse	
SELECTION	"Serenade (2nd)" (Arranged by A. Ouse)	Mr. Ouse
DUET	"Mignon Song"	Mr. Ouse
	Misses Ouse and Ouse	
FANTASIA	"Lullaby of the English"	Mr. Ouse

*Besses' final concert before embarking on their second world tour in 1909*






# Commemoration Concert

On the occasion of the  
**Coronation of H.M. King George VI.**  
 MAY 12th, 1937.

Given by the World Famous  
**BESSES O' TH' BARN BAND,**  
 IN ST. MARY'S PARK, PRESTWICH,  
 On Sunday, May 9th, 1937.

**Afternoon Programme**

Processional March	"Pomp and Circumstance"	Elgar
Overture	"If I were King"	Adams
Expansive Solo	"Robin Adair" Solist, H. Dickson	Moscow
Grand Selection	"Hans"	Arr. A. Owen

**INTERVAL**

Musical Comedy	"Sunshine Girl"	Rubens
Humorous (8)	"March of the Matrilists"	Fletcher
Barcarolle (10)	"Tales of Hoffman"	O'Connell

Excerpts from "The Maid of the Mountains" ..... Fraser-Simpson

National Selection ..... "England" ..... Ord. Home

**FANFARE -  
 GOD SAVE THE KING.**  
 CONDUCTOR - E. PYATT.

Class, Tenor, Baritone




*Concert celebrating the coronation of George VI in 1937*



SOUVENIR IN COMMEMORATION  
 OF THE  
**GRAND REPUBLICAN TOUR**  
 VISIT TO  
**ENGLAND**  
 1911-12



LONDON: W. & A. GILBERT, 15, ABchurch Lane, E.C. 4.



SOUVENIR IN COMMEMORATION  
 OF THE  
**CELEBRATION OF THE  
 ARMY 58th ANNIVERSARY**

Held in  
 Trafalgar  
 Square



Saturday  
 June 23rd  
 1923.

—♦—

To be the subject of any address in the afternoon.

After Absolution of the Republic, and before any further address, the first speaker will be the speaker of the House of Commons, and the second speaker will be the speaker of the House of Lords.

The speaker of the House of Commons will be the speaker of the House of Commons, and the speaker of the House of Lords will be the speaker of the House of Lords.

At 10 o'clock the speaker will be the speaker of the House of Commons.

The speaker of the House of Commons will be the speaker of the House of Commons, and the speaker of the House of Lords will be the speaker of the House of Lords.



Allan Littlemore had also discovered some similar programmes inserted into some books in his collection – see <https://www.4barsrest.com/articles/2018/1684.asp>, and <https://www.4barsrest.com/articles/2018/1726.asp>

**THE PALACE, Promenade, Blackpool.**  
 General Manager: Mr. Alex. H. Walker. Acting Manager: Mr. Fred Walker.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 11th, 1909.**  
**TWO GRAND CONCERTS**  
 BY THE  
**BESSE-O'-TH'-BARN BAND.**  
 Conductor: Mr. Alex. Owen  
 Afternoon at 3-0. Evening at 8-0.

**Vocalist: Miss ETHEL STEPHENSON, Contralto.**

**PROGRAMME.**

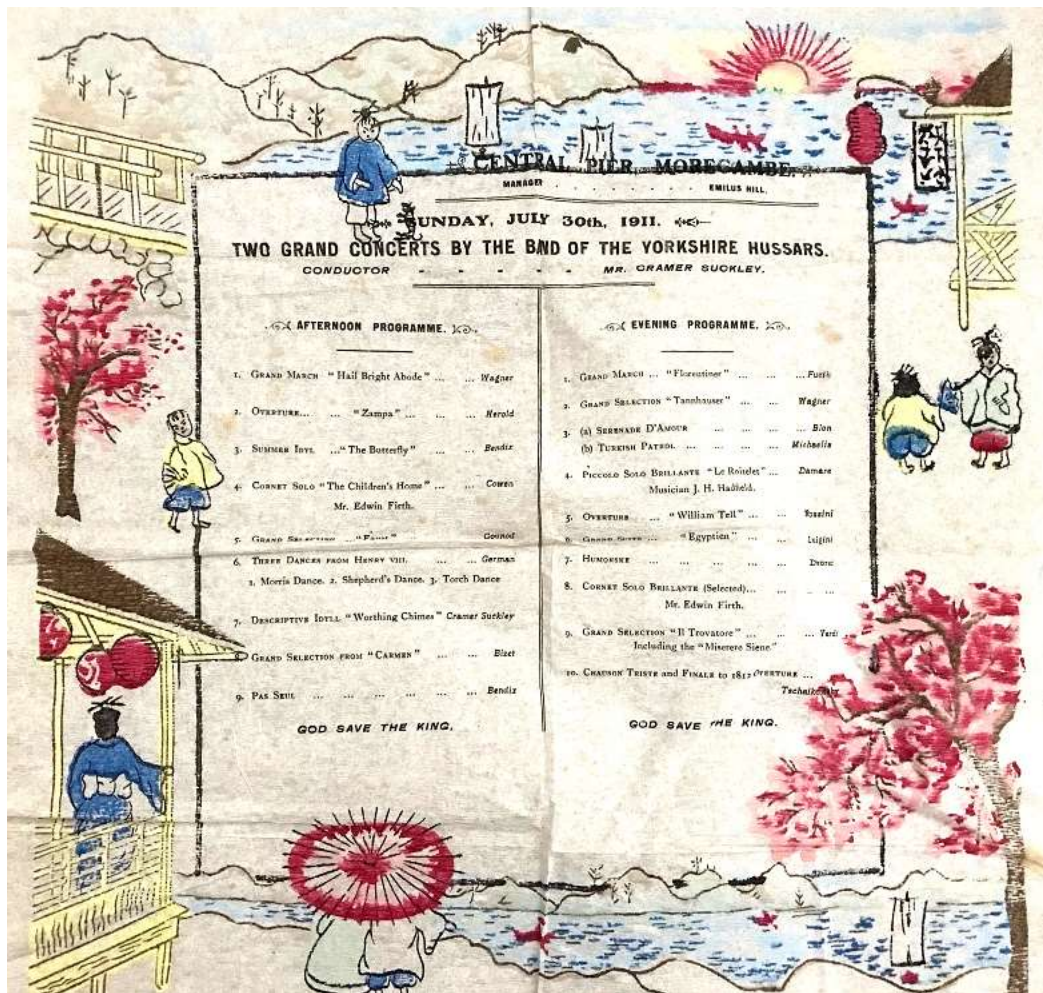
March..... "Coraline"..... Minelohite	March..... "Edith"..... J. O. Hunt
Overture..... "Din Giovanni"..... Minelohite	Overture..... "Roy King"..... Minelohite
Song..... "The Lord is my Shepherd"..... S. Liddie Miss Ethel Stephenson.	Song..... "What the Cuckoo Sang"..... G. Grinstead Miss Ethel Stephenson.
Coronet Solo..... "Abide with me"..... Liddie Mr. S. Pyatt.	Coronet Solo (Selected)..... Mr. W. Weedall.
Selection..... "Le Prophete"..... Meyerloh	Selection..... "Oberea"..... 1870
Trombone Solo..... "Angel's Grand Tune"..... Gelford Mr. T. Bowling.	Euphonium Solo (Selected)..... Mr. E. P. Kerry.
Song..... "Good-bye"..... F. Tim Miss Ethel Stephenson.	Song..... "Abide with me"..... S. Liddie Miss Ethel Stephenson.
Selection..... "Spout"..... L. S. 1870	Selection..... "William Tell"..... Roman
Chorus..... "My Soul praise the Lord"..... Meyerloh	Solo and Chorus..... "O come let us Worship"..... Minelohite

**National Anthem.**

The Management respectfully request members of the audience to remain seated until the end of the Concert. Much inconvenience is caused to the greater section of patrons, as well as the performers, by persons leaving the hall before the termination of the performance. It is hoped those desirous of leaving will choose a convenient time for doing so.

Besse's concert at Blackpool, 1909





*Band of the Yorkshire Hussars, Morecambe, 1911*

The Teatr Wielki, Warsaw, has just closed an exhibition of nearly sixty tissue paper programme brochures held by the museum. They state that the idea dates back to Victorian England and souvenir programmes produced by Eugène Rimmel. The programmes showcased by the museum were produced in Poland in the 1930s. Restored, these charming ephemeral artifacts even smelled like in the old days, as the original flower fragrances used to perfume the brochures had been recreated, courtesy of Sisley Paris.





In 1887 the British firm John Dickinson Ltd. had acquired decorated napkins from Japan. They overprinted logos and other marketing-related information on top of the napkins, turning them into souvenirs.

Similar commemorative tissue napkins were produced as souvenirs of several other notable events during this period, exhibitions, royal visits etc. Quite often the same basic colour printed square was used with a different, usually monochrome, printed centre with the details of the event and/or visitors.

Here are some further examples of this very ephemeral form of souvenir – given their very fragile nature it is not surprising that so few still exist today.



*King & Queen visit Woolwich 1912*



*Peace celebrations 1919*



*King of Portugal's visit 1909*



*London Air Raid, 1917*



King & Queen visit Retford & Hull



Death of King Edward VII, 1910



Centenary of Nelson's death, 1905



Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee 1897



Stockton to Darlington railway centenary, 1925





*Visit of King & Queen of Italy*



*Duke of Kent's wedding, 1934*



*Sinking of the Titanic, 1912*



*Franco-British Exhibition*