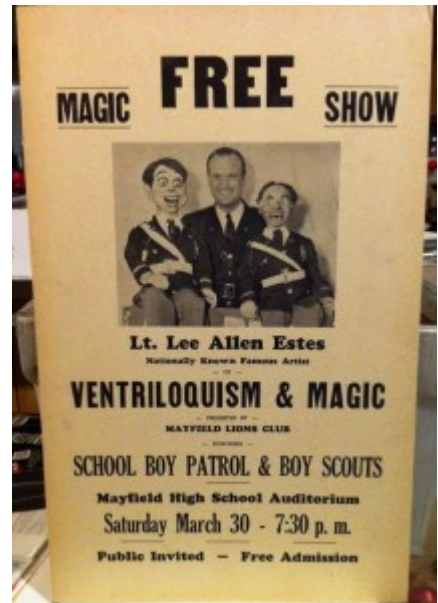


A few selected posters from my collection

Please note... I snapped the following photos quickly...with my iPhone. Don't expect great quality. Some of the posters are framed and hanging on the wall, so they had to be photographed at an angle to reduce reflection and glare. Many, many more are rolled and stored... I took out just a few of those and photographed them as best I could under the circumstances (a three minute photo shoot with no assistance!). So... please don't expect "art" here... I'm just sharing a very few samples of some cool old ephemera...

A "personal appearance" poster for Lt. Lee Allen Estes of the Kentucky State Police. Estes was probably the first police officer in the U.S. performing safety shows in schools. He also built up a massive collection of vent ephemera. When he died in 1967, the collection was packed up in boxes and eventually sold about two years later. It remained packed in those boxes for the next 30 years...until I was lucky enough to acquire it.

Estes had a complete script for his show that he sent ahead to each school. In the script (more of a book, really..it's about 3/4" think), there are stage directions, etc., for the local school to follow. There is also sheet music for piano...he required an accompanist for each performance!



A Paul Stadelman "personal appearance" poster for Crush Cola. This came from the Estes collection. Stadelman was a pro vent and teacher of the art. His texts are classic and highly recommended. His written description of the "Drinking Bit" is one of the best I've ever read.

Stadelman's family was unique....not only did his singer wife perform vent (as "Trudy Randall") but his son Ronnie also did vent as "Ron Barry."

Paul Stadelman was originally from Hopkinsville, KY. Something "vent-flavored" must've been in the water in Hopkinsville... it was also the home of Col. Bill Boley and Col. Warren Chaney!

This is one of my favorites, believe it or not! It's actually one of a series of three different show cards that I have featuring Bill DeMar.

This type of "show card" was used at fairs, carnivals, etc. "Amusement Enterprises International" sounds like a huge multinational conglomerate... more likely, it was probably some guy named "Morty" in a home office. This is clearly a stock card..."Morty" probably had these made by the thousands, then could drop in each artist's 8x10 photo and instantly have a "custom" personalized show poster.

I love the fact that it's a professional stock show card, yet with hand-painted embellishments. I had Bill sign these for me a number of years ago... he didn't remember ever having seen them!



There have been a number "dynasties" in the magic world...not too many in the vent community, however. Probably the longest vent dynasty has to be the Donskois from Russia.

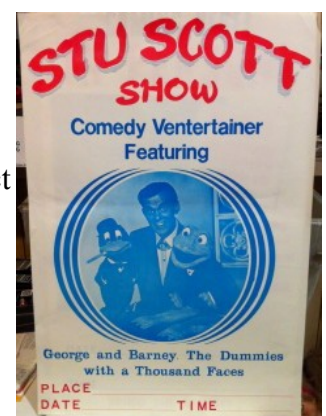
There has been a ventriloquist named Donskoi in Russia since before the turn of the TWENTIETH century...and there's still one today! There's even a book on the Donskois and their ventriloquism that was published in the Ukraine (yes, I have a copy).

The senior Donskoi was one of the few Russian acts to gain fame as a solo act...he eventually was able to leave the Russian Circus (their traditional form of "vaudeville" and the main employer of variety acts) and go out on his own as a star attraction.

This poster is rare... I know of only two others in existence. I got this one at Davenport's in London a number of years ago. It came from their fabled "crypt"... along with a number of other rare vent posters. This is one of the prizes of my "antiquarian vent poster" collection.

Stu Scott was a pupil of the Great Lester. He started out doing school shows and for a while even had his own kiddie TV show on the West Coast. He eventually found himself in Las Vegas working in the finest revues. His act with George the Crow and Barney the Inebriated Frog became a classic. Stu was no doubt one of the first pro vents to use latex puppets exclusively.

This is another "personal appearance" poster that came from the Estes collection.



Miss Madeline Rosa was the wife of Lt. Frank Travis, a well-known ventriloquist in his own right. He taught her the art in the late 1870's and by the early 1880's she was headlining in British music hall variety and in theaters all over the European continent.

This is a truly wonderful poster...the color is outstanding. There is an original of this poster in the British Museum's "Evanion" (Henry Evans) collection. Interestingly enough, the British Library has made high resolution copies of many of their "fine art" prints available on-line (including this one), so there are many prints (copies) of this poster available. It's funny...you can do a Google search for it and even find some images of it that are copyrighted!

I only know of two other **originals** of this poster. And in the "what are the chances?" department, I also own an odd variant of this poster... it's the exact same image and same vintage, but it's essentially a "duo-tone" poster... it's printed in two colors, only. I've never seen another one like it.



Lt. Walter Cole featured his "Merry Folks" in British variety theater and enjoyed his greatest success in the 1880's through the turn of the century.

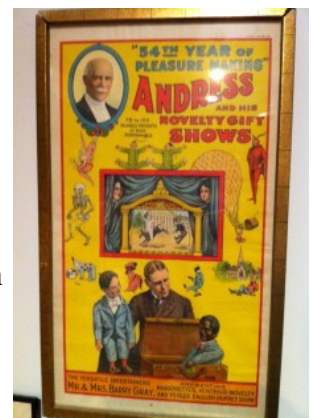
Cole was one of the savviest marketers of his day... he devised more clever "gimmicks" to create buzz about his show than anyone. He bought jokes for a dollar...from **anyone**. If you told Cole a joke, he'd give you a dollar along with a free ticket to his show. He developed much goodwill doing this, as well as continually guaranteeing himself large, enthusiastic crowds!

The colors and imagery on this poster are outstanding. I know of two other originals that exist, but I haven't seen one in this fine a condition. I bought this in Holland years ago.

Charles Andress was not only a magician and ventriloquist, but a circus impresario. He started out in magic, but spent years with the circus (inventing the stake-driving machine in 1916) and eventually came back to his first love of magic and vent as an older gentleman.

By the time this Strobridge litho was printed (about 1910), he was well-known for his family-friendly "novelty shows" in which gifts galore were given away. There are several well-known Andress prints out there, but I've never seen this exact one in this size (it measures about 10" x 18").

The neatest thing about ol "Uncle Charley"? When he was 78 years of age, he married a 27 year old woman...and a year later they welcomed a little Andress into the world! *Go, Uncle Charley!*



I'll post more later if there's any interest.... Let me know! TomLadshaw@aol.com