

**DAVID OGILVY** (and E & MA Ogilvy)  
Games Inventor and Publisher c1842-c1882

## **CHECKLISTS of GAME and PUZZLE TITLES**

Little has been published about the important business carried on by David Ogilvy and his family. *Whitehouse* lists them as publishing four table games, and *Hannas* records just six dissected puzzles, giving the impression they were a small business. Considerable confusion surrounds their dates of production, their imprints and their addresses. The checklists of *British Board Games c1850-1900* introduced at Board Games Studies, Brugge, 2011 included 34 Ogilvy game titles. They were very significant contributors to the development of educational toys and games and deserve a better record. This paper aims to resolve at least some of the confusion and to record titles over 200 games and puzzles produced. The information is drawn from known examples, and from advertisements.

Peter Parley's Annual for 1842/3 advertises as "recently published" Peter Puzzlewig's Comic Educational Games, six in all, including the Game of Conundrums and the Game of the Multiplication Table, published for the Author by Darton & Clark. Copyright records show Multiplication Table was first published on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1842 with the address of the Author **David Ogilvy** as 17 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square (close to the address of John Betts). His game The Poor Old Soldier and His Dog is also listed (which features the Thames Tunnel opened 1842), and Modern Biography which "shortly will be published", but no other games and no puzzles. *Hannas* supposes a start date of c1835 for the puzzles, but the reason for such an early date is unclear. There seems little doubt that 1842 is when significant games production started.

Subsequently numerous games appear as "Published by David Ogilvy At his Repository for Rational Toys and Amusements", sometimes with the Hunter Street address or later at 7 Southampton Row, Russell Square. These include The Royal Race Course, The Bee and the Butterfly, Odd Figures, Every Day Things, Queen of the Isles, The Golden Egg, Trades or Knowledge is Power, Circle of English History, Tom Thumb, Anagrams, Hungarian Tactics and The Bugle Horn. David Ogilvy's game Crowned Heads, "a large Imperial sheet", gives the lithographers' (not Ogilvy's) address as 12 Rathbone Place (*Whitehouse*), so is not earlier than 1847.

After about 1850-55 David Ogilvy disappears. His name as Publisher is changed to that of **E & MA Ogilvy**, with no address given. At least fifteen of the old David Ogilvy games continue to be listed, together with many new ones apparently by the same "Inventor".

Later, in the late 1860's and the 1870's, another batch of games appear. E & MA Ogilvy themselves disappear, and **David Ogilvy** is shown again as the Publisher. He appears in London directories for 1868 and 1869 as "Bookseller, Library and Newsagent" at Marshall's Library, 50 Edgeware Road, and at about the same time an advertisement for a new version of Alphabetical Dominoes gives his games publication address as the Bazaar, Soho Square. His productions later give the Edgeware Road address. He is then at 17 Christ Church Road Hampstead from before

April 1875 until April 1879 (*Hampstead Rate Books*). At the time of his move from Hampstead (to Liverpool) he sold the rights to a number of his card games (Ogilvy's "One Shilling Games") to the larger business J Jaques and Son, which gave the series new impetus. David himself then brought out a few new titles as "Ogilvy's Comic Games", including Harlequin and Columbine, which were advertised c1881, giving David and his family a total production span of about 40 years.

Checklists follow of over 200 games and puzzles produced or published by the Ogilvys during the period until David's move to Liverpool, being "Games on Sheets" (board games and card games), "Games in Boxes" (mainly card games, charade games, question and answer games, word games, quartette games and domino games), and Dissected Puzzles. Many are known only from advertisements. Some are viewable in the database Gard at [www.gamesboard.org.uk](http://www.gamesboard.org.uk) many of which are now in the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera at The Bodleian Library, Oxford University. Some others are at the Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green, and are viewable in the online collections of The Victoria and Albert Museum [www.collections.vam.ac.uk](http://www.collections.vam.ac.uk) .

#### *References*

- British Board Games and their Makers 1850-1900. Richard Ballam. Board Games Studies, Brugge, 2011*  
*The Dartons. Jill Shefrin. Cotsen Occasional Press 2009*  
*The English Jigsaw Puzzle 1790-1890. Hannas. Wayland 1972*  
*Table Games of Georgian and Victorian Days. Whitehouse. Priory 1971*