

COLLECTOR'S CORNER, Round 3

An Occasional Item of Interest to Gardner Collectors

Humpty Dumpty Magazines

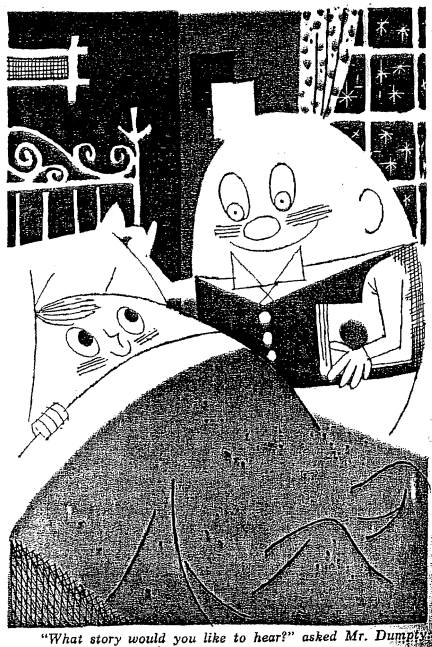
Suggested by Jeremiah Farrell

In his book *The No-Sided Professor* (1987, Prometheus Books) Martin Gardner reprints "The Three Cowboys", a story for children from the January 1959 *Humpty Dumpty's Magazine*. He says:

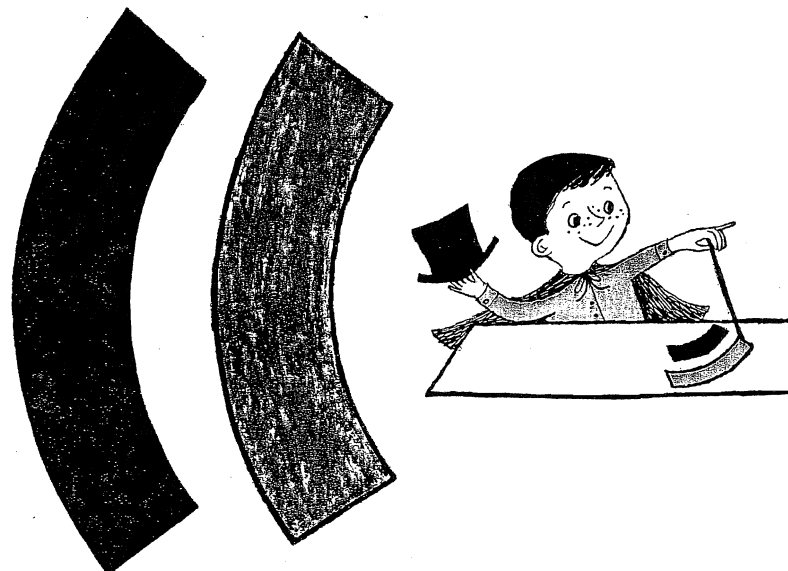
When Humpty Dumpty's Magazine was launched in 1952, my friend Harold Schwartz worked for Parents Institute and was in charge of their new line of juvenile periodicals. He hired me as "contributing editor" and for eight years I supplied about one fourth of each issue. I devised the activity features that damaged the pages-Parents Institute had no interest in library subscriptions!-and for each issue I also wrote a short story and a poem of advice spoken by Mr. Dumpty, the magazine's editor-in-chief, to his son Junior. The stories about Junior and his adventures were intended to be read aloud.

I persuaded Simon and Schuster to do a selection of the poems (the book was called Never Make Fun of a Turtle, My Son) and although I later obtained book reprint rights for the stories, I've never found a publisher willing to take the risk. Any editor out there who wants to test the market? I have eighty takes to pick from.

In fact Gardner had made arrangements with the press The Battered Silican Dispatch Box to reprint the stories in a book to be titled *The Adventures of Humphrey Hickleberrry*. This book has currently been removed from the publisher's list since Gardner died before he sent page proofs.



This is an illustration by Albert Aquino for "The Three Cowboys". Also in that issue, presumably by Gardner, are cutouts of a "Let's Explore the Moon" put-together scene, a game called "Snowman" and a familiar magic illusion called "Stretch the Magic Stick".



It is interesting to note that Gardner reuses this last effect in *Optical Illusion*, 2008, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

In all the Humpty Dumptys we have seen, the following poem is on the Table of Contents page.

Humpty Dumpty
 sat on a wall
 Humpty Dumpty
 had a great fall;
 All the King's horses and
 all the King's men,
 Couldn't put Humpty
 together again.
 But an American doctor
 with patience and glue
 Put Humpty together
 -better than new;
 And now he is healthy
 and back on the scene,
 Busily editing
 this magazine.

Is the addendum to the old poem due to "Contributing Editor" Martin Gardner?

The February, 1959 issue included, among others, "Let's Play Tangrams" and the following.

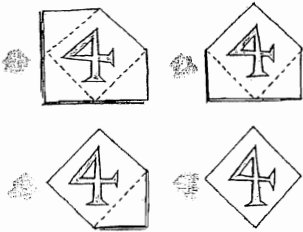
FOLD SOME SILLY FACES

• With this easy-to-make paper toy you can fold dozens of funny faces, no two of them alike! No pasting or taping — all you need is a pair of scissors.

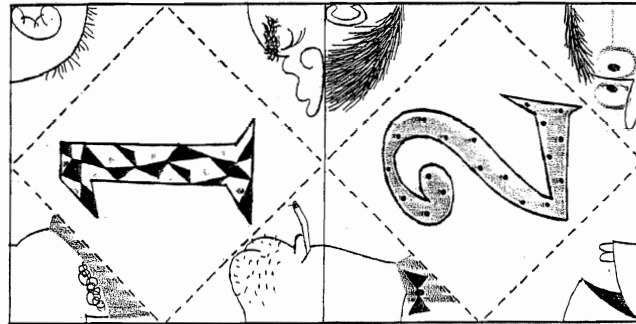
INSTRUCTIONS

Cut out the two squares on the opposite page and the two squares on page 101, along the solid black lines. Put Square 2 on top of Square 1, then put 3 on top of 2, and 4 on top of 3.

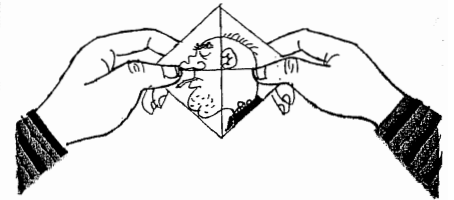
Square up the packet so that the edges are even on all sides. Fold the corners back on the dotted lines, folding all four sheets at once like this:



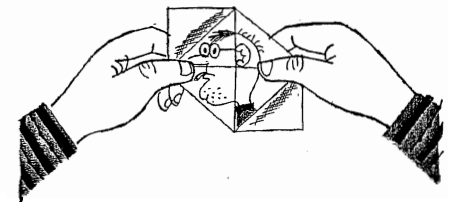
Turn the page for more instructions



After you have folded back all the corners of the packet, turn it over. Hold as shown below, so the corners will stay in place to make a face.



Now, by lifting up various corners, you can change the face.



How many different faces can you make? Which one do you think is the funniest?

