

**J. ARCHIBALD MCKACKNEY
(COLLECTOR OF WHISKERS), BEING
CERTAIN EPISODES TAKEN FROM THE
DIARY AND NOTES OF THAT ESTIMABLE
GENTLEMAN-STUDENT AND NOW FOR
THE FIRST TIME SET FORTH**

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J. Archibald McKackney (collector of whiskers), being certain episodes taken from the diary and notes of that estimable gentleman-student and now for the first time set forth by Ralph D. Paine

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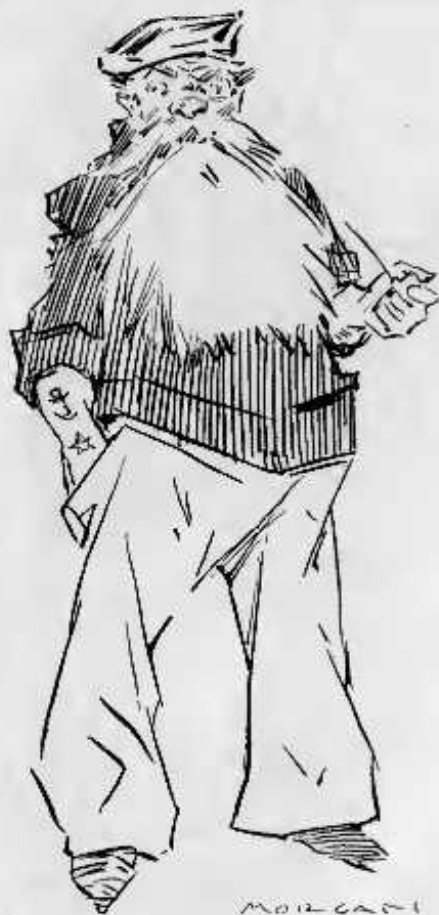
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RALPH D. PAINE

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J. ARCHIBALD McKACKNEY
(Collector of Whiskers)



A beard of rare dimensions that would create the bass
of a whole symphony orchestra.

J. ARCHIBALD
Mc KACKNEY

(Collector of Whiskers)

Being *certain episodes* taken from the diary
and notes of *that estimable gentleman-*
student and now for the first time set forth.

EDITED BY

RALPH D. PAINE

Author of "The Story of Martin Cax,"
"The Greater America," etc.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY WALLACE MORGAN



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PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

THE remarkable researches and discoveries of Mr. J. Archibald McKackney have hitherto been buried in the monographs of the American Society for the Promotion of Curious Science. Mr. McKackney, it may be remarked, is an elderly gentleman of great wealth and an eager mental activity whose estate is one of the show-places of the New England coast. For several years he had been engaged in assembling his unique collection of Human Whiskers before his discovery and employment of their musical vibrations made a world-wide stir among the students of Acoustics and Harmony.¹

¹ For technical references see Annual Reports Am. Soc. P. C. S., Vol. XII., pp. 287-324 (1901); Vol. XIV., pp. 103-149 (1903). Also Appendix B. Revised Edition—*Der Mechanismus der Menschlichen Sprache nebst Beschreibung einer Sprechenden Maschine von Wolfgang von Kempelen* (Vienna). Also latest Edition, *Theory of Harmony*, Weitzman.

Also *A Critical Analysis of the McKackney Theory of the Analogy between the Aeolian Harp and the Human Beard or Whisker*. (Pamphlet by Dr. Bruno Heilig, published by Leighton & Leighton, London, 1904.

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For the information of the layman it is perhaps well to refer to the circumstances which preceded the organization of the now famous Hirsute Orchestra, as described in the following pages. Having wearied of the more commonplace objects of the collector's ardor, including Japanese pottery, un-set gems and Roman coins, Mr. McKackney turned with the utmost enthusiasm to the task of obtaining the photographs, paintings and drawings of all the styles, patterns, designs and front elevations of the beards, whiskers and mustachios that have ornamented the human face from the days of the ancient Egyptians.¹

He has visited almost all the inhabited cor-

¹ "My first impulse toward this field of investigation was inspired as the result of an idle hour in a crowded railway station. I began to note the whiskers of the hurrying pedestrians and was surprised to discover that their patterns were as severally distinct and individual as the faces of their wearers. I counted no less than seventeen successive types, no two of which were identical in any respect. It occurred to me at that time that if such a wide variety could be found in this casual observation, there must be an opportunity for a scientific study of these highly entertaining and important human phenomena." (Extract from the owner's Introduction to the *Illustrated Catalogue of the McKackney Collection.*)

Publisher's Preface

ners of the globe in the hope of adding new trophies to his classified list of one hundred and eighty-seven distinct or catalogued varieties of whiskers, and the walls of his immense library are covered with bewildering sequences of facial landscapes.

In selecting the following incidents from among his manifold experiences Mr. McKackney has attempted to present only the more popular and entertaining features of his avocation. He does not introduce, for example, that important phase of his activity which deals with the whisker as a new field for nature study.¹ His more serious and wholly scientific work, "The Whisker Book," will not be ready for publication (in three quarto volumes) before 1909. Its scope and the enthusiasm with which Mr. McKackney has devoted himself to the immense task of writing the final word on the whisker in Art, History and Music, may be glimpsed in these lines of

¹This topic was ably presented in a paper read before the faculty and students of the University of Zweitzig on the occasion of the bestowal of an honorary degree upon Dr. J. Archibald McKackney.