

Note by Margaret Charman to accompany poker work box by Jack Pain containing Fairy stones.

This poker worked box was done by a friend of Tom Charman's, called Jack Pain whose wife was called Mabel. Tom Charman & Jack Pain were friends and did acting together. Tom always took the positive, or man's part, and Jack took the part of a woman. As a boy, Tom Charman did not believe in anything. He was a fair haired boy, or is called a white-headed boy. He was one of 12 children, two (?) of which died in infancy. They lived in Horsham. His mother was an educated woman who had married a farmer, my Christopher Pan has still got his smock & his turnip watch. When Tom's mother got ill, Tom, as being the youngest & least busy was naturally asked to look after her. She had broken her hip and in those days there was no proper medical treatment & Tom had to move her during day & night. She would go off to sleep & then start groaning, & then Tom had to wake up & move her. This would go on day & night which of course must have been very exhausting. His mother loved good books, & got Tom to read them out loud to her during the day. There is no doubt that Tom was educated by her in this way. It was only later on that he developed Clairvoyance. He told me that he saw a picture of The Titanic going down, just a glimpse of it. It was about this time that he went to work after his brother in law George who had a little shop in the village. Every now & then George had fits & Tom had to make the bread & deliver it. He also chopped the wood for the fire & in exchange for this his sister & brother-in-law George would give Tom his keep.

In the box which I have got which is Jack Pain's poker work, you will notice I have a collection of stones. These are both large & small, & all coloured black & white or white & black, to represent the way in which primitive man, who had no paper, was able to make pictures - they might be called Fairy pictures. I have another lot in a tin box in my bedroom. Don't throw them away as they are amusing, although Tom took them seriously as the artwork of primitive man.