

Scrooge or: Marley's Ghost

UK : 1901 : dir. W.R. Booth : R.W. Paul
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : 10 min

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Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌚	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5580a	0.5	2	0	406	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Fantasy (13 scenes). Miser reforms after visions of past, present and future."

NFT bulletin - Nov/Dec 94 - comment on a compilation of early silent Dickensian material:

"A rare chance to see some early films relating to Charles Dickens and his work, including the earliest surviving British interpretation, **"SCROOGE; or MARLEY'S GHOST"** (UK 1901, dir W.R. Booth), an un-acknowledged 1909 version of "Great Expectations", **"THE BOY AND THE CONVICT"** (dir Dave Aylott), a classic 1912 French entry **"LITTLE NELL"**, a fascinating travelogue featuring places and characters from Dickens' novels, **"DICKENS' LONDON"** and more. This is a rare opportunity to see some gems from the silent era."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available, but then you'd scarcely expect any. At 620ft (approx. one foot per second) this was a substantial and ambitious effort for its day, when the average running time per film was 60 seconds. Not the earliest Dickens title known to the archive – see **"MR BUMBLE THE BEADLE"** (1898) – it was a companion piece to R.W. Paul's **"MR PICKWICK'S CHRISTMAS AT WARDLE'S"**, which ran 140 seconds, but has no direct relevance to the archive. British film-makers at this time were beginning to film short excerpts of contemporary stage performances, variety acts, and outdoor knockabouts with comedians of the day such as Dan Leno, but it's more likely that this was shot using R.W. Paul's own family and troupe of amateur performers. And cheering to hear that this film, at least, still survives from the very earliest years of British cinema.

See subject index under **CHRISTMAS / THANKSGIVING**, **CHARLES DICKENS ADAPTATIONS**, **GHOSTS & HAUNTINGS**, **HISTORY** and **SILENT CINEMA**.