

Mr Bumble the Beadle

UK : 1898 : dir. : R. W. Paul Silent : 60 sec
 prod: R. W. Paul : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5717	1	1	0	406	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985
 listing:

"Comedy. Period. Beadle courts a workhouse
 matron. Source novel: Charles Dickens'
"Oliver Twist"."

[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",
 "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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. The earliest film known to the archive from a Dickens story, indeed the earliest known film from *any* literary source. As early cinema grew more ambitious in its reach, it began capturing fragments of famous stage performers of the day, many in Shakespeare roles, but there's no suggestion that this one was anything more than R.W. Paul's stock players cavorting in period costume. There would have been no caption cards, hence none of Dickens' dialogue or context, but audiences were seeing for the first time a favourite literary character come to life. Other primordial Dickens films included "**SCROOGE, or: MARLEY'S GHOST**" (1901), "**DOTHEBOYS HALL**" (1903) and "**THE BOY AND THE CONVICT**" (1909).

Denis Gifford's *British Film Catalogue* is a staggering work of research, listing virtually every live action film shot in the UK over the first ninety years of the cinema, but uniquely valuable for information on these earliest silent pieces, the great majority of which we must assume to be lost.

"*Oliver Twist*" is one of the most oft-filmed books in all literature (on a par with "*Treasure Island*", "*Huckleberry Finn*", "*Les Miserables*"). See **two** 1909 film versions, remakes in 1912, 1916, 1922, 1933, 1940, 1948, 1982 and 1997, not to mention "**OLIVER!**" (68), two continental silent versions - "**TWIST OLIVER**" (1919) and "**DIE GEHEIMNISSE VON LONDON**" (20) – and numerous TV serialisations. Ah but this was the first.

See subject index under [DICKENS, HISTORY](#), [PRISON / BORSTAL](#) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).