

Bell Features Collection

Library and Archives Canada
Rare Book Collection

Finding aid prepared in 2015 by
Meaghan Scanlon

Updated June 2016

Table of Contents

Collection Description	2
Summary of Holdings by Title	5
Series Descriptions	7
Active Comics	8
Commando Comics	11
Dime Comics	14
The Funny Comics [with Dizzy Don]	17
Joke Comics	20
Triumph [Adventure] Comics	23
Wow Comics	27
The Brain Comics	31
The Doodlebugs Comics	32
F.B.I. Comics	33
Jet-Man Comics	34
Johnny Canuck Comics	35
Red Hot Comics	36
Slam-Bang Comics	37
Smasher Comics	38
Terrific Comics	39
Unusual Comics	40

Collection Description

Title: Bell Features Collection

Dates: 1941-[1946]

Extent: 382 comic books

Administrative History:

Bell Features began life as a commercial art company under the name Commercial Signs of Canada in the 1930s. The company was owned and operated out of Toronto by Cyril Vaughan “Cy” Bell and his brother Gene. In December 1940, the Canadian government passed the War Exchange Conservation Act, which limited the importation of certain goods from the United States, including comic books. The Bells, along with investor John Ezrin and artist Edmund Legault, teamed up to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the absence of American comic books and published their first issue, *Wow Comics* no. 1, with a cover date of September 1941. The company quickly expanded its line, adding three more titles – *Active Comics*, *Joke Comics*, and *Dime Comics* – within the next few months.

(The first eight issues of *Wow Comics* were printed in colour – no. 1 in full colour; nos. 2-5 in three-colour; nos. 6-8 in two-colour – but all other Bell Features comics through 1945 were printed in black and white, as were the comics printed by the other Canadian comic book publishers of the time. This gave rise to the term “Canadian Whites,” which is used today to refer to Canadian comic books from this era.)

Early in 1942, Commercial Signs of Canada absorbed Hillborough Studio, a smaller comic book publisher founded by artists Adrian Dingle and brothers René and André Kulbach. In March 1942, the merged company was rechristened as Bell Features and its line of titles expanded again. Hillborough’s flagship title, *Triumph Comics* (originally called *Triumph Adventure Comics*), featuring Nelvana of the Northern Lights, became part of the Bell Features lineup; two new titles, *Commando Comics* and *The Funny Comics* (title changed to *The Funny Comics with Dizzy Don* with issue no. 5), were also created. Throughout the company’s most significant period of activity, these seven titles – *Active*, *Commando*, *Dime*, *Funny*, *Joke*, *Triumph*, and *Wow* – were its core publications. All were, as the company noted in one of its ads, “written, drawn and printed in Canada ---- by Canadians!”

Bell Features continued its successful run with Canadian content throughout the war years. As the war drew to a close, Cy Bell attempted to expand his company in order to ensure that it could remain competitive should the ban on American comics be lifted. He hired more staff and purchased a new press with the intention of printing in colour. The company also announced plans to bring in a number of new titles, including eponymous books for a few favourite characters, such as The Brain and Johnny Canuck. Bell’s expansion plans hit a snag, however, when he was unable to obtain enough newsprint to print all these publications.

Bell Features did issue one full-colour all-Canadian title, *Slam-Bang Comics*, in 1946, but ultimately the company shifted away from publishing original Canadian comics and began reprinting content from American titles. This change in focus started in 1946, with the publication of a number of reprints which Bell Features marketed in Canada and the United

Kingdom. These early reprints featured covers by Canadian artists, thus retaining some connection to Bell Features' all-Canadian days. However, by 1948, Bell Features was exclusively reprinting American content. By 1953, the company had folded.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of 193 distinct issues of 17 comic book titles created by Toronto-based Canadian publisher Bell Features and between 1941 and approximately 1946. (Note: most of the comic books are undated.) Many issues are held in multiple copies; in total, there are 382 individual comic books in the collection.

The Bell Features Collection is an extensive but incomplete representation of Bell Features' output. The collection includes near complete runs of all the core Bell Features titles, but certain issues and miscellaneous items such as one-shots featuring popular characters (e.g. Nelvana, Speed Savage) are missing. For further holdings of Bell Features comics at Library and Archives Canada (LAC), see the John Bell Collection of Canadian Comic Books (AMICUS 43693783).

Source of Title:

Title based on contents of the collection.

Custodial History:

This collection consists of Bell Features' own corporate archive of its publications. In 1996, it was transferred from the National Archives of Canada to the Rare Book Collection of the National Library of Canada. It was initially acquired by the Archives in 1972 in conjunction with an accession of Bell Features archival material from filmmakers Michael Hirsh and Patrick Loubert (who, in 1971, founded Nelvana Limited, the animation studio which they named for the Bell Features character Nelvana of the Northern Lights). Hirsh and Loubert in turn had acquired the collection in Toronto in 1970 from John Ezrin, Bell Features' original investor; Ezrin had purchased it from Cy Bell sometime between 1947 and 1952. Although the collection was originally acquired directly from Bell Features, it is interesting to note that certain items may have belonged to comic book readers at one time: print runs of some titles sold out and, having neglected to retain any file copies, Bell Features ran ads in the page pages of its comics announcing its willingness to buy back issues from readers. Some comics in the collection show indications of this unusual provenance.

Note on Arrangement:

Each title has been described in Library and Archives Canada's library catalogue, AMICUS, and can be identified by an AMICUS number as well as an alphanumeric shelf list number beginning with the letters "BF" (Bell Features). In cases where a comic's title changed during its run, the variant titles have different AMICUS numbers, but share the same shelf list number. A collection-level record providing contextual information as well as a list of titles in the collection is also available (AMICUS 43122013).

The collection has been divided into two groups; titles are arranged alphabetically within each group. The first group includes the titles published by Bell Features for the Canadian market between 1942 and approximately 1945: the core Bell Features line of *Active* (BF-01), *Commando* (BF-02), *Dime* (BF-03), *Funny* (BF-04), *Joke* (BF-05), *Triumph* (BF-06), and *Wow* (BF-07). The

collection holds complete or nearly complete runs of all these titles, and the bulk of the collection (366 comic books) falls into this group.

The second group (shelf list numbers BF-08 to BF-17) includes material dating from approximately 1946, when Bell Features changed its publishing strategy. Many of these comics are full-colour reprints of American content which appear to have been intended for distribution in Canada and the United Kingdom. A few items are reprints of earlier Bell Features issues wrapped in new black and white covers which show the titles of new series; these are most likely proofs (“ashcans”) for potential series which never made it to publication. Also included in this second group is *Slam-Bang Comics*, Bell Features’ lone attempt at an all-Canadian colour title in the postwar era. The collection does not contain more than two issues of any title in this group.

Availability of Other Formats:

One copy of each issue in the collection has been digitized. The electronic copies (ecopies) in PDF format are available to view online. See the Detailed Holdings table under each Series Description in this document for links to the ecopies, or follow the links from the AMICUS record for each title.

Terms Governing Access:

Single issues can be requested individually via AMICUS. Requests should be made at least 3 days in advance of a visit, and must be submitted to LAC staff either via the web (see “Consulting and Borrowing Material” on the LAC website) or in person at the reference desk. There are no restrictions on access; however, in cases where originals are particularly fragile, researchers may be asked to make special arrangements for consultation.

Terms of Use:

Permission to reproduce copyright protected material from this collection must be obtained from the joint copyright owners, Nelvana Limited (a subsidiary of Corus Entertainment) and Library and Archives Canada.

Location of Related Archival Materials:

Original artwork and other textual records acquired with the collection are held in the Bell Features fonds, Library and Archives Canada (archival reference no. R492-0-5-E).

Summary of Holdings by Title

TITLE	SHELF LIST NUMBER	AMICUS NUMBER	HOLDINGS
Active Comics	BF-01	16526991	c. 1: 1-28 c. 2: 1-28 c. 3: 9
Commando Comics	BF-02	16526994	c. 1: 1-22 c. 2: 1-22 c. 3: 1
Dime Comics	BF-03	16526995	c. 1: 1-15, 17-30 c. 2: 1-15, 17-30
The Funny Comics	BF-04	42415350	c. 1: [1-2], 4 c. 2: [1-2], 4
The Funny Comics with Dizzy Don	BF-04	16526996	c. 1: 5-21 c. 2: 5-21
Joke Comics	BF-05	16526997	c. 1: 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26 c. 2: 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26
Triumph Adventure Comics	BF-06	43040531	c. 1: 1-2, 5 c. 2: 1-2, 5
Triumph Comics	BF-06	16527000	c. 1: [7]-32 c. 2: [7]-32 c. 3: 29
Wow Comics	BF-07	20954244	c. 1: 1-10, 12-30 c. 2: 1-10, 12-30 c. 3: 1-2, 26
The Brain Comics	BF-08	42572878	c. 1: 1
The Doodlebugs Comics	BF-09	42573500	c. 1: 1
F.B.I. Comics	BF-10	28862169	c. 1: 1-2 c. 2: 1-2
Jet-Man Comics	BF-11	42582392	c. 1: 1-2
Johnny Canuck Comics	BF-12	42623976	c. 1: 2
Red Hot Comics	BF-13	42623983	c. 1: 1
Slam-Bang Comics	BF-14	42623987	c. 1: 7
Smasher Comics	BF-15	42573506	c. 1: 11
Terrific Comics	BF-16	42624000	c. 1: 2-3

TITLE	SHELF LIST NUMBER	AMICUS NUMBER	HOLDINGS
Unusual Comics	BF-17	42624014	c. 1: 1 c. 2: 1

Series Descriptions

Below are series descriptions for each of the 17 titles in the Bell Features Collection. The purpose of these descriptions is to serve as a guide for researchers by providing the basic information needed to locate each title in LAC's holdings, and general information about the publication history and contents of each title. Series descriptions are followed by Detailed Holdings, listing each issue held in the collection along with notes about its condition, a link to its electronic copy where applicable, and its barcode. Barcodes can be used to search for and request specific issues in AMICUS.

Researchers requesting specific issues for consultation should carefully read the condition notes in the detailed holdings to ensure that they are requesting the best copy.

Dates given in series descriptions refer to the dates of issues held in the collection, not the complete dates of publication of the series.

General Content Note

With the exception of *The Funny Comics*, each Bell Features title is an anthology containing a combination of feature-length stories (defined as stories 5 or more pages in length), shorter cartoons, games, and contests.

A complete index of characters and creators has not been attempted in this finding aid. Only characters who appear in five or more feature-length stories have been listed in the series descriptions. Creators who worked on five or more feature-length stories are listed, but creators of non-feature-length strips have not been named.

Note on Variants

Occasionally, there are slight variations between different copies of the same issue in the collection. In general, these variations involve the content printed on the front and back cover versos. These variations have been noted in the Condition Notes field in the Detailed Holdings.

Active Comics

Dates: 1942-[1946]

Extent: 57 comic books (28 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 16526991

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-01

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-28

Copy 2: nos. 1-28

Copy 3: no. 9

Publication History:

Active Comics no. 1 is dated February 1942. Nos. 1-3 were published under the Commercial Signs of Canada imprint before the company changed its name to Bell Features in March 1942. All 28 issues are printed in black and white.

Content Notes:

Active Comics contained primarily adventure and superhero stories. Three core characters appeared regularly throughout its run: costumed heroes Thunderfist and The Brain (a parody of whom, called The Noodle, also appeared in shorter, humorous tales), and soldier of fortune Capt. Red Thortan. Dixon of the Mounted and Dr. Blue and Blackie were also frequently included. In issue no. 28, all established characters were dropped and replaced with a new mix of characters, most of whom had previously appeared in other Bell Features titles.

The series is notable for its focus on the community of Bell Features readers and creators: the Active Club Panthers hockey team sponsored by Bell Features appeared in a number of issues, and readers could also join the Active Club, whose leader, Active Jim, starred in short features throughout most of the title's run. For a few issues, *Active Comics* included one of the earliest Canadian "romance" comics, Penny's Diary, written by Patricia Joudry with art by Doris Slater.

Recurring Features:

The Brain (nos. 1-27); Capt. Red Thortan (nos. 1-12, 14-18, 20-27); Cinder Smith (nos. 22-26); Dixon of the Mounted (nos. 1-12, 14-18); Dr. Blue and Blackie (nos. 18-27); King Fury (nos. 13-17); Penny's Diary (nos. 19-26); Thunderfist (nos. 1-26)

Prominent Creators:

André (André Kulbach); Leo Bachle; Marc L. Borgatta; Al Cooper; Joudry and Slater (Patricia Joudry and Doris Slater); Murray Karn; Fred Kelly; René L. Kulbach; E.T. Legault (Edmund T. Legault); Kurly Lipas; Tedd Steele (a.k.a. T.A. Steele, Theodore Steele)

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1	Feb. 1942	1	33286561845617	Cover and pages 27-36 detached. Page 37 torn with loss of content.	
1	Feb. 1942	2	33286561845625		e011166502
2	Mar. 1942	1	33286561846060		e011166503
2	Mar. 1942	2	33286561846052	Staples and spine removed; rebound with glue? Pages 49-56, 57-64 unopened.	
3		1	33286561846045	Pages 1-4 unopened.	
3		2	33286561846037		e011166504
4		1	33286561846029		e011166505
4		2	33286561846011		
5		1	33286561845633	Some pages cropped very high: content slightly cut off at top.	
5		2	33286561845641		e011166506
6		1	33286561845658		e011166508
6		2	33286561845666		
7		1	33286561845534		e011166794
7		2	33286561845542		
8		1	33286561846391		e011166509
8		2	33286561846409		
9		1	33286561846284		e011166795
9		2	33286561846292	Some pages loose.	
9		3	33286561846300		
10		1	33286561846185		e011166511
10		2	33286561846177	Centre folio (pages 23-26) missing.	
11		1	33286561846193		e011166512
11		2	33286561846201		
12		1	33286561846128		e011166513
12		2	33286561846110		
13		1	33286561846102		e011166514
13		2	33286561846094		
14		1	33286561846086		e011166515
14		2	33286561846078		
15		1	33286561846219		e011166516
15		2	33286561846243		
16		1	33286561846375		e011166517
16		2	33286561846383		
17		1	33286561846474		e011166518

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
17		2	33286561846482		
18		1	33286561846508		e011166519
18		2	33286561846490		
19		1	33286561846235		e011166520
19		2	33286561846227		
20		1	33286561846151		e011166521
20		2	33286561846169	Pages 21-28 detached but not damaged.	
21		1	33286561846136		e011166522
21		2	33286561846144		
22		1	33286561846326	Cut-out mask printed on cover verso is of The Brain.	e011166523
22		2	33286561846334	Variant: Cut-out mask printed on cover verso is of Captain Wonder.	
23		1	33286561846342	Significant ink shadowing on a number of pages.	e011166524
23		2	33286561846250	Significant ink shadowing on a number of pages. Red ink bleed through on cover verso.	
24		1	33286561846417	Front cover verso has a Doodleberrys cartoon, back cover verso has "It's a fact."	e011166525
24		2	33286561846425	Variant: Cover versos blank.	
25		1	33286561846433		e011166526
25		2	33286561846441		
26		1	33286561846367	Cover versos blank.	e011166527
26		2	33286561846359	Variant: Front cover verso contains cartoons; back cover verso shows an ad. Pages 25-32, 33-40 unopened.	
27		1	33286561846458		e011166528
27		2	33286561846466		
28		1	33286561846268		e011166529
28		2	33286561846276		

Commando Comics

Dates: 1942-[1946]

Extent: 45 comic books (22 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 16526994

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-02

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-22

Copy 2: nos. 1-22

Copy 3: no. 1

Publication History:

All 22 issues of *Commando Comics* are undated, but presumably the series began publication after Commercial Signs of Canada changed its name in March 1942 because all issues show the Bell Features imprint. The 22 issues are all printed in black and white.

Content Notes:

As suggested by its title, *Commando Comics* focused primarily on war stories. All the title's major recurring features – The Young Commandos, The Sign of Freedom, The Invisible Commando, Ace Bradley, Clift Steele, and Wings over the Atlantic – dealt with soldiers or spies involved in the fight against the Nazis. Many of the contests, games, and short humour features were war-themed as well.

Like *Active Comics*, *Commando Comics* shifted its focus toward the end of its run: the features which had run consistently since the first issue gradually disappeared starting with no. 18.

Recurring Features:

Ace Bradley (nos. 1-10, 12-18); Clift Steele (nos. 1-17); The Invisible Commando (nos. 1-17); The Sign of Freedom (nos. 1-19); Wings over the Atlantic (nos. 1-8, 11, 14, 16-17); The Young Commandos (nos. 1-14, 16-19, retitled Ruff & Reddy for nos. 20-21)

Prominent Creators:

André (André Kulbach); Leo Bachle; Caz (Alfred Zusi); Al Cooper; Darian (Jon Darian); Clayton Dexter; Adrian Dingle; Jerry Lazare (a.k.a. Gerald Lazare); Thomas (Bill Thomas); Harry Thomson

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286561847258		e011166530
1		2	33286561847266		

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		3	33286561847514	Back cover is heavily chipped along fore-edge. Ink is faded on several pages inside.	
2		1	33286561847522		e011166531
2		2	33286561847613		
3		1	33286561847621		e011166532
3		2	33286561847712		
4		1	33286561847720		e011166533
4		2	33286561847811	Printing error on page 29: half of page has been left blank due to another page being placed over the surface.	
5		1	33286561847829		e011166534
5		2	33286561847910		
6		1	33286561847928	Pages 21-24 cropped very close; some loss of outer panel borders.	
6		2	33286561847548	Colour on cover is off-register.	e011166535
7		1	33286561847530		e011166536
7		2	33286561847555		
8		1	33286561847639	Centre folio (pages 23-26) detached.	
8		2	33286561847647		e011166537
9		1	33286561847654	Tear at bottom of pages 49 through to back cover repaired on each leaf with tissue.	
9		2	33286561847738	Centre folio (pages 23-26) detached.	e011166538
10		1	33286561847746		e011166539
10		2	33286561847753		
11		1	33286561847936		e011166540
11		2	33286561847944		
12		1	33286561847951	Centre folio (pages 19-22) detached. Colour on cover is slightly off-register.	
12		2	33286561847837		e011166541
13		1	33286561847845	Pages 21-28, 29-36 unopened.	
13		2	33286561847852	Variant: Different ads on front and back cover verso than c. 1 and slightly different ad for Colossal Comics on back cover.	e011166542
14		1	33286561847589		e011166543
14		2	33286561847563		
15		1	33286561847571		e011166544

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
15		2	33286561847662		
16		1	33286561847670		e011166545
16		2	33286561847688		
17		1	33286561847761	Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of Thunderfist.	e011166546
17		2	33286561847779	Variant: Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of The Noodle.	
18		1	33286561847787		e011166547
18		2	33286561847860	Pages 25-32, 33-40 unopened.	
19		1	33286561847878	Front cover verso: Izzy Brite by Hy Moyer. Back cover verso: Nots and Crosses by Young.	e011166548
19		2	33286561847886	Variant: Front cover verso: Wily Wolf by CaL. Back cover verso: So Help Me by Thomas.	
20		1	33286561847969	Front cover verso: Puzzles for Everyone by Young.	e011166549
20		2	33286561847977	Variant: Front cover verso: Clipper th' Cat by CaL.	
21		1	33286561847985		e011166550
21		2	33286561847993		
22		1	33286561848009		e011166551
22		2	33286561847894		

Dime Comics

Dates: 1942-[1946]

Extent: 58 comic books (29 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 16526995

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-03

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-15, 17-30

Copy 2: nos. 1-15, 17-30

Publication History:

Issues no. 1-3 of *Dime Comics* were published under the Commercial Signs of Canada imprint before the company changed its name to Bell Features in March 1942. The first 28 issues are printed in black and white, while nos. 29 and 30 are in colour.

Nos. 29 (dated June 1946) and 30 (undated) reflect Bell Features' shift away from a focus on Canadian content. In both cases, the cover wrappers appear to have been created by Bell Features, but the content consists of reprints of American material: no. 29 is a reprint of *Three Ring Comics* no. 1 (Spotlight Publishers, March 1945), and no. 30 reprints *Dynamic Comics* no. 12 (Chesler/Dynamic, November 1944). The two issues appear to have been destined for international distribution, with the indicia for both showing information about distribution in the United States. No. 30 also includes a note about distribution in the United Kingdom and Europe. Its cover title is *New Dime Comics*, but the indicia title is *Dime Comics*.

Content Notes:

Dime Comics focuses on science fiction, hero, and war features. Its two most important characters were Canadian super soldier Johnny Canuck and sci-fi adventurer Rex Baxter. Baxter seems to have been very popular: he appeared on the cover of each of the title's first 14 issues, and the "Rex Baxter Adventurers Club" was introduced in issue no. 8. Fighter pilot Scotty McDonald and western legend Wild Bill were also introduced early on and appeared frequently, while costumed hero Nitro and crime-fighting musician Drummy Young were prominent later introductions. The war feature Super Sub appeared sporadically.

Recurring Features:

Drummy Young (nos. 15, 17-28); Johnny Canuck (nos. 1-15, 17-28); Nitro (nos. 14-15, 17-28); Rex Baxter (nos. 1-15, 17-28); Scotty McDonald (nos. 1-13, 15, 17-20); Super Sub (nos. 8-14, 18-19, 23-24); Wild Bill (nos. 3-11)

Prominent Creators:

Leo Bachle; Al Cooper; Adrian Dingle; Edmond Good; André (André Kulbach); Jerry Lazare (a.k.a. Gerald Lazare); Thomas (Bill Thomas)

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1	Feb. 1942	1	33286561847605		e011166565
1	Feb. 1942	2	33286561847597		
2	Mar. 1942	1	33286561847696		e011166507
2	Mar. 1942	2	33286561847704	Centre page detached.	
3		1	33286561847795	Pages 31-34 (centre fold) missing.	
3		2	33286561847803	Pages 23-24, 37-38 have pieces cut out.	e011166566
4		1	33286561847902	Pencil scribbles on some pages. Centre fold (pages 31-34) detached.	e011166567
4		2	33286561848017	Pages 29-36 detached.	
5		1	33286561848090		e011166568
5		2	33286561848108		
6		1	33286561848199		e011166569
6		2	33286561848207		
7		1	33286561848074		e011166570
7		2	33286561848082	Printing error on page 4: torn page folded over. Pages 59-62 unopened.	
8		1	33286561848116		e011166571
8		2	33286561848215		
9		1	33286561848223		e011166572
9		2	33286561848231		
10		1	33286561848165		e011166573
10		2	33286561848157	Centre folds (pages 29-36) detached.	
11		1	33286561848140		e011166574
11		2	33286561848132		
12		1	33286561848124		e011166575
12		2	33286561848066		
13		1	33286561848058		e011166576
13		2	33286561848041	Pages 25-32, 33-40 unopened.	
14		1	33286561848033		e011166577
14		2	33286561848025		
15		1	33286561848173		e011166578
15		2	33286561848181		
17		1	33286561848363		e011166579
17		2	33286561848389	Centre fold (pages 19-22) detached.	

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
18		1	33286561848371	Pages 19-22 missing.	
18		2	33286561848405		e011166580
19		1	33286561848397		e011166581
19		2	33286561848421		
20		1	33286561848413		e011166582
20		2	33286561848322		
21		1	33286561848314	Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of Speed Savage.	e011166583
21		2	33286561848280	Variant: Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of Mike (from Spike and Mike). Print quality poor: shadows on most pages.	
22		1	33286561848272	Centre fold (pages 23-26) detached.	
22		2	33286561848264		e011166584
23		1	33286561848306	Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of The Noodle.	e011166585
23		2	33286561848298	Variant: Cut out mask printed on cover verso is of Thunderfist.	
24		1	33286561848256		e011166586
24		2	33286561848249		
25		1	33286561848330	Front and back cover versos are blank.	
25		2	33286561848348	Variant: Front and back cover versos contain cartoons.	e011166587
26		1	33286561848504	Page 23 torn, no loss of content.	
26		2	33286561848355		e011166588
27		1	33286561848496	Front cover verso features reindeer cut outs game.	e011166589
27		2	33286561848488	Variant: Front cover verso features Nothing but the Truth cartoon. Cover in red and yellow; blue layer has not been applied.	
28		1	33286561848470	Front cover verso features So Help Me cartoon.	e011166590
28		2	33286561848462	Variant: Front cover verso features reindeer cut outs game.	
29	Jun. 1946	1	33286561848454		e011166591
29	Jun. 1946	2	33286561848447		
30		1	33286561848439		e011166592
30		2	33286561848918	Pages 9-16 unopened.	

The Funny Comics [with Dizzy Don]

Dates: [1942-1946]

Extent: 40 comic books (20 distinct issues)

Control Numbers for *The Funny Comics* (nos. [1-2], 4):

AMICUS Number: 42415350

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-04

Control Numbers for *The Funny Comics with Dizzy Don* (nos. 5-21):

AMICUS Number: 16526996

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-04

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. [1-2], 4-21

Copy 2: nos. [1-2], 4-21

Publication History:

All issues of *The Funny Comics* are undated, but nos. [1]-20 were published under the Bell Features imprint; the series must therefore have started after the company changed its name to Bell Features in March 1942. The cover title for this series varies: no. [1] reads *Dizzy Don: Funny Comics*; nos. [2] and 4 say *Dizzy Don Detective: The Funny Comics*; nos. 5-20 are called *The Funny Comics with Dizzy Don*; and no. 21 is simply *Dizzy Don Comics*.

All issues are printed in black and white except no. 21, which is in full colour with the exception of the ads on the front and back inside covers. The Bell Features name does not appear on no. 21: the indicia for this issue state that it was published by Dizzy Don Enterprises.

Content Notes:

Unlike the other Bell Features titles, *The Funny Comics* was not an anthology; it focused on one character, Manny Easson's Dizzy Don, through every issue of its run. No. [1] contains a series of short Dizzy Don strips, but after this first issue the format changed: each issue from [2] to 20 includes one long Dizzy Don feature followed by a number of shorter Dizzy Don strips. Short cartoons and gags by other Bell Features artists appear occasionally, but the vast majority of the contents consist of Easson's Dizzy Don stories. Silly Soozie, Dizzy Don's cousin, is introduced in no. 17 and takes on some prominence, even getting her own feature in no. 21.

Recurring Features:

Dizzy Don

Prominent Creators:

Manny Easson

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
[1]		1	33286563300322	Page 19-20 torn, no loss of text.	
[1]		2	33286563300314		e011166593
[2]		1	33286563300330		e011166594
[2]		2	33286563300355		
4		1	33286563300405		e011166595
4		2	33286563300397		
5		1	33286563300439		e011166596
5		2	33286563300447	Back cover heavily chipped along fore-edge.	
6		1	33286563300496		e011166597
6		2	33286563300504		
7		1	33286563300413		e011166598
7		2	33286563300421		
8		1	33286563300371		e011166599
8		2	33286563300389		
9		1	33286563296520		e011166600
9		2	33286563296538		
10		1	33286563296546		e011166601
10		2	33286563296553		
11		1	33286563296561		e011166602
11		2	33286563296512		
12		1	33286563300454		e011166603
12		2	33286563300462		
13		1	33286563300470		e011166604
13		2	33286563300488		
14		1	33286563296652		e011166605
14		2	33286563296660		
15		1	33286563296678		e011166606
15		2	33286563296686		
16		1	33286563296694		e011166607
16		2	33286563296702		
17		1	33286563296603		e011166608
17		2	33286563296595		
18		1	33286563296587		e011166609
18		2	33286563296579		
19		1	33286563296710		e011166610
19		2	33286563296728		
20		1	33286563296611		e011166611
20		2	33286563296629		

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
21		1	33286563296637		e011166612
21		2	33286563296645	Damaged: upper inside corner shows signs of being bent. Staples are not centred. Cropping at front edge is not straight; bottom outside panels are all cropped. Some loss of content.	

Joke Comics

Dates: [1942-1946]

Extent: 46 comic books (23 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 16526997

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-05

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26

Copy 2: nos. 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-26

Publication History:

All issues of *Joke Comics* are undated, but the first three were published under the Commercial Signs of Canada imprint and therefore must have been printed before the company changed its name to Bell Features in March 1942. All issues are black and white.

Content Notes:

As its name suggests, *Joke Comics* focused on comedy. The first four issues consisted mainly of short cartoons, but with no. 5 the title began to shift to the combination of longer stories and shorts which was standard in other Bell Features titles. Its major features – Private Stuff, a buffoonish Canadian soldier; Spike and Mike, “professional tramps”; and the microscopic, humanoid Doodlebugs – were all humour strips. The title also included more serious content, with female superhero The Wing, war feature Super Commando, historical adventure The Blade, and United Nations investigators Major Domo and Jo-Jo each appearing at least five times.

Like *Active Comics* and *Commando Comics*, *Joke Comics* dropped almost all of its established features at the end of its run: the final issue, no. 26, includes a mix of new features, most of which had appeared previously in other Bell Features titles.

Recurring Features:

The Blade (nos. 18, 21-24); Doodlebugs (nos. 7-10, 12-15, 17, 20-25); Major Domo and Jo-Jo (nos. 21-25); Private Stuff (nos. 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-24); Spike and Mike (nos. 1-2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-24); Super Commando (nos. 12-16, 18); The Wing (nos. 4, 6, 14-18, 20-21, 23-25)

Prominent Creators:

Aram Alexanian; Carl & Ed Alton; Armand (Avrom Yanovsky, a.k.a. Avrom); Dan Baldassi; Fred Kelly; Jerry Lazare; Ross Saakel (a.k.a. Ross K. Saakel); Oscar Schlienger; Ted Steele (a.k.a. T.A. Steele, Tedd Steele)

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286575812546	Cover folio detached.	e011166613
1		2	33286575812538	Centre folio (pages 31-34) missing.	
2		1	33286575812819	Pages 3, 4, 51, 52, 57-64 missing. Part of page 33-34 has been cut out.	
2		2	33286575812827		e011166614
4		1	33286575812918		e011166615
4		2	33286575812926	Pages 25, 26, 33-44 missing, page 27-28 detached.	
5		1	33286575812934	Back cover is chipped along fore-edge.	e011166616
5		2	33286575812942	Back cover is chipped along fore-edge. Red ink from front and back covers has bled through to inside covers.	
6		1	33286575812637	Centre fold (pages 31-34) detached.	e011166617
6		2	33286575812645	Pages 63-64 missing. Covers coming detached.	
7		1	33286575812652	Page 29-30 coming detached. Poor condition.	
7		2	33286575812660	Note from Miss Georgina Morello of Ingersoll, Ontario, laid in.	e011166618
8		1	33286575812835		e011166619
8		2	33286575812843		
9		1	33286575812744		e011166620
9		2	33286575812736		
10		1	33286575812728		e011166621
10		2	33286575812710		
12		1	33286575812629	Printing error on pages 9-10: page folded during printing.	
12		2	33286575812611		e011166622
13		1	33286575812520		e011166623
13		2	33286575812512		
14		1	33286575451949		e011166624
14		2	33286575451931		
15		1	33286575451964		e011166625
15		2	33286575451956		
16		1	33286575451923		e011166626
16		2	33286575451915	Pages 23-26 missing.	
17		1	33286575812769		e011166627
17		2	33286575812751	Pages 35-40 missing.	

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
18		1	33286575451717		e011166628
18		2	33286575451725		
20		1	33286575451733		e011166629
20		2	33286575451741	Pages 25-32, 33-40, 43-46, 49-56 unopened.	
21		1	33286575451857		e011166630
21		2	33286575451865		
22		1	33286575451873	Cover versos feature a cut out mask of Thunderfist.	e011166631
22		2	33286575451881	Variant: Cover versos feature cartoons. Pages 9-10, 29-30, 39-40 missing. Page 41-42 detached.	
23		1	33286575451816		e011166632
23		2	33286575451824		
24		1	33286575451832		e011166633
24		2	33286575451840		
25		1	33286575451972		e011166634
25		2	33286575451980		
26		1	33286575451998	Pages 33-36, 37-40 unopened.	e011166635
26		2	33286575452004		

Triumph Comics

Dates: 1941-1946

Extent: 59 comic books (29 distinct issues)

Control Numbers for *Triumph Adventure Comics* (nos. 1-2, 5):

AMICUS Number: 43040531

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-06

Control Numbers for *Triumph Comics* (nos. [7]-32):

AMICUS Number: 16527000

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-06

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-2, 5, [7]-32

Copy 2: nos. 1-2, 5, [7]-32

Copy 3: no. 29

Publication History:

Triumph Adventure Comics no. 1 is dated August 1941. The first six issues of the series were published by Hillborough Studio. The word *Adventure* was dropped from the title with no. [7] (unnumbered), which was published after the merger between Hillborough and Commercial Signs of Canada and the company's name change to Bell Features.

All issues are printed in black and white, with the exception of no. 32, which is in full colour apart from the front and back inside covers. No. 32's cover gives the issue number as 27 and the title as *New Triumph Comics*, but the indicia title is *Triumph Comics* and the number is 32. The front and back outside and inside covers feature work by Bell Features artists, but the inside content is a reprint of *Punch Comics* no. 17 (Chesler/Dynamic, April 1946). The issue appears to have been destined for the U.K. market, with the cover showing a price in pence and the indicia naming a distributor for the U.K. and Europe. The ad on the back inside cover for the "Active Jim International Pen Club" is directed at British readers: it shows the character Active Jim saying, "At last, I can meet all you English boys & girls face to face!"

Content Notes:

Hillborough Studio began publishing *Triumph Adventure Comics* with a stated mission to present distinctly Canadian content. Although not all of the characters from the Hillborough issues carried over to Bell Features, *Triumph Comics* continued to focus on Canadian characters such as Nelvana, Speed Savage, and Capt. Wonder throughout its run. The western feature Tang, which debuted in the Hillborough period, was also one of *Triumph's* most long-running serials. War feature Ace Barton was a later addition which appeared consistently.

Triumph Comics was reinvented in its final few issues, with regular characters being gradually replaced by a mix of new characters and features which had previously appeared in other Bell Features titles.

Recurring Features:

Ace Barton (nos. 11-29); Capt. Wonder (nos. [7]-25, 27-28, 30); Nelvana of the Northern Lights (nos. 1-2, 5, [7]-31); Speed Savage (nos. [7]-31); Tang (nos. 1-2, 5, [7]-27)

Prominent Creators:

Leo Bachle; Adrian Dingle; René L. Kulbach (a.k.a. R.L. Kulbach); Ross Saakel (a.k.a. Ross K. Saakel); Ted Steele (a.k.a. T.A. Steele, Tedd Steele)

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1	Aug. 1941	1	33286575451626		e011166636
1	Aug. 1941	2	33286575451618	Cover detached.	
2	Sept. 1941	1	33286575451624	Cover chipped and almost detached; repaired with tape. Text block shows signs of folding. Back cover shows American ads; the ads on the back cover of copy 2 are different, suggesting that this page may have been mistakenly attached to this item.	
2	Sept. 1941	2	33286575451634	Bottom part of cover missing with loss of content. Cover detached.	e011166510
5	Jan. 1942	1	33286575451527	Issue has a ripple from being bent.	
5	Jan. 1942	2	33286575451519		e011166637
[7]		1	33286575451543		e011166638
[7]		2	33286575451535		
8		1	33286575451766		e011166639
8		2	33286575451758		
9		1	33286575451782	Mis-stapled; does not open flat.	e011166640
9		2	33286575451774	Pages 57-64 unopened.	
10		1	33286575451808		e011166641
10		2	33286575451790		
11		1	33286575451907		e011166642
11		2	33286575451899	Pages 17-20, 21-24, 41-44, 45-48 unopened.	
12		1	33286575452020		e011166643
12		2	33286575452012		
13		1	33286575452046	Disbound.	
13		2	33286575452038		e011166644

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
14		1	33286575451584		e011166645
14		2	33286575451576		
15		1	33286575451600		e011166646
15		2	33286575451592		
16		1	33286575451568		e011166647
16		2	33286575451550		
17		1	33286575451667		e011166648
17		2	33286575451659		
18		1	33286575451675		e011166649
18		2	33286575451709		
19		1	33286575451691	Pages 8-9 unopened.	
19		2	33286575451683		e011166650
20		1	33286575452129		e011166651
20		2	33286575452111		
21		1	33286575452145		e011166652
21		2	33286575452137		
22		1	33286575452426		e011166653
22		2	33286575452418		
23		1	33286575452327		e011166654
23		2	33286575452343		
24		1	33286575452335		e011166655
24		2	33286575452319		
25		1	33286575452228		e011166656
25		2	33286575452210	Pages 33-36, 37-40 unopened.	
26		1	33286575452244		e011166657
26		2	33286575452236		
27		1	33286575452442		e011166658
27		2	33286575452434		
28		1	33286575452467		e011166659
28		2	33286575452459		
29		1	33286575452095		e011166660
29		2	33286575452087		
29		3	33286575452103		
30		1	33286575452061		e011166661
30		2	33286575452053		
31		1	33286575452491		e011166662
31		2	33286575452509		
32	Aug.- Sept. 1946	1	33286575452475		e011166663

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
32	Aug. - Sept. 1946	2	33286575452483	Pages 33-40 unopened.	

Wow Comics

Dates: 1941-[1946]

Extent: 61 comic books (29 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 20954244

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-07

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-10, 12-30

Copy 2: nos. 1-10, 12-30

Copy 3: nos. 1-2, 26

Publication History:

Wow Comics no. 1 is dated September 1941. The title's first seven issues were published under the Commercial Signs of Canada imprint; no. 8 was the first issue printed after the company name changed to Bell Features. The first eight issues are in colour, but the switch to black and white interiors was made with no. 9. Two issues numbered 10 were printed, apparently by mistake, and no issue 11 for this title exists; the second no. 10 should likely have been no. 11.

Content Notes:

For its first six issues, *Wow Comics* focused on two major characters: 18th century adventurer Dart Daring and interplanetary explorer Whiz Wallace; however, both were phased out by no. 17. After no. 6, *Wow Comics* included a variety of features in the superhero (The Penguin, The Dreamer), spy (Guy Powers: Secret Agent), war (Crash Carson), and western (The Phantom Rider) genres. Jeff Waring, "King of the Amazon," was the title's most prominent character.

Recurring Features:

The Black Falcon (nos. 19-20, 23-25); Clip Curtis (nos. 24-30); Crash Carson (nos. 8-10, 12-16); Dart Daring (nos. 1-17); Doc Stearne (nos. 26-30); The Dreamer (nos. 24-30); Guy Powers: Secret Agent (nos. 14-17, 19-30); Jeff Waring (nos. 7-10, 12-30); The Penguin (nos. 15-30); The Phantom Rider (nos. 16-18, 20-26, 30); Whiz Wallace (nos. 1-17); Woody and the Wolf (nos. 23-30)

Prominent Creators:

Aram Alexanian; Adrian Dingle; Murray Karn; Fred Kelly; Jerry Lazare (a.k.a. Gerald Lazare); E.T. Legault (Edmund T. Legault); Tedd Steele (a.k.a. Ted Steele); Jack Tremblay

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1	Sept. 1941	1	33286575452400		e011166664

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1	Sept. 1941	2	33286575452251		
1	Sept. 1941	3	33286575452269		
2	Nov. 1941	1	33286575452277		e011166665
2	Nov. 1941	2	33286575452285		
2	Nov. 1941	3	33286575452293		
3	Dec. 1941	1	33286575452301		e011166666
3	Dec. 1941	2	33286575452202		
4	Jan. 1942	1	33286575452194		e011166667
4	Jan. 1942	2	33286575452186	Pages 1-4, 57-60, 61-64 unopened.	
5	Feb. 1942	1	33286575452152		e011166668
5	Feb. 1942	2	33286575452160		
6	Mar. 1942	1	33286575452178		e011166669
6	Mar. 1942	2	33286575452079	Pages 5-8 unopened.	
7		1	33286575452392		e011166670
7		2	33286575452384		
8		1	33286575452376		e011166671
8		2	33286575452368		
9		1	33286575452350		e011166672
9		2	33286575452715		
10		1	33286575452814	Page 7-8 torn with loss of content. Two issues numbered 10 were printed; this copy is of the issue that should likely have been no. 11.	
10		2	33286575452822	Two issues numbered 10 were printed; this copy is of the issue that should likely have been no. 11.	e011166673
12		1	33286575452830		e011166674
12		2	33286575452848		
13		1	33286575452913		e011166675
13		2	33286575452921		

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
14		1	33286575452939		e011166676
14		2	33286575452947		
15		1	33286575452731		e011166677
15		2	33286575452723		
16		1	33286575452756		e011166678
16		2	33286575452749		
17		1	33286575452897		e011166679
17		2	33286575452905		
18		1	33286575452871		e011166680
18		2	33286575452889		
19		1	33286575452855		e011166681
19		2	33286575452863		
20		1	33286575452954		e011166682
20		2	33286575452962		
21		1	33286575452970		e011166683
21		2	33286575452988		
22		1	33286575453002		e011166684
22		2	33286575452996		
23		1	33286575452780		e011166685
23		2	33286575452707		
24		1	33286575452764		e011166686
24		2	33286575452772		
25		1	33286575452806	Front and back inside covers feature cut out mask of Capt. Wonder.	e011166687
25		2	33286575452798	Variant: Front and back inside covers feature cut out mask of The Brain.	
26		1	33286575452673	Front and back inside covers feature cut out mask of Capt. Wonder.	e011166688
26		2	33286575452681	Variant: Front and back inside covers feature cut out mask of Spike (from Spike and Mike).	
26		3	33286575452699	Variant: Front and back inside covers feature cut out mask of Spike (from Spike and Mike).	
27		1	33286575452525		e011166689
27		2	33286575452517		
28		1	33286575452632		e011166690
28		2	33286575452616		
29		1	33286575452657		e011166691

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
29		2	33286575452640		
30		1	33286575452624		e011166692
30		2	33286575452665		

The Brain Comics

Dates: [1946]

Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42572878

Shelf List Number: Bell Features BF-08

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 1

Publication History:

This comic book appears to be a proof for a potential new title dedicated to The Brain, a character who appeared regularly in *Active Comics*. This title had been advertised as part of the Bell Features expanded line. The contents, excepting the front and back cover folio, are the same as those of *Triumph Comics* no. 29. The covers and contents are black and white.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286563296918		e011166552*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

The Doodlebugs Comics

Dates: [1946]

Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42573500

Shelf List Number: BF-09

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 1

Publication History:

This appears to be a proof for a potential forthcoming title featuring The Doodlebugs, who had appeared regularly in *Joke Comics*. The contents, excepting the front and back covers and the cover versos, are the same as those of *Triumph Comics* no. 29. The covers and contents are black and white.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286563296926		e011166553*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

F.B.I. Comics

Dates: [1946]

Extent: 4 comic books (2 distinct issues)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 28862169

Shelf List Number: BF-10

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-2

Copy 2: nos. 1-2

Publication History:

This title is not listed in any of the ads for the Bell Features expanded lineup. The two issues are completely different in their contents. No. 1 is fully black and white, covers and interior, and appears to be a proof for a potential forthcoming title. Its contents are the same as *Joke Comics* no. 24, with the exception of the front and back covers and cover versos. Issue no. 2, by contrast, is in full colour. It is dated Oct.-Nov. 1946. The cover shows two prices: 10 cents, and 9 pence; the indicia state "Sole agents and distributors for United Kingdom and Continental Europe, World Distributors Incorporated, Manchester, England." This suggests that the comic was intended for British distribution. Although the front and back covers and cover versos contain the work of Bell Features artists, the interior reprints *Red Seal Comics* no. 15 (Chesler/Dynamic, January 1946). The cover by Adrian Dingle features a re-coloured version of the image of The Wing that had been previously used as the cover for *Joke Comics* no. 23.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286563296744		e011166554*
1		2	33286563296736		
2	Oct.-Nov. 1946	1	33286563296835		e011166555*
2	Oct.-Nov. 1946	2	33286563296843		

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Jet-Man Comics

Dates: [1946]

Extent: 2 comic books

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42582392

Shelf List Number: BF-11

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 1-2

Publication History:

Issue nos. 1 and 2 have the same cover illustration of Jet-Man by Fred Kelly; however, the cover of no. 1 is black and white while no. 2's cover is in colour. The two issues are also completely different in their contents. No. 1 appears to be a proof for a forthcoming Jet-Man title, which had been advertised by Bell Features as part of their expanded line. The contents of no. 1, except for the front and back covers and cover versos, reprint the contents of *Active Comics* no. 26. Issue no. 2, which is in full colour (except the cover versos), is a reprint of issue no. 16 of the American title *Punch Comics* (Chesler Dynamic, January 1946), except the covers and cover versos, which feature Bell Features artists. Although the cover indicates that the issue is no. 10, the indicia identify it as no. 2, and give a publication date of Oct.-Nov. 1946. The issue appears to have been intended for publication in England, with the indicia naming World Distributors Incorporated as the distributor for the United Kingdom and Europe, and the cover showing a price of 10 cents for North America and 9 pence for England.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286563296934	Cover detached from text block.	e011166556*
2	Oct.-Nov. 1946	1	33286563296942		e011166557*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Johnny Canuck Comics

Dates: Sept.-Oct. 1946

Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42623976

Shelf List Number: BF-12

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 2

Publication History:

Johnny Canuck Comics was among the list of titles announced for Bell Features' expanded line. This item appears to have been prepared for distribution in England: the indicia names World Distributors Incorporated as the distributor for the United Kingdom and Europe and the cover shows two prices, 10 cents for North America and 9 pence for England. The issue is in full colour, covers and interior, with the exception of the front and back cover versos. The covers and cover versos are by Bell Features artists (the front cover is a slightly different version of the cover for *Triumph Comics* no. 28, featuring Nels Grant: Private Investigator), but the contents reprint issue no. 1 of the American title *Twinkle Comics* (Spotlight Publishers, May 1945). Johnny Canuck does not appear.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
2	Sept.-Oct. 1946	1	33286563296801		e011166558*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Red Hot Comics

Dates: [1946]

Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42623983

Shelf List Number: BF-13

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 1

Publication History:

This item appears to be a proof for a forthcoming title, *Red Hot Comics*, which had been advertised as part of the expanded Bell Features line. Its contents are the same as *Joke Comics* no. 24, with the exception of the front and back covers and cover versos. The entire issue, including the covers, is black and white.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
1		1	33286563296793		e011166559*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Slam-Bang Comics

Dates: May 1946
Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42623987
Shelf List Number: BF-14

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 7

Publication History:

Printed in full colour and featuring many of Bell Features' established characters written and drawn by Bell Features artists, this was the company's lone successful attempt at publishing full-colour all-Canadian comics in the postwar Canadian market.

Features:

The Blue Raven (revamped version of The Penguin); The Brain; Chik 'n' Fuzz; Guy Powers: Secret Agent; Jeff Waring; Nitro; Out of the Woods; The Polka-Dot Pirate; Salty Lane; Zipp and Zoom

Creators:

Carl & Ed Alton; Clayton Dexter; Adrian Dingle; Murray Karn; René L. Kulbach; Jerry Lazare; John (Hollis) Mason; Ross Mendes; "P. and D."; Thomas (Bill Thomas)

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
7	May 1946	1	33286563296785	Fragile. Colour is off-registered on many pages. The cover is cropped too small for the text block and the text block is damaged as a result.	e011166560

Smasher Comics

Dates: Nov.-Dec. 1946

Extent: 1 comic book

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42573506

Shelf List Number: BF-15

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 11

Publication History:

Although the cover says this is issue no. 7, the indicia indicate that it is no. 11. The front and back covers and cover versos feature the work of Bell Features creators; the cover by Adrian Dingle is a slightly rotated reprint of the cover of *Wow Comics* no. 26, showing Bell Features character The Dreamer. The issue is dated Nov.-Dec. 1946 and appears to have been destined for the U.K. market: World Distributors Incorporated is named in the indicia and the cover shows two prices, 10 cents and 9 pence. With the exception of the front and back inside covers, the comic is in full colour. The contents are a reprint of the American title *Bulls Eye Comics* no. 11 (Chesler/Dynamic, 1944).

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
11	Nov.-Dec. 1946	1	33286563296777	Pages 11-14 unopened.	e011166561*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Terrific Comics

Dates: 1946

Extent: 2 comic books

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42624000

Shelf List Number: BF-16

Holdings:

Copy 1: nos. 2-3

Publication History:

Both issues are in full colour, with the exception of the front and inside back covers, and feature the work of Bell Features creators on the covers and cover versos. Most of the inside content in no. 2, which is dated June 1946, appears to be reprinted from *Atomic Comics* no. 2 (Green Publishing, March 1946). There is no indication on no. 2 that the title was intended for the United Kingdom, but no. 3 bears two cover prices, 10 cents and 9 pence, and the indicia note World Distributors Incorporated as the distributor for the U.K. and Europe. No. 3 is dated Sept.-Oct. 1946 and appears to be a reprint of *Pop-Pop Comics* no. 1 (R.B. Leffingwell and Co., 1945).

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	Link to Ecopy (PDF)
2	June 1946	1	33286563296751		e011166562*
3	Sept.-Oct. 1946	1	33286563296769		e011166563*

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.

Unusual Comics

Dates: Sept.-Oct. [1946]

Extent: 2 comic books (1 distinct issue)

Control Numbers:

AMICUS Number: 42624014

Shelf List Number: BF-17

Holdings:

Copy 1: no. 1

Copy 2: no. 1

Publication History:

The indicia give the publication date as “Sept. Oct.” but do not include a year. World Distributors Incorporated is listed as the distributor for the United Kingdom and Europe, and the cover shows two prices – 10 cents and 6 pence – suggesting that the comic was intended for distribution in the U.K. The issue is in full colour, excepting the cover versos. The covers and cover versos feature Bell Features artists, but the content is a reprint of the American title *Red Seal Comics* no. 16 (Chesler/Dynamic, April 1946). This comic features many of the same characters as *F.B.I. Comics* no. 2, which is a reprint of *Red Seal Comics* no. 15.

Detailed Holdings:

Issue No.	Date	Copy No.	Barcode	Condition Notes	
1		1	33286563296819		e011166564*
1		2	33286563296827		

* Digitization note: Only cover folio has been digitized.