



The Clown King (Monochrome Edition): Popular Entertainment 1840-1860 (Paperback)

By MR Gareth H H Davies

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.A version of this book with colour illustrations is also available. The Clown King is a microhistory of popular entertainment in the period 1840 - 1860 woven out of the career of Arthur Nelson, the Clown King. Born around 1816, Nelson began as an actor in provincial and minor theatres before specialising as a talking or Shakespearean clown. While some contemporaries wrote accounts of their lives, Nelson left no such formal record and yet, as one of the most popular clowns at the time, his career was one full of interest. Traced through playbills, advertisements and newspaper reports of the period, he moved seamlessly between circus ring and pantomime stage, as well as performing in concert halls with his musical novelties. His benefit stunt, being drawn in a washing tub by four geese, although not original, drew huge crowds when performed in a town or city. This was to end with disaster in 1845 at Great Yarmouth, when spectators watching from the suspension bridge over the river Bure were propelled into the river causing the largest loss of life there has ever...



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