

ORIGIN OF BLACK FACE



MINSTREL SHOW

- White male performers in burnt-cork blackface makeup portrayed blacks in a series of songs, dances and comedy sketches. The caricature exaggerated black speech patterns by using non-Standard English.



THOMAS DARTMOUTH RICE

Popularized the song "Jump Jim Crow"

Thomas Dartmouth Rice and Jim Crow

- Thomas Dartmouth Rice (1808-1860) was the first American to popularize black face with a character he created named Jim Crow and performed across the country.
 - The origins of Jim Crow have been lost to history, but it is believed to be based on African American characters in song and legends from the time period.
 - “Jim Crow” was always shown with tattered clothes, singing, and uneducated.
- Pro-slavery groups and Southerners used the “Jim Crow” character to depict slavery as generally benign, slaves as generally happy, and as justifying slavery as civilizing “uneducated African Americans.”



DANIEL EMMETT, VIRGINIA MINSTRELS, 1840

- He too had a professional touring minstrelsy. He had 3 partners in his act and would use physical caricature, violins, castanets, banjos and tambourines. for white entertainment to demean African Americans, to promote and reassure immigrants and others at the bottom of the economic ladder that their status was at least higher than blacks and exploit black culture for white profit.

WM. H. WEST'S MINSTREL JUBILEE



W.H. West



MINSTRELSY BECAME SUCCESSFUL

- These performers were sometimes called "Ethiopian Delineators" and the shows were popularly referred to as "Coon Shows" and "Picaninny"
- Rice, and his imitators, by their stereotypical depictions of Blacks, helped to popularize the belief that Blacks were lazy, stupid, inherently less human, and unworthy of integration. During the years that Blacks were being victimized by lynch mobs, they were also victimized by the racist caricatures propagated through novels, sheet music, theatrical plays, and minstrel shows.

CHILDREN



ZIP COON

ON THE GO-AHEAD PRINCIPLE.



I went down to Sandy hollar t'other arternoon,
 I went down to Sandy hollar t'other arternoon,
 I went down to Sandy hollar t'other arternoon,
 An de first man I chanc'd to meet war ole Zip Coon,
 Ole Zip Coon he is a larn'd scholar,
 Ole Zip Coon he is a larn'd scholar,
 Ole Zip Coon he is a larn'd scholar,
 For he plays upon de banjo, "Cooney in de hollar."
 Tadle tadle, tudle, tudle, tuadellel dump,
 O tuadellel, tuadellel, tuadellel dump,
 Ri tum tuadellel, tuadelleldee.

MINING, at the sign of the Barber's Pole, No. 62, Hanover Street, Boston, and at MIDDLEBURY, Vt. 英國五洲通商

Did you eber see he wild goose sailing on a ocean,
 Did you eber, &c.
 De wild goose motion is a mighty pretty notion,
 De wild goose wink and he beacon to de swallow,
 De wild goose wink, &c.
 An de wild goose hollar google, googie gollar.

I spose you heard ob de battle New Orleans,
 I spose yon heard, &c.
 Whar ole ginerall Jackson gib de British beans;
 Dare the Yankee boys de de job so slick,
 Dare de Yankee, &c.
 For dey cotch Pakenham, an row'd him up de creek.

Away down south dare close to the moon,
 Away down, &c.
 Dare lives a nullifier what they call Calhoun,
 When ginerall Jackson kills Calhoun,
 When ginerall, &c.
 Why de berry next President be ole Zip Coon.

He try to run ole Hickory down,
 He try to run, &c.
 But he strike a snag an run aground,
 Dis snag by gum war a wapper,
 Dis snag by, &c.
 And sent him into dock to get a new copper.

In Phil a del fie is old Biddle's Bank,
 In Phil a del fie, &c.
 Ole Hickory zamin'd him an found him rather crauk
 He tell Nick to go and not make a muss,
 He tell Nick to go, &c.
 So hurrah for Jackson he's de boy for us.

Possum on a log play wid im toes,
 Possum on a log, &c.
 Up comes a guinea hog and off he goes,
 Buffalo in cane break, ole owl in a bush,
 Buffalo in a canebreak, &c.
 Laffin at de blacksnake trying to eat mush.

BLACKS AS MINSTRELS

- Ironically, years later when Blacks replaced White minstrels, the Blacks also "blackened" their faces, thereby pretending to be Whites pretending to be Blacks. They, too, performed the Coon Shows which dehumanized Blacks and helped establish the desirability of racial segregation.
- African American entertainer Sam Lucas played in a production of Uncle Tom's Cabin, it was one of the only ways to break into the entertainment business. They were paid less money but used this service as a way to make a living

1950

AMOS AND ANDY
POPULAR RADIO SHOW.
LATER TO BECOME A
TELEVISION COMEDY
WAS PRODUCED.



BLACKFACE: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF A RACIST ART FORM

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqID-eZm1ck>