

A LADY TEACHING A RAGGED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

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The ragged school and ragged Sunday School movements date back to the mid-nineteenth century, and were aimed at helping the very poorest children in society. A Newcastle-upon-Tyne fundraiser around that time alluded to “the stray waifs of our youthful population, who cannot be induced to attend our ordinary Sunday Schools.”¹

The slide shown here was made by the London firm, Newton & Co of Fleet Street (by permission of Messrs S.W. Partridge & Co.), which *Lucerna* informs us was active between 1873 and 1905 at 9 Paternoster Row, London EC, England – a street well-known for publishing firms. This slide is marked ‘AIW 8’, but is clearly part of the same set, if not the same slide as *Lucerna*’s ‘A Lady teaching a Ragged Sunday School Class’, Slide 3 of *Among the London poor*. According to *Lucerna* this is a lecture, originally a set of 13 slides (in or before 1899) with 120 additional slides added later in batches up to 1913.² A name appears at the very bottom right, which could be ‘Lucie C. Payne’ or ‘Lucien Payne’.

Significant to modern eyes is the fact that although one girl is barefoot, they all wear ribboned and flower-bedecked hats to Sunday School. Boots and coats are also in evidence. A posed picture – or observing the propriety of ‘Sunday best’ for church? The charm of the teacher’s kindly demeanour is nonetheless evident.



REFERENCES

1. J.H. Rutherford, ‘Proposed Albert Memorial Orphanage and Schools’, 1864. In *19th Century British Pamphlets – Cowan Tracts*, the personal collection of Joseph Cowen (1829-1900) held at Newcastle University
2. Lucerna Magic Lantern Web Resource, lucerna.exeter.ac.uk, item 5084248