

= The Girls He Left Behind Him and The Iron Clad Lover =

The Girls He Left Behind Him and The Iron Clad Lover are two 1910 American silent short comedies produced by the Thanhouser Company . Both films were originally released together on a single reel and are two distinct and separate subjects . The Girls He Left Behind Him focuses on a young man , Jack Redfern , who receives a letter from an old sweetheart of his . This prompts him to reminiscence about all the girls he has had affections for on the eve of his wedding . All the old sweethearts of his life then appear at his wedding to wish him well . The Iron Clad Lover concerns two suitors who are vying for the affections of Bessie . Tom , who plays a game of chess with her father , ends up quarreling with him and he is thrown out of the house . The next day , Tom attempts to bring flowers and candy for Bessie 's birthday , but is dismissed by the angry father . Tom decides to dress up in a suit of armor and ends up breaking a vase when trying to announce himself . The suit of armor is thrown out and Bessie and the other suitor chase down the junk dealer to free Tom from the suit of armor . Both films were released on December 9 , 1910 and were met with positive reviews by The Moving Picture World and The New York Dramatic Mirror . Both films are presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the films are presumed lost , the synopsis of both film survive in The Moving Picture World from December 10 , 1910 . The plot of the The Girls He Left Behind Him follows Jack Redfern , a young bachelor , who is soon to be married . Jack receives a letter in feminine handwriting from an " old sweetheart " of his , stating how glad she is to hear of his approaching marriage . Jack goes through visions , remembering the various girls of his life and his interactions with each of them . Betty , Kate , Tootsie , Elizabeth , Clara , Jeanette , and Helen . According to the synopsis , the last vision he has is of all the old sweethearts of his waving good luck to him as he marries Mary . Though a review states that he awakes and is obliged to hurry to his wedding . Bowers believes the synopsis to be in error and that the film actually concluded with all the girls present at the wedding , rather than it being a " vision " .

For the Iron Clad Lover : " Dick makes love to Bessie while Tom plays a game of chess with her father . Tom , naturally nervous , plays such a poor game that he and the old man quarrel and Tom is ordered from the house . Next day is Bessie 's birthday . Tom brings a bouquet and a box of candy . But he is turned away from the house and has the gifts thrown at his head by Bessie 's father . Dick arrives and is welcomed . Tom , in desperation , buys a suit of armor , puts it on and has himself delivered to the house as a present to Bessie . Dick finds out that Tom is inside the armor and makes life miserable for him , blowing cigar smoke through the visor and making love to Bessie . Tom , unable to stand this , tries to announce himself , but only succeeds in stumbling over and breaking a valuable vase . Bessie 's pa has the ' armor ' thrown out . Dick 's conscience makes him tell Bessie that Tom was in the armor and they started the rescue . They were horrified to learn that the old man has sold the armor to a junk dealer ; and Dick and Bessie have an exciting chase before the junk man is rounded up , when it takes combined efforts of a policeman , locksmith , and plumber to release Tom from his iron suit . "

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenarios are unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The film directors are unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil and / or Lucius J. Henderson . Cameramen employed by the company during this era included Blair Smith , Carl Louis Gregory , and Alfred H. Moses , Jr. though none are specifically credited . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . The cast credits of both films are unknown , but many 1910 Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list includes G.W. Abbe , Justus D.

Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , Mrs. George Walters .

= = Release and reception = =

The Girls He Left Behind Him and The Iron Clad Lover were released together on a single reel , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet in length , on December 9 , 1910 . Both films are comedies , but Thanhouser advertisements refer to The Girls He Left Behind Him as a drama . The individual lengths of the reels are not known for certain , but the Thanhouser Company Film Preservation lists The Girls He Left Behind Him as being three @-@ quarters of a reel and The Iron Clad Lover as half a reel in length . This is listed as an approximation of the relative expected lengths of the production , which could have been about 625 feet and 400 feet in length and still be a single reel . Very few advertisements for the films have been found , but the films likely had a wide national release . One advertisement featuring both films was found in Missouri , but The Girls He Left Behind Him was advertised without its other half and with slightly different spellings in Wisconsin and another Missouri theater . Selig would release a similarly titled work The Girl He Left Behind in 1912 .

The Girls He Left Behind Him received praise from the reviewer from The Moving Picture World who stated , " [It is a] comedy , not by any means original , but with a sentimental touch , ... this excellent film has placed in visible form these visions of the past which often haunt the middle aged or the younger person who about to take some important step . The mechanical work is well done and the audience follows the picture with interest . " The New York Dramatic Mirror also gave it faint praise by stating that " The picture has some novelty and interest . " For The Iron Clad Lover received minor praise from both publications for being a novel even if the story was impossible .