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#### Origin of "ALAGAZAM" the Quaint Musical Number.

Quaint Musical Number.

The advent of each new year is prolific in the exploitation of fresh musical literature. For weeks—in some cases months—prior to that time, it has been a custom with composers all over the country to delay the publication of their works for the incoming year, in order that they may gain the advantage of a longer period of copyright and also to begin the new term of time with new material. The month of January will embrace many new dance pieces and terpsichorean compositions, and already scores of these works are keeping the musical presses and designers busy. Chief among these is the two-tep, which, like its rag-time conferrer, the coon ditty, seems never to fade. There is the Military schottische, which is also still in vogue, and the "dance eccentrique"—or cake walk—which is also tolerated to a painful degree.

One of the leading efforts in this line is a non-descript creation called "Alagazam." This quaint title, with ridiculously conceived purport, would have nothing to commend itself to music lovers were it not that there is quite a significance to its birth, and also the fact that the composer has wedded a most tantalizing concatenation of melody to his composition. He has, in short, invoked every phase of his art to fescinate the car by a series of tuneful measures which may be whistled, played or danced with every degree of abandon.

But it seems to matter very little these days what kind of a title a songwriter or composer bestows upon his work, so long as the jingle is there. The author of "Alagazam," Abe Holzmann, has possibly experienced this truism in the past, for, despite the ludicrous titles of some of his previous compositions, such as "Smoky Mokes," "Bunch o' Black-"

"ALAGAZAM!"





berries ""Hunky Dory," "Blaze Away, "and others, these effusions have reached an indescribable output and have won popularity to a vest extent, not only in this, but in other countries. "Alagazam" is a cakewalk, march and two-step all combined, and the author explains his freak title by affirming that it suggested itself to him while on a trip in the South, where he saw a colored regime "that, while marking time during drill to the strains of the "Blaze-Aw.y" march, were uttering a peculiar refrain which sounded like "Alagazam—Alagazam—Alagazam—Zam" repeating it constantly until the order was given to "Forward, March!" Orchestris throughout the country are already on tiptoe of expectation for this new production.

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# "AN AFTERNOON TEA"

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