

<u>Little Bears, The</u>	<u>Jimmy Swinnerton</u>							<u>1901</u>
Title of feature	Creator(s)							Year
Alternate Titles: The Argonauts, Baby Monarch, Jubilee Bears, The Little Bear, Little Bears and Tykes								

Size Most dailies:
 * Indicates date is uncertain. % Indicates strip is on verso of another feature.
 Sundays appear in red and bold.

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Notes from Stripper's Guide: Originally created as a Hearst mascot for the San Francisco Mid-Winter Exposition of 1894, the Little Bear started out as a semi-realistic representation of a bear as drawn by Frank "Cozy" Noble on 10/9/1893. The assignment to draw a daily bear illustration was then given to Swinnerton who's first bear appeared 10/14/1893 (the illustration was a duplicate of one that appeared in the Examiner 3/10/1893). The bear at this time was named "Baby Monarch". These illustrations accompanied news about the fair that appeared daily on page 4 of the Examiner. Within a few weeks, Swinnerton's bear had evolved from a fairly straight illustration into a cute cartoon bear cub. A special fair issue of the paper on 1/28/1894 contained 108 different cartoons of the Little Bear - normally there was just one; an artist signing himself Nappenbach did some of the bear cartoons for this special issue. The Little Bear stopped appearing for several months after the close of the fair, but was brought back on 9/10/1894, then as a semi-regular cartoon accompanying the weather report starting 10/2/1894. Until 5/1895 the bear was only used on the weather report and for occasional spot illustrations. On 6/2/1895 a semi-regular feature was inaugurated on the children's page called "The Little Bears" (first titled thus on 8/11/1895), usually consisting of multiple cartoons of the bears tied in with a common theme. On 1/26/1896 human children were added to the feature and the feature started to be called "Little Bears And Tykes" (misrepresented as tigers in some references). Swinnerton continued doing Little Bears cartoons sporadically even after he moved to the NY Journal (examples known include 4/30/1899 and 6/30/1901) but the consistent series by Swinnerton ends 6/7/1897 (except for a panel on 9/2/1900). Other artists continued the Little Bear for years in the Examiner (including Grant Wallace, Yardley and Bob Edgren), but only as spot cartoons and for the weather forecast.