

# The Emerald Reader's Page

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## Politico-Musicomedy Development Attributed To Kaufman and Ryskind

### Chapter Three in the Saga of 'George S.' And How He Became America's Most Successful Playwright Financially

By LLOYD TUPLING

The year 1932 may not go down in the history of the American theater as a great year, but it will have to go down on some kind of record as the year when Morrie Ryskind and George S. Kaufman gave the stage something native and something independent—a new kind of musical comedy. For their gently lampooning of three-ring circus tactics of politicians in particular and the entire American scene in general, they won the Pulitzer prize for 1932.

Up to the time when "Of Thee I Sing" hit Broadway, musical comedies were either adaptations of German and Austrian musicals which when placed on the American stage looked like they had hadn't taken out their first papers yet, or, Critic George Jean Nathan observes, were "so-called romantic musical comedies with their proud princesses in love with the humble navy lieutenants or humble slaves cinderellaed by proud princes, the revues with their peafowl ladies and their vaudeville comedians, and the Continental importations adapted to what has been believed to be the American taste by the insertion of a sufficient number of facetious allusions to congress, Yonkers, and Miss Aimee Semple McPherson.

**Band Introduced It**  
"It remained for the authors of "Of Thee I Sing" two years ago (1930) to introduce into this swamp, in the show called "Strike Up the Band," the novel bloom that paved the way for the fuller and more highly perfumed hot-house that the present show is."

"In 'Strike Up the Band,' a sound brand of broad satire was applied to the American music stage of our time. That broad satire, smeared generously upon a slapstick, is now applied again, and very much more thwackingly and amusingly, in 'Of Thee I Sing.'"

"Of Thee I Sing" is the sad story of John P. Wintergreen, candidate for president of the United States, and later his plight when elected to that office. That in itself does not explain the hilarious swirl of incongruity and buffoonery which revolves around the Wintergreen regime.

Wintergreen is ushered into the play with the sound of a brass band and the echoes of a political rally. The first scene is brevity in the costume. Several players march across the stage carrying signs "Vote for Wintergreen," "Wintergreen—the Flavor Lasts," "The Full Dinner Jacket." They sing: "He's the man the people choose—He loves the Irish and the Jews." The curtain goes down.  
(To be continued)

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## He Sets It the 'Old Fashioned Way'



Dr. John Henry Nash . . . internationally known printer, whose latest volume, "Religio Medici" by Sir Thomas Browne, was published this week by the University of Oregon for the Limited Editions club. The famous typographer set every line of the book himself, executed borders and decorations. He considers it one of his best works. Dr. Nash is shown above as he worked on "Religio Medici" in his workshop in McClure hall, where he is permanently established.

## 'Religio Medici' Latest Volume Printed by John Henry Nash

Sir Thomas Browne's "Religio Medici," the first volume of major importance to be printed since he established his press here, was published this week, it was announced Friday by John Henry Nash, internationally famed printer.

A printing of 1500 signed and numbered copies will be delivered to members of the Limited Editions club, for which it was specially printed. The book, which is expected to take its place with the foremost examples of modern printing, is the first volume by the former San Francisco master printer to bear the designation, "Eugene: University of Oregon," thus making this institution one of the centers of the world's finest book printing, it was pointed out by Dean Eric W. Allen of the school of journalism.

Every line of type in the book was set by hand by Dr. Nash, who designed and executed borders and decorations for what he considers one of his best works. The paper is a light India tone of Broadcast Text, one of the best made by Strathmore, and the type is beautiful light face Cloister. The cover stock in mottled dark India, blue, and cream tones, came from Germany.

Included in the book as a special feature is the title page of the original edition of 1642, originally engraved by William Marshall and re-engraved in copper for this printing by Dolph Henry Murnik. It depicts a man about to fall into an abyss at the base of a cliff, while a hand, presumably that of a physician, reaches down from heaven to rescue him. The frontispiece is a picture of Sir Thomas Browne, beneath which is a facsimile of his signature.

The volume is a faithful reproduction of Browne's first authorized manuscript, first printed in 1642. It also contains the foreword which the author made the printer insert, in which the printer is soundly reproached for publishing, without the author's consent, an edition a year earlier.

In an introduction, written in a charming and understanding style, the writing of "Religio Medici" by the beloved doctor of the early seventeenth century is described by Geoffrey Keynes, London physician.

The manuscript was written when Browne was quite young, Dr. Kenyes points out, and for a number of years circulated among the physician's friends in manuscript form. Brown apparently had no thought of having it printed until the unauthorized edition was called to his attention. He then edited the manuscript for publication.

Dr. John Henry Nash, who is also a member of the faculty of the journalism school at the University, will do his work in his shop here henceforth. This is his fourth volume for the Limited Editions club. A number of other volumes are planned for the near future.

**ABOUT A REPORTER**  
Negley Parson, author of "The Way of a Transgressor," has written a novel, whose central figure is a famous America newspaperman, called "The Story of a Lake." It will be published February 23 by Harcourt Brace.

**SERVANTS AND EMPLOYERS**  
"A Good Home With Nice People" is the title of a new novel by Josephine Lawrence, who also wrote "If I Have Four Apples." It deals with overworked servants and their inconsiderate employers.

## Literary Life Said Not All Roses

The Victorian age in England is not yet dead, according to Whit Burnett, editor of Story. He calls his latest book, the first in four years, "The Literary Life and the Hell With It," an "explanation of the literary life and not a malediction."

One London publisher, on considering the English edition, suggested that the British change the title to "The Literary Life and Deuce Take It."

Says Mr. Burnett: "It's skillful, but beside the point."

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## Story of Liberal Told by Villard

### Journalist's Life Told in 'Fighting Years' Memoirs

Oswald Garrison Villard's "Fighting Years, Memoirs of a Liberal Editor," is now going through the press and will be published on March 23. The career of this foremost American journalist has touched the lives of leading men and women in the United States and abroad.

One of the outstanding features of "Fighting Years" is Mr. Villard's detailed story of his great and tragic friendship for Woodrow Wilson. It was Villard who suggested to Wilson the famous phrase "too proud to fight," which brought down so much abuse upon that president's head in 1915.

It was Villard who published the sensational Secret Treaties early in 1917 against the wishes of the Allies, which pacts were keys to allied policy. These were the treaties of which Mr. Wilson denied having any knowledge until he reached Paris. Mr. Villard throws new and probably conclusive light upon the correctness of this statement, over which bitter controversy raged.

**THE STORY OF AN ACTRESS**  
Kathrine Cornell's autobiography, "I Wanted to Be an Actress," will include the complete cast of every play in which she has appeared, significant reviews of her plays, a chapter on Miss Cornell's countrywide tour in 1935, and many pictures of the actress as a young girl in Buffalo and in her more famous roles.

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## Betty Jane Thompson Gains Recognition With Scientific Article

### 'The Willamette Meteor in History' Read at Annual Meeting of Astronomical Society in Richmond, Virginia

Betty Jane Thompson, prominent junior in journalism at the University, broke into national scientific circles recently with an article, "The Willamette Meteorite in History," it was announced Friday by J. Hugh Pruett, astronomer in the general extension division.

A story in the February issue of Popular Astronomy brought to the attention of Mr. Pruett the fact that the paper was presented and read before delegates to the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Meteorites at Richmond, Virginia, December 29-30, 1938.

### Denver Man Reader

Miss Thompson was not present at the meeting, but her paper was read by Dr. H. H. Nininger of Denver, president of the society and a world authority on meteorites. The paper was illustrated by lantern slides sent from Eugene.

Probably no one has done as much work on the history of this famous meteorite as has Miss Thompson. It will be recalled that the 16-ton object, found in 1902 on a hillside across the river from Oregon City, is the largest of its kind ever found in the United States and Canada, and the fifth in size in the entire world.

The finder of the Willamette, Ellis Hughes, secretly moved it to his own land and thus provoked a lawsuit which finally ended in the state supreme court, where he was deprived of his find on the grounds that "a meteorite is real estate and belongs to the owner of the land where found."

### Model on Campus

The Willamette, a life-size model of which stands on the porch of McClure hall, was bought in 1906 for \$20,600 and moved it to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. There it has since remained. A beautifully etched slab of this meteorite was presented by this museum to the University of Oregon in June 1938. It is now on display at the museum in Condon hall.

Last July, Miss Thompson, David Hunter, and Orin Wechsler, all University students, went—as representatives of the American Meteorite Society—to Clackamas county and studied original settings at first hand. They visited the depression in the hillside from which the huge metallic mass was moved early in the century. They found particles of the nickel and iron oxide which formed under the me-

eteorite as it lay in the damp ground for an undetermined length of time.

They interviewed many people who were connected with the early history of Willamette. Among these were H. S. Crooker, a former University student who now conducts a fox farm on the land where it was found, Harold Johnson, whose father guarded the object while the law suit was on, and Ellis Hughes—now 77—who is still quite bitter over the court decision.

After her return from the Willamette vicinity, Miss Thompson plunged at once into study of the historical side of the subject. Not the slightest reference was overlooked. Records in the University library were thoroughly searched. Correspondence with the Oregon Historical society brought more information. By late autumn, such a mass of information was collected that a book could have been written on the subject.

Miss Thompson did such an excellent job of finally condensing the story into 4,000 words that when her paper was sent to Dr. R. W. Webb of UCLA, secretary of the Society for Research on Meteorites he at once recognized its merit, and announced that it would be given a place on the printed program for the Richmond meeting the last week in December. A short form of Miss Thompson's paper will be published in the March issue of Popular Astronomy.

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so much excitement  
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the program  
to a group,  
some of whom  
had not heard  
it.

"... the gas  
is  
getting me!  
I can't  
stand it  
much  
longer! . . .  
. . . I've  
got to . . .  
. . . then the  
announcer's  
voice  
stopped.  
After a long pause,  
an amateur  
operator's  
voice  
frantically  
started . . .

Calling I Q  
Calling I Q  
Calling I Q

She meant of course  
to say,  
"Calling C Q"  
which is a  
"ham"  
operator's  
call of  
general inquiry  
for anyone  
within listening range  
to respond.  
Maybe she didn't  
miss it  
far  
at that,  
for  
daily  
your I Q  
is called to respond  
to  
spoken  
and written  
claims  
that test  
your  
credulity.  
But this  
simple truth  
you can  
believe

If  
good health  
comes from  
good food  
to any degree,  
then  
better health  
can be  
maintained  
if  
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is part  
of your  
daily diet

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