

"I would fain see this meeting,"
—As You Like It, III, 3



The Players Bulletin

GRAMERCY PARK NOVEMBER, 1928

Stop! Look! Listen!

Expressions of opinion found in this palladium of the liberties of The Players—especially such as exhibit venomous bias, ribaldry, reprehensible light-mindedness, deep constructive thought, or other varieties of pure reason—are to be read as the personal animadversions of the Editor. Enraged subscribers will not write threatening letters to The Board of Directors, the House Committee, or other official citizens because of their just rage. On the contrary they are invited to lay loving knuckles on the editorial jaw—if they feel duly qualified. This notice will be printed but once. Regular objectors among our members will please memorize it.

Special Meeting

Monday, November 5, 1928, two p. m.

The Board of Directors has called a special meeting of The Players, to be held in the library of the Club-house, on Monday, November 5, 1928, at two o'clock p. m., in response to the following petition, signed by more than twenty-five members of the Club:—

To the Board of Directors:

The undersigned twenty-five members, pursuant to Section 2 of Article XII of the Constitution of The Players, hereby request the Board of Directors to call a special meeting of the

Club for the following object, namely: for the proposal, seconding and putting to the vote the following resolution, and any amendment or amendments thereto, proposed at the meeting:

WHEREAS, the members of The Players have been informed by The Players' Bulletin, dated October, 1928, that "The Beaux' Stratagem" as revived by The Players will take the road this season, playing the principal cities of the country. The production is to be billed as under the auspices of the Club, and under the business management of Mr. George C. Tyler. A satisfactory financial arrangement has been made, so that The Players will share in the success of the venture.

This is the first of The Players' revivals to go on the road, and such of our members as reside in other metropoli than this are urged to do their best for the production when it comes to the local opry-house," now therefore it be and hereby is

RESOLVED, that it is unbecoming to the traditions and the dignity of the Club, and not consonant with its welfare nor with its objects, nor with the purposes of the Founder, that the Club or its Directors permit any commercial production to be billed as under the auspices of the Club, or to assent to the commercial use of the name of the Club in connection with any theatrical production or in connection with any other enterprise.

And that it be and hereby is further

RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors be and hereby is requested to instruct the Secretary forthwith to take all steps necessary to terminate any and all existing arrangements in respect of the aforementioned production of "The Beaux' Stratagem" which are not in accord herewith or which are not within the powers of the Board of Directors as defined by the Constitution of the Club.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

WALTER HAMPDEN, President
OTIS SKINNER, Vice-President
FREDERIC C. MILLS, Treasurer
WILLIAM COURTLIGH
ARTHUR GOODRICH
GEORGE MIDDLETON
HENRY S. WATSON
JOHN CARRINGTON YATES
CLAYTON HAMILTON, Secretary

Irresponsible Comment on the Above

Any member or members is or are within his or their rights when they formulate, sign and present a petition to The Board of Directors. Petitions are a good thing for the Club: they take the minds of the members away from other pressing matters such as the month's rent, the tailor's bill, Presidential Elections, the decadence of rye whiskey, or being joined as a co-respondent. If a man has domestic trouble at breakfast he can rush to the Club and draw up a petition; thus taking it out on the Board when it would be too hazardous to take it out on his wife. You cannot present a petition to your wife. Petitions usually are of vital interest to the gentleman who drafts them, after which numerous members will sign because of the common human weakness to attach their names to anything from the walls of public buildings to promissory notes. We know nothing about the merits of the present petition, but as it is open season for such antics, we welcome it because it takes up space in this periodical. The meeting to act upon it will be held on Monday, November 5, 1928, at two p. m. and a good time doubtless will be had by all. Should it, by chance, carry, everybody will be in a most uncomfortable position, which will give rise to a great deal of pleasant conversation throughout the winter months.

The Year Book

The Year Book is out, but as yet we have seen no reviews by competent critics. It seems to be the same old plot and there are fewer changes in characters than might have been feared since the issuance of the last book. In order to save eight cents postage, John is slipping a copy into the overcoat pocket of each member who visits the house. This seems a Republican measure, and savors of Mr. Coolidge. Democratic members are at liberty to write and circulate a petition protesting against such official commendation of our recent Administration of Economy.

Pipe Night

Mr. Gene Lockhart opens the season of Pipe

Nights on November Third. Mr. Lockhart needs no introduction to the audience, but those who have heard him upon the flageolet, put forward the claim that at last this instrument has entered the ring once too often. Mr. Lockhart also talks and, in his idle moments, plays the stereoscope or the stethoscope.

This periodical is starting a campaign whose slogan is: A seat for everybody on Pipe Nights. Within hearing distance of the program. Inasmuch as this is impossible of accomplishment, we are petitioning the Board of Directors to do something about it.

The John Drew Fund

That fund which has been created in part as a Memorial to John Drew should be brought to the attention of every member of this Club. The purpose of this fund is to provide a sum of money from which assistance may be tendered to Players who may, from time to time and by reason of illness or misfortune, find themselves in need of financial assistance. Donations from members will be very welcome. It also has been suggested that members, in their testamentary disposition of their property, shall include a clause bequeathing to this fund a small or great share of their estates. In the past, occasions of this sort have been met by private subscription but that method is imperfect and unsatisfactory. A proper and wisely administered fund, has become a necessity.

Player and Plumber

The Players owes its origin to a plumber according to a bit of historical data brought to our notice by Mr. Frank Casey: Mr. Booth, at that time a resident of Westchester County, found himself in dire need of a new heating system for his house. In this emergency he called in a plumber who took Our Founder out to show him samples. One of these samples as a plant installed in a pretentious home in the vicinage. Admission was obtained and Mr. Booth was being shown furnace and radiators and the like, when the master of the house became aware of in-

vaders, and appeared to ask questions. Introductions followed, the plumber taking that social responsibility, and Mr. Booth was made known to Commodore Benedict. From this meeting a friendship developed, one result of which was that famous cruise upon Commodore Benedict's yacht which resulted in the formation of this Club.

Appointment

Mr. Grant Mitchell has been appointed a member of the Committee on Admissions in place of Mr. Henry Stephenson, resigned.

Our Next Revival

The Committee in Charge of the Public Performance of The Players next spring has been chosen by the Board of Directors. It consists of: Daniel Frohman, Chairman, Harry G. Sommers, Business Manager, Alfred E. Aarons, Harold W. Gould, Eugene Powers, Otis Skinner and A. E. Thomas.

Round Table-manners

Certain of the Elder Statesmen who mumble their food at the Round Table at luncheon time were heard on Monday last to ask the following interesting, if hypothetical, question: Now that the Club has a new, extensive, efficient, all but sumptuous kitchen, when may we expect them to commence to cook food in it?

George Barr McCutcheon

With the sudden passing of George Barr McCutcheon on October 21st, we have lost a writer who spent more than thirty years of his life bringing romance into the humdrum lives of millions of people. "Graustark" is a household—almost a dictionary—word; indeed its creator had hundreds of letters asking for the exact location on the map of that fascinating little kingdom. McCutcheon won fame and fortune, but he won much more than that—the affection and devotion

of all those with whom he came in contact as well as the loyalty of his readers, as the thousands of letters from his unknown friends amply testify. Simple, modest, unassuming he was, with a genial humor and ready smile. But George's outstanding qualities perhaps were friendliness and loyalty. I cannot refrain from alluding to his twenty-five years' association with his publishers. In many respects it was a unique relationship and a remarkable comment on the character of the man. Not once in all those years did the faintest friction or misunderstanding arise, and he was known to his publishers always as the Ideal Author.

George knew and loved books and pictures and became a noted collector and connoisseur. A part of his library, more particularly his first-*editions* of Stevenson, Hardy and Kipling, were recently sold at Anderson's and were among the finest examples extant of those rarities.

For the past eighteen months his health was a matter of serious concern to himself and his friends, and his death leaves a void in the hearts of those to whom he was dear, for few men had to a greater degree the sweetness of character, that lovable spirit which fosters lasting affection.

FRANK C. DODD.

In Memoriam

W. F. ETHERINGTON
GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

Qualified for Membership

ROBERT C. ADAMS
ARTHUR S. ALLEN
BEAUVAIS FOX
ARTHUR HOPKINS
HUGH McNAIR KAHLER
HAROLD McGEE
LINTON WELLS

Proposals for Membership

Philip Leigh, actor, by Frank Gillmore and Dudley Digges
William Meade Prince, illustrator, by O. F. Howard and Eugene McNerney, Jr.

Arthur D. Howden Smith, author, by Joseph Cummings Chase and Carl Brandt.
C. Henry Gordon, actor, by Frederick G. Lewis and John Rutherford.
Capt. Achmed Abdullah, author, by Thomas Fogarty and William Farquhar Payson

Dramatis Personae

While it is regretted that Freddie Steele with his insecure pants cannot resume his part in the cast of "The Beaux' Stratagem," the other members of that company of Players have been duly signed and the play has gone into rehearsal. The cast includes: Raymond Hitchcock, J. T. Powers, Wallace Eddinger, Wilfrid Seagram, John Westley, Brandon Tynan, Percy Ames, Howard Kyle, Henry E. Dixey, S. Miller Kent, Frances Starr, Fritzi Scheff, Mary Shaw, and Phyllis Povah. If this is not astronomy, we do not know stars when we see them.

Splendid Gift

Though Mr. Dixie Hines was not one of our oldest members, nevertheless his affection for the Club was such that he has made us his beneficiaries by leaving to us his remarkable and immensely valuable collection of press clippings and programs. This collection includes the press notice of every play produced during the past thirty years, and is so arranged in filing cabinets that any desired bit of information may be found almost instantly. Also his generosity increased our library by upwards of two hundred books

Library Notes

During the month of October the following items were added to The Players' collection:
Cross worn by Adelaide Neilson in the character of "Juliet." The gift of John H. Ingraham.
Pen used by Augustin Daly. The gift of Eric Hatch.

BOOKS

"Troupers of the Gold Coast or the Rise of Lotta Crabtree." The gift of Harold Hendee.

"Savage Club Papers," "Savage Club Souvenir"
and "The Savage Club Papers." Received from
E. French Strother.

"The Phantom Lover" by George Kaiser. The
gift of Paul Kennaday.

"Deburau" by Jules Janin. The gift of Robert
McBride and Co.

"Peter Pan" by James M. Barrie. The gift of
Harold Moulton.

"Mr. Moneyppenny" by Channing Pollock. The
gift of Eugene Lockhart.