

# **Britain's Literary Heritage**



**TWENTIETH  
CENTURY  
BRITISH  
THEATRE  
PERIODICALS**

**PART ONE: The Playgoer, 1901-1904  
Play Pictorial, 1902-1939**



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BRITAIN'S LITERARY HERITAGE

Twentieth Century British Theatre Periodicals

Part 1: The Playgoer, 1901-1904  
Play Pictorial, 1902-1939

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Harvester Microform is making available a wide range of materials detailing the theatrical traditions of Britain, America and Ireland. There are records relating to production, performance and reception.

Most important in the latter category are a selection of theatre periodicals which document the reactions of both professional critics and the ordinary public to plays in performance. These periodicals help to set drama in its full social context.

Twentieth Century British Theatre Periodicals provides two of the most important journals from the years which saw the launch of Gielgud and Olivier's acting careers, the innovations of such directors as Harley Granville Barker, and the establishment of such popular writers as Noël Coward and George Bernard Shaw.

The Playgoer was edited by Fred Dangerfield, and ran from 1901-1904. It offered readers an informative mixture of reviews, illustrations, interviews with performers, music from major productions, articles on theatre history, and a series of stage histories of individual plays.

Play Pictorial, 1902-1939 concentrated far more on individual productions, and one play was comprehensively documented in each issue. West End and some provincial and Stratford productions are all recorded in pictures, reviews, articles and interviews, making Play Pictorial a uniquely detailed record of those productions which received the most public attention in this most fruitful period for the English stage.

We are grateful to Professor Donald Roy for his help in selecting appropriate titles for this programme, and also to the staff of Birmingham Central Reference Library for their considerable help in preparing this publication.

Harvester Microform has set itself the highest standards in the field of archivally-permanent library microfilming. Our microform publications have been prepared and produced in accordance with recommended and established guide-lines for the production of microform of superior quality. These conform to the recommendations of the standard guides to good microforming and micropublishing practice.

Occasionally, original characteristics of this printed material present difficulties of image and contrast which stringent tests and camera alterations cannot entirely overcome. Every effort has been made to minimise these difficulties though there are some few pages which have proved impossible to reproduce satisfactorily. Conscious of this we have chosen to include these pages in order to make available the complete volume. Micromedia has exercised the most responsible care in the filming of this unique collection and this microfilm publication meets the standards established by the Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

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## A NOTE ON THE FILM STOCK

Harvester Microform, The British Library, The Public Record Office, Micromedia and all other major producers of film, traditionally use Kodak Recordak Microfilm which produces a good contrast and some tonal range which is very appropriate for manuscripts and printed works. It is a film which is less suitable for illustrations and photographs.

The Theatre Periodicals in this programme abound with photographs which are as important as the text. We have therefore in this microfilm edition of Twentieth Century British Theatre Periodicals used Kodak Radiographic 35mm roll film in order to achieve the finest possible reproduction of all the half-tones in the photographs.

Before starting, comparative tests were made. There was some loss of sharp contrast in the text but Radiographic microfilm improved the detail and accuracy of the photographs many times over.

## BRITAIN'S LITERARY HERITAGE

### Twentieth Century British Theatre Periodicals

Part 1: The Playgoer, 1901-1904  
Play Pictorial, 1902-1939

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