



Esme Percy (left), president of the Shaw Society of England, and Dr. Archibald Henderson (right), president of the Shaw Society of America, are shown holding a portrait of George Bernard Shaw which was among the Shavian items on view at the last meeting of the Shaw Society in America in New York recently. Dr. Henderson was also recently elected vice-president of the Shaw Society of Great Britain.

Shaw Flop As Novelist: Henderson

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and the Lion,' 'Heartbreak House,' 'Back to Methuselah,' and 'Saint Joan.'

Was Poor Critic

Why doesn't Henderson consider Shaw a great critic?
"Shaw is either an advocate or a prosecutor—not a critic at all," Henderson explains. "Lacking the ethics and scholarship of university training and discipline, he could never see—indeed, seemed to be entirely unaware of—any moral obliquity in 'slanting' his so-called critical feuilletons, whether on art, music, drama or literature in general. He always fought for his own hand. He never tried to be just, and pooh-poohed the notion that a critic could possibly be just."

Failure as Novelist

Explaining his appraisal of Shaw as a failure as a novelist, Henderson goes on to say: "Shaw's novels are amusing, eccentric, stilted, jejune, and filled with acute but inexpertly expressed observations on life and art and music and pugilism and marriage and society and Socialism. Their failure is the result

of bad timing. Shaw was inexperienced and immature; and he lacked inside knowledge of, behind-the-scenes acquaintance with, the society and the individual social types of the period. Of his novels, he once remarked to me, with pawky humor: 'The best I can say of them is that neither Dickens nor Trollope could have written them.'"

Achieved Lasting Flavor

Henderson expresses the opinion that no writer has ever laid so long, persistent, and desperate siege to the capricious goddess of public favor as Shaw. One of Shaw's Machiavellian confessions, duly calculated to deceive the public, is his soft-trumpeted assertion that he was utterly devoid of ambition. He has declared that he rose by the sheer operation of gravitation—which, according to scientific explanation, would mean that, instead of rising, he would fall with a resounding crash. Shaw means, of course, by this curious turn of phrase, that his rise to fame came by the operation of inevitable, natural law; but without any ambitious effort whatever on his part. The

real truth of the matter is that he was determined to conquer the world; and I am of the opinion that he strove, with all his extraordinary powers, to become recognized as a rival of William Shakespeare...

"The conclusion is inescapable. Shaw's work in the role of the clown, the buffoon, the harlequin, the mountebank is a masterpiece of make-believe, a gorgeous self-portrait in artistic caricature. Was he a man or a myth? He was both."

Not Member Communist Party

Henderson regards Shaw as
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Experimental Plays Set

A summer bill of three original one-act plays has been selected by the Carolina Playmakers for production on the evening of Thursday, August 23, in the Playmakers' Theatre.

"Blue Jean Gal" by Lyn Neill, Roanoke, Virginia, "Dynasaur," by John Clayton, Washington, D. C., and "In August," by J. P. Pretlow, Wilmington, are the dramas which were selected for production from among those written in playwriting courses here.

"Blue Jean Gal" will be directed by John Caldwell, Sewanee, Tennessee, "Dynasaur," by Albert Klein, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and "In August," by Charles Hadley, Statesville. All three are graduate students in the department of dramatic art.

Auditions for parts in the plays will be held tomorrow at 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. in Playmakers' Theatre, according to Professors John W. Parker and Thomas Patterson, directors of the playwriting courses.

Samuel Seldon, head of the Department of Dramatic Arts, has written: "For thirty-three years now the Playmakers have been writing and producing plays of native American life. Ten volumes of the plays of these young playwrights have been published. And they have been received with enthusiasm on every side."

The performance is open to the public, free of charge.

Devotionals Are Planned

Midday devotional services will be held this Saturday in Gerrard Hall due to the classes scheduled for that day, according to Carroll Taylor, chairman of the University Inter-faith Council.

Robert White of the Columbia Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., will lead the devotional services with Miss Violet Williams, Atlanta, Ga., as organist.

Today's devotional service will be conducted by Rev. David Yates, pastor of the Chapel of the Cross, Rev. J. C. Herrin, pastor of the Chapel Hill Baptist Church will be in charge of the services for tomorrow.

Red Cross Quota Set

The Chapel Hill Red Cross Chapter's quota for disaster relief funds for victims of the Missouri river flood is \$525, it is announced by Rupert Vance, chapter chairman.

Mr. Vance requests that contributions be mailed to Chapel Hill Red Cross, P. O. Box 777, Chapel Hill, or they may be dropped in the Red Cross coin boxes that have been placed in the stores.

He said the need is urgent. The national quota is \$5,000,000.

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