

1930-31

"A Shoemaker's Holiday" or "The Gentle Craft" 17th December 1930

[A young nobleman Rowland Lacy is in love with Rose the London mayor's daughter. Both fathers oppose the match and try to separate the couple by sending her to the countryside and him to France as an officer in Henry V's army. Lacy leaves the army and stays in London disguised as a Dutch shoemaker to try to woo his love. He works in the shop of Simon Eyre who needs help because one of his journeymen, newly married, has been sent away to fight in France. The play tells the story of Simon Eyre (the shoemaker of the title), who rises through the social ranks to eventually become Lord Mayor of London. It is a patriotic play that celebrates the mutual dependence of the Monarch and the city of London, yet is also aware of class differences and social tensions. Meanwhile, at her father's country house, Rose meets another young noble who tries unsuccessfully to woo her. From there the plot turns in many directions as couples are divided, re-united and divided again, while the shoemakers ply their trade for everyone concerned. After an unexpected intervention from King Henry there's a happy ending, after he has made several proclamations concerning love, shoemaking and pancakes.]

This Elizabethan comedy written by Thomas Dekker and first performed in 1599 was staged in the school Assembly Hall to a large audience, despite the dense fog outside. Unfortunately, Miss Laura Austin was an absentee from the cast through illness, and her part was taken at short notice by Sabina Weaver. All the actors acquitted themselves admirably and were word-perfect. Hedley Wright as the Master Shoemaker and Lord Mayor Simon Eyre was the hit of the evening. His bickerings with his wife Margery (Grace Mills) were intensely amusing. Roland Lacey (George Potts) and Rose (Esther Page) as the two young lovers were most convincing, and Sybil the maid (Sabina Weaver) gave a piece of exceptionally fine acting. The Earl of Lincoln was ably portrayed by J. Lawrence Frazer, and Frank White as Lord Mayor gave a good performance as the outraged father.

Sidney Fox as Dodger, Lord Lincoln's servant made a convincing spy, and G. Grayson, Cyril Warner and Harry Green played the two huntsmen and the Dutch skipper. The four amusing workmen, Hodge, Firk, Ralph and the Boy were played by C. Hodge, H. Williamson, J. Marlow and Thomas Hebden, and Jane, Ralph's sorrowing wife, was H. Bailey. J. Richards as the King had a truly regal manner, and the speech in the finale was a fine piece of work.

Mr. Jenkinson said it would be impossible to mention by name all the members and friends of the School who had in various ways contributed in the production of the play, but special thanks went to Miss Mann and Mr. Storer the producers, Miss P. Wright the accompanist and musical director, and Mr. R.T. Shiells the business manager. He commented that all the school plays presented in the past had been successful, and he hoped that Shoemaker's Holiday was no exception, and that all who had enjoyed the play would tell their friends. The reason that an Elizabethan play had been chosen was that the royalties on modern plays were so high that they could not have been afforded. He had broached this matter to the authorities concerned, and hoped that soon all schools would be able to present any play, ancient or modern, without having to pay excessive fees. The play was repeated the following evening.

1932-33
"Quality Street" - a Hemsworth Secondary School Performance December 14th 15th and 17th

Because she's nearly 30 and still unwed, Phoebe Throssel is regarded as an over-the-hill spinster. Thus, when offered the opportunity for a reunion with Captain Brown whom she hasn't seen in years, Phoebe desperately wants to rekindle his affections. To this end, she poses as her own teenage niece -- and pulls off the ruse beautifully.

Cast:

Miss Fanny Willoughby	Estelle Rhodes
Miss Willoughby	Lorna Jagger
Miss Susan Throssel	Josephine Steele
Miss Henrietta Turnbull	Connie Bull
Miss Phoebe Throssel	Hilda Paley
Patty the maid	Marjorie Harrison
Recruiting Sergeant	H. Williamson
Mr. Valentine Brown	G. Grayson
Charlotte Parratt	Enid Toone
Ensign Blades	Sidney Fox
Harriet	Betty Mulheir
Lieutenant Spicer	L. Firman
An Old Soldier	Alex Ramsden
A Gallant	George Elvidge
Children in Miss Phoebe's School	Edna North, Connie White, Elsie Smith, M. Wooton and Ernest Pointon.
Other characters drawn from	Valerie Bancroft, Barbara Day, Vera Carter, Olive Boulton, F.P. Jones, Edward Perry, G.W. Eastwood and J. McCroakam.
Producers	Miss N. Clifford and Mr. J.A. Storer
Musical Director	Miss P. Wright L.R.A.M.
Stage Manager	Mr. J.A. Storer
Business Manager	Mr. R. Shiells
Incidental Music	E. Harris, Eric Nuttall and Pattison (violinists)

HEMSWORTH

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

Antonio	J. Keogh
Salarino	E. Challenger
Salanio	F. Smith
Bassanio	J. Priestley
Lorenzo	G. Wainwright
Gratiano	A. Fox
Portia	Kathleen Perry
Nerissa	Edith Watkins
Balthazar	W. Elvidge
Shylock	G. Elvidge
Launcelot Gobbo	E. Pointon
Old Gobbo	H. Shelley
Jessica	May Madeley
Prince of Morocco	A. Skelding
Prince of Arragon	F. Fullwood
Page Boy	A. Miles
Tubal	G. Pratt
Salerio	E. Perry
Duke of Venice	D. Park

Pleasing performances of the play were given by the Hemsworth Grammar School pupils on Wednesday and last night. Outstanding in a well chosen cast were Kathleen Perry (Portia), and G. Elvidge (Shylock). Miss Perry had an especially pleasing diction. J. Keogh and J. Priestley also gave very fine characterisations. The play was successfully produced by Miss Clifford, who received much assistance from Mr. Hamilton (stage manager) and Mr. Shiells (business manager).

1934-35

Much Ado About Nothing (December 1934)

At the end of last term, the School presented "Much Ado About Nothing," which had been chosen for the Annual School Play. Although this is one of Shakespeare's Comedies, it was almost turned into a tragedy, when on the first night the costumes had failed to arrive; but, however, they reached Hemsworth for the succeeding nights. The performance was notable not only for its fine portrayal of the leading characters, but also for its good all-round acting by the supporting cast. The scenery, which added a great deal to the effectiveness of the Play was made by Mr. Hamilton assisted by C. Clarkson. As stage manager, Mr. Hamilton was also in charge of the excellent lighting effects, and Miss Clifford once more took on the very arduous task of Producer. As in previous years, Mr. Shiells undertook the character of Business Manager and filled his part with admirable skill and ability. The School and visitors stowed their appreciation of the Play by their very good attendance each night. We therefore wish to thank the cast for an excellent performance, and every one who helped make the Play a success.



Photo from Frank Smith. Thank you.

L-R: George Elvidge, Betty Mulheir, Sybil Howson, Kathleen Perry, Lorna Jagger, Priestly



L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



L-R: 1, 2, 3, Ineson



Back Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Middle Row L-R: Eric Ineson, Priestley, Bradley H., 4, George Elvidge, Walsh, 7

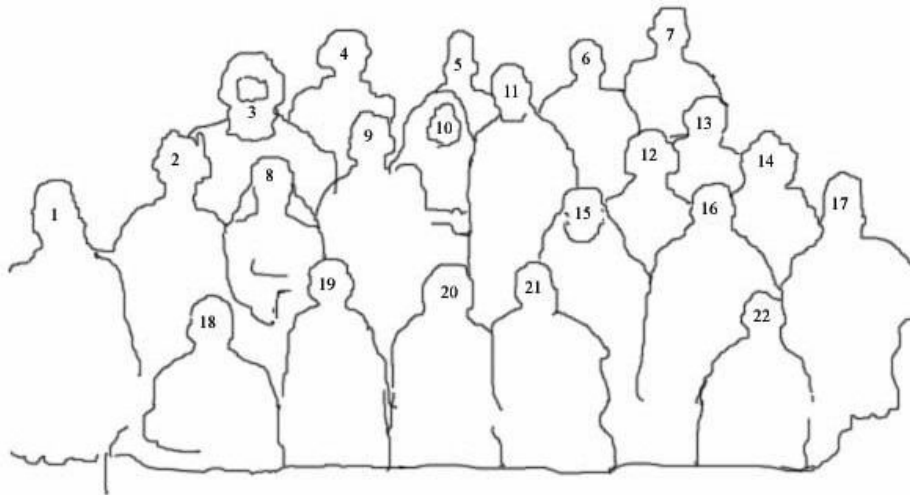
Front Row L-R: Michael Walker, 2, Kathleen Perry, Lorna Jagger, Betty Mulheir, Sybil Howson, 7, 8

1935
The Ivory Door



On December 18th and 19th A.A. Milne's play "The Ivory Door" was presented by the School to good audiences on both nights. This play had great attractions; partly in the excellence of the acting, partly in the beauty of the costumes, but chiefly in the atmosphere of mystery created by the Ivory Door itself. The success of the play was most certainly due to Miss Nicholson's able production, and the efficient stage-management of Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Shiells, as usual, took charge most successfully of the onerous duties pertaining to the box office.

Elsie Stamp, Guest.



Names from Lorna Jagger. Thank you, Lorna.

- Back row L-R:** 1, Harold Chambers?, George Wainwright, Granville Clayton
- Fourth row L-R:** George Elvidge, Lorna Jagger, Vernon Thorpe, Billy Guest?, Donald Park?, Edith Cooper?
- Third row L-R:** Lewis Firman, Ruth Sterry, Arnold Skelding, Sylvia Clayton?, 16
- Second row L-R:** Ernest Pointon?, (standing), 18, 19, Bessie Atherton, Cecil Perry, 22, Harry Walker (standing)

Prologue
King Hilary
Prince Perivale
Servant

Lewis Firman
George Courtney
Alan Pointon

The Play
King Perivale
Brand (his body servant)
Anna (his old nurse)
Thora
The Chancellor
Jessica
Anton

Vernon Thorpe.
George Wainwright
Bessie Athron
Ruth Sterry
George Elvidge
Sylvia Clayton
Granville Clayton

Old Beppo
Simeon
Woman in the crowd
Count Rollo
The Mummer
Titus (Soldier of the guard)
Carlo (Soldier of the guard)
Soldier
Bruno (Captain of the Guard)
Princess Lilia

Billy Guest
Fred Smith
Edith Cooper
Donald Park
Cecil Perry
Ernest Pointon
Harry Walker
Harold Chambers
Arnold Skelding
Lorna Jagger

A Glimpse into the future.

The King
The Prince

John Hibbert.
Pickering R.

Enchanted Glade, June 1936

The Quarry formed an ideal setting for the ballet which **Miss Harrison** produced on June 24th and 25th. The Princess, bored with Court life, envied the goblins and was carried off by them. Midsummer Day was celebrated in the palace grounds with dances of many lands, but these were interrupted by the messenger announcing the disappearance of the Princess. Not even the court Jesters with all their agility could dispel the grief at this sad news. The Prince set out to discover the Princess, and finding her in the Enchanted Glade, joined her in the games of the Little Folk. At last the mortals went back to the Palace, and the Little Folk rejoiced in their happiness.



"The Enchanted Glade"



The quarry in the grounds of the Grammar School made an ideal setting for a three act ballet, "The Enchanted Glade", which was presented by pupils of the Grammar School on Wednesday evening. The ballet was produced by **Miss Harrison**, a member of the staff.

The first act depicted the enchanted glade, and the characters were:

M. Price (**Princess**)

E. Clayton, M. Bevan, E. Hale, J. Milner, A. Perry, B. Clayton, C. Pickles, D. Park, K. Nuttall, D. Lawton (**Autumn Leaves**)

J. Carter, R. Sinclair, N. Andrews, D. Bonnell, B. Parkinson, M. Tiffany (**Goblins**)

R. Page, A. Welch, B. Burbridge, M. Allen (**Dryads**)

J. Barker (**Piper**)

I. Smith, P. Morris, J. Miles, J. Watkinson, H. Bramham, A. Everett, J. Tomlinson, L. Farmer, K. Sheffield, A. Wilkinson, J.

McKenna, M. Hall, R. Tiffany, P. Carter (**Nymphs**).

The second act showed the palace gardens. Midsummer Day was being celebrated, and in this act Russian Dances were given by D. Park, B. Crossland, R. Page, M. Allen, D. Lawton, J. Barker, J. Towler and B. Gill. Chinese Dances by R. Hall, J. Gill and M. Briggs and Cymbal Dances by M. Park, M. Cutts, M. Bower and M. Jones.

The characters in this act were:

B. Day (**Queen**)

M. Sykes (**King**)

B. Page, E. Birley, J. Hulley, E. Smith, J. Garrod, C. Batty, E. Godfrey, J. Marriott (**Courtiers**)

B. Townend, R. Needham (**Jesters**).

Act three reverted to the "enchanted glade," and the characters were the same with the addition of R. Needham (**Prince**).

Music was supplied by the School orchestra. The performance was repeated last night.

1936-37

Crossings

One of the events of the School Year which is eagerly anticipated by everyone is the School Play. This year "Crossings" by Walter de la Mare was presented on the 17th and 18th of December. The Play covered the adventures of four children at a country house, Crossings, left to them by their kindly Aunt Susan on condition that they lived there for some time unsupervised. As the children had spent the previous years of their life in the town under the rule of their domineering Aunt Agatha and the complete indifference of their father, it seemed impossible that such a delightful dream should come true. But their dream was realised when their father asserted his authority at last, and decreed that they should go to Crossings in spite of the forboding and pessimism of Aunt Agatha.



All the characters were admirably suited for the parts they chosen to play, and we must congratulate Miss Nicholson on her able production and untiring efforts connected with it. Johnson and Rutter were responsible for the scenic effects, and in this they were highly successful. The 'noises off' were realistically produced by Mr. Hamilton, and Miss Townsend was responsible for the effective musical arrangements. Last, but by no means least, we must thank Mr. Shiells, who once more made a success of the financial side of the Play.

Another Account

"Crossings"



Miss Nicholson

With their presentation in the hall of the school on Wednesday, before a large and appreciative audience, of "Crossings", a Christmas play set in the Victorian era, written by Walter de la Mare, the students of the Hemsworth Grammar School broke new ground and earned fresh laurels.

The cast was as follows

Mr. Charles James Wildersham	E. Nuttall
Sarah (his first daughter)	Alice Rogerson
Frances (his second daughter)	Audrey Jenkinson
Anthony (his son)	A. Pointon
Ann (his third daughter)	Ruth Page
Miss Agatha Wildersham (his sister)	Winifred Morley
Mrs. Marshall (the cook)	Margaret Twaddle
Rev. Jeremy Welcome (Vicar of Little Crossings)	F. Smith
Miss Julia Welcome (his sister)	Tilly Cunningham
Josephine (their niece)	Christine Pickets
Lady Minch (of The Hall, Great Crossings)	Ruth Sterry
Mr. Josiah Widge (the cabman)	D. Hipkins
Mr. John Budge (the butcher)	C. Perry
Mrs. Budge	Doreen Lawton
Polly Budge (their small daughter)	Marjorie Duckworth
Mr. William Honeyman (the baker)	E. Pointon
Mrs. Honeyman	Eva Harris
Emily Honeyman	Esme Hale
The Candlestick-maker	D. Park
A Beggarman	G. Clayton
A. Ghost	Beryl Goddard
The Queen of the Little People	Pauline Gough
A Pedlar	Joyce Towler
'The Little People'	Joan Barker, Morie Allen, Hilda Bramham, Joan McKenna, Marjorie Tiffany, Audrey Welsh, Betty Burbridge, Irene Miles.

The story depicts an impoverished Victorian family who live in a dreary Bayswater house, and chiefly concerns four motherless children, in a household run by a tyrannical aunt. Here they eke out a pleasureless life until a sister of their dead mother leaves a country house at "Crossings", where most of the play is set. Much against the will of the aunt, who thinks the children are unable to do the work and would squander the money, the father decides to send his children to "Crossings" to fend for themselves and find the happiness they should rightly have. He later decides to visit them. The children arrange a Christmas party out in the woods which surround "Crossings", to which all local children are invited, and to which a visit is paid by the "Queen of the Little People". The final scene of the play shows the arrival of the father and aunt, the latter being doubtful if the children have found the happiness their father wished them to have. On realising her error, the aunt makes a hurried, defeated exit. Outstanding in a competent cast were Alice Rogerson, as the eldest child, mothering her younger sisters and brother; Audrey Jenkinson, Ruth Page and A. Pointon as the other children; while Winifred Morley, as the aunt, and E. Nuttall as the father, were equal to the demand on the acting ability, and made the best of their difficult parts. Miss Rogerson gained added laurels for her delightful rendering of the charming songs specially composed by Armstrong Gibbs. Cameos of typical old-world village tradesmen were brought out by C. Perry and E. Pointon as the butcher and baker. A fairy ballet arranged by Miss Harrison was a pleasing feature of the play. Music and songs were under the direction of Miss Townsend, while the painted scenery, designed and executed by Messrs. Rutter and Johnson, two scholars at the school, were greatly admired. Mr. Sheills was business manager, and Mr. Hamilton stage manager. **Miss Nicholson, the producer, deserves praise for her careful training of the whole cast.** The play was repeated last night.

She Stoops to Conquer

The School this year presented Goldsmith's play 'She Stoops to Conquer'. It had been given by the School once before in 1928, when Mr. Storer produced it. The play was a fast moving eighteenth century comedy, and was well received by the School who always rejoice in the event of a School Play. It concerned the adventures of Mr. Marlow and Mr. Hastings, two young men about town who visited Mr. Hardcastle, a friend of Marlow's father who lived in the country, with a view to making the acquaintance of Miss Hardcastle. It was the wish of the parents to make a match between the young couple. Marlow and Hastings, however, were the victims of a practical joke played on them by mischievous Tony, Hardcastle's stepson. The fun which followed, as a result of Tony's misdeeds, and the way in which he finally settled everything happily, kept the audience highly amused and laughing for the greater part of the evening. All the characters wore extremely well suited to their parts and appeared to enjoy doing the Play. We must thank Miss Clifford for producing the Play in the face of continuous difficulties. It must have been a great disappointment to her when, within a very short time before the first night, she fell ill and could not see the finished performance. Then, too, there were illnesses in the cast; she was fortunate in discovering a person in Olive Boulton to step in almost at the last minute and quickly and easily adapt herself to the part of Miss Hardcastle which, owing to her unfortunate illness, Elsie Stamp was unable to play. In spite of such difficulties, the play carried on, with valuable help from Mr. Storer, and was presented with success on December 15th., and 16th.



We are very grateful to Mr. Hamilton who spent a great deal of time on the scenery, stage effects and lighting. He was assisted by Johnson who was mainly responsible for the scenery. Further assistance was given by Younge and Savage. Mr. Shiells again acted as business manager in which part he always succeeds. Finally we have to thank Miss Townsend for the music which she composed and played for Tony's song, and all members of Staff who assisted in any way with the Play.

A. Rogerson (Prompter), Holgate

Cast

Sir Charles Marlow	R. Hawkins.
Young Marlow	H. Hudson.
Hardcastle	A. Wilson,
Hastings	D. Thorpe.
Tony Lumpkin	B. Perry.
Landlord	L. Courtney.
Diggory (Servant to Hardcastle)	W. Eastwood..
Roger (Servant to Hardcastle)	R. Pickering.
Servants to Marlow	M. Chapman, G. Courtney, J. Brailsford.
Mrs. Hardcastle	Doreen Lawton.
Miss Hardcastle	Olive Boulton.
Miss Neville	Margaret Twaddle.
The Maid	Christine Pickets.
Producer	Miss Clifford.
Stage Manager	Mr. Hamilton.
Business Manager	Mr. Shiells.
Music	Miss Townsend.
Scenery	H. Johnson.

Another review

For their annual production the students of Hemsworth Grammar School played Goldsmith's comedy " She stoops to conquer", and judging by the large and appreciative audience on Wednesday and last night, their choice was popular. This was not the first time the play had been produced at the school, for it was given by the students in 1928. The great success which attended that production had much to do with its being repeated.

The acting generally was of a high standard although several of the players just failed to catch the spirit of the mannerisms and blasé self possession of the aristocrats of the period. E. Perry was outstanding and his portrayal of the irresponsible Tony, with more thought for the stable and the ale-house than for family finery, was excellent. Hardcastle the squire, was well taken by A. Wilson, and his anger at his house being treated as an inn and himself being ordered about as "mine host", was well suggested. Marlow gave the impression that he was a little nervous, but his companion, Hastings, gave a good performance. Olive Boulton deserves a special mention for the way she carried off her part. Brought in at only a week's notice owing to the illness of the school's Head Girl, Elsie Stamp, she played with a confidence which could only have been attained by a week of hard study. Margaret Twaddle was a demure Miss Neville, although at times her speech was a little inaudible, while Doreen Lawton ably brought out the fondness of the squire's wife for her son. The scene at the ale-house, "The Three Pigeons", was very well done, and Tony's drinking song was good. The drunkenness of the yokels was not overdone, but they seemed to have some difficulty getting their pipes to light.

The production, which was in the capable hands of Miss Clifford, the senior English mistress, was well done, and it was unfortunate that Miss Clifford could not be present to see the results of her coaching, owing to a slight illness. Tribute should be paid to the stage manager, Mr. J. D. Hamilton, for the swift changing of the scenes in limited space. The scenery, which was admired by all, was painted by a student, H. Johnson, who is to be congratulated on some fine work. Once again the Rev. R. T. Sheills had charge of the business side of the arrangements and Miss Townsend the musical side.