

## Staff Plays 1930s

### 1930

During the last week in March the staff gave its third annual entertainment and every seat was occupied on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The programme included three sketches which were all well-received, and give an idea of who was serving on the staff in 1930.

#### "Personally or by Letter"

Mr. R.T. Shiells	Timothy
Mr. L.T. Hyde	Bill
Miss E. Hodgson	Mrs. Grice
Mr. J.W. Burroughs	Mr. Grice
Miss G. Lockie	Marjorie

#### "The Bathroom Door" (an excellent farce)

Mr. T. Manning	the Young Man
Miss I. Quayle	the Young Lady
Mr. J.W. Burroughs	the Elderly Gentleman
Miss D.L. Prince	the Elderly Lady
Miss E.V. Hinckley	the Prima Donna
Mr. J.A. Storer	Boots

#### "Master Wayfarer"

Miss P.E.M. Wright	Phoebe
Mr. J.A. Storer	Master Beamish
Mr. A.G. Jenkinson	the Wayfarer
Mr. L.N. Collette	Master Smeaton

In this latter piece, Mr. Jenkinson gave a good performance, singing songs "in a pleasing manner". Miss Phyllis Wright sang "The Flower" (Schubert arr. Clutsam) and "Hush-a-bye, Lullaby" and Mr. L.T. Hyde gave an interesting conjuring display. The music included "Melody", "Reapers' Song" and "Soldiers' March" by Schumann, arr. Fletcher, and the incidental music to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Mendelssohn).

### 1931

#### "Tons of Money"

The fourth production of a Staff Play, "Tons of Money", by Will Evans and Valentine, took place in May 1931, to the enjoyment of all concerned. Wordplay, duplicity and extreme 'Britishness' were the key elements of the 1920's style farce, and Mr. Jenkinson commented that although the staging of the play meant much work for the members of staff, they enjoyed it as much as anyone.

### 1933

#### *Drama, Music and Mystery 28th and 29th March 1933*

The Staff entertained an audience of students and adults in the school hall on these two evenings. The two principal items were: "**Rory Aforesaid**", a slight but diverting Scottish comedy by John Brandane which had touches of authentic Highland pawkiness, contributed chiefly by Mr. T. Manning in the role of Rory, and excellent acting by Mr. J.A. Storer as the Sheriff. Mr. Shiells showed stern restraint in the part of MacCullum, and Messrs J.D. Hamilton and L.N. Collette and Miss D. Prince completed a successful cast.

"**Bishop's Candlesticks**" in which the headmaster, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson acted with poise and insight, alongside Misses E. Shortridge and D. Mullinder, and Messrs L.T. Hyde, H. Augur and R.T. Shiells. 'The Bishop's Candlesticks' is a moving story based on an incident in Victor Hugo's novel *Les Miserables* and revolves around 3 main characters. A Bishop is a noble and kind-hearted soul who does not mind selling away his silver to pay for a poor lady's house rent. He seems to have given quite a large part of his savings in such charity. Now very poor, he has just a pair of silver candlesticks left. The Bishop's sister is a typical practical lady who is worried about the future. There is not much money left, and the house is running on her money. She learns that the Bishop has sold the silver salt and pepper shakers to pay the house rent of poor Mere Gringoire. This upsets her. They have had their supper and she decides to retire for the night. A desperate and hungry convict walks in through the open doors. Having escaped from jail, the convict threatens to kill the Bishop, but the Bishop is calm and controlled. He offers to give him some food to eat and listens to his story. We begin to understand the convict's hardships. He had to steal some bread to feed his ailing wife and was arrested and sent to jail, where he was cruelly treated. Meanwhile his wife died. Finally one day he escaped but was again unable to find any food. That's when he comes to the Bishop's house. The Bishop gives him food to eat and a place to sleep. The convict is too tempted by the silver candle sticks and steals them. The sister is hurt and offended by the convict's behaviour, and later the convict is seen roaming around suspiciously and is caught by the sergeant and brought back to the Bishop's house. The Bishop's sister is relieved to get back the silver candlesticks, but the Bishop tells the sergeant that they were a gift from him to the convict. He gives them to the convict and shows him a safe escape route.

1934

"A Hundred Years Old"



L-R: Mr. Collete, 2, 3, 4, Mr. Jenkinson, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

At the end of last term (March 21st and 22nd), the Staff presented their Annual Play, the choice falling this time on "A Hundred Years Old", a translation of the Quintero Brothers' comedy of Spanish family life. As the plot was very slight, the success of the play depended for the most part on the drawing of the various characters. The enthusiasm with which the production as a whole was received, gave definite proof of the success of the play in this direction. The Headmaster, Mr. Jenkinson, in his role of the hundred years old 'Papa Juan' enhanced his by no means small reputation as an actor portraying with great skill the mannerisms of a shrewd and witty old gentleman. He was ably supported throughout by an excellent cast. **The play was produced by the Headmaster in conjunction with Miss. Wilde**, whilst Miss. Wright arranged and directed the incidental music played between the acts.

The cast was as follows :-

Currita	Miss. Wilde
Doria Marcoala	Miss. Harrison
Doria Filomens	Miss. Shortridge
Eulalia	Miss Kenward
Carmen Campos	Miss. Prince
Rosa	Miss Mullinder
Papa Juan	Mr. Jenkinson
Trino	Mr. Hamilton
Don Evaristo	Mr. Collette
Antonon	Mr. Augur
Alonso	Mr. Hyde
Manuel	Mr. Shiells
H.B., Price	

1936

"The Fourth Wall"



Last term the Staff performed their annual play, and, as they had not done one in the previous year, it was doubly pleasant. It was A.A. Milne's "The Fourth Wall", a mystery murder play in three acts, so called because the audience see the action of the play through the fourth wall of the scene, Heron Place, in Sussex. Miss Kenward, who played her large part so well, and the versatile Mr. Hamilton were the chief players, taking the parts of two amateur sleuths who tracked down the murderer and his accomplice, played by Mr. Hyde and Mr. Manning, by means of astute deduction.

Congratulations to Mr. Storer, who, as P.C. Mallet evoked roars of laughter by references to his tomatoes. The people behind the scenes deserve many thanks for their work, especially **Mr. Hyde** (photo left), who produced the play and took the part of the villain. Altogether "The Fourth Wall" was

a most excellent production and a fitting successor to the long line of Staff Plays which are now history.



Elsie Stamp

The Characters

Jimmy Ludgrove  
Susan Cunningham  
Adams  
Edward Laverick  
Edward Carter  
Major Fothergill  
Mrs. Fulverton Fane  
Jane West  
Arthur Ludgrove  
P.C. Mallet  
"Sergeant" Mallet

Mr. J.D. Hamilton  
Miss D. Kenward  
Miss D. Euler  
Mr. T. Manning  
Mr. L.T. Hyde  
Mr. H.G. Augur  
Miss P.E.M. Wright  
Miss E. Shortridge  
Mr. A.G. Jenkinson  
Mr. J.A. Storer  
Mr. L.N. Collette

Producer  
Stage Manager  
Business Manager  
Electrician  
Music

Mr. L.T. Hyde  
Miss E. Nicholson  
Mr. P. Crossland  
C. Clarkson  
Miss Wright

1937

The Staff are giving their annual Play on March 17th and 18th, and this year it is "**The Romantic Young Lady**" by Sierra.



**L-R:** Miss E. Shortridge, Mr. J. Nelson, Miss. D. Kenward?, Mr. T. Manning, 5, 6, Mr. J.D. Hamilton



"**The Romantic Young Lady**" (by Gregorio M. Sierra) was given by the staff of Hemsworth Grammar School in the school hall on Wednesday and Thursday. Though somewhat strained at first and a little uneasy with his native Scottish accent, Mr. J.D. Hamilton as the author, De Cordoba, gradually warmed to the part and gave an excellent performance in the last act. It was evident that there was a little nervousness in the performance of Miss D. Kenward, as Rosario, the young lady, for at first her enunciation was not clear, but as she gained self-confidence it greatly improved. She vividly portrayed the fits of jealousy. The part of Dona Barbarita, the old grandmother, was well played by Miss E. Shortridge, while the inquisitive and eavesdropping maid was admirably portrayed by Miss E. Nicholson. Messrs. T. Manning, J. Nelson and L. Collette combined well as the three brothers,

Pepe, Emilio and Mario all bent on romance, and others doing excellent work in support were Mr. H. Augur (Don Juan), Miss E. Bromley (Irene), Mr. J. Storer (Guillermo), and Miss J. Harrison (Amalia). The duties of producer were excellently carried out by Mr. L.T. Hyde (photo left). Mr. J.D. Hamilton was stage manager and lighting effects were by two scholars, Johnson and Chapman. Mr. I. Scourfield was business manager.



1938

"The Chinese Puzzle"



The members of the Staff this year presented the play, "The Chinese Puzzle", which was a great success. Mr. J.D. Hamilton and Miss Kenward must be congratulated on their remarkable performances once again. Mr. Storer delighted everyone by his marvellous acting as the Chinese diplomat voicing wise saws against females. Indeed all the players were thoroughly fitted to their parts and the whole cast acted with real enthusiasm. We must congratulate **Miss Nicholson on producing the play** (photo left); and Mr. J.D. Hamilton, Johnson, Mr. Manning and Mr. Augur, by whom the scenes were designed and executed; finally we must mention Mr. Crossland who made a very efficient business manager. In conclusion we must congratulate the Staff on producing a really enjoyable and successful play.



L-R: Miss. Euler, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Storer



L-R: Mr. R.W. Hamilton, Mr. J.D. Hamilton, Miss Kenward, Miss Euler, Mr. Storer, Mr. Nelson, Miss Townsend, Mr. Augur, Mr. Collette



L-R: Mr. Nelson, Miss Euler, Mr. Storer



### Characters

Littleport, the butler  
 Aimee de Villeseptier, Lady Haye' s Ward  
 Lady de la Haye  
 Sir Roger de la Haye, her son  
 Naomi Melsham  
 Armand de Rochecorbon, of the French Embassy at Peking  
 The Marquis Chi Lung, a Chinese Diplomat  
 Dr. Fu Yang, his Secretary  
 Victoria Cresswell  
 Hon. William Hurst  
 Paul Marketel, an international financier  
 Mrs. Melsham, Naomi's mother  
 Sir Aylmer Brent, of the Foreign Office  
 Fee Sing, a Chinese servant

H. Augur  
 E. Bromley  
 E.W. Townsend  
 J.D. Hamilton  
 D. Kenward  
 L. Collette  
 J. Storer  
 J. Nelson  
 E. Shortridge  
 T. Manning  
 L.T. Hyde  
 J. Harrison  
 R.W. Hamilton  
 D. Euler

Producer  
 Scenes designed and executed by  
 Stage Managers  
 Lights and Effects  
 Business Manager

E.Nicholson  
 J.D. Hamilton, Johnson, T. Manning, H. Augur.  
 J.D. Hamilton, T. Manning.  
 Johnson,  
 P. Crossland

## Another Review



China, the Chinese, and mystery, it has been said, go hand in hand, and it was no wonder then that there was a strong flavour of mystery about "The Chinese Puzzle" by Marian Bower and Leon M. Lion, presented by the staff of Hemsworth Grammar School on Wednesday. The production as a whole was good. Miss D. Kenward, as Naomi Melsham, and later as Sir Roger's wife, buried herself so deep into her part that the audience felt sorry for her as she suffered mental agony while she saw her husband's career ruined. The relief when Chi Lung took the blame was well brought out. The Marquis Chi Ling was well portrayed by Mr. J. A. Storer, who caught the silent and suave mannerisms of an oriental to perfection. He had some difficulty in attaining a Chinese accent, however, and just failed to catch the requisite singsong tone. Sir Roger was well played by Mr. J.D. Hamilton. Miss E. W. Townsend, as Sir Roger's mother, bore the strain of her son's resignation with

almost professional skill. Excellent in support were L. Collette (Armand De Rochecorbon of the French Embassy in Peking), E. Bromley (Aimee De Villeseptier), J. Nelson (Dr. Fu Yang), E. Shortridge (Victoria Cresswell), T. Manning (Hon. Wm. Hirst), L.T. Hyde (Paul Marketel), R. W. Hamilton (Sir Aylmer Brent), J. Harrison (Mrs. Melsham), H. Augur (Little Port), D. Euler (Fee Sing).

The production was most successful and a credit to the producer, **Miss E. Nicholson (photo)**. The speed at which the difficult changes of scenery were made was a triumph of organisation for the stage manager, Messrs. J. D. Hamilton and T. Manning, who with Johnson, a student at the school, also designed and executed the scenery. Johnson had charge of the lighting effects while Mr. P. Crossland managed the business side of the production.



1939

**J.B.Priestley's "Mystery at Greenfingers"**

The Staff Play this year gave a glimpse behind the scenes of a fashionable hotel. Mystery was soon afoot with the disappearance of a visitor. This brought the company's detective to the fore and Mr.Nelson is to be congratulated for his effective rendering of that official. It is difficult, when all took their parts so well, to single out any for special comment, but the applause of the audience showed their appreciation of the acting of "Clara" and "Sally". The Visitor, "Miss Tracey", carried through her role of amateur detective and peacemaker well. The whole production was stamped with that ease and finish which we have learned to associate with the work of Mr. Storer.



**L-R:** Miss. Bromley, Miss. Euler, Mr. Collette, Miss. Kenward, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Hamilton, Miss. Shortridge (seated), Miss. Harrison, Mr. Hyde, Miss. Townsend



**L-R:** Mr. Nelson, Mr. Collette, Miss Townsend, Miss. Bromley, Mr. Hamilton, Miss Shortridge





**L-R:** Miss. Townsend, Mr. Hyde, Miss. Euler, Mr. Collette, Miss. Shortridge, Miss. Bromley, Mr. Hamilton, Miss. Harrison



**L-R:** Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Birdsall, Mr. J.D. Hamilton, Mr. Storer