

New York City
Shakespeare
Tercentenary
Celebration



1616 - 1916

"He was not of an age, but for all time"

—Ben Jonson

THE SHAKESPEARE CELEBRATION

10 East 43d Street

Telephone, Murray Hill 9745

NEW YORK CITY SHAKESPEARE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Chairman..... MISS MARY PORTER BEEGLE

SUB-COMMITTEES

The Community Masque..... MRS. BEN ALI HAGGIN

National Masque Organization... MR. HOWARD KYLE

Finance..... MR. W. FORBES MORGAN, JR.

Vice-Chairman..... MR. CRANSTON BRENTON

Supplementary Celebrations..... MISS KATE OGLEBAY

Music..... MR. ARTHUR FARWELL

Press..... MR. WILL IRWIN

MISS KATHARINE LORD, Representative

Publications..... DR. WILLIAM E. BOHN

Libraries..... MISS FLORENCE OVERTON

Clubs..... MRS. AUGUST DREYER

Celebrations in Colleges... PROFESSOR ALLAN ABBOTT

Gardens... PROFESSOR EDMUND BRONK SOUTHWICK

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MRS. AXEL O. IHLENG

10 East 43d Street

PR 2923
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Here are some of the forms which the celebration will take :

Play, masque, festival, pageant, music, dancing, chorus, ballads, lecture, sermon, art and handicraft exhibit, library exhibit, club program, study course, story-telling, tableaux, tree planting, Shakespeare garden.

The performances will naturally vary according to the organizations and groups interested, but already well-defined plans have been settled upon in many quarters, and thousands have begun this work in a spirit of play.

All of these celebrations will lead up to the big Shakespeare Masque, and it is hoped that all involved in them will come to the Masque in their costumes and either take part in the pageantry or form a section of the Elizabethan audience at a special performance. This will be a great occasion, this gathering together in festal color and spirit of an audience every individual in which has taken part in a Shakespearean celebration.

The Community Masque. The Shakespeare Masque for the occasion is being written by Percy MacKaye and its production will be directed by him. It will be produced out-of-doors at night. In its purpose the Masque will be a communal effort to honor the poet by bodying forth something of the greatness of his art, the art of the theatre in its broadest scope. To this great art all the arts contribute, acting, dancing, painting, music, poetry and plastic design. The masque music, composed and arranged by Arthur Farwell, will consist of community choruses, dramatic choirs, instrumental music (archaic and modern) and orchestral accompaniments.

In form the Masque will be a symbolic drama setting forth the art of the theatre in all ages

and its power to purify and elevate the spirits of men. Its prologue, three acts and epilogue, performed by eminent professional actors, will be separated by interludes in which community groups will take part in pantomime, dance and choral song. Magnificent pictures, gorgeous colors, the sweeping movements of the dance, supported by orchestral music, the multitudinous detail of costumes and properties will combine to produce a type of dramatic art hitherto almost unknown in New York. In these interludes will be pictured the dramatic art of ancient India, Egypt, Greece and Rome, of the France, Italy, Germany and Spain of the Middle Ages, of the England of Shakespeare's time, and of modern lands in modern times. These symbolic pictures will be blended with the more dramatic and personal story of the Masque proper.

The Masque will be performed upon a great outdoor stage, an adaptation of the Elizabethan stage to a Greek amphitheatre. The scenes will be designed and executed by distinguished artists. Expert lighting will create the illusion of a fairy world. In front of the stage, in a huge semicircle, the community chorus and acting groups of two thousand or more citizens will participate in the dances and pageantry. They will have helped to create this production in which they take part. For under the guidance of the Director and his staff, the costumes and properties will be designed competitively by students in the art schools of the city and made by those who will wear them. Thus for months beforehand the community will be planning and working for the success of the performance.

To organize this co-operative effort is one of the chief functions of the Celebration Committee. The Committee hopes that its efforts will result in a realization of what such working together may mean, of what large re-

sources of human good and happiness are open to us in the socialized leisure of a great American city.

How the Committee Can Help You. The Celebration Committee offers its assistance to those planning local celebrations. Any one planning a program of any sort is urged to communicate with the central office and make use of the resources there made available. Following are a few of the ways in which the Committee is prepared to give assistance :

(1) *Determining Forms of Celebrations.* A bureau of information with regard to definite forms which celebrations may take has been established at the office and is open every Saturday from ten till one.

(2) *Securing Materials from Libraries.* In co-operation with the Committee the Public Libraries have compiled reading lists and arranged exhibits of books and prints. In the rooms of the Committee and at all branch libraries in the city will be found special reference collections of books on the Elizabethan period, costumes, pageants, etc., which may be consulted by those interested in the celebration.

(3) *Planning Musical Programs.* The Committee will provide specimen programs of different periods and lists of Shakespearian musical settings. A collection of Shakespeare music has been made by Mr. Otto Kinkeldey and placed on file in the Music Department of the New York Public Library. A prize competition is being planned for original musical works by American composers on Shakespearian subjects.

A CIVIC CELEBRATION

To celebrate the greatness of Shakespeare, who died three hundred years ago, and to foster a livelier appreciation of his art, New York City is holding a great civic celebration. Begun in the autumn of 1915, it will extend into the month of May, 1916. It includes many thousands of people of all nationalities and classes in all parts of the greater city and the territory adjacent. Each group is planning to honor Shakespeare in the way it chooses; each person contributes what he can and will. From the participants in the local celebrations will be selected choruses and acting groups for a great community masque to be given in May.

A City-wide Celebration. As the plans for the celebration develop, more and more persons and groups are taking part in it. At the present time there are local celebrations taking place or being prepared for in all parts of the city. So important has this movement become among the colleges that a separate leaflet has been devoted to this feature of it. Among musicians interested, Mr. Stransky, of the Philharmonic, and Dr. Damrosch, of the New York Symphony, have signified their desire to have their final performances composed of music inspired by Shakespeare. A like enthusiasm is evident among organizations of many sorts. Colleges, social settlements, churches, recreation centers, playgrounds, clubs, public schools, parochial schools, private schools, dancing schools, art schools, Public School Athletic League, gardens, Y.W.C.A.'s, Y.M.C.A.'s, Masonic lodges, continuation classes in department stores—these are only a few of the kinds of institutions which are planning to take part.

AMONG OTHERS ACTIVE IN THE
CELEBRATION

MAYOR MITCHEL

- Mr. Winthrop Ames
Mrs. Gertrude Atherton
Mrs. Mary Austin
Rev. Walter E. Bentley
Mr. David Belasco
Mr. Howard Bradstreet
Mr. Arnold Brunner
Miss Elizabeth Burchenal
President Nicholas Murray Butler
Mrs. William Astor Chanler
President Thomas Churchill
- Miss Laura Sedgwick Collins
Dr. C. Ward Crampton
Mr. Max Eastman
Professor John Erskine
Minnie Maddern Fiske
Mr. Daniel Frohman
Mrs. Emma Sheridan Fry
Mr. Walter G. Fuller
Mr. Jules Guerin
Dr. Luther H. Gulick
Miss Evelyn Hilliard
- Mr. Roland Holt
Mr. J. Rosamund Johnson
Miss Emma Johnston
Mr. William J. Lee
Miss Alice Lewisohn
Miss Irene Lewisohn
Mr. William McAndrew
Miss Florence Marshall
Mr. Ernest Peixotto
Mr. Herbert F. Peyser
- Mrs. Lucinda Prince
Mrs. James Harvey Robinson
Mr. Alexander Russell
Mr. Franklin H. Sargent
Rev. Joseph F. Smith
Mrs. Sprague-Smith
Mr. Edward H. Sothern
Mr. Augustus Thomas
Mr. Cabot Ward
Mr. Edward C. White

(4) *Securing Lecturers, Readers, Coaches, Etc.* The Committee is prepared to offer to those planning programs, lists of such professional artists as may be needed.

How You Can Help the Committee. In order that it may succeed in its effort to unify all the activities which fall within its scope, the Committee desires to be placed in communication with all those contemplating local or group celebrations.

The current expenses of the Committee are heavy and it is necessary to have the performance of the Masque underwritten. There is immediate need of funds. Those willing to contribute funds or solicit them are asked to communicate with Mr. W. Forbes Morgan, Jr., 71 Broadway. It is expected that a part or all of the money subscribed to underwrite the celebration will be returned to contributors from the proceeds of the Masque.

A National Memorial to Shakespeare. The New York celebration is part of a great national movement. It has been suggested that the establishment of some suitable memorial to Shakespeare should be one of the results of the nation-wide interest in the Tercentenary of our supreme dramatist. It may be possible to gather from the performances in various cities, a sum sufficient to make this memorial a permanent and worthy one. Among plans thus far discussed, that of founding a national school of acting and dramatic production has met with the greatest enthusiasm.