

JURGEN

A Comedy of Justice

by James Branch Cabell

with Wood Engravings by
John Buckland Wright



Printed in England at
The Golden Cockerel Press



CHAPTER 34

How Emperor Jurgen fared infernally

Now the tale tells how the devils of Hell were in one of their churches celebrating Christmas in such manner as the devils observe that day; and how Jurgen came through the trapdoor in the vestry-room; and how he saw and wondered over the creatures which inhabited this place. For to him after the Christmas services came all such devils as his fathers had foretold, and in not a hair or scale or talon did they differ from the worst that anybody had been able to imagine.

'Anatomy is hereabouts even more inconsequent than in Cocaigne', was Jurgen's first reflection. But the first thing the devils did was to search Jurgen very carefully, in order to make sure he was not bringing any water into Hell.

'Now, who may you be, that come to us alive, in a fine shirt of which we never saw the like before?' asked Dithican. He had the head of a tiger, but otherwise the appearance of a large bird, with shining feathers and four feet: his neck was yellow, his body green, and his feet black.

'It would not be treating honestly with you to deny that I am the Emperor of Noumaria', said Jurgen, somewhat advancing his estate.

Now spoke Amaimon, in the form of a thick suet-coloured worm going upright upon his tail, which shone like the tail of a glowworm. He had no feet, but under his chops were two short hands, and upon his back were bristles such as grow upon hedgehogs.

'But we are rather overrun with emperors', said Amaimon, doubtfully, 'and their crimes are a great trouble to us. Were you a very wicked ruler?'

'Never since I became an emperor', replied Jurgen, 'have

PROSPECTUS

Described as a Comedy of Justice, *Jurgen* is one of the world's greatest satires, but it is also among its best romances. Students of life, lovers of romance, thoughtful people who welcome ideas either know *Jurgen*, and will want to have a Cockerel edition of this old friend on their shelves, or, if they have not come across it before, will read it and love it from beginning to end.

In the words of Sir Hugh Walpole, 'I know no book in the English language that colours one's imagination and fancy quite as this one does. . . . The world of *Jurgen*, with its grotesquerie, its sudden beauty, its poverty and its pity, its adventure and romance, is a world descended from earlier worlds but unique of its own period. . . . I think many of us now are sighing for a return of fantasy, of romance, of colour and imagination. . . . Meanwhile this at least one can say—that, for those who have the key to *Jurgen's* world, here is a world indeed!'

For publication in September, the Edition is limited to 500 copies printed in Caslon type on rag paper, with 16 large engravings by John Buckland-Wright. Size 10×6½ ins. 350 pages. The 'Specials' (Nos. 1-80) full bound in crimson morocco with purple inlays and gold designs, and with one extra engraving in the text. Price 15 gns. The 'Ordinaries' (Nos. 81-500) bound in ¼ purple morocco with buckram boards. Price £5 10 0.

Printed in Great Britain at
The Golden Cockerel Press, 1-5 Poland Street, London,
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