
The *Storisende* Edition of the WORKS OF JAMES BRANCH CABELL

THE books of JAMES BRANCH CABELL have earned for their author a position unique among contemporary American writers. To-day still under fifty, at the height of his career, *Mr. CABELL* is recognized, throughout the world of English letters, as one of the great prose stylists of all time: while yet alive, he has become, in the best and most vital sense, a classic. That is conceded.

It is not so generally known that *Mr. CABELL* has been working for twenty-five years on a romantic *Comédie Humaine* which covers the last seven centuries; and that each of his novels and stories, whether it concern itself with Lichfield or with the high history of Poictesme, is an integral part of what he refers to as "The Biography" — a Biography of the life of Dom Manuel of Poictesme, alike as that life was lived by him in the rather widely varying fields of fact and of recorded history, and as that life has been perpetuated in the descendants of Dom Manuel down to our present day. Of this Biography, which will consist ultimately of nineteen volumes, sixteen volumes have already been published, a seventeenth is nearing completion, and the two other books are in process of construction.

Writing of *Mr. CABELL's* work, Carl Van Doren says: "There seems to be no longer any reason for not associating him with the only comparable American romancers, Hawthorne and Melville. *Mr. Cabell*, more systematic than Hawthorne and Melville in his thinking, is more thorough in his art. He has left behind both his own place and his own age, and has taken refuge in an imagined realm where the very shadows are brighter than the sunshine of Virginia."

Writes Henry S. Canby: "Mr. Cabell has a fully matured style with body and beauty, and a perfect flow which suggests French

prose as often as English. He *is* the ironist that D. H. Lawrence, wrongly I think, thought Hawthorne meant to be. That he is one of our few good writers not many now can doubt."

And H. L. Mencken adds: "Cabell's style is the last word in artful and arduous craftsmanship among us — Paterism somehow humanized and made expansive."

Recognizing, then, the permanent quality of the Cabellian romances, and comprehending the necessity for issuing them in a form compatible with these books' importance, the publishers have prepared a definitive edition of the entire Biography to be known as the *Storisende Edition* of the WORKS OF JAMES BRANCH CABELL. In the manufacture of this collector's edition of nineteen volumes no expense has been spared. The publishers believe this to be one of the most distinguished sets of books, in *format* as well as in contents, which has yet been issued in America.



The *Storisende Edition* has been designed by William Dana Orcutt, and will be printed and bound under his direct supervision at the Plimpton Press, Norwood, Massachusetts. The *paper* is Aurelian deckle edge; the *type* is Caslon, and the *binding* is full cloth, with gilt top.

The *Storisende Edition* will be issued at the rate of three volumes per season commencing with the Autumn of 1927. Each volume will be signed by *Mr. CABELL* and will contain, in addition, a special preface and complete textual revisions. There will be printed fifteen hundred and ninety numbered sets, of which fifteen hundred and fifty will be offered for sale in the United States and England, after which the type will be destroyed.

Although the books may be paid for as issued, it will not be possible to purchase individual volumes or broken sets.

JURGEN

philanthropy! and deliberate how insufferable would be our case if you and I, and all our fellow parishioners, were to-day hobnobbing with other beasts in the Garden which we pretend to desiderate on Sundays! To arise with swine and lie down with the hyena? — oh, intolerable! ”

Thus he ran on, devising reasons for not thinking too harshly of the Devil. Most of it was an abridgement of some verses Jurgen had composed, in the shop when business was slack.

“ I consider that to be stuff and nonsense,” was the monk’s glose.

“ No doubt your notion is sensible,” observed the pawnbroker: “ but mine is the prettier.”

Then Jurgen passed the Cistercian Abbey, and was approaching Bellegarde, when he met a black gentleman, who saluted him and said:

“ Thanks, Jurgen, for your good word.”

“ Who are you, and why do you thank me? ” asks Jurgen.

“ My name is no great matter. But you have a kind heart, Jurgen. May your life be free from care! ”

“ Save us from hurt and harm, friend, but I am already married.”

“ Eh, sirs, and a fine clever poet like you! ”

“ Yet it is a long while now since I was a practising poet.”

“ Why, to be sure! You have the artistic temperament, which is not exactly suited to the restrictions of domestic life. Then I suppose your wife has her own personal opinion about poetry, Jurgen.”

“ Indeed, sir, her opinion would not bear repetition, for I am sure you are unaccustomed to such language.”

“ This is very sad. I am afraid your wife does not

CHRONOLOGY

1. BEYOND LIFE: *Dizain des Démiurges*
2. FIGURES OF EARTH: *A Comedy of Appearances*
3. THE SILVER STALLION: *A Comedy of Redemption*
[AUTUMN, 1927]
4. DOMNEI: THE MUSIC FROM BEHIND THE MOON:
Two Comedies of Woman Worship
5. CHIVALRY: *Dizain des Reines*
6. JURGEN: *A Comedy of Justice*
[SPRING, 1928]
7. THE LINE OF LOVE: *Dizain des Mariages*
8. THE HIGH PLACE: *A Comedy of Disenchantment*
9. GALLANTRY: *Dizain des Fêtes Galantes*
[AUTUMN, 1928]
10. SOMETHING ABOUT EVE: *A Comedy of Fig Leaves*
11. THE CERTAIN HOUR: *Dizain des Poètes*
12. THE CORDS OF VANITY: *A Comedy of Shirking*
13. FROM THE HIDDEN WAY: THE JEWEL MERCHANTS:
Dizain and Comedy of Echoes.
[SPRING, 1929]
14. THE RIVET IN GRANDFATHER'S NECK: *A Comedy of
Limitations*
15. THE EAGLE'S SHADOW: *A Comedy of Purse-Strings*
16. THE CREAM OF THE JEST: *A Comedy of Evasions*
[AUTUMN, 1929]
17. THE WITCH WOMAN
18. TOWNSEND OF LICHFIELD
19. STRAWS AND PRAYER-BOOKS: *Dizain des Diversions*
[SPRING, 1930]

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