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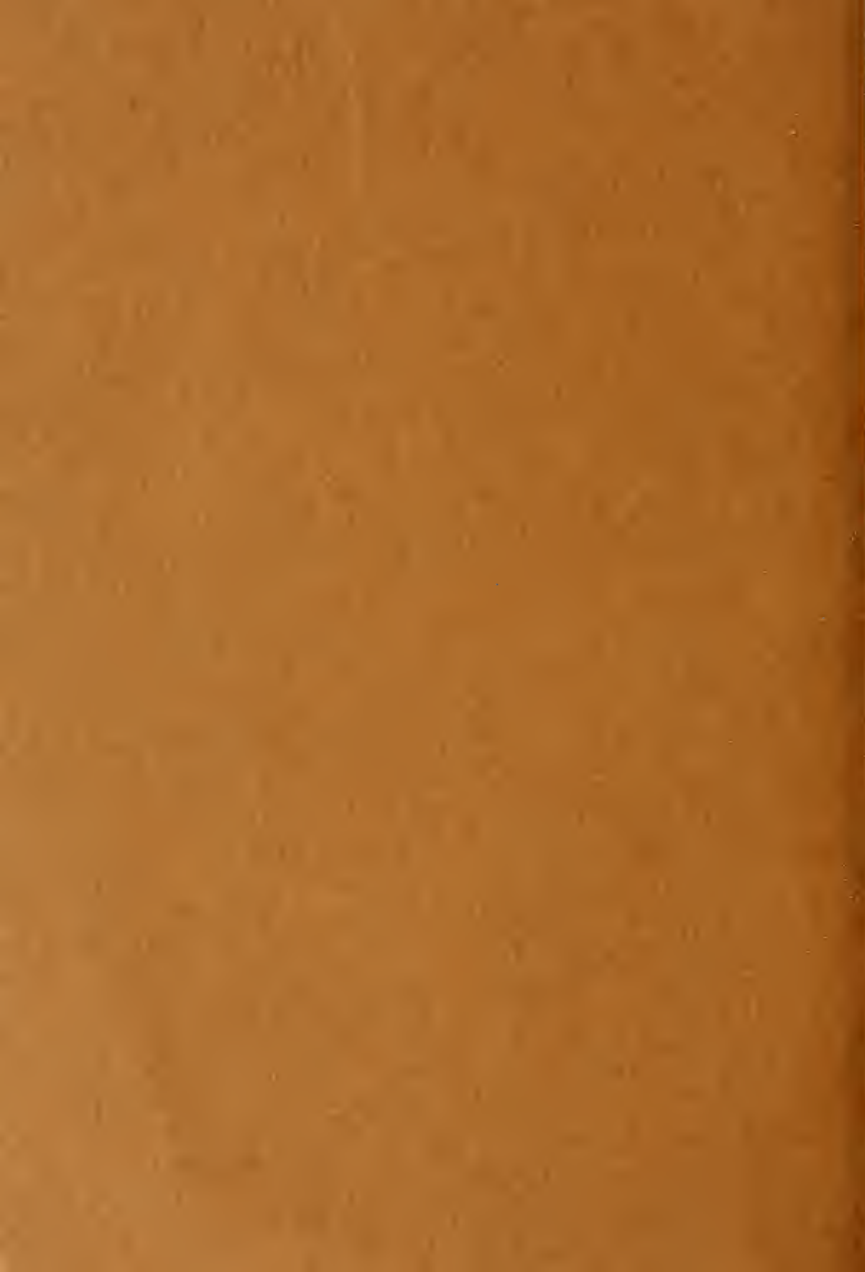
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The Society of Midland Authors



Chicago, Illinois

1930



The Society
of
Midland Authors

Organized April 24, 1915

The Society of Midland Authors

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

James Whitcomb Riley

Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor

FORMER PRESIDENTS

Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor

John M. Stahl

Emerson Hough

Alice Gerstenberg

Edwin Balmer

Harriet Monroe

Maude Radford Warren

Edwin Balmer

Douglas Malloch

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1929-1930

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Edgar J. Goodspeed

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Mary Hastings Bradley	Illinois
Meredith Nicholson	Indiana
Alice French	Iowa
William Allen White	Kansas
Ivan Swift	Michigan
Ole E. Rølvaag	Minnesota
Jay William Hudson	Missouri
H. Adelbert White	Nebraska
Stuart Walker	Ohio
Joseph Mills Hanson	South Dakota
Zona Gale	Wisconsin

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Elizabeth Knobel

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Baker Brownell	Douglas Malloch
Fanny Butcher	John T. McCutcheon
Thomas Curtis Clark	Harriet Monroe
Frances R. Donovan	Henry Justin Smith
Alice Gerstenberg	Eunice Tietjens

HISTORICAL SKETCH

By Hobart C. Chatfield-Taylor

During the fateful year when the world began to war, Mr. John M. Stahl, our treasurer, conceived the venturesome idea of gathering the writers of the state of Illinois together under the sponsorship of the Writers' Guild, his purpose having been to form them into a state society of authors.

None but a bold man would have sought to weld such individualistic—dare I say egotistic?—creatures as authors into a society of any sort; yet Mr. Stahl plied his typewriter so assiduously during the summer of the year 1914 that a goodly proportion of the gifted of the gods were induced to attend a dinner given for them at the Auditorium Hotel on the evening of November 28th by the Writers' Guild—or rather by Mr. Stahl, its insistent President, my suspicion being that in his hands the Guild was as pliant as we authors.

To silence Mr. Stahl and his typewriter we came, albeit dubiously, only to find that he and Douglas Malloch, his valiant coadjutor, had distributed the limelight so tactfully that we became contented components of a harmonious whole. Yet harmonious is not the *mot juste* for the occasion, I fear, Hamlin Garland having been there in forensic majesty. Bent upon broadening Mr. Stahl's parochial idea, this doughty champion of the Middle West orated unabatingly until the domain of the proposed society had been so extended as to include within it all that vast region of the land lying north of the Ohio River and between the Alleghanies and the Rockies.

Being temperamentally adverse to the term "Middle West," I mildly suggested the word "Midland" between flights of Mr. Garland's eloquence, and for my unwonted interference was elected to bear upon my shoulders the weight of the new Society's chairmanship. Indeed, without any of

us knowing precisely how it happened, we authors of the Commonwealth of Illinois, whom Mr. Stahl's persistence had brought together and Mr. Malloch's tact had placated, became so fired by Mr. Garland's enthusiasm that we resolved ourselves into a Society of Midland Authors, pledged to recruit our ranks to full war strength from those of our fellow craftsmen in eleven other states of the Union.

After thus upsetting Mr. Stahl's good intention, Mr. Garland fled precipitously to effete Manhattan, where in all but sentiment he has ceased to be a Midland Author. Howsoever dire his action may have seemed to Mr. Stahl, it has been justified by the success attained by the Society,—a success due, I believe, to the loyalty and wisdom of its directors. Having resided in remote places during the greater portion of my incumbency of the Presidential office, I cannot take credit to myself for the work of recruiting and organizing the Society. I know, nevertheless, how deeply the Society is beholden to:

Mary Aldis	Clara E. Laughlin
Edwin Balmer	Vachel Lindsay
Lilian Bell	Douglas Malloch
Clara Louise Burnham	Harriet Monroe
George Fitch	Randall Parrish
Alice French	Ella W. Peattie
Hamlin Garland	John M. Stahl
Alice Gerstenberg	Maude Radford Warren
Emerson Hough	Edith Wyatt

As the Society's first President and now its Historian, I take pleasure in inscribing their names in alphabetical order upon this, its Golden Book, since to them more than to all others its success is due, they having been its most willing and efficient workers.

Though the achievements of the Society are gratifying, I suspect that both Mr. Stahl and Mr. Garland aimed to make

of it a more austere organization than it has become. But authors are "onery critters" and therefore difficult to drive. Moreover, to expect them to prepare masterful creations merely to read to each other, when millions of readers are crying for their wares and affluent publishers with cheque books lying open before them wax impatient at their desks, is to demand too much of human nature. Indeed, those wise men and women whose names I have recorded saw both the futility and absurdity of boring the members of the Society of Midland Authors with the reading of sempiternal papers on which no royalties are paid. Moreover, being authors themselves, they knew that even authors, if they can be caught unawares and induced to unbend, like to play and make good cheer, not only at Christmas but at other seemly times; hence "a closer association among writers of the Middle West" was declared to be the Society's prime object.

It is true that "the stimulation of creative literary effort" is a secondary tenet of its creed; yet how may authors be inspired better than by meeting each other and swapping ideas?

As Historian of the Society, I am gratified to find that there is a little of an uplifting nature to record and much that is joyful and humanizing. We Midlanders do assemble once a year, it is true, to listen to papers read by fellow members; but even these solemn occasions have proved far from depressing; for instead of being bored by "high-brow" sapience we have been diverted by the pleasing wit of Alice French, Meredith Nicholson, Randall Parrish, George Ade, Emerson Hough, Zona Gale, and Margaret Hill McCarter

Even at the last annual meeting, when the death of our beloved Honorary President made personal reminiscences of him the order of the day, we did not wear long faces or pass stilted resolutions. On the contrary, we just sat together in a friendly group while Clara Laughlin, Edith

Wyatt, and Harriet Monroe told us human stories of James Whitcomb Riley's loveliness and quaintness.

But the annual meeting is the only formal conclave of the year, and even that is followed by sufficient cheer and welcome to make what Shakespeare calls a "merry feast."

Decked in paper motley, we then devour the roast beef of old England and quaff October ale; or, in more homely guise, eat pork and beans and pumpkin pie until the hard cider which has washed them down begins to tingle in our toes. Then we must needs dance a reel to the tune of "Old Dan Tucker," till the perspiring fiddler will bow no more.

No, there is but little wisdom and false philosophy in the Society of Midland Authors, and much that is human and edifying, even our annual meetings being far from staid events. In the winter time, however, we gather at such Bohemian places as Mme. Galli's, the Bismarck Garden, or De Jonghe's French restaurant; while in summer we hie either to Lake Forest for a sylvan outing or to the Chicago lawn of our charming Secretary, whenever wandering Thespians raise their trestles there.

Indeed, if the Society of Midland Authors has a just reason for being, it lies, I repeat, in its avowed purpose of bringing the writers of the Middle West together in closer association. Though a society of authors, it is nevertheless free from cant and prejudice, the creation of both friendship and goodfellowship among the men and women of the Middle West who write for a living being the object for which it was founded. Because of this it differs from other societies of its kind and plays, I fondly believe, a useful as well as pleasing part in the life of this workaday portion of the land.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF MIDLAND AUTHORS

I. NAME

The name of this association shall be THE SOCIETY OF MIDLAND AUTHORS, and it shall include representative writers resident in the twelve Central Western States between the Alleghany Mountains and the Rocky Mountains and north of the Ohio River, i. e., Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

II. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society are: A closer association among the writers of the Middle West, the stimulation of creative literary effort, and the establishment of a library of books and manuscripts by members of the organization.

III. OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall be: A President; twelve Vice-Presidents, each representing one of the above states; a Secretary; a Treasurer; and a Board of Twelve Directors. The Vice-Presidents shall constitute an Advisory Council, and, with the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. The Society may elect an Honorary President.

IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Council and of the Board of Directors.
2. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President from the first of the states, alphabetically arranged, shall preside; and in his absence, the next in order.
3. The Secretary shall be elected to serve two years, and shall keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Society and of committees, and shall be the custodian of all records.
4. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years,

and shall have custody of the funds of the Society. He shall receive all dues, and make disbursements upon the authority of the President, or the first of the Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary.

5. The active management of the Society shall be vested in the Board of Directors. Five Directors shall constitute a quorum.

6. The Vice-Presidents, when so requested, shall furnish the Board of Directors any available information concerning the eligibility of candidates for membership.

V. ELECTIONS

One month before each annual meeting the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee of five members who shall prepare a ticket of all officers to be elected for the ensuing year, this constituting the regular ticket to be voted on at the annual meeting. An independent ticket or tickets may be put in the field upon the signed request of fifteen members. Two weeks before the annual meeting the Secretary shall send the ticket or tickets to all members, who may return their votes by mail. A majority of the whole number of votes cast shall determine election.

The officers elected at the preliminary meeting shall hold office until the annual meeting of October, 1915.

VI. MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Chicago on the last Saturday in October. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors, or by petition of six members of the Advisory Council, or by petition of twenty-five members of the Society.

VII. DUES

The dues shall be Five Dollars per annum, payable in advance.

Amendment: Dues shall be Three Dollars per annum for residents of Chicago and Two Dollars for non-residents.

VIII. QUALIFICATIONS

The Board of Directors shall appoint a committee on membership, consisting of five members, which shall pass on

all candidates for membership, a majority vote constituting election. Any three members of the Society may present a candidate.

At a meeting of the Officers and Directors of the Society of Midland Authors, held September 27, 1917, the following amendment to the Constitution, VIII., Qualifications, paragraph 1, was proposed:

The Board of Directors shall constitute the Committee on Membership, a majority vote constituting election. Any one member of the Society may present a candidate, but each candidate must have the endorsement of at least two other members. Any proposal for membership shall be sent to the Secretary. Each Director shall be notified by mail of such intended election. Vote on such membership may be taken at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Each Director shall be required to attend such meeting or vote by mail. A failure to reply to the Secretary will be deemed an affirmative vote.

Any writer, resident within the twelve states enumerated above, who is the author of a book of poetry, fiction, history, biography, travel, or criticism, published in the regular course of trade, or who is the author of a play produced by professional players on a public stage, shall be eligible to membership. Writers of books privately printed, or of books on legal, medical, political, theological, scientific, or technical subjects, or of pamphlets, cannot be considered qualified thereby for membership.

But the membership committee by unanimous vote may elect to membership any candidate who, in its judgment, has achieved distinction as a contributor to magazines.

IX. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, or meeting called for the purpose, by two-thirds vote of the members present; upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council; or upon request in writing of twenty-five members. The Society shall be required to send each member a copy of the amendment proposed at least thirty days before the meeting at which it is to be considered, with notice of said meeting.

X. INTERPRETATION

The interpretation and application of this constitution shall rest with the Board of Directors.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF MIDLAND AUTHORS

April, 1930

- Addams, Jane.....
Hull House, 800 South Halsted Street, Chicago
- Ade, George.....Hazelden Farm, Brook, Indiana
- Aldis, Dorothy (Mrs. Graham).....
100 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago
- Aldrich, Bess Streeter (Mrs.).....
The Elms, Elmwood, Nebraska
- Altrocchi, Julia Cooley (Mrs. Rudolph).....
760 Coventry Road, Berkeley, California
- Altrocchi, Rudolph (Prof.).....
760 Coventry Road, Berkeley, California
- Amsbary, Wallace Bruce (Prof.).....
4724 Greenwood Avenue, Chicago
- Armstrong, Edith M. (Mrs. Morgan K.).....
2815 "Q" Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- Arnold, Julian B.....1400 Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago
- Atwater, Richard.....Chicago Evening Post,
211 West Wacker Drive, Chicago
- Atwood, Harry Fuller.....28 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago
- Balmer, Edwin.....1714 Asbury Avenue, Evanston, Illinois
- Barnes, Margaret Ayer (Mrs. Cecil).....
1153 North Dearborn Street, Chicago
- Barrett, Ethel Cook (Mrs.).....
807 South Eleventh Street, Newcastle, Indiana
- Barrett, Oliver R.....310 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago
- Barton, William E. (Rev.).....
Pine Knoll on Sunset Lake, Foxboro, Massachusetts
- Battenhouse, Henry M. (Prof.)
409 Allen Place, Albion, Michigan
- Baum, James E.....550 Spruce Avenue, Lake Forest, Illinois
- Bayliss, Clara Kern (Mrs.).....Isle View, 1419
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- Beach, Joseph Warren.....
1801 University Avenue, S. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Beebe, Ethel Fairmont (Mrs. Murray C.).....
Cheshire, Connecticut
- Bennett, Estelline.....
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- Blanden, Charles Granger.....
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- Borden, Courtney (Mrs. John).....
 Ambassador Hotel, Chicago
 Summer residence, Lake Forest, Illinois
- Bowman, James Cloyd (Prof.).....
 900 North Front Street, Marquette, Michigan
- Bradley, Mary Hastings (Mrs. Herbert E.).....
 5344 Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago
- Brazelton, Ethel M. Colson (Mrs. F. M. S.).....
 1354 East Forty-Eighth Street, Chicago
- Brown, Katherine Holland.....
 428 North Ninth Street, Quincy, Illinois
- Brownell, Baker (Prof.).....1200 Sherwin Avenue, Chicago
- Bundy, Walter E. (Prof.).....
 307 East Walnut Street, Greencastle, Indiana
- Burton, Charles Pierce....439 Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois
- Butcher, Fanny.....Chicago Tribune
 435 North Michigan Boulevard, Chicago
- Caldwell, Frank.....
 519 South Washington Street, Eldorado, Kansas
- Casey, Robert J.....Chicago Daily News
 400 West Madison Street, Chicago
- Chapman, William Gerard, International Press Bureau
 330 South Wells Street, Chicago
- Chappell, Frederick A.....Chicago Daily News
 400 West Madison Street, Chicago
- Chatfield-Taylor, Hobart C.....
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- Clark, Thomas Curtis.....
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- Cole, Mabel Cook (Mrs. Fay-Cooper).....
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- Cooke, Edmund Vance.....
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- Cox-McCormack, Nancy (Mrs.).....
 28 East Eleventh Street, New York, N. Y.
- Crawford, Nelson Antrim (Prof.).....
 The Household Magazine, Topeka, Kansas
- Darrow, Clarence S....77 West Washington Street, Chicago
- Dean, Alexander (Prof.).....Department of Drama
 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- Dillon, George.....5142 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago

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Donahey, William.....2331 Cleveland Avenue, Chicago
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Dresbach, Glenn Ward.....741 Belden Avenue, Chicago
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Corner 18th and S. A. Streets, Richmond, Indiana
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Garnett, Louise Ayres (Mrs. Eugene H.).....
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Gerstenberg, Alice.....1120 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago
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5706 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago
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Grover, Edwin O.....
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Hanson, Joseph Mills (Captain).....Yankton, South Dakota

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 2211 Francis Street, St. Joseph, Missouri
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Notre Dame, Indiana

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 Robinson, Luther E. (Prof.).....
 1032 East Boston Avenue, Monmouth, Illinois
 Rølvaag, Ole E.....
 311 Manitou Street, Northfield, Minnesota
 Sarett, Lew.....Laona, Wisconsin
 Schultz, William Eben (Prof.).....
 609 Clark Street, Canton, Missouri
 Scott, Arthur P. (Prof.).....
 5649 Blackstone Avenue, Chicago
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 1628 Eleventh Avenue, Moline, Illinois
 Seymour, Flora Warren (Mrs. George Steele).....
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 Seymour, George Steele.....
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 Slaughter, Gertrude E. (Mrs. M. S.).....
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 Smith, Henry Justin.....Chicago Daily News
 400 West Madison Street, Chicago
 Snell, Roy J.....
 705 North Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois
 Southerland, Myrtella.....
 424 Comstock Street, Adrian, Michigan

Williams, Whiting.....3030 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio
 Wilson, Lillian P. (Mrs. J. Wood).....Marion, Indiana
 Woodburn, James A.....
 519 North College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana
 Wyatt, Edith Franklin....1212 North State Parkway, Chicago
 Youmans, Eleanor (Mrs. Brigg).....
 P. O. Box 102, Pataskala, Ohio
 Young, Agnes Brooks (Mrs.).....
 3280 Chadbourne Road, Cleveland, Ohio

HONORARY MEMBER

Michelson, Albert A. (Prof.).....
 1220 East Fifty-Eighth Street, Chicago

IN MEMORIAM

George Fitch	1915
James Whitcomb Riley	1916
Lieut. Kenneth Sawyer Goodman.....	1918
Lieut. Walter Smith Poague.....	1918
Dr. Paul Carus.....	1919
William Morton Payne.....	1919
Dr. George Frank Butler.....	1921
Bert Leston Taylor.....	1921
Elizabeth Gordon	1922
Captain Emerson Hough.....	1923
Randall Parrish	1923
Gene Stratton Porter.....	1924
Lydia Avery Coonley Ward.....	1924
Frances Trego Montgomery.....	1925
Herbert Quick	1925
Louis J. Block.....	1927
Clara Louise Burnham.....	1927
Harry Pratt Judson.....	1927
Lily A. Long.....	1927
Keith Preston.....	1927
George Barr McCutcheon.....	1928
Charles A. Myall.....	1930
Cornelia Baker	1930
William Nelson Gemmill.....	1930





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