

# PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE IN ACTION



SET AND CAST FOR "THE GREEN GODDESS." POSED BY GILMOR BROWN AND HIS CAST IN THE NEW COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE, PASADENA

## PLAY PRODUCTION

By Robert R. Sharpe, Art Director of Pasadena Playhouse

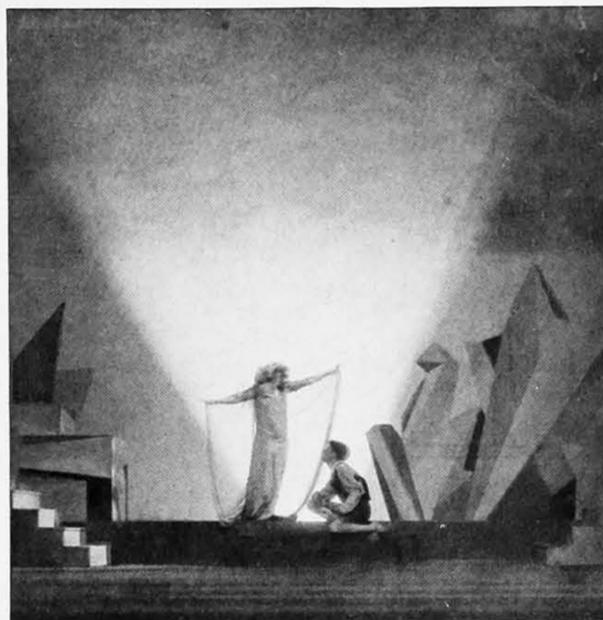
AFTER the stage designer has conceived the settings, the work of making the actual scenes really begins. How little does the public realize the stupendous amount of thought, emotional force, and physical labor that contributes to the creation of beautiful stage pictures.

Stage sets must have the double virtue of visually aiding the plot and underlying meaning of a play, and of providing a charming background for the actors. Therein lies the basic motive of scenery: it must always remain a background, no matter how important its symbolical influence upon the play. Subtlety and subordination are essential.

Then the designs must be made practical, so that the carpenter, painter, and electrician can adapt them to the actual working limitations of the stage. The scenery must at no time impede the action; the lights must be revealing as well as beautiful in effect; the costumes, furnishings, and sets must harmonize.

Take for example, the item of furniture: here the Pasadenans prove their true Community spirit. Unless the play be bizzare—in which case we must rent our things from a property-firm in Los Angeles—the local stores and shops are wonderfully helpful. From

SETS BY ROBERT R. SHARPE  
PHOTO GRAPHS BY MARGARET CRAIG  
COSTUMES BY MRS DAVID BLANKENHORN



THE FAIRYLAND OF PIER GYNT

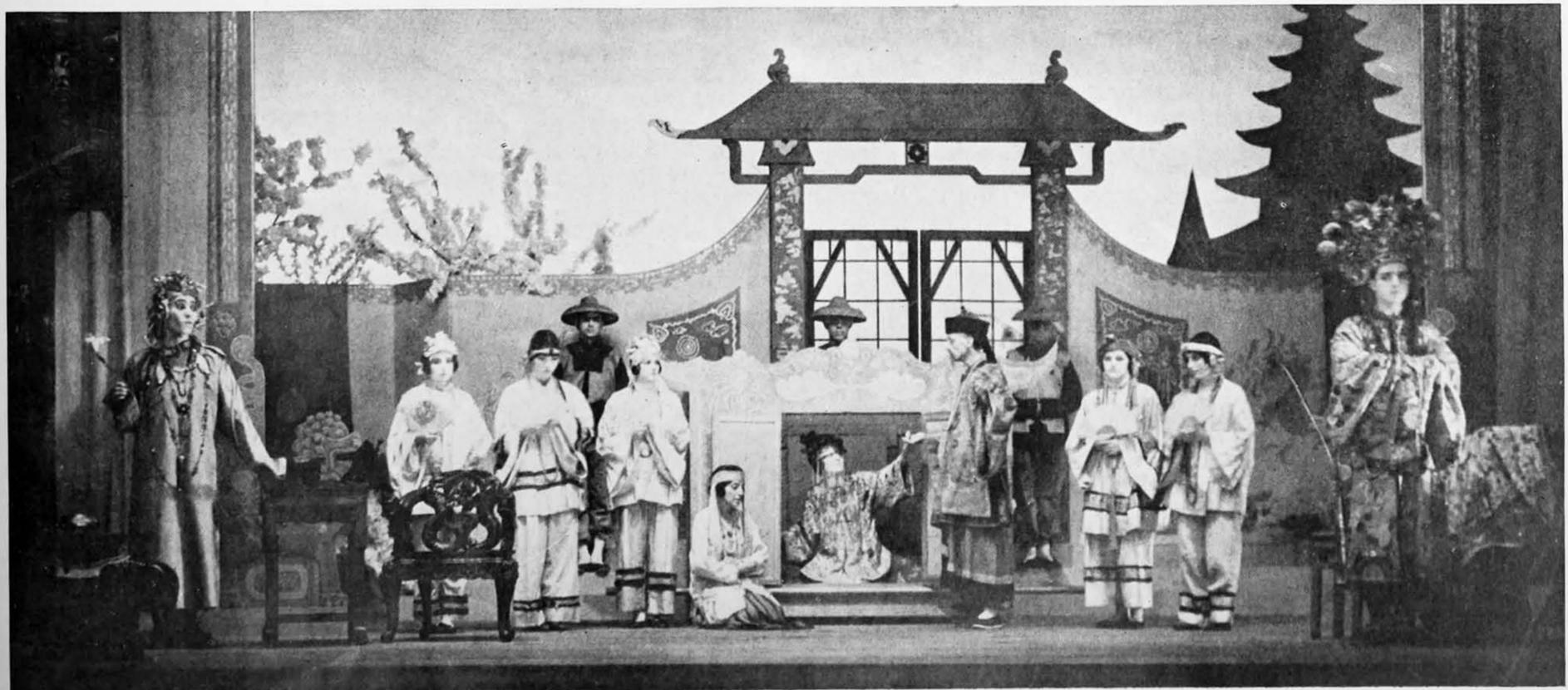
Cheesewright's we get lovely hangings, and

stunning modern furniture: from Serendipity fine antiques; Miss Nicholson and Mr. Bentz lend us beautiful Chinese objects; Ely gives us exquisite ornaments; Nash and Model Grocery help us with household goods. Sometimes a kindly shop in Los Angeles, honoring our prestige, will contribute props—otherwise almost impossible to obtain because of their expense; such an one is Meyer Di-Segni. And then, often, people lend us things from their very homes, so anxious are they that our productions be in perfect taste.

IN "THE SHOW SHOP," the farcical satire which James Forbes has written around the professional stage, Pasadena Community Players have selected a production which should start the local playhouse off on the most successful season in its history. As a play for such a purpose, "The Show Shop" is singularly well chosen. It is clever, bright, in places even brilliant; it is overflowing with wit, with humor; it vibrates with kindly qualities of human interest and it is pregnant with a subtle satire, incisive yet delicious.

"The Show Shop" does for the professional theatre what "The Torch-bearers" did for the little theatre. It reveals the actor's life in all its raw ramifications and it satirizes the professional producer, the professional play and the playgoer as well. The author, in mocking

(Continued on Page 18)



COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF PASADENA IN "THE LADY OF THE LAMP." SET BY ROBERT SHARPE, COSTUMES BY MRS. DAVID BLANKENHORN AND STAFF.

## ON THE GAY FIELD OF SPORTS---EAST AND WEST



CALIFORNIA HAS MANY SILVER STRANDS THAT OFFER INVITATIONS TO EQUESTRIANS, ALL EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE THOUGH NOT ALL SO WELL KNOWN AS THIS BEACH NEAR THE GOLDEN GATE.

THE fields of sport were so crowded all during the past month as to suggest a traffic jam, with various attempts to swim the English channel as a marine outlet.

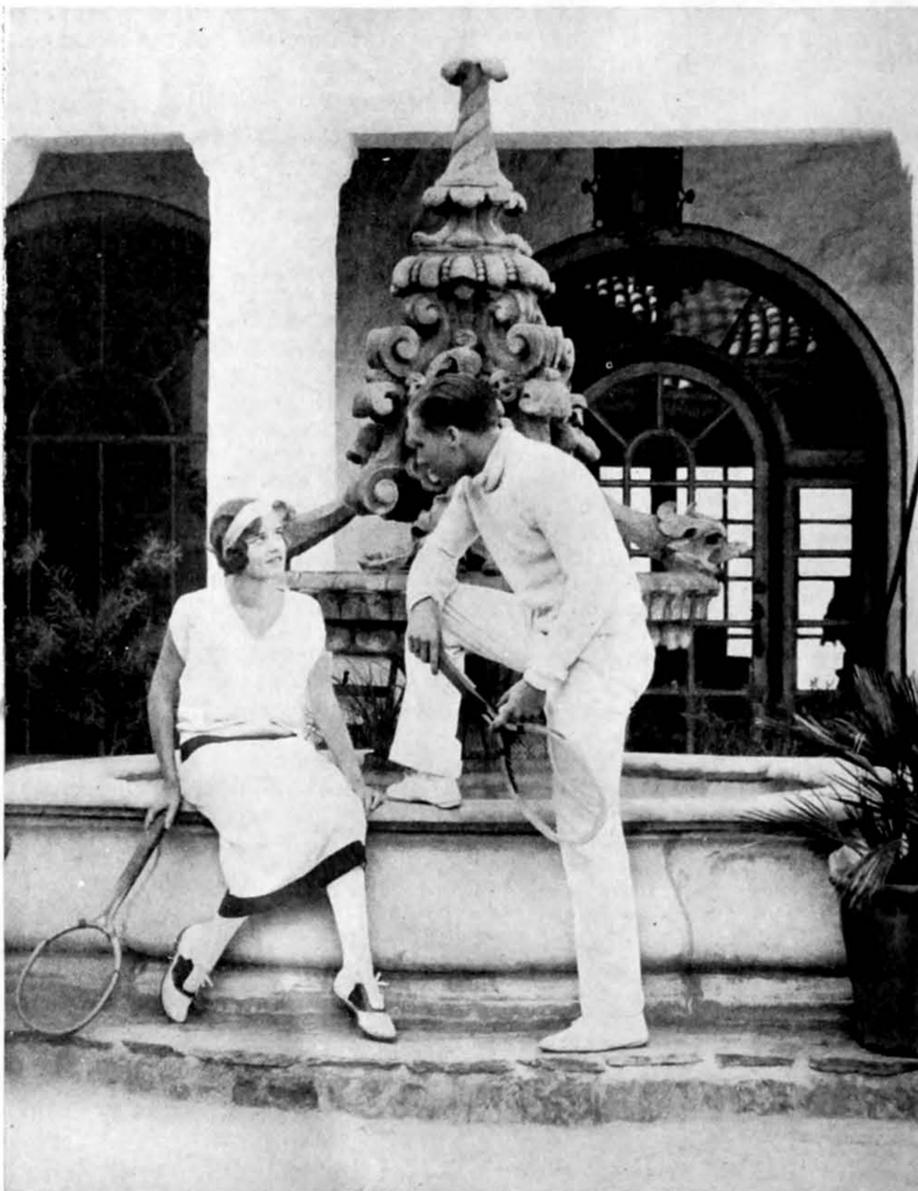
Perhaps tennis had a little the best of it in point of general interest, certainly to Californians, with Helen Wills, of Berkeley, winning the National Tennis Championship for the third straight year, giving her permanent possession of the silver championship trophy. Miss Wills and Mary K. Browne, also of California, won the Women's National doubles championship over Elizabeth Ryan and Mrs. May Sutton Bundy, for many years National champion, from California and who returned to the courts this year after several years' retirement.

The fifth annual regatta of the Southern California Yachting Association, held at Santa Barbara, was naturally of much more interest to the nautically inclined. The first regatta of the south was held in Santa Barbara in 1921, she was hostess again in 1923, and this year the hospitality was not lessened despite the recent catastrophe.

The opening of new golf clubs is as continuous as the winning of championships. No mountain or beach resort is complete without at

least a nine hole course.

The outstanding event of September, however, is the annual California State annual amateur golf championship tournament, opening at Del Monte, September 14. This, of all the tourneys of the year, holds the greatest anticipation, as it promises nearly two weeks of golf with the delightful social diversions that always form its background.



—Photograph by Margaret Craig  
POLLY HOLBERT AND DOUGLASS MONTGOMERY, OF THE PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYERS, WHOSE INTEREST FOR THE MOMENT IS TENNIS. POSING FOR CALIFORNIA SOUTHLAND BEFORE THE PLAYERS OWN FOUNTAIN.



—Golden State Limited Photo Service  
MRS. WILLIAM CARTER, AND MRS. A. E. D. TRABUE, CHAIRMAN OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION, ARE OFTEN SEEN ON THE ANNANDALE COURSE. MRS. CARTER PLANS TO PLAY IN THE MIXED FOURSOMES DURING THE OPENING OF EL CABALLERO COUNTRY CLUB, SEPTEMBER FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH.

## THE "SHOW SHOP"

Continued from  
Page 15

the art, reveals a fine appreciation of dramatic technique. Out of the chaos of fun, and from the virulent enthusiasms which mark the earlier stages of the play, there comes an excellently conceived dramatic touch which rises to strong heights of force and ability and climaxes the third act of the play with unexpected and delightful finish.

The thing is a satire, pure and lively. It could easily be a burlesque, bright and rollicking. Fortunately, Pasadena Community Players can offer a cast that will give this play a presentation that will make the production stand out as one of the most original performances ever offered here. I am looking forward to it. For I know, from my reading of the play, that if any group in this country can present it as it should be shown, it is the local players.

Characterization is a feature of the play. Here is where the work



LOIS AUSTIN OF THE PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYERS, AS THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA IN THE "SWAN," THE ONLY WESTERN PRODUCTION OF THE FRANZ MOLNAR PLAY. POSED BY MARGARET CRAIG IN THE FOES STUDIO.

will be given its truest interpretation. There is a Mrs. Dean, for instance, who should rank as one of the unforgettable figures who will haunt the local playhouse. Indeed, the leaders in the lengthy list of characters are all marked with a rich individuality. They are all kindly, lovable figures, filled with human virtues and failings, working together in humorous harmony and aiming at delectable ends. Again, I say, I am looking forward to seeing the players present "The Show Shop." For I have mentally cast the production in my own mind; and I realize that Gilmor Brown has the very talent for this particular play among the confreres he has surrounded himself with, in the South El Molino avenue theatre.

"The Show Shop" is claimed to be the only play ever written in this country which reveals the actual conditions prevailing in the theatrical profession. It was produced in the Hudson Theatre, New York, on the last day of 1914 and it is interesting to record that

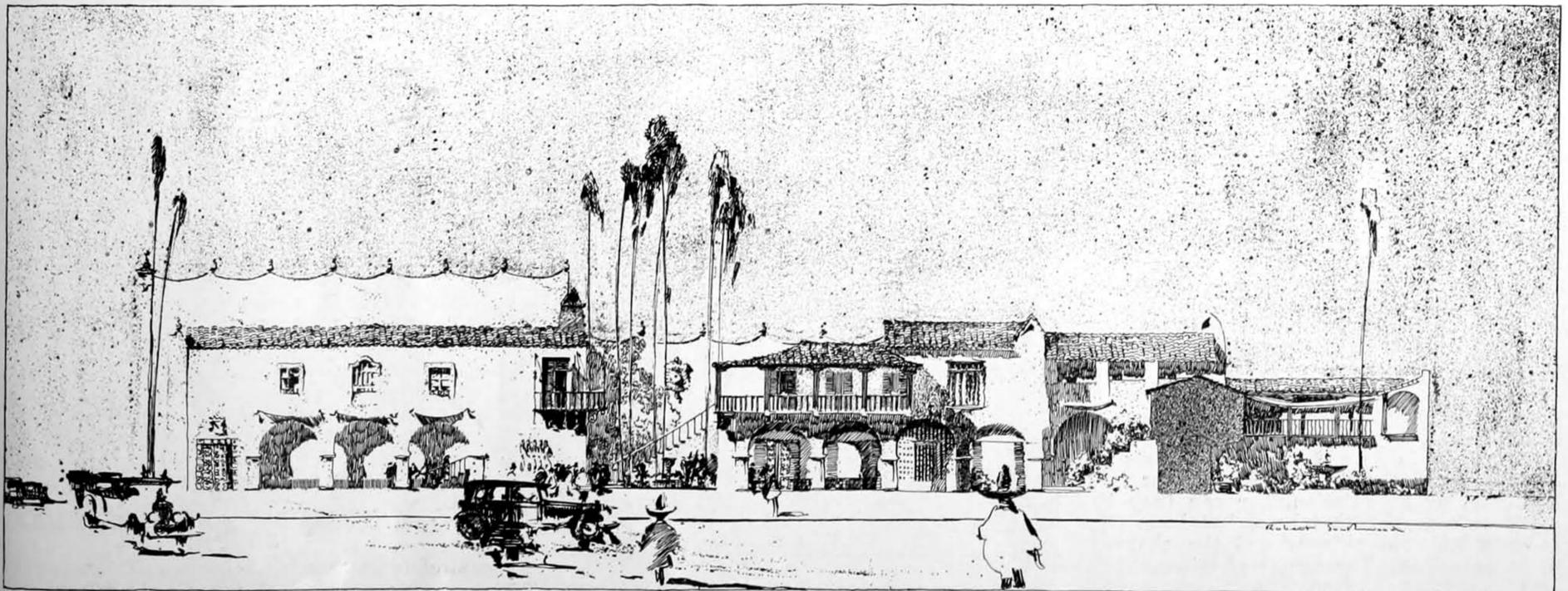
Douglas Fairbanks took his farewell of the legitimate stage with the production. Since the local players decided to revive the play, the management of the Actors' Theatre, New York, has similarly decided to present it.

Gilmor Brown sees the play as one possessing that distinctive calibre which should prevent it from being lost to the stage. It is not a work that would typically represent an interesting topic for stock companies, and with qualities which are too fine to permit the play lapsing from theatrical annals, the local players hail the opportunity of assisting in making it a vital thing for this later decade of play-goers. For an evening's genuine entertainment I doubt if anything will surpass the first Coast production of "The Show Shop."

ALEXANDER INGLIS.



MORE AND MORE THE PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE BECOMES THE CENTER OF THE SOCIAL LIFE OF ITS DEVOTEES. Margaret Craig



"SPANISH ARCADE" FOR THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST BRANCH OF PASADENA WALLACE NEFF ARCHITECT

THIS UNUSUALLY BEAUTIFUL SPANISH ARCADE, IS PLANNED FOR COLORADO STREET, PASADENA TO HOUSE STUDIOS AND SHOPS OF DISTINCTION. WALLACE NEFF, ARCHITECT