May Fete Plays

Presented by the Browning Society

1908 – “As You Like It”
1909 – “Twelfth Night”
1910 – “The Tempest”
1911 – “Midsummer Night’s Dream”
1912 – “Much Ado About Nothing”
1913 – “As You Like It”
1914 –
1915 – “Romeo & Juliet”
1916 – “Midsummer Night’s Dream”
1917 – “The Tempest”
1918 – “Winter Tale”
1919 – “Merry Wives of Windsor”
1920 –
1921 – “Taming of the Shrew”
1922 – “Much Ado About Nothing”
1923 – “Twelfth Night”
1924 –
1925 – “Two Gentlemen of Verona”
1926 – “Midsummer Night’s Dream”
Young Ladies Society.

Motto—"Ever Hone.

The Y. L. S. was organized in November, 1882, with twenty-seven charter members. The new society was at once tendered the use of Alcyone Hall, an offer which it gratefully accepted. Society life ran smoothly, in sooth, somewhat too smoothly. Every member loved her neighbor; every member agreed with her neighbor; every member was pertainly disposed toward the world, the flesh, and whatsoever follows after. Not a ripple could be stirred to break the fearful, peaceful calm. A system of rigorous fining was adopted, but, alas! the fines were paid smilingly and promptly, the only visible result being (facies a non incendi) fewer banana rinds to regale Mike's dog in his cloak room repast.

Then the "Breeze" rose in ire, and struck the table and the floor in the fire of her debate, and thenceforth she wore fire in her eye from the moment of her entrance into the hall, and whatever the question, argued the other side. The meetings began to prosper from that day, and presently were so far successful that an issue arose, namely: "Was it, or was it not a public body?" For one short week it was, and the minority went about in sack cloth and ashes, communing with their sad souls and Robert's Rules of Order. The following week the doors were closed again.

The pertness incident to recently-begun organizations, wears off apace. The Y. L. S. will shortly be dignified, and eloquent and opulent, too high aloft even to glance in disdain at hapless paper dolls found in her sacred precincts, too high aloft to "Ask Papa," or dust the great Cham's chair. Then will not any member be wickedly misled to vote for her own public censure, nor the Mormons held responsible for the flood by its unhappy survivors. And then shall the Y. L. S.'s full name be made known. Selah.
Mrs. W. R. B. Allred

Corinna, Ohio

Corner High Street & Woodward Avenue

U.S. R.

This copy was taken from: RG 44/1, Accession 33/83, located at 054-810-1.
NOTE: The attached "Browning" article was photocopied because it gives the month and year it was named "Browning Literary Society." It also gives the previous names of the group and tells when dramatics became part of the Society.
Browning—Past and Present
By Katherine Morhart-Sater, '93

Browning Dramatic Society possesses two things which recommend it to the readers of the Monthly—age and reputation. It is a woman's organization, and is very proud of an existence of thirty-five years on the campus of Ohio State University. It has outlived Horton and Alcyone, the once famous men's literary societies, where many of our prominent professional men received the training which has since distinguished them. As to its reputation, let but a Browning play be advertised commencement week, and the hillsides of Mirror Lake are thronged with people to witness the performance.

The history of any society is most interesting to those who have taken part in its making. Browning, in its infancy, was purely literary. Early the need of money to furnish comfortable quarters led the society to present plays which became more pretentious from year to year. By 1912 the term "Literary" was changed to "Dramatic," and in this role its influence has become far-reaching. Its beautiful Shakespearean plays charm and attract both our campus and the city. For this reason many may find something worth reading in the life of the society as recorded from year to year.

In a Makio of the early eighties the story of the beginning of Browning seems so characteristic of the life of that period that we will repeat the greater part of it, which runs somewhat as follows: "One bright autumnal day, when nothing disturbed the calm serenity of the sky, some unknown cause broke the peace and quiet of the University." There seemed to be an epidemic among the young ladies of the college. It culminated in a meeting in Professor Orton's room, one noon hour. The infection spread, and nearly every young lady was attacked. Then followed the astounding announcement that there was a "Young Ladies' Literary Society of sixteen members at Ohio State University." This was November 17, 1882. Previously the young ladies had been accepted as members of Horton and Alcyone, both of which were founded in 1874. After these came three fraternities, and then the Young Ladies' Literary Society, making it the sixth organization on the campus. To continue our quotation:

"The news spread far and wide. The city dailies took it up—how, you need only ask the reporter! The ladies then selected a Bird (Miss Bird of Zanesville, O.) as president. A tender-hearted envoy from Alcyone offered refuge in its hall, which offer was promptly accepted. The next question was a name and a motto. The hall of Alcyone echoed with the eloquence of youthful orators, and after many deliberations, the name chosen was "………………", and the motto "………………. These subjects being thus satisfactorily disposed of, the life of the society glided on in calm serenity, until one fatal afternoon, three men walked into the hall! One sister, braver than the rest, dared to inform the intruders that henceforth they should observe the inscription on the gate, "Let No Man Enter on Pain of Death." It is not surprising that later we find the ladies presented with the motto, "Ecce Homo!" They were also formally presented with a key to the hall, and thereafter man's knowledge of the events in the "mystic realms of the sisterhood" had to come by way of peeps into keyhole and transom, and we are told by a member of that time that the curious frequently resorted to this practice.

The name, "Young Ladies' Literary Society," lasted but a year and a half, when a committee, of which Miss Olive Jones was a member, changed it to "Browning Literary Society" (May,
1884), in honor of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Mrs. N. S. Townshend, wife of Dr. Townshend of the faculty, wrote Mr. Browning of this tribute to his wife, and we are indebted to Miss Townshend for the privilege of presenting a fac-simile of the treasured letter which Mr. Browning sent in reply. It is hoped that Browning may some day have a home of its own, in which this letter and other mementoes may be properly preserved.

At a joint commencement of the three literary societies in the spring of '84, Miss Chamberlain (Mrs. Ellis Lovejoy) and Miss Anna Sabine (Mrs. Wilbur H. Siebert) were the first graduates to receive diplomas. In September of that year the Board of Trustees of the University gave Browning Professor Smith's room on the fourth floor of University Hall and some money to help furnish it. The remainder of the fund was raised at the "Famous Oyster Supper" at the home of Dr. Scott, when the Browning colors, pink and white, were used for the first time.

In the fourth year of the society's existence a "Pink and White Social" was given at the home of Professor

The First Browning Group

Top row, reading left to right: Bertha Katherine Krauss, librarian State Library; Sarah O'Kane (Mrs. Frank Raymund), Columbus; Katherine Morhart (Mrs. Lowry F. Sater), Columbus; Bertha Lamme (Mrs. Russell Feicht), Pittsburgh; Gertrude Kellicott, O. S. U. Library; Carrie Wright, teacher in Chicago, Ill.; Martha Moses, the girl who named the "Gab Room" (deceased); Fannie Howard (Mrs. Allison M. Mitchell), teacher in Columbus schools; Ekka M. Robinson (Mrs. George M. Rowe), Grand Rapids, Mich.; Nellie Herlihee (Mrs. D. P. Cronin), Chillicothe, O.

Lower row: Lillian Strickler (Mrs. J. Wendell Cole), Columbus, O.; Emma A. Slyh (Mrs. William H. Baker), Columbia, Mo.; Miss Rane; Edith Garber (Mrs. Fred Cellarius), Dayton, O.; Edith D. Cockins, registrar O. S. U.; Florence Cope, Columbus; Cora Gale-Roof, Columbus; Henrietta Weber, Chicago, Ill.; Maud Flynn, teacher in South High School, Columbus; Grace Henderson (Mrs. Charles Orr), Columbus.
Smith, and in the spring term, the first May-Day picnic was held, when Miss Sabine (Mrs. Siebert) was crowned the first May queen. During the winter of '87, Browning celebrated her first anniversary and held open meetings. The second May queen was crowned the next year, and in June following Miss Josie Cathcart presented the young women with a large portrait of Mrs. Browning, which she had crayoned. A handsome set of Mrs. Browning's poems was given to the society a little later by Mr. W. S. Duvall, and another picture by an unknown friend. In '88 the women were busy raising money to buy a piano, and for this purpose they gave two socials, one at the home of Miss Clark in December and the other at the home of Professor Tuttle in April. The Makio helped to swell the fund by giving a prize for the best poem written by a Browning member.

Dramatics made their first appearance in '89, when a "Shakespearean Burlesque" was given by the ladies, assisted by Charles Kershaw of Alcyone. This was followed by the play,"Samantha Allen and the Young Poetess" in '90, the year in which the society had occasion to compose a song and adopt a yell:

"Rip, rip, 'rah! Pink and White! Where is Browning? Out of sight!"

The burlesque, "Forty Minutes With a Crank," given in '94, included members of Alcyone in its cast. A reception to alumnae and ex-members was given two years later with an "inaugural" and reception to new members at the home of Mrs. Kellerman, wife of Professor Kellerman. Next the alumnae gave the entire program at a reception in the spring term, and in June the three societies held a joint commencement. In '97, under the direction of Professor Fulton, who was instructor in elocution at the University, "The Hunchback" was presented. Athenaean Literary Society, which was organized in '99, shared its new hall with Browning, which was furnished with the proceeds of the play, "A Man in the Case." I presume Browning limited its membership to thirty-five about this time to gain an air of exclusiveness. Perhaps this feeling helped to keep it alive in spite of a general decadence in the other literary societies, which became apparent in the next few years. A monotony of programs and lack of interest resulted perhaps from the great increase in the complexity of university...
life and the founding of professional literary societies and departmental organizations, such as Townshend and Hunter, the Political Science Club, the Engineers' Club and the Strollers. Then, too, the most important work of the societies, the training of public speakers, was taken up by the University. The membership of Horton and Alcyone gradually dwindled to nothing. The old society bulletins, the classic frames that for years had held the programs of these splendid societies, became broken and dilapidated. Their last announcement, perhaps, was an unsuccessful call to combine the two. They passed out of existence in 1905, bequeathing a rich legacy of happy memories to all who had enjoyed and inspired their privileges.

Strange that Browning did not die, too! Perhaps it was more elastic and adapted itself more easily to new conditions. Perhaps it recognized the never-ending desire of humanity to be amused. At any rate, it lived on, and emerged triumphantly from the ashes of the other societies. It became a finer and a greater Browning. The plays that once were its pastime now became the chief object of its existence. It was gradually reorganized. The air of exclusiveness once assumed now became a reality. To be a member one must possess real talent. This mark of distinction is an honor coveted by all of the girls of the University. The Shakespearean plays which have been presented since 1908 have left with us most beautiful memories. Beginning with "As You Like It," Browning has successfully presented "Twelfth Night," "The Tempest," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "As You Like It" (for the second time), "The Foresters," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Romeo and Juliet," again "Midsummer Night's Dream" last year, with "The Tempest" to be repeated next June. Of all that has been written regarding these performances, nothing could be more charming than the comments of The Idler.

We doubt if the amphitheater which furnishes the setting for these outdoor performances has an equal in the college world. Add to Mirror Lake, the spring, the silver leaves and the terraced hillsides, a Greek temple, Browning's future hall of fame, and we have a combination of rare and unsurpassed beauty. Browning's days and plays at the spring will give us the most beautiful traditions of the campus.

In conclusion, it would be unpardonable if mention were not made of Mrs. Laura Thomas-Walradt and Mrs. Mary Bohannon-Chubb, who have given so generously of their time and talents, which have contributed in such large measure to the latter successes and triumphs of this society.
Browning History.

The history of Browning Literary Society is one of those that is much more interesting to the people who make them than to those who read them. But since many who will read this history have also helped, more or less, to make it, it is perhaps worth while to tell the story.

On the seventeenth of November, 1882, a meeting was held in Dr. Orton's recitation room to organize a Young Ladies' Literary Society. A week later a constitution was adopted, and officers were elected. The new society consisted of eighteen members, with Miss Bird as President.

As soon as the existence of the Society was known, Alcyone Hall was offered for its use. The offer was accepted, and the young ladies held their meetings in Alcyone Hall till the close of the college year. There, too, in June, they gave their first open meeting.

Shortly before the close of the spring term, a committee was appointed to secure a hall, if possible, for use during the next year; but owing to the lack of room in the college buildings, the attempt was unsuccessful. The recitation rooms, however, were thrown open to the young ladies. Horton and Alcyone Halls were also offered them, but neither was accepted at the time. The Society met in different recitation rooms till November, when, tired of this mode of life, it returned to the hospitality of Alcyone.

For more than a year after organization it was known as "The Young Ladies' Literary Society." It was understood, however, that another name would be adopted as soon as a satisfactory one could be found, and by irreverent outsiders it was often called "The Nameless." In May, 1884, the name of Browning was chosen, and the reproach removed. In June, the second open meeting was held. At the joint commencement of the three literary societies, in the same month, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Sabine received Browning diplomas.
In September, the first meeting of the Society brought the welcome news that the room previously occupied by Prof. Smith was at its disposal. It was gladly accepted, and the young ladies soon began to lay plans for furnishing it. The Trustees of the University were petitioned for permission and assistance, and responded by assenting to the improvement and by the gift of some money. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions, and plans were made for giving a supper.

On the sixteenth of January, 1885, the famous "Oyster Supper" was given at the home of Dr. Scott. Financially and socially, it was a great success, and the older members of Browning still refer to it with pride when suppers and socials are discussed. On this memorable evening, Browning girls first wore their colors, pink and white. The amount realized from the supper, together with the generous subscriptions that had been received enabled the Society to furnish its hall. By the last of February it was ready for the reception of visitors and an open meeting was held in it.

During the spring term, the three literary societies of the University gave a joint social in Alcyone Hall. At the joint commencement in June, Browning graduated one member, Miss M. O. Scott.

The first event of much importance in the fourth year of the Society's life was the "Pink and White Tea," given at the residence of Prof. Smith, on the twelfth of February, 1886. In the spring term, the Browning girls held their first May-Day picnic, and crowned their first May Queen. Later in the month a joint meeting of Alcyone and Browning Societies was held. At the literary commencement in June, Miss Fisher graduated.

In October, an open meeting was held in Browning Hall. Soon after a social was given at the home of Miss Doty. During the winter term, Browning celebrated her anniversary. On that occasion, the announcement was made that thenceforth her literary meetings would be open to all who might wish to attend.

On the second of May, another May Queen was crowned with the usual ceremonies. Early in June, the Society received from Miss Cathcart a fine crayon portrait of Mrs. Browning, which now hangs above the Secretary's desk. The graduates at the close of the year were Miss Mullay, Miss Detmers and Miss Daisy Scott.

In November of the present College year, Alcyone and Browning gave a second joint entertainment. At about the same time, it was
decided to raise some money to buy a piano for Browning Hall. For this purpose a social was given in December, Miss Clark having offered her home for the use of the Society. Their success encouraged the Browning girls to give a "C Social" at the residence of Prof. Tuttle, on the twenty-seventh of April.

The friends of Browning have shown her great kindness during the present year. At the social in the fall term, Mr. W. S. Devol presented the Society with a handsome set of Mrs. Browning's poems. When the hall was opened for the first meeting of the winter term, another gift was seen on the wall, a beautiful picture, presented by an unknown friend. In April, the editors of the "MAKIO" generously offered a prize for the best poem written by a member of Browning on condition that the money should be devoted to the piano fund. In behalf of the Society, the historian would thank its friends, one and all, for the kindly interest they have shown in its welfare and the many ways in which they have contributed to its success.
by the Board of Trustees to the Department of Highways and Public Works, with the request that such extras be approved and authorized by said department.

The Trustees now took up for consideration the reports of the committee appointed to make an investigation of the situation regarding Medical Education in the University. After some discussion, it was agreed to defer further action until the next meeting of the Trustees and the President was requested to arrange for a hearing at that time on the two reports submitted, each College to be represented by not to exceed three members of its faculty.

Upon the recommendation of John Van Meter, agent for the Virginia Military Lands, the Trustees authorized the execution of a Quit Claim Deed to W. L. and Aulda C. Sheridan for 88 acres, more or less, in Brush Creek Township, Highland County, Ohio, and being a part of Survey No. 13461, Virginia Military Lands, entered in the name of Allen Latham. The consideration to be $200.00.

The Board now proceeded to elect its officers for the coming year, which election resulted as follows:

Chairman ................. John Kaiser
Vice-Chairman ............ T. C. Mendenhall
Treasurer ................. Julius F. Stone
Secretary ................. Carl E. Steeb

The President presented a communication from the alumnas of the Browning Dramatic Society, requesting that suitable provision be made for the construction of an outdoor theater for the use of the Browning Society. This communication was ordered received and filed with the Secretary to be considered at the proper time.

Thereupon, the Board adjourned to meet Monday, June 19, 1922, at 10:00 a.m., at the University.

Attest:

CARL E. STEEB, Secretary

JOHN KAISER, Chairman

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Columbus, Ohio, June 19, 1922.

The Board of Trustees met at the University at 10:00 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Present: T. C. Mendenhall, Vice-Chairman; B. F. McCann, O. E. Bradfute, L. E. Laybourne, J. F. Cunningham.

The Board came to order and took up for consideration the two reports submitted by the committee appointed to make an investigation of the situation regarding Medical Education in the University, and to hear representatives of the two schools of medicine, in accordance with the action taken by the Trustees at the last meeting.
2-5-'24

The Secretary reported the death of J. I. VanMeter of Chillicothe, University agent for the Virginia Military Lands.

The Secretary presented a resolution adopted by the Franklin Farmers' Institute, which was ordered filed.

The Secretary reported that in accordance with the action of the Board of Trustees at its last meeting the Cabinet opened bids on January 12, 1924, for a greenhouse for the College of Agriculture; that but one bid was received which was below the Architect's estimate; and that contract had been entered into with the American Greenhouse Manufacturing Company for greenhouse No. 9 for the sum of $8,450.

The Secretary presented letters from Professor Siebert and from the Secretary of the American Historical Association expressing the gratitude of the Association for the courtesies extended during the recent annual meeting.

The Secretary presented sketches of a proposed theater for the Browning Society, to be located in the hollow east of the spring and the request of the Society that such a theater be approved, and that the Browning Society be authorized to solicit funds for its construction. Upon motion, certain sketches were approved, the construction of the theater was authorized on the site designated, and the Society was further authorized to proceed with the solicitation of funds for its construction.

The plans, specifications, and estimates for paving around the Agricultural Buildings west of the River, as proposed by P. H. Elleman, University Engineer, were approved and the Secretary was directed to present the same to the Director of Highways and Public Works for his approval and if so approved to advertise for bids in accordance with the law.

The University Architect presented the plans, specifications and estimates for the new Hospital Building, which were approved and the Secretary was directed to refer the same to the Director of Highways and Public Works for his approval and if so approved to advertise for bids in accordance with the law.

The University architect presented the specifications and estimates for a freight elevator for the Medical Science Building and two push button controlled electric passenger elevators; one car controlled electric dumb waiter, for the Administration Building, which were approved and the Secretary was directed to refer the same to the Director of Highways and Public Works for his approval and if so approved, to advertise for bids in accordance with the law.

Upon recommendation of the Acting President, an appropriation of $3000.00 was made from A-1, Salaries, to pay the salaries of the personnel in University Hospital now carried in the Rotary fund, and $3000.00 was appropriated from the general appropriation bill.
College of Education

Dean A. Worcester
Asst. Prof., Psychology
Su. Qr., 1925
Quarters 800.00
Henry Neumann
Prof., Principles and
Practice of Education
Su. Qr., 1926
Summer 1,600.00

College of Engineering

Henry Fulton
Machine's Helper, Elec. Engineering
Oct. 23, 1925 (12 mos.) 65.00 mo.

College of Law

Robert Miller Hunter
Asst. Prof., Law
Nov. 1, 1925 to Au. Wi. Sp.
( Special Contract )
June 30, 1926 3,200.00

Physical Education

Margaret Laube
Student Assistant, Women's Division
Nov. 1, 1925, to
Dec. 31, 1925 25.00 mo.

Upon recommendation of the President, the following increase in salary was made:

Agricultural Extension:

R. C. Smith
County Agr. Agent, Darke County
Oct. 1, 1925 3,820.00 to 4,120.00
Increase to be paid from Darke County funds.

The President announced to the Board that he had in his possession a certificate of deposit of several years standing, representing a balance remaining from a carnival held by the students on the campus.

Upon recommendation of the President, it was agreed that this student fund should be endorsed over to the Browning Literary Society to be added to the funds now being raised for the construction of the Browning Theater.

The President stated that due to an oversight, the attention of the Board of Trustees was not called to the cooperative arrangement made with the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in the case of Professor J. I. Falconer. Under that arrangement Mr. Falconer was to receive one-half his salary from the Station and one-half from the University. At the present time his salary is carried on the budget of the University at $5,000.00 for the current year.

Upon recommendation of the President it was approved and the salary for Mr. Falconer, to be paid from University funds, was fixed at $2,500.00 for the current year.

Upon recommendation of the President it was ordered that, due to the serious accident suffered by Mr. Donald B. Millikan, a student in Applied Optics, the fees paid for the current quarter by Mr. Millikan and by Mrs. Millikan be returned in full.

Upon recommendation of the President and the Dean of the College of Arts, Philosophy, and Science, and by unanimous vote of all members of the Departments of European History and American History, it was ordered that those two departments be combined into one called the Department of History.

It was also ordered that the title of Professor W. H. Siebert, since 1902 head of the Department of European History, be designated as Research Professor in History.

It was further ordered that the above changes be made effective at once so as to be incorporated in the catalogue now in preparation.
The newly renovated Browning Amphitheatre performing area

**Tuttle recalls pageantry of first event**

By Patricia Mroczek

Rain soaked Browning Amphitheatre on its dedication day in 1926.

Mildred Trotter Tuttle remembers the storm vividly.

As president of the Browning Dramatic Society, she gathered family, friends, and members to mop up the rainwater so the evening's extensive plans could be completed.

"I remember it well because we were quite distressed," Tuttle said recently from her home in Columbus. "We mopped up the seats and fortunately it turned into a beautiful evening."

The dedication came off beautifully, too, she added. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was presented.

The presentation began with a procession of costumed performers marching slowly and elegantly down the winding path from Pomerene Hall to Mirror Lake. The all-woman cast carried flaming torches.

"The reflection of the lights in Mirror Lake were especially lovely," she said.

Tuttle said one of the society's proudest moments came when they presented then Ohio State President George Rightmire with a plaster model of the new amphitheatre.

Those dedication ceremonies were the realization of a dream for the now defunct Browning Dramatic Society.

From 1882 until 1956, the society served women of Ohio State who were interested in literature and poetry. The society's history can be traced back to 1882 when it became the first all-woman group on campus, The Young Ladies Literary Society.

In May, 1884, the group adopted the name Browning Literary Society in honor of British poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, who lived from 1806-1861. Within five years, the group began staging Shakespearean plays.

In 1908, the society changed its name to the Browning Dramatic Society and began a tradition of performing a Shakespearean play each spring in Mirror Lake Hollow. Each performance would begin at dusk with the cast of players carrying torches. The society designed and made all its costumes.

In 1926, with the help of campus societies and alumni, the society was able to dedicate Browning Amphitheatre.

For its 50th anniversary in 1932, the society again performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

A decreasing membership, due in part to declining interest in all-women organizations, ended the society in 1956. But over the past year, society members again were contacted.

Tuttle and Tony Hightower Auch of Columbus asked former members and friends to help raise funds for the new outdoor performance center in Browning Amphitheatre. Honorary co-chairs of the fund-raising committee are Christine Conaway, dean of women emeritus, and 102-year-old Cora Roberts Evans, both of Columbus.

"We're very glad that more people will be able to enjoy the beauty down there now," Tuttle said. "It'll have a greater use for everyone."