

# LUIGI PIRANDELLO WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Italian Playwright's General  
Contribution to Literature  
Is Basis of Award.

HIS PLAYS METAPHYSICAL

Author Long Interested in  
What He Terms Man's Need  
to Deceive Himself.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 8.—The Nobel Prize in literature was awarded today to the Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello.

By The Associated Press.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 8.—The award of the Nobel Prize of \$41,318 to Luigi Pirandello was based on the author's general contribution to literature, there being no mention of any particular work.

Last year's prize was awarded to the Russian, Ivan Alexeyevich Bunin, poet and novelist.

Author Expresses Pleasure.

By The Associated Press.

ROME, Nov. 8.—The little white beard of Luigi Pirandello bobbed in lively fashion today as he chuckled over his success in winning the Nobel prize in literature.

Italy's premier playwright, now that Gabriel d'Annunzio's sun is setting, received an interviewer in the library of his small apartment in a suburb. He read with great interest a telegram from Stockholm announcing the award. Smiling broadly, he said:

"Of course, I'm going to keep it. There are poor authors, too.

"Certainly I'm going to keep on working. I have dozens of ideas just crying to be put on paper."

Signor Pirandello said one of the greatest disappointments he has had in recent years was in connection with the United States. He had a contract with the Shubert Theatre Corporation, which failed. Consequently he has not sent to America the play "Giants of the Mountain," which was especially written to be produced in the United States because of the grandiose stage setting required.

"In order to find out something about the situation," he related, "I wrote to a New York lawyer, but he replied that merely to study the situation he wanted \$500. At this rate the only one who would have realized a profit would have been the lawyer."

He said he now was putting his latest comedy, "One Doesn't Know How," on the Italian stage.

He is greatly interested in the project of the Italian Government to create a State theatre.

Asked when he intended to visit America next, he replied, "I'm waiting for better times."

Chooses Metaphysical Themes.

Throughout his literary career Luigi Pirandello has been juggling with the philosophical problem of reality. In his plays, short stories, essays, poems and novels the question "What is reality?" is an ever-recurring theme.

Signor Pirandello's predilection for metaphysics is probably bound up with his early education. He was born on June 28, 1867, on a country estate near Girgenti, Sicily. He first went to Rome at the age of 19. In 1891 he entered the University of Bonn in Germany and there came into contact with professors of philosophy. At Bonn he received his doctorate in philosophy. Ever since that time he has been influenced by the impressions he received during his student days in Germany.

His first volume, in verse, was published in 1889. Luigi Capuana, a Sicilian contemporary of Signor Pirandello, persuaded him to try his pen at fiction, and in 1894 he published his first novel, "L'Esclusa" (The Outcast). From that time on novels and short stories flowed from his pen. One of his best-known novels, "The Late Mattia Pascal," appeared in 1904.

Wrote His Play at 45.

It was not until he was 45 years old that he turned to the theatre. In his plays he gave vigorous expression to the despairing outlook on life that had characterized his novels and short stories.

Despite their concentration on metaphysical problems, Signor Pirandello's plays are frequently sprinkled with brilliant wit. His comedies and other plays reveal his ability to vitalize philosophical questions through the medium of characters who are intensely alive. Their conversation is always marked by sensibility and wit. His play "Tonight We Improve" is a half-humorous, half-serious attempt to set forth in dramatic terms the answer to the riddle of reality.

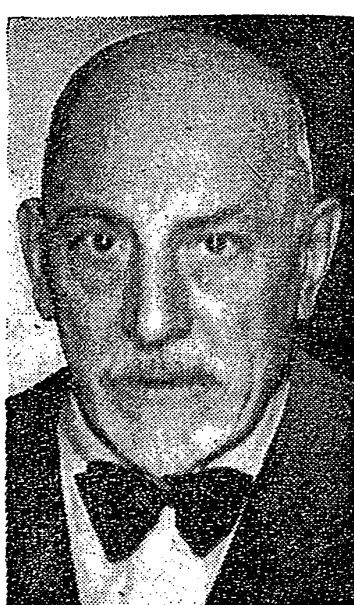
Signor Pirandello's plays have been successful both in Italy and in many foreign countries. They have been translated into fifteen languages.

In 1925 he opened in Rome a theatre where his own and new foreign plays are produced.

Signor Pirandello's plays include "Henry IV," "Right You Are," "Six Characters in Search of an Author," "Each in His Own Way," "The Pleasure of Honesty," "Naked," "As You Desire Me," "Tonight We Improve" and a volume of one-act plays. His novels include "The Old and the Young," "Shoot," "The Outcast," "One, None and a Hundred Thousand" and "The Late Mattia Pascal." He has also brought out two well-known volumes of short stories, "The Naked Truth" and "Horse in the Moon."

In January of this year an Italian opera, "Legend of a Changeling Son," composed by Francesco Malipiero, to which Signor Pirandello contributed the libretto, received its world premiere in Brunswick, Germany. When it was produced in Rome three months later, in the presence of Premier Mussolini, critics received it coolly, calling it "half a disaster."

Signor Pirandello is a member of the Italian Academy. After the World War he received the Cross of the Legion of Honor from the French Government.



Times Wide World Photo.  
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER.  
Luigi Pirandello.