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梅蘭芳研究海外文獻集編
(下)

近代散佚戲曲文獻集成·名家文獻編

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總主編 黃天驥

叢書編委會 編

山西人民出版社 三晉出版社

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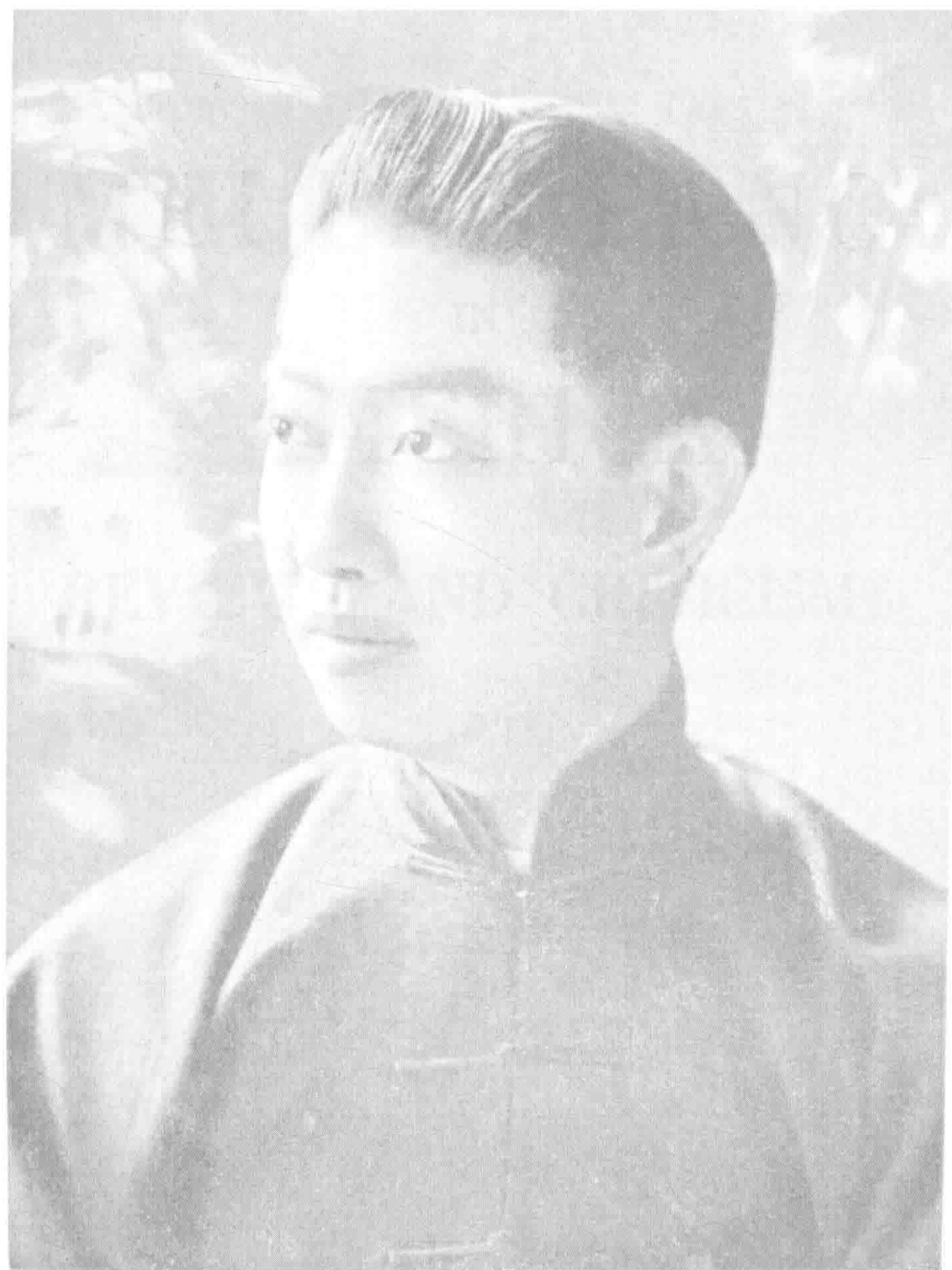
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MEI LAN-FANG
IN
AMERICA
REVIEWS & CRITICISMS



Mei Lan-Fang

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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

PREFACE

The success of Mei Lan-fang in America was as surprising as it was gratifying. Before he started on the venture, there was much doubt and trepidation as to how he and the Chinese theatrical art would be received in a foreign land. The conventions of the Chinese theatre, it was feared, might be inaccessible to Western sensibility. One good-natured pessimist predicted that Mr. Mei would be able to fill a New York theatre for three nights—and only half-full!

The New York performances began on February 16, 1930. Only two weeks were announced. The reception was so overwhelmingly favorable that by the third day after the opening, all seats for the two-week engagement were sold. It was reported that the tickets, at the box-office price of three dollars and eight-five cents, reached the high mark of eighteen dollars in the hands of the unscrupulous speculating ticket-sellers.

The engagement was extended once and again. If the company had not already promised to appear in other cities, such as Chicago and San Francisco, the “run” in New York would have lasted much longer than the five weeks Mr. Mei actually played there.

A success of such dimension could not have been due to curiosity alone. There must be something in the Chinese theatrical art and the unique accomplishments of Mei Lan-fang that artistically satisfied the American audiences. As to the nature of the Chinese theatrical art, an analysis has been made and published in “Mei Lan-fang and the Chinese Theatre.” The present collection of reviews and criticisms that appeared in American journals and daily papers may serve as evidence that the acclamation was not only universal



but also quite intelligently appreciative. We are especially gratified to include the articles written by the learned and distinguished critic, Stark Young. He was so kind and courteous as to remember the occasion even two years after Mr. Mei's visit.

P. C. CHANG

Tientsin
January, 1935





Fei Chen-o and the "Tiger" General

MEI LAN-FANG IN AMERICA

REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

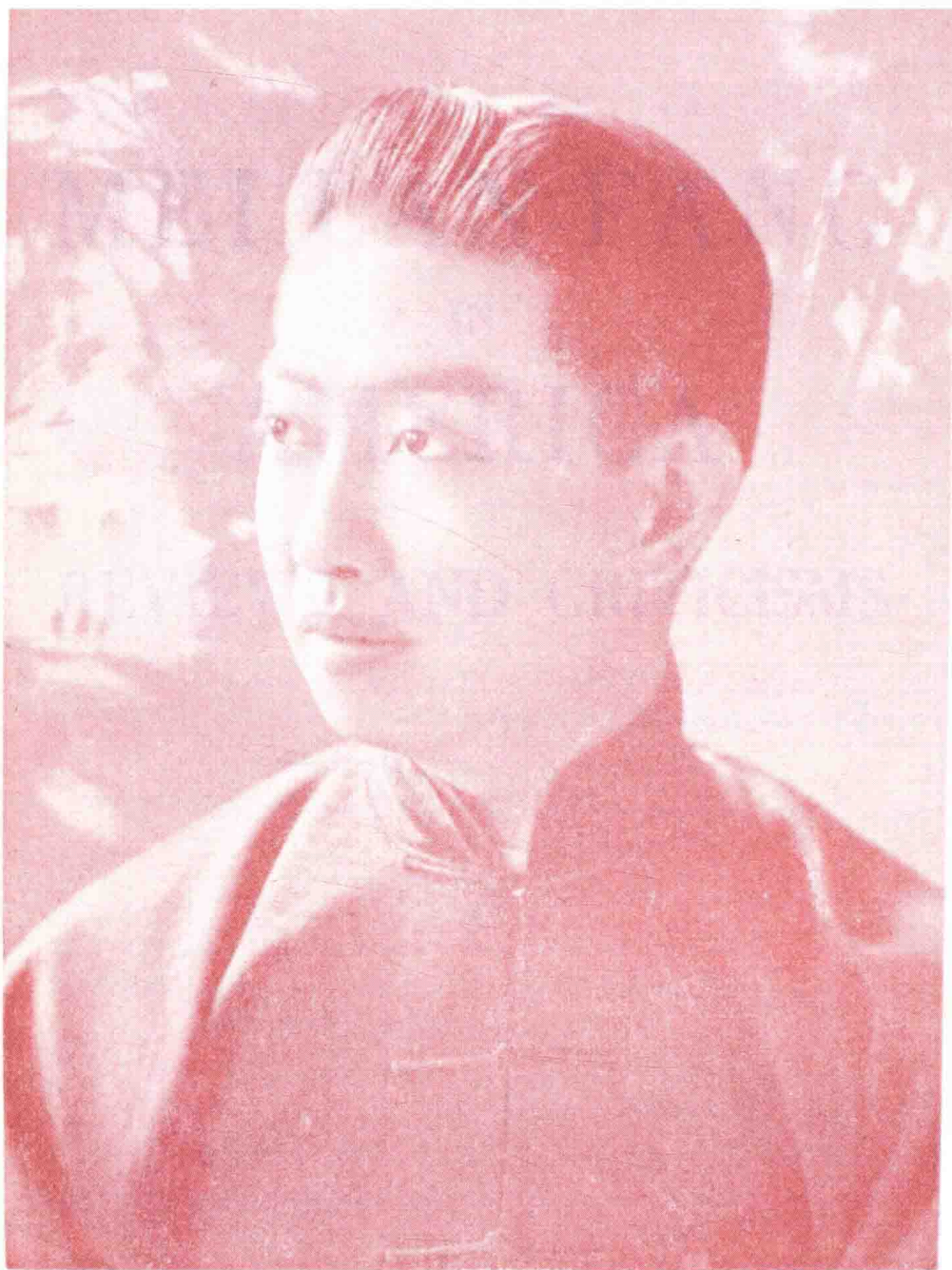
CHAPTER	PAGE
I. IN PERIODICAL LITERATURE	
1. "Mei Lan-fang and His Company in Re- pertory"	3
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(The New Republic)</i>	
2. "Mei Lan-fang Attracts the Most Attention"	8
by MARY F. WATKINS	
<i>(The Dance Magazine)</i>	
3. "Mei Lan-fang"	10
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(Theatre Arts Monthly)</i>	
4. "Mei Lan-fang's New Program"	25
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(The New Republic)</i>	
5. "Dramatic Rhythms and Mei Lan-fang"	26
by E. V. WYATT	
<i>(Gatholic World)</i>	
II. IN THE DAILY PRESS	
A. First-Night Reviews in New York	
1. <i>New York World</i> : By ROBERT LITTELL	31
2. <i>New York Times</i> : By J. BROOKS AT- KINSON	32



CHAPTER	PAGE
3. <i>New York Herald-Tribune:</i> By ARTHUR RUHL	33
4. <i>New York Evening Graphic:</i> By GILBERT SELDES	34
5. <i>New York Evening Post:</i> By JOHN MASON BROWN	35
6. <i>New York Morning Telegraph:</i> By WHITNEY BOLTON	37
 B. Later Reviews in New York	
1. <i>New York Herald-Tribune:</i> By ARTHUR RUHL	39
2. <i>New York World:</i> By WILLIAM BOLITHO	40
3. <i>A Playgoer's Notebook:</i> By ROBERT LITTELL	41
4. <i>Albany Press:</i> By Gilbert Swan	42
5. <i>New York Times:</i> By JOHN MARTIN . .	42
6. <i>Commonweal:</i> By R. D. SKINNEN . . .	43
 C. Reviews in Other American Cities	
1. <i>Chicago Daily Tribune:</i> By GAIL BORDEN	45
2. <i>Los Angeles Examiner:</i>	46
3. <i>San Francisco Chronicle:</i> By GEORGE C. WARREN	47
4. <i>Riverside Enterprise:</i>	48
 III. AN EVALUATION TWO YEARS LATER	
“Ambassador in Art” By STARK YOUNG	53
<i>(The New Republic, 1932)</i>	



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. IN PERIODICAL LITERATURE	
1. "Mei Lan-fang and His Company in Repertory"	3
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(The New Republic)</i>	
2. "Mei Lan-fang Attracts the Most Attention"	8
by MARY F. WATKINS	
<i>(The Dance Magazine)</i>	
3. "Mei Lan-fang"	10
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(Theatre Arts Monthly)</i>	
4. "Mei Lan-fang's New Program"	25
by STARK YOUNG	
<i>(The New Republic)</i>	
5. "Dramatic Rhythms and Mei Lan-fang"	26
by E. V. WYATT	
<i>(Gatholic World)</i>	
II. IN THE DAILY PRESS	
A. First-Night Reviews in New York	
1. <i>New York World</i> : By ROBERT LITTELL	31
2. <i>New York Times</i> : By J. BROOKS ATKINSON	32

