

Introductory Note: Had it not been for information he received from Mr. Jens J. Christoffersen, who lived in Denmark at the time the Danish Jurgen was published, and Mrs. Vibeke Stenderup, who is employed by the State and University Library in Aarhus, Denmark, the author would not have known about the existence of a Danish translation of Jurgen and would not have been able to describe it in detail as he does herein. Mr. Christoffersen, assistant manager of Kraus Reprint Company, 16 East 46 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, first made him aware of the book and later gave him some information about Denmark at the time of its publication. Mrs. Stenderup gave generously of her time and knowledge to provide information about the publisher, the translator, and a review of the book; and she supplied the author with a photocopy of the book's title page and a Danish review of Jurgen.

During the dark days of the occupation of Denmark by Nazi Germany, the Danish people, determined to express their loyalty to the United States and its Allies, showed a keen interest in American authors. One of the books by an American writer to be published in Denmark in those days was a Danish translation of Cabell's Jurgen. It was put out in Copenhagen in 1942 by a "fly-by-night" firm named Forlaget af 1939 (Publishing Company of 1939), which of course ceased its operations a long time ago. The translation into Danish was done by a man named Gunnar Juel Jørgensen, who died in 1965. He had been educated at the University of Copenhagen, by which he had been given the degree of Master of Arts in Comparative Literature, and had been a contributor to various Danish publications as well as an employee of several publishing firms. The publisher listed the Danish Jurgen for 10 kroner (in those days 10 kroner was the equivalent of \$2.00). On the cover of the paper-bound book he ran an announcement to the effect that Cabell, the author of Jurgen, was America's Anatole France. After the book was published, a newspaper named the Social Demokraten had it reviewed by the journalist-critic Jean Petersen, whose review of it above the initials "ip" appeared in the December 29, 1942 edition of that newspaper. The review, entirely in Danish, is mainly a synopsis of the story of Jurgen; in the last few lines, Petersen complimented Cabell on his wit and his ornate, flowing style. Nothing else was said about the author of Jurgen or about any other books that he had written. The Petersen review is the only one on record at this time.

Since the demise of Forlaget af 1939, the publisher, the only sources of supply of the Danish Jurgen have been the bookdealers who sell used and rare books. Anyone today who would be interested in obtaining a copy would have to check with them. The University and State Library in Aarhus, Denmark, has a copy, and graciously supplied the author of this report with a photographic reproduction of its title page (see Page 80).

Interestingly, when Jurgen was published in the United States for the first time in 1919, it generated an atmosphere of suppression; however, it was the atmosphere of suppression in Denmark during World War Two that generated the desire for freedom which led to the publication in that country of Jurgen.

It is now time for Cabell bibliographers to take note of the Danish translation of his novel Jurgen.

JAMES BRANCH CABELL

# JURGEN

EN KOMEDIE OM RETFÆRDIGHED

OVERSAT AF  
*GUNNAR JUEL JØRGENSEN*



FORLAGET AF 1939  
KØBENHAVN

TITLE PAGE OF THE DANISH JURGEN  
(Courtesy of the State and University Library, Aarhus, Denmark)