

# **PAUL M. POTTER, PLAYWRIGHT, DEAD**

***Dramatist of "Trilby" Stricken  
in His Room in Murray Hill  
Baths in His 68th Year.***

Paul Meredith Potter, the playwright, died yesterday in his apartments in the Murray Hill Baths, 113 West Forty-second Street, where he had lived for two years. An attendant went to Mr. Potter's rooms to call him in the early morning. Failing to arouse him, he called in a policeman. The latter summoned Dr. Thornhill of Flower Hospital, and he found that Mr. Potter had been dead for several hours. Death, he said, was due to ailments incident to advanced years.

Perhaps no work of Mr. Potter attracted more attention than did his dramatization of Du Maurier's novel "Trilby," first presented in March, 1895, at the Park Theatre in Boston, and in the same year by Beerbohm Tree at the Haymarket Theatre, London. It took the playwright three weeks after the rights had been obtained to turn out the play and four weeks later saw its opening in Boston. The play was pronounced a success before the first act was over.

"The simple tale of the love of Trilby and Little Billee and of Tabby, and of Tabby and the Laird, and the villainy of Svengali, was a play in itself," said Mr. Potter in an interview after the first presentation of the play. "I gave Svengali the most important part because the hypnotizing of Trilby by him was altogether the most dramatic part of the story."

Mr. Potter's family name was Walter Arthur MacLean, and he was born in Brighton, England, June 3, 1853. His father was head master of King Edward's School, at Bath, and the editor of the "Bibliotheca Classica." He went to India following graduation from school and assumed the new name of Paul Potter. During the early years of his career Mr. Potter was a journalist. He became the foreign editor of The New York Herald in 1876 and later became the London correspondent of his paper. In 1885 he became The Herald's dramatic critic and served in that capacity for three years, when he left The Herald and joined the editorial staff of The Chicago Tribune.

His first play, "The City Directory," was produced by the Russell Comedians in May, 1889, and this was followed by "The Ugly Duckling" in 1890, and next by "The World's Fair." For William H. Crane he wrote a comedy, "The American Minister," in 1892, and "Sheridan, or the Maid of Bath," in 1893 for E. H. Sothorn. Other plays by Mr. Potter were "Our Country Cousins," "The Pacific Mail," "The Victoria Cross," "The Stag Party," "The Conquerors," "Under Two Flags," "The Red Kloof," "Notre Dame," "The School Girl," "Nancy Stair," "Barbara's Millions," "The Honor of the Family," "The Queen of the Moulin Rouge," "The Girl From Rector's," "Arsene Lupin" and "Israel."

Between 1894 and 1898 Mr. Potter served as resident dramatist of Palmer's Theatre.

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