



# Under the Copper Beech

*Conversations with American Theater Critics*

Edited by Jeffrey Eric Jenkins

Published by the Foundation of the  
American Theater Critics Association

softbound; pp. x, 221; illus.; \$30; ISBN 0-97539-000-7

These interviews with 10 theater critics from Boston to Los Angeles and Houston to Detroit create a matrix of oral histories that help document the growth of 20<sup>th</sup> century American theater and theater criticism.

Those interviewed were instrumental in organizing the American Theatre Critics Association in 1974 as a national counter-weight to the New York Drama Critics Circle. Starting in 1934 Boston with Elliot Norton and continuing to the present, these 10 tales of the critic's life chronicle the decentralization of the American theater through the spread of the resident theater movement. They add to the annals of both theater and journalism, illustrating the sometimes uneasy, sometimes colorful interactions between them.

Interviewees, with their primary affiliations (interviewers in parentheses) are **Lawrence Devine**, Detroit Free Press (Marianne Evett); **Otis L. Guernsey, Jr.**, *Best Plays* (Jeffrey Sweet); **Henry Hewes**, Saturday Review (Tish Dace); **Clara Hieronymus** Nashville Tennessean (Damien Jaques); **Ann Holmes**, Houston Chronicle (Sylvie Drake); **Norman Nadel**, New York World-Telegram and Sun (Jay Handelman); **Elliot Norton**, Boston Herald-American (Bill Gale); **Julius Novick**, Village Voice (Jeffrey Eric Jenkins); **Ernest Schier**, Philadelphia Bulletin, National Critics Institute (Dan Sullivan); **Dan Sullivan**, Los Angeles Times (Sylvie Drake).

---

For ATCA members, "Under the Copper Beech" has the additional appeal of insight into the origins and growth of the organization. We urge members to support ATCA's first book by buying copies for their own use, for presents and for presentation to university and other libraries. All proceeds go to the Foundation of the American Theatre Critics Association.

ATCA members are entitled to buy unlimited copies for \$20 each, 33% off list price. Make checks payable to Foundation ATCA and mail along with this coupon to: Alice Carter, 119 Hawthorne Road, Millvale, PA 15209. Address questions or suggestions for further distribution to Alice Carter at [criticpgh@aol.com](mailto:criticpgh@aol.com).

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. copies \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Add \$2 per book for postage;

Pennsylvania residents also add \$1.40 per book sales tax. Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.