

# John Kendrick Bangs

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**John Kendrick Bangs** (May 27, 1862 - January 21, 1922) was an American author and satirist, and the creator of modern Bangsian fantasy, the school of fantasy writing that sets the plot wholly or partially in the afterlife.



JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

John Kendrick Bangs

He was born in Yonkers, New York. His father

was a lawyer in New York City.

He went to Columbia University from 1880 to 1883 where he became editor of Columbia's literary magazine and contributed short anonymous pieces to humor magazines. After graduation in 1883, Bangs entered Columbia Law School but left in 1884 to become Associate Editor of *Life* under Edward S. Martin. Bangs contributed many articles and poems to the magazine between 1884 and 1888. During this period, Bangs published his first books.

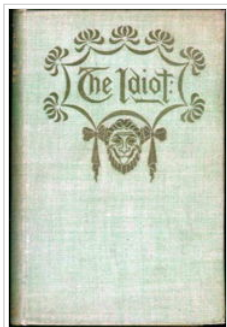
In 1888 Bangs left *Life* to work at *Harper's Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Harper's Young People*. From 1889 to 1900 he held the title of Editor of the Departments of Humor for all three Harper's magazines and from 1899 to 1901 served as active editor of *Harper's Weekly*. Bangs also served for a short time (January-June, 1889) as the first editor of *Munsey's Magazine* and became editor of the American edition of the Harper-owned *Literature* from January to November, 1899.

He left Harper & Brothers in 1901 and became editor of the *New Metropolitan magazine* in 1903. In 1904 he was appointed editor of *Puck*, perhaps

the foremost American humor magazine of its day. In this period, he revived his earlier interest in drama. In 1906 he switched his focus to the lecture circuit.

Agnes Hyde Bangs, his wife with whom he had three sons, died in 1903. Bangs then married Mary Gray. In 1907 they moved from Yonkers to Ogunquit, Maine. John Kendrick Bangs died on 1922 at age fifty-nine.

## Partial



Cover of *The Idiot* by Bangs

## **bibliography**

- *Roger Camerden, A Strange Story* (1887)
- *Tappleton's Client: or A Spirit in Exile* (1893)
- *The Water Ghost, and others* (1894)
- *A House-Boat on the Styx* (1895)
- *Mr. Bonaparte of Corsica* (1895)
- *The Bicyclers and Three Other Farces* (1896)
- *Pursuit of the House-Boat* (1897)
- *Ghosts I Have Met and Some Others* (1898)
- *The Dreamers: A Club* (1899)
- *The Enchanted Type-Writer* (1899)
- *Mr. Munchausen: Being a True Account of Some of the Recent Adventures Beyond the Styx of the Late Hieronymus Carl Friedrich, Sometime Baron Munchausen of Bodenwerder* (1901; cf. Baron Münchhausen)
- *Over the Plum Pudding* (1901)
- *Bikey the Skicycle and Other Tales of Jimmieboy* (1902)
- *Mollie and the Unwiseman* (1902)
- *Olympian Nights* (1902)
- *The Inventions of the Idiot* (1904)
- *Worsted Man: A Musical Play for Amateurs* (1905)
- *Alice in Blunderland, An Iridescent Dream*

(1907)

- *The Whole Family: a Novel by Twelve Authors* (1908) - one chapter
- *Coffee and Repartee*
- *Three Weeks in Politics*

## References

- [<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/authors/Jol> Fantastic Fiction - John Kendrick Bangs
- Bleiler, Everett (1948). *The Checklist of Fantastic Literature*. Chicago: Shasta Publishers, 39-40. ]

## External links

- Works by John Kendrick Bangs at Project Gutenberg
- Bangs' page (with one movie) on the IMDb
- The Bangers Society

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