

Booth Tarkington

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Newton Booth Tarkington

(July 29,
1869 – May
19, 1946)

was an
American
novelist and
dramatist
best known
for his
Pulitzer
Prize-
winning
novels *The
Magnificent
Ambersons*
and *Alice Adams*.



Booth Tarkington

Booth Tarkington was born in Indianapolis, the son of John S. Tarkington and Elizabeth Booth

Tarkington. He was named after his maternal uncle Newton Booth, then the governor of California. He first attended Purdue University but graduated from Princeton University in 1893. While at Princeton he was editor of the *Nassau Literary Magazine* and formed the Princeton Triangle Club. He was also voted the most popular man in his class. When Tarkington's class graduated in 1893 he lacked sufficient credits for a degree at Princeton, where he attended classes for two years. His later achievements, however, won him an honorary A.M. in 1899 and an honorary Litt.D. in 1918.

He was one of the most popular American novelists of his time, with *The Two Vanrevels* and *Mary's Neck* appearing on the annual best-seller lists nine times.

Tarkington's best known work today is *The Magnificent Ambersons*, due in part to its famous treatment by Orson Welles in 1942 and its frequently favored listing on the Modern Library's list of top-100 novels. It was the second volume in Tarkington's *Growth* trilogy,

which traced the growth of the United States through the decline of the once-powerful and aristocratic Amberson family dynasty, contrasted against the rise of industrial tycoons and "new money" families in the economic boom years after the Civil War leading up to World War I.

Tarkington donated substantially to Purdue University and has been recognized for his philanthropy. Tarkington Hall, an all-men's residence hall at Purdue, is named in honor of him.[1]

Bibliography

- *The Gentleman from Indiana* (1899)
- *Monsieur Beaucaire* (1900; later adapted as a play, an operetta and two films—1924 and 1946)
- *The Two Vanrevels* (1902)
- *Beasley's Christmas Party* (1909)
- *Penrod* (1914)
- *The Turmoil* (1915) (first volume of the trilogy *Growth*)

- *Penrod and Sam* (1916)

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Julia; frontispiece of a 1922 New York publication of *Gentle Julia*, by Booth Tarkington

Seventeen (1916)

- *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1918; won the 1919 Pulitzer Prize; filmed 1941 by Orson Welles; second volume of the trilogy *Growth*)
- *Alice Adams* (1921; won the 1922 Pulitzer Prize; filmed 1935)
- *Gentle Julia* (1922)
- *The Midlander* (1924) (1927 re-titled *National Avenue*; third volume of the

trilogy *Growth*)

- *The Plutocrat* (1927)
- *Claire Ambler* (1928)
- *Penrod Jashber* (1929)
- *Mirthful Haven* (1930)
- *Mary's Neck* (1932)
- *Presenting Lily Mars* (1933) (filmed 1943)
- *Kate Fennigate* (1943)

External links

- Works by Booth Tarkington at Project Gutenberg
- Booth Tarkington movie adaptations [2]

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