

Mrs. Wyatt: Dean Of The Critics

Why Jane Wyatt wants to be identified simply as "Mrs. Wyatt's daughter"

By KAY SULLIVAN

Condensed from the "Victorian"

About 160 newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV critics

praise new Broadway plays

every season. One of the most

respected of these experts is

Suphemia V. A. Wyatt.

Wyatt, a graceful, aristocratic

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club, a young people's organiza-

tion to which she is devoted.

LUNCHEON FINDS her at a

meeting of the Drama Desk

association. She is off to take a turn at

every season. One of the most

respected of these experts is

Suphemia V. A. Wyatt.

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Another organization close to

point, occupations, which she

finds boring. Her family tree

glitters with revolutionary

names. She is in the Social Reg-

ister. The Colonial Dames of

America. (One of the great

aunts founded it) count her as

a distinguished member. Her

drawing-room and library walls

are hung with family portraits

for generations back, including

one of Gilbert Stuart.

One of the portraits is of a

forthright-looking, ruddy-cheek-

ed colonial citizen, Joshua Wed-

dington, who gave Alexander

Hamilton his first court case

in 1776.

"SHE IS A LIFE member of

St. Paul's guild, and often lec-

tures on the drama at its meet-

ings. She has been president of

the Shakespeare Club of New

York. She is also on the ad-

visory board of Albertus Magnus

college, New Haven, Conn.,

where she has conducted a class

on modern drama. The college

awarded her a doctorate of hu-

man letters in 1930. Recently

she completed a three-year term

as president of the Catholic Big

Sisters.

Says one of the Big Sisters,

"One of my most vivid memories

of her goes back to a hot sum-

mer day when we were bundl-

ing some needy children off to

camp. There came Mrs. Wyatt,

trouping through Grand Central

station, surrounded by a requi-

site mass of excited children.

She was loaded down with their

suitcases and bulging paper

bags. Believe me, when Mrs.

Wyatt volunteers to do a job,

she really pitches in!"

"And don't judge Effie by

her club work alone," adds one

of her closest friends. "She does

countless good deeds no one

ever hears about. I once phoned

her and I was desperately look-

ing for a temporary place for

myself and my three children.

"You come right over to

me," said I, "and I'll find you

sleeping on a sofa. I have room

for the bigger children and we

can put the baby in a bureau

drawer. And that's just what

we did. I was with her for ten

days and she couldn't do enough

for us. This, mind you, while

she had a full house of her own

to manage."

A GREAT MANY people with

Mrs. Wyatt's social background

would be content to spend their

time at tea parties and social

gatherings.

On Sunday, Dec. 27th, Mrs.

Wyatt's play, "The Play of Daniel,"

will be presented at the

Goethe church in New York City.

For an hour the art of music and

pageantry were blended in a

prayer. THE PLAY OF DANIEL,

composed in 1150 or thereabouts

by the priest of Beauvais Cathedral,

was discovered in the British

Museum by an American Ben-

edictine scholar, Dom Rembert

Wheatsland, with the full musi-

cal score and the script taken

from the Vulgate.

THIS IS THE third annual

performance by Pro Musica, a

society whose chorus retires

music prior to 1700. Each year

brings more wonderful. All

the parts are sung in Latin but

a modern narration written by

the poet, W. H. Auden, is now

interpolated between the scenes

and delivered from the pulpit.

The play opens with a formal

procession of the Babylonian

chorus to the altar accompanied

by musicians with lute, harp, and

percussion instruments, triangles,