

# 'Madcap Fiddler,' Famed Ole Bull, Comes to Life in Smith's Book

By A. O. BARTON  
The Life of Ole Bull, by Mortimer Smith. Princeton University Press, \$2.

At last the world has caught up with Thackeray in one of his discoveries. As early as 1835 Thackeray wrote after a visit to Longfellow's house in Cambridge that he had met a madcap fiddler named Ole Bull and that he was "quite a figure for a book."

This volume by Mortimer Smith meets that challenge of nearly a century ago. And it carries out the suggestion of depicting him as a "character," which Ole Bull was in a most arresting sense. While possibly a bit late in appearing, it is not untimely, as it marks the centenary of Bull's first coming to America. It was in 1843 that Ole Bull landed in the United States armed with a poem of introduction by Henrik Wergeland saying he (Ole Bull) could strike the chains of slavery from the black man with his bow, or stop the Susquehanna from flowing—"if he would." Bold words these, but Longfellow in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn," wrote in a similar vein later of the wizard of the bow.

Not a Musical Biography  
The author makes it plain that his is not a musical biography, but a study of Ole Bull as a man and a patriot. It is the first full length portrait of Ole Bull in English. Thackeray probably had no intuition of movies that were to come, but his appraisal was essentially prophetic of the subjects possibilities. Such intuition, however, may have inspired the present author, for a Chicago reviewer says, "I don't see how Hollywood can resist a fling at this picturesque figure."

This story of Ole Bull will be of a peculiarly intimate interest to Wisconsin readers and particularly to Madison people since Ole Bull's second wife was a Madison girl and Madison was a second home to him the greater part of the last decade of his life, in-so-far as he had a home, for he never stayed in one place long. As John Muir left the University of Wisconsin on a "ramble" which, in effect, lasted until the end of his days, so Ole Bull left his native Norway at the age of 18 and became a wandering world minstrel the rest of his life.

Triumphs Galore  
The half century that followed his progress was a continuous succession of triumphs, interspersed with many vicissitudes, adventures and dangers, from shipwreck, fire, flood, cold, robbery, panic, and revolution, but he was never long interrupted by them, thanks to an iron constitution and imaginative daring. It is this story—constantly holding up the picture of Bull as a vivid, intriguing, lovable personality and ardent patriot, rather than a great musical artist of unrivaled sway. It is a galloping story—jumping from continent to continent—told in the approved modern biographical pattern, with little levity and gawgity, with high lights on many dramatic situations, and well suited to the subject, for Ole Bull was essentially and always a showman, much as his contemporary P. T. Barnum.

Wisconsin or Madison previous to his marriage to Sarah Thorp in 1870. A digression by this reviewer may therefore not be amiss at this point.

Ole Bull's first appearance in Madison was on July 1, 1856, when he gave a concert in the Baptist church, the identical auditorium of which is incorporated in the present office of the Bell Telephone company on South Carroll street. Appearing with him at the time was a 13-year old Italian girl named Adelina Patti, a younger sister of the wife of his manager, Maurice Strakosch. This girl was destined to become the foremost singer of the 19th century, with a longer way than that of the celebrated Jenny Lind. The crude little city of Madison, incorporated only that year, thus entertained two artists that were to fill the world with their fame.

Yet the Madison newspapers of the time gave them barely a two-line notice the next day, saying they were well received. In fact, little Patti had sung in Madison before. Just a year thereafter, on July 1 and 2, 1857, Ole Bull gave two concerts and two matinees in Madison.

Returned to Madison  
In January, 1868, Ole Bull returned to Madison from a tour of the California mining camps where he had been crowned with a wreath of diamonds. He was met at the West Madison depot by 100 torchbearers with whom he trudged up town, disdaining the belated sleigh sent for him. He had already been through the fiasco of attempting to found a great Norwegian colony in the wilds of Pennsylvania and had visited and captivated the literati of New England. He became a guest at the home of State Sen. J. G. Thorp, of Eau Claire, a wealthy lumberman, who had recently bought the home on E. Gilman st. now the executive residence. Now a widower, he became greatly interested in Sarah Thorp, then 18, whose musical ability prompted him to have her sent to New York for further study. The author devotes many pages and chapters to Mrs. Amelia Chapman Thorp, whom he pictures as a strong-willed, resourceful and intriguing woman who put over Ole Bull's marriage to her daughter and afterwards that of her son to a daughter of Longfellow. She may have been all that, but she must have had persuasive charm, for in 1876, as chairman of the Wisconsin women's exhibit at the Philadelphia centennial she carried out one of the most brilliant and successful projects ever accomplished in Wisconsin.

Returned to Norway  
However, when Ole Bull returned to Norway in 1869, Mrs. Thorp and her daughter followed him and were his guests for a year at his island home, Vaalestrand. In June, 1870, Ole Bull and Sarah Thorp were quietly married in the American consulate and on their return to Madison in September were remarried by Rev. Charles H. Richards, "according to American custom." The author describes the brilliant reception that followed and which stands unrivaled to this day in Madison history. This is not in the author's story, but in the U. S. census of 1870 Senator Thorp is listed as 50 years old and worth

2 City Teachers Write Book  
Two Madison public school teachers are authors of a new book on nutrition, "We're Going to Be Better Nourished," published by the College Entrance Book Co.

Irene Brewster Huseby, West high school home economist and cafeteria supervisor, and Beatrice Garnet Sylvester, of the East high home economics department, are the authors. The introduction to the nutrition is illustrated by Agnes Olson Leindorf, former East high art teacher now with the University of Wisconsin home economics department.

The up-to-date, 120-page booklet discusses such wartime problems as rationing, food waste, and dehydrated foods, outlines food nutrients, and gives tips and tables on preparing well-balanced meals at low cost. The writers consider better breakfasts for Americans, special diets, lunch boxes, and food conservation methods in practical chapters.

\$200,000 in real estate and \$50,000 in personal property. All this he had made in Eau Claire in 10 years from 1856 to 1866. His wife's age is given as 38, while Sarah's age is given as 23 and Joe Thorp's as 19. A mother at 38, with a daughter of 23 seems hardly correct. Whether Mrs. Thorp's age was revised downwards or the daughter's upwards, or both, is hard to say, but as Mrs. Thorp and daughter were in Norway at the time they must be absolved from doing it. Thorp was really 58.

Then to Europe  
In 1874 Thorp took Ole Bull and a large family menage to Europe and took a villa in southern France. Here Ole Bull fell out with the family and went on a concert tour while the Thorps returned to Madison. For two years Ole Bull and Sarah were separated, then in 1876 Sarah went to Norway and was joyfully received. She brought Ole Bull back in time to see something of the centennial and Mrs. Thorp's triumphs and they "lived happily ever after."

Like Alexander, Mrs. Thorp then resolved to apud her conquest father and took the family to Cambridge where she rented the home of James Russell Lowell, American minister to England. Here Ole Bull visited much with Longfellow, appeared on programs with Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes, and here a surprise party was given him on his 70th birthday, Feb. 5, 1870. It was his last notable appearance there and left a spell never forgotten by the distinguished company present. He led his violin speak for him and said James T. Fields: "He played with his whole heart an answer, a swan song of melody, on which, as upon a great river, we were carried away into dreamland, into Valhalla and the halls of Odin."

Died in 1871  
The following year Ole Bull died at his magnificent home at Lysoen, an island near his earlier island home of Vaalestrand. The great poet and orator Bjorne Bjornson gave the eulogy at the funeral attended by 25,000 people.

In Madison Ole Bull's chief cronies among his nationality were Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson, whom he took with him to Norway twice, B. W. Suckow, Madison publisher, who had been one of his secretaries at Oleana, and John A. Johnson, Madison manufacturer. These are noted in Smith's story, as well as scores of celebrities of the period.

Ole Bull lives in the hearts of his people as a great patriot who uplifted and glorified his country's name. Says Smith: "The strongly nationalistic and romantic coloring of much of the music, poetry, drama, and fiction produced in Norway in the middle of the 19th century and later is in large part traceable to the influence of Ole Bull."

Education Week Broadcasts Set  
Three American Education Week radio programs sponsored by the Madison public schools will be broadcast this week from station WIBA.

The Rev. Oscar Adam will present "Education for World Understanding" Sunday at 2 p. m. On Monday at 9 p. m. Mal. Charles Evans will talk on "Education in Wartime." Supt. Philip H. Falk will have as the subject of his address Thursday at 9:30 p. m. "Education to Win and Secure the Peace."

Sellout Expected for Cossack Chorus  
Within two hours after the opening of the sale of tickets for the second night performance of the General Platoff Don Cossack Chorus in the Wisconsin Union theater, Saturday night, Nov. 20, more than 200 tickets were sold. In this rush on the theater box office, Oscar Dammen and Anne Basacca sold more than two tickets a minute. The sale has continued high and Walter Panceo, concert manager, predicts a sellout in the near future. At present, however, good seats are still available.

# Soldiers Read Good Books

## Librarians Report on Their Tastes

In answer to the question "What do soldiers read?" Margaret Nordholm, head of the circulation department of the Madison Free library, says that although there is a great demand for recent books on radio and airplanes, men in the armed forces do not differ greatly in their tastes from the general public.

"There is little inconsequential reading done by these men," she goes on to say. Their requests offer surprising variety. Mixed with demands for "good books to read" are calls for books on Swedish, Emerson's essays, material on Robert E. Lee, "Wisdom of China and India" by Lin Yutang, and recent publications on bookworking. One young soldier selected critically from all available books on magic, skilfully vanishing a half-dollar for the astonished attendant at the same time.

Exactly 331 members of the armed forces have registered as borrowers of the Madison Free library since January, 1943. Helen E. Farr, city librarian, reports, while from August through December, 1942, there were 178 soldier and sailor registrations. Ranging in rank from privates to majors, the majority of borrowers are from Truax Field, with representations from the U. S. Armed Forces institute, the U. S. navy, and recruiting station personnel. A comparatively large number of the men of the Army Specialized Training Program are included, considering the recency of their arrival in Madison.

Women in service account for less than 3 per cent of the number of registrants, the records show, with WACs outnumbering WAVES and members of the nurse corps. Soldiers' wives, however, not included in the above figures, are numerous and active readers at the main and branch libraries.

Special borrower cards are issued for 4 months, renewable at the end of that period, to men and women in the armed forces. Reregistrations are common. Wives of men in service are enrolled as regular borrowers.

Expressions of appreciation from service men range from oral expressions and postcards to formal letters from transferred men. The following paragraph from a private at a California post, paying tribute to the hospitality of Madison and its public agencies, is typical:

"I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to borrow books from the library... but such a gesture of courtesy on your part was indeed in accord with the reception and genuine hospitality that was shown us at all times in Madison. We all feel that we shall never again 'hit' a town where we shall be entertained so lavishly and accepted so readily."

Music Programs Listed for Week  
Marches from many lands will be the subject of the programs planned by Katherine Jones and Leroy Klose for this week's "Music for School and Home" programs broadcast over WIBA at 4:45 p. m. daily except Saturday and Sunday.

Following is the series: Monday, marches of America—"King Cotton March," Sousa; "Semper Fideles," Sousa; "Stars and Stripes Forever," Sousa; "National Emblem March," Bagley; Tuesday, marches from foreign lands—"Turkish March," Mozart; "Hungarian March," Berlioz; "Marche Slav," Tschai-kowsky; Wednesday, marches used as processions—"Coronation March," Meyerbeer; "Pomp and Circumstance," Elgar; "Procession of the Sadder," Ippolitoff-Ivanoff; Thursday, marches for soldiers—"Soldiers Chorus," Gounod; "Marche Militaire," Schubert; "Stouthearted Men," Romberg; "Onward Christian Soldiers," Sullivan; Friday, marches for children—"March of the Toys," Herbert; "March of the Lead Soldiers," Pierre, "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," Jesse; and "Children's March," Grainger.

of Mrs. O. H. Anson, 1229 E. Johnson st. Mrs. J. Johnson will be program chairman. Works of Grieg, Thrane, Jensen, and Sibelius, plus one by Delibes, will be given by Mrs. J. W. Snell, and Mrs. J. W. Watson, piano; Mrs. E. D. Brown, Mrs. V. V. Varney, Mrs. R. M. S. Heffner, Mrs. Robert Erickson, and Mrs. A. C. Hasler, voice, and Mrs. L. C. Gunderson, violin.

# Abrahamsen and Portrait of Lighty



Christian Abrahamsen, Norwegian artist from Chicago, stands beside his portrait of Dr. William Lighty, professor emeritus of extension teaching at the University of Wisconsin.

# Abrahamsen Exhibit Opens Today at Historical Museum

When Christian Abrahamsen, the Norwegian portrait painter, is asked about his life work, he begins at once to list all the qualifications needed for success as a portrait artist.

Illustrating his ideas, Abrahamsen will show around 50 pieces of his work in an exhibition at the Wisconsin Historical society's museum, '15, including paintings, drawings, miscellaneous pieces and projects. During the reception, music will be played by Helen Holden, violinist and Leo Steffins, pianist, of the University of Wisconsin graduate school of music.

# Players to Give Ibsen's 'Ghosts'

Assisting at the reception will be Mrs. E. W. Hamilton, Mrs. E. M. Gilbert, Mrs. Peter J. Annen, Mrs. Irving Tressler, Susan B. Davis and Ruth Allcott.

Paints State Personages  
Abrahamsen, who came from Norway in his late 20s, has painted many of Wisconsin's famous people, including Magnus Swenson, Gov. Walter Kohler, E. A. Birge, Dr. Harry Steenbock, Dr. Joseph Schaefer.

"The main essential in portrait painting," Abrahamsen feels, "is to show at once not only the likeness of an individual but the faithful reflection of the sitter's life-work and personality."

The Norwegian artist, whose works are largely portraits, is never idle. Even on vacation, he is off to different pastures.

The historical museum's exhibit is Abrahamsen's first in Madison although he has been painting Wisconsin subjects for a long time. In 1933, two of his works were chosen for the World's Fair art exhibit in Chicago. He is a sculptor, too, and one of his designs, that of Illinois' Unknown soldier, is a monument in Forest Park, Chicago.

Abrahamsen brought some of his landscape paintings with him from Norway, but his childhood works are now on exhibit in the museum at Bergen, Norway.

To visit Europe  
After the war, the artist plans to visit Europe. When he is in Italy, he will deliver the finished portrait of Count Sforza, recently returned to that country.

Serving as patrons and patronesses at the museum's exhibition will be Gov. and Mrs. Walter S. Goodland, Pres. and Mrs. Clarence Dykstra, Dean and Mrs. Edwin B. Fred, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph C. Bolz, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart Curly, Julia Grady, L. Irene Buck, Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Bricken, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Varnum, Mr. and Mrs. Oskar F. L. Hagen, Eleanor Mathews, Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Asher Hobson and Dr. and Mrs. Hans H. Reese.

# Olivia de Havilland Asks Contract Termination

HOLLYWOOD — (U.P.) — Olivia de Havilland shed a few tears Saturday as she began her legal fight to end her seven-year contract with Warner Bros. studios.

The petite brunette actress testified that the contract, which was signed in April, 1936, already had expired. The studios claimed it had six months to go because she was suspended several times during the contract period.

"Isn't it a fact that you refused a role because of your love for a man who has gone to China?" the studio attorney asked.

Miss De Havilland pushed back a few tears. She said that she wanted to spend as much time as possible with her unidentified friend, because he was going to China for the duration and "might very well die."

The case was continued.

Miss Andrews to Play Armistice Tune Sunday  
In observance of the coming Armistice day, Ruth Philmer Andrews will play Pietro Yon's "Hymn of Glory" in her organ recital at Luther memorial church at 10:30 a. m. today. This composition, written in 1921, was dedicated to

# What's on the Air

**Today's Aces Back on the Air**  
 5 p. m.—First Nighter (WGN): "A Thousand Pardons," premiere of series starring Barbara Luddy.  
 5:45 p. m.—Little Show (WGN): "The Sultan of Shudders."

**Religion**  
 9 p. m.—National Radio Pulpit (WMAQ): Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, "What Is a Man's Due?"... Church of the Air (WBMM): The Rev. W. L. McCormick, Bethlehem Presbyterian church, Philadelphia.  
 11 a. m.—People's Church (WJJD): Dr. Preston Bradley, "War Is Not an Excuse."  
 1:30 p. m.—National Vespers (WENR): Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, "The Power to Turn Evil Into Good."  
 5 p. m.—Catholic Hour (WMAQ): The Rev. Timothy L. Bouscaren, West Baden college, "Foundation of Peace: the Moral Law."

**Discussion**  
 11 a. m.—World Front (WMAQ): Robert Magidoff, correspondent recently returned from Russia, guest observer... Invitation to Learning (WBMM): Aristotle's "Politics" discussed by scholars.  
 12:15 p. m.—Labor for Victory (WMAQ): report of CIO convention in Philadelphia.  
 12:30 p. m.—Chicago Round Table (WMAQ): "The Moscow Pact," Sir Bernard Pares, professor of Russian history, University of London; Profs. Walter Johnson, Quincy Wright, Chicago university.  
 1:15 p. m.—Distinguished Guests (WGN): Burton Holmes, traveler and lecturer, "Our Russian Allies."  
 2 p. m.—Rationing Report (WMAQ): guest, Paul V. McNutt, head of War Manpower Commission.  
 3:30 p. m.—University Forum (WHA): "Can Strikes in Wartime Be Justified?" William Spohn, newly-appointed War Labor Board arbitrator of this area; Prof. Seelig Perlman; Dr. Arnold Zander; Prof. A. C. Garnett.

**Music**  
 11:30 a. m.—Paul Lavalie Orchestra (WMAQ): Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5," Lehár's "Merry Widow" and "Gold and Silver Waltz," "Evening Star" from "Tannhauser," "La Golondrina," "Poeme" by F. Bich.  
 1:30 p. m.—John Charles Thomas (WIBA): "Sympathy," "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," "Scherzo" from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."  
 2 p. m.—New York Philharmonic (WBMM): Overture to "Egmont," Beethoven; "Symphony in G Major," Haydn; "First Symphony in C Minor," Brahms; Raymond Massey, guest.  
 3:15 p. m.—University Choral Hour (WHA): 70-voice chorus, directed by William Pfeiffer.  
 3:30 p. m.—Andre Kostelanetz (WBMM): Jane Froman in first radio appearance since receiving injuries in Lisbon plane crash; Zino Francescatti, French violinist; "Besame Mucho," "The Man I Love," "If You Please," Kriesler medley.  
 4 p. m.—Family Hour (WBMM): tribute to marine corps; "Say It With Music," aria from "Tosca," "People Will Say We're in Love," Schubert's "Serenade" selections from Herbert's "The Red Mill"...  
 Symphony (WIBA): salute to Russia on anniversary of Soviet, "The Internationale."  
 4:30 p. m.—Musical Steelmakers (WENR): "For the First Time," "I've Got Sixpence," "My Dream of Tomorrow," "Sweet Georgia Brown."  
 5:05 p. m.—Saludos Amigos (WCFL): Latin American music.  
 6:30 p. m.—Bandwagon (WIBA): Kay Kyser, guest.  
 7:30 p. m.—Keepsakes (WLS): "My Heart Stood Still," "Mighty Lak a Rose," "The Spring Round-up," "I'll See You Again."  
 8 p. m.—Cleveland Symphony (WGN): Schubert's "Symphony No. 7 in C Major"... Merry-Go-Round (WIBA): "I Heard You Cried Last Night," "Carlson's Raiders Song," "My Heart Tells Me," "The Last Time I Saw Paris."  
 8:15 p. m.—Bass Street (WENR): Louis Armstrong, guest.  
 8:30 p. m.—Familia Musica (WIBA): "Farewell to Dreams," the American Legion.  
 "In the Valley of Shadow," by Van Denman Thompson, teacher at De Pauw university in Greencastle, Ind., will open the recital.

**FAIR ENOUGH**  
 LEOMINSTER, Mass.—(U.P.)—A want ad offering a reward for the return of a lost pig read in part, "The pig weighs 29½ pounds, and please return for sentimental reasons. If you can't return the pig, invite me to the barbecue."

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 America's Greatest Baritone with John Nesbit  
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**Euterpe Club to Give Scandinavian Music**  
 Scandinavian music will be performed by members of the Euterpe club at a meeting at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the home

**What's on the Air**  
 "The Night Was Made for Love," "Song of Songs," "Among My Souvenirs"... Star Theater (WBMM): James Melton, Diane Courtney, with Oscar Levant as guest; "If You Please," "Siboney," "Celeste Aida," "The Lost Chord," selections from "Oklahoma."  
 9 p. m.—Hour of Charm (WIBA): "Sunday, Monday or Always," "The Old Refrain," "Ay, Ay, Ay," "Villa."  
 9:30 p. m.—Bob Crosby (WIBA): with Lorraine Elliott, guest singer.

**Sports**  
 2 p. m.—Football: Green Bay Packers vs. Chicago Bears, (WTMJ-WIND).

**Variety**  
 3 p. m.—Fun Valley (WENR): Al Pearce and Gang, with Maxine Seemon, radio actress, as guest.  
 4 p. m.—Moose Fireside Party (WGN): Griff Williams orchestra and chorus; dramatization of life of a typical American boy.  
 6 p. m.—Jack Benny (WIBA): braves Mojave desert sand to entertain marines.  
 7 p. m.—Bergen and McCarthy (WIBA): with Bob Burns.  
 9 p. m.—Gertrude Lawrence (WENR): with Orson Wells.

**Drama**  
 2 p. m.—Encore (WHA): WHA Players dramatize "Jane Eyre."  
 2:30 p. m.—Hot Copy (WENR): "Ranch of the Dead Man," Nazi intrigue in Mexico.  
 4:30 p. m.—The Shadow (WGN): "The Ship of Doom."  
 5 p. m.—Silver Theater (WBMM): John Garfield in "Once Upon a Weekend."  
 5:30 p. m.—Great Gildersleeve (WIBA): has meat point troubles.  
 8 p. m.—Digest (WBMM): Joan Blondell in "Maizie Gordon," story of a cashier in a Bowery theater.  
 9:30 p. m.—Thin Man (WBMM): double murder and a shakedown.  
 10:30 p. m.—Hollywood Academy Award (WENR): Elaine Barimore in "What Does It Profit."  
 11:15 p. m.—Pacific Story (WMAQ): Philippine Independence.

**Miscellaneous**  
 11:30 a. m.—Transatlantic Call (WBMM): "The Road to Dover," broadcast from London.  
 1:30 p. m.—Citizens of Tomorrow (WGN): salute to St. Patrick academy, with talk by Brother Justin Matthew, and school glee club.  
 3:30 p. m.—Travels of the Free (WMAQ): "Travels of the Potato," Padraic Colum, Irish poet, guest.  
 9:30 p. m.—They Give Their Lives (WGN): "Food Fights for Freedom," with Dr. Elmo Hohman, guest speaker.

**Mondaytime**  
 9:45 a. m.—Star Playhouse (WMAQ): Bonita Granville in "A Bill of Divorcement."  
 2 p. m.—College of the Air (WHA): WHA Players in Galsworthy's "Forsyte Saga."  
 2:30 p. m.—American School of the Air (WBMM): "The Doctor's Instruments."  
 5:15 p. m.—Lyn Murray Orchestra (WBMM): Suzanne Sten, mezzo-soprano guest; "Habenera" from "Carmen," "Huguette Waltz," "John Peel," "Song of the Vagabonds."

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Two Madison public school teachers are authors of a new book on nutrition, "We're Going to Be Better Nourished," published by the College Entrance Book Co.

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