Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald: A Check List

BY HENRY DAN PIPER '39

ZELDA FITZGERALD's writings, of course, were easily surpassed by her husband's, both in quantity and quality. Still, she possessed an authentic, though meagerly-trained, minor talent. It is a talent that still comes through to us in her remarkable syne-
thetic prose and in her paintings. According to her friends, it was there in her dancing, too.

But there are also other important reasons for publishing a check list of her writings at this time. She collaborated with her husband on so many stories and sketches that any listing of his work would be incomplete without some mention of those pieces she published under her own name, or of those that they published together. It is difficult to determine precisely just how much of the writing in the following items should be credited to each of them. So far as Save Me the Waltz is concerned, practically all of it is hers. She sent the manuscript to Scribner's before her husband had read it, and the final proof sheets show her further voluminous revisions. Most of the stories and sketches were probably hers to begin with, with Fitzgerald providing the necessary last-minute refurbishings that gave them a professional luster. In a few cases the typescripts of some of the College Humor and Esquire pieces survive. Here we can see Fitzgerald's penciled revisions smoothing up her style and shortening her involved periodic sentences. In most of the tear sheets of those sketches which were published over both their names, he has crossed out his name, thereby crediting the pieces entirely to her; and in his ledger and in various letters we can pick up other references which indicate pretty definitely that, by and large, most of the inspiration and the actual writing that went into the items listed below were Zelda's.

I. BOOK

Save Me the Waltz. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922.

II. SHORT STORIES IN PERIODICALS

Chicago Sunday Tribune: Our Own Movie Queen, 5:1 (June 7, 1923); published under Fitzgerald's name but, according to his ledger, "two-thirds written by Zelda. Only my climax and revision."

College Humor: (All these contributions were published as though written by "Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald," but, according to Fitzgerald's ledger, they were all

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III. ESSAYS AND SKETCHES IN PERIODICALS


Esquire: "Show Mr. and Mrs. F. to Number ______," 1:6:19 and 2:1:23 (May and June, 1934). Auction—Model 1934, 2:2:20 (July, 1934). Both "by Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald," but Fitzgerald wrote to his editor that most of the writing was Zelda's; see Arthur Mizener, The Far Side of Paradise, 338.


New Yorker: The Continental Angle, 8:16:25 (June 4, 1932).

IV. MISCELLANEOUS