

**SHOUTS AND MURMURS;  
ECHOES OF A THOUSAND  
AND ONE FIRST NIGHTS**

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Shouts and murmurs; echoes of a thousand and one first nights by Alexander Woolcott

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**ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT**

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AND ONE FIRST NIGHTS

BY

ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT

AUTHOR OF "MRS. FISKE," "THE COMMAND  
IS FORWARD," ETC.



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## FOREWORD

And there sat in the circle at the Players' Club one who spoke always with the accent of authority, giving firmly the impression that his own story and the story of the theater were two inseparable strands of the same woof. Indeed, he sometimes referred casually and hazily to five seasons passed at dear old Drury Lane. But one day some one asked him point-blank what his rôles there had been. He had to explain then that his talent had always been devoted to off-stage noises. Finally he showed a Drury Lane program, yellowed and creased and wine-stained. There his name was at the end of the cast and opposite it was the rôle assigned him—*Shouts and Murmurs*.—OLD FABLE.

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