

William Green (1926-2013)

William Green, Professor Emeritus of English at Queens College (CUNY), passed away on November 13, 2013. A scholar of national and international repute, Green was a past president of the International Federation for Theatre Research and past secretary-treasurer of the American Society for Theatre Research. He also held an executive position in the Theatre Library Association. Additionally, Green held memberships in the Eugene O'Neill Society, the Yeats Society, the American Theatre Critics Association, and the Shakespeare Association of America.

Green served on the Queens College faculty since 1957 and retired in 2010, setting an institutional record of 53 years of service. His primary teaching responsibilities included Shakespeare, modern British and American drama, musical theater, and popular entertainment, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. His classes for the Center for Unlimited Enrichment (CUE) were also very popular. The recipient of Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and PSC-CUNY research awards, he was also a Fulbright professor at the University of Vienna and a guest lecturer at several European universities. Bill was very active on the Queens College campus, particularly in the Phi Beta Kappa chapter and the annual performance programs for the Friends of the Queens College Library.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Queens College in 1949, Green began his career in the theater as a lighting director, production assistant, and stage manager in summer stock. After a year in England, studying the works of the Manchester dramatists, he returned to the U.S. and began his academic career, teaching first at Upsala College in New Jersey before moving to Queens College. He received his MA and PhD degrees at Columbia University.

His publications include *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor* (Princeton UP, 1962) and many articles in American and international journals. With John Gassner, he co-edited *Elizabethan Drama* (Bantam, 1967) and remained active in academic circles. He wrote several entries for the *Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995) and, in 2006, updated his 1965 edition of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Signet). Beyond Shakespeare, Green's theatrical interests included vaudeville, burlesque, theater in Puerto Rico, Oscar Wilde, and the Broadway musical tradition. For several decades, Green was a devoted member of the Columbia Shakespeare Seminar, attending their monthly meetings through 2013.

He is survived by son Jonathan Green (Hilary Thomas) and daughter Natalie Green Giles (Douglas Giles); grandchildren Gabrielle and Alexandra Giles and Devon Green; and his sister Betty Ajces.