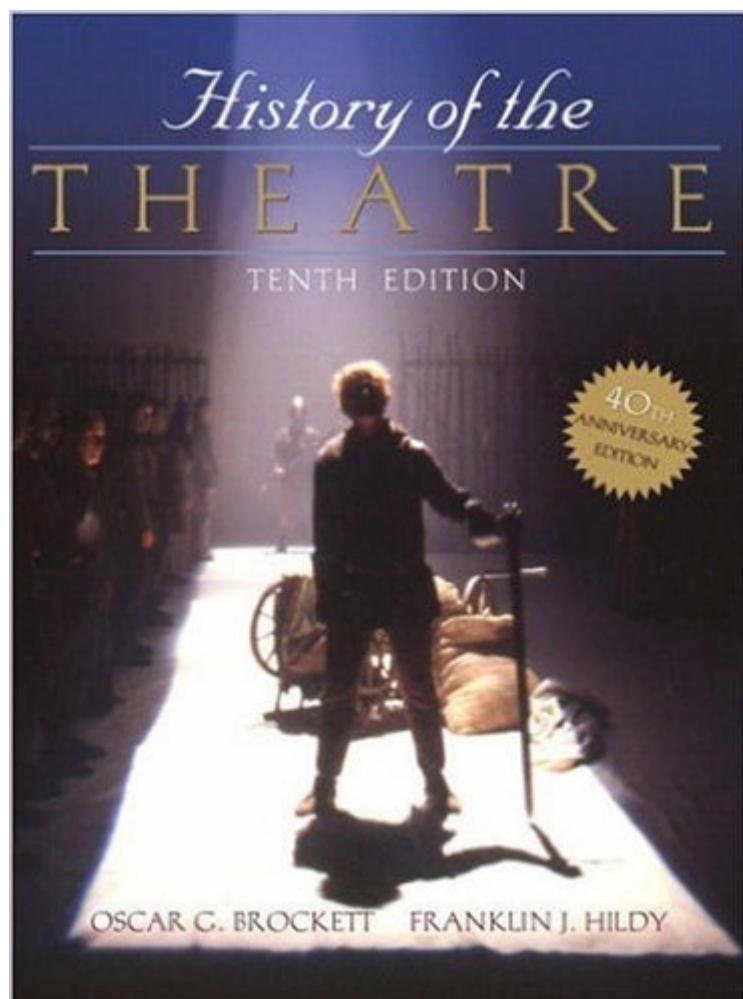


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# History Of The Theatre



## **Synopsis**

Known as the "bible" of theatre history, Brockett and Hildy's History of the Theatre is the most comprehensive and widely used survey of theatre history in the market. This 40th Anniversary Edition retains all of the traditional features that have made History of the Theatre the most successful text of its kind, including worldwide coverage, more than 530 photos and illustrations, useful maps, and the expertise of Oscar G. Brockett and Franklin J. Hildy, two of the most widely respected theatre historians in the field. As with every edition, the text reflects the current state of knowledge and brings the history of theatre up to the present. This tenth edition continues to provide the most thorough and accurate assessment of theatre history available.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I had the pleasure of being Brock's student for three years at the University of Texas. The book is phenomenal, easy to read and amazingly complete. The History of the Theatre experience should also be augmented by the opportunity to hear Brockett speak. He is erudite, funny, a lively teacher and an incredible intellect. There is no other book to serve as a reference and introduction to theatre history. No other book and no other teacher so expertly and informatively makes you realize the interweaving of theatre and society throughout its long history. IMHO, Brockett should write the history not just of theatre but of everything. His non-didactic, straight-forward and lively prose would make any work of history or criticism on any subject a delight.

Hands down the BEST theatre history textbook EVER WRITTEN. Brockett is a legend in the world of theatre studies. The textbook is very informative- sometimes so much that it can seem overwhelming. But the narrative element is strong in this text and Brockett weaves together the time periods covered very well so that you not only get facts but a story of the history of theatre. The sections on Asian theatre, African theatre and theatre of the New World sort of have the feeling of an afterthought, which I hope future editions will improve upon (unfortunately, this is not unusual for theatre history textbooks and Brockett's text does handle it much better than others!). I would highly recommend for not only undergraduates but graduate students who are reviewing for comprehensive exams (that's why I purchased it!). This book is one that you will want to keep on your shelf. It is expensive, but it's worth it.

Quite simply the best comprehensive theatre history text available. In every new edition, Brock reviewed every word on every page, incorporating new research, new theories, and new opinions. He never just "tacked on" a new chapter every couple of years. The good doctor is careful to separate fact from speculation, and often includes alternate interpretations of the historical record. As other reviewers have noted, this text is best accompanied by Dr. Brockett's lively lectures. Unfortunately, since his death last year this is impossible. I found during my time at UT that Brock was a careful scholar, interesting lecturer, and outstanding mentor. Buy this book! It puts the others in my theatre history collection (Molinari, et al.) to shame.

Having used the larger, fuller Brockett and Hildy's "History of the Theatre" for college students, I find the Foundation Edition especially good for high school students interested in theatre in general but who are not majoring in theatre. The Foundation Edition is shorter, more concise, yet retains the structure and essential discussions as the larger edition.

The Foundation Edition is great for what it is, but I accidentally bought the wrong edition. I was supposed to buy the Brockett 10th edition for my Theatre History class. This edition is great for what it is, but it's a bit more concise and some of the chapters are different. If you want to buy this book, it's a great history book, but if you need it for class, make sure it's the right edition!

Chances are if you are reading this you are either a student or just very interested in Theatre History. If you don't know this... THIS IS THE ONLY BOOK IN THEATRE HISTORY TAKEN SERIOUSLY... you can use another book for other ideas, but you aren't serious if use something

other than Brockett for your primary text.

A very thorough book. I liked how it detailed what was going on in the country and in the world at the beginning of each chapter to give the reader a better perspective of what was going on outside of theatre during each time period. I'd recommend this book to anyone, not just students that are required to get it for their class.

I used this book for my first theater history class (origins-1800 theatre) and I was fairly impressed with what I have read in the book, it covers a great deal of actors styles and stagecraft involved in all the history a very detailed book, if you use it for a textbook it is probably the best one out there

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