

Chapter 1 : The sardonic humor of Ambrose Bierce (edition) | Open Library

Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce () was an American editorialist, journalist, short story writer, fabulist and satirist. Today, he is best known for his short story, An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge and his satirical lexicon, The Devil's Dictionary.

He participated in the operations in Western Virginia , was present at the Battle of Philippi the first organized land action of the war , and received newspaper attention for his daring rescue, under fire, of a gravely wounded comrade at the Battle of Rich Mountain. In February he was commissioned a first lieutenant , and served on the staff of General William Babcock Hazen as a topographical engineer , making maps of likely battlefields. Bierce fought at the Battle of Shiloh April , a terrifying experience that became a source for several short stories and the memoir "What I Saw of Shiloh". As a staff officer, Bierce became known to leading generals such as George H. Thomas and Oliver O. Howard , both of whom supported his application for admission to West Point in May General Hazen believed Bierce would graduate from the military academy "with distinction" and William T. Sherman also endorsed the application for admission even though stating he had no personal acquaintance with Bierce. He was discharged from the army in January His military career resumed, however, in mid, when he joined General Hazen as part of an expedition to inspect military outposts across the Great Plains. Personal life Ambrose Bierce, by J. They had three children: Day committed suicide after a romantic rejection , [19] [20] and Leigh died of pneumonia related to alcoholism. They divorced in Bierce was an avowed agnostic. Bierce lived and wrote in England from to , contributing to Fun magazine. From to , he traveled to Rockerville and Deadwood in the Dakota Territory , to try his hand as local manager for a New York mining company. When the company failed he returned to San Francisco and resumed his career in journalism. From January 1, until September 11, he was editor of The Wasp magazine, in which he began a column titled "Prattle". He remained associated with Hearst Newspapers until Central Pacific executive Collis P. If, when you are ready to pay, I happen to be out of town, you may hand it over to my friend, the Treasurer of the United States. Bierce returned to California in November. On several occasions his columns stirred up a storm of hostile reaction, which created difficulties for Hearst. Bierce meant his poem to express a national mood of dismay and fear, but after McKinley was shot in , it seemed to foreshadow the crime: Despite a national uproar that ended his ambitions for the presidency and even his membership in the Bohemian Club , Hearst kept employing Bierce. His most popular stories were written in rapid succession between and , in what was characterized as "a tremendous burst of consummate art". His grimly realistic cycle of 25 war stories has been called "the greatest anti-war document in American literature". His Fantastic Fables anticipated the ironic style of grotesquerie that became a more common genre in the 20th century. Described as "howlingly funny", [35] it consists of satirical definitions of English words which lampoon cant and political double-talk. Bierce edited the twelve volumes of The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce, which were published from to Bierce has been criticized by his contemporaries and later scholars for deliberately pursuing improbability and for his penchant toward " trick endings ". Bierce is among our three greatest writers. Howells is the other two. By December he had passed through Louisiana and Texas , crossing by way of El Paso into Mexico, which was in the throes of revolution. His last known communication with the world was a letter he wrote there to Blanche Partington , a close friend, dated December 26, There was an official investigation by U. Sommerfeld , was contacted by U. Scott and Sommerfeld investigated the disappearance. Bierce was said to have been last seen in the city of Chihuahua in January. Neale concludes that it would have been highly unlikely for Bierce to have gone to Mexico and joined Villa. Therefore, despite an abundance of theories including death by suicide , his end remains shrouded in mystery. Legacy and influence Bierce in Bierce has been fictionalized in more than 50 novels, short stories, movies, television shows, stage plays, and comic books. Some works featuring a fictional Ambrose Bierce have received favorable reviews, generated international sales, [51] or earned major awards. A silent film version, The Bridge, was made in It aired in on American television as one of the final episodes of the television series The Twilight Zone: In the story line, Hearst struggles to turn a profit despite increased circulation of The San Francisco Examiner. Cornthwaite appears as Sam Chamberlain. The short film "Ah! He has painful faults of vulgarity and cheapness of

imagination. In the novel, Bierce is personally executed by Pancho Villa.

Chapter 2 : Ambrose Bierce - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! The sardonic humor of Ambrose Bierce., [Ambrose Bierce] -- New collection of verses and prose sketches selected from The collected works of Ambrose Bierce in twelve volumes between and

January, ; son of Marcus Aurelius a journeyman farmer and Laura Sherwood Bierce; married Mary Ellen Mollie Day, December 25, separated, ; divorced, ; died, ; children: Day son; killed, , Leigh son; died, , Helen. Attended Kentucky Military Institute. Hobbies and other interests: Hiking in search of arrowheads; communing with nature; cycling. Career Short-story writer, novelist, journalist, poet, essayist, and critic. Under pseudonym Dod Grile Cobwebs from an Empty Skull fables and tales; originally appeared in Fun , illustrated with engravings by the Dalziel brothers, Routledge, The Lantern, illuminated by Faustin, A. Harcourt, under joint pseudonym William Herman The Dance of Death satire , privately printed, , corrected and enlarged edition, Henry Keller, Milton Bowers The Dance of Life, Steele, , published as In the Midst of Life: Can Such Things Be? Shapes of Clay poetry , W. In the Midst of Life; Volume 3: Tangential Views; Volume Cape London, England , Battlefields and Ghosts, edited by Hartley E. Jackson and James D. Hart, Harvest Press, Hall, Book Club of California, The Ambrose Bierce Satanic Reader: Selected Journalism from , edited with an introduction by Lawrence I. Great Short Stories of the World: Poems of Ambrose Bierce, edited and introduced by M. Shadows of Blue and Gray, edited by Brian M. Often compared to the tales of Edgar Allan Poe , these stories share an attraction to death in its more bizarre forms, featuring depictions of mental deterioration, uncanny, otherworldly manifestations, and expressions of the horror of existence in a meaningless universe. Like Poe, Bierce professed to be mainly concerned with the artistry of his work, yet critics have found him more intent on conveying his misanthropy and pessimism. In his lifetime Bierce was famous as a California journalist dedicated to exposing the truth as he understood it, regardless of whose reputations were harmed by his attacks. For his sardonic wit and damning observations on the personalities and events of the day, he became known as "the wickedest man in San Francisco. Wiggins recounted in American Writers. To earn this distinction, only a modest collection was needed. He appears to have had considerable native intelligence and rather cultivated tastes, but lacked the ambition and application to do more than scrape a poor living from eighty acres. It was Laura, the mother, who, with a Bible in one hand and a switch in the other, ruled the household. Grenander in the Dictionary of Literary Biography recounted: The years of his early adolescence were spent there except for a stint at the Kentucky Military Institute in When he returned to Indiana in , he worked on the family farm and at various odd jobs. On 19 April , a week after the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter , South Carolina , Bierce, like many other idealistic youths of his generation, enlisted in the Union Army. Moves to California After the war Bierce traveled with a military expedition to San Francisco, where he left the army and prepared himself for a literary career. Bierce became something of a noted figure in California literary society, forming friendships with Mark Twain, Bret Harte , and Joaquin Miller. In Bierce and his wife moved to England where, during a three-year stay, he wrote for Fun and Figaro magazines and acquired the nickname "Bitter Bierce. This provided him with a regular outlet for his essays, epigrams, and short stories. However, Bierce was not striving for realism, as critics have pointed out and as he himself admitted, for his narratives often fail to supply sufficient verisimilitude. His most striking fictional effects depend on an adept manipulation of the reader viewpoint: The first section of the story is told mostly in the detached language of an objective observer. He stands on a railroad bridge, where he is flanked by Union soldiers quietly preparing to put him to death. The man makes no motion of protest, but remains quiet during the preparations. He is described as a civilian gentleman of thirty-five, a Confederate planter. As the time of his hanging approaches, he begins to consider a way to escape; but in the next moment, the plank he has been standing on is removed. When a soldier stops by his plantation one evening, Farquhar presses him for details from the battlefield. This soldier, a Union spy disguised as a Confederate soldier, tells Farquhar about a nearby railroad bridge that is strategically important for the Union. Any civilian caught interfering with it, he says, will be hanged. He falls into the rushing creek below, for the rope that his captors sought to hang him with has broken. After a long struggle, he frees his hands from the cord that tied them and

is able to swim to the surface for air. Within moments, the soldiers standing on the bridge begin firing at him, but he manages to dodge their bullets and swim to shore. The rest of his escape takes him through a thick forest to a road he follows all the way to his home. He passes through the gate and sees his beautiful wife waiting for him in front of the house. Just as he reaches to touch her, he feels a blow to his neck and all goes dark. Though his mind led him home, his body, with a broken neck, has not escaped from the noose. It hangs from the Owl Creek Bridge. In the first section, Farquhar denies what is about to happen. He is certainly more knowledgeable than the Farquhar who let himself be tricked by the Yankees; witness his analysis of what kind of shots the troop will fire on him. And even in the moment of death, fantasy does not give way to reality. The noose tightens around his neck, but Farquhar believes he is about to clasp his wife. The detailed description must be reevaluated not as objective reality, but as the vividness of a psychological state—the truth that the mind makes its own reality. But the reader is not cheated—not as by the surprise endings of O. Henry or Frank R. Withholding the information here is not trickery, but a logical, calculated end to shock the reader with the realization that he has been witnessing a life-and-death struggle of some poignancy; death is the real cheat in dangling the lure of escape up to the final moment when we discover that there is no escape. This conclusion, although bitter, even cynical, logically extends the ironic theme. The story is primarily a tour de force of technique, in which the content is merely a pretext for a game Bierce plays with the conventions of narrative time and fictional endings. Wymer in *Supernatural Fiction Writers*, "placing his stories in the semifrontier areas of the Western Reserve ; in gold-rush, mining-boom, and ghost towns farther west; and in more civilized areas like San Francisco. He developed the potentialities of psychological terror in both supernatural and natural contexts. Finally, this ambiguity is consistent with a pervasive irony that, combined with unsentimental urbanity and wit, gives his work an uncommon freshness and vitality. When he returns late at night, he spies a man leaving his house and assumes that his wife has been unfaithful to him. He goes inside and strangles her. But his wife has not been unfaithful, the strange man was an intruder. His definition for "ghost" — "the outward and visible sign of an inward fear" — clarifies his fundamentally psychological approach to the supernatural. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent. Definitions from Bierce are still quoted, or more often circulate without reference to their source. It is not a book to be read at a sitting. Rather, it is a reference work to be consulted at cynical hours, when one at first will have his mood confirmed and then gradually lightened as he contemplates opinions more jaundiced than his own. It seems certain that the old soldier did not die peacefully in bed. During the years that followed many obituaries appeared. The old cynic would have enjoyed the spectacle. If you enjoy the works of Ambrose Bierce, you might want to check out the following books: Lovecraft, *The Tomb and Other Tales*, Erskine, compilers, *From Fiction to Film: Concise Dictionary of American Literary Biography*: Hall Boston, MA , *American Humorists*, , , Volume *American Realists and Naturalists*, , Volume *American Newspaper Journalists*, , , Volume *American Literary Critics and Scholars*, , , Volume *American Short-Story Writers before* , , Volume *Nineteenth-Century American Western Writers*, Fadiman, Clifton, *Party of One: Fatout, Paul, Ambrose Bierce: Gaer, Joseph, editor, Ambrose Gwinett Bierce: Bibliography and Biographical Data*, R. West Philadelphia, PA ,

*The Sardonic Humor of Ambrose Bierce [Ambrose Bierce] on theinnatdunvilla.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Insulting poems, cruel epigrams, parodies of bad fiction, character assassinations by America's bitterest.*

He was never seen again. He participated in the operations in Western Virginia , was present at the Battle of Philippi the first organized land action of the war , and received newspaper attention for his daring rescue, under fire, of a gravely wounded comrade at the Battle of Rich Mountain. Bierce fought at the Battle of Shiloh April , a terrifying experience that became a source for several short stories and the memoir "What I Saw of Shiloh". In April he was commissioned a first lieutenant , and served on the staff of General William Babcock Hazen as a topographical engineer , making maps of likely battlefields. Thomas and Oliver O. Howard , both of whom supported his application for admission to West Point in May General Hazen believed Bierce would graduate from the military academy "with distinction" and William T. Sherman also endorsed the application for admission even though stating he had no personal acquaintance with Bierce. He was discharged from the army in January His military career resumed, however, in mid, when he joined General Hazen as part of an expedition to inspect military outposts across the Great Plains. Personal life Ambrose Bierce, by J. They had three children: Day committed suicide after a romantic rejection,[24][25] and Leigh died of pneumonia related to alcoholism. They divorced in Bierce was an avowed agnostic. Bierce lived and wrote in England from to , contributing to Fun magazine. From to , he traveled to Rockerville and Deadwood in the Dakota Territory , to try his hand as local manager for a New York mining company. When the company failed he returned to San Francisco and resumed his career in journalism. From January 1, until September 11, he was editor of The Wasp magazine, in which he began a column titled "Prattle". He remained associated with Hearst Newspapers until Central Pacific executive Collis P. If, when you are ready to pay, I happen to be out of town, you may hand it over to my friend, the Treasurer of the United States. Bierce returned to California in November. On several occasions his columns stirred up a storm of hostile reaction, which created difficulties for Hearst. Bierce meant his poem to express a national mood of dismay and fear, but after McKinley was shot in , it seemed to foreshadow the crime: Despite a national uproar that ended his ambitions for the presidency and even his membership in the Bohemian Club , Hearst kept employing Bierce. His most popular stories were written in rapid succession between and , in what was characterized as "a tremendous burst of consummate art". His grimly realistic cycle of 25 war stories has been called "the greatest anti-war document in American literature". His Fantastic Fables anticipated the ironic style of grotesquerie that became a more common genre in the 20th century. Described as "howlingly funny",[40] it consists of satirical definitions of English words which lampoon cant and political double-talk. Bierce edited the twelve volumes of The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce, which were published from to Bierce has been criticized by his contemporaries and later scholars for deliberately pursuing improbability and for his penchant toward "trick endings ". Bierce is among our three greatest writers. Howells is the other two. By December he had passed through Louisiana and Texas , crossing by way of El Paso into Mexico, which was in the throes of revolution. His last known communication with the world was a letter he wrote there to Blanche Partington , a close friend, dated December 26, Skeptic Joe Nickell argued that no letter had ever been found;[51] all that existed was a notebook belonging to his secretary and companion, Carrie Christiansen, containing a rough summary of a purported letter and her statement that the originals had been destroyed. There was an official investigation by U. Sommerfeld , was contacted by U. Scott and Sommerfeld investigated the disappearance. Bierce was said to have been last seen in the city of Chihuahua in January. Neale concludes that it would have been highly unlikely for Bierce to have gone to Mexico and joined Villa. All investigations into his fate have proven fruitless, and Nickell concedes[51] that despite a lack of hard evidence that Bierce had gone to Mexico, there is also none that he had not. Therefore, despite an abundance of theories including death by suicide , his ultimate fate remains shrouded in mystery. Legacy and influence Bierce and autograph Bierce has been fictionalized in more than 50 novels, short stories, movies, television shows, stage plays, and comic books. Some works featuring a fictional Ambrose Bierce have received favorable reviews, generated international

sales,[56] or earned major awards. Mencken called Bierce "the one genuine wit that These States have ever seen. A silent film version, *The Bridge*, was made in 1928. It aired in on American television as one of the final episodes of the television series *The Twilight Zone*: In the story line, Hearst struggles to turn a profit despite increased circulation of *The San Francisco Examiner*. Cornthwaite appears as Sam Chamberlain. Lovecraft and much of modern horror fiction. The short film "Ah! He has painful faults of vulgarity and cheapness of imagination. In the novel, Bierce is personally executed by Pancho Villa. John Camden Hotten , *Stories, satire, journalism, poetry. Stories, satire, epigrams, journalism. Cobwebs from an Empty Skull* as by "Dod Grile". London and New York: *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians* San Francisco: Steele, ; many subsequent editions, some under the title *In the Midst of Life*. Western Authors Publishing, *Can Such Things Be? Fantastic Fables* New York and London: *Shapes of Clay* San Francisco: Wood [George Sterling], *Ashes of the Beacon* Volume II: *In the Midst of Life: Shapes of Clay* Volume V:

Chapter 4 : Ambrose Bierce - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

Ambrose Bierce didn't write a best-selling novel or a big ticket series, but he has written some of the best satirical prose and poetry in history.

He participated in the operations in Western Virginia , was present at the Battle of Philippi the first organized land action of the war , and received newspaper attention for his daring rescue, under fire, of a gravely wounded comrade at the Battle of Rich Mountain. Bierce fought at the Battle of Shiloh April , a terrifying experience that became a source for several short stories and the memoir "What I Saw of Shiloh". In April he was commissioned a first lieutenant , and served on the staff of General William Babcock Hazen as a topographical engineer , making maps of likely battlefields. Thomas and Oliver O. Howard , both of whom supported his application for admission to West Point in May General Hazen believed Bierce would graduate from the military academy "with distinction" and William T. Sherman also endorsed the application for admission even though stating he had no personal acquaintance with Bierce. He was discharged from the army in January His military career resumed, however, in mid, when he joined General Hazen as part of an expedition to inspect military outposts across the Great Plains. Ambrose Bierce, by J. They had three children: Day committed suicide after a romantic rejection, [24] [25] and Leigh died of pneumonia related to alcoholism. They divorced in Bierce was an avowed agnostic. Bierce lived and wrote in England from to , contributing to Fun magazine. From to , he traveled to Rockerville and Deadwood in the Dakota Territory , to try his hand as local manager for a New York mining company. When the company failed he returned to San Francisco and resumed his career in journalism. From January 1, until September 11, he was editor of The Wasp magazine, in which he began a column titled "Prattle". He remained associated with Hearst Newspapers until Central Pacific executive Collis P. If, when you are ready to pay, I happen to be out of town, you may hand it over to my friend, the Treasurer of the United States. Bierce returned to California in November. On several occasions his columns stirred up a storm of hostile reaction, which created difficulties for Hearst. Bierce meant his poem to express a national mood of dismay and fear, but after McKinley was shot in , it seemed to foreshadow the crime: Despite a national uproar that ended his ambitions for the presidency and even his membership in the Bohemian Club , Hearst kept employing Bierce. His most popular stories were written in rapid succession between and , in what was characterized as "a tremendous burst of consummate art". His grimly realistic cycle of 25 war stories has been called "the greatest anti-war document in American literature". His Fantastic Fables anticipated the ironic style of grotesquerie that became a more common genre in the 20th century. Described as "howlingly funny", [40] it consists of satirical definitions of English words which lampoon cant and political double-talk. Bierce edited the twelve volumes of The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce, which were published from to Bierce has been criticized by his contemporaries and later scholars for deliberately pursuing improbability and for his penchant toward "trick endings ". Bierce is among our three greatest writers. Howells is the other two. By December he had passed through Louisiana and Texas , crossing by way of El Paso into Mexico, which was in the throes of revolution. His last known communication with the world was a letter he wrote there to Blanche Partington , a close friend, dated December 26, There was an official investigation by U. Sommerfeld , was contacted by U. Scott and Sommerfeld investigated the disappearance. Bierce was said to have been last seen in the city of Chihuahua in January. Neale concludes that it would have been highly unlikely for Bierce to have gone to Mexico and joined Villa. Therefore, despite an abundance of theories including death by suicide , his ultimate fate remains shrouded in mystery. Legacy and influence[edit] Bierce and autograph Bierce has been fictionalized in more than 50 novels, short stories, movies, television shows, stage plays, and comic books. Some works featuring a fictional Ambrose Bierce have received favorable reviews, generated international sales, [56] or earned major awards. Mencken called Bierce "the one genuine wit that These States have ever seen. A silent film version, The Bridge, was made in It aired in on American television as one of the final episodes of the television series The Twilight Zone: In the story line, Hearst struggles to turn a profit despite increased circulation of The San Francisco Examiner. Cornthwaite appears as Sam Chamberlain. Lovecraft and much of modern horror fiction.

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Chapter 5 : The Sardonic Humor of Ambrose Bierce by Ambrose Bierce (, Paperback) | eBay

item 6 the sardonic humor of ambrose bierce - cynical, sarcastic, witty, bitter humor - the sardonic humor of ambrose bierce - cynical, sarcastic, witty, bitter humor \$ +\$ shipping.

She hated bleak and wintry things alone. All that was warm and quick, she loved too well " A light, a flame, a heart against her own; It is forever bitter cold, in Hell. He lies below, correct in cypress wood, And entertains the most exclusive worms. His oeuvre has been overlooked, to be sure, either forgotten or dismissed as comedic journalism. Grenander opens the volume of Bierce poetry she edited with the admission: Scott Fitzgerald and Hemingway in particular. She acutely felt the imbalance between their output and hers, and continually recommitted herself to producing something she believed worthwhile " the novel that would secure her place with the best writers of the period. Intent on defining her place among her peers, she accepted a commission to write a novel, but she was unable to finish it. Though her short stories do evidence interesting work in depicting spontaneous flow of interiority, she did little to challenge conventional forms of either the novel or poetry. Placing her in the short story tradition " along with Colette, for example " or in the comic tradition of Bierce removes the overwhelming glare caused by the great novelistic and poetic achievements of her times. Emily Toth, for example, argues that Parker speaks to the feminine condition by illustrating it accurately despite offering no recourse or escape: The sarcastic, arch bend of wit that permeates her writing suggests critique, even social critique, and her work should be interrogated for its value as such. To put it another way, the fact Parker was a woman " a petite, attractive, soft-voiced woman with tortured relationships " interferes with a straight reading of the power of her insult. Many analyses call attention to the double sided feminism that arises from this stance. Parker challenges yet affirms femininity at the same time; she questions canonical assessments of literature, and challenges the value of patriarchic order, while couching her severe critiques in the safety of a purely subjective point of view, thus undermining her authority. Is the poem a critique of herself or of Dumas and his son? But the poem is, at its base, an assessment of their writerly abilities. Parker ingratiates herself to her readers through her stance of reflexivity and deprecation. She also creates a space " albeit an ambivalent one " for critique of the very position she places herself in: She famously skewered A. Sharing the insult with her readers in this manner " by asking them to indulge her whims " also curries favor among her audience. According to social psychologists, the creation of a sense of intimacy is a primary function of insult or gossip: The title served both as the heading for the column and the persona Bierce employed to render his verdicts on aspects of social life from politics to entertainment, cultivating a self-deprecating personality separate enough from his own to offer harsh criticism or effusive praise without engendering violent responses: Yet sure no girl was ever made Just half of light and half of shade. And so, this happy mean to get, I love a blonde and a brunette. Are tender looks got out of books, Or kisses taught in college? In many A tongue men brawl; she speaks them all Who says "I love," in any. His leg was crippled, and my heart. I woke in time to see my love Conceal a letter in her glove. Scholars of Bierce are certain to find additional parallels between the works of the two authors. Nevertheless, even in these pages the outline that has been drawn of sympathetic tendencies of tone and content shared by Ambrose Bierce and Dorothy Parker is enough, I believe, to demonstrate that the parallels are not simply coincidence. Despite his self-deprecation, his use of alternate personae in both criticism and narrative, and his considerable coverage of love lost, desired, or derided , questions of gender roles or advocacy arise infrequently in the scholarship on Bierce. Meanwhile, criticism of Parker seems to be fixated on her use of the same devices to support or refute feminist causes. Berkove, *A Prescription for Adversity* Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, , ix. Greenwood Press, , *Contemporary Books*, , *Essays on the Work of Dorothy Parker*, ed. Rhonda Pettit Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, , Hartley Grattan, *Bitter Bierce*: Cooper Square Publishers, , vii. Berkove, *Prescription*, n. Penguin Books, , vii. Reprinted in *The Critical Waltz*: University of Nebraska Press, ,

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The sardonic view of human nature that informed his work, along with his vehemence as a literary critic with his motto "nothing matters", earned him the nickname "Bitter Bierce. In , Bierce traveled to Mexico to gain a 1st-hand perspective on the ongoing Mexican Revolution. While traveling with rebel troops, the elderly writer disappeared without a trace. He was the 10th of 13 children whose father gave all of them names beginning with the letter "A". His parents were a poor but literary couple who instilled in him a deep love for books and writing. He participated in the Western Virginia campaign , was present at the "first battle" at Philippi, and received newspaper attention for his daring rescue, under fire, of a gravely wounded comrade at the Battle of Rich Mountain. In February he was commissioned First Lieutenant, and served on the staff of General William Babcock Hazen as a topographical engineer, making maps of likely battlefields. Bierce fought at the Battle of Shiloh April , a terrifying experience that became a source for several later short stories and the memoir, "What I Saw of Shiloh". In June , he sustained a serious head wound at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, [2] and spent the rest of the summer on furlough, returning to active duty in September. He was discharged from the army in January They had three children; two sons, Day " " [3] and Leigh " " [3] , and a daughter, Helen " " Day was shot in a brawl over a woman, [3] and Leigh died of pneumonia related to alcoholism. Bierce suffered from lifelong asthma [3] [4] as well as complications arising from his war wounds. Bierce lived and wrote in England from to , contributing to Fun magazine. From to , he travelled to Rockerville and Deadwood in the Dakota Territory, to try his hand as local manager for a New York mining company, but when the company failed he returned to San Francisco and resumed his career in journalism. He remained associated with Hearst Newspapers until Railroad Refinancing Bill File: NE corner of Logan Circle. If, when you are ready to pay, I happen to be out of town, you may hand it over to my friend, the Treasurer of the United States". Bierce returned to California in November. On several occasions his columns stirred up a storm of hostile reaction which created difficulties for Hearst. Bierce meant his poem, written on the occasion of the assassination of Governor William Goebel of Kentucky , to express a national mood of dismay and fear, but after McKinley was shot in it seemed to foreshadow the crime: Despite a national uproar that ended his ambitions for the presidency and even his membership in the Bohemian Club , Hearst neither revealed Bierce as the author of the poem, nor fired him. By December he had proceeded through Louisiana and Texas , crossing by way of El Paso into Mexico, which was in the throes of revolution. His last known communication with the world was a letter he wrote there to Blanche Partington, a close friend, dated December 26, All that existed was Ms. It must be noted that the webpage "My Hunt for Ambrose Bierce" by Leon Day, referenced earlier in this paragraph, may provide the text of the letter in question, but the page distinguishes itself by its complete absence of references and a failure to show a copy of the original, which the webpage author supposedly saw. Oral tradition in Sierra Mojada, Coahuila, documented by the priest James Lienert, states that Bierce was executed by a firing squad in the town cemetery there. Neale concludes that it would have been highly unlikely for Bierce to have gone to Mexico and joined up with Villa. However, all investigations into his fate have proven fruitless, and Nickell concedes that despite a lack of hard evidence that Bierce had gone to Mexico, there is also none that he had not. Therefore, despite an abundance of theories including death by suicide , his end remains shrouded in mystery. He wrote skillfully in a variety of literary genres. His short stories are held among the best of the 19th century, providing a popular following based on his roots. Bierce employed a distinctive style of writing, especially in his stories. This style often embraces an abrupt beginning see cold open , dark imagery, vague references to time, limited descriptions, the theme of war, and impossible events. His short stories are considered among the best of the 19th century. He wrote of the terrible things he had seen in the war in such stories as "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and "Chickamauga". In addition to his ghost and war stories, he also published several volumes of poetry. His Fantastic Fables anticipated the ironic style of grotesquerie that became a more common genre in the 20th century. It consists of satirical

definitions of English words which lampoon cant and political double-talk. Under the entry "leonine", meaning a single line of poetry with an internal rhyming scheme, he included an apocryphal couplet written by the fictitious "Bella Peeler Silcox" i. Ella Wheeler Wilcox in which an internal rhyme is achieved in both lines only by mispronouncing the rhyming words: The electric light invades the dunnest deep of Hades. An instrument in harmony with the sentiments of an assassin. A person who talks when you wish him to listen. The state or condition of a community consisting of a master, a mistress and two slaves, making in all, two. A silent film version, *The Bridge*, was made in This black-and-white film faithfully recounts the original narrative using voice-over. Another version, directed by Brian James Egen, was released in The French version was aired in as an episode of the television series *The Twilight Zone*: To date at least 2 versions of this story exist on screen. This version runs about 60 minutes and is widely criticized for being too loosely adapted. Another, shorter, version was released in by Dir. Michael Barton, and runs about 23 minutes. He has painful faults of vulgarity and cheapness of imagination.

Chapter 7 : Bierce, Ambrose [WorldCat Identities]

The Sardonic Humor of Ambrose Bierce, edited by George Barkin, Dover, *Enlarged Devil's Dictionary, with Newly Discovered Words and Definitions*, edited by Ernest Jerome Hopkins, Doubleday,

Chapter 8 : Rebecca Mitchell, "Dorothy Parker and Ambrose Bierce: A Sardonic Tradition"

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