

JAMBOR, Agi

Wife No. 5 was Mrs. Agi Jambor Rains, a concert pianist and professor of music at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. They were divorced in July 1960 after nine months' marriage. She testified that during the marriage he gave her only \$9.40 for groceries.

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Actor Claude Rains Dies, Started as Stage Choir Boy

Claude Rains, stage and screen star who died yesterday in Laconia, N.H., was a man short in physical height but tall in professional stature.

The London-born actor started his career at the age of 11 as a choir boy in an English production. By the time of his death at age 77, he had played hundreds of roles on the stage, and in film and television. At one time he commanded a million dollars for a single role.

Death of the white-haired star was attributed to abdominal bleeding and shock. He had been taken to the hospital in Laconia a week ago from his home in nearby Sandwich, where he lived when he was not working.

During the early part of his career, Mr. Rains took on almost every position in the theater — callboy, prompter, carpenter, electrician and stage manager.

He was only 5 feet 6 inches tall, but he had a voice that attracted attention and soon he was given acting parts. It



CLAUDE RAINS

was said that he never gave a bad performance.

"I can play the butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker," he once said when asked the reason for his success.

His first appearance in this

country was in the film, "The Invisible Man" made in 1933 in Hollywood. Later he played another screen role in which his face also was hidden, "Phantom of the Opera."

But Mr. Rain's best-known roles came later, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," "Mr. Skeffington," "Casablanca," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Now Voyager," "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Anthony Adverse," and "Notorious."

His American stage debut was in "Androcles and the Lion" in New Haven, Conn., before World War I. When the War broke out, he returned to England and served in the London Scottish Regiment. Gassed while in the trenches in France, he later was transferred to the Bedford Regiment, in which he was a captain when discharged.

He went back to the footlights in London, but soon returned to this country where he joined the cast of "The Constant Nymph" in New

York. He starred in many New York Theater Guild productions, including "The Apple Cart," "Miracle at Verdun," and "The Moon in the Yellow River."

One of his better known television appearances was in 1956 when he showed what was then called his "superb skills" in a leading role on the Alcoa Hour's presentation of "President."

Mr. Rains, who was described as "shy and scholarly," did not drink or smoke because both affected his voice. Next to acting, he enjoyed farming and maintained a 400-acre farm in Bucks County, Pa., for many years.

He was married six times, the last time in 1960 to Rosemary Clark of West Chester, Pa., who died in 1965. His fifth wife was internationally-known concert pianist, Agi Janbor.

His other previous wives were Isabel Jeans, Marie Hemingway, Beatrix Thompson and Frances Proper, by whom he had a daughter, Jennifer.