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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

1800 G STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



ROGER L. STEVENS-BIOGRAPHY

Roger L. Stevens, Chairman of the National Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, was born in Detroit, Michigan, March 12, 1910, graduated from Choate School in 1928 and studied at the University of Michigan. Married Christine Gesell, January 1, 1938. They have one daughter, Christabel.

Mr. Stevens has had two careers. The first was in the real estate business; high point of which was buying and selling the Empire State Building in New York City.

His second career, equally successful, was in the theater. In the early 1950's he became a theatrical producer and was a partner in the Playwright's Company in association with Robert Sherwood, Maxwell Anderson, and Elmer Rice. He remained with that group until its dissolution in 1960, in the meanwhile producing such hit plays as The Four Poster, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and The Bad Seed.

He has brought to the stage such important writers as William Inge, Jean Anouilh, Harold Pinter, Noel Coward, Jean Kerr, Tennessee Williams, Peter Shaffer, and T.S. Eliot. Among his hit productions were A Man for All Seasons, West Side Story, The Best Man, The Visit, and Mary, Mary.

Five of his productions won the New York Drama Critic Circle's Award. And two of them won the Antoinette Perry Award.

A Profile of him in the New Yorker in 1954(he is one of two real estate men to have been profiled by that magazine) says that when working as a real estate broker he found time to read five books a week, and he has always found time to pursue his favorite hobby, the study of literature.

Although he is identified with the theatre in particular, Mr. Steven's knowledge and appreciation of the arts in general is wide and thorough.