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The Banning of Jurgen

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THE BANNING OF JURGEN

ON JANUARY 14TH, 1920, JAMES BRANCH CABELL'S COMIC FANTASY NOVEL *JURGEN* WAS SEIZED BY THE NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE AND CHARGED WITH OBSCENITY.

BAN IT!

BAN IT!

WHY DO THEY HATE US SO MUCH?
WE'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

WHO KNOWS, MAYBE
WE SCARED THEM?

BAN IT!

OBSCENE!

BAN IT!

INDECENT!

LASCIVIOUS!

THE NOVEL, WHICH WAS A SATIRICAL CRITIQUE OF 1920'S AMERICA, BECAME A NATIONAL PHENOMENON. IN 1922, CABELL WAS ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES, BUT THE CONTROVERSEY LEFT BEHIND QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT FREEDOMS OF SPEECH WERE TRULY BEING UPHELD IN NEW YORK.