

Table of Contents

Introduction	13
Historicizing Allegory.....	17
Wilder as an Allegorist	31

CHAPTER ONE

Allegorist in Apprenticeship:

Wilder's Neoclassical Fictions and Religious Playlets.....	43
The Problem of Genre: Some Terminology Issues.....	43
Neoclassical Allegories: Wilder's Early Fictions.....	48
<i>The Cabala</i>	57
<i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i>	69
Early Pursuit for Religious Drama: Three-Minute Plays.....	85
Platonic Plays	90
Biblical Plays.....	97

CHAPTER TWO

Wilder's Generic Quest: Allegory between Drama and Epic.....	107
Allegorical Narrative Updated: Causes and Context.....	108
Dramatic Allegory in Progress: <i>The Long Christmas Dinner</i> and <i>Other Plays</i>	112
<i>The Long Christmas Dinner</i>	117
<i>Pullman Car Hiawatha</i>	122
<i>The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden</i>	129
Staging Everydayness: <i>Our Town</i>	133
Parable of History: <i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i>	155

CHAPTER THREE

Wilder's Bitter Transcendence: Toward a Humanist Allegory.....	175
To Explore a Cardinal Genre for Allegory:	
Wilder's Self-debate	176
Irreconcilable Crisis for Dramatic Allegory: <i>The Alcestiad</i>	185
Back to Novelistic Allegory: <i>The Ides of March</i>	204
An Alternative Allegorical Mode:	
<i>Theophilus North</i> and Chinese Allegory	220
Conclusion	235
Works Cited.....	243