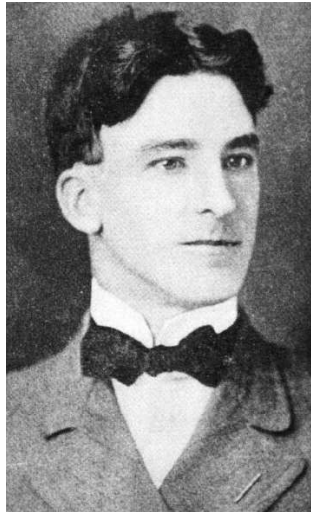


WINDJAMMERS HALL OF FAME

CHARLES EDWARD DUBLE (1884-1960), Inductee 1980

By Charles Conrad, WJU #1525

Charles Edward "Charlie" "C.E." Duple was born in Jeffersonville, IN, a town across the Ohio River from Louisville, on September 13, 1884. His parents were Augustus Reynold and Elizabeth (Fitzpatrick) Duple. He used his initials, "C.E.," professionally for his entire career as a composer and circus historian. Duple played the trombone in circuses, minstrel shows, vaudeville, and other touring entities from 1908 until 1940, and this long tenure was even more remarkable when one considers the sheer number of shows with which he performed. He had 35 musical works published, most of which were marches. Many of these were dedicated to circus musicians and bandmasters. An oddity about his career is that he never became a bandmaster. My speculation is that he likely had numerous opportunities to do this but preferred not to.



jobs. He toured as a ticket taker with the Sparks Circus during 1947 and 1948. In the 1950's, he carried on a prolific letter writing exchange with legendary circus historian Sverre Braathen (WJU #9, Windjammers Hall of Fame 2009), and he passed on extensive information on the use of music during circuses and the bands on minstrel shows.

C.E. Duple never married. He died in Jeffersonville, IN, on August 19, 1960, as a result of a carcinoma in his neck that had spread to his throat and brain. He is buried at Saint Anthony Cemetery, sharing a tombstone with his brother Raymond Augustus Duple (1888-1944). C.E. Duple was elected to the WJU Hall of Fame as our 10th inductee.

Duple's career yields an amazing list of different shows in which he played trombone.

Duple had an amazing memory for dates, names, and details of shows that he attended or performed in, including some from his boyhood before he began playing. He used this facility in his role as an important circus historian and was a prolific letter writer to *Billboard* and numerous local newspapers.

His most famous march is *Bravura*, an exciting circus march that begins in the key of G minor. Perhaps due to its minor key, it is often attributed to Karl King, as he was one of the best minor key march writers. Other well known and often performed circus works from Duple include *Barnum & Bailey's Royal Pageant*, *Battle of the Winds*, *Old Glory Triumphant*, *Ringling Brothers Grand Entrée*, *Sounds from the Harem*, *Wizard of the West*, *Evans' Fashion Plate*, *Under White Tents*, and *Troopers Greeting*, which was dedicated to Sun Bros. Bandmaster Charles Gerlach.

A beloved Windjammer euphoniumist, the late Ed Ballenger (WJU #597), who was also from Jeffersonville, collated Duple's datebooks and other memorabilia, and this material is now held by the Parkinson Library and Circus Archive in Baraboo, WI.

Duple's last year as a trombone player with a touring show was 1940. He then played around Louisville and Jeffersonville in various performances and worked other

- 1908 Unidentified minstrel show of 13 pieces
- 1909 Sun Bros. Circus under Charles Gerlach
- 1910 Norris & Rowe Circus; Gentry Bros; Dode-Fisk Circus
- 1911 John Robinson; Uncle Tom's Cabin; Mighty Haag Circus
- 1912 Might Haag Circus, Downie & Wheeler, Sun Bros. Circus
- 1913 Vaudeville in SC; DeRue Bros. Minstrels; Barnum & B.
- 1914 Robinson Famous Circus; Ernest Haag Wagon Circus
- 1915 Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus; Sun Bros. Winter Show
- 1916 Sparks Circus with Jack Phillips, bandmaster
- 1917 John Robinson Circus
- 1918 Sells-Floto Circus
- 1919 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
- 1920 Sells-Floto Circus
- 1921 Vaudeville in OH; Sparks Circus
- 1922 Keith Theater in KY
- 1923-1924 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
- 1925-1927 unknown
- 1928 Robbins Bros. Circus
- 1929 Downie Bros. Circus
- 1930 Ringling BBB; Miller Bros.
101 Ranch Wild West Show
- 1931-1933 Downie Bros. Circus
- 1935 Downie Bros. Circus
- 1939 Downie Bros. Circus
- 1940 Russell Bros. Circus

