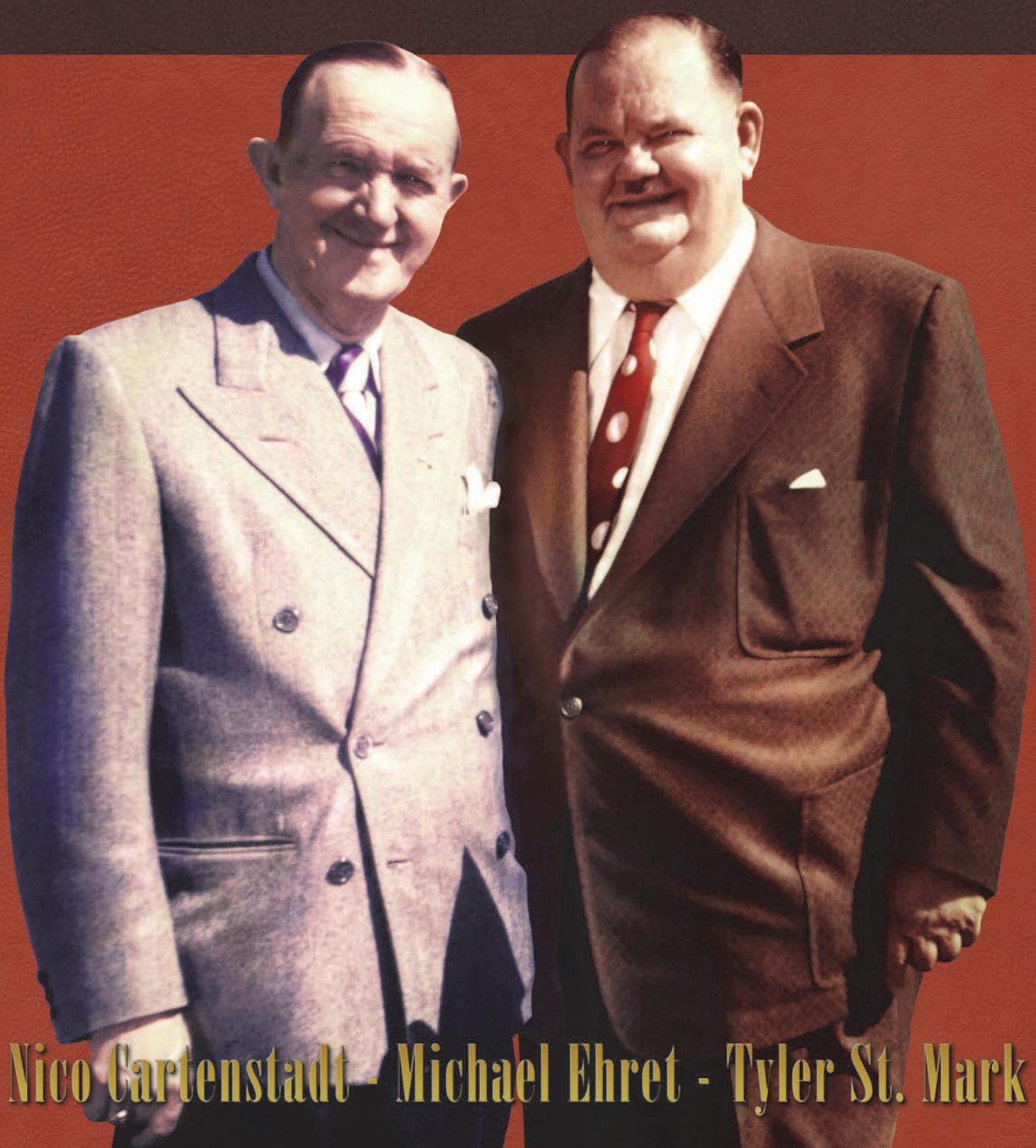


Laurel & Hardy

After the Laughter



Nico Cartenstadt - Michael Ehret - Tyler St. Mark

Laurel & Hardy

After the Laughter

SUMMARY

This document provides an overview of the contents of the upcoming book/DVD release titled 'Laurel & Hardy – After the Laughter', which will chronicle the final years of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, and offer an affectionate and intimate look into the daily lives of the elderly comedians.

After having to end their last British tour ahead of schedule, the boys return to the United States in June of 1954. A planned television comeback never happens due to both men's failing health. Although Stan is the first to suffer a stroke, it was 'Babe' Hardy who departs first, after a long and debilitating illness, in August of 1957.

Devastated by the loss of his dear friend and comedy partner of 30 years, Stan never performs again. Instead, he moves into a brand-new Santa Monica apartment building facing the Pacific Ocean, where he spends the rest of his days writing letters and entertaining the occasional visitor while observing a new generation discover Laurel & Hardy on TV, wondering whatever became of 'Stan & Ollie'.

This impressive tome is the result of years of in-depth research by three dedicated authors who are lifelong fans and have combined their knowledge, insights and extensive collections to compile an extraordinary resource that takes the reader back in time to the 1950s and beyond, while faithfully reconstructing the daily lives of both men through news articles, correspondence, private documents and personal objects that once belonged to these comedy giants.

In addition, the authors have gathered a wealth of rare and remarkable photographs, some of which have never before been seen or published.

On top of that, the accompanying DVD will offer rare bonus audio and footage, including home movies and several candid conversations with Stan and his widow Ida, which will be presented here for the very first time.

Please note that none of the images in the actual book will be watermarked!

LAUREL & HARDY – After the Laughter

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PART 1 – A Partnership Ends

Prologue

A Brief Overview of Their Joint Career (1920-1952)

Before starting to tell our main story, we offer a very concise summary of their career, from their first on-screen encounter in **The Lucky Dog** (1920-21) to their final feature **Atoll K** (1951), as well as their theatrical tours.



Mrs. Laurel and Mrs. Hardy

A tip of the derby to the two most important people in the lives of our heroes: Stan's fourth wife Ida and Oliver's third spouse Lucille.



Laurel & Hardy

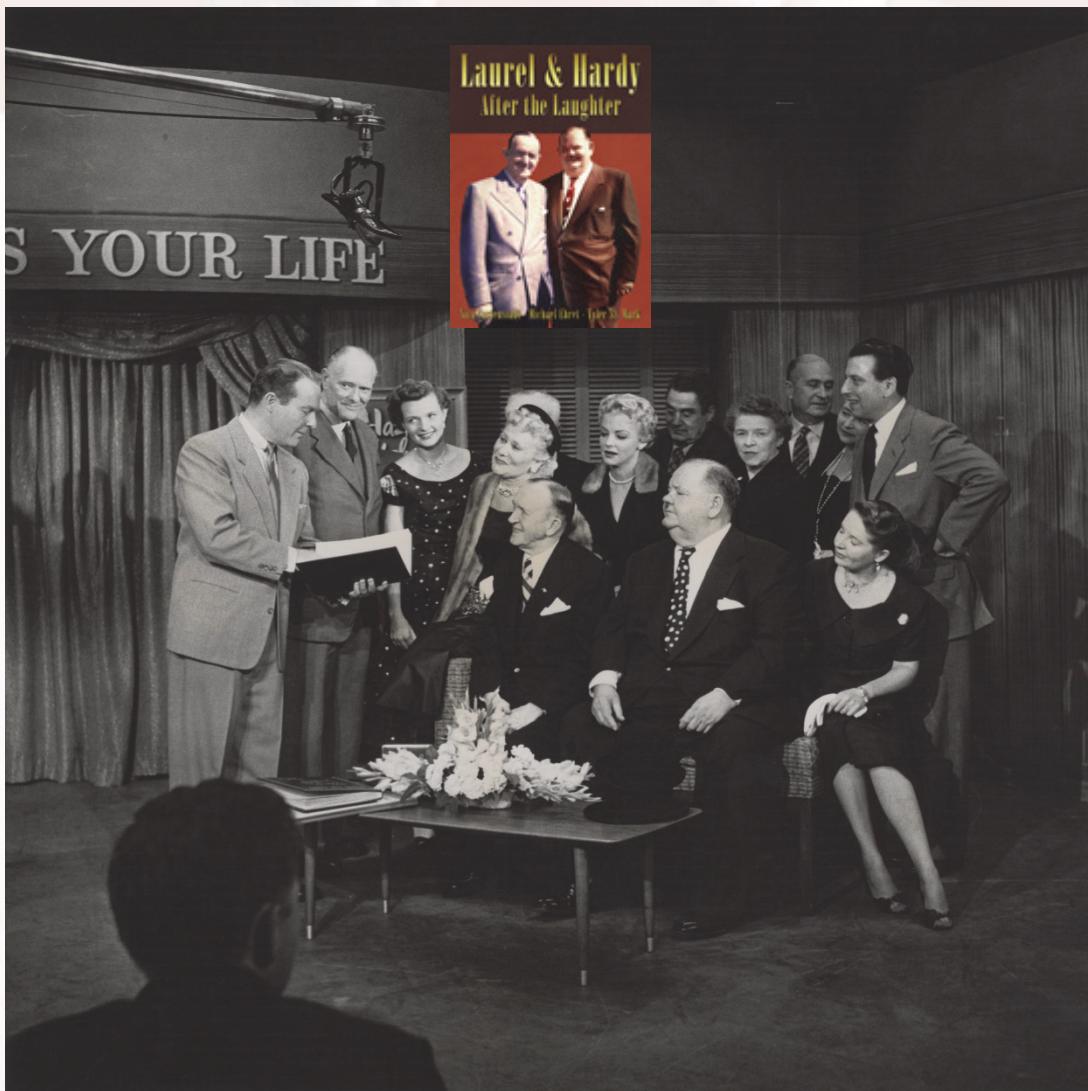
Chapter 1

Career Winding Down (1953-1954)

Our main story begins where many books about Laurel & Hardy conclude: it recounts how their career came to an end, and chronicles what happened afterwards. Contrary to Oliver Hardy, who only wrote letters on rare occasions, Stan Laurel was a prolific letter writer and loved corresponding with friends and fans throughout his life – his countless letters provide a treasure trove of information about a wide variety of subjects, both professional and personal. The book contains numerous extracts from his letters, essentially making him the fourth author.

Topics include:

- Their last UK theatrical tour (1953-54)
- Return to the United States
- Last joint public appearance
- This Is Your Life (December 1, 1954)
- US release of their last film, Atoll K, as Utopia



Attempted Comeback (1955-1956)

In January 1955, following their surprise appearance on 'This Is Your Life', Laurel & Hardy felt ready to tackle television, and were negotiating with Hal Roach, Jr., who was now in charge of their old studio, to make four one-hour TV shows a year. It would have been nice for the boys to come full circle and end their joint film career where it had started almost 30 years earlier. It seemed a good time for Stan and Oliver

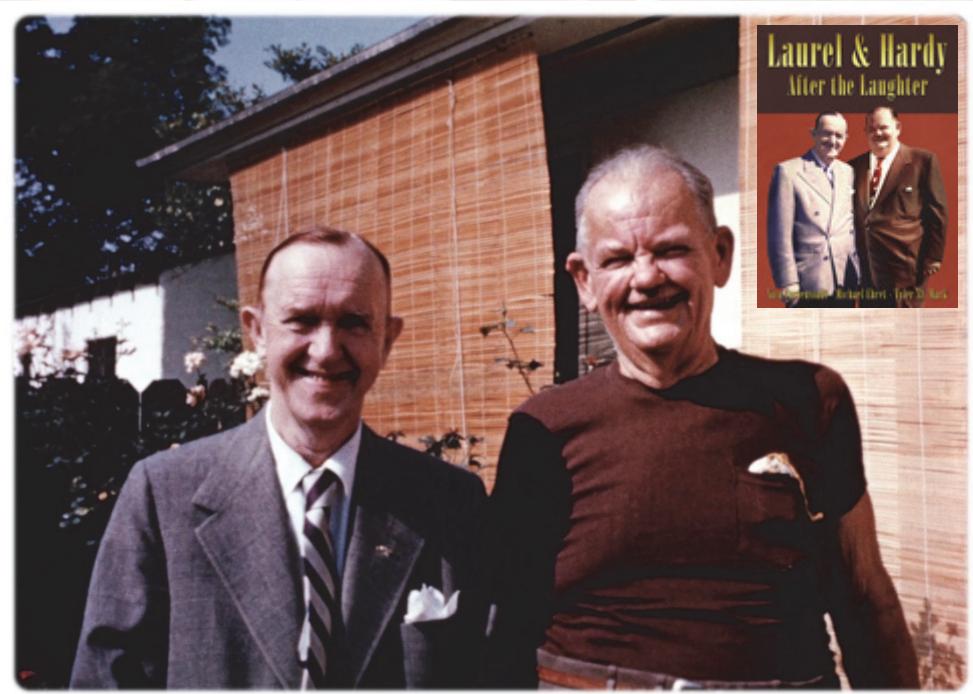
to go back into the studio after several years of exhausting touring abroad.



\$-11-7

Topics include:

- Comic book deal
- Laurel & Hardy's Fabulous Fables
- Return to Hal Roach Studios
- Lake Laurel and Hardy
- Stan suffers a stroke
- This Is Music Hall: the boys say goodbye to their friends and fans
- Last footage and photographs of Stan and Babe together
- Oliver suffers a stroke



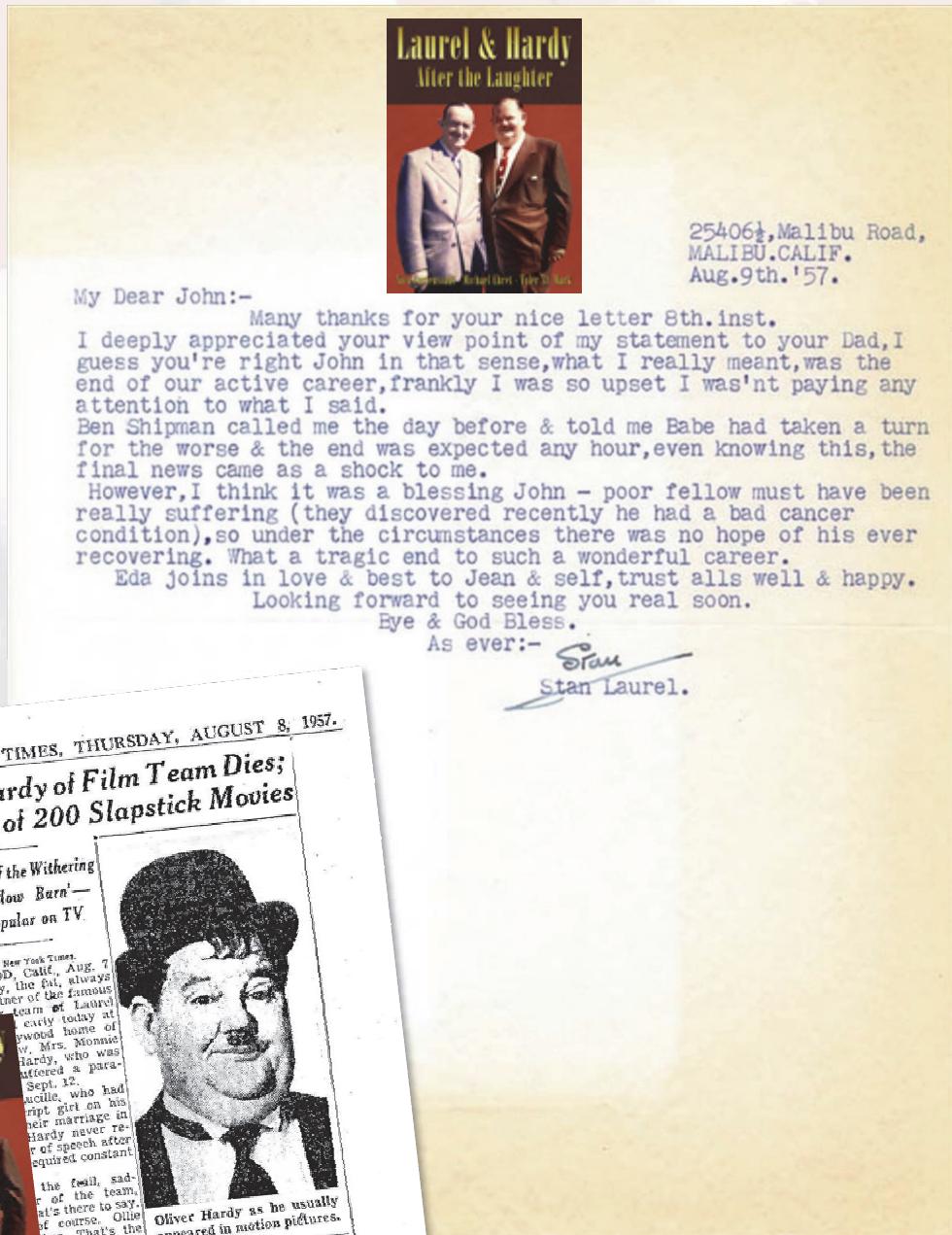
Chapter 2

Bye-Bye Babe (1957)

Oliver Hardy's death at the age of 65 on August 7, 1957 marked the end of a 30-year-old friend-and partnership.

Topics include:

- Babe's illnesses and death
- Stan's reaction to his friend's demise
- Oliver's will



THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1957.

Oliver Hardy of Film Team Dies; Co-Star of 200 Slapstick Movies

Portly Master of the Withering
Look and 'Slow Burn'
Features Popular on TV.

Special to The New York Times.
HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Aug. 7.—Oliver Hardy, the fat, always
irritated partner of the famous
musical comedy team of Laurel
and Hardy, died early today at
his home of 20 years, 2500 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles.
Mrs. Monroe Hardy, who was
attended a parsonage in
Encino, who had
script girl on his
neuritis, never re-
covered speech after
suffered a stroke in
1955, but reported
the feil, sad-
er of the team,
at's there to say,
of course. Ollie
had. That's the
ory of Laurel and
Hardy suffered a
stroke in 1955, but reported
the feil, sad-
er of the team,
at's there to say,
of course. Ollie
had. That's the
ory of Laurel and
Hardy suffered a



Oliver Hardy as he usually
appeared in motion pictures.

suitable mold for their hectic
efforts.

Scripts meant little in Laurel
and Hardy comedies, as much of
the plot and byplay were im-
provised as the shooting pro-
ceeded. The team was among the
first to slow the unnaturally
fast pace so characteristic of

the early com. movies.

Mr. Hardy made his first pic-
ture at the age of 21 in Jackson-
ville, Fla. His displacement, all

Found New Audience

In recent years Mr. Hardy
had found an entirely new audi-
ence through the appearance of
the Laurel and Hardy films

in television.

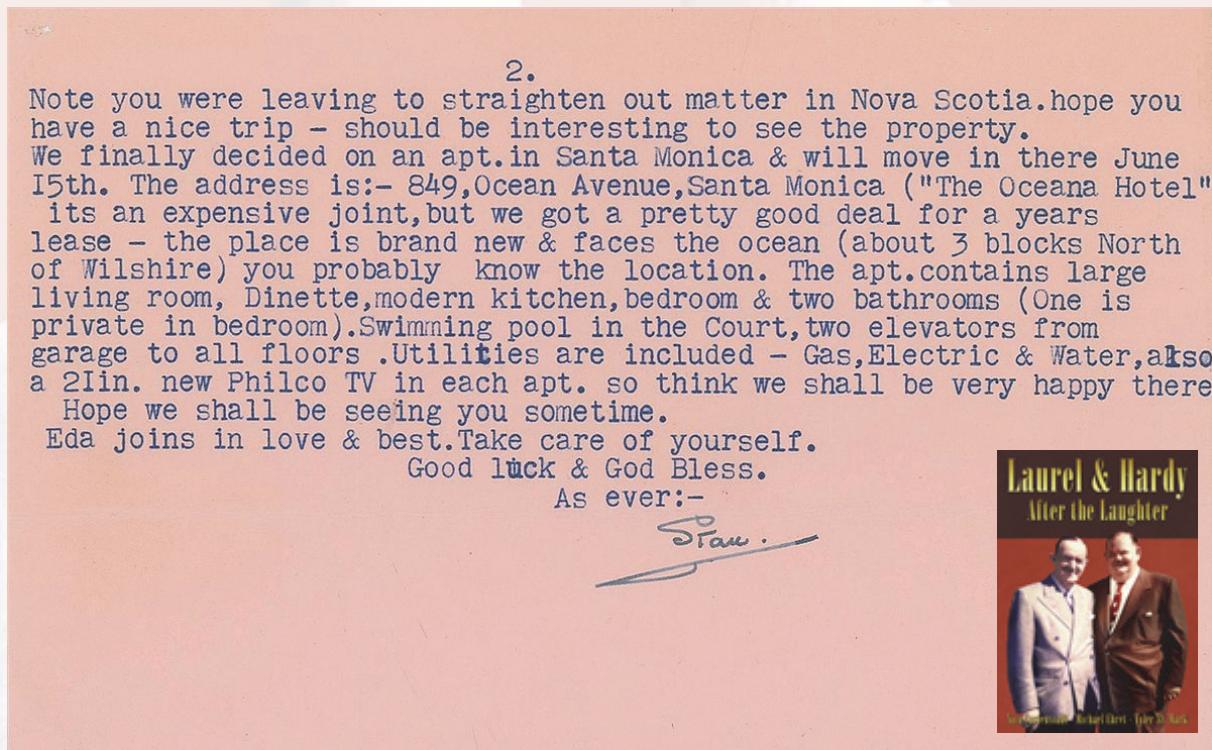
Mr. Hardy made his first pic-
ture at the age of 21 in Jackson-
ville, Fla. His displacement, all

Laurel & Hardy

Chapter 3

On to the Oceana (1957-1958)

After Stan's stroke, his house on 1111 Franklin Street eventually became too big and cumbersome for Stan and Ida to maintain. So they decided to rent it, and after staying at the Shangri-La Apartment Hotel for a month, they moved into a brand-new fully furnished beach apartment at 25406 ½ Malibu Road, Malibu, California on June 22, 1957. However, Stan soon found out that TV reception was very poor there, and not very many people came to see them. On June 18, 1958, he and Ida moved into a second-floor apartment at The Oceana in Santa Monica, where Stan would happily live out the rest of his days.



Topics include:

- Santa Monica's Gold Coast
- Santa Monica's parks
- Santa Monica Pier
- Ocean Avenue through the years
- The Oceana Apartment Hotel
- The Laurels move to Malibu
- The Golden Age of Comedy
- Move to the Oceana



PART 2 – Stan at the Oceana

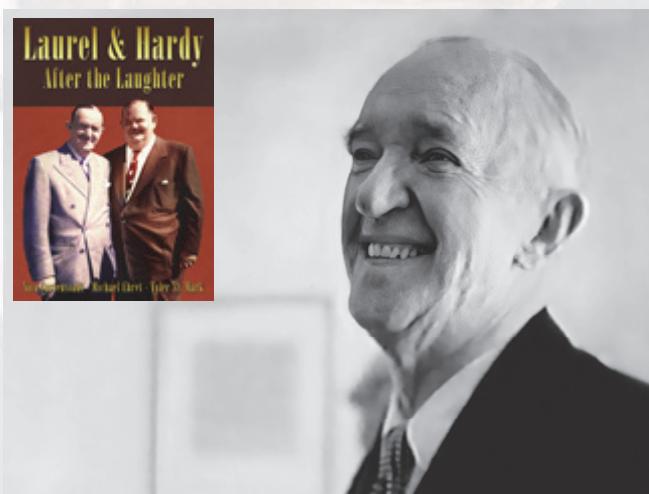
Chapter 4

Retired, Reserved, Reclusive and Restless (1959-1964)

The bulk of the book encompasses the six-and-a-half years spent by Stan and Ida at The Oceana Apartment Hotel in Santa Monica. We have attempted to reconstruct their lives almost on a day-to-day-basis, also offering additional information on important events that occurred during that time.

Topics include:

- Mr. Laurel's many moods: insights into Stan's psyche
- Stan's daily routine
- Stan's health and his struggle with diabetes and various other ailments
- It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World
- Stan's voice
- Hal Roach Studios bankruptcy
- Stan's tape recorders and typewriter
- Tabloid trouble
- The Bellboy and Stan's friendship with Jerry Lewis
- Lucille remarries
- Stan's dealings with Larry Harmon: cartoon series, merchandising,...
- John McCabe's biography is published
- Stan receives his honorary Oscar (AKA Mr. Clean)
- Stan quits smoking
- The Movieland Wax Museum opens (1962)
- 30 Years of Fun
- Hal Roach Studio auction and demolition (1963)
- Fan mail keeps flooding in
- Stan receives the Screen Actors Guild Award
- Stan's last birthday
- Hospitalized
- The Big Parade of Comedy

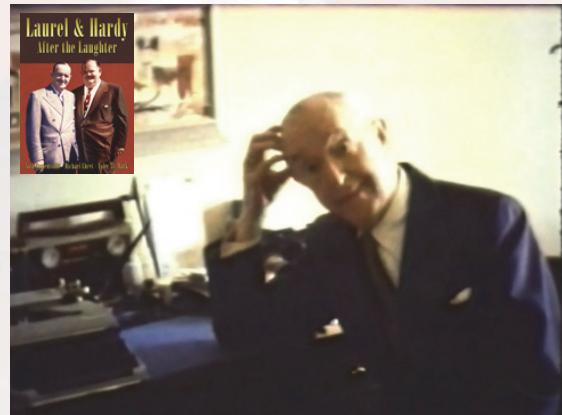
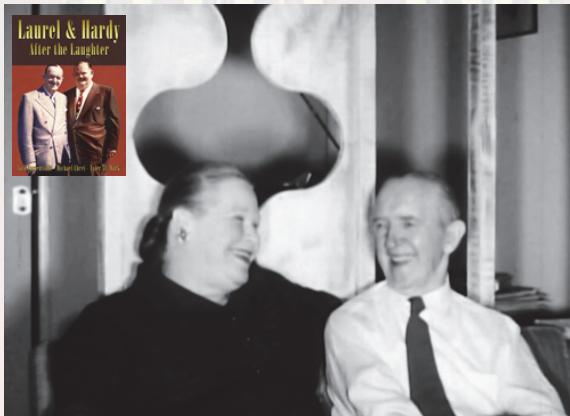


Laurel & Hardy

Chapter 5

Home Movies

This part of the book offers descriptions and screenshots of every home movie taken of Stan between 1959 and 1964 with the stories behind those visits.



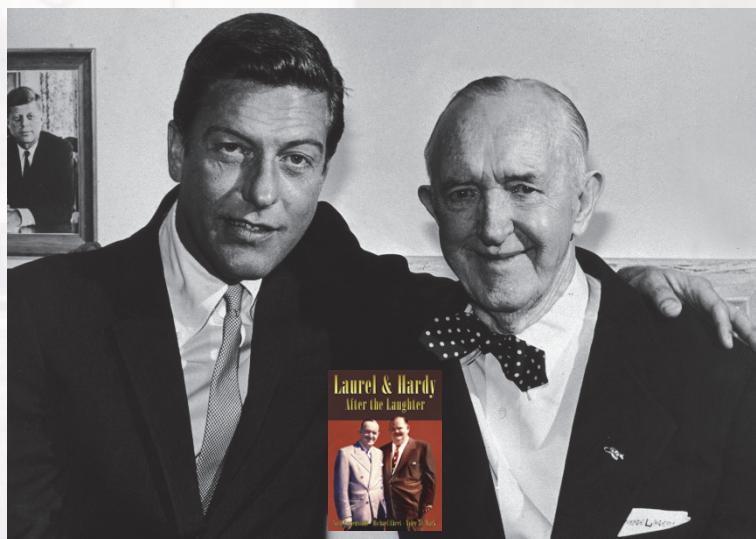
And even MORE rare footage!

Chapter 6

Visitor Stories

Recollections and snapshots from fans, friends and celebrities who visited Stan and Ida at the Oceana. These include, in alphabetical order:

- Gary Arnold
- Dick Cavett
- Booth Colman
- Bob Dickson
- Dean Kaner
- Buster Keaton
- Jerry Lewis
- Babe London
- George Mazzev, Sr.
- Marcel Marceau
- Lisa Mitchell
- Leonard Pitt
- Gerald Potterton
- Dick Van Dyke
- Basil Wright
- and many, many more!

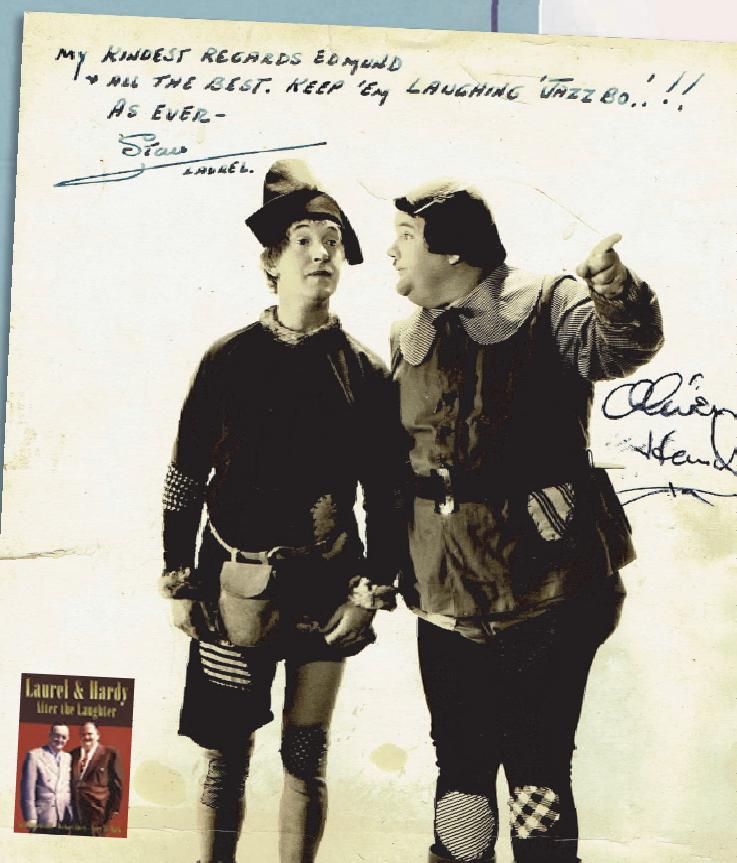
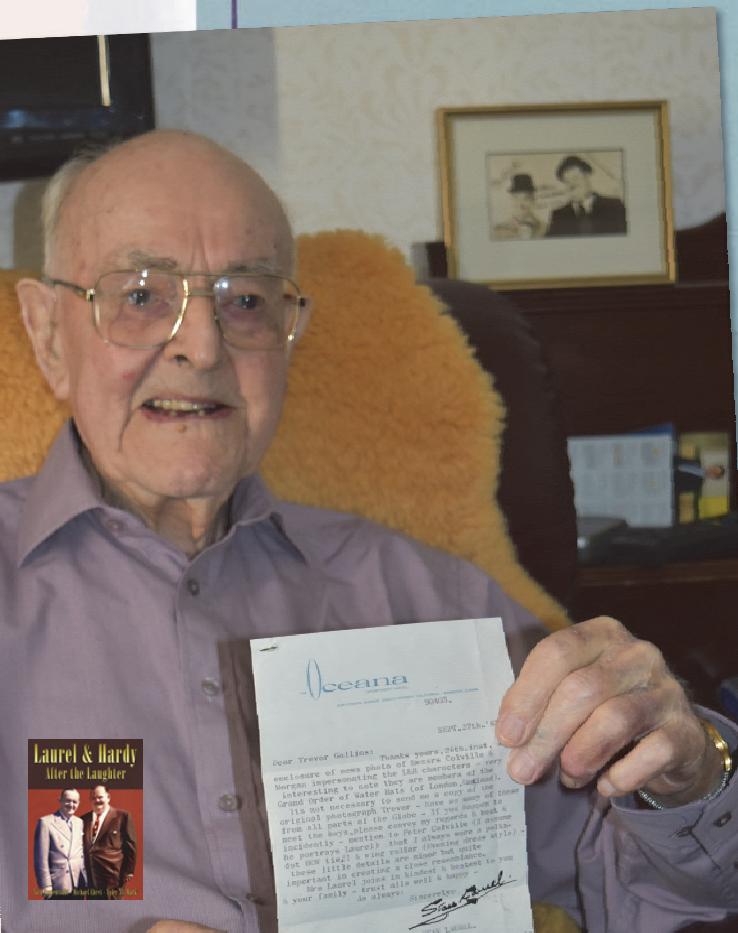
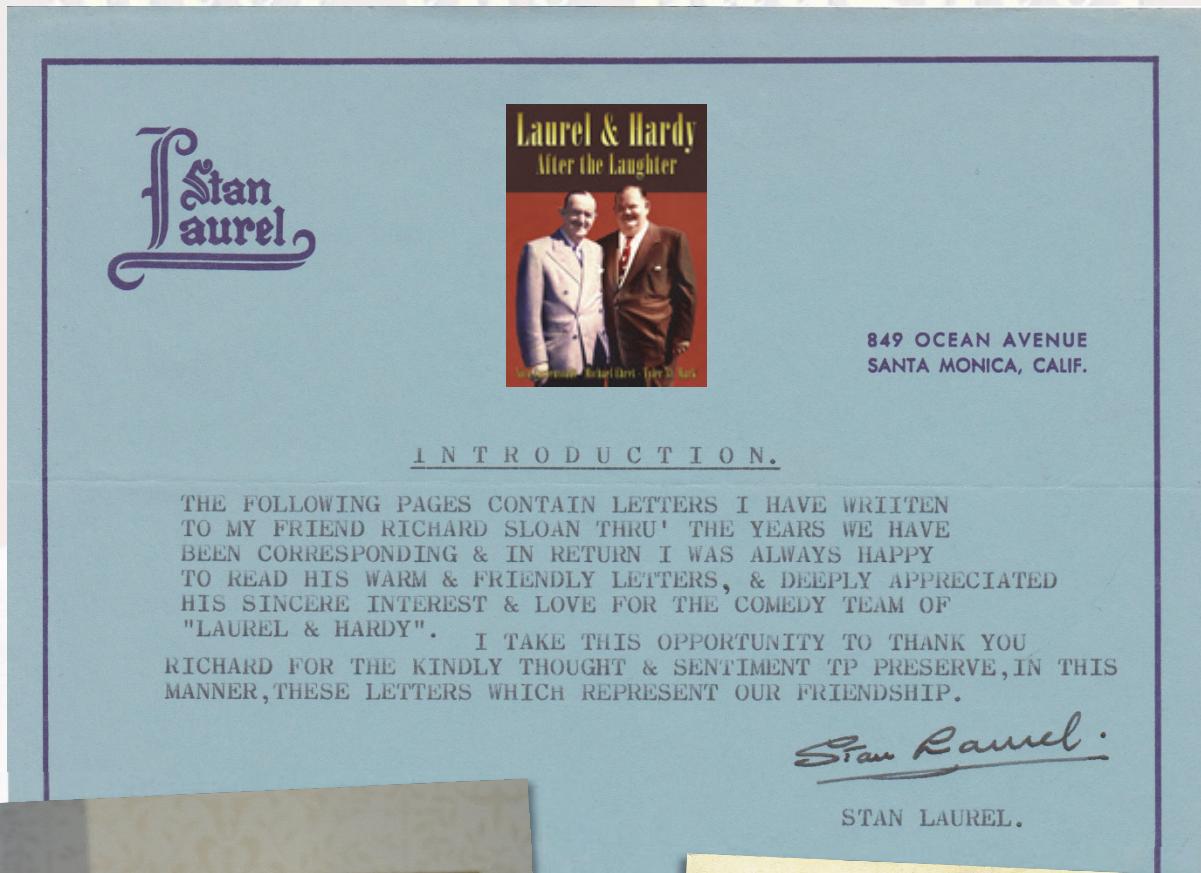


Laurel & Hardy

Chapter 7

Pen Pals

Some of Stan's friends never made it to the Oceana to meet him in person, but nevertheless managed to build a long-term long-distance friendship with him through their correspondence. This chapter spotlights three of them: Trevor Gollins, Richard Sloan and Edmund Tester.



Laurel & Hardy

Chapter 8

The End... Or Is It? (1965)

In the early 1960s, Stan's health seemed to be somewhat improving because he had, for the most part, given up tobacco after a half century of chain smoking, and his drinking had been greatly curtailed, reduced to an occasional beer in the afternoon or a cocktail at dinner.

However, during his last two years, Stan seemed to confront one health issue after another – particularly his diabetes condition which was often aggravated by his intense sweet tooth and particular preference for exotic and rich chocolate candies.

By the last few months of his life, Stan's regular daily routine had greatly diminished. His marathon hours of watching television during the evening, particularly westerns and variety shows, had dwindled to just a few hours at night.

During Stan's last eight weeks, his and Ida's sleeping habits became reversed as he struggled restlessly with his worsening condition. Stan had now become the night owl – often watching television into the early morning hours before falling asleep on the couch. It was now not unusual for Ida to wake him the next morning for his insulin test before moving him into the bedroom for a few hours of additional sleep.

Topics include:

- Infection in Stan's mouth
- Stan's last letters and photographs

Goodbye Stan

Topics include:

- Stan's last day
- Funeral arrangements
- Death notices and tributes
- The funeral
- Stan's will
- Estate settlement
- Salute to Stan Laurel

Heart Attack Takes Stan Laurel, 74

Santa Monica, Calif., Feb. 23 (UPI)—Stan Laurel, 74, skinny member of the Laurel and Hardy comedy team, died today of a heart attack.

He suffered a heart attack at his home on a palisade overlooking the Pacific and died a few moments later with his wife Ida by his side.

Retired since 1955 when he suffered a stroke, Laurel was a victim of diabetes in his later years. He refused to appear in public after the death in 1957 of his longtime partner, Oliver Hardy.

Laurel made millions for three generations as the bumbling and lovable scamp who comic catastrophe to his dull-witted partner.

Laurel and Hardy starred in some 300 motion pictures, which were two and three-dimensional. During their 30-year association Laurel wrote and directed many of their films.

Stock Laurel and Hardy fare / critical family.



Stan Laurel
In final fadeout



4935
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT MAR 10 1965
OF FILED
STAN LAUREL BY WILLIAM G. SHARP, COUNTY CLERK
[Signature]

I, STAN LAUREL, a resident of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, over eighteen years of age, of sound and disposing mind, and not laboring under duress, fraud, menace or undue influence of any person whatsoever, realizing the uncertainty of life, do hereby make this my Last Will and Testament, and do hereby revoke any and all Wills and Codicils to Wills heretofore made by me, it being my wish to declare this instrument my Last Will and Testament.

FIRST: I hereby declare that I am married; that my wife's name is IDA KITAEVA LAUREL. I further declare that I have one child, LOIS LAUREL FALCONER, issue of a former marriage.

SECOND: I am, by this Will, leaving nothing to my beloved daughter, LOIS LAUREL FALCONER, for the reason that I have heretofore fully and amply provided for her.

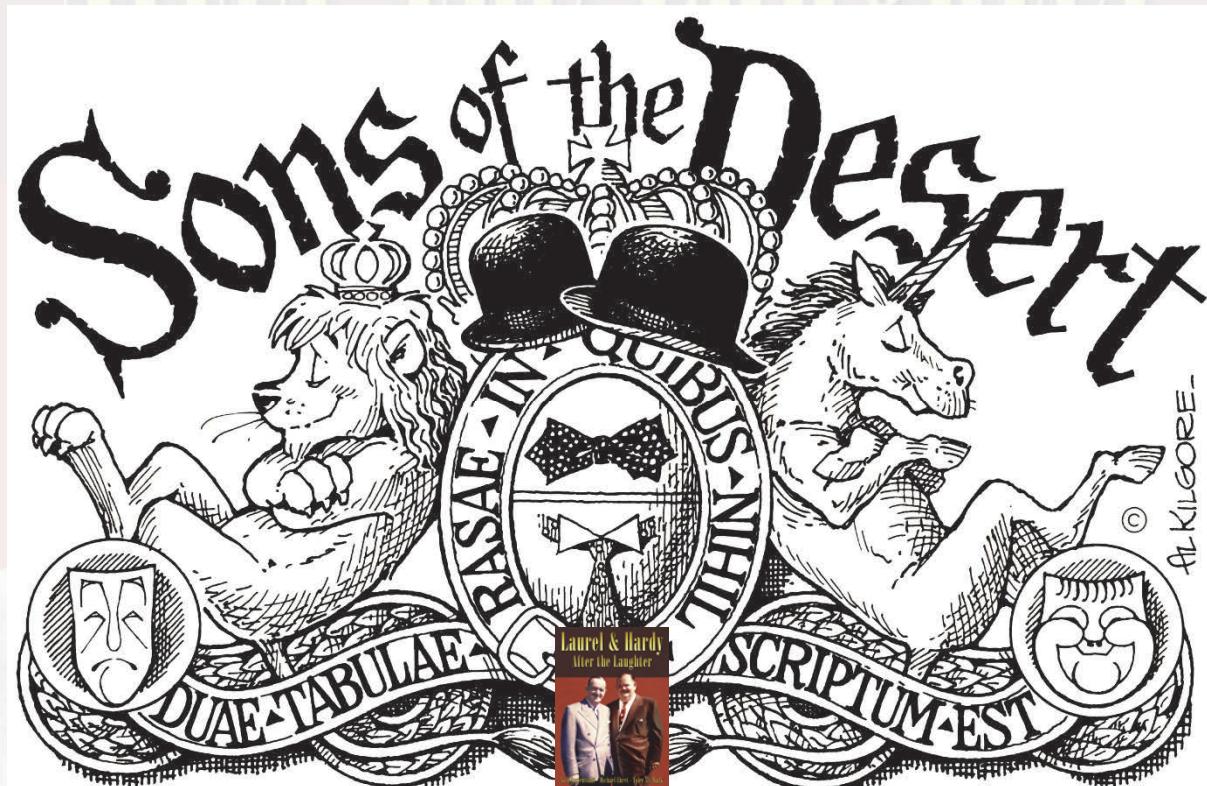
THIRD: I do hereby give, devise, and bequeath all of the property of which I die possessed, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, of whatsoever kind or character and wheresoever situated, to my wife, IDA KITAEVA LAUREL.

FOURTH: I do hereby name and appoint BENJAMIN K. SHIPMAN to serve as executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, for the purpose of carrying out the terms and provisions hereof. I hereby direct my said executor to pay all my

Part 3 – A Legacy of Laughter

Chapter 9

A New Beginning: Sons of the Desert (1963-2021)



Discover the genesis and history of the Sons of the Desert, the Laurel & Hardy appreciation society which began locally in New York and now has chapters, called tents, the world over.

Topics include:

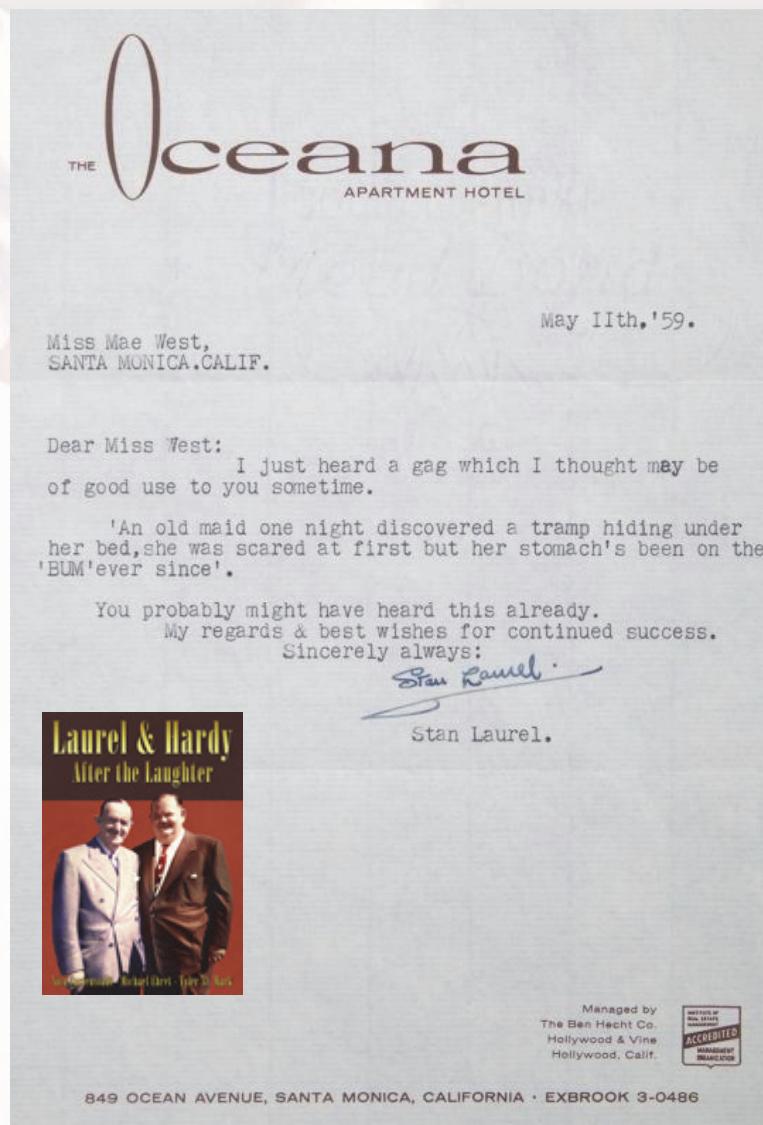
- The first official Laurel & Hardy club (France, 1935)
- Local Laurel & Hardy clubs in the 1950s
- John McCabe founds the Sons of the Desert with Stan's blessing (1964)
- First meeting of the Founding Tent (1965)
- Other early tents in the USA and Europe (1965-1985)
- Annual banquets
- Ida Laurel and Lucille Hardy Price pass away



Appendix 1

Laughing with Mr. Laurel

Stan loved to laugh. In his later years, he not only kept dreaming up and writing down Laurel & Hardy gags and dialogues for his own amusement, but also enjoyed collecting and sharing silly, bawdy and dirty jokes with his close friends. In our book's first appendix, we have compiled an anthology of such jokes, taken from his letters. This section also includes funny captions that Stan wrote on stills, as well as modern cartoon / comic book versions of several unpublished gags, courtesy of Alessandro Santi.



Ad in matrimonial column:

FARMER, AGE 38, WISHES TO MEET WOMAN AROUND 30 WHO OWNS A TRACTOR. PLEASE ENCLOSE PICTURE OF TRACTOR." !!!....

Appendix 2

Conversations with Stan: Audio Transcripts

In the closing section of our book, we offer transcripts with explanatory notes of three phone conversations between Stan and Richard Sloan, which, along with lots of other audio and video material, are released on the accompanying DVD for the very first time.



In the immortal words spoken by the boys in **Sons of the Desert** (1933):

Ollie: "That's all there is. There isn't any more! Is there, Stanley?"

Stan: "No, that's our story and we're stuck in it... with it."

We are confident that this voluminous book will stand for all time as the definitive account of the last chapter in the lives of Laurel & Hardy.

Most sincerely,

Nico Cartenstadt, Michael Ehret & Tyler St. Mark

The authors

To whom it may concern

The authors of 'Laurel & Hardy – After the Laughter' are lifelong Laurel & Hardy fans and collectors who have dedicated many years to researching the real men behind the screen clowns. They have now combined their talents and knowledge gained over multiple decades to bring you the full story of the final years of Stan and Babe.

Below is a short list of some of their past accomplishments:

Nico

- Lives in Belgium
- Author of various articles on Laurel & Hardy
- Reconstructed 'No Man's Law', a 1927 Hal Roach western to its original feature length
- Co-author of 'Spot On! An Audiovisual Account of Laurel & Hardy's 1952 British Tour'
- DVD artwork for 'A Star-Spangled Show'
- Founder and Grand Sheik of the Bogus Bandits Tent

Michael

- Lives in Germany
- Consultant and researcher for such documentaries as 'Laurel and Hardy: Their Lives and Magic', 'Harold Lloyd: Hollywood's Timeless Comedy Genius' and 'The Lot of Fun: Where the Movies Learned to Laugh'
- Co-author of 'Spot On! An Audiovisual Account of Laurel & Hardy's 1952 British Tour'

Tyler

- Lives in the USA
- Publisher and producer
- Writer of acclaimed short stories and screenplays
- The first person ever to portray an elderly Stan in a 90-minute one-man stage show called 'An Evening With Mr. Laurel'
- Longtime friend of Stan's daughter Lois Laurel Hawes
- Has been an actor, lifeguard and has also had careers in public relations and advertising

