IN WORKING on this volume of plays as editor, I have standardized the play format, including the punctuation and presentation of the texts. The original publication formats varied extensively from play to play. In addition, some other changes should be noted. For Men in White, footnotes describing medical practice, procedures, and illnesses, as well as identifying major medical practitioners, have been removed. The contents of many of these footnotes are now common knowledge or information that is easily obtained through standard reference sources.

Some spellings have been changed to reflect current practice, for example, “intern” rather than “interne.” In Dead End, spellings of words have been standardized among the boys in the gang by choosing one of Kingsley’s phonetic spellings. The exceptions are Milty and Angel, whose speech reflects their ethnic backgrounds. Where differences in the spelling of character names occurs between the acting and commercial editions, the latter has been followed.

The versions of the scripts chosen were the commercial editions rather than the acting editions because the former provided more description of the scene and action, reflecting Kingsley’s realistic writing style. The editions on which this volume is based are: Men in White (New York: Covici-Friede, 1933), Dead End (New York: Random House, 1936), The Patriots (New York: Random House, 1943), Detective Story (New York: Random House, 1949), and Darkness at Noon (New York: Random House, 1951).

The publication history of these plays is extensive, with inclusion in anthologies and serials as well as individual commercial and acting editions.