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Sommario/riassunto	The inclusion of works in a canonical list creates a large body of exclusions. But among these neglected works there are not a few that nevertheless are worth reading. Literary worth is not necessarily aesthetic impeccability. A literary work recommends itself by a high degree of artistic achievement with elbowroom for historical importance. The present study focuses on Leo Rosten's immigration novel <i>The Education of Hyman Kaplan</i> (1937) and Archibald MacLeish's radio play <i>Air Raid</i> (1938). The first is more than the apparent compendium of language-based jokes. Read in the context of immigration policy from Presidents Theodore Roosevelt to F.D. Roosevelt and of Jewish-American humor, it displays Kaplan's moral and intellectual growth, which extant commentary denies, and exhibits the "interior internationality" of an immigration country. <i>Air Raid</i> is one of the few achieved American radio plays to take a stand on foreign affairs in a context that does not only consist of broadcasting and Picasso's collage-painting <i>Guernica</i> "the screaming picture" which

MacLeish transposed into the acoustic medium but also of the historical saturation bombing of the Basque town.
