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Oscar Wilde in the Classroom

When Oscar Wilde lectured in Iowa City he accepted the opportunity of visiting some University classes, all the while maintaining his aesthetic pose. He favored the law students with "a few remarks in which he said the only objection he had to law was that it was not very artistic."

Irving B. Richman, then a student of history in the University, remembers that Wilde attended Professor L. F. Parker's class. "Prof. Parker, himself had a keen sense of humor", recalls Mr. Richman, "and he thought to have some glee with Oscar, so he remarked to the latter apropos of a topic — a rather recondite topic — that he the Professor would not discuss it, but would turn it over to an expert such as Oscar Wilde. Oscar, although evidently having no knowledge whatever of the subject, got by with it by ignoring it completely and discussing Poetry. He did this with entire self-possession and the whole class was immensely entertained."

HUBERT H. HOELTJE