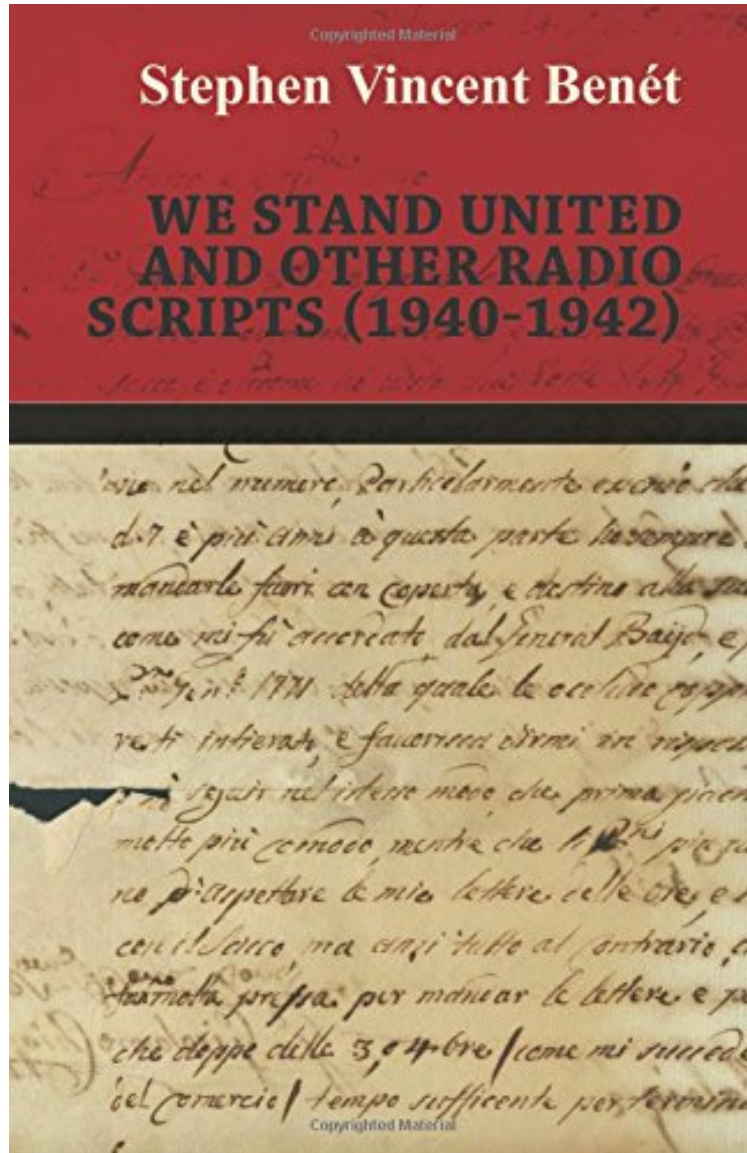


(Mobile book) We Stand United and other Radio Scripts (1940-1942)

## We Stand United and other Radio Scripts (1940-1942)

Stephen Vincent Bent

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**Stephen Vincent Bent : We Stand United and other Radio Scripts (1940-1942)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Stand United and other Radio Scripts (1940-1942):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Powerful wartime radio scripts by a noted American poet and short story writer By Donald M. Bishop As the Second World War approached, the noted American poet and short story writer Stephen Vincent Bent (1898-1943) gave himself over to writing for the war effort. Perhaps most influential were the radio scripts in this volume. Among literary forms, the radio script has largely passed into history, but in the

1930s and 1940s they were significant works. A good script could reach millions, and compelling radio voices could add emotion in a way the printed page could not. *We Stand United* included one declaration; holiday programs for Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas; and six scripts in a *Dear Adolph* series. *They Burned the Books*, brought alive the violence being done to humane thought in Europe. *The Undefined Border* celebrated peace and solidarity between the United States and Canada. *The Army* was a paean to the growth, power, and democratic character of the armed forces. *Toward the Century of Modern Man* Prayer was read by President Roosevelt on Flag Day, 1942. The notes for each script included the date of broadcast and the names of those stars who read Bent's words on the air. Raymond Massey, Melvyn Douglas, James Cagney, Helen Hayes, Lynn Fontanne, William Holden, Brian Donlevy, Otto Preminger, Charles Boyer, Peter Lorre, and Tyrone Power were all well-known; now we admire their performances in the old BW films. The scripts feature a diversity of ethnic and religious characters -- a diversity celebrated in books and movies after the war and Bent's words surely helped mainstream acceptance of immigrants and their children as Americans while promoting a healthy interfaith conscience. However, they reflect the times in giving scant visibility to African-Americans. Bent saluted the women working in the factories, ferrying aircraft, and serving in uniform, but most of the women heard in the scripts are housewives and mothers. To this reader, Bent hit his stride in the *Dear Adolph* series of six programs broadcast in the summer of 1942. Each program was a letter from -- a farmer, businessman, working man, housewife and mother, soldier, and foreign-born American. There are fine evocations of regions and climates. Bent's ear for colloquial speech is evident. The scripts smoothly integrated facts and statistics on the war effort. The six letters expressed American resolve and might in six vernaculars. In our time, when Americans think about division rather than unity, doubt the nation's progress because of its many sins, and question whether the American role in the world is positive, the doctor recommends some fresh air. Reading Stephen Vincent Bent can be invigorating.-30-

This early work by Stephen Vincent Bent was originally published in 1942 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. *'We Stand United and other Radio Scripts'* is a collection of radio scripts, including *'Your Army'*, *'A Child is Born'*, *'The Undefined Border'*, and many more. Stephen Vincent Bent was born on 22nd July 1898 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, United States. Bent was an accomplished writer at an early age, having had his first book published at 17 and submitting his third volume of poetry in lieu of a thesis for his degree. During his time at Yale, he was an influential figure at the *'Yale Lit'* literary magazine, and a fellow member of the Elizabethan Club. Bent was also a parttime contributor for the early *Time Magazine*. Bent's best known works are the booklength narrative poem *American Civil War, John Brown's Body* (1928), for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1929, and two short stories, *The Devil and Daniel Webster* (1936) and *By the Waters of Babylon* (1937). Bent won a second Pulitzer Prize posthumously for his unfinished poem *Western Star* in 1944.