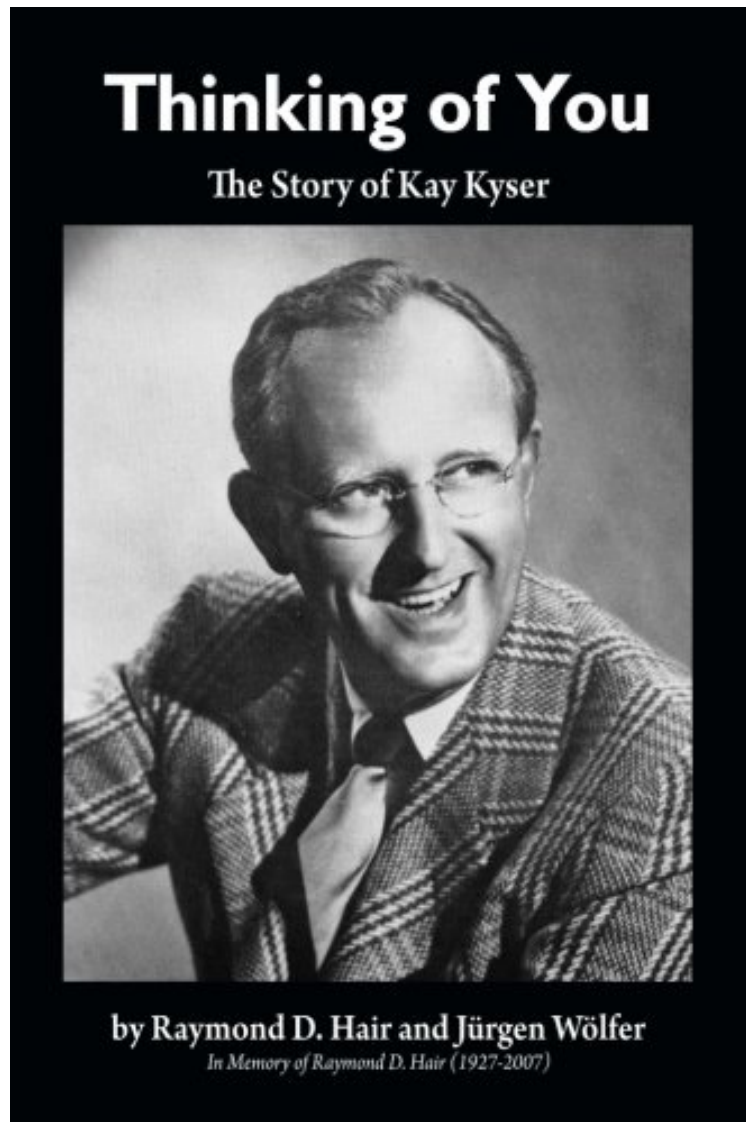


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## Thinking of You - The Story of Kay Kyser

*Raymond D. Hair, Jurgen Wolfer*

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**Raymond D. Hair, Jurgen Wolfer : Thinking of You - The Story of Kay Kyser** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thinking of You - The Story of Kay Kyser:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Poorly written, Full of errorsBy CJSThis book needed a good editor and/or proofreader. The book contained sentences with incorrect and misspelled words, inaccurate information, and paragraphs that repeated themselves although slightly reworded. As such, it was a very difficult book to read. The sentences with incorrect and misspelled words were numerous throughout the book. Samples include: "It was at the

box office where the patrons paid their money to see and heard their favorites" (p. 133), "It was long before musicians and bandleaders were induced into the service" (p. 178), or "A base commander said Kay lifted the soldiers' morals more than anything he had ever seen (p. 265-266). Page 177 refers to the financial difficulties of the 1930's as The Big Depression (I'm pretty sure it is known as The Great Depression). Page 254 indicates the Hollywood Canteen was founded by Kyser and Bette Davis - what happened to John Garfield who is always mentioned as the co-founder with Davis? Page 128 has the director of Kyser's film "You'll Find Out" listed as Frank Butler but on page 129 it is listed as producer-director David Butler (correct). The same page lists character actor Roscoe Karns as Roscoe Kearns. None of the photographs in the book are captioned so other than Kyser, you don't really know what or whom the photos are portraying. The repeating paragraphs were as if the two authors had each written a paragraph on a particular subject but one was not edited out so you got both author's versions. Were these guys even communicating when they wrote this book? I also got tired of the authors saying Kyser's band was more popular than any other of the day - including Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, or Harry James. This may be their opinion but it should be labeled as such. Otherwise, provide some definite proof, with references, of ticket sales, advertising revenue, record sales, etc. The book does a good job of documenting Kyser's band members through the years as well as the different dates and the places they played on those dates. There is a nice appendix that lists the various musicians and vocalists who were in the band over the years and it even lets you know what happened to these people. You also find out what happened to Kyser's wife, Georgia Carroll, and his children. There is also a discography. While there were a few quotes from band members, it would have been nice to have more because you never really felt, after wading through the poor writing, that you knew what made Kyser tick after reading the book. It is also a shame that any publisher would allow a book with such poor writing to be published without anyone proof reading it. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. What a pity . . . By Patrick J. Kelchlt's great to find a book on Kay Kyser. Those of us who are unapologetic fans can relish the wealth of information on the man from Rocky Mount. Some very nice touches include the sections on Kyser's movies (complete with casts), bandmembers' biographies, and a listing of LPs. Unfortunately, if ever a book cried out for an editor and proof reader, this is it. It boggles the mind that any self-respecting publishing company could publish anything so filled with misspellings, wrong words, incomplete sentences, repetitive sections, and plain old mistakes. In parts, the book reads as though it was written by someone who does not have English as his primary language and it seems highly unlikely the two authors ever sat down together to write. The many, many mistakes make this not only a difficult read, but also a sad one. Take the chapter entitled "The War Years": Musicians classified as 1-A by the draft board are "induced" into the Army; Jan Garber is referred to as "The Idol of the Airplanes"; Vaughn Monroe is credited with having a hit called "Mule Train"; I'm pretty sure the author meant "Ghost Riders In The Sky." On another page, the bands of Bunny Berigan and Jack Teagarden are said to have failed primarily because they didn't have a hit record. Apparently the author has never heard "I Can't Get Started." But to incorrectly title "Why Don't We Do This More Often" with the pronoun "you" instead of "we" is just bad scholarship. The mistakes go on ad infinitum. Then there's the constant repetition of facts trying to prove that Kay's band was financially more successful and popular at in-person appearances than Glenn Miller's. Enough already! I find myself thinking that if Kay Kyser were still alive he would say "If you're going to do it, do it right"

Kay Kyser was one of the giants of the American music business of the Twentieth Century. He was a bandleader for some twenty years, roughly the 1930s and 1940s. During the 1940s he was the most popular bandleader of his time - more celebrated than Glenn Miller and the Dorseys and even Guy Lombardo. But today, for some reason, nobody seems to remember him! This book tries to correct this oversight. Born in 1905 in Rocky Mount, N.C., Kay Kyser studied law at the University of North Carolina but - influenced by bandleader Hal Kemp - decided to become a bandleader himself. Though not a musician, Kyser developed into a good frontman and, with George Duning as musical director and arranger, after some time his band developed into one of the better "Sweet" - or "Mickey-Mouse" - bands. This was the Depression era and the band struggled for some years for success. When they finally hit the big time, it was through the medium of radio. Kyser's *Kollege of Musical Knowledge* was the most popular radio show at that time. During World War II Kyser devoted most of his time to performing for the men and women serving in the military. In the early Forties he changed his style from sweet to a moderate swing style that proved popular with the younger crowd. Kyser and his band appeared in several Hollywood films where he - unlike his contemporaries - was also featured as an actor. He disbanded his group in 1948, working in television for some time and then was active in the Christian Science movement. He died in 1985. *Thinking of You* contains the life story of Kay Kyser plus short biographies of the musicians and vocalists who worked for him. Also included is a list of his films, his LPs and CDs including his million sellers.