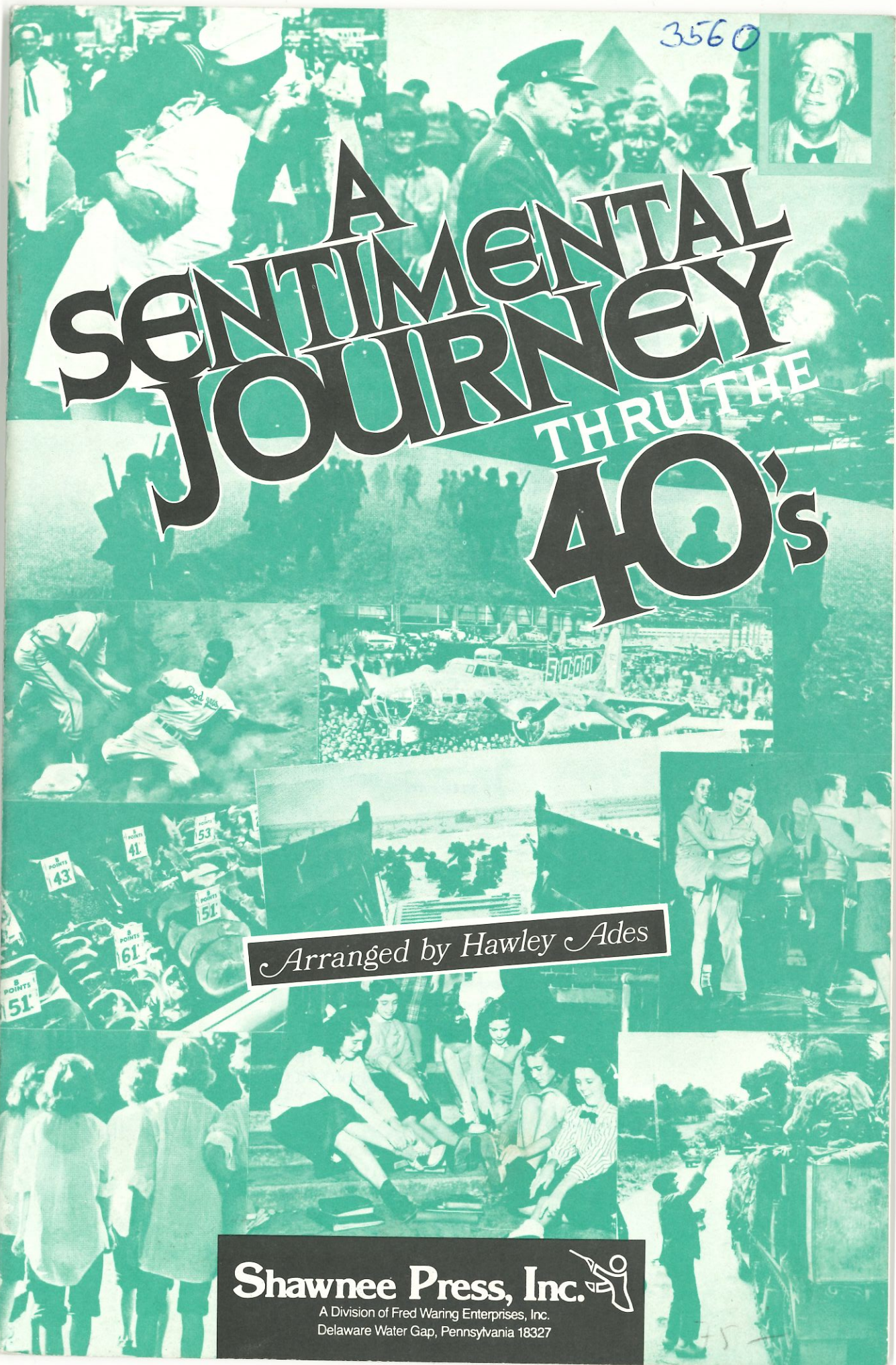


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A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY THRU THE 40's



Arranged by Hawley Aedes

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LINING THE DARK CLOUDS OF WAR that covered most of the decade from 1940–1950 was the bright discovery by millions of Americans that ours is indeed a “big, wide, wonderful world.” As we traveled across two oceans in unparalleled numbers, our encounters with the people, the customs, and the terrain of other lands had the paradoxical effect of shrinking that big, wide, wonderful world and making us realize that, for better or worse, we were all on this spinning ball together.

For diversion from the sobering international scene in the forties, Americans turned to entertainment — to movie versions of such great novels as *Gone With the Wind*, *Citizen Kane*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *Mrs. Miniver*, and to musicals such as *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Going My Way*, and *Easter Parade*, and to Walt Disney’s precociously psychedelic *Fantasia*. So strong was their Saturday-night movie mania that Americans would have scoffed at a prediction that within twenty years many of their plush movie palaces would be closed and every man’s home would be a “movie house.”

On the live stage, the song-writing team of Rodgers and Hammerstein created a landmark of American theatre with a show critics said would never run on Broadway. Its name was *Oklahoma!*, and it was only the beginning!

So, though the decade that brought World War II was a grueling test and a turbulent coming-of-age time for Americans, to counterbalance our grimness, we had the rich diversity of our popular entertainment and the flowering of our finest gift to the world’s music — the American popular song. A small but compelling sample of the great songs of the forties is offered in “A Sentimental Journey Thru the 40’s.”

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