Characters

HARRY HOPE, proprietor of a saloon and rooming house

ED MOSHER, Hopë's brother-in-law, one-time circus man*

PAT MCGLOIN, one-time Police Lieutenant

WILLIE O'BAN, a Harvard Law School alumnus

JOE MOTT, one-time proprietor of a Negro gambling house

PIET WETJOEN ("THE GENERAL"),
one-time leader of a Boer commando*

CECIL LEWIS ("THE CAPTAIN"),
one-time Captain of British infantry

JAMES CAMERON ("JIMMY TOMORROW"),
one-time Boer War correspondent

HUGO KALMAR, one-time editor of Anarchist periodicals

LARRY SLADE, one-time Syndicalist-Anarchist*

ROCKY PIOGGI, night bartender*

* Roomers at Harry Hope's.
DON PARRITT

PEARL

MARGIE

CORAL

street walkers

CHUCK MORELLO, day bartender

THEODORE HICKMAN (HICKEY), a hardware salesman

MORAN

LIEB
Scenes

ACT ONE
*Back room and a section of the bar at Harry Hope’s—
   early morning in summer, 1912.*

ACT TWO
*Back room, around midnight of the same day.*

ACT THREE
*Bar and a section of the back room—morning of the following day.*

ACT FOUR
*Same as Act One. Back room and a section of the bar—
   around 1:30 A.M. of the next day.*

Harry Hope’s is a Raines-Law hotel of the period, a cheap ginmill of the five-cent whiskey, last-resort variety situated on the downtown West Side of New York. The building, owned by Hope, is a narrow five-story structure of the tenement type, the second floor a flat occupied by the proprietor. The renting of rooms on the upper floors, under the Raines-Law loopholes, makes the establishment legally a hotel and gives it the privilege of serving liquor in the back room of the bar after closing hours and on Sundays, provided a meal is served with the booze, thus making a back room legally a hotel restaurant. This food provision was generally circumvented by putting a property sandwich in the middle of each table, an old desiccated ruin of dust-laden bread and mummified ham or cheese which only
the drunkest yokel from the sticks ever regarded as anything but a noisome table decoration. But at Harry Hope’s, Hope being a former minor Tammanyite and still possessing friends, this food technicality is ignored as irrelevant, except during the fleeting alarms of reform agitation. Even Hope’s back room is not a separate room, but simply the rear of the barroom divided from the bar by drawing a dirty black curtain across the room.