
Guide to the Edwin Booth Family Collection

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives

Title: Edwin Booth Family Collection

Creator: Booth Family

Identifier/Call Number: SC.EBF

Extent: 8.31 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1865-1962

Abstract: Edwin Booth was a 19th century American actor from a well-known acting family that also included his thespian brothers Junius Brutus Jr. and John Wilkes Booth. Booth made his stage debut in 1849, and his great granddaughter Edwina Booth Waterbury Cutting continued the family vocational tradition by pursuing an acting career of her own in the 1930s and 1940s. The *Edwin Booth Family Collection* contains ephemera and photographs related to Edwin Booth's acting career and the personal and professional lives of his descendants.

Language of Material: English

Family History:

Actor Edwin Booth (1833-1893) was well-known for his work as a tragedian, especially playing Shakespeare's Hamlet. Booth was son of actor Junius Brutus Booth, and sibling to actors Junius Brutus Booth, Jr., John Wilkes Booth, and writer Asia Booth Clarke. Edwin made his stage debut in 1849 with his father Junius. After his father's death in 1852, Edwin toured Australia and Hawaii, earning stage recognition during his 1856 engagement in Sacramento, California. He is remembered today for his Shakespeare performances, particularly his Hamlet in 1864-1865, which he produced with brothers Junius and John.

In 1861, Edwin married Mary Devlin and they had one daughter Edwina (1861-1938). Edwina married banker Ignatius Grossman in 1885. They had two children, Clarence Edwin Booth Grossman, an artist, and Mildred Booth Grossman (1886-1960). During World War I, some family members changed their last name from Grossman to Crossman due to anti-German sentiment. Mildred had three marriages, with the first to Fordham C. Mahony in 1907. She married Cleveland Livingston Waterbury in 1916, and they had two children, Booth (1917-1974) and Edwina (1918-1985). Mildred's third husband was Arthur C. Tilton. Mildred's daughter Edwina is referred to as "Hope" in early family albums. She married actor Richard H. Cutting in 1951.

Scope and Contents

The *Edwin Booth Family Collection* contains photographs, correspondence, and ephemera related to Edwin Booth and his descendants. The collection is arranged into two series: Series I: **Edwin Booth** (1865-1891), Series II: **Booth Family** (1870-1962).

Series I, **Edwin Booth**, consists of correspondence written by Edwin, theater programs, autographs, and ephemera from Edwin's lifetime, as well as photographs of Edwin and contemporary actors. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series II, **Booth Family**, contains correspondence written by Edwin's family members and newspaper clippings collected by family members about Edwin's career and legacy after his death. It also includes correspondence and ephemera related to Booth's granddaughter Mildred Booth Grossman Waterbury Tilton, great granddaughter Edwina Booth Waterbury Cutting, Edwina's stepfather Arthur Colburn Tilton, and other relatives. The press, photographs, and publications document the installation of the Edwin Booth statue in Gramercy Park, Mildred's husband Cleveland Livingston Waterbury's World War I training, family trips on the RMS *Lucania* in 1894, trips to Jamaica, and Mildred's last husband Arthur C. Tilton's Harvard College ephemera. There are also a small number of materials related to the Players Club founded by Edwin in 1888, Edwin's home Boothden built in 1883 in Middletown, Rhode Island, and the Booth family home Tudor Hall in Bel Air, Maryland. Materials are arranged chronologically, with female family members described by their maiden names.

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: Edwin Booth, 1865-1891

Series II: Booth Family, 1870-1962

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Edwina Booth Cutting. 1972.

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Processing Information:

Tony Gardner, 2010

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Ephemera
Documents
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Audiovisual materials

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