
INVENTORY OF THE ARTHUR BERTRAM PAPERS,

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Creator: Bertram, Arthur, 1860-1955

Title: Arthur Bertram Papers,

Date: 1889-1962

Date (bulk): (1900-1924 bulk)

Extent: 2.1 linear feet

Abstract: From the 1890s to the mid 1920s, Arthur Bertram served as a theatrical manager in England for a number of different theaters and actors. His papers, which include letters, financial documents, scripts, photographs and ephemera, document the process of theater productions from start to finish.

Physical Location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored off site.

Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.

100 North West Quad

Davis, California 95616-5292

Collection number: D-134

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Biography

Born in England on March 24, 1868, Arthur Bertram's career began at the age of twelve with his appearance on stage in *Horns*. Bertram was also a boy bugler in the Second Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment, but at the age of seventeen, after being made corporal, he quit the regiment. In 1887 he played a small role in *Hunt the Slipper*, but by 1888 had been engaged by F.A. Barnes as an acting manager for a tour of *A Sailor's Fortune*. Following this engagement, it appears that Bertram spent the rest of his career offstage.

Beginning in 1888, Bertram spent more than thirty years serving as an acting manager to a number of actors and actresses in England, including Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Marie Tempest, John Hare, Comyns Carr and Henry Irving. In 1892, Bertram began work as an advance agent for theater companies including the Burns-Crotty Opera Company and the Garrick Theatre. He gradually worked his way up the ladder, and in 1897 he had his own season at the Strand Theatre. As a business manager for theatrical artists, Bertram was responsible for many activities including, engaging theaters, actors and playwrights, as well as promoting the production and making sure the bills and salaries were paid. His behind the scenes work allowed the actors to continue in their profession and gain notoriety. He was managing Mrs. Patrick Campbell and arranged her American tour of *Magda* during 1901 to 1902. From 1914 to 1919, he was the business manager for Henry Irving at the Savoy Theatre. Upon Irving's death in 1919, Bertram represented his estate until 1924.

Bertram retired from management by 1927 and died in 1955 at the age of 95.

Sources:

Autobiography, Arthur Bertram Papers, D-134.

Donohue, Joseph Jr. *The Theatrical Manager in England and America*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1971.

Parker, John. *Who's Who in Theatre 1922*. England: Boston, Small, Maynard and Co., 1922.

Powell, Kerry. *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian and Edwardian Theatre*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Scope and Content

The Arthur Bertram Papers span the years 1889 to 1962 with the bulk of the papers made up of material dating between 1900 and 1924. The papers are arranged in seven series: 1. Biographical Information, 2. Correspondence, 3. Financial Records, 4. Scripts, 5. Clippings, 6. Ephemera, and 7. Photographs. The materials demonstrate how the theater production process worked--from obtaining a script and securing a theater, to hiring actors and actresses and purchasing supplies, to reading the reviews after opening night. Evidence of these activities is found in correspondence with playwrights and theater managers, the signed contracts of actors and actresses, scripts, programs and clippings of reviews. Highlights of the collection include an autograph album and letters from actors and actresses such as Henry Irving and Marie Tempest. Scripts include a version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The papers focus entirely on Bertram's activities in the theater.

Related Collections

Other materials related to the Arthur Bertram Papers may be found in the following collections at Special Collections:

D-184 Martin-Harvey, Sir John Collection: This collection of photographs, correspondence, and typescripts highlights the career of Sir John Martin-Harvey an English actor-manager and member of Henry Irving's company at the Lyceum. In 1899, Martin-Harvey began management of the Lyceum.

D-204 Tree, Herbert Beerbohm Papers: This collection of programs, photographs, correspondence, and other documents focuses on the works of Herbert Beerbohm Tree an English actor-manager from the early twentieth century. Under Tree's direction, Her Majesty's Theatre became the main supporter of Shakespeare productions from 1900 to 1914.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Bertram, Arthur, 1860-1955--Archives.

Campbell, Patrick, Mrs., 1865-1940.

Hare, John, 1844-1921.

Irving, H. B. (Henry Brodribb), 1870-1919.

Tempest, Marie, 1866-1942.

Savoy Theatre (London, England).

Actors.

Actresses.

Performing Arts.

Playscripts.

Theater--England--History--20th century.

Theater management--England--20th century.

Access

Collection is open for research under regular Reading Room rules and copyright restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The Library obtained this collection in March 1983 from Barbara Cavanagh at Motley Books Limited in England.

Processing Information

Special Collections intern, Annie Rapaport arranged this collection and created its finding aid under the direction of University Archivist, John Skarstad, and Manuscript Curator, Melissa Tyler, who encoded the finding aid.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Arthur Bertram Papers, D-134, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Box 1:1	Series 1. Biographical Information c. 1898 Physical Description: 1 folder Scope and Content Note Bertram biography.
	Series 2. Correspondence 1892-1962 Physical Description: 54 folders Scope and Content Note Arranged alphabetically by author. Contains both personal and business related letters.
Box 1:2	Alexander, George, 1899.
Box 1:3	Arliss, George, n.d.
Box 1:4	Bancroft, George, 1903.
Box 1:5	Beerul-Crotty, Georgina, n.d.
Box 1:6	Belasco, David, 1906-1910.
Box 1:7	Bozier, Alfred, 1902.
Box 1:8	Brereton, Austin, 1919.

Box 1:9	Brune, Clarence, c. 1903.
Box 1:10	Lord Chamberlain's Office, 1901-1912.
Box 1:11	Chattell, Henry, 1913.
Box 1:12	Compton, Edward, n.d.
Box 1:13	Compton, Fay, n.d.
Box 1:14	Courtneidge, Robert, 1909-1923.
Box 1:15	Cree, Kate, n.d.
Box 1:16	Daly, Brian, 1916.
Box 1:17	Forbes-Robertson, 1892-1902.
Box 1:18	Forman, A.K., 1901.
Box 1:19	Frohman, Charles, 1904.
Box 1:20	Hare, Gilbert, 1892, n.d.
Box 1:21	Hare, John, 1904, n.d.
Box 1:22	Holmes, Gordon, 1908.
Box 1:23	Irving, Dorothea (Baird), 1912, n.d.
Box 1:24	Irving, Elizabeth, c. 1919.
Box 1:25	Irving, Lady Florence, 1916-1917, n.d.
Box 1:26	Irving, H.B. (Henry Brodribb), 1912-1914, n.d.
Box 1:27	Irving, Laurence, 1956-1962.
Box 1:28	Johnston, Arthur, c. 1923.
Box 1:29	Kimbell, David, 1924.
Box 1:30	Langton, J.D., 1919.
Box 1:31	London County Council, 1910.
Box 1:32	Manners, George, 1892-1894.
Box 1:33	Miller, Gilbert, 1919.
Box 1:34	Millward, Jessie, n.d.
Box 1:35	"Missie," 1924.
Box 1:36	Nethersole, Olga, 1901-1921.
Box 1:37	North, Jessie, 1923.
Box 1:38	O'Neil, Peggy, n.d.
Box 1:39	O'Neill, Frank, 1910.
Box 1:40	Perry, Percy, 1902-1906.
Box 1:41	Potter, Brown, n.d.
Box 1:42	Robertson, T.W., 1892.
Box 1:43	Rozle, Edwin Million, 1908-1912.
Box 1:44	Rydon, George?, n.d.
Box 1:45	Santley, Kate, 1902, n.d.
Box 1:46	Tempest, Marie (aka Mrs. Gordon Lennox), 1903-1904.
Box 1:47	Terry, Edward, 1897.
Box 1:48	Tree, Viola, n.d.
Box 1:49	Tylieb?, 1901.
Box 1:50	Waldon, Rich, 1892.
Box 1:51	Waring, Herbert, 1901.
Box 1:52	Whelen, Frederick, 1914
Box 1:53	Williams, Bransby, 1918-1953.
Box 1:54	Wood, G.W., 1890.
Box 1:55	Unidentified Authors, 1902-1922, n.d.
Box 1:56-61	Series 3. Financial Records 1890-1920

Physical Description: 6 folders

Scope and Content Note

Arranged chronologically. Contains contracts, accounts, and receipts.

Series 4. **Scripts 1909-1922**

Physical Description: 44 folders

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by title. Includes completed works produced by Bertram and ideas for future productions.

Box 2:1	<i>By Special Request</i>, n.d.
Box 2:2	<i>Dancing Does It!</i> n.d.
Box 2:3-6	<i>The Days of Sacrifice</i>, c. 1915
Box 2:7	<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>, n.d.
Box 2:8-10	<i>Dwellers in Glass Houses</i>, n.d.
Box 2:11-13	<i>Esther Redeemed</i>, 1915
Box 2:14	<i>God Save the King or The Toast</i>, c. 1914
Box 2:15	<i>The "Governors" Christmas Eve</i>, n.d.
Box 2:16-18	<i>Green Pastures and Piccadilly</i>, n.d.
Box 2:19-21	<i>Her Second Chance</i>, n.d.
Box 2:22	<i>Irish Inspiration</i>, n.d.
Box 2:23	<i>Jim Vane's Exit</i>, n.d.
Box 3:1	<i>Made in Heaven</i>, n.d.
Box 3:2-5	<i>Mammon the God</i>, n.d.
Box 3:6-9	<i>Milady's Visit</i>, 1909
Box 3:10-12	<i>The Norris Family</i>, c. 1922
Box 3:13	<i>The Professors</i>, n.d.
Box 3:14-15	<i>Revelations</i>, n.d.
Box 3:16	<i>Scandal in High Life</i>, n.d.
Box 3:17	<i>Traffic in Souls</i>, 1912
Box 3:18	<i>Uncle Isaac</i>, n.d.
Box 3:19	<i>Warriors Widow</i>, n.d.
Box 3:20-21	<i>A White Man</i>, n.d.

Series 5. **Clippings 1894-1952**

Physical Description: 9 folders

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by production or person.

Box 4:1	<i>All Alive Oh!</i> 1894-1897
Box 4:2	<i>Campbell, Patrick, Mrs.</i>, 1902
Box 4:3	<i>Hearts Adrift</i>, 1905
Box 4:4	<i>Pygmalion</i>, 1920
Box 4:5	<i>The Sailor's Wedding</i>, 1925
Box 4:6	<i>Shaw, Bernard</i>, 1952
Box 4:7	<i>The Story of Winifred</i>, 1903
Box 4:8	<i>When Woman Strays</i>, 1902
Box 4:9	Photocopies of clippings

Series 6. **Ephemera 1893-1922**

Physical Description: 14 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains an autograph album, a certificate, menus, notes, a poster, and theater programs.

Box 4:10	Autograph album, 1902, n.d.
Box 4:11	Certificate of membership, The Actors' Association, 1903.
Box 4:12	Menus, 1902-1915.
Box 4:13	Notes, n.d.
Box D-Folio 5:5	Poster, <i>A Japanese Nightingale</i>, 1903.
Box 4:14	Program, <i>The Breed of the Treshams</i>, 1905.
Box 4:15	Program, <i>Carlyon Sahib</i>, 1899.
Box 4:16	Program, <i>Canadian Matinee</i>, 1900.
Box 4:17	Program, <i>Fun on the Bristol</i>, 1889.
Box 4:18	Program, <i>Magda</i>, 1902.
Box 4:19	Program, <i>The Sailor's Wife</i>, 1908.
Box 4:20	Program, <i>The Story of Winifred</i>, 1903.
Box 4:21	Program, Theatre Royal, 1893.
Box 4:22	Program, <i>Treasure Island</i>, 1922.

Series 7. **Photographs 1902-1921**

Physical Description: 28 folders

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by person or by show title. Includes both portraits of actors and actresses and photographs of productions.

Box 4:23	Barnett, Ernie, n.d.
Box 4:24	Bertram, Arthur, n.d.
Box 4:25	Bertram, Celestine, n.d.
Box 4:26	Bertram, Frank, n.d.
Box 4:27	Blackford, Gordon, n.d.
Box 4:28	Brooke, Emily, n.d.
Box 4:29	Grant, Alfred, n.d.
Box 4:30	Irving, Elizabeth, 1921.
Box 4:31	Jones, Hal, n.d.
Box 4:32	Makeham, Eliot, n.d.
Box 4:33	O'Neil, Peggy, n.d.
Box 4:34	<i>Les Rouges et Noir</i>, n.d.
Box 4:35	Santley, Kate, 1902.
Box 4:36	Stewart, Florence, 1905.
Box 4:37	Watson, Harry, n.d.
Box 4:38	Willy, Will B., n.d.
Box 5:1-8	Unidentified characters, groups, actors, and actresses. n.d.