Finding Aid for the Edith Craig Papers, ca. 1884-1939, Bulk 1932-1939

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Note
Finding Aid for the Edith Craig Papers, ca. 1884-1939, Bulk 1932-1939

Collection number: 1003

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

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Contact Information
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Charlotte Payne, March 1976
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Charlotte Payne, May 1976
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Apex Data Services
Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, April 2002

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Edith Craig Papers,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1884-1939, Bulk 1932-1939
Collection number: 1003
Creator: Craig, Edith, 1869-1947
Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Edith Craig (1869-1947) was a member of the Lyceum Theatre Company for many years, working with her mother and brother, Edward Gordon Craig, under the direction of Henry Irving. She designed and made costumes for many London productions, but in later years became engaged in stage management and play productions. In 1929, she converted an Elizabethan barn adjacent to her mother's house at Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent into a memorial theatre and directed yearly Shakespearean drama until 1939. The collection consists of 260 letters, most dated between 1932-39, during Craig's organization of the festivals and programs for the Barn Theatre, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.
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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Hamill and Barker, purchase, 1962.
Stevens and Brown, purchase, 1968.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Edith Craig Papers (Collection 1003). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4232915

Biography
Edith Craig was born in Hertfordshire, England, December 9, 1869; the daughter of actress Ellen Terry, she made her first stage appearance at the Court Theater in 1878 during a run of *Olivia*; was a member of Lyceum Theatre Company for many years, working with her mother and brother, Edward Gordon Craig, under the direction of Henry Irving; at one time designed and made costumes for many London productions, but in later years became engaged in stage management and play productions; as stage director of the Pioneer Players from 1911-21, she produced over 150 plays; in 1929, she converted an Elizabethan barn adjacent to her mother's house at Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent into a memorial theatre and directed yearly Shakespearean drama until 1939; formed the Barn Theatre Society, which attracted leading actors from the London stage; died in 1947.

Biographical Narrative
Edith Craig was born in Hertfordshire, England, the daughter of the famous Shakespearean actress, Ellen Terry, and the sister of Edward Gordon Craig. For many years, she was a member of the Lyceum Theatre Company under the direction of Henry Irving, working with her mother and brother. In later years she became involved with stage management and production in the Little Theatre movement, founding and directing the Pioneer Players in over 150 productions between 1911 and 1921. After Ellen Terry's death in 1928, Edith Craig converted the Elizabethan barn adjacent to Ellen Terry's house at Small Hythe into a memorial theatre where she directed yearly performances of Shakespearean drama in commemoration of Ellen Terry's death. In addition, she formed the Barn Theatre Society, producing plays utilizing the talents of many of London's most prestigious stage performers. The bulk of the correspondence in the collection is dated from 1932 to 1939 and relates to this period of Edith Craig's organization of the festivals and programs for the Barn Theatre, Small Hythe, Kent.

Charlotte Payne
May 1976

Scope and Content
Collection consists of 260 letters, most dated between 1932-39, during Craig's organization of the festivals and programs for the Barn Theatre, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent. Correspondents include: Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Dame Edith Evans, Elsa Lanchester, Sir Michael Redgrave, and Vita Sackville-West. Also contains Craig's guestbook, a sketchbook, prompt books of Upton Sinclair's *Singing Jailbirds*, George Bernard Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*, and a presentation copy of Annancy stories by Pamela Colman Smith. Also includes a book written for Craig, *The Golden Book With Prose, Verse and Quotations.*
Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Correspondence (Box 1).
2. Manuscript materials, prompt books, sketchbook, presentation copy (Box 2).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Craig, Edith, 1869-1947--Archives.
Stage managers--Great Britain--Archival resources.
Women theatrical producers and directors--Great Britain--Archival resources.

Correspondence
Scope and Content Note
The bulk of the correspondence is dated 1932-1939, the period of Edith Craig's organization of the festivals and programs for the Barn Theatre, Small Hythe, Kent. Prominent correspondents listed.

Box 1, Folder 1
- A -
  Physical Description: 18 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 1
Albery, Sir Bronson, 1881-.
  Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 1
  Physical Description: 5 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Ascroft, Dame Peggy, 1907-.
  Physical Description: 3 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Ashwell, Lena, 1871-1957.
  Physical Description: 3 items.

Box 1, Folder 2
- B -
  Physical Description: 11 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 2
Baddeley, Angela Clinton-, 1904-1976.
  Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 2
Baddeley, Hermione, 1906-.
  Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 2
Bishop, George Walter, 1886-1965.
  Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 3
- C -
  Physical Description: 17 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 3
Cochran, Sir Charles Blake, 1872-1951.
  Physical Description: 2 items.

Box 1, Folder 3
  Physical Description: 1 item.
Box 1, Folder 4 - D -

Physical Description: 20 items, total.

Davies, Gwen Ffrangcon-, 1896-

Physical Description: 4 items.

Disher, Maurice Willson, 1893-1969.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Drinkwater, John, 1882-1937.

Physical Description: 2 items.

Du Maurier, Sir Gerald, 1873-1934.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 5 - E-F -

Physical Description: 18 items, total.

Evans, Dame Edith, 1888-

Physical Description: 10 items.

Forbes-Robertson, Jean, 1905-1962.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Fraser, Claud Lovat, 1890-1921.

Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 1, Folder 6 - G -

Physical Description: 8 items, total.

Greet, Sir Philip (Ben), 1857-1936.

Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 1, Folder 7 - H -

Physical Description: 17 items, total.

Hamilton, Cicely, 1872-1952.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Harraden, Beatrice, 1864-1936.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Harvey, Sir John Martin-, 1863-1944.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Hicks, Sir Edward Seymour, 1871-1949.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Hudd, Walter, 1898-1963.

Physical Description: 2 items.

Hunt, Martita, 1900-1969.

Physical Description: 2 items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
<th>- I-K -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaye-Smith, Sheila, 1887-1956.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 3 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly, Francis Michael, 1879-1945.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 9</th>
<th>- L -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lanchester, Elsa, 1902- .</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonsdale, Frederick, 1881-1954.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas, Edward Verrall, 1868-1938.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 10</th>
<th>- M -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McCarthy, Lillah, 1875-1960.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacColl, Dugald Sutherland, 1859-1948.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moira, Gerald, -1959.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monck, Walter Nugent, 1878-1958.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, Gerald, 1899- .</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 11</th>
<th>- N-P -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicolson, Lionel Benedict, 1914- .</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novello, Ivor, 1893-1951.</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 11

**Pearson, Hesketh, 1887-1964.**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 11

**Playfair, Sir Nigel Ross, 1874-1934.**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 12

- Q-R -
Physical Description: 11 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 12

**Redgrave, Sir Michael, 1908-**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 12

**Robson, Dame Flora, 1902-**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 12

**Rothenstein, Sir William, 1872-1945.**
Physical Description: 3 items.

Box 1, Folder 13

- S -
Physical Description: 26 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 13

**Sackville-West, Hon. Victoria Mary, 1892-1962.**
Physical Description: 11 items.

Box 1, Folder 13

**Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1948.**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 13

**Smith, Edward Percy, 1891-1968.**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 13

**Speaight, Robert William, 1904-**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 14

- T -
Physical Description: 31 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 14

**Tempest, Dame Marie Susan, 1866-1942.**
Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 14

**Terry, Julia (Neilson), 1869-1957.**
Physical Description: 4 items.
Scope and Content Note
(Mrs. Fred Terry)

Box 1, Folder 15

- U-V -
Physical Description: 13 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 15

**Vanbrugh, Dame Irene, 1872-1949.**
Physical Description: 6 items.

Box 1, Folder 15

**Vanbrugh, Violet, 1867-1942.**
Physical Description: 6 items.
Box 1, Folder 16 - W-Z -

Physical Description: 20 items, total.

Box 1, Folder 16


Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 17

Correspondent unidentified.

Physical Description: 37 items.

Box 1, Folders 18-19

Signatures cut from body of letters.

Physical Description: Approximately 75 items. In two folders.

Manuscript Materials

Item: 1

Guestbook. n.p., 1899-1934.

Physical Description: 25 leaves, signed. 21 × 16.5 cm.

Scope and Content Note
Guestbook belonging to Edith Craig and signed by friends and visitors. Includes sketches by Pamela Colman Smith. Signed by Laurence Irving, Ellen Terry, Gordon Craig, Pamela Colman Smith and Christopher St. John.

Box 2

Item: 2


Physical Description: 58 leaves in black leather journal. 17.5 × 11 cm.

Scope and Content Note
Holograph manuscript of prose, verse and quotations written for Edith Craig. With this: Ephemera. n.p., n.d. 7 items. Newscloppings, postcard and bookmark.

Prompt Books

Box 2

Item: 3


Physical Description: 267pp.

Scope and Content Note
Prompt copy used by Edith Craig in the stage presentation of the play. Tipped-in photographic reproductions of the cast. Signed by members of the cast, including Dame Edith Evans. A Court Theatre production, n.d.

Box 2

Item: 4


Physical Description: 95pp.

Scope and Content Note
Presentation copy of the play to Edith Craig. Her pencilled annotations and stage directions throughout.

Sketchbook
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Item: 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 10 leaves. 17.5 × 26.5 cm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawings and sketches for practice in rendering. Pencil, wash, and pen. Drawings annotated by Ellen Terry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Presentation Copies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Item: 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 79pp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation copy to Edith Craig with inscription and original sketches by Pamela Colman Smith on front flyleaf.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>