Descriptive Summary

Title: George Barnes Papers
Date (inclusive): 1919-1926
Collection number: 282
Creator: Barnes, George
Extent: 2 boxes (.5 linear ft.) 1 flat box (1.0 linear ft.)
Abstract: George Barnes was a popular West Coast stock performance actor during the 1920s. The collection consists of photographs, clippings, correspondence, scrapbook and ephemera related to his career.

Biography
George Barnes was born in the late 1800's in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was popular in West Coast stock performances during the 1920s. He performed in groups such as the President Players and the Wilkes Players. He had aspirations of performing on Broadway, but made it only as far as Washington D.C. before resuming his career on the West Coast. Barnes died on November 18, 1949 in Hollywood, California.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, and one scrapbook, related to the career of stage actor George Barnes. The small amount of correspondence is a mixture of professional and personal communications including telegrams of well wishes for theater appearances. The memorabilia is programs, playbills, and other printed ephemera collected by and or related to Barnes. The bulk of the photographs include images of Barnes and unidentified cast members (from unidentified stage productions), along with a small number of photographs that appear to be personal in nature. The fragile scrapbook of clippings includes reviews and publicity for various West Coast theater productions, the majority being from Colorado performance, including The Copperhead, Petite Darling, and The Meanest Man in the World. The bulk of the collection dates between 1919 and 1926. The folder titles were created by the processor.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Series 1: Correspondence (Box 1, 1920-1926)
2. Series 2: Memorabilia (Box 3, ca. 1919-1926)
3. Series 3: Photographs (Box 2-3, ca. early to mid-1920s)
4. Series 4: Scrapbook and Clippings (Box 3, 1919-1920s)

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

Subjects
Barnes, George--Archives.
Actors--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Material
Photographs.
Series 1: Correspondence (Box 1, 1920-1926)

Scope and Content Note
This small series includes a mixture of professional and personal communications. The professional communications appear to be related to bookings and/or professional activities such as fan mail and telegrams of well wishes for theater appearances. The personal correspondence includes letters concerning Barnes' separation from his wife, Susie M. Barnes. The files are arranged into four folders: Business letters, Fan letters, Personal correspondence, and Telegrams. The files are arranged alphabetically by folder title and the correspondence within each file is arranged chronologically.

Box 1
- **Business letters to George Barnes 1924, 1926**
- **Fan letters to George Barnes 1920, 1923, 1926**
- **Personal correspondence to George Barnes 1924, 1926**
  - Note
    - With 2 letters pertaining George Barnes's divorce from Susie M. Barnes.
- **Telegrams to George Barnes 1921-1925**
  - Note
    - Mostly well wishes for theater appearances including the Alcazar Theatre in San Francisco, CA, and President Theatre, DC.

Series 2: Memorabilia (Box 3, ca. 1919-1926)

Scope and Content Note
This series includes a small number of programs, playbills, and other printed ephemera collected by and in some cases related to Barnes. Most of the memorabilia is playbills and printed ephemera related to the Savoy Players and the Wilkes Players (at the Denham Theatre); some with listings for and/or illustrations of Barnes. Additionally, there are two drawings that appear to be mock-ups for publicity. Only one of the drawings is identified as being for A Voice in the Dark.

Box 1
- **Advertisement for Dufor Boys no date**
  - Note
    - Printed image of Barnes and partner as Dufor Boys.
- **Calling cards collected by Barnes no date**
- **Drawings of George Barnes (2 oversize items) no date**
  - Note
    - Appears to be mock ups for publicity.
- **Playbill for Actor's Memorial Benefit 1919 Dec 5**
  - Note
    - Listing for Barnes.
- **Playbills collected by Barnes ca. 1919, no date**
  - Note
    - Do not appear to related to Barnes' appearances.
- **Playbills and printed ephemera for Wilkes Players with listings for and occasional illustrations of Barnes 1919-1922**
  - Note
Box 1

**Playbills for Wilkes Players 1918-1921**

Note
One is titled Review Season 1918-1919 of the Wilkes Players (and mentions Barnes). The other is titled, Wilkes Players Casts 1920-1921. One mention of Barnes.

Box 1

**Programs for Savoy Players with listings for Barnes no date**

Note

Box 1

**Publication for Fullers Courier 1926 Jan**

**Series 3: Photographs (Box 2-3, ca. early to mid-1920s)**

Scope and Content Note
The majority of the photographs appear to be career related and they include a small amount of professional portraits of Barnes, a small number of professional photographs of cast members, and a number of small snapshots of Barnes and other performers (in costume). Additionally, there is a small number of group shots believed to be the Savoy Players. The photographs are not identified and it is unknown what productions they are from. Also included is a small amount of unidentified photographs which appear personal in nature. Since the photographs are not identified, there is no specific arrangement.

Box 2

**George Barnes - duplicate photographs of head shots found in collection no date**

Box 2

**George Barnes - portrait-like photographs (21 items) ca. 1920s**

Note
Mostly professional headshots of Barnes.

Box 2

**George Barnes and Mrs. [W?] Barnes (1 item) no date**

Box 2

**George Barnes and others - possibly personal in nature (23 items) no date**

Note
Small unlabeled photographs of unidentified people. Some shots appear to be or include Barnes.

Box 2

**George Barnes and unidentified performers snapshots (131 items) no date**

Note
Snapshot size photographs of Barnes and other performers in costume. Performance(s) is unknown.

Box 3

**Photographs of [performers] (5 oversize items) no date**

Note
Most of the photographs are inscribed to G.B.

Box 2

**Photographs of [performers] all unidentified (7 items) no date**

Box 2

**Photographs of [performers] inscribed to G.B. (16 items) 1920's**

Note
Some signed with first names only and/or hard to read.

Box 2

**Photographs of dogs (8 items) no date**

Note
Some include two young girls with dogs.
Box 3

Photographs of performers - mostly group shots (8 oversize items) no date

Note

Appear to be from unknown stage performances. Most include Barnes.

Box 2

Savoy Players - photographs (4 items) no date

Note

Three group shots that appear to be the Savoy Players. One live scene photograph is labeled Federal Theatre Project.

Series 4: Scrapbook and clippings (Box 3, 1919-1920s)

Scope and Content Note

This series contains one fragile scrapbook and a small amount of loose clippings related to Barnes' stage career. The scrapbook contains newspaper accounts and reviews, playbill clippings, and photographs related to Barnes' West Coast career. Much of the material represents his Colorado appearances in productions at Denham Theatre, including The Copperhead, Petite Darling, and The Meanest Man in the World. Additionally, there is a small amount of material documenting other West Coast appearances. The majority of photographs in the scrapbook are not identified. The additional loose clippings include theater production advertisements and reviews related to Barnes.

Box 3

George Barnes clippings - theater production advertisements and reviews related to Barnes. ca. 1923-1924

Box 3

George Barnes scrapbook - career related clippings and photographs ca. 1919, 1920's