
Finding Aid for the Evelyn Venable Scrapbook Collection

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Evelyn Venable Scrapbook Collection

Collection number: 279

Creator: Venable, Evelyn

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Performing Arts Special Collections
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE: Advance notice required for access.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Evelyn Venable Scrapbook Collection, 279, Music Library Special Collections, University of California, Los Angeles.

Biography

Evelyn Venable was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 18, 1913, the only child of Professor Emerson Venable and Dolores Cameron. Evelyn's acting career began in her junior year, when at the age of 14 she was cast to play Juliet in her high school's production of "Romeo and Juliet". The praise from critics led to her professional debut in the Cincinnati Civic Theatre production of "Dear Brutus". Evelyn went on to play Rosalind in "As You Like It" during her senior year at Walnut Hills. At 16, having graduated a year early, Evelyn attended Vassar on a full scholarship. After a year, however, she decided to return home and studied at the University of Cincinnati for half a year. In 1932, at the age of 18, Evelyn became a member of Walter Hampden's Shakespearean theater company. Hampden was a good friend of Professor Venable's after having read his book, "The Hamlet Problem and Its Solution".

Under the tutelage of Hampden, Evelyn played the part of the flower girl in "Cyrano de Bergerac" and Ophelia in "Hamlet". Her success attracted the attention of Hollywood producers and in 1933, Evelyn made her film debut in "Cradle Song". The following year, she starred opposite Fredric March in "Death Takes a Holiday" (1934) then appeared in two Will Rogers' films, "David Harum" (1934), and "The County Chairman" (1935). Evelyn also appeared in "The Little Colonel" (1935) starring Shirley Temple and "Alice Adams" (1935) starring Katharine Hepburn. While on the set of "David Harum", Evelyn met her future husband, cinematographer, Hal Mohr. They eloped that same year in Yuma, Arizona. Evelyn chose to devote herself to raising her two daughters, Dolores and Rosalia, and after starring in the 1943 film "He Hired the Boss", she retired completely from the industry.

In 1953, Evelyn resumed her academic endeavors and enrolled at UCLA where she majored in Latin. She earned her undergraduate degree in 1956, the same year as her eldest daughter. Evelyn continued to study Greek and Latin and after receiving her Master's, she was immediately asked to join the faculty of UCLA's Department of Classics as a full-time lecturer. She taught at UCLA for almost twenty-five years and during that time she was elected for a term as President of the Association of Faculty Women at UCLA and also served as an officer of the Classical Association of the Pacific States. Evelyn died of cancer on November 16, 1993 in Post Falls, Idaho.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of scrapbooks ranging in date from 1933-1938. The scrapbooks hold newspaper clippings highlighting Venable's stage and film career. Also included is a series of loose newspaper clippings of which there are subseries related to Venable's teaching career at UCLA, her father Professor Emerson Venable, and a collection highlighting the stage career of Shakespearean actor Walter Hampden. Also included is a series dedicated to Venable's roles in Shakespearean stage performances. Of particular interest is a landscape watercolor, attributed to an "E.V." possibly Venable or her father, as well as an eight page typed poem by her grandfather, William Henry Venable.

The collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1. Scrapbooks, 1933 - 1938. 3 boxes
- Series 2. Stage Performances. 4 folders
- Series 3. Loose Newspaper Clippings. 13 folders

Series 1. **Scrapbooks 1933 - 1938**

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Content Note

This series contains ten scrapbooks that hold newspaper clippings highlighting the film and stage career of Venable. The clippings also discuss such areas as Venable's personal life as a wife and mother in Hollywood.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

- Box 1 **Scrapbook Number 1 1933 July - December**
 Physical Description: 67 p.
- Box 2 **Scrapbook Number 2 1934 January - February**
 Physical Description: 190 p.
- Box 2 **Scrapbook Number 3 1934 June - July**
 Physical Description: 123 p.
- Box 1 **Scrapbook Number 4 1934 September - October**
 Physical Description: 102 p.
- Box 1 **Scrapbook Number 5 1934 November - 1935 January**
 Physical Description: 96 p.
- Box 3 **Scrapbook Number 6 1935 February - July**
 Physical Description: 101 p.
- Box 3 **Scrapbook Number 7 1935 August - 1936 September**
 Physical Description: 112 p.
- Box 3 **Scrapbook Number 8 1936 October - 1937 December**
 Physical Description: 119 p.
- Box 2 **Scrapbook Number 9 1938 January - October**
 Physical Description: 74 p.
- Box 1 **Scrapbook Number 10 1938 November -**
 Physical Description: 34 p.

Series 2. **Stage Performances**

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains materials related to Venable's stage performances. Highlights include photographs, clippings from Venable's high school weekly newsletter, a cast list, and a poem written about Venable's role as "Juliet".

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by play title.

- Box 4, Item 1 **As You Like It 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 This folder contains an issue of The Chatterbox which discusses Venable's role as Rosalind in the play.

Box 4, Item 2

Cyrano de Bergerac 1932

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains two newspaper clippings, one photograph of Venable as the "Flower Girl", and one cast list.

Box 4, Item 3

Hamlet 1933

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains one photograph of Venable as "Ophelia" and a clipping from The Chatterbox discussing Venable's role in the play.

Box 4, Item 4

Romeo and Juliet 1928

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains twenty newspaper clippings, three clippings from The Chatterbox, the Walnut Hills High Weekly, three clippings from "The Glean", and one poem entitled "On Seeing Evelyn Venable As Juliet" by Jennie Moore Bryan.

Series 3. **Loose Newspaper Clippings**

Physical Description: 13 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains loose newspaper clippings as well as photographs, poems, letters, and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement

The series is divided into five subseries. The subseries are arranged alphabetically by title.

Subseries 1. **The Chatterbox 1933**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note

This subseries contains clippings from The Chatterbox, Venable's high school weekly newsletter.

Box 4, Item 5

The Chatterbox

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains two clippings from The Chatterbox, the Walnut Hills High Weekly. They are related to Venable's return to Cincinnati, Ohio as a member of Walter Hampden's Company. Venable appeared in a performance that week at Shubert Theater.

Subseries 2. **Emerson Venable**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note

This subseries contains materials related to the activities of Venable's father, Professor Emerson Venable.

Box 4, Item 6

Emerson Venable

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains three newspaper clippings related to the activities of Venable's father, Professor Emerson Venable.

Subseries 3. **UCLA**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note

This subseries contains materials related to Venable's years of teaching at UCLA.

Box 4, Item 7

UCLA

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains two newspaper clippings discussing Venable's teaching career at UCLA. Also included is a program for "The Rope" which was performed by the Latin Class in 1975. There is also a flyer for a Latin film "Urbs Mea".

Subseries 4. **Walter Hampden**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note

This subseries contains materials highlighting the stage career of Shakespearean actor Walter Hampden.

Box 4, Item 8

Walter Hampden

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains a program for "Hamlet" and "Cyrano de Bergerac", a photograph of Hampden as Hamlet which was sent to Venable's father as well as another photograph of Hampden as Hamlet along with a negative. Also included is a reproduction on newspaper quality paper of articles commending Hampden's performances as Petruchio in "The Taming of the Shrew" and as Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice". There is also a typed letter from 1929 addressed to "Mr. Hampden" from an unknown sender.

Subseries 5. **Miscellaneous**

Physical Description: 9 folders

Arrangement

This subseries is arranged by date and then alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note

This subseries contains loose newspaper clippings discussing Venable's stage and film career. Also included is an eight page typed poem, dated 1904, by Venable's grandfather, William Henry Venable, and a landscape watercolor attributed to "E.V." which may be Venable or her father Emerson Venable.

Box 4, Item 9

1933 1933

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains seven clippings that discuss Venable's first Hollywood film appearances.

Box 4, Item 10

1934 1934

Scope and Content Note

This folder contains eighty four newspaper clippings. They discuss Venable's film roles in "Mississippi" and "Double Door" as well as her upcoming Florence Nightingale film. Other clippings mention little facts about how Venable is a vegetarian, enjoys fencing and horseback riding and her choice in fashion and beauty products. There are also several clippings that announce when Venable was interviewed on local radio stations.

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| Box 4, Item 11 | 1935 1935
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains nineteen newspaper clippings. The majority discuss Venable's return to the stage at Juliet at the Vine St. Theatre in Los Angeles. |
| Box 4, Item 12 | 1938 1938
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains two articles, one in which Venable advocates for safe driving and the other commenting upon how Venable's role as a mother did not hinder her popularity in Hollywood. |
| Box 4, Item 13 | 1939 1939
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains thirty two newspaper clippings. The majority discuss Venable's bout with appendicitis, her Western drama "Heritage of the Desert", and parties attended by herself and her husband. |
| Box 4, Item 14 | 1940 1940
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains six newspaper clippings, two of which show Venable supporting "Presto" cake mix and a dairy product by Borden's. |
| Box 4, Item 15 | 1942 1942
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains two newspaper clippings on Venable's service as a Red Cross aide. |
| Box 4, Item 16 | Miscellaneous Items
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains a typed, eight page poem dated 1904 by Venable's grandfather, William Henry Venable, a landscape watercolor attributed to "E.V" which may be Venable or her father Emerson Venable, a business card, and a newspaper clipping. |
| Box 4, Item 17 | No Date
Scope and Content Note
This folder contains six newspaper clippings. They discuss Venable's film roles as well as Venable in an advertisement for a dinner gown. |