



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Edward Harrigan papers**

ca. 1870-1908

MssCol 1327

Processed by Valerie Wingfield.

## Summary

**Creator:** Harrigan, Edward, 1845-1911

**Title:** Edward Harrigan papers

**Date:** ca. 1870-1908

**Source:** Gift of Nedda Harrigan (Logan), 1941, 1949, 1961

**Abstract:** Collection consists of manuscripts, script materials and other items pertaining to Harrigan's plays. Manuscripts include holograph and typescript versions (some with manuscript revisions), carbons and fragments of plays. Also, programs, costume lists, stage designs, and printed songs.

**Alternative Form Available:** Selected manuscripts available on microfilm; New York Public Library

**Preferred citation:** Edward Harrigan Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Valerie Wingfield; machine readable finding aid created by APEX data services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

**Separated Materials:**

See also the following collection of materials:

Edward Harrigan Papers, 1871-1984. \*T-Mss 1941-003 7 boxes and 3 vols. The New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Collection View finding aid.

**Related Materials:**

Related materials can be found in the Edward Harrigan Papers, 1871-1984, Billy Rose Theatre Collection, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

## Creator History

Edward Harrigan (1845-1911) was a playwright, actor and producer. A native New Yorker, Harrigan wrote plays about the various ethnic groups of New York at that time, particularly the Irish, Germans and African-Americans. His plays grew out of his early career in vaudeville, and he developed them into complete three act plays in all of which he performed the lead role.

Early in his career, he was an actor in California. In 1870 he formed a partnership with another comedian, Sam Rickey, and returned to New York to play in *A Little Fraud*. However, his partnership with Anthony Cannon or "Tony Hart" (stage name) in 1872 is what Harrigan is remembered for. In 1876, they became managers of Theatre Comique, 514 Broadway, New York City and remained there until 1881, when the theatre was torn down.

Harrigan opened up the New Theatre Comique at 728 Broadway, Aug. 29, 1881 with the play *The Major* with him in the lead as "Major Gilfeather". The New Theatre Comique was destroyed by fire Dec. 23, 1884. Harrigan then leased the Park Theatre at Thirty-fifth Street and Broadway, which he conducted as Harrigan Theatre, with slight interruptions, until April 13, 1891. In 1890, he built a theatre on Thirty-fifth Street near Sixth Avenue, which is now known as Garrick Theatre. His last appearance in the legitimate drama was in *His Wife's Family*, at Wallack's Theatre, Oct. 6, 1908.

Edward Harrigan married Annie T. Braham, daughter of the composer, and was the father of 10 children. He died in New York City Sept. 9, 1909.

## Scope and Content Note

This collection of Harrigan's plays includes 63 original holograph manuscripts, and farces and sketches in over one hundred different versions. Many have extensive revisions, and a few have the final version in typescript. Among the plays in the collection are *Cordelia's Aspirations* (1883), *Dan's Tribulations* (1884), *In the North Wood's*, *The Mulligan Guards Ball* (1879), *The Mulligan Surprise Party*, *Reilly and the Four Hundred* (1890), and *Under Cover* (1903).

The collection also contains parts of various plays. Harrigan wrote thirty-nine principle plays and of these only two survive in print, according to the *Dictionary of American Biography*. The remainder of Harrigan's plays exist only in manuscript form.

The collection holds two thousand pages of script material, and much of the material remains unidentified.

## Key Terms

### Occupations

Dramatists  
Theatrical producers and directors

### Subjects

Ethnic theater  
Theater -- History -- 19th century  
Theaters -- New York (State) -- New York

**Names**

Harrigan, Edward, 1845-1911

## Container List

- April Fool.*
- b. 1 Original holograph manuscript. Bound (50 pp.)
- The Ba-Ba-Ons.*
- b. 1 Original holograph manuscript. Unbound (16 pp.)
- Bad Example.*
- b. 1 Original holograph manuscript. Bound (168 pp.)
- Barney Brogan.*
- b. 1 Original holograph manuscript. Bound (291 pp.)
- b. 1 ---another version, bound. (350 pp.)
- Bunch of Berries. (originally named A Muddy Day)*
- b. 2 Original holograph manuscript, unbound (150 pp.)
- Christmas Joys and Sorrows see No. 31, The Leather Patch.*
- The Compact.*
- b. 2 Original typescript, unbound. (30 pp.)
- Cordelia's Aspirations.*
- b. 2 a. Original holograph manuscript, bound. It includes 2 pages of stage designs, 1 page of printed program and 12 pages of property plot. "My Dad's Dinner Pail" by E. Harrigan. broadside, pasted in.
- b. 2 b. ---another version, original holograph manuscript, bound. Manuscript contains many revisions. (229 pp.)
- b. 3 c. ---another version, original holograph manuscript with extensive manuscript revisions, unbound. (225 pp.)
- b. 3 d. ---another version, original typescript, unbound. (177 pp.)
- b. 3 e. ---another version, carbon typescript except Act III which is the original. (174 pp.)
- Dan's Tribulations.*
- b. 3 a. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (231 pp.)
- b. 4 b. ---another version, original holograph manuscript, bound. (195 pp.) Manuscript contains many revisions.
- b. 4 c. Original holograph manuscript, unbound, with revisions. (237 pp.)
- Darcy McGlone, Author.*
- b. 4 Original holograph manuscript, notebook. (114 pp.)  
Also contains "The Village Sketch".
- The Day We Celebrate.*
- b. 4 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (21 pp.)
- Black Cinders.*
- b. 5. Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (18 pp.)
- Down Broadway, a Local Panoramic Extravagance.*
- b. 5. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (27 pp.)
- Doyle Brothers.*
- b. 5. a. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (133 pp.)

Doyle Brothers. (cont.)

- b. 5. b. ---another version, original holograph manuscript, with manuscript revisions, unbound. (119 pp.)

*Eureka.*

- b. 5. a. Part I. original holograph manuscript, bound. (93 pp.)
- b. 5. b. Part II. ---bound. (58 pp.)

*The Fee-Gees.*

- b. 5. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (43 pp.)

Four One Act plays by Harrigan, bound.

- b. 6 *Sargeant Hickey.* (Original holograph manuscript; 54 pp.)
- b. 6 *Our Law Makers.* (Original holograph manuscript. 67 pp.)
- b. 6 *My Son Dan.* (Original holograph manuscript. 66 pp.)
- b. 6 *The Logaire.* (Original holograph manuscript. 54 pp.)

Four One Act plays by Harrigan, bound.

- b. 6 *O'Brien, Counciller at Law.* (Original holograph manuscript, with revisions. 76 pp.)
- b. 6 *The Telephone.* (Original holograph manuscript, with revisions. 17 pp.)
- b. 6 *The Pillsbury Muddle.* (Original holograph manuscript, with revisions. 31 pp.)
- b. 6 *The Italien (sic) Junkman.* (Original holograph manuscript. 59 pp.)

*The Grip.*

- b. 6 Original holograph manuscript, with revisions. (169 pp.)

*In the North Woods.*

- b. 7 a. Original typescript with manuscript revisions.  
Act I. 61 pp. Act II, 72 pp. Act III, 42 pp.  
Act I, 53 pp. Act II, 71 pp. Act III, 41 pp.  
Act I, 53 pp. Act II, 71 pp. Act III, 41 pp.

see also Box 27

*Investigation.*

- b. 7 a. Original holograph manuscript bound, with stage design. 1 p. Also printed program pasted in, 1 p; gas plot 2 pp; property plot, 12pp. and costume lists. Songs by EH, pasted in, broadsides. "Hello, `Babby" and "On Union Square". (190 pp.)
- b. 7 b. Balcony Scene from "Investigation". original holograph mss. (13 pp.)

*The Irish Cousin (remaking of Barney Brogan).*

- b. 8 a. Original typescript, with carbon, bound. (211 pp.)
- b. 8 b. ---another version, typescript, carbon, bound. (154 pp.)
- b. 8 c. ---another version, unbound (210 pp.)

*Jascaire.*

- b. 8 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (64 pp.)

*The Lady of Lyons.*

- b. 8 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (23 pp.)

*The Last of the Hogans.*

The Last of the Hogans. (cont.)

- b. 9 Original holograph manuscript, bound, with note: "Copied by Charles Sturgis". (242 pp.)

*The Leather Patch (also called Christmas Joys and Sorrows)*

- b. 9 a. Original holograph manuscript, unbound, with some manuscript revisions. (101 pp.)
- b. 9 b. Original typescript with gas and property plots, 4 pp. unbound (106 pp.)
- b. 10 c. --- carbon of the above.
- b. 10 d. another version, original typescript and carbon combined. (165 pp.)
- b. 10 e. --- another copy of the above.

*The Lord Mayor of Dublin.*

- b. 10 a. Original holograph manuscript, bound, written in pencil. (123 pp.)
- b. 10 b. Original typescript with extensive mss. revisions, bound. (155 pp.)  
see also Box 27  
addendum: A Muddy Day Act 3. (index of inventory)

*The Lorgaire.*

- b. 11 a. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (180 pp.)
- b. 11 b. another version. Part I, original holograph manuscript, bound, with mss. revisions. (102 pp.)
- b. 11 c. another version. Part II, original holograph manuscript, bound, with mss. revisions. (85 pp.)
- b. 11 d. Original typescript, bound. (135 pp.)
- b. 11 e. Carbon of the above, unbound.

*The Maguires.*

- b. 12 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (13 pp.)

*Malone's Night Off.*

- b. 12 Original holograph manuscript bound. (54 pp.)

*McNoony's Visit.*

- b. 12 Original holograph manuscript, unbound, with note "Copied by Charles Sturgis".
- b. 12 Act I, 72 pp.; Act I - another version, 69 pp.
- b. 12 Act II, 86 pp.; Act II - another version, 92 pp.
- b. 12 Act III, 69 pp.; Act III - another version, 65 pp. (Total 453 pp.)
- b. 12 Original typescript and carbon combined, unbound. (80 pp.)

*McSorley's Inflation.*

- b. 13 a. Original holograph manuscript, various versions combined, with many mss. revisions. (108 pp.)
- b. 13 b. Act III parts of another version, unbound. (63 pp.)  
III - parts of another version, unbound. (32 pp.)
- b. 13 c. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (132 pp.)

*The Major.*

- b. 13 a. Original holograph manuscript, with very extensive mss. revisions, bound. (207 pp.)
- b. 13 b. Original holograph manuscript, bound. (178 pp.)

*Marty Malone.*

- b. 14 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (346 pp.)  
(use copy, original is in poor condition)

*Mordecai Lyons.*

- b. 14 Original holograph manuscript, with manuscript revisions, bound. (203 pp.)
- b. 14 b. Original typescript, bound. (107 pp.)

*A Muddy Day see Bunch of Berries.*

*Muldoon.*

- b. 14 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (68 pp.)

*The Mulligan Guard's Ball.*

- b. 15 Original holograph manuscript, with many revisions.
- b. 15 Act I - 98 pp.; Act I - another version, 94 pp.
- b. 15 Act II - 68 pp.; Act II - another version, 77 pp.; 64 pp.
- b. 15 Act III - 37 pp.; Act III - another version, 41 pp.; (Total 385 pp.)
- b. 15 Original holograph manuscript, Act I - (91 pp.)
- b. 16 Act I - another version (81 pp.)
- b. 16 Act II - (79 pp.)
- b. 16 Act III - 87 pp.; Act III - another version, 205 pp. (?)

*The Mulligan Guard Nominee.*

- b. 16 a. Original holograph manuscript, with mss. revisions. unbound (212 pp.)
- b. 16 b. Original typescript, unbound. (146 pp.)
- b. 16 c. --- carbon copy of above.
- b. 16 d. Carbon typescript, another version, bound. (212 pp.)

*The Mulligan Guard Picnic.*

- b. 17 a. Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (163 pp.)
- b. 17 b. Another version, original holograph mss, unbound. (48 pp.)

see also #67, the Mulligan  
Guards Picnic, in Box 26 and see also acts II and III, the Mulligan Guards  
Picnic, in box 27

*The Mulligan Guard's Christmas.*

- b. 17 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (133 pp.)

*The Mulligan Surprise Party (also called: The Mulligan Guard's Surprise)*

- b. 17 a. Original holograph manuscript, with mss. revisions, unbound. (204 pp.)
- b. 17 b. another version, original holograph manuscript, unbound. (111 pp.)

*The Mulligan's Silver Wedding.*

- b. 17 a. Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (233 pp.)
- b. 18 b. Original typescript, unbound (138 pp.)
- b. 18 c. 2nd copy.

*The New Butler.*

- b. 18 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (48 pp.)

*No Irish Wanted Here.*

- b. 18 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (17 pp.)  
Also contains: "*The Bradies, An Irish Sketch*". 18 pp.

*Notoriety.*

- b. 18 Original holograph manuscript, with many revisions, unbound. (274 pp.)

*Nugent and Rubber.*

- b. 18 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (48 pp.)

*Old Lavender.*

- b. 19 a. Original holograph manuscript, bound.. (Many revisions in manuscript.; 187 pp.)  
Contains printed program and stage directions pasted in with the following songs by E.H. "The Owl", "Please to put that Down", "Extra, Extra", "Poverty's Tears Ebb and Flow" and "Sweetest Love"
- b. 19 b. another version, original holograph manuscript, bound. Contains note::Revised for cast of nine people". (36 pp.)
- b. 19 c. Original typescript, with scene and property plots. (118 pp.)
- b. 19 d. another version, original typescript, bound. (82 pp.)
- b. 19 e. another version, carbon typescript, unbound. (107 pp.)
- b. 19 f. -----6 carbon copies (2 in Box 19) bound.
- b. 20 f. ---- 4 copies. (bound)

*The O'Reagans.*

- b. 20 Original holograph manuscript, with revisions, unbound. (201 pp.)

*Papa Dan.*

- b. 20 Written by M.F. Drew. original holograph mss., bound. (140 pp.)

*Pete.*

- b. 21 Original holograph manuscript, with some mss. revisions. Unbound. (205 pp.)

*Reilly and the Four Hundred.*

- b. 22 a. Original holograph manuscript, with revisions, bound. (270 pp.)
- b. 22 b. ---another version, original holograph manuscript, unbound. (213 pp.)
- b. 23 (?) typescript of part of play, original (70 pp.)  
(location unknown)
- b. 23 c. ---another version, original typescript, unbound. (110 pp.)
- b. 23 d. ---another version, carbon typescript (168 pp.)
- b. 23 e. ---another version, carbon typescript (168 pp. (??))

*The Simple Life.*

- b. 23 Original holograph manuscript, unbound. (44 pp.)

*Songs, Gags and farces.*

- b. 23 Original holograph manuscript, written on oversize address book sheets. (35 pp.)  
  
( in a separate package)

*Squatter Sovereignty.*

- b. 23 a. Original holograph manuscript, with revisions, bound. (171 pp.)
- b. 24 b. Original holograph manuscript, with revisions, bound. (149 pp.)
- b. 24 c. Original typescript, unbound. (156 pp.)



*The Terrible Example.*

- b. 24 Original holograph manuscript, bound. (36 pp.)

*Under Cover.*

- b. 24 Original typescript with revisions. 228 pp. Act II incomplete.

*Waddy Googan.*

- b. 25 a. Original holograph manuscript, with pasted in program, stage design, gas plot, property plot and list of costumes. Two broadside printed songs by EH: "Where the Sparrows and Chippies prade" and "Old Boss Barry". bound. (250 pp.)
- b. 25 b. Original holograph manuscript, with revisions, bound. (232 pp.)
- b. 25 c. Carbon typescript, with gas plot, property plot & list of costumes, bound. (111 pp.)
- b. 26 d. ---another version, original typescript (104 pp.)

*The Woolen Stocking.*

- b. 26 Original holograph manuscript with revisions, unbound. (88 pp.)

*Mulligan Guard Chowder.*

- b. 26 Incomplete, \*identified by A.K. Koger, 11/28/81

*Shamus O'Brien.*

- b. 26 Manuscript \*\*identified by Prof. Richard Moody, Dec. '63.

*McAllister Legacy*

- b. 26 Acts I-III \*\*

Mulligan Guard's Picnic (?)

- b. 26 Acts I-II incomplete \*
- b. 27 Act III \*
- b. 27 Act III, another version? holograph manuscript (87 pp.)
- b. 27 bad examples Act II (inc. pp. 58-93) holograph manuscript.
- b. 27 Unidentified fragments of plays
- b. 27 *In the North Woods. incomplete holograph manuscript. pp. 1-42; 36-46 \**
- b. 27 *Lord Mayor of Dublin.*
- b. 27 Act I - \*
- b. 27 Act II - possible fragments pp. 1-77
- b. 27 Possible fragments
- b. 27 pp. 1-23 (# 32 a version)
- b. 27 Unidentified parts of plays (folders 5-7)
- b. 28 Unidentified parts of plays: consult Koger notes.
- b. 29 *Original of Marty Malone*

(Too fragile for reader use. Use copy in Box 14)