



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Charles B. Dillingham papers**

1903-1931 [bulk 1910-1927]

MssCol 813

Processed by John Stinson.

## Summary

**Creator:** Dillingham, C. B. (Charles Bancroft), 1868-1934

**Title:** Charles B. Dillingham papers

**Date:** 1903-1931 [bulk 1910-1927]

**Source:** Received, 1952-1953

**Abstract:** Collection consists of correspondence, stage managers' reports, receipt books, roster and salary records, and some personal papers of Dillingham. Correspondence, 1903-1927, of Dillingham and his associates Bruce Edwards and Fred G. Latham with theatrical people relates mainly to the casting and production of shows at the Globe Theatre and at the Hippodrome. Some of the correspondence concerns the management of the road shows on tour in the United States. Records include stage managers' reports, 1910-1911 and 1926-1927; receipt books, 1906-1907, 1913-1914 and 1920-1928, recording box office receipts for shows at the Globe Theatre; and roster and salary records, 1908-1909. Also, personal and miscellaneous papers, some of which were removed from the R.H. Burnside Papers, containing Dillingham's memoirs of his life in the theater, last will and testament, notebook, and research notes.

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

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by John Stinson; machine readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

## Creator History

Charles Bancroft Dillingham (1868-1934) was one of the leading theatrical producers in New York City during the first three decades of the 20th century. With his own company, the Dillingham Theatre Corp., and in partnership with A.L. Erlanger and Florenz Ziegfeld, he produced more than 200 comedies, musical comedies, operettas and vaudeville shows for the Broadway stage. He built and owned *The Globe Theatre* (at Broadway and 46th St.) and for many years he managed *The Hippodrome*, reputed to

be the largest theatrical house in the world.

## Scope and Content Note

The correspondence series is arranged alphabetically in over-lapping two-, three-, and four year intervals in the period 1903-1927 with some unsorted correspondence of various dates at the end of the series. It consists of correspondence of Dillingham and of his associates Bruce Edwards and Fred G. Latham of the Dillingham Theatre Corp. with actors, actresses, theatrical managers, theatrical agents and producers, impresarios, literary agents, playwrights, song writers, musicians, band leaders, costumers and others. The correspondence relates mainly to the casting and production of plays, musical comedies, operettas, and vaudeville shows at The Globe Theatre and at The Hippodrome. Some of the correspondence relates to the management of the road shows on tour in the U.S.. Substantial correspondence is present with George Ade, Hans Bartsch, David Belasco, Irving Berlin, Col. E.A. Braden, Sir Alfred Butt, George M. Cohan, Francis W. Crownshield, Carrère and Hastings, Haddon Chambers, A.L. Erlanger, W.C. Fields, James Forbes, Charles Frohman and Daniel Frohman, Sam H. Harris, J. Clarence Hyde, Arthur Houghton, Elsie Janis, Frederick Lonsdale, Cyril Maude, Louis Nethersole, and Florenz Ziegfeld.

There are also stage managers' reports (1910-11, 1926-27) for *Over the River*, *The Old Town*, *Criss-Cross*, and *Sunny*. There are 9 receipt books (1906-07, 1913-14, 1920-28) recording box office receipts for shows mainly at the Globe Theatre. There are also roster and salary records (1908-09) for The Top O' Th' World Company which provide the names of the principals, staff, chorus and orchestra and the amount of their weekly salaries. There are a few personal and miscellaneous papers of Dillingham (some of which is labelled as having been removed from the R.H. Burnside Papers) consisting of Dillingham's memoirs of his life in the theater in carbon typescript (104 p.), a copy of his last will and testament, a notebook labelled 'Options and Expirations', and research notes made from the letters in the unsorted section of the correspondence series.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Actors  
Musical theater  
Theater -- Casting  
Theater -- Production and direction  
Theater management  
Theaters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Vaudeville

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Memoirs  
Wills

### Occupations

Theatrical managers  
Theatrical producers and directors

### Names

Dillingham, C. B. (Charles Bancroft), 1868-1934

Ade, George, 1866-1944  
Belasco, David, 1853-1931  
Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989  
Butt, Alfred, Sir, 1878-  
Chambers, C. Haddon (Charles Haddon), 1860-1921  
Cohan, George M. (George Michael), 1878-1942  
Crowninshield, Frank, 1872-1947  
Edwards, Bruce  
Erlanger, Abraham Lincoln, 1860-1930  
Fields, W. C., 1879-1946  
Frohman, Charles, 1860-1915  
Frohman, Daniel, 1851-1940  
Houghton, Arthur  
Janis, Elsie, 1889-1956  
Latham, Fred G., 1853-1943  
Lonsdale, Frederick, 1881-1954  
Maude, Cyril, 1862-1951  
Nethersole, Louis  
Ziegfeld, Flo, 1869-1932  
Dillingham Theatre Corporation  
Globe Theatre (New York, N.Y.)  
Hippodrome Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

### General Correspondence

- b. 1. 1903-1907
- b. 2. A-L 1907-1910
- b. 3. L-R 1907-1910
- b. 4. S-W 1907-1910
- b. 4. A 1910-1912
- b. 5. B-C 1910-1912
- b. 6. C-F 1910-1912
- b. 7. F-M 1910-1912
- b. 8. M-S 1910-1912
- b. 9. S-Z 1910-1912
- b. 10. A-K 1913-1914
- b. 11. L-S 1913-1914
- b. 12. S-W 1913-1914
- A-B 1914-1916
- b. 13. B-C 1914-1916
- b. 14. C-F 1914-1916
- b. 15. F-H 1914-1916
- b. 16. H-K 1914-1916
- b. 17. K-M 1914-1916
- b. 18. M-Q 1914-1916
- b. 19. S-T 1914-1916
- A-B 1916-1918
- b. 20. B-Z 1916-1918
- b. 21. A-B 1919-1923
- b. 22. C-H 1919-1923
- b. 23. L-Z 1919-1923
- b. 24. A-E 1924-1926
- b. 25. E-R 1924-1926
- b. 26. S-W 1924-1926
- b. 27. W-Z 1924-1926
- A-K 1926-1927
- b. 28. K-R 1926-1927
- b. 29. S-Z 1926-1927
- Unsorted letters
- b. 30. Unsorted letters
- Stage Manager's Reports, Accounting Records, Routing Books and other materials
- b. 30. Stage Manager's Reports 1910-1927
- b. 31. Stage Manager's Reports 1926-1927

Stage Manager's Reports, Accounting Records, Routing Books and other materials (cont.)

- b. 31. Expense Vouchers 1919
- b. 31. Receipt books containing box office receipts 1906-1928
- b. 32. Personal and Miscellaneous Papers
- b. 33. Routing books  
Routing books show engagements for various shows produced by Dillingham in New York and on tour. Some of the volumes are housed within Box 33, others (when noted) are shelved separately as volumes.
- v. vol. 1 1911-1912
- v. 2-3. 1912-1913
- v. 4-6. (vol. 6 in box 33) 1914-1915
- v. 7. 1915-1916
- v. 8. 1916-1917
- v. 9-10. (vols. 10-11 in box 33) 1917-1918
- v. 11. 1918-1919
- v. 12-13. 1919-1920
- v. 14-16. (vol. 14 in box 33) 1920-1921
- v. 17-18. 1921-1922
- v. 19. 1922-1923
- v. 20-21. 1923-1924
- v. 22-23. (vol. 22 in box 33) 1928-1929
- v. 24. 1931-1932
- v. 25. Map
- b. 34. Account books
- b. 35. Address books
- b. 36. Ledger (?)
- b. 37. Miscellaneous material