

**The New York Public Library**  
**New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center**  
**Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

**William H. Cleveland, Jr. collection of puppetry materials**

1923-1970 (bulk 1940-1965)

\*T-Mss 2012-020

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## **Summary**

**Creator:** Cleveland, William, 1910-1970

**Title:** William H. Cleveland, Jr. collection of puppetry materials, 1923-1970 (bulk 1940-1965)

**Size:** 2.77 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by William H. Cleveland.

**Abstract:** William H. Cleveland, Jr., was a teacher, writer, and puppeteer. This collection of puppetry materials, which he began assembling in 1935, consists of Cleveland's writings; correspondence; and printed materials, such as puppet plays, programs, clippings, newsletters, pamphlets, and handbooks. The printed materials feature puppet organizations from the United States, England, Germany, France, Indonesia, China, Czechoslovakia, and elsewhere.

**Access:** Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

**Copyright information:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theater Division.

**Preferred citation:** William H. Cleveland, Jr. collection of puppetry materials, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

## **Creator history**

William H. Cleveland, Jr., was born in 1910 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He received an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore in 1931, taught English for six years in Tulsa, and then studied and taught at the University of Texas, earning his graduate degree in 1939. He continued his education at Harvard where he pursued a doctorate in the history of American civilization, which he never completed. After seeing a puppet show by the American Puppet Master Tony Sarg, he became enamored with puppetry. While at Harvard, Cleveland created the Playbox Puppets, a portable puppet theater for traditional hand puppets.

In 1937, Cleveland became a founding member of Puppeteers of America, a national nonprofit organization that provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love Puppet Theater. He also traveled to England, France, and Germany to attend festivals and performances and connect with other puppeteers and puppet organizations. He contributed articles for puppet newsletters and magazines and taught puppetry classes. Cleveland was also interested in using puppetry for educational purposes, mainly for teaching children and adults about religion. In 1946, he began teaching religion and theater at the George School in Newton, Pennsylvania, and remained there until his death in 1970.

### **Scope and content note**

The collection contains correspondence with puppeteers and puppet organizations, and printed materials which consist of programs, clippings, magazines, lists of puppet books and plays, puppetry newsletters, and pamphlets and handbooks illustrating puppet construction, history, and technique. The newsletters are from the Puppet Guild of Greater New York, the Hamburg Puppet Theater, and Der Puppenspieler, spanning primarily from the 1940s through the 1960s. There are two scrapbooks of newspaper and magazine clippings. Also present are Cleveland's writings on puppets and puppet plays, and photographs of performances of Cleveland's Playbox Puppets. Some of the printed materials were bound together by the Library for the Performing Arts which assigned catalog numbers to all of the materials.

### **Arrangement**

The collection was arranged alphabetically by document type and folder title.

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Hand puppets  
Marionettes  
Puppet plays  
Puppets -- Czechoslovakia  
Puppets -- Great Britain  
Puppets Construction  
Shadow puppets

#### **Occupations**

Puppeteers

#### **Names**

Cleveland, William, 1910-1970  
Puppetry Guild of Greater New York

#### **Special formats**

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Newsletters  
Photographs

## Container list

### Correspondence

- b.1 f.1 General, 1941-1953 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.1 f.2 A-E, 1935-1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c.21,511)
- b.1 f.3 F-G, 1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.4 H-K, 1941-1958 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.5 L, 1947-1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.6 M, 1939-1958 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.7 N-Q, 1949-1959 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.8 R-S, 1949-1953 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.9 T-V, 1942-1954 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.10 W, 1948-1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.11 Benton, Pauline--Red Gate Players, 1941-1949 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.1 f.12 Dean, Mary--Mary Dean Puppets, 1941-1942 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.1 f.13 Duncan, William Ireland, 1936-1950 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.1 f.14 Kukla, Fran and Ollie, 1955 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.15-16 Latshaw, George, 1948-1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,159 and 8-MWEZ+n.c. )
- b.1 f.17 Llords, Daniel, 1968-1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.18-19 McPharlin, Paul & Marjorie, 1933-1960  
8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519 and 8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511
- b.1 f.20 Michael, Vivan, 1969 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.1 f.21 Quaker Village Puppeteers, 1947-1950 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.1 f.22 Stevens, Martin and Olga, 1939-1950 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)

### Printed Materials

#### Loose Material

- b.1 f.23-25 Clippings, 1937-1957 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.2 f.1-2 Programs and Clippings--Germany, 1935-1953 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,510)
- b.2 f.3 Programs, 1923-1941 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.2 f.4 Magazines Featuring Puppets, 1955 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,516 (4))

#### Newsletters

- b.2 f.5-7 Germany, 1926-1969 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,510)
- b.2 f.8 Germany, 1948-1954 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,102)
- b.3 f.1 Germany, Der Puppenspieler, 1950-1964 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,102)
- b.3 f.2-3 Germany, Hamburg Puppet Theater, 1956-1969 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,103)
- b.3 f.4 Puppet Guild of Greater New York, 1965-1970 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,519)
- b.7 f.3-4 Scrapbooks--Marionette Clippings, 1929-1950 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,516(4))

#### Bound Material

- b.3 f.5 Pamphlets and Lists of Books and Plays, undated (MWEZ+n.c. 21,514)
- b.3 f.6 Pamphlets and Programs, 1947-1953 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,522)
- b.4 f.1 Pamphlets and Programs, 1936-1968 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,515)
- b.4 f.2 Pamphlets and Programs, 1953-1957 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,517)

Printed Materials (cont.)

Bound Material (cont.)

- b.4 f.3 Programs and Handbooks, 1948-1955 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.4 f.4 Programs, 1958-1969 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,099)
- b.5 f.1 Programs, 1953-1973 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,101)
- b.5 f.2 Magazines and Programs, 1933-1958 (MWEZ+n.c. 23,100)
- b.7 f.1 Magazines, Pamphlets, and Programs, 1929-1969 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,518)

Subject Files

- b.5 f.3 Baird, Bil and Cora, 1943 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.5 f.4 Contryn, Louis, 1948 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.5 f.5-6 The Playbox Puppets, 1937-1954 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,510)
- b.5 f.7 The Pegasus Puppets of the George School, 1950-1951 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.5 f.8 The Proctor Puppets, Ellen and Roman Proctor, 1935-1942 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,520)
- b.7 f.2 The Proctor Puppets, Ellen and Roman Proctor, 1935-1942 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,520)
- b.5 f.9 Puppet Plays, 1949 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.5 f.10 Puppet Stages and Scenery, 1936-1949 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.1 The Puppeteers of America, 1936-1949 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.2 Puppetry and Religious Education, 1939-1950 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.3-4 Puppetry Festivals, 1936-1955 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,520)
- b.6 f.5 Puppetry History, undated (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.6 Puppets--Education, 1936 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.7 The Rufus Rose Marionettes, Rufus and Margo Rose, undated (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.8 Shadowcraft and Shadow Puppets, 1948 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.9 Writings, 1948-1949 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)
- b.6 f.10-11 Writings, 1947-1964 (8-MWEZ+n.c. 21,511)
- b.6 f.12 VanDeth, Guido, 1949-1950 (MWEZ+n.c. 21,512)