



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Clinton King, Jr. papers

1889-1966 [bulk 1904-1966]

*T-Mss 1996-008

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Summary

Creator: King, Jr., Clinton, 1914-2013

Title: Clinton King, Jr. papers

Date: 1889-1966 [bulk 1904-1966]

Size: 3.74 linear feet (9 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by Clinton King, Jr., 1996.

Abstract: Clinton P. King, Jr. was a theatrical stage manager. The Clinton King, Jr. papers (1889-1966, bulk 1904-1966) contain programs, photographs, correspondence, scripts, clippings, prop lists, tour itineraries, and other papers and memorabilia from King's theater career. The collection includes material related to King's work with the New Jersey Federal Theatre Project and with a USO Camp Shows touring production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* in Europe in 1945. The collection also contains King's collection of programs, mostly from Newark and New York City theater productions.

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Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Creator History

Clinton P. King, Jr. (1914-2013) was a theatrical stage manager. He studied drama at Yale University in the late 1930s. During the 1930s, he worked as a set designer with the Work Progress Administration's New Jersey Federal Theatre Project. From 1944 to 1945 he was assistant stage manager on a United States tour of *Porgy and Bess*, and in 1945, he traveled through France, Luxembourg, and Germany as stage manager of a United Service Organizations (USO) Camp Shows tour of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In the early 1950s, he was stage manager for a touring company of *Bell, Book and Candle*. When not on tour, he lived and worked primarily in New York City. In the 1960s, he retired to New Jersey.

Scope and Content Note

The Clinton King, Jr. papers contain programs, photographs, correspondence, scripts, clippings, prop lists, tour itineraries, and other papers and memorabilia from King's theater career. A detailed inventory of the collection, supplied by the donor, is available under Additional Resources. The inventory lists every item in the collection, arranged by subject, with the exception of King's collection of programs, which are listed in another document. The inventory uses file numbers that were assigned by King.

The collection includes programs, photographs, and copies of tests from the Yale University Department of Drama, dating primarily from 1936 to 1938. Material related to the New Jersey Federal Theatre includes programs and scenic designs from a 1938 production of *Around the World in 80 Days*. Material related to the 1945 USO Camp Shows tour of *Arsenic and Old Lace* includes correspondence and photographs that document King's work as a stage manager as well as his experiences touring in postwar Europe. Annotated scripts are present for *Around the World in 80 Days*; *Porgy and Bess*; *Bell, Book and Candle*; and *Arms and the Man* (1950).

The collection also contains King's collection of theater, dance, opera, and concert programs, mostly from Newark and New York City theaters. Programs dating from 1904 to 1914, as well as one program dating to 1889, were collected by King's aunt. Programs dating from 1926 to 1966 were collected by King and are mostly from shows he worked on or attended. A complete list of the programs dating from 1926 to 1966 is available under Additional Resources.

Arrangement: Papers documenting King's career are arranged in roughly chronological order by subject. His collection of programs is arranged by year. An item-level inventory of the collection and a list of programs (dating from 1926 to 1966) is available under Additional Resources. There is no list of programs dating from 1889 to 1914.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Photographs

Programs (documents)

Occupations

Stage managers

Names

Camp Shows, Inc.

Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

United Service Organizations (U.S.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Yale University Department of Drama 1936-1938, 1942
- b. 1 f. 1-7 Federal Theatre Project 1930s
 - b. 1 f. 8 Borscht Circuit--Green Mansions Players 1939
 - b. 1 f. 9 Dock Street Theatre, Charleston, South Carolina 1939-1940
 - b. 1 f. 10 *Porgy and Bess* 1944-1945
 - b. 1 f. 11 Stage Door Canteen Identification Card 1940s
USO Camp Shows--Arsenic and Old Lace
- b. 1 f. 12-14 1945-1946
- b. 2 f. 1-5 1943-1947
- b. 3 f. 1 1945
- b. 3 f. 2 The Arena Theater, Hotel Edison, New York City 1950-1951
Mostly relates to a 1950 production of *Arms and the Man*.
- b. 3 f. 3 Borscht Circuit--Tamiment, Pennsylvania 1951
- b. 3 f. 4-9 *Bell, Book and Candle* 1951-1953
- b. 3 f. 10 Theater Equipment Catalogs 1934, 1949, 1953
Includes 1934 Cleon Throckmorton, Inc. catalog.
Programs
A complete list of programs dating from 1926 to 1966 is available under Additional Resources.
- b. 4 f. 2-4 1889, 1904-1914
- b. 4 f. 5-9 1926-1930
- b. 5 f. 1-10 1931-1940
- b. 6 f. 1-7 1941-1946
- b. 7 f. 1-8 1946-1951
- b. 8 f. 1-9 1951-1958
- b. 9 f. 1-5 1959-1966
- v. 1 Scrapbook 1904-1911
- b. 4 f. 1 Donaldson Awards Booklets 1944-1949