



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Carmen Mathews papers**

1921-1995

\*T-Mss 2002-026

Compiled by Robyn Hjermstad, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Mathews, Carmen

**Title:** Carmen Mathews papers

**Date:** 1921-1995

**Size:** 1.96 linear feet (5 boxes, 2 oversized folders)

**Source:** Donated by Sally Trippe in 2002.

**Abstract:** Carmen Mathews (1911-1995) was an American actress in theater, film, and television. The collection (1921-1995) documents her stage career through scripts, scores, correspondence, photographs, programs, articles, and posters.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Robyn Hjermstad, 2015

## Creator History

Carmen Mathews (1911-1995) was an American actress in theater, film, and television. She trained at Bennett Junior College and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She made her Broadway debut in a 1938 revival of *Hamlet* at the St. James Theatre. Her other notable Broadway productions include *Harriet*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Man and Superman*, and a 1980 revival of *Mornings at Seven*. Mathews also performed in several regional theater productions. She performed in film and television from 1950 to 1990.

## Scope and Content Note

The Carmen Mathews papers date from 1921 to 1995 and consist primarily of scripts and scores. There is also a small amount of correspondence and printed material.

Scripts are largely unannotated and document Mathews' stage career from 1952 to 1995, with the majority dating after 1980. The script for *The Road to Mecca* is accompanied by articles and congratulatory letters. Scores are for songs from musicals Mathews performed in, such as *The Seventh Trumpet*, *The Yearling*, *In Someone Else's Sandals*, *Candide*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Copperfield*. Scores for *The Seventh Trumpet* are manuscripts; all other scores are either printed or published versions. One of the scores for *Sunday in the Park with George* is autographed to Mathews from Steven Sondheim.

Incoming letters are from friends and colleagues. There are several letters from American dramatist Charles Rann Kennedy that date from 1932 to 1944 and discuss his writing and other personal matters. The collection also contains a letter book written by Kennedy in 1946, and a collection of sonnets entitled *Sonnets for Armageddon*.

Photographs consist of portraits of Charles Rann Kennedy and Edith Wynn Matthison, as well as photographs of Matthison for some of her productions in the 1920s. Portraits of Carmen Mathews are also present.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged by format.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Actresses

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scores

Scripts

### **Subjects**

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Theater -- United States

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Articles 1965-1991
- b. 1 f. 2 Biographical Materials 1935, 1995
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Letters to Carmen Mathews 1932-1995
- b. 1 f. 5 Letter Book and Sonnets for Armageddon 1938-1946  
Kennedy, Charles Rann
- b. 1 f. 6-7 Photographs 1926-1995
  - o. 1 Photographs 1948  
Portraits of Carmen Mathews.
  - o. 1 Posters 1945-1990  
LPA C12 DWR 32
  - o. 2 Posters 1984, 1990  
LPA C12 DWR 32
- b. 1 f. 8 Programs 1943-1978
- b. 2 f. 1-2 Programs 1980-1990
- Scripts
  - b. 2 f. 3 *The Anastasia Game* 1989
  - b. 2 f. 4 *Autumn Elegy* 1989
  - b. 2 f. 5 *Copperfield* 1981
  - b. 2 f. 6 *Daniel* 1982
  - b. 2 f. 7 *Dear World* 1969
  - b. 2 f. 8 *Everyman* 1952
  - b. 3 f. 1 *A Grand Romance* 1985
  - b. 3 f. 2 *Harriet* 1943
  - b. 3 f. 3 *Isles of Blest* 1940
  - b. 3 f. 4 *The Last Best Year of My Life* 1990
  - b. 3 f. 5 *A Little Night Music* 1990
  - b. 3 f. 6 *'Night, Mother* 1983-1985
  - b. 3 f. 7 *The Road to Mecca* 1984-1985
  - b. 3 f. 8 *The Seventh Trumpet* 1942
  - b. 5 f. 4 *She Stops to Conquer* 1986
- Scores
  - b. 4 f. 1 *Ambassador* 1972
  - b. 4 f. 2 *The Anastasia Game* 1989
  - b. 4 f. 3 *Candide* 1956
  - b. 4 f. 4-5 *Copperfield* 1981
  - b. 4 f. 6 *Dear World* 1968
  - b. 4 f. 7 *In Someone Else's Sandals* 1990
  - b. 4 f. 8 Miscellaneous Scores 1921-1970s
  - b. 4 f. 9 *The Seventh Trumpet* 1941
  - b. 5 f. 1 *Sunday in the Park With George* 1983

Scores (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 2     *The Yearling* 1964-1966
- b. 5 f. 3     *Zenda* 1963-1964