



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Nan Stevens collection of Beatrice Lillie materials

bulk 1948-1951

*T-Mss 1997-015

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Summary

Creator: Stevens, Nan

Title: Nan Stevens collection of Beatrice Lillie materials

Date: bulk 1948-1951

Size: 1.3 linear feet (1 box, 4 volumes)

Source: Donated by Nan Stevens, 1997.

Abstract: Nan Stevens was a secretary for Beatrice Lillie (1894-1989), the stage and movie actor. The collection, dated 1948 to 1961, documents Lillie's career through correspondence, photographs and scrapbooks. There are also two scrapbooks compiled about the actors Eddie Albert and Judy Garland.

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Processing note: Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Creator History

Nan Stevens was a secretary for Beatrice Lillie (1894-1989), the Canadian stage and movie actor. Stevens amassed the collection's material during her employment for Lillie during the 1940s through the 1950s. Lillie, although known mostly for her comedic stage revues, was also a feature movie actress. Lillie's career spanned London and New York City. She died from a heart attack in England in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, dated 1948 to 1961 (bulk date 1948), documents the career of actor Beatrice Lillie

(1894-1989) and was compiled by her secretary Nan Stevens. The collection holds correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks and scripts.

Correspondence is mostly about Lillie's career and the entertainment industry as discussed with friends, theatrical colleagues and fans. Dorothy Greener (1917-1971), the British actor, was one of her correspondents. Some of the letters pertain to Lillie's rejection of performance materials submitted for her approval. The remaining correspondence is between Lillie and Stevens relating to work.

There are four scrapbooks with clippings, photographs and playbills. Two of the scrapbooks document Lillie's career and family. The photographs are of Lillie performing on stage and in the movies; entertaining the troops during World War II; attending events; her son in military uniform; and autographed photographs from the comedic performer Fanny Brice (1891-1951). The other two scrapbooks hold photographs of actors Eddie Albert and Judy Garland.

The collection also contains loose photographs of Lillie used for publicity purposes, performing on stage, and relaxing with family and friends.

Scripts consist of the titles *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *Remains to be Seen* (annotated copy).

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Photographs
Scrapbooks

Subjects

Entertainers
Theater
Women comedians

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.)

Names

Greener, Dorothy, 1917-1971
Lillie, Beatrice, 1894-1989

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1-4 General Correspondence 1948-1950
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Refusals of Materials 1948-1950
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Stevens, Nan 1948-1955
- b. 1 f. 9-11 Photographs 1940s

Scripts

- b. 1 f. 12 *Kiss Me, Kate* 1948
- b. 1 f. 13 *Remains to be Seen* 1951

Scrapbooks

Lillie, Beatrice

- v. 1 1940s-1950s
- v. 2 1940s
- v. 3 Albert, Eddie 1950s
- v. 4 Garland, Judy 1950s-1960s