



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Barnett Owen papers regarding Ruth Draper**

1905-1956

\*T-Mss 1985-005

Processed by Jeanne Mixon.

## Summary

**Creator:** Owen, Barnett

**Title:** Barnett Owen papers regarding Ruth Draper

**Date:** 1905-1956

**Source:** The collection was donated by Owen Barnett to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1985.

**Abstract:** The collection documents the work of Ruth Draper. It includes copies of her monologues as well as correspondence and typescripts about her.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Photocopying prohibited.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

**Preferred citation:** Barnett Owen papers regarding Ruth Draper, \*T-Mss 1985-005, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Processing note:** Processed by Jeanne Mixon; machine-readable finding aid created by Mary Ellen Rogan. This collection was recataloged with a new title and classmark in October 2002. Prior title and classmark were: Ruth Draper Papers, 8-MWEZ 28761.

## Creator History

Ruth Draper, monologist, was born in New York City in 1884. She began her career writing sketches about people she knew or observed and performing them at parties, until Ignace Jan Paderewski encouraged her to take her talent to the stage. Her only appearance in a full-length play was as the maid in *A Lady's Name* at the Maxine Elliott Theatre in May, 1916. In February, 1917 she made her debut as a monologist. The only successful sketch in her first performance was "*The Actress*" which was the only one she wrote herself. This gave her the encouragement to write and perform her own sketches, and she did this to worldwide acclaim until her final performance December 26, 1956. She

died December 30, 1956 at the age of 72.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Barnett Owen papers regarding Ruth Draper are divided into correspondence, typescripts of her monologues in English and French, and other typescripts related to her career.

The collection contains her most popular monologues, however there is not much correspondence.

**Arrangement:** Series I: Correspondence, 1955-1981 Series II: Monologues, 1903-1955 Series III: Typescripts

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence  
Scripts

### **Subjects**

Monologues  
One-person shows (Performing arts)  
Theater -- United States

### **Names**

Owen, Barnett  
Draper, Ruth, 1884-1956

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence 1955-1981 (2 folders)

This series contains letters from Ruth Draper to Bartlett Owen. There is also one letter to Owen concerning a manuscript to the Twelfth Night Bindery.

Alphabetical

- b. 1 f. 1 Draper, Ruth 1955-1956 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 2 Twelfth Night Bindery 1981 (1 folder)

### Series II: Monologues 1903-1955 (35 folders)

This series contains annotated copies of Ruth Draper's monologues. Of special note is a copy of *The Actress*, which was her first successful monologue.

Alphabetical

- b. 1 f. 3 *The Actress* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 4 *At the Telephone Switchboard* 1927 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 5 *At an Art Exhibition in Boston* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 6 *At the Court of Philip IV* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 7 *A Board of Manager's Meeting* 1912 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 8 *A Charwoman* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 9 *Children's Party* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 10 *Christmas Eve* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 11 *A Class in Greek Poise* 1955 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 12 *A Cocktail Party* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 13 *In County Kerry* 1919 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 14 *A Dalmatian Peasant* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 15 *A Debutante at a Dance* 1952 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 16 *Doctors and Diets* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 17 *An English House Party* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 18 *Five Imaginary Folk Songs* 1920 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 19 *A French Dressmaker* 1903 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 20 *The German Governess* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 21 *Glasses* 1948 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 22 *In a Church in Italy* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 23 *In a Railway Station on the Western Plains* 1952 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 24 *The Italian Lesson* 1955 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 25 *Le Retour de L'Avengle* 1919 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 26 *A Miner's Wife* 1930 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 27 *On a Porch in a Maine Coast Village* 1952 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 28 *Opening a Bazaar* 1930 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 29 *The Return* 1945 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 30 *A Scottish Immigrant at Ellis Island* (1 folder)

Series II: Monologues (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 31 *Showing the Garden* 1923 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 32 *A Southern Girl at a Dance* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 33 *Three Breakfasts* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 34 *Three Generations in a Municipal Court* (1 folder)  
Title changed to *Three Generations in a Court of Domestic Relations*.
- b. 1 f. 35 *Three Women and Mr. Clifford* 1952 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 36 *Un Poilu* (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 37 *Vive la France* 1916 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 38 *Vive la France* 1940 (1 folder)

Series III: Typescripts (4 folders)

Typescripts about Ruth Draper's monologues and tours.

Alphabetical

- b. 1 f. 39 Character Sketches Summarized (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 40 Ruth Draper Holiday Season 1954-1955 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 41 Random Recollections of Memorable Appearances (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 42 Visits to England - Europe - The East (1 folder)