

Guide to the George DeMott Papers, ca. 1890-1954

*T-Mss 1956-003

The Billy Rose Theatre Division. New York Public Library.

40 Lincoln Center Plaza

New York, NY 10023-7498

(212) 870-1639

theatrediv@nypl.org

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Processed by: Mark Maniak

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Descriptive Summary

Title: George DeMott Papers, ca. 1890-1954

Collection ID: *T-Mss 1956-003

Creator: DeMott, George, 1907-1986

Extent: 24.3 linear feet (29 boxes + 2 oversized folders)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Billy Rose Theatre Division.40 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY 10023-7498

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required

Preferred Citation: George DeMott Papers, *T-Mss 1956-003, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Acquisition Information: The George DeMott Papers were purchased in 1956 from George DeMott.

Biographical Note

George Wilbur DeMott was born July 21, 1907 in Pennsylvania and was raised on a farm in Millville, Pennsylvania. He began his professional career in 1925 and spent 45 years as a professional clown, magician and juggler. For about 15 years (1939-1954) he toured the school assembly circuit, mostly in the mid-west, booking through various lecture and concert booking bureaus. Mr. DeMott is noted for being a pioneer in bringing juggling into school assembly programs, crafting his act into a complete, compact program that was both "practical and entertaining" and highly mobile. With his wife, Fanny, as his assistant, the DeMotts often performed several short programs per day, averaging 12-14 shows per week and logging thousands of miles in a single season.

At the age of 18, while working as a doorman at the Fox Theatre in Philadelphia, he reportedly met Harry Houdini and juggler William Hilton, an encounter that inspired the direction of his career. He began his career as a clown, touring the U.S. and Canada in various circuses including the Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus, Cole Bros. Circus, Keller's Society Circus, Wallace Bros. Circus and The Mackey Players. He also performed at various parks, fairs and department stores during the Christmas season, including a four-year stint at Gimbel's in Pittsburgh.

During his career Mr. DeMott also sought to promote the arts of juggling and magic. In addition to writing articles in many show business journals, he wrote and illustrated a how-to book on juggling entitled *Want to Be a Juggler?* (Tulsa, OK: Montadon Magic, 1962). He was also an early member of the International Jugglers Association, a 25-year member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, a member of the American Federation of Musicians, International Platform Association and American Guild of Variety Artists. In addition to his performing, Mr. DeMott was interested in show business history and collected theatrical ephemera, particularly items related to the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Many of those items make up the bulk of the George DeMott Papers.

George Wilbur DeMott died on October 22, 1986 in Leesburg, Florida, at the age of 79.

Scope and Content Note

The George DeMott Papers consist of correspondence, some diaries/appointment books, contracts, photographs and scrapbooks. The papers are divided into two distinct parts, with some overlap: items, such as contracts and correspondence, that relate to the career of Mr. DeMott and items, such as posters, brochures, etc. that were collected by him and placed into scrapbooks. The collection is divided into six series: Personal Papers, Correspondence, Independent Bookings, Booking Agencies and Agents, Scrapbooks and Oversized Materials. The Booking Agencies and Agents series (Series IV) is further subdivided by 18 sub-series and contains a great deal of correspondence that detail the problems and hardships of booking a two-person act into schools in the American mid-west at the middle of the twentieth century. Some of the issues include DeMott's concern with getting enough gas for his car during World War II and the Korean War. This series also contains a number of appointment books in which DeMott wrote short, pithy summaries of the various motels and hotels that he and his wife stayed in. The scrapbooks make up the bulk of the collection and contain a variety of items including clippings, posters, brochures, correspondence, handbills, flyers, photographs and programs. The Oversized Materials include a poster and road maps. What's missing from the collection are any significant personal papers. The few diaries found in the collection give little or no personal insight and the correspondence is overwhelmingly of a business nature.

Organization

The collection is organized into six series and eighteen sub-series. They are:

- Series I : Personal Papers
- Series II: Correspondence
- Series III: Independent Bookings
- Series IV: Booking Agencies and Agents
 - Sub-series 1 - Antrim Bureau
 - Sub-series 2 - Brown Lyceum Bureau
 - Sub-series 3- Charles A. Dietrich
 - Sub-series 4 - Graham Music and Lyceum Bureau
 - Sub-series 5 - Harry Cooke Theatrical Agency
 - Sub-series 6 - Kemerer Lyceum Bureau
 - Sub-series 7 - Mel Sober, Agency
 - Sub-series 8 - Mickey Kleman Entertainment Bureau
 - Sub-series 9 - Midwest Assemblies
 - Sub-series 10 - National School Assemblies
 - Sub-series 11 - North Dakota Agricultural College
 - Sub-series 12 - Pitt F. Parker/Royal Attractions
 - Sub-series 13 - Southeast School Assemblies
 - Sub-series 14 - Southern School Assemblies
 - Sub-series 15 - University of Kansas. University Extension Division
 - Sub-series 16 - University of Minnesota. University Extension Service
 - Sub-series 17 - University of Wisconsin. University Extension Division

- Sub-series 18 - Miscellaneous Booking Agencies and Agents
- Series V: Scrapbooks
- Series VI: Oversized Materials

Series Descriptions and Container Listing

Series I: Personal Papers, 1920-1959

7 folders

Arranged by type

The personal papers consist of photographs of DeMott and his wife, a bookings diary, mileage notebook, address book, miscellaneous notes (mostly related to bookings) and various publicity items including handbills, flyers and business cards.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| b. 1 f. 1 | <p>Photographs / George DeMott
 1 folder
 Undated photographs of the juggler/magician George DeMott.</p> |
| b. 1 f. 2 | <p>Photographs / Mrs. Fanny DeMott
 1 folder
 Undated photographs (one framed, one unframed) of Mrs. Fanny (Hill) DeMott, George DeMott's spouse, with photocopy of annotation by George DeMott accompanying the framed photograph. Framed photograph, along with annotation, was originally found in a scrapbook.</p> |
| b. 1 f. 3 | <p>Bookings diary, 1939
 1 folder
 Diary and date book of bookings for the year 1939. Half of one page of tables has been torn out.</p> |
| b. 1 f. 4 | <p>Address book
 1 folder
 Undated address book.</p> |
| b. 1 f. 5 | <p>Mileage notebook, ca. 1948-1949
 1 folder
 Mileage notebook [ca. 1948-1949] for the following booking agencies: Southeast School Assemblies, University of Wisconsin and University of Minnesota.</p> |
| b. 1 f. 6 | <p>Miscellaneous notes
 1 folder
 Undated miscellaneous notes including a notebook,</p> |

mileage and income table and clipping.

b. 1 f. 7

Publicity material, ca. 1920-1950

1 folder

Publicity material, including business cards, postcards, flyers, handbills and a brochure, ca. 1920s-1950s. A poster can also be found in the Oversize Materials Series.

Series II: Correspondence, 1940-1951

1 folder

Alphabetical

This series consists of one folder containing primarily business correspondence, not related to a particular booking agency or agent. There are, however, a few rejection letters in regard to bookings presumably sought out by Mr. DeMott on his own.

b. 1 f. 8

General correspondence "A-Z", 1940-1951

1 folder

General correspondence, arranged alphabetically, from the 1940s and 1950s, mostly of a business nature.

Series III: Independent Bookings, 1941-1954

13 folders

Chronological

This series contains material related to bookings that DeMott sought out on his own, independent of any agency or agent. He referred to them as "self-bookings". The material consists mostly of correspondence and contracts, but there are also items such as appointment books or diaries, miscellaneous notes and various lists (prop list, contact list, list of Kiwanis clubs, Lions clubs, etc.)

b. 1 f. 9

Pennsylvania bookings, 1941 Sept.-Oct.

1 folder

Contracts for independent bookings in the state of Pennsylvania.

b. 1 f. 10

Pennsylvania bookings, 1942 Jan. 6-19

1 folder

Correspondence and contracts [dated January 6, 14 and 19] regarding independent bookings in Pennsylvania for the year 1942.

- b. 1 f. 11 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1944 May 11**
1 folder
One contract covering an independent booking in Pennsylvania, dated May 11, 1944.
- b. 1 f. 12 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1948 Mar.-Oct.**
1 folder
Correspondence (to and from DeMott), contract and list of high school principals in Maryland, covering the period March-April, June and October, 1948.
- b. 1 f. 13-14 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1949 Sept.-Dec.**
2 folders
Correspondence and a list of Rotary Clubs, covering the period September-December, 1949.
- b. 1 f. 15-16 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1950**
2 folders
Correspondence, contracts and a "self-booked" diary, for the year 1950.
- b. 1 f. 17-18 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1951**
2 folders
Correspondence, contracts and a "self-booked" diary, for the year 1951.
- b. 1 f. 19 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1953 July 19-Nov. 20**
1 folder
Correspondence, dated August 12; two contracts, dated August 6 and November 20 and a clipping, dated July 19, 1953.
- b. 1 f. 20 **Pennsylvania bookings, 1954 Jan.-Apr.**
1 folder
Contracts, correspondence, prop lists and lists of Kiwanis and Lion's Clubs for the year 1954 (January-April).
- b. 1 f. 21 **Pennsylvania bookings**
1 folder
Undated material consisting of: miscellaneous booking notes; list of parks, lodges and fairs; contact lists and cards; prop lists and contracts.

Series IV: Booking Agencies and Agents, 1939-1954

1.89 linear feet (5 boxes)

Alphabetical and chronological

The items in this series consist primarily of correspondence and contracts, supplemented by items that are particular to a certain agency or agent that DeMott dealt with. These would include schedules, itineraries, "talent instruction" sheets, weekly reports, expense and income reports and mileage tally sheets. There are also items of a more personal nature such as date books, appointment books, mileage notebooks and miscellaneous notes. There are 18 sub-series, each representing an individual booking agency or agent. They are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each sub-series. Since Mr. DeMott often booked with more than one agency or agent in a particular season, there is a good deal of overlapping in the years covered.

Sub-series 1 - Antrim Bureau, 1943-1950

3 folders

This sub-series contains correspondence from Delno E. Supplee, General Manager of the Antrim Bureau, a Philadelphia based company.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| b. 2 f. 1 | Booking files, 1943 Sept. 29-Oct. 14
1 folder
Correspondence, dated September 29 and October 14, 1943. |
| b. 2 f. 2 | Booking files, 1948 Sept. 9-20
1 folder
Correspondence, dated September 9 and September 20, 1948. |
| b. 2 f. 3 | Booking files, 1950 Nov. 1-Dec. 21
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 1 and December 21, 1950. |

Sub-series 2 - Brown Lyceum Bureau, 1939-1940

2 folders

Correspondence, from the Manager, Walter H. Brown and a

route sheet.

b. 2 f. 4 Booking files, 1939 Nov. 7-Dec. 28
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 7th-December, 28th, 1939.

b. 2 f. 5 Booking files, 1940 Feb. 8-Oct. 5
1 folder
Correspondence, dated February 8th, 12th; August 21st; September 30th; October 5th and an undated route sheet, for the year 1940.

Sub-series 3 - Charles A. Dietrich, 1940-1952
16 folders

This sub-series contains correspondence, schedules, itineraries, location sheets, mileage tally sheet and a contract. The early correspondence, up to 1950, is from Charles A. Dietrich, after that the primary correspondent is William Mowry, Managing Director. A number of items have been photocopied and the originals have been encapsulated in mylar.

b. 2 f. 6 Booking files, 1939 Nov.
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 3rd, 7th, 13th, 27th and 30th, 1939.

b. 2 f. 7 Booking files, 1940 Feb. 3-Dec. 31
1 folder
Correspondence (13 letters), covering the period February-August and one letter dated December 31st.

b. 2 f. 8-9 Booking files, 1941 Jan. 11-Apr. 20
2 folders
Correspondence (19 letters), covering the period January-April, 1941 and a schedule covering the period February 3-April 20.

b. 2 f. 10 Booking files, 1942 Aug. 6-Sept. 12
1 folder
Correspondence, dated August 6th-September 12th, 1942.

b. 2 f. 11 Booking files, 1943 Sept. 10-Oct. 20
1 folder

Correspondence, dated September 10-October 20th, 1943.

b. 2 f. 12

Booking files, 1944 Apr. 6-July 18

1 folder

Correspondence, dated April 6-July 18th, 1944.

b. 2 f. 13-17

Booking files, 1945 June-Dec.

5 folders

Correspondence, dated June 19-October 6, location sheets and schedules covering the period September-December, 1945.

b. 2 f. 18

Booking files, ca. 1945

1 folder

Itinerary and schedules, ca. 1945.

b. 2 f. 19

Booking files, 1950 Oct. 28-Dec.

1 folder

Correspondence, dated October 28th-December 1950.

b. 2 f. 20

Booking files, 1951 Apr. 17-Aug. 20

1 folder

Correspondence, dated April 17th; June 15th; August 10th and 20th, 1951.

b. 2 f. 21

Booking files, 1952 Jan. 31-Oct. 23

1 folder

Correspondence, dated January 31st and August 28th, with a receipt, contract and schedules covering the period September 15-October 23.

b. 2 f. 22

Booking files

1 folder

Undated material including town location sheets, miscellaneous notes, list of towns and mileage tally sheet.

Sub-series 4 - Graham Music and Lyceum Bureau, 1947-1951

4 folders

The Graham Music and Lyceum Bureau was based in Utah and the correspondence reflects DeMott's attempts to secure bookings in that state. Other items include a contract and schedules. There is also a carbon of a letter from DeMott.

- b. 2 f. 23 Booking files, 1947 Nov. 7
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 7th, 1947.
- b. 2 f. 24 Booking files, 1948 June 21
1 folder
Correspondence.
- b. 2 f. 25 Booking files, 1950 July 19-Dec. 21
1 folder
Correspondence, dated July 19th-December 21st,
1950.
- b. 2 f. 26 Booking files, 1951 Feb. 8-Dec. 5
1 folder
Correspondence, dated February 8-September 15th;
with a contract and schedules covering the period
October 15-December 5.

Sub-series 5 - Harry Cooke Theatrical Agency, 1942-1947

5 folders

This was a Pennsylvania-based booking agency. Most of the items are contracts, reflecting DeMott's work in venues such as county and community fairs, parks and civic and private organizations such as the Moose Club, Elks Club and a "Bryer's [sic] Ice Cream Company plant". In addition to the contracts there are a handful of letters.

- b. 3 f. 1 Booking files, 1942 Dec. 5-6
1 folder
Correspondence, dated December 5th and 6th, 1942.
- b. 3 f. 2 Booking files, 1945 July 25-Aug. 14
1 folder
Correspondence [4 letters, dated July 25th, 31st;
August 1st and 14th] and contracts [9, dated July 25th,
30th; August 1st, 7th (2), 10th (2) and 13th (2)], for the
year 1945.
- b. 3 f. 3-4 Booking files, 1946 May 27-Oct. 14
2 folders
Correspondence and contracts covering the period
from May 27 to October 14, 1946.
- b. 3 f. 5 Booking files, 1947 Mar. 25-June 24

1 folder

Contracts, dated March 25th; May 16th, 20th; June 9th and 24th, 1947.

Sub-series 6 - Kemerer Lyceum Bureau, 1939-1941

3 folders

This sub-series contains mostly correspondence, with some schedules, miscellaneous notes and a fragment of a letter.

b. 3 f. 6

Booking files, 1939 Nov. 11-24

1 folder

Correspondence, dated November 11th, 16th and 24th, 1939.

b. 3 f. 7

Booking files, 1940 Jan. 15-Feb. 2

1 folder

Correspondence, dated January 15th and February 2nd, 1940.

b. 3 f. 8

Booking files, ca. 1941 Sept.-Dec.

1 folder

Various items, including fragment of a letter, miscellaneous booking and mileage notes and schedules, almost all hand-written, covering the period September-December, ca. 1941.

b. 3 f. 9

Booking files

1 folder

Correspondence, dated June 5 (no year indicated) from Gertrude and Virginia Kemerer.

Sub-series 7 - Mel Sober, Agency, 1951-1952

3 folders

Correspondence and contracts concerning bookings, in Pennsylvania, at public and private venues (no schools) such as the V.F.W., American Legion, Veterans Hospital, Owls Club, etc.

b. 3 f. 10-11

Booking files, 1951 Feb. 16-Aug 1

2 folders

Correspondence and contracts, covering the period from February 16-August 1, 1951.

b. 3 f. 12

Booking files, 1952 May 29-July 9

1 folder

Contracts, dated May 29th; June 9th, 10th and July 9th, 1952, with the Mel Sober, Agency.

Sub-series 8 - Mickey Kleman Entertainment Bureau, 1951

4 folders

This agency was also based in Pennsylvania and the correspondence and contracts also reflect DeMott's bookings in venues other than schools, including civic organizations, private institutions and public spaces such as parks and halls.

b. 3 f. 13-15

Booking files, 1951 Jan.-Sept.

3 folders

Correspondence and contracts, covering the period of January-September, 1951.

b. 3 f. 16

Booking files

1 folder

Undated correspondence from Mickey Kleman.

Sub-series 9 - Midwest Assemblies, 1940-1942

4 folders

This agency booked acts solely for school assemblies. Materials in this sub-series include correspondence, a contract, "Instructions to Talent" sheet, schedules, mileage notebook, program comment postcard and a thank-you note.

b. 3 f. 17

Booking files, 1940 ca. Sept. 6

1 folder

Correspondence [ca. September 6], 1940 from Ray E. Ramsay.

b. 3 f. 18

Booking files, 1941 July 19-Dec. 17

1 folder

Correspondence, dated July 19-December 17, 1941. Also included are photographs of DeMott, cut from flyers and an "Instructions to Talent" sheet.

b. 3 f. 19

Booking files, 1942 Jan.13-Mar. 23

1 folder

Correspondence, dated January 13-August 10. There are also weekly "Talent Assignment" sheets listing the touring schedule, covering the period of February 2nd to March 23rd.

b. 3 f. 20

Booking files

1 folder

Undated material including mileage notebook and list, telegram, program comment postcard and a thank you card.

Sub-series 10 - National School Assemblies, 1942-1944

2 folders

This agency also booked solely for school assemblies.

Materials include correspondence and a contract.

b. 3 f. 21

Booking files, 1942 May 2-July 13

1 folder

Correspondence, dated May 2 and July 13, from R. E. Green.

b. 3 f. 22

Booking files, 1944 July 13-Aug. 1

1 folder

Correspondence, dated July 13 and August 1, from R. E. Green and a contract, also dated August 1.

Sub-series 11 - North Dakota Agricultural College, 1949-1950

3 folders

Correspondence, a mileage/income tally sheet, schedules, mileage notes and a date book are the items contained in this sub-series.

b. 3 f. 23

Booking files, 1949 Sept. 9-Dec. 12

1 folder

Correspondence, dated September 9-November 16. Also included is a photocopy of a mileage and income tally sheet; the original can be found in the University of Minnesota 1950 folder. The tally sheet covers the period September 12-December 12.

b. 3 f. 24

Booking files, ca. 1949

1 folder

Schedules and mileage notes, ca. 1949.

b. 3 f. 25

Booking files, 1949-1950

1 folder

Date book listing engagements for the 1949-1950 season.

Sub-series 12 - Pitt F. Parker / Royal Attractions, 1939-1948

6 folders

An agency based in Boston, Parker/Royal Attractions covered bookings in schools, mostly high schools, throughout the New England area. Materials include correspondence, schedules and booking notes.

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|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| b. 4 | f. 1 | Booking files, 1939 Nov. 14-Dec. 5
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 14-December 5, 1939, from Pitt F. Parker. |
| b. 4 | f. 2 | Booking files, 1940 Jan. 30-Dec. 27
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 30-December 27, 1940, from Pitt F. Parker. |
| b. 4 | f. 3 | Booking files, 1941 Jan.13-Dec. 31
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 13-December 31; schedules covering the period of January 7-31 and booking notes dated January 27, all for the year 1941. |
| b. 4 | f. 4 | Booking files, 1942 Sept. 15
1 folder
Correspondence, dated September 15, 1942, from Pitt F. Parker. |
| b. 4 | f. 5 | Booking files, 1946 Oct. 21
1 folder
Correspondence, dated October 21, 1946, from Pitt F. Parker. |
| b. 4 | f. 6 | Booking files, 1948 ca. Feb. 24-Apr. 12
1 folder
Correspondence, ca. February 24, and schedules covering the period March 1-April 12, 1948. |

Sub-series 13 - Southeast School Assemblies, 1943-1953

6 folders

Based in North Carolina, Southeast School Assemblies covered bookings for schools in the southeast part of the United States. Materials include correspondence, schedules, a

contract, mileage and income notebooks and "Talent Directions" sheet.

- b. 4 f. 7 Booking files, 1943 Sept. 22-Nov. 23
1 folder
Correspondence, dated September 22, 27; October 4;
November 23, 1943, from Robert E. Roth.
- b. 4 f. 8-9 Booking files, 1944 Jan. 12-Aug. 24
2 folders
Correspondence, dated January 12-August 24;
contract, dated January 29; schedules, covering the
period January 30-March 17 and 2 mileage and income
notebooks, all for the year 1944.
- b. 4 f. 10 Booking files, 1945 Dec. 10-31
1 folder
Correspondence, dated December 10-31, 1945 plus a
"Talent Directions" sheet.
- b. 4 f. 11 Booking files, 1951 February 21
1 folder
Correspondence, dated February 21, 1951, from
Robert E. Roth.
- b. 4 f. 12 Booking files, 1953 May 20
1 folder
Correspondence, dated May 20, 1953, from Robert E.
Roth.

Sub-series 14 - Southern School Assemblies, 1942-1951
5 folders

Southern School Assemblies concerned itself with booking assembly and night programs in schools. This sub-series consists entirely of correspondence, including letters from George DeMott, which illustrate Mr. DeMott's tough stance in negotiating a contract.

- b. 4 f. 13 Booking files, 1942 Aug. 4
1 folder
Correspondence, dated August 4, 1942, from Harry
Byrd Kline.
- b. 4 f. 14 Booking files, 1944 Jan. 23-Mar. 19
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 23 (with a response

from DeMott dated January 27); February 16 and March 19, 1944, from Harry Byrd Kline.

b. 4 f. 15

Booking files, 1947 May 5
1 folder
Correspondence, dated May 5, 1947, from Harry Byrd Kline.

b. 4 f. 16

Booking files, 1950 Jan. 2-Mar. 4
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 2-March 4, from Harry Byrd Kline.

b. 4 f. 17

Booking files, 1951 Sept. 18-Nov. 1
1 folder
Correspondence, dated September 18 and November 1, 1951 from, Harry Byrd Kline.

**Sub-series 15 - University of Kansas. University
Extension Division, 1945-1953**
14 folders

This agency, along with the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin, appears to have been one of the three major agencies that Mr. DeMott used to book the bulk of his school programs in the mid-west. The University of Kansas covered mostly schools in the middle plains states, such as Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. Materials include correspondence, contracts, schedules, mileage notebook, date books and "Instructions" sheets.

b. 5 f. 1

Booking files, 1945 July 23
1 folder
Correspondence, dated July 23, 1945, from Guy V. Keeler, plus a contract, also dated July 23.

b. 5 f. 2

Booking files, 1946 May 27-Dec. 31
1 folder
Correspondence (10 letters) covering the period of May 27-December 31. In addition, there is also a contract dated June 14 and schedules covering the period January 6-17, 1947.

b. 5 f. 3-5

Booking files, 1947 Jan.-Dec.
3 folders
Correspondence and schedules, covering the period of January-May, October-December, 1947 and a mileage

notebook for the 1947 season as well as the time span of January 3-February 20, 1948.

- b. 5 f. 6 **Booking files, 1948 Jan.-Oct.**
1 folder
Correspondence and schedules, covering the period of January-March and September-October, 1948.
- b. 5 f. 7 **Booking files, 1948-1949**
1 folder
Datebook, for the 1948-1949 season, covering the period of January 3, 1948-May 23, 1949.
- b. 5 f. 8 **Booking files, 1949-1950**
1 folder
Schedules, dated December 19, 1949 for the winter/spring 1950 tour (February 6-April 24, 1950).
- b. 5 f. 9-10 **Booking files, 1950 Jan. 27-Sept. 21**
2 folders
Correspondence, dated February 3-September 21 and schedules, covering the period of January 27-April 7, 1950.
- b. 5 f. 11 **Booking files, 1951 Jan. 9-July 5**
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 9-July 5, 1951. Also included is a contract, dated June 26.
- b. 5 f. 12 **Booking files, 1952 Apr. 2-Nov. 26**
1 folder
Correspondence, dated April 2-November 26.
- b. 5 f. 13-14 **Booking files, 1953 Jan.-Dec.**
2 folders
Correspondence, dated May 16-June 30, 1953 plus a diary/date book, covering the period of January-May; the period from June-December is labeled as "self-booked" dates.
- b. 5 f. 15 **Booking files**
1 folder
Undated material, including two "Instructions" sheets and two fragments of letters.

Sub-series 16 - University of Minnesota. University Extension Service, 1942-1950

14 folders

This agency covered schools in Minnesota, with some bookings in North and South Dakota. Materials include correspondence, contracts, mileage and income tally sheets, instruction sheets, mileage notebooks and a fragment of a letter.

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|------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| b. 5 | f. 16 | Booking files, 1942 Aug. 4
1 folder
Correspondence, dated August 4, 1942, from James S. Lombard. |
| b. 5 | f. 17 | Booking files, 1943 Nov. 30-Dec. 29
1 folder
Correspondence, dated November 30, December 29, plus a contract dated December 7, 1943. |
| b. 5 | f. 18 | Booking files, 1944 Jan. 5-Dec. 12
1 folder
Correspondence, dated January 5-December 12, 1944. |
| b. 5 | f. 19-21 | Booking files, 1945 Jan. 12-Dec. 21
3 folders
Correspondence, dated January 12-December 21, 1945 and schedules, covering the period of January 8-May 18, 1945. |
| b. 5 | f. 22 | Booking files, 1946 July 24-Nov. 15
1 folder
Correspondence, dated July 24-November 15, 1946, plus a contract dated October 22, 1946. |
| b. 5 | f. 23 | Booking files, 1948 June 28-Dec. 6
1 folder
Correspondence, dated June 28-December 6, 1948, plus a contract dated May 13, 1948. |
| b. 6 | f. 1-3 | Booking files, 1949 Jan. 5-Dec. 22
3 folders
Correspondence, from Agnes Heir, dated January 5-May 27, August 2-December 22; mileage and income tally sheet; schedules and instruction sheet, all from 1949. |
| b. 6 | f. 4 | Booking files, 1949-1950
1 folder |

Mileage notebook, for the 1949-1950 season.

b. 6 f. 5

Booking files, 1950 Jan. 9-Mar. 2

1 folder

Correspondence, dated January 13-March 2, from Agnes Heir; schedules covering the period of January 9-February 3 and a mileage tally sheet.

b. 6 f. 6

Booking files

1 folder

Undated material, including a mileage notebook, mileage tally sheet, talent instruction sheet, correspondence and a fragment of a letter.

Sub-series 17 - University of Wisconsin. University Extension Division, 1942-1953

14 folders

This agency covered schools in Wisconsin, with some bookings in Illinois. Materials include correspondence, weekly reports, accounts of income and daily expenses, an itinerary, a diary, a list of Wisconsin hotels, clippings from a Milwaukee Yellow Pages directory and an application for Supplemental and Occupational Mileage Ration.

b. 6 f. 7

Booking files, 1942 Oct. 6

1 folder

Correspondence, dated October 6, 1942, from R.B. Duncan.

b. 6 f. 8

Booking files, 1943 Nov. 3

1 folder

Correspondence, dated November 3, 1943, from R.B. Duncan, and a contract.

b. 6 f. 9-10

Booking files, 1944 Aug. 18-Dec. 19

2 folders

Correspondence, dated August 18, 29; Weekly Reports covering the period of September 11-December 19; Accounts of Income and Daily Expenses, covering the period of September 5-December 15.

b. 6 f. 11

Booking files, 1947 June 8

1 folder

Contract, dated June 8, 1947.

b. 6 f. 12-13

Booking files, 1948 July 13-Dec. 22

2 folders

Correspondence, dated July 13-October 13; Accounts of Services and Daily Expenses, covering the period of September 9-December 22; DeMott's summary of the 1948 season and Weekly Reports, covering the period of September 5-December 17.

b. 6 f. 14

Booking files, 1950 Aug. 25-Sept. 1

1 folder

Correspondence, dated August 25 and 31, plus a contract, dated September 1; all from 1950.

b. 6 f. 15

Booking files, 1951 June 15-Dec. 26

1 folder

Correspondence, dated June 15-December 26. Also included are a list of "mail towns" and an itinerary, dated October 24.

b. 6 f. 16-18

Booking files, 1952

3 folders

Correspondence, dated February 8 and July 1; Weekly Reports, Income and Daily Expenses Reports, covering the period of January 6-May 21 and week of October 11 (items kept in original order with most recent date first); diary of Mrs. Fanny E. DeMott, for 1952.

b. 6 f. 19

Booking files, 1953 Jan. 4

1 folder

Correspondence, dated January 4, 1953.

b. 6 f. 20

Booking files

1 folder

Undated material: list of Wisconsin hotels, withholding tax tables, clippings from Milwaukee Yellow Pages, application for Supplemental and Occupational Mileage Ration and a fragment of a letter.

Sub-series 18 - Miscellaneous Booking Agencies and Agents, 1939-1954

2 folders

This sub-series contains material from various agencies and agents that often covered only a handful of bookings, usually single dates spread over a few months. Some of the correspondence is in the form of rejection letters, in response to Mr. DeMott's inquiry to possible bookings. In addition to the correspondence there are also a number of contracts.

b. 6 f. 21-22

Booking files, 1939-1954

2 folders

Correspondence and contracts related to miscellaneous booking agencies and agents, arranged alphabetically, from the 1940s and 1950s.

Series V: Scrapbooks, 1890-1959

23 boxes

The scrapbooks make up the bulk of the collection and contain items that reflect Mr. DeMott's interest in the history of show business, particularly the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits and the art of magic shows and magicians. The items include posters, handbills, flyers, business cards, clippings, photographs, brochures, correspondence and programs. There is no particular arrangement to the scrapbooks, Mr. DeMott appears to have glued items into the same scrapbook without regard to year or subject matter. Some of the scrapbooks contain publicity material of Mr. DeMott's own shows. A number of the scrapbooks have inscriptions written by Mr. DeMott and some items are autographed by the subject. Most of the scrapbooks are in very fragile condition with covers missing, pages loose and the backing paper very brittle. They should be handled carefully.

b. 7 f. 1-2

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

2 folders

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains two scrapbooks (without covers) in two folders.

b. 8 f. 1-2

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

2 folders

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are

mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains two scrapbooks (one without covers, one devoted entirely to magic tricks and inscribed as "A Magic Scrapbook" [folder 2]) in two folders.

b. 9 f. 1-2

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

2 folders

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains two scrapbooks (without covers) in two folders. Scrapbook in folder 2 contains publicity material for DeMott, scrapbook in folder 1 contains correspondence from the juggler Joe Rosani.

b. 10 f. 1-2

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

2 folders

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains two scrapbooks (without covers) in two folders. Both scrapbooks contain material primarily on magic and magicians.

b. 11

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 folder

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook (without covers) in one folder.

- b. 12 **Scrapbooks / George DeMott**
1 scrapbook
Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one bound scrapbook (with covers).
- b. 13 **Scrapbooks / George DeMott**
1 scrapbook
Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, posters, brochures, business cards, clippings, programs, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook (with loose covers). Half the scrapbook is devoted to magicians, including portraits and photographs.
- b. 14 **Scrapbooks / George DeMott**
1 scrapbook
Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.
- b. 15 **Scrapbooks / George DeMott**
1 scrapbook
Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on

very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook which contains posters of the juggler Joe Rosani (aka Rosani) and material related to the poet scout Captain Jack Crawford.

b. 16

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 17

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook which contains material related to the juggler Joe Rosani, aka Rosani.

b. 18

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 19

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items

contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 20

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and inscriptions, many are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 21 f. 1-2

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

2 folders

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains two scrapbooks (one without a cover) in two folders. Both scrapbooks also contain publicity material for DeMott.

b. 22

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 23

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items

contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook.

b. 24

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook (missing one cover) in a folder.

b. 25

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook (missing one cover) in a folder.

b. 26

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

1 scrapbook

Scrapbooks containing material related to performers on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits. Material includes handbills, flyers, business cards, programs, posters, brochures, photographs and correspondence. Some items contain autographs and are annotated by George DeMott. Dates range from ca. late nineteenth century to ca. 1950s. Most of the items are mounted on very brittle paper. This box contains one scrapbook of photographs, primarily of magicians.

b. 27

Photographs / Eugene Laurant

1 portfolio

A portfolio of undated photographs of the magician Eugene Laurant.

b. 28 f. 1-4

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

4 folders

Four separate scrapbooks containing clippings on Charlie Chaplin, [1926/27, the early 1950s]; an article on John Wilkes Booth, from Life magazine [June, no year]; a three-part article entitled "Painless Parker, last of America's tooth plumbers" from Collier's [January 5, 12, 19, 1952]; an article entitled "Film pioneer's roll of their living immortals" from Life magazine [1956] featuring "then and now " photographs with brief biographies of silent film stars including Mary Pickford, Gloria Swanson, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, Norma Talmadge, Mae Marsh, Ronald Colman, Richard Barthelmess, Lillian Gish and Charlie Chaplin.

b. 29 f. 1-6

Scrapbooks / George DeMott

6 folders

Six scrapbooks containing: material on the magician Ed Myhre (posters and correspondence) [ca. 1956]; window cards advertising the juggler/manipulator Rosani [undated]; a book of sheet music, "Ten Songs" by Geo. H. Aller [copyright 1916]; a portrait of Col. T. A. Edwards [undated]; a collection of Lyceum course window cards, featuring Petrie's White Hussars, Bockewitz-cartoonist, The Musical Merrymakers and the magicians Eugene Laurant and Edward M. Reno [undated]; a Lyceum circular for Edwin Maro, magician [undated].

b. 30

Autographed print / Jack Crawford

1 portfolio

Undated, autographed color print of Captain Jack Crawford, aka "the poet-scout".

Series VI: Oversized Materials, 1948-1950

1 folder

This series contains four oversized items: a poster, and three road or highway maps. The maps are annotated by Mr. DeMott, indicating towns that he had bookings in as well as mileage notes. All items are shelved separately from the rest of the collection, in the Rose Building map cases. Please consult a librarian for access; advance notice will be required.

b. 31

Oversized items / George DeMott, 1948-1950

1 folder

Oversized items including an undated poster (in a folder)

and the following loose items: a state highway map of North Dakota [1948], a road map of Pennsylvania [1950] and a highway map of Wisconsin [1950], both the original and a photocopy.

Related Materials

* 1) In addition to George DeMott's Papers, the Billy Rose Theatre Division also has a copy of his book, *Want to be a Juggler?* (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Montadon Magic, 1962). The call number is MZC(DeMott, George, *Want to be a juggler*).

* 2) The Library of Congress also holds a scrapbook of George DeMott material in its McManus-Young Collection (Library of Congress) under the title [Magic miscellanea, 1845-1955]. The DeMott scrapbook is located in Series V, Sub-series B. DeMott scrapbooks. A finding aid is available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division; folder level control. The call number is GV1542.M32 1845 McManus-Young Coll. More information can also be obtained at <http://catalog.loc.gov>.

* 3) Information on George DeMott and juggling can be found online at the Juggling Information Service's (JIS) website: www.juggling.org. The JIS maintains online versions of *Juggler's World*, the journal of the International Juggler's Association. Various issues of *Juggler's World* contain a number of references to Mr. DeMott, including an obituary.

* 4) The Billy Rose Theatre Division contains a number of items concerning magic and magicians, including books and non-book materials. One of the largest collections of non-book materials can be found in the Ellison Collection, a series of scrapbooks containing clippings, programs and brochures from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

* 5) Material on Chautauquas and Lyceums can be found in both the Billy Rose Theatre Division and the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, both book and non-book items. Please consult the online catalog, CATNYP, as well as the Non-Book Card Catalog (the "white cards") in the Theatre Collection for further information.