



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Frank Wilstach papers on Sothern and Marlowe

1900-1933

*T-Mss 1934-001

Processed by Elisabeth Elkind.

Summary

Creator: Wilstach, Frank Jenners, 1865-1933

Title: Frank Wilstach papers on Sothern and Marlowe

Date: 1900-1933

Abstract: Correspondence and press releases of Frank J. Wilstach document his promotion of the acting careers of Sothern and Marlowe.

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Processing note: Processed by Elisabeth Elkind.

Creator History

Frank Jeffords Wilstach (1865-1933), American theatrical manager and press agent, was the press representative for Sothern and Marlowe. Born in Indiana, he was the author of *The Dictionary of Similes*, 1916 and wrote a book and articles about Wild Bill Hickok.

E. H. Sothern (1859-1933), one of the great Shakespearean actors of his day, was born in New Orleans, educated in England and made his New York debut in 1879. The pinnacle of his career was perhaps his *Romeo and Juliet* with his second wife, Julia Marlowe. He continued to act after she retired in 1924. His first wife was Virginia Harned.

Julia Marlowe (1865-1950), leading American actress in the early 20th century, was born Sarah Frances Frost in England but came to the United States at the age of four. She first appeared as a child

under the name Fanny Brough in *HMS Pinafore* in 1878 and made her New York debut in 1887. She had a long career as a leading actress in Shakespeare and comedies and toured with her husband E. H. Sothorn whom she married in 1904. She retired from the stage in 1915, but made a comeback before retiring again in 1924.

Custodial History

Papers were found in the Library's Cage Files. The Manuscripts Division of the New York Public Library also holds some papers of Frank J. Wiltach received from his estate in 1934. The papers pertaining to Sothorn & Marlowe probably arrived then and were transferred to the Theatre Collection at a later date.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of correspondence, mostly letters by Sothorn to Wiltach, press releases by Wiltach on Sothorn and Marlowe, articles and drafts by Sothorn or Marlowe and clippings about them. The collection sheds light on the acting careers of the husband and wife team of Sothorn and Marlowe and documents the work of their press agent, Frank J. Wiltach.

Arrangement: Series I: Correspondence Series II: Writings Series III. Printed material

Key Terms

Subjects

Actors -- United States
Theatrical managers

Occupations

Press agents

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Press releases

Names

Wiltach, Frank Jenners, 1865-1933
Marlowe, Julia, 1865-1950
Sothorn, E. H. (Edward Hugh), 1859-1933

Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1911-1933, n.d (13 folders)

The bulk of this series is letters by Sothern to Wilstach in his role of manager and press agent for Sothern & Marlowe. The letters, which shed light on the theatrical careers of Sothern & Marlowe, are numerous though a little hard to decipher. There are also a few letters by Marlowe to Wilstach.

Letters by Sothern to Wilstach are arranged chronologically followed by undated. These are followed by letters by Wilstach to Sothern, letters by others to Sothern, letters by others to Wilstach and a Letter to the Editor by Wilstach.

- b. 1 f. 1 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1911 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 2 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1912 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 3 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1913 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 4 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1914-1919 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 5 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1923-1929 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 6 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach 1931-1933 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Letters by E. H. Sothern to Frank Wilstach n.d. (2 folders)
- b. 1 f. 9 Letters by [Wilstach] to Sothern 1912-1913 (1 folder)
Two carbon copies of typescripts.
- b. 1 f. 10 Letter by Edwin G. Lawrence to Sothern 1912 Oct. 18 (1 folder)
With clipping enclosed.
- b. 1 f. 11 Letters by Julia Marlowe to Frank Wilstach 1912-1913 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 12 Letters to Frank Wilstach from others 1911-1913, n.d (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 13 Letter to the Editor by [Frank J. Wilstach] 1912 Oct. 19 (1 folder)

Series II. Writings 1913, n.d (11 folders and 1 volume)

Consists of typescript press releases on Sothern & Marlowe by Wilstach concerning their theatrical touring, drafts of articles and other writings by Sothern and by Marlowe, a press release on Sothern by Townsend Walsh, some miscellaneous notes and fragments, and a volume bound by the Library many years ago of publicity for Sothern & Marlowe.

- b. 1 f. 14 Press releases "from Frank J. Wilstach" n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 15 Press releases [by Frank Wilstach] n.d. (1 folder)
No name given on reports.
- b. 1 f. 16 Typescript articles [by Frank Wilstach] n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 17 Typescript interviews with E. H. Sothern n.d. (1 folder)
Probably written by Wilstach.
- b. 1 f. 18 Drafts of articles by E. H. Sothern n.d. (1 folder)
Possibly written by Wilstach.
- b. 1 f. 19 Manuscripts by E. H. Sothern n.d. (1 folder)
Includes poem to Julia Marlowe.
- b. 1 f. 20 Drafts of articles by Julia Marlowe 1913, n.d (1 folder)
Typescript and handwritten, some possibly by Wilstach. Includes a letter she wrote to him asking him to augment the enclosed report of a talk she had with a magazine reporter called, "Women and Marriage and the Art of the Theatre.
- b. 1 f. 21 Typescript fragments of articles and poems n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 22 Notes probably by Wilstach n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 23 Press release on Sothern by Townsend Walsh n.d. (1 folder)

Series II. Writings (cont.)

- v. 2 **Bound press releases on Sothern & Marlowe** n.d. (1 volume)
 Stamped Wilstach Collection and undoubtedly by him, materials were formerly cataloged as MWEZ 1362.

Series III. Printed material 1900-1922, n.d (9 folders)

Consists of articles by Julia Marlowe published in newspapers and magazines, articles about her or about E. H. Sothern or Shakespeare, clippings on Sothern and Marlowe, and a clipping on Frank J. Wilstach.

- b. 3 f. 1 **Articles by Julia Marlowe** 1902, n.d (1 folder)
 Published in newspapers and magazines.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Articles about Julia Marlowe** 1900-1913, n.d (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 3 **Articles about E. H. Sothern** n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 4 **Articles on Shakespeare by Lee Shubert and others** n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 5 **Clippings on Sothern and Marlowe** 1903-1911 (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 6 **Clippings on Sothern and Marlowe** 1912 (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 7 **Clippings on Sothern and Marlowe** 1913 (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 8 **Clippings on Sothern and Marlowe** 1914-1922 (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 9 **Clipping on Frank J. Wilstach** 1913 Feb. 23 (1 folder)