

**The New York Public Library
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Ruth Sobotka Designs
1943-1966 and undated
*T-VIM 2012-005

Summary

Title: Ruth Sobotka Designs, 1943-1966 and undated

Size: 1.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Preferred citation: Ruth Sobotka Designs, Billy Rose Theatre Division, *T-VIM 2012-005, The New York Public Library.

Provenance note

The collection was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sobotka, Ruth Sobotka's parents, in 1968.

Biographical note

Designer, dancer and actress Ruth A. Sobotka was born in Vienna in 1925. She emigrated to the United States with her family when she was 14. Sobotka attended the University of Pennsylvania and Carnegie Institute of Technology. She also studied ballet at the School of American Ballet and was a dancer for Ballet Society and New York City Ballet. Sobotka designed costumes for both theater and dance. She appeared as "The Girl" in Man Ray's segment of the Hans Richter avant-garde film, *Dreams That Money Can Buy* (1947). In 1955 she married film director Stanley Kubrick and later worked on several films in various capacities; they divorced in 1961. After retiring from dancing, Sobotka focused on acting and designing. She died after a brief illness at Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital in June 1967 at the age of 42.

Scope and content note

Approximately 71 original color costume and set designs (mostly costume designs) by Ruth Sobotka. *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp* is the only play represented in the collection that was actually produced (Unit Theatre Group 1966); there are also index cards with notes and swatches for this show. Sobotka's costume and set designs for *Bathsheba* by Jacques Deval (1947), *Ladies in Retirement* by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham (ca. 1944), *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare (ca. 1944,) *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (ca. 1944), a Passion play (ca. 1944), and a Shakespearean production (ca. 1944), were never executed, or were Carnegie Institute of Technology schoolwork.

Container list

Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp - Unit Theatre Group, 1966

Costume Designs

Pencil sketches and watercolor on stock; initialed "RS 66."

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Aladdin 1
1	1	Aladdin 2
1	1	Aladdin's Mother
1	1	Beggar
1	1	Camel
1	1	Fruit Seller
1	2	Lady-in-Waiting
1	2	Magician
1	2	Merchants (#8, 9, 10) (Includes 3 items.)
1	2	Passerby
1	3	Princess 1
1	3	Princess 2
1	3	Scheherezade
1	3	Slave of the Lamp
1	3	Soldier
1	3	Wazier
1	4	Costume Notes and Samples - Index Cards
		Includes envelope containing 19 blue, lined 3 x 5" index cards with notes, samples; also includes 1 loose fabric swatch (green chiffon), original envelope.

Bathsheba (Not Executed), 1947

Costume Designs

Color on stock with matting; signed; not executed.

1	5	Bathsheba
1	5	David (Includes 2 items: Blue robe, coral robe.)
1	6	Shari
1	6	Uriah (Includes 2 items: Blue robe, white robe.)

Set Designs

1	7	Jacob's Tent
1	7	Palace of David - Rooftop
1	7	Uriah's Tent
1	8	<i>Ladies in Retirement</i> , Passion Play, Shakespearean Production, ca. 1944

Includes 3 set designs for schoolwork at Carnegie Institute of Technology; color on paper and stock; matted; "Design by R. Sobotka" printed on matting.

The Merchant of Venice (Not Executed), 1946

Costume Designs

Designs for schoolwork at Carnegie Institute of Technology; not executed); color on paper; signed; matted.

1	9	Antonio (Includes 2 items; handwritten notes.)
1	10	Bassanio (Includes 3 items; handwritten notes.)
1	11	Graziano
1	11	Jessica (Includes pencil sketch on verso.)
2	1	Lancelot Gobbo, Old Gobbo (Includes 2 designs on 1 sheet.)
2	1	Lorenzo
2	2	Nerissa
		Portia
2	3	I-2
2	3	V-1
2	4	Aragon Scene
2	4	Moroccan Scene
2	5	Ring Scene

2	5	Portia's Servants Includes 2 designs on 1 sheet; 1 is detached from matting.
2	6	Prince of Morocco
2	6	Salarino
2	6	Shylock
2	7	Salarino, Lorenzo, Gratiano, Antonio Includes 4 designs on 1 sheet; detached from matting. Solanio
2	8	Bassanio' s Servant, Antonio's Servant, Jessica in Boy's Clothing (Includes 3 designs on 1 sheet.) Moroccan, Moroccan headdress (Includes 2 designs; Detached from matting.)
2	9	Untitled Male (Matting has tear on lower right.)
2	10	Set Designs Includes 2 designs; color on paper; 1 detached from matting; "Designed by Ruth Sobotka" printed on matting.
2	10	Color Chart - Act I, Sc. 1 (Includes pencil sketch on verso.) <i>Twelfth Night</i> , 1943 Oct. Costume Designs Includes 3 color designs on board for schoolwork for Carnegie Tech. Inst.; "Ruth Agathie Sobotka" printed across top of designs.
2	11	Olivia
2	11	Orsino
2	11	Viola