



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

American Educational Theatre Association records

1950-1985 [bulk 1950-1966]

*T-Mss 1987-003

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Summary

Creator: American Theatre Association

Title: American Educational Theatre Association records

Date: 1950-1985 [bulk 1950-1966]

Size: 5.3 linear feet (13 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: The American Educational Theatre Association (AETA), which later became the American Theatre Association, acted as an advocacy group, promoting theatre and theatre education. The American Educational Theatre Association records, dating from 1950 to 1985, hold administrative records, an institutional history, office files, and vice-presidential files.

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Related Materials:

American Educational Theatre Association records. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

American Theatre Association records, *T-Mss 2001-003. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

The American Educational Theatre Association was formed in 1936 by a group of privately-owned theatres. Recruiting its members from the ranks of teachers, actors, students, and directors, the Association acted as an advocacy group, promoting theatre and theatre education. The group

published and disseminated materials for use in children's secondary schools, colleges and universities, and community theatres, pushed for federal funding of theatre education, promoted the touring of educational theatre groups, and worked with the armed forces to develop mutually beneficial theatre programs. The Association also sought to stimulate creative activity and scholarship in educational theatre and supported the art of American playwriting, pushing for the production of new plays and seeking out appropriate venues. The group was structured into divisions, committees, and projects. In 1972, the American Educational Theatre Association restructured itself as the American Theatre Association.

Scope and Content Note

The American Educational Theatre Association (AETA) records, dating from 1950 to 1985, hold administrative records, office files, vice-presidential files, and a history of the organization.

The Administrative Records are a combination of files from offices and individuals around the country, which were collected after the dissolution of the American Theatre Association in 1986. The records contain correspondence with or regarding affiliated organizations, such as the Speech Association of America and the National Council for the Arts in Education; committee correspondence; records of AETA conferences from 1953 to 1963, but mainly from the 1963 conference; correspondence files from three Presidents of the association; files from four divisions of AETA, such as the American Community Theatre Association and the Children's Theatre Conference; meeting minutes; and project files, including the Playwright's Program, the Rights and Royalties Project, and the Manuscript Play Project. The files regarding the 1963 AETA conference were cataloged under call number 8-MWEZ + n.c. 19,902. This call number appears in notes with the associated files.

The Office Files are arranged in a separate filing system, kept by the association's Washington office. The arrangement is a system unique to the association. Letter and number codes have been provided with the folder titles so the user can see the structure of the filing system and identify patterns and missing files. The files consist of correspondence relating to projects, committees, and general administration. Subjects are listed when present; some folders bear only the code, not a subject. There is significant overlap between these files and the Administrative Records.

Paul Kozelka, second vice-president of AETA in the early 1960s, was the program chair for the 1964 conference. His files contain correspondence with presenters and other AETA officials regarding program content and scheduling.

The institutional history of the association, titled *Founders of the American Theatre Association*, was produced in 1985 by the Golden Anniversary Committee and edited by Bernard Hewitt. Two drafts are present, one of which is final.

Arrangement: The records are in four divisions: Administrative Records, Institutional History, Office Files, and Paul Kozelka (Vice-Presidential) Files.

Key Terms

Subjects

College theater
Drama in education

Theater -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Minutes

Container List

Administrative Records

Affiliates

- b. 5 f. 2 American Association of School Administrators 1962
- b. 5 f. 3 American Council on Education 1962-1963
- b. 5 f. 4 American Council of Learned Societies 1959-1962
- b. 5 f. 5 Association of Junior Leagues of America 1962
- b. 5 f. 6 National Council of the Arts in Education 1962
- b. 5 f. 7 National Conference of Christians and Jews 1962
- b. 5 f. 8 National Recreation Association 1960-1962
- b. 5 f. 9 South Eastern Theatre Conference 1961-1963
- b. 5 f. 10 Speech Association of America 1954-1962

Committees

- b. 1 f. 1 Advisory Committee to the American Community Theatre Association (ACTA) 1961-1962
- b. 1 f. 2 Appointments and Research 1962-1963
- b. 1 f. 3 Executive Committee 1962
- b. 1 f. 4 Finance Committee 1962
- b. 4 f. 33 Gothic Color Award 1961-1963
- b. 5 f. 1 Membership 1950-1953
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Overseas Touring 1960-1961
- b. 1 f. 7 Permanent Office Committee 1961-1962

Presidential Committee

- b. 1 f. 8-15 1961
- b. 2 f. 1-7 1961

Conferences

- b. 4 f. 31 1953-1955
- b. 4 f. 32 1956-1958
- b. 2 f. 8 1957
- b. 2 f. 9-15 1963
8-MWEZ + n.c. 19,902
- b. 3 f. 1-36 1963
8-MWEZ + n.c. 19,902
- b. 4 f. 1-30 1963
8-MWEZ + n.c. 19,902

Correspondence

- b. 5 f. 11 Cole, Ed 1957-1959
- b. 5 f. 12-15 Dycke, Marjorie 1959-1962
- b. 5 f. 16 Philbrick, Norman 1960-1962

Divisions

- b. 6 f. 1-2 American Community Theatre Association 1961-1962

Administrative Records (cont.)

Divisions (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 3 Children's Theatre Conference 1957-1962
- b. 6 f. 4 Educational Theatre Journal 1951-1958
- b. 6 f. 5 Secondary School Theatre Conference 1961-1962
- b. 6 f. 6 Minutes 1960-1962

Projects

- b. 6 f. 7-8 1954-1962
 - b. 6 f. 9 Contact Placement Service 1952-1962
 - b. 6 f. 10 Foundations 1956-1957
 - b. 6 f. 11 Hallmark Contest 1961
 - b. 6 f. 12 Manuscript Play Project 1954, undated
 - b. 6 f. 13 National Cultural Center 1961-1962
- Playwright's Program
- b. 6 f. 14-16 1962-1966
- b. 7 f. 1-2 1962-1966
- b. 7 f. 3-6 Publications 1959-1962
 - b. 7 f. 7 Regional Activities 1961-1962
 - b. 7 f. 8 Rights and Royalties Project 1962
 - b. 7 f. 9 Rodgers and Hammerstein Awards 1961
 - b. 7 f. 10 World Theatre Day 1962
- b. 7 f. 11-12 Television Projects 1961-1962
- b. 13 f. 1-2 Institutional History 1985
Founders of the American Theatre Association. Bernard Hewitt, editor.

Office Files

1959

- b. 7 f. 13 IV - j - Minimum Standards

1960

- b. 7 f. 14 I - a - Manual of Operations for Project Chairmen
- b. 7 f. 15 I - aa - Project Recruitment (Chairmen)
- b. 7 f. 16 I - ab - Project Personnel (Members)
- b. 7 f. 17 I - ac - Inquiries on Projects
- b. 7 f. 18 I - ad - Project Budgets/Requests
- b. 7 f. 19 I - ae - Project Questionnaires
- b. 7 f. 20 I - b - Project Page, Educational Theatre Journal
- b. 7 f. 21 I - c - Projects Progress Newsletter
- b. 7 f. 22 I - ca - Assistant to the Administrative Vice-President
- b. 7 f. 23 I - d - Summary Reports on Projects
- b. 8 f. 1 I - da - Academic and Production Standards
- b. 8 f. 2 I - e - Army-AETA Co-operative Project
- b. 8 f. 3 I - f - Art Museums-Theatre Liaison Project
- b. 8 f. 4 I - g - Audio-Visual Aids Project
- b. 8 f. 5 I - ga - Bibliography Project

Office Files (cont.)
1960 (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 6 I - h - College Curriculum Project
- b. 8 f. 7 I - i - Festivals Project
- b. 8 f. 8 I - j - Guidance and Counseling Project
- b. 8 f. 9 I - k - Graduate Project
- b. 8 f. 10 I - l - International Liaison and ITI
- b. 8 f. 11 I - m - Junior College Project
- b. 8 f. 12 I - n - Manuscript Play Project
- b. 8 f. 13 I - o - Musical Theatre Project
- b. 8 f. 14 I - p - Production Lists Project
- b. 8 f. 15 I - q - Religious Drama Project
- b. 8 f. 16 I - r - Stage Movement Project
- b. 8 f. 17 I - s - Summer Theatre Project
- b. 8 f. 18 I - t - Stage Design - Technical Developments Project
- b. 8 f. 19 I - tt - Teacher Training Project
- b. 8 f. 20 I - u - Television Project
- b. 8 f. 21 I - v - Theatre Architecture Project
- b. 8 f. 22 I - w - Theatre Management Project
- b. 8 f. 23 I - x - Translation and Publication of Rare Books
- b. 9 f. 1 I - y - Hospitals
- b. 9 f. 2 I - z - Proposed New Projects
- b. 9 f. 3 II - a - President of AETA
- b. 9 f. 4 II - b - First Vice-President of AETA
- b. 9 f. 5 II - c - Second Vice-President of AETA
- b. 9 f. 6 II - d - Preceding Administrative Vice-President of AETA
- b. 9 f. 7 II - e - Executive Secretary - Treasurer of AETA
- b. 9 f. 8 II - f - Director of College Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 9 II - i - Executive Committee (Non-officers)
- b. 9 f. 10 II - j - Editor, Educational Theatre Journal
- b. 9 f. 11 II - l - Director, Secondary School Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 12 II - k - Educational Theatre Journal Editorial Staff
- b. 9 f. 13 II - m - Assistant Director, Secondary School Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 14 II - n - Secretary, Secondary School Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 15 II - o - Director, American Community Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 16 II - p - Assistant Director, American Community Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 17 II - q - Secretary, American Community Theatre Project
- b. 9 f. 18 II - r - Board of Directors (Non-members)
- b. 9 f. 19 II - s - Managing Editor, Educational Theatre Journal
- b. 9 f. 20 II - t - Contact Placement Service
- b. 9 f. 21 III - a - Executive Committee (Business)
- b. 9 f. 22 III - b - Board of Directors (Business)
- b. 9 f. 23 III - c - Finance Committee

Office Files (cont.)
1960 (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 24 III - d - Publications Committee
- b. 9 f. 25 III - dd - Budget
- b. 9 f. 26 III - e - Appointments and Research Committee
- b. 10 f. 1 III - ee - Standing Committee on Appointments and Research
- b. 10 f. 2 III - f - Books of Theatre Series
- b. 10 f. 3 III - i - American Community Theatre Association Newsletter
- b. 10 f. 4 III - j - Membership Promotion
- b. 10 f. 5 III - k - Convention
- b. 10 f. 6 III - m
- b. 10 f. 7 III - n
- b. 10 f. 8 IV - a - Association Publicity
- b. 10 f. 9 IV - b - Nominating
- b. 10 f. 10 IV - c - Directory of American College Theatre
- b. 10 f. 11 IV - d - Children's Theatre
- b. 10 f. 12 IV - e - Secondary Schools Monograph
- b. 10 f. 13 IV - f - Undergraduate Participation
- b. 10 f. 14 IV - h
- b. 10 f. 15 IV - j
- b. 10 f. 16 IV - k - Overseas Touring Committee
- b. 10 f. 17 V - a - Inquiries on AETA
- b. 10 f. 18 V - f - American Council on Education
- b. 10 f. 19 V - g - American Institute of Theatre Technology
- b. 10 f. 20 V - b - American National Theatre and Academy
- b. 10 f. 21 V - c - Speech Association of America
- b. 10 f. 22 V - d - National Council of Teachers of English
- b. 10 f. 23 V - e - United States Office of Education
- b. 10 f. 24 V - h - United States Government Departments
- b. 10 f. 25 V - j

1961

- b. 10 f. 26 IV - k - Overseas Touring Committee
- b. 10 f. 27 IV - l - Presidential Committee
- b. 10 f. 28 V - a - Inquiries on AETA
- b. 10 f. 29 V - b - American National Theatre and Academy
- b. 10 f. 30 V - c - Speech Association of America
- b. 10 f. 31 V - e - United States Office of Education
- b. 10 f. 32 V - f - American Council on Education
- b. 11 f. 1 V - h - United States Government Departments
- b. 11 f. 2 V - j - Arts Councils

Paul Kozelka Files

- b. 11 f. 3-7 1962-1964
1963-1964

Paul Kozelka Files (cont.)
1963-1964 (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 8 Aesthetics of Theatre
- b. 11 f. 9 American Community Theatre Association
- b. 11 f. 10 Approaches to Teaching Appreciation of Literature
- b. 11 f. 11 Architecture Exhibit
- b. 11 f. 12 Audio-Visual Aids Project
- b. 11 f. 13 Censorship
- b. 11 f. 14 Chairmen and Secretaries for Sessions
- b. 11 f. 15 Children's Theatre Conference Program
- b. 11 f. 16 Convention Managers
- b. 11 f. 17 Convention Reporter
- b. 11 f. 18 Costumes and Scenery
- b. 11 f. 19 Curricula Development
- b. 11 f. 20 Directing
- b. 11 f. 21 The Free Southern Theatre
- b. 11 f. 22 Improvisation
- b. 11 f. 23 Indian Theatre
- b. 11 f. 24 The Integration of the Arts
- b. 11 f. 25 Junior College Project
- b. 11 f. 26 Luncheons
- b. 12 f. 1 Main Speakers
- b. 12 f. 2 National Collegiate Players
- b. 12 f. 3 Non-literate Scripts
- b. 12 f. 4 Play Selection
- b. 12 f. 5 Playwriting
- b. 12 f. 6 Pre-Convention
- b. 12 f. 7 Promotion Panel
- b. 12 f. 8 The Psychology of the Actor
- b. 12 f. 9-10 Publicity
- b. 12 f. 11 Religious Drama
- b. 12 f. 12 Rural Drama
- b. 12 f. 13 Scene Design
- b. 11 f. 27 Secondary School Theatre Conference Program
- b. 11 f. 28 Sociology of Drama Panel
- b. 11 f. 29 Speech for Actors
- b. 11 f. 30-34 Speech Association of America
- b. 11 f. 35 Stage Movement
- b. 11 f. 36 Student Session
- b. 11 f. 37 Television Panel
- b. 11 f. 38 Theatre of the Absurd
- b. 11 f. 39 Theatre Architecture Panel
- b. 11 f. 40 Theatre History

Paul Kozelka Files (cont.)
1963-1964 (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 41 Theatre Research
- b. 11 f. 42 Volunteers
- b. 11 f. 43 Work Projects