



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Gaston Bell papers

1886-1964 [bulk 1960s]

*T-Mss 2013-117

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Bell, Gaston, 1877-1963

Title: Gaston Bell papers

Date: 1886-1964 [bulk 1960s]

Size: 2.8 linear feet (1 box, 3 volumes)

Source: Donated by Unknown

Abstract: Gaston Bell (1877-1963) was an American stage and film actor. The Gaston Bell papers date from 1886 to 1964 and contain scrapbooks and photographs.

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Creator History

Gaston Bell was an American stage and film actor. He was born in 1877 in Boston, Massachusetts, and was a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Bell's stage performances include *The Christian* (1903), *Trilby* (1905), *Brewster's Millions* (1906), *Seven Sisters* (1910), and *Naughty Wife* (1918). His screen credits include *Nathan Hale* (1913), *Opportunity* (1910), and *The Third Degree* (1913). He died in 1963 in Woodstock, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The Gaston Bell papers date from 1886 to 1964 (bulk dates 1960s) and contain scrapbooks and photographs. The collection is not a comprehensive record of Bell's career, but it does highlight some of

his early work in theater through programs and clippings. There are also programs from late 19th century theatrical productions, and notes about various actors and actresses. One of the scrapbooks holds cards and letters from Bell's last birthday celebration in 1962. Another scrapbook includes personal photographs, details about his burial arrangements, correspondence about his family's plot in the Canton Cemetery in Massachusetts, and letters of condolences addressed to Bell's close friend Harry Chaffin. The loose photographs in this collection are autographed postcards of early 20th century actors and actresses.

Materials in the collection were assigned catalog numbers before final processing, and those numbers are retained under notes in the container list.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Male actors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Subjects

Theater -- United States

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Photographs 1905-1907
 MWEZ + N.C. 19, 824
 Scrapbooks
- v. 1 1886-1900
 MWEZ + N.C. 19, 821
- b. 1 f. 2-3 1901-1957
 MWEZ + N.C. 19, 824
- v. 2 1907-1964
 Contains materials related to the last years of his life.
 MWEZ + N.C. 19, 822
- v. 3 1962
 Birthday cards.
 MWEZ + N.C. 19, 823