



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**William Gaxton papers**

circa 1937-1961

\*T-Mss 2014-121

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Gaxton, William

**Title:** William Gaxton papers

**Date:** circa 1937-1961

**Size:** .84 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Unknown.

**Abstract:** William Gaxton (1893-1963) was a writer and performer in vaudeville and musical comedy. His papers date from about 1937 to 1961, and consist primarily of scripts that he wrote or performed, including scripts for stage comedies, musicals, and radio and television sketches. Many of the sketches are for Gaxton and his long-time comedy partner, Victor Moore. The collection contains multiple versions of *They Do or They Don't*, a musical comedy that Gaxton co-wrote with Wallace Sullivan; and a script, synopses, and a fundraising letter for *If I Were Queen*, a musical comedy with a book by Gaxton and Polan Banks and lyrics by Ogden Nash. There are scripts and other materials related to a proposed television program called *The Liars' Club*, an audience-participation show that Gaxton developed in the 1950s. Other scripts include *And No Birds Sing*, *Paradise Island*, and *The Big Shot*. The collection includes some lyrics, monologues, and a small number of letters to Gaxton about his performances and writings.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Comedy sketches

Musicals

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**  
Scripts

**Names**

Moore, Victor, 1876-1962

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-12 circa 1937-1961
- b. 2 f. 1-7 1940s-1950s  
Scripts for *If I Were Queen* and *They Do or They Don't*.