



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Joe Laurie, Jr. papers

1877-1954 [bulk 1912-1954]

*T-Mss 1954-001

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Laurie, Joe, 1893-1954

Title: Joe Laurie, Jr. papers

Date: 1877-1954 [bulk 1912-1954]

Size: .84 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by the estate of Joe Laurie, Jr., 1955.

Abstract: Joe Laurie, Jr. (1893-1954) was a comedian, actor, and writer who began his career as a vaudeville performer in the 1910s, touring with Aleen Bronson as Laurie and Aleen. He later worked as a staff columnist for *Variety* and wrote frequently on the history of vaudeville. In 1953, he published *Vaudeville: From the Honky-tonks to the Palace*. The Joe Laurie, Jr. papers date from 1877 to 1954 and contain correspondence, writings, scripts, autograph books, and ephemera from Laurie's career. In addition to containing Laurie's papers, the collection contains some papers of his son, Joseph Bryant Hughes Laurie; correspondence of *Variety* editor Abel Green; and administrative records from vaudeville organizations. The earliest materials in the collection are autographs that date from about 1877 to 1886 and are labeled as being from the "Joe Laurie, Jr. Vaudeville Collection." Materials from Laurie's vaudeville career in the 1910s include an autograph book with inscriptions to Laurie and Aleen and a letter written by Laurie regarding a possible booking. The collection contains some of Laurie's writings, including a typescript of a 1938 article he wrote titled "Vaudeville Memories." For the article, Laurie asked colleagues to name their favorite vaudeville act, and the collection contains letters he received in response to his query. Laurie's correspondence includes a large number of letters from performer and writer William Kerry (Bill) Halligan, dating mostly to the 1950s, which include Halligan's recollections about his career in vaudeville and theater. There is one folder of letters from writer O.O. McIntyre to Abel Green. The collection also includes a handwritten draft of an article by George M. Cohan titled "Nice Things about Managers We've Met," dated 1942. The collection includes two undated scripts: one handwritten script for a burlesque titled *Ixon*, and a typewritten script for *Fern Cliff* by William Haworth. The collection contains administrative papers of the Association of Managers of the Eastern Circuit of Burlesque Theatre and the Eastern Booking Agency of the Eastern Circuit Association; these include contracts, meeting minutes, and financial papers, and date from about 1901 to 1910. Papers of Laurie's son, J.B.H. Laurie, date to the 1940s, and include letters from Joe Laurie, Jr., letters from friends and colleagues, and military records including letters from the Royal Canadian Air Force and the American Air Force.

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Key Terms

Subjects

Burlesque (Theater)

Vaudeville -- History and criticism

Titles

Variety

Names

Green, Abel, 1900-1973

Halligan, William Kerry, 1883-1957

McIntyre, O. O. (Oscar Odd), 1884-1938

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-16 1912-1954
- b. 2 f. 1-9 1877-1946