The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the
Sheldon Viele papers
1909-1999 [bulk 1920-1927]
*T-Mss 2004-016

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

Summary

Creator: Viele, Sheldon K.

Title: Sheldon Viele papers

Date: 1909-1999 [bulk 1920-1927]

Size: .97 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Gift of S. Thompson Viele, 2004.

Abstract: Sheldon Knickerbocker Viele (1892-1934) was a scenic and costume designer who worked on Broadway throughout the 1920s. The Sheldon Viele papers date from 1909 to 1999 (bulk dates: 1920-1927) and include programs and clippings from productions designed by Viele, as well as research files compiled by his son Chase Viele on original stage designs for The Show-Off.

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Processing note: Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

Creator History

Sheldon Knickerbocker Viele (1892-1934) was a scenic and costume designer who worked on Broadway throughout the 1920s. He was technical director of the Theatre Guild in the early 1920s, and designed sets for the original productions of George Kelly's *The Torch Bearers* (1922), *The Show-Off* (1924), and *Craig's Wife* (1925). Chase Viele (1925-2002) was one of Sheldon Viele's sons.

Scope and Content Note

The Sheldon Viele papers date from 1909 to 1999 (bulk dates: 1920-1927) and contain programs and

clippings from productions designed by Viele, particularly shows staged by the Theatre Guild at the Garrick Theatre, and by the Shubert Organization at the Bijou Theatre. Photographs of costumes from the 1922 production of *Fashions for Men* are also included. A small amount of manuscript material is present, including Viele's application letter to the Theatre Guild, and a list of design notes for an unidentified production. In addition, Viele's copy of Henry Arthur Jones's *The Liars*, dated 1909, is present. Some programs and clippings are housed separately in a scrapbook. The Chase Viele research files contain correspondence, duplicate set photographs, copies of books excerpts and articles, and copies of programs and clippings on the original stage designs for *The Show-Off*. Also present is photocopied correspondence between Chase Viele and actress Katharine Cornell which discusses their shared family lineage.

Arrangement: The collection is organized into Sheldon Viele Papers and Chase Viele Research Files.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs
Programs (documents)

Subjects
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Theater -- Stage-setting and scenery

Names
Viele, Chase, 1925-2002
Theatre Guild

Container List

b. 1 f. 1-5 Sheldon Viele Papers 1909-1927
v. 1 Sheldon Viele Papers--Scrapbook 1920-1927
b. 2 f. 1 Chase Viele Research Files 1960s-1999
b. 3 f. 1-3 Chase Viele Research Files 1960s-1999