



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Beatrice Rosenblum collection of Peggy Hopkins Joyce materials

1895-1998 [bulk 1917-1933]

*T-Mss 2011-255

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Rosenblum, Beatrice

Title: Beatrice Rosenblum collection of Peggy Hopkins Joyce materials

Date: 1895-1998 [bulk 1917-1933]

Size: 1.9 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Gift of Constance Rosenblum, 2011.

Abstract: Peggy Hopkins Joyce (1893-1957) was an American actress, model, and dancer. She was widely recognized in the media for her numerous engagements and marriages, from which she acquired great wealth. The Beatrice Rosenblum collection of Peggy Hopkins Joyce materials (1895-1998) contains correspondence, financial papers, photographs, drawings, clippings, and research material on Joyce compiled by author and antiques expert Beatrice Rosenblum.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Beatrice Rosenblum collection of Peggy Hopkins Joyce materials, *T-Mss 2011-255. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015. The collection was rehoused and labeled by a previous archivist.

Creator History

Peggy Hopkins Joyce (1893-1957) was an American actress, model, and dancer. She was widely recognized in the media for her numerous engagements and marriages, from which she acquired great wealth.

Born Marguerite Upton in Berkley, Virginia in 1893, Joyce began her career around 1914, modeling and performing in small fashion shows. Her first film appearance was in *Dimples* in 1916. Later films included *The Woman of the Law*, *The Skyrocket*, and *International House*. On Broadway, she appeared in *The Ziegfeld Follies of 1917*, *Miss 1917*, *A Place in the Sun*, *A Sleepless Night*, *Earl Carroll's*

Vanities, and *The Lady of the Orchids*. While Joyce's performing career was substantial, most of her fame came as a result of her highly publicized love life and subsequent wealth. Her collection of fine jewelry, clothing, and cars was frequently cited in the media as well. Between 1910 and her death in 1957, Joyce married six millionaires: Everett Archer, Sherburne Hopkins, J. Stanley Joyce, Swedish Count Gustave Morne, Anthony Easton, and Andrew Meyer. In 1930, she published an autobiography entitled *Men, Marriage, and Me*.

Beatrice Rosenblum (d. 2006) was an American antiques and collectibles expert, author, and *Times Herald Record* columnist. She wrote several books on antiques, including *Antiques and Collectibles* and *Beatrice Rosenblum's Handbook Guide to Orange County Bottles*. Her daughter, *New York Times* editor and author Constance Rosenblum, wrote *Gold Digger: The Outrageous Life and Times of Peggy Hopkins Joyce* in 2000.

Scope and Content Note

The Beatrice Rosenblum collection of Peggy Hopkins Joyce materials dates from 1895 to 1998 (bulk 1916-1933) and contains correspondence, financial papers, photographs, drawings, clippings, and research material on Joyce compiled by author and antiques expert Beatrice Rosenblum. Also present is an outline of a play or film entitled "The Insurance Agents Hold Up," presumably written by Joyce.

Correspondence is primarily comprised of incoming personal letters written to Joyce between 1917 and 1933. The letters consist of fan mail; personal letters from friends, lovers, and family; and financial and legal correspondence from lawyers and merchants. The fan letters are frequently accompanied by requests for clothing donations for poor women. Sometimes the letters are deeply personal and encouraging, such as those written to Joyce in 1922 after her accidental overdose on sleeping pills and subsequent declaration of being through with men. Some letters dated between 1919 and 1921 discuss litigation surrounding Joyce's divorce from Sherburne Hopkins. Letters from merchants generally serve as receipts or documentation of Joyce's jewelry purchases. A small amount of incoming professional letters from Charles Morrison, Frank Orsatti, and Louis Guertin are also present. They predominately date from the 1920s to 1933 and discuss potential show arrangements and performance dates.

Financial documents consist of Invoices, receipts, and payment notifications for purchases that Joyce made between 1917 and 1933. The materials document the content and nature of Joyce's spending, and to some extent, her investments and other related activities. Portraits of Joyce, production stills from *International House*, and photographs of her friends, lovers, and colleagues make up the photographs. Original drawings are portraits and caricatures of Joyce. Research materials are comprised of notes compiled by Beatrice Rosenblum and copies of Joyce's divorce documents.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format or subject.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actresses -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Correspondence

Photographs

Names

Joyce, Peggy Hopkins, 1893-1957

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-22 Correspondence 1917-1933
- b. 2 f. 1-16 Financial Documents 1916-1933
- b. 3 f. 1-7 Photographs 1895-1940s
 - b. 3 f. 8 "The Insurance Agents Hold Up" circa 1920s
 - b. 3 f. 9 Drawings 1920s-1930s
- b. 3 f. 10-12 Clippings 1915-1924
 - b. 4 f. 1-8 Clippings 1925-1934
- b. 4 f. 9-10 Rosenblum Research Materials 1920s, 1980-1990s
- b. 5 f. 1-4 Rosenblum Research Materials 1990-1998