



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Charles Frohman Letterpress Copybooks

1898-1921

MssCol 1088

Processed by Julie Miller.

Summary

Creator: Frohman, Charles, 1860-1915

Title: Charles Frohman Letterpress Copybooks

Date: 1898-1921

Source: Gift of R.H. Burnside estate, 1952.

Abstract: Collection contains correspondence of theatrical manager and producer Charles Frohman and his assistant, Alfred Hayman, with each other and with other people in the theatre. Letters concern dramatic productions in the United States and England. Also, papers relating to Frohman's death and estate, and miscellaneous legal and financial documents.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Charles Frohman Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Julie Miller; machine readable finding aid created by APEX data services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

Creator History

The theatrical manager and producer Charles Frohman was born in Sandusky, Ohio in 1860. He was the youngest brother of theatrical managers Daniel (1851-1940) and Gustave (1855-1930) Frohman. By 1883 Charles Frohman was working as an independent producer; in 1890 he organized his Charles Frohman Stock Company; and at the time of his death in 1915 (he was drowned on the torpedoed *Lusitania*) he was the proprietor and manager of the Empire (location of his New York office), Criterion, Lyceum, Garrick, Savoy, and Knickerbocker theaters in New York, and of the Duke of York's, Comedy, Globe (location of his London office), and Adelphi theaters in London. He was also the joint manager of the Vaudeville Theatre in London. Frohman's affairs were continued after his death as Charles Frohman, Inc., with his brother Daniel as a joint manager.

Scope and Content Note

Eleven letterpress copybooks, 1898-1915, contain copies of typescript letters written chiefly by Charles Frohman and by his General Manager, Alf Hayman (not to be confused with Al Hayman, d. 1917, Alf's brother and also an associate of Frohman's). Hayman's letters are typically short notes, while Frohman's are longer, often running to a few pages. Some letters are by Secretary Victor E. de Kiraly and other office staff writing on Frohman's or Hayman's behalf. Cables and telegrams are scattered throughout the copybooks but one volume, July 20, 1914 - May 1, 1915, contains only cables and telegrams. A series of five volumes whose dates run continuously from February 23, 1906 - May 7, 1915 (the date of Frohman's death) contain letters written by Hayman to Frohman who was in Europe, chiefly London. Letters are addressed to actors, actresses, and their agents; authors; theater managers; newspaper drama editors; ticket-seekers; job applicants; employees; tradesmen; and others. They illuminate the daily operations of Frohman's office, showing the range of both artistic and business decisions made. Recipients of letters include: Maude Adams (who appeared in J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, produced by Frohman); George Ade; J.M. Barrie; Ethel Barrymore; Dion Boucicalt; the photographers [Joseph] Byron and Otto Sarony; Mrs. Patrick Campbell; Samuel Clemens; Elsie De Wolfe (actress, decorator, and companion to Elisabeth Marbury, see below); Charles B. Dillingham; Bruce Edwards; Abraham Erlanger; Clyde Fitch; Daniel and Gustave Frohman; John Galsworthy; William Gillette; Alice Kauser; Jerome Kern; Gustav Kobbe; Mrs. [Lillie] Langtry; William Lestocq (Frohman's London manager); Elisabeth Marbury (the prominent author's agent with whom Frohman chiefly dealt); Somerset Maugham; Henry Miller; Samuel Nixon; Julia Sanderson; Sam Shubert; E.H. Sothern (who became the leading man in Frohman's Lyceum company in 1884); Alfred Sutro; Ellen Terry; Herbert Beerbohm Tree; Stanford White; Hattie Williams; others. A twelfth volume, 1921, contains Hayman's letters concerning the continuation of Frohman's affairs and, possibly, other business. Some additional loose items are in box 5. These include: drafts and samples of funeral announcements and condolence acknowledgement cards, a eulogy by playwright Augustus Thomas, lists of funeral attendees, and clippings, notes, and memoranda, 1915, relating to Frohman's death, funeral, estate, and the continuation of his affairs after his death; a group of letters, 1915-1920 and n.d., received by Hayman from attorneys Rose and Paskus concerning legal matters relating to Frohman; and a few miscellaneous letters and legal and financial documents, ca.1913-1918 and n.d.

Key Terms

Subjects

American drama
English drama -- 20th century
Theater -- England
Theater -- United States
Theaters -- England -- London
Theaters -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Frohman, Charles, 1860-1915
Adams, Maude, 1872-1953
Hayman, Alfred
Barrymore family

Container List

- b. 1 Chief Writer: Hayman Oct. 21, 1898 - Nov. 18, 1899
- b. 1 Chief Writer: Frohman Nov. 18, 1901 - Jan. 31, 1902
- b. 1 Hayman to Frohman Feb. 23, 1906 - June 6, 1907
- b. 2 Chief Writer: Hayman Oct. 2, 1902 - Feb. 19, 1903
- b. 3 Hayman to Frohman June 7, 1907 - March 11, 1909
- b. 3 Hayman to Frohman March 12, 1909 - May 31, 1910
- b. 3 Hayman to Frohman May 31, 1910 - June 20, 1913
- b. 4 Hayman to Frohman June 26, 1913 - May 7, 1915
- b. 4 Chief Writer: Frohman Nov. 15, 1913 - Feb. 17, 1914
- b. 4 Chief Writer: Frohman Dec. 9, 1914 - April 3, 1915
- b. 5 Chief Writer: Frohman, telegrams and cables July 20, 1914 - May 1, 1915
- b. 5 Chief Writer: Hayman Jan. 27 - Oct. 21, 1921
- b. 5 Loose items ca. 1913-1920
- v. 1 Booking Department, 1922-1923 Season. (Oversize bound volume. Includes theatre programs)