



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Gilbert W. Gabriel papers**

1906-1952

MssCol 1098

Processed by Laura Bailey.

## Summary

**Creator:** Gabriel, Gilbert W. (Gilbert Wolf), 1890-1952

**Title:** Gilbert W. Gabriel papers

**Date:** 1906-1952

**Source:** Gift of Ada Gabriel and Herber Oppenheimer, 1953, 1979,

**Abstract:** Collection consists of drama critic and novelist Gilbert Gabriel's writings, correspondence, photographs, and printed matter. Writings include annotated typescripts of his novels; synopses of plays; reviews; drafts of articles, short stories, novels, and plays; lectures; and literary notes. Also, some correspondence, photographs of Gabriel and others, and newsclippings.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Gilbert W. Gabriel Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Laura Bailey; machine readable finding aid created by APEX data services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

## Creator History

Gilbert Wolf Gabriel, (1890 - 1952) drama critic and novelist, was born in Brooklyn, New York. As a boy he attended Peekskill Military Academy and Polytechnic Preparatory School in Brooklyn. He graduated from Williams College in 1912, and in 1937 his alma mater awarded him an honorary master of arts degree. Gabriel began his career in 1912 as a reporter for the *Evening Sun*, then served as the paper's music critic from 1917 - 1924. After a brief period at *The Telegram-Mail*, he returned to the *Evening Sun* to serve as drama critic until 1929. Gabriel then worked for *The New York American* from 1929 - 1937. He also wrote drama criticism, articles and stories for *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *Town and Country*, *The Stage*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Collier's*. Gabriel was second lieutenant in the Army during WWI, but did not serve overseas. While in the Army during WWII, he served two years in Alaska, and in 1944 went to London as deputy chief of publications. He left the service later that year with the rank of

lieutenant colonel. After WWII, Gabriel became drama critic for *Theatre Arts* magazine. He joined *Cuemagazine* in September, 1949. Gabriel's first novel, *The Seven Branched Candlestick*, was published in 1917. His other works include *Jiminy*, 1922, *Great Fortune*, 1933, *Love From London*, 1946, and *I Thee Wed*, 1948. Gilbert Gabriel died September 4, 1952 in Mount Kisco.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Gilbert W. Gabriel are arranged in two series. Series one contains separate subseries for Articles and Short Stories, Novels, Plays, Lectures, and Literary Notes. Series two contains two subseries one for Clippings, and one for Letters, Ephemera and Photographs. Articles and Short Stories are in alphabetical order by title. It is not known which of these were published. The Novels consist of typescripts with corrections in his hand. The typescripts may also include letters relating to book, book jackets and publicity clippings. The Plays are also typescripts with Gabriel's handwritten corrections. Included are synopses of plays and a few unidentified plays. The Lectures, which were given to journalism students, relate to performing arts criticism. The Literary Notes appear to be some of his working papers for plays. The Clippings consist of articles by Gabriel and reviews of his books. The Letters, Ephemera and Photographs include a few letters, 1927 - 1952, papers belonging to Gabriel and photographs of him.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

American literature -- 20th century  
Theater -- Reviews

#### **Occupations**

Authors  
Dramatists  
Theater critics

#### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographic prints

#### **Names**

Gabriel, Gilbert W. (Gilbert Wolf), 1890-1952  
Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de, 1547-1616

## Container List

### Series I. Writings

- b. 1 Articles and Short Stories
- b. 1 A - N
- b. 1 O - Z
- b. 1 Early writings
- b. 1 Novels
- b. 1 *The Band Played Dixie, unpublished*
- b. 1 *A Box At The Opera, unpublished*
- b. 2 *Brownstone Front* 1924
- b. 2 *Cervantes, unpublished*
- b. 2 *Great Fortune* 1933
- b. 3 *I Got A Country* 1944
- b. 3 *I, James Lewis* 1932
- b. 4 *I, James Lewis*
- b. 4 *I Thee Wed* 1948
- b. 5 *Litho, unpublished*
- b. 5 *Love From London* 1946
- b. 5 *Rebel Moon, unpublished*
- b. 6 Plays
- b. 7 Lectures
- b. 7 Literary Notes

### Series II. Other materials

- b. 7 Clippings
- b. 8 Letters, ephemera, and photographs