



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Louis K. Anspacher papers

1903-1960 [bulk 1911-1940]

MssCol 110

Summary

Creator: Anspacher, Louis Kaufman, 1878-1947

Title: Louis K. Anspacher papers

Date: 1903-1960 [bulk 1911-1940]

Source: Gift of Mrs. Florence Sutro Anspacher, May 1960

Abstract: Papers consist of correspondence and theatrical writings, ca. 1903-1960 of Louis K. Anspacher, playwright, author, lecturer, and occasional actor.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Louis K. Anspacher Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Charles Kronick; machine readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

Creator History

Louis K. Anspacher (1878-1947) was a playwright, author, lecturer, and occasional actor. Born in Ohio, he was raised, educated and resided in New York City and its environs. After taking degrees in law and philosophy at Columbia University in 1905, Anspacher turned to writing for the theater and lecturing for his livelihood. He published 17 plays between 1904 and 1940, as well as lecturing at the League for Political Education (1906-1947), the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences (1908-1947), and at Columbia University/Institute of Arts and Sciences. He toured extensively in the United States/lecturing on drama, art, politics, and social problems, often while acting in touring theater companies under an assumed name. In addition to his plays, Anspacher published three collections of poetry from 1943-1946, including several works commissioned by Isadora Duncan, and seven volumes of literary and social criticism and philosophy. Dr. Anspacher was also an active supporter of woman suffrage and birth control.

Scope and Content Note

The Louis K. Anspacher Papers consist of correspondence and theatrical writings. The correspondence (1903-1960), with actors, directors, producers and agents, including Charles Coburn and John Rumsey, concerns the publication, copyrights, and productions of Anspacher's plays in Europe, Great Britain and the United States, and includes contracts, agreements and royalty statements. The writings consist of multiple drafts, both manuscript and typescript, of several of Anspacher's plays, including *Rhapsody* and *That Day*, as well as many of his lectures on theater, drama and society.

Arrangement: Two series: Correspondence; Writings

Key Terms

Subjects

Drama -- 20th century
Theater -- Europe
Theater -- Great Britain
Theater -- United States
Theater and society

Occupations

Dramatists
Lecturers

Names

Anspacher, Louis Kaufman, 1878-1947
Coburn, Charles D., 1877-1961
Rumsey, John, dramatist

Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1903-1960

- b. 1 f. 1 Letters from Charles Coburn with replies from Anspacher 1942-46
- b. 1 f. 2 Letters from Henry Kolker 1914-15, n.d
with one reply from Anspacher, and one letter from him to Oliver Morosco regarding Kolker
- b. 1 f. 3 Letters from John W. Rumsey (American Play Co.) 1913-45
With two replies from Anspacher regarding his plays
- b. 1 f. 4 *Letters regarding Madame Sans Gene* 1908, 1915-46
From John W. Rumsey (American Play Co.). Also, legal letters, 1915-28, from Ernst, Fox, Cane (with one letter from Roi Cooper Meghue, Oct. 2, 1908).
- b. 1 f. 5 *Letters regarding Daddalums* 1912, 1919-20, n.d
Letters from Louis Calvert and W. Edward Stirling, (with a few items from Hartley Milburn).
- b. 1 f. 6 Letters 1915-17, 1934 - 60
Letters, 1915-17 from Oliver Morosco regarding *The Unchastened Woman*. Also, letters 1934-60 from John W. Rumsey (American Play Co.) regarding various plays of Anspacher's.
- b. 1 f. 7 Miscellaneous Correspondence, ca. 1903-1945
Lena Ashwell, n.d.; August Blum, 1935; Mrs. Patrick Campbell, n.d.; Mary Helen Carlisle, 1918; Eddie Dowling, 1945; Daniel Frohman, n.d.; Theresa Helburn, 1945; Mary F. Roberts, 1945; Irene Vanbrugh, 1911, n.d.; Violet Vambrugh, 1918; John D. Williams, 1936; George Edward Woodbury, 1903-04; and a few unidentified items.
- b. 1 f. 8a *Letters regarding The Glass House* 1911-12
Letters from: Lena Ashwell, R. Golding Bright, Alf. Hayman, Elisabeth Marbury, Hartley Milburn.
- b. 1 f. 8 b Letters from The International Copyright Bureau, Ltd. 1913
Letters regarding *The Unchastened Woman*.
- b. 1 f. 8c Misc. contracts and agreements (1 folder)
Regarding various plays of Anspacher's.
- b. 1 f. 9a Letters from John W. Rumsey (American Play Co.) 1947
Regarding production rights of *Madame Sans Gene*.
- b. 1 f. 9b Royalty statements 1933-48
Royalty statements for *Our Children* with some letters of transmittal from the publishers.
- b. 1 f. 9c Copyrights n.d.
Various plays and dates.

Series II. Writings

Plays

- b. 2Unnumbered *The Dim Light, and The Day of Wrath Breaks Over Germany* (The Dim Light.)
- b. 2Unnumbered *Rhapsody* (Various Drafts in Slipcase)
- b. 2Unnumbered *Synopsis of Rhapsody* (MS. and typescript)
- b. 2Unnumbered *That Day* (Original in Slipcase)
- b. 2Unnumbered *That Day* (Various Drafts in Slipcase)

Lectures

- b. 2Unnumbered *The Mob and the Movies*. September 1924 (MSS and typescript of address.)
 - b. 310 *Drama As a Revolutionary Force* Dec. 1911 (MS. and typescript of lecture)
 - b. 311 *Drama As a Social Force in a Democracy* 1940 (MS. of lecture)
 - b. 312 *The Dramatic Point of View* Nov. 1910 (MS. and typescript of lectures)

Series II. Writings (cont.)

Lectures (cont.)

- b. 313 Lectures on the Development of Drama (4): ca. 1909-1912, n.d. (4 MSS. and 4 typescripts)
The Religious Origin of Modern Drama, Feb. 1912; The Roman Drama, n.d.; The New Heroic Drama, n.d.; The Eighteenth Century, July 1909.
- b. 314 Lectures on Greek Drama ca. 1907, n.d (3 MSS. and 3 typescripts)
The Greek Idea of Tragedy, Oct. 1907; Euripides, n.d.; Sophocles, Oct. 1907.
- b. 415 *The Place of the Drama Among the Arts* n.d. (MS. and typescript)
- b. 416 *Psychology and Drama* Oct. 1930 (MS. and typescript)
- b. 417 *The Public's Responsibility to the Theatre* Feb. 2, 1944 (MS. and typescript of address delivered at National Arts Club)
- b. 418 *The Repertory Theatre* Jan. 1911 (MS. and typescript of an address)
- b. 419 *The Spirit of Modern Drama* Oct. 1924 (MS. and typescript)
- b. 420 *Introduction to John Millington Synge* July 1915 (MS. and typescript of lecture)
- b. 421 *The Trend of the Modern Theatre* Oct. 1927 (MS. and typescript of lecture)
- b. 422 *The Trend of the Modern Theatre* Apr. 1938 (MS. and typescript of lecture)
- b. 423 *What Is Wrong with Our Theatre?* Dec. 1940 (MS. and typescript of lecture)