



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Drama League of America records

1910-1931 [bulk 1927-1931]

MssCol 836

Processed by Robert Sink.

Summary

Creator: Drama League of America

Title: Drama League of America records

Date: 1910-1931 [bulk 1927-1931]

Source: Gift of Mrs. H.H.B. Meyer, April 12, 1944, September 17, 1958.

Abstract: Collection consists of correspondence, financial records, reports, memoranda, and materials on special projects. Correspondence is to and from officials of the Drama League. Other records concern celebrations of drama, contests, and conferences. There are some records relating to the Church and Drama League.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Drama League of America Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Robert Sink; machine readable finding aid created by APEX data services and revised by Chatham Ewing. Collection has received only very preliminary processing.

Creator History

The Drama League of America (DLA) was founded in Chicago in 1910 in order to stimulate interest in drama and to support "worthy" plays. In 1915, the DLA began to establish chapters around the country, and by 1926 there were 37 such local centers. The League was re-organized in 1925, and an executive secretary was hired to run the organization. The following year the Church and Drama Association (CDA) was founded to promote drama as a social force and educational influence. In 1929 the DLA, CDA, and the American Theatre Association affiliated to form the Church and Drama League. However, the merger was never officially carried out, and the church group ceased to function in 1931.

Scope and Content Note

Over one half of the collection consists of correspondence to and from officials of the DLA; most is

arranged alphabetically, but some is arranged by topic or is unsorted. There are also memos, reports, financial documents, form letters, and material on National Drama Week, Shakespeare Day, a playwriting contest, and DLA conferences. There are some records relating to the Church and Drama League.

Key Terms

Subjects

American drama

Theater -- United States

Names

Drama League of America

Church and Drama League

Container List

- b. 1 Correspondence A-Be
- b. 2 Correspondence Br-CI
- b. 3 Correspondence Co-E
- b. 4 Correspondence F-G, Hinckley
- b. 5 Correspondence H-P
- b. 6 Correspondence R-Se
- b. 7 Correspondence Si-V
- b. 8 Correspondence W-Z and unsorted
- b. 8 Playwriting Contest 1931
- b. 8 Shakespeare Day
- b. 9 Local Centers B-N
- b. 10 Local Centers P-Z
- b. 11 Membership
- b. 12 Unsorted Correspondence 1928-1930
- b. 12 Finances 1927-1928
- b. 12 Reports
- b. 13 Unsorted Correspondence 1926-1930
- b. 13 National Drama Week 1930-1931
- b. 13 Reports
- b. 14 *Correspondence re: Drama* 1929-1930
- b. 14 Correspondence, George R. Andrews 1929-1930
- b. 14 Church and Drama League 1929-1930
- b. 14 Reports, memos, finances, publicity
- b. 15 Weekly Letters 1926-1931
- b. 15 Little Theatre Foundation
- b. 15 New York City Conference 1931
- b. 15 Drama Study Materials
- b. 16 National Drama Conference 1930
- b. 16 New Organizations correspondence 1910-1929
- b. 16 Reports, finances, correspondence
- b. 17 Reports, finances, form letters, printed materials 1921-1930