



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Draft of letter to be written to Director Bethmann by Minna Planer

1835?

JOB 91-38

Summary

Creator: Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883

Title: Draft of letter to be written to Director Bethmann by Minna Planer

Date: 1835?

Size: 1 item

Source: Purchase, Christie, Manson & Woods International Inc, 1978

Abstract: As a young man, the German composer Richard Wagner was in love with actress Minna Planer who later became his first wife. Minna's standing as first tragic artist in the Magdeburg theater was being threatened by a Mme. Grabowsky. Bethmann was director of the theater. A scribbled draft in the hand of Richard Wagner of a letter for Minna Planer to send to Director Bethmann, demanding her rights as first tragic actress in the Magdeburg theater. The draft is written on the verso of a discarded letter, a rejection by Minna to an unnamed suitor. In the remaining space on the same sheet of paper, Natalie Planer (Minna's illegitimate daughter) has written an explanation of Richard Wagner's draft.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Preferred citation: Draft of letter to be written to Director Bethmann by Minna Planer, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: In German

Creator History

As a young man, the German composer Richard Wagner was in love with actress Minna Planer who later became his first wife. Minna's standing as first tragic artist in the Magdeburg theater was being threatened by a Mme. Grabowsky. Bethmann was director of the theater.

Custodial History

Formerly owned by Mary Banks Burrell. Cf. Catalogue of the Burrell collection of Wagner documents, letters and other biographical material. London : Nonpareil Press, 1929. Item 52.

Scope and Content Note

A scribbled draft in the hand of Richard Wagner of a letter for Minna Planer to send to Director Bethmann, demanding her rights as first tragic actress in the Magdeburg theater. The draft is written on the verso of a discarded letter, a rejection by Minna to an unnamed suitor. In the remaining space on the same sheet of paper, Natalie Planer (Minna's illegitimate daughter) has written an explanation of Richard Wagner's draft.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Names

Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883

Bethmann, Heinrich

Burrell, Mrs. (Mary), 1850-1898

Planer, Natalie

Wagner, Minna, 1809-1866