



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Frieda Hempel-William Kahn papers

1863-1961

JOB 91-45

Summary

Creator: Hempel, Frieda, 1885-1955

Title: Frieda Hempel-William Kahn papers

Date: 1863-1961

Size: .2 linear feet

Abstract: Frieda Hempel was a German soprano with the Metropolitan Opera. From 1918-1926, she was married to William B. Kahn, who continued as her business manager after their divorce. Correspondence between Frieda Hempel and William Kahn, chiefly from the year 1950, including letters, cables, and postcards ; correspondence between Frieda Hempel and others ; correspondence between William Kahn and Elizabeth Johnston, who cared for Frieda Hempel during her last illness, 1955 ; correspondence between William Kahn and others concerning the hanging of a portrait of Frieda Hempel in the Metropolitan Opera House, 1956-1957 ; correspondence between William Kahn and others including Sophie Tavarozzi and Joan Sutherland Bonyngé ; Kahn's 1914 pamphlet, *The Avoidance of War*, and correspondence about it ; Kahn family correspondence from the 19th century and the 1920's ; clippings ; and miscellaneous items including a Kahn family tree.

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: Frieda Hempel-William Kahn papers, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Chiefly in English ; some letters are in German, and 1 is in French

Creator History

Frieda Hempel was a German soprano with the Metropolitan Opera. From 1918-1926, she was married to William B. Kahn, who continued as her business manager after their divorce.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence between Frieda Hempel and William Kahn, chiefly from the year 1950, including letters, cables, and postcards ; correspondence between Frieda Hempel and others ; correspondence between William Kahn and Elizabeth Johnston, who cared for Frieda Hempel during her last illness, 1955 ; correspondence between William Kahn and others concerning the hanging of a portrait of Frieda Hempel in the Metropolitan Opera House, 1956-1957 ; correspondence between William Kahn and others including Sophie Tavarozzi and Joan Sutherland Bonyngé ; Kahn's 1914 pamphlet, *The Avoidance of War*, and correspondence about it ; Kahn family correspondence from the 19th century and the 1920's ; clippings ; and miscellaneous items including a Kahn family tree.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Letters (correspondence)
Pamphlets
Postcards
Telegrams

Subjects

Peace
World politics -- 1900-1918

Occupations

Sopranos (Singers)

Names

Hempel, Frieda, 1885-1955
Kahn, William B
Cohen family