



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Ira Aldridge Society records

1886-1973

Sc MG 131

Processed by Diana Lachatanere.

Summary

Creator: Ira Aldridge Society

Title: Ira Aldridge Society records

Date: 1886-1973

Size: 1.88 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift, Smith, Hughie Lee and unknown donor, 09/09/81

Abstract: Interracial organization devoted to the discovery and promotion of talented black artists and educating people on the contributions of black artists to the performing arts. Constitution and bylaws, financial and legal documents, financial reports, correspondence to private individuals as well as government institutions, news clippings, and other printed material relating to the Society. Also, Aldridge family papers consisting of copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and correspondence to and from Ira Aldridge and other family members.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 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. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access

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Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Diana Lachatanere; updated by Barrye Brown, 2020.

Creator History

Interracial organization devoted to the discovery and promotion of talented black artists and educating people on the contributions of black artists to the performing arts.

Scope and Content Note

The Ira Aldridge Society records consist of constitution and bylaws, financial and legal documents, financial reports, correspondence to private individuals as well as government institutions, news clippings, and other printed material relating to the Society. Of particular interest is a script by Ossie Davis titled, "Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge, Sir." The Aldridge family papers consisting of copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and correspondence to and from Ira Aldridge and other family members. The scrapbook has been disbound and includes photocopies of articles and playbills featuring *The African Roscious*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *The Slave*, *Obi*, *the Ethiopian*, *The Death of Christophe*, and a booklet *Ira Aldridge, American Negro Tragedian and Taras Shevchenko, Poet of the Ukraine: Story of a Friendship*, published by Marie Trommer, 1939.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American families
African Americans -- Societies, etc
African Americans in the performing arts

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Birth certificates
Death certificates
Marriage certificates

Names

Aldridge, Ira Frederick, -1867
Aldridge family
Ira Aldridge Society

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Incorporation Papers – Bylaws and Constitution 1943
- b. 1 f. 2 Annual Meetings 1961-1964, 1969-1971
- b. 1 f. 3 Corporate Membership Certification
- b. 1 f. 4 London Society 1955
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1972
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence 1955-1968
- b. 1 f. 7 Financial Records 1960-1964
- b. 1 f. 8 Script by Ossie Davis, "Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge, Sir," 1963
- b. 1 f. 9 Play scripts
- b. 2 f. 1 Flyer negatives 1959
- b. 2 f. 2 Correspondence 1962, 1972
- b. 2 f. 3 Aldridge Family Documents (Copies) 1864-1869, 1893, 1915, 1933, 1956
- b. 2 f. 4 Ira Aldridge Society 1955-1967
- b. 2 f. 5 Miscellaneous 1956-1964
- b. 3 Address Cards
- b. 4 Scrapbook