



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Gertrude Soeurt collection of actor files

1929-1960

*T-Mss 2012-047

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015

Summary

Creator: Soeurt, Gertrude

Title: Gertrude Soeurt collection of actor files

Date: 1929-1960

Size: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: Gertrude Soeurt was a film enthusiast. The collection dates from 1929 to 1960 and contains actor biography files, fan club publications and articles, autograph books, and letters.

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>

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Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015 Previously assigned NYPL catalog numbers were retained in the container list.

Creator History

Gertrude Soeurt was a film enthusiast. She wrote columns for fan club publications and created a collection of actor biography files.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1929 to 1960 and contains actor biography files, fan club publications and articles, letters, and autograph books.

Biography files make up the bulk of the collection and contain publicity biographies, questionnaires, and articles. The files are arranged alphabetically by name and date from 1934 to 1960. The publicity biographies were primarily created by film studios, such as Universal Studios (Universal-International), 20th Century-Fox, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Columbia Studios, and RKO Radio Pictures. The questionnaires, created by Soeurt, are fully or partially completed, sometimes in the actor's hand. Among the actors and actresses represented are Bing Crosby, Ruth Hampton, Susan Hayward, Edward Everett Horton, J. Carrol Naish, Rita Hayworth, Leo Carrillo, Bob Hope, Greta Garbo, Boris Karloff, Mary Pickford, Florence Reed, Cesar Romero, Norma Shearer, James Stewart, and Lyle Talbot.

Fan club publications date from 1929 to 1942 and include The Betty Bronson Club News, The Andrew Beranger Booster, and Guildgrams, the quarterly publication of The Movie and Radio Club Guild. There are multiple annotated typescripts of Soeurt's column, "Flickers and Flashes," which discussed current events in film and entertainment. Also present are drafts of "Among Our Honoraries," a column written by Soeurt for Ye Club Dope Sheet, the monthly magazine of the William Collier, Jr. Fan Club.

Letters and cards are personal responses from actors thanking Soeurt for sending articles, notes, or questionnaires. Included are letters from Regis Toomey, Louise Dresser Gardner, Douglas Montgomery, Agnes Moorehead, and Joe E. Brown. Among the letters are three autographed photographs of actress Lina Basquette.

Autograph books date from 1934 to 1938 and contain autographs from actors such as Henry Armetta, Lina Basquette, Claire Windsor, Maurice St. Clair, Lyle Talbot, and Charles King. The collection also contains a souvenir boomerang from Stanley Kramer's *On the Beach*.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Articles
Biography files

Subjects

Celebrities
Fan clubs

Container List

Biography Files

Arranged alphabetically by actor's last name.

- b. 1 f. 1-6 Ab-Cr 1935-1960
- b. 2 f. 1-6 Cr-Ho 1934-1959
- b. 3 f. 1-5 Ho-Mc 1937-1960
- b. 4 f. 1-5 Me-So 1937-1960
- b. 5 f. 1-3 So-Zo 1935-1960
- b. 5 f. 4-8 Fan Club Articles 1929-1942
MFL 1816, MFL 2258
- b. 6 f. 1-2 Letters 1939-1961
8-MWEZ + n.c. 21,122
- b. 6 f. 3-4 Autograph Books 1932-1944
8-MWEZ + n.c. 24,381
- b. 6 f. 5 Miscellaneous 1936-1959
Boomerang, miscellaneous clippings and articles.

8-MWEZ + n.c. 21,122