



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Julia Sanderson papers

1913-1935 [bulk 1913-1928]

*T Mss 1962-001

Processed by Susan McArthur.

Summary

Creator: Sanderson, Julia

Title: Julia Sanderson papers

Date: 1913-1935 [bulk 1913-1928]

Source: Gift, Julia Sanderson, 1962

Abstract: The Julia Sanderson papers consist of correspondence, ephemera and scrapbooks of clippings and photographs documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and her husband, Frank Crumit. The papers span the years 1913-1935 and contain materials primarily from the theatrical careers. No material is included for their years in radio.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

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Preferred citation: Julia Sanderson Papers, *T-Mss 1962-001, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Processed by Susan McArthur. The collection was reprocessed in March, 1994.

Creator History

Julia Sanderson, musical comedy star of the early 1900s through the 1920s, was born in 1887 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Most of her childhood was spent in Philadelphia where her father, actor Albert Sackett, was a member of the Forepaugh Stock Company. Julia's stage debut was with her

father's company when she was thirteen. Her interest in drama was replaced by musical theatre and in 1904, while appearing in the chorus of *Winsome Winnie*, she stepped in for the leading actress and met with great success. This led to a contract with the Shuberts. In *The Sunshine Girl* (1915), under the management of Charles Frohman, she became a star. She did several shows with comic Joseph Cawthorn and was also successfully paired with Donald Brian. Sanderson was known for her fresh and charming portrayals. She was "without a trace of the artificial stage manner which marks so many musical comedy prima donnas". Among her many hits were *The Girl From Utah*, *Rambler Rose* and *The Canary*. In 1921 she appeared in *Tangerine* opposite Frank Crumit who had written her featured number "Sweet Lady". They went on to appear together in *No, No, Nanette*, *Queen High* and *Oh, Kay* and were married in 1927. [Sanderson had been married twice before: to jockey James T. Sloan in 1907 and to Lt. Bradford Barnette in 1916. Both marriages ended in divorce.] The Crumits attempted to retire in 1928 by moving to their estate "Dunrovin" in Longmeadow, Massachusetts only to be lured back to performing on the radio. They became a popular radio team in the 1930s and remained radio stars until Crumit's death in 1943. Sanderson retired once again to "Dunrovin". She died in Springfield in 1975 at the age of 87.

Custodial History

The Julia Sanderson Papers were donated to The Billy Rose Theatre Division by Julia Sanderson in 1962.

Scope and Content Note

The Julia Sanderson Papers consist of scrapbooks of clippings and photographs documenting Sanderson's career in musical comedy from 1913-1928. The scrapbooks also include information about her husband Frank Crumit's career. There is some correspondence. Most of the letters are to Crumit from his friends and colleagues. One wonderful "fan letter" from Jerome Kern to Sanderson recalls an earlier time when they worked together: she introduced his first hit "They Didn't Believe Me". A number of photographs, many autographed, of colleagues and friends as well as professional and "at home" photographs of the Crumits were removed from the collection and placed in the appropriate Theatre Collection files [see list]. A few non-theatrical photos remain. Rounding out the collection are a Charles Frohman autograph and a cartoon drawing of Sanderson and Crumit. The Julia Sanderson Papers are interesting for their documentation of the early days of the Broadway musical and of many of the great performers of that era.

Arrangement: Series I: Correspondence Series II: Ephemera Series III: Scrapbooks

Key Terms

Subjects

Musical theater
Vaudeville

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Titles

Ziegfeld follies

Names

Sanderson, Julia
Crumit, Frank

Kern, Jerome, 1885-1945
Sanders, Carlo

Container List

Correspondence 1923-1927 (1 folder)

Includes letters to Frank Crumit and related clippings [these were part of a scrapbook]; a letter from Jerome Kern to Ms. Sanderson.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Series I: Miscellaneous correspondence, . 1923-1935 (1 folder.)**
Sanderson, JuliaErrol, Leon, 1881-1951Crumit, FrankKern, Jerome, 1885-1945Woollcott, Alexander, 1887-1943
Letters [1923-1927, 1935] to Frank Crumit from friends and fellow actors. Also included are letters to Julia Sanderson from Jerome Kern and Alexander Woolcott.

Series II: Ephemera (4 folder)

Includes photographs of non-theatrical celebrities, Charles Frohman's autograph, an original drawing by Dorothy Edwards and a halftone of Frank Crumit.

- b. 1 f. 2 **Non-theatrical celebrity photographs (1 folder.)**
Sanderson, JuliaCrumit, Frank
Autographed photographs to Julia Sanderson and/or Frank Crumit.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Autograph / Charles Frohman (1 folder)**
Sanderson, Julia
Autograph to Julia Sanderson.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Pen and ink drawing / Dorothy Edwards (1 folder)**
Sanderson, JuliaCrumit, Frank
Original drawing inscribed to Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Clippings / Frank Crumit (1 folder)**
Sanderson, Julia
Clipping (half tone) of Frank Crumit from a Lambs Club publication.

Series III: Scrapbooks 1913-1928 (3.5 boxes)

Includes clippings and photographs of Sanderson and Crumit shows.

- b. 1 f. 6 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1913-1918 (1 scrapbook)**
The sunshine girl (Musical)Sybil (Musical)Rambler Rose (Musical)The canary (Musical)The girl from Utah (Musical)Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989Jones, SidneyKern, Jerome, 1885-1945Rubens, Paul A. (Paul Alfred), 1875-1917Jacobi, Viktor, 1883-1921Caryll, Ivan, 1861-1921
Scrapbook of clippings about Julia Sanderson's starring roles in The Sunshine Girl (1913), The Girl From Utah (1915), Sybil (1916), Rambler Rose (1917) and The Canary (1918). Some production and publicity photographs are included.
- b. 2 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1922-1925 (1 folder.)**
VaudevilleMoonlight (Musical)Tangerine (Musical)Crumit, FrankConrad, Con, 1891-1938Sanders, Carlo
Scrapbook (originals and photocopies) of clippings documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit. Shows included are Tangerine, Moonlight, Ziegfeld Follies (1923) and vaudeville performances. [This scrapbook was divided into two parts for storage purposes. Part two is in box 3.]
- b. 3 f. 1 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1925 (1 folder)**
No, no, Nanette (Musical)Moonlight (Musical)Crumit, FrankYoumans, Vincent, 1898-1946Conrad, Con, 1891-1938
Scrapbook (and photocopied pages) documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit. Shows included are Moonlight and No, No, Nanette. [This folder contains the second half of a scrapbook. Part one is in box 2.]

Series III: Scrapbooks (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 2 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1921-1926 (1 folder)**
Tangerine (Musical)Queen high (Musical)Crumit, FrankSanders, CarloGensler, Lewis E., 1896-1978
Scrapbook of clippings documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit. Shows included are Tangerine and Queen High.
- b. 4 f. 1 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1921-1925 (1 folder)**
Moonlight (Musical)No, no, Nanette (Musical)Hitchy-Koo (Musical)Crumit, FrankConrad, Con, 1891-1938Youmans, Vincent, 1898-1946Kern, Jerome, 1885-1945
Scrapbook of clippings documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit. Shows included are Tangerine, Moonlight, No, No, Nanette and Hitchy-Koo.
- b. 4 f. 2 **Scrapbook / Julia Sanderson 1925-1927 (1 folder)**
No, no, Nanette (Musical)Oh, Kay (Musical)Queen high (Musical)Crumit, FrankYoumans, Vincent, 1898-1946Gershwin, George, 1898-1937Gensler, Lewis E., 1896-1978
Scrapbook documenting the careers of Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit. Shows include No, No, Nanette, Oh, Kay and Queen High. Also contains biographical material and photographs of Frank Crumit.