



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Letters to Edward D. McDonald

1922-1924

*T-Mss 1993-053

Summary

Creator: Barthelmess, Richard, 1895-1963

Title: Letters to Edward D. McDonald

Date: 1922-1924

Size: .1 linear feet (1 portfolio)

Source: Papers: gift, Norman D. Stevens, 12/--/93

Abstract: Actor Richard Barthelmess, who went straight from Trinity College to silent films, gave two outstanding performances for D. W. Griffith in *BROKEN BLOSSOMS* (1919) and *WAY DOWN EAST* (1920), both with Lillian Gish. With his innocent, unsophisticated image, he was a popular leading man through the 1920s, notably *TOL'ABLE DAVID* (1921). With the advent of sound, he moved to supporting roles. His later films included *THE DAWN PATROL* (1930) and *ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS* (1939). Barthelmess retired in 1942. The collection consists of four letters by Barthelmess to his friend Edward D. McDonald, a professor of English at Drexel University. The letters are mostly on personal matters though there is some mention of his films.

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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Creator History

Actor Richard Barthelmess, who went straight from Trinity College to silent films, gave two outstanding performances for D. W. Griffith in *BROKEN BLOSSOMS* (1919) and *WAY DOWN EAST* (1920), both with Lillian Gish. With his innocent, unsophisticated image, he was a popular leading man through the 1920s, notably *TOL'ABLE DAVID* (1921). With the advent of sound, he moved to supporting roles. His later films included *THE DAWN PATROL* (1930) and *ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS* (1939).

Barthelmess retired in 1942.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of four letters by Barthelmess to his friend Edward D. McDonald, a professor of English at Drexel University. The letters are mostly on personal matters though there is some mention of his films.

Key Terms

Subjects

Actors

Names

Barthelmess, Richard, 1895-1963

McDonald, Edward D.