



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Eva Le Gallienne papers**

1903-1986

\*T-Mss 1992-034

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

## Summary

**Creator:** Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991

**Title:** Eva Le Gallienne papers

**Date:** 1903-1986

**Source:** The Eva LeGallienne papers were part of her estate and were acquired in two ways: through purchase and donation. Those donated were found within the pages of books given to the library. They were organized and processed as an archival collection in June 1996.

**Abstract:** Eva Le Gallienne, actress, director and producer, founded Civic Repertory Theatre and also taught acting at the White Barn Theatre. Her papers contain a small selection of correspondence, photographs and handwritten notes.

**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:**

Photocopying prohibited.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

**Preferred citation:** Eva Le Gallienne Papers, \*T-Mss 1992-034, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Processing note:** Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan; machine-readable finding aid created by Mary Ellen Rogan.

**Related Materials:**

Eva Le Gallienne papers and audiotapes

## **Creator History**

Eva Le Gallienne, actress, director and producer, was born in London, England on January 11, 1899. Her theater debut was at the age of 15 in the London production of *Monna Vanna* in which she played a page. She made her New York debut in 1915 in the play *Mrs. Boltay's Daughters*. In 1926, Eva LeGallienne founded the Civic Repertory Theatre where she directed and starred in many of the productions including *The Master Builder*, *The Three Sisters*, *Twelfth Night* and *Hedda Gabler* to name a few. In 1941 she produced and directed *Ah, Wilderness!* In 1946 with Cheryl Crawford and Margaret Webster she founded the American Repertory Theatre. Eva Le Gallienne toured in *The Corn Is Green* which opened at New York City Center in 1950. She also toured with the National Repertory Theatre in the play *Mary Stuart*. Other touring productions include *The Seagull* and *Ring Around the Moon*. Ms. Le Gallienne's television credits include the *Hallmark Hall Of Fame* production of *Alice in Wonderland*, *Playhouse 90* broadcast of *The Corn Is Green*, *Dupont Show of the Month* production of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *Mary Stuart* for *Kraft Television Playhouse*.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Eva Le Gallienne papers contain correspondence, photographs, some handwritten notes and one notebook about the Civic Repertory Co. Correspondence includes letters from Eleonora Duse to a Mr. Smith as well as letters to Eva Le Gallienne from friends and professional acquaintances.

**Arrangement:** Series I: Correspondence Series II: Personal Papers

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Theater -- United States

### **Names**

Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991

Duse, Eleonora, 1858-1924

Civic Repertory Company

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence, 1903-1986 (7 folders)

This series contains correspondence from friends, fans and business acquaintances. Included are letters from Brian Aherne, Ferenc Molnar, Blanche Yurka, Otis Skinner and a friend named Desiree Wertheimstein. Also included are three letters (with translations) from Eleanora Duse to a Mr. Smith.

Alphabetical

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A-C" 1944-1966 (1 folder (7 letters, 1 env. and 1 photograph))  
slider  
Includes letter from Brian Aherne.
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence / Eleonora Duse 1903 (1 folder (3 letters, 3 env. and 3 translations))  
Letters written by Eleanora Duse to a Mr. Smith. Translation of letter included.
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence "G-M" 1930 (1 folder (10 letters))  
Molna\_r, Ferenc, 1878-1952  
Includes letter from Ferenc Molnar.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence "R-Z" 1926-1973 (1 folder (7 letters, 1 note written on a env., 1 env.))  
Yurka, Blanche  
Includes letter from Blanche Yurka.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence / Robert A. Schenke 1973-1986 (1 folder (9 letters, 1 telegram))
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence / Desiree Wertheimstein 1924-1925 (1 folder (4 letters).)
- b. 1 f. 7 Unidentified correspondence (1 folder (3 letters, 2 env., 1 card))  
Unidentified correspondence in English and in French to Eva LeGallienne.

### Series II: Papers (4 folders)

This series contains a folders with handwritten notes on Ibsen and an unidentified production of *St. Joan* as well as a notebook on the Civic Repertory Co, and ephemeral items. Included in these are greeting cards, photographs and postcards.

- b. 1 f. 8 Notes on Ibsen / Eva Le Gallienne (1 folder.)  
Miscellaneous notes and materials on Ibsen. Postcards of Ibsen's home included.
- b. 1 f. 9 Notes on *St. Joan* / Eva Le Gallienne (1 folder.)  
Saint JoanShaw, Bernard, 1856-1950  
Blocking notes for the staging of *St. Joan*.
- b. 1 f. 10 Notebook about the Civic Repertory Company productions (1 folder)  
Civic Repertory Company  
Handwritten notebook belonging to Eva LeGallienne on productions at Civic Repertory Co.
- b. 1 f. 11 Ephemera (1 folder.)  
Cards, bookmarks and photographs belonging to Eva LeGallienne.