



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Francis Wilson letters to Otto Fleischner**

1889-1909

\*T-Mss 1998-015

## Summary

**Creator:** Wilson, Francis, 1854-1935

**Title:** Francis Wilson letters to Otto Fleischner

**Date:** 1889-1909

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Unknown, Unknown: Found in MWEZ 21276

**Abstract:** Francis Wilson (1854-1935), actor and author, was a member of the legitimate comedy group at the Chestnut Street Theatre, 1887-1888, in Philadelphia, and became involved in comic opera as the leading actor of McCaull Opera Company, 1885-1889. He subsequently organized his own company, was president of the Actor's Theatre, and wrote several biographies, e.g., John Wilkes Booth and Joseph Jefferson, and drama, e.g., "The Magic Ring.". The collection contains Wilson's letters, 1889-1905, to his friend Otto Fleischner (1852-1939), assistant librarian of the Boston Public Library. The letters are primarily concerned with personal matters, Francis Wilson's career as an actor, Wilson's interest in Joseph Jefferson, and the family hobby of collecting book-plates and monograms. The letters were written in New Rochelle, New York, at Wilson's home, "The Orchard" and while Wilson was on road tours. Included as well, are thank you notes from Wilson's children to Otto Fleischner for gifts.

**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>

**Preferred citation:** Francis Wilson letters to Otto Fleischner, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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was president of the Actor's Theatre, and wrote several biographies, e.g., John Wilkes Booth and Joseph Jefferson, and drama, e.g., "The Magic Ring."

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains Wilson's letters, 1889-1905, to his friend Otto Fleischner (1852-1939), assistant librarian of the Boston Public Library. The letters are primarily concerned with personal matters, Francis Wilson's career as an actor, Wilson's interest in Joseph Jefferson, and the family hobby of collecting book-plates and monograms. The letters were written in New Rochelle, New York, at Wilson's home, "The Orchard" and while Wilson was on road tours. Included as well, are thank you notes from Wilson's children to Otto Fleischner for gifts.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically

### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

Actors  
Collectors and collecting  
Theater -- United States

#### **Names**

Wilson, Francis, 1854-1935  
Fleischner, Otto, 1852-1939