



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Mark Linder papers

1933-1950

*T-Mss 1997-030

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Linder, Mark, -1950

Title: Mark Linder papers

Date: 1933-1950

Abstract: Mark Linder was a writer for vaudeville and the theater. The collection includes correspondence, set designs, scripts including multiple drafts and sides and document his career and his writing process.

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: Processed by Staff. The Mark Linder Papers arrived in good condition and processing was completed in the spring of 1998.

Creator History

Mark Linder was born ca. 1881, in New York City. He made his theatrical debut as a dancer at the age of 6 in the Thalia Theatre. He continued his career touring at the age of 12 in such productions as *Peck's Bad Boy*, in which he played the title role, and *Jesse James* in the role of "Muggsy the Slugger". By the age of 18 Mark Linder headed a school of elocution in Boston, Massachusetts. From there, he entered vaudeville writing and acting in many sketches. His two brothers, Jack and Charles joined

Linder in the theater collaborating with him as writers and producers. Some of their cooperative work includes *Chatham Square*, written by Jack and Charles Linder; *The Squealer*, written by Mark Linder and produced by Charles and Jack Linder; *Cortez*, directed by Mark Linder and produced by his brothers; *Honor Code*, directed by Mark Linder, produced by Charles and Jack; and *Summer Wives* a collaboration with Dolph Singer. Some of his other works include: *Bowery Follies & Gay 90's Revue* presented at The Grieff Theatre; *Room 349*, a murder mystery based on Arnold Rothstein's *The Gambler*; *Triplets*; a domestic comedy, staged by Walter Wilson, and presented at Masque Theatre; *The Case of Helen Deane*; and *The Squealer* which premiered at The Forest Theatre. Linder wrote more than one hundred plays and was a member of the Jewish Theatre Guild and the Author's Guild. He wrote and appeared in vaudeville in playlets directed by Roland West, and also appeared in a succession of melodramas produced by A.H. Woods. Linder's writings also included a series of television sketches that lasted in duration from 15 minutes to 1 hour, under the title of *Spotlight Theatre*. An example of this was *Dr. Cronkhite*, starring Smith & Dale. In 1940 Mark Linder was sued by Mae West over the production *Diamond Lil*, which Linder claimed he had written under the title of *Chatham Square*. Linder lost the suit and Mae West was awarded one million dollars. Mark Linder died of a heart attack in New York City in 1950. He had been working on the play *Six Wacs and a Gob*.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mark Linder document his career. The collection includes correspondence, set designs, scripts and sides. There are no personal materials in the collection, the materials being mostly scripts, early drafts and revisions.

Arrangement: Series I. Personal Papers Series II. Set Designs Series III. Scripts

Key Terms

Subjects

Dramatists -- United States
Theater -- United States

Names

Linder, Mark, -1950

Container List

Series I. Personal Papers 1933-1950 (2 folders)

This series includes correspondence, contracts and legal documents belonging to Mark Linder.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Correspondence "A-Z" 1950-1951 (1 folder)**
Correspondence to Mrs. Mark Linder regarding her husband, Mark Linder.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Contracts and legal documents / Mark Linder 1938 (1 folder)**
Diamond LilWest, Mae
Lawsuits, contracts and royalty reports from the career of Mark Linder.
- b. 1 f. 3 ***The squealer (Motion picture)* (1 folder)**
Publicity flyer for the motion picture *The Squealer*, based on the play by Mark Linder.
- b. 1 f. 4 ***Spotlight Theatre (Television program) promotional outline* (1 folder)**
Outline in the form of a handmade booklet for the purpose of presenting Mark Linder's idea for a television series of fifteen minute dramas.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Obituaries / Mark Linder 1950 (1 folder)**
Copies of Linder's obituaries.

Series II. Set Designs (1 folder)

This series contains sketches of stage designs and layouts for Mark Linder productions.

Productions included are: *African Jess*, *A Bundle from Heaven*, *Fourteenth Street*, *The Hawk of the Desert*, *Six Wacs and a Gob*, *The Kid's Clever* and *Triplets*.

Alphabetical

- b. 1 f. 6 **Set designs for Mark Linder plays (1 folder)**
A bundle from heavenFourteenth StreetHawk of the desertThe kid's cleverSix Wacs and a gobTripletsAfrican JessCleo from Minsky'sWho's to blame?Linder, Mark, -1950
Set designs for plays written and / or directed by Mark Linder.

Series III. Scripts (7 boxes)

This series contains drafts and revisions of scripts written by Mark Linder. One problem sorting through the scripts in the collection was caused by Linder's habit of reusing names of individual characters from one play to another sometimes making it difficult to determine drafts or revisions for each title. Some titles include: *American Presidents On Parade*, *The Auctioneer*, *Auditioning for the Borscht Circuit*, *A Bundle From Heaven*, *Chatham Square*, *Chip Off the Old Block*, *Fourteenth Street*, *Frau Klink*, *Digging Up the Dead*, *Good Time Charlie*, *The Hawk of the Desert*, *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, *My Mother Was a Lady*, *Six Wacs and a Gob*, and *Summer Wives*. Of special note is Mark Linder's tendency to give alternative titles, often the same as another play he has written.

Alphabetical

- b. 2 f. 1 ***Action! Forward! March! (Musical) / Hugh W. Schubert* (1 folder)**
Script for the musical political satire *Action! Forward! March!*
- b. 2 f. 2 ***American presidents on parade (Radio program)* (1 folder)**
Script for the first episode of the radio program *American Presidents on Parade*
- b. 2 f. 3 ***American presidents on parade (Radio program)* November 30, 1938 (1 folder)**
Script for 2nd episode of the radio program *American Presidents on Parade*
- b. 2 f. 4 ***American presidents on parade (Radio program)* December 7, 1938 (1 folder)**
Script for the radio program *American Presidents on Parade*
- b. 2 f. 5 ***The auctioneer / Mark Linder* (1 folder)**
Script for the play *The Auctioneer*.
- b. 2 f. 6 ***The auctioneer / Mark Linder* (1 folder)**
Rewrite for the play *The Auctioneer*.

Series III. Scripts (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 7 *Auditioning for the borscht circuit / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script of the play *Auditioning For the Borscht Circuit*.
- b. 2 f. 8 *Auditioning for the borscht circuit / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Act I, with handwritten changes for the play *Auditioning For the Borscht Circuit*.
- b. 2 f. 9 *The baby sitter / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Excerpt from the play *The Baby Sitter*.
- b. 2 f. 10 *Baby squatters inc / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Baby Squatters Inc*.
- b. 2 f. 11 *Dollar's sense / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script with revisions for the play *Dollar's Sense* or *Baby Squatters, Inc*.
- b. 2 f. 12 *Barbara Russell / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Barbara Russell* or *Born Without Wedlock*.
- b. 2 f. 13 *Behind the iron curtain / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Excerpt for the play *Behind the Iron Curtain*.
- b. 2 f. 14 *Bowery follies (Revue) / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the Gay 90's revue, *Bowery Follies*, includes program.
- b. 2 f. 15 *Broadway Lil / Mark Linder* (1 folder (3 synopses))
Synopses of three variations of a play entitled *Broadway Lil*.
- b. 2 f. 16 *A bundle from heaven / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *A Bundle From Heaven*.
- b. 3 f. 1 *The case of Helen Deane / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *The Case of Helen Deane*.
- b. 3 f. 2 *Helen / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Helen* (also known as *The Case of Helen Deane*). Script for the play *Helen* (also known as *The Case of Helen Deane*).
- b. 3 f. 3 *Chatham Square / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Act II of the play *Chatham Square*.
- b. 3 f. 4-7 *Chatham Square / Mark Linder* (4 folders)
Sides for the play *Chatham Square*.
- b. 3 f. 8 *Chip off the old block / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Chip Off the Old Block*, or *The Lifer*.
- b. 3 f. 9 *Chip off the old block (Television program) / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the television program *Chip Off the Old Block*, or *The Lifer*.
- b. 3 f. 10 *Cleopatra - Caesar's night out / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Cleopatra - Caesar's Night Out*.
- b. 3 f. 11 *Cleopatra's night out / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Cleopatra - Night Out*, or *An Egyptian Cocktail*.
- b. 4 f. 1 *Cuckoo college / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Cuckoo College*.
- b. 4 f. 2 *Daughter of Diamond Lil / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Daughter of Diamond Lil*.
- b. 4 f. 3 *Dolly Dawson / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Dolly Dawson*, or *The Executioner*.
- b. 4 f. 4 *During my three terms / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *During My Three Terms*, or *Memories*.
- b. 4 f. 5 *An Egyptian cocktail / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *An Egyptian Cocktail*.

Series III. Scripts (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 6 *Emperor of vice / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Emperor of Vice*.
- b. 4 f. 7 *Expectant mothers / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Expectant Mothers*.
- b. 4 f. 8 *The four killers / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script excerpt for the play *The Four Killers*.
- b. 4 f. 9 *Fourteenth Street / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Fourteenth Street*, or *Huber's Museum*.
- b. 4 f. 10 *Fourteenth Street / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Fourteenth Street*, or *Murder in Huber's Museum*.
- b. 4 f. 11 *Frau Klink / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Two copies of the script for the play *Frau Klink*.
- b. 4 f. 12 *Frau Klink / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Frau Klink*.
- b. 4 f. 13 *Digging up the dead / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Digging Up the Dead* (version of *Frau Klink*)
- b. 5 f. 1 *Friendly aliens / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Friendly Aliens*.
- b. 5 f. 2 *General delivery / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *General Delivery*.
- b. 5 f. 3 *Gone but not forgotten / Hugh W. Schubert* (1 folder)
Script for the musical *Gone But Not Forgotten*, or *Spirit of '32*, or *During My Three Terms*.
- b. 5 f. 4 *Goodtime Charlie / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Goodtime Charlie*.
- b. 5 f. 5 *Goodtime Charlie / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Goodtime Charlie*.
- b. 5 f. 6 *Goodtime Charlie / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Goodtime Charlie*.
- b. 5 f. 7 *Haven of hope / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Haven of Hope*.
- b. 5 f. 8 *Hawk of the desert / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Hawk of the Desert*.
- b. 5 f. 9 *Hawk of the desert / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Hawk of the Desert*.
- b. 5 f. 10 *Hell on earth / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Hell on Earth*, or *To Hell and Back*, or *Suicide Hell*.
- b. 5 f. 11 *The kid's clever / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *The Kid's Clever*, or *I Fell For a Skirt*.
- b. 5 f. 12 *Killing the killers / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script excerpt for the play *Killing the Killers*.
- b. 5 f. 13 *King Henry the Eighth's new wife / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *King Henry the Eighth's New Wife*.
- b. 6 f. 1 *Lady Chatterly's lover / Vincent Marr* (1 folder)
Linder, JackMarr, Vincent
Script and program for the stage version of *Lady Chatterly's Lover*.
- b. 6 f. 2 *Lady Chatterly's lover / Vincent Marr* (1 folder)
Linder, JackLinder, Mark, -1950
Script for the stage version of *Lady Chatterly's Lover*.

Series III. Scripts (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 3 *Lady Chatterly's lovers / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Excerpt for the script *Lady Chatterly's Lovers*.
- b. 6 f. 4 *Lonesome cavalier / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Lonesome Cavalier*.
- b. 6 f. 5 *Man and law / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the dramatic playlet *Man and Law*.
- b. 6 f. 6 *My country...your country / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the political satire *My Country... Your Country*.
- b. 6 f. 7 *My love for Dolly Baker / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *My Love for Dolly Baker* or *Queen of Hearts*.
- b. 6 f. 8 *My mother was a lady / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *My Mother Was a Lady*.
- b. 6 f. 9 *Behind the footlights / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Behind the Footlights*, or *My Mother Was a Lady*.
- b. 6 f. 10 *My next door neighbor / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *My Next Door Neighbor*.
- b. 6 f. 11 *Okeh! we can take it / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Okeh! We Can Take It*.
- b. 6 f. 12 *China can take it / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *China Can Take It*.
- b. 6 f. 13 *On furlough / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *On Furlough*.
- b. 6 f. 14 *Outsmarting the smart / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Outsmarting the Smart*, or *Digging Up the Dead*.
- b. 7 f. 1 *Sex madness / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Sex Madness* or *Oh What a Night*.
- b. 7 f. 2 *Silent Joe / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Silent Joe* or, *Man of Steel*.
- b. 7 f. 3 *Six Wacs and a gob / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Six Wacs and a Gob*.
- b. 7 f. 4 *Six Wacs and a gob / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the second version of *Six Wacs and a Gob*.
- b. 7 f. 5 *Six Wacs and a gob / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the fourth version of *Six Wacs and a Gob*.
- b. 7 f. 6 *Six Wacs and a gob / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the fifth version of *Six Wacs and a Gob*.
- b. 7 f. 7 *Six Wacs and a gob / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the final version of *Six Wacs and a Gob*. Synopsis included.
- b. 7 f. 8 *In God we trust / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *In God We Trust* or, *Six Wacs and a Gob*.
- b. 7 f. 9 *Social director / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Social Director*.
- b. 7 f. 10 *Strange case of a lumberjack / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Strange Case of a Lumberjack* or, *Revenge is Sweet*.
- b. 7 f. 11 *Summer wives / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Summer Wives*.

Series III. Scripts (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 12 *Summer wives / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Summer Wives*.
- b. 8 f. 1 *Tabasco Trail / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Tabasco Trail*.
- b. 8 f. 2 *Test tube babies / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Test Tube Babies* or, *Oh What a Night*.
- b. 8 f. 3 *Three of a kind / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Three of a Kind*.
- b. 8 f. 4 *Trading post or, Cut / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Trading Post or, Cut*.
- b. 8 f. 5 *Transfusion / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Transfusion* or, *When a Man Turns Brute*.
- b. 8 f. 6 *Triples / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Triples*.
- b. 8 f. 7 *A two fisted female / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *A Two Fisted Female* or, *The Star Bout*.
- b. 8 f. 8 *Two-gun Crowley / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *Two-Gun Crowley*.
- b. 8 f. 9 *The wager / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Script for the play *The Wager*.
- b. 8 f. 10 *World's worse woman / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Idea for a play entitled *World's Worse Woman*.
- b. 8 f. 11 *Writings / Mark Linder* (1 folder)
Unidentified excerpts from scripts by Mark Linder.