



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Frederick G. Ross Scrapbooks, 1876-1930**

\*T-Mss 1942-001

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan and Susan McArthur.

## Summary

**Creator:** Ross, Frederick G., 1858-1942

**Title:** Frederick G. Ross Scrapbooks, 1876-1930

**Source:** Gift, Munro, Wallace, 1942

**Abstract:** Frederick G. Ross was an actor and business manager. His collection includes scrapbooks documenting the theater and actors and actresses of the 19th century. Also included is a portfolio of letters from the actor and stage manager William Gorman Seymour.

**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:** Frederick G. Ross Scrapbooks, \*T-Mss 1942-001, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Processing note:** Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan and Susan McArthur.

## Creator History

Frederick G. Ross, actor and business manager for Lillian Russell was born in San Francisco, California in 1858. He began his stage career in 1879 appearing with actors such as James O'Neill, Edwin Booth, Ada Cavendish, John Drew and Joseph Jefferson. Leaving the stage, he became business manager for stars such as Lillian Russell, Fritzi Scheff, Margaret Anglin, Henry Miller and Rose Coghlan. He died in Long Island, New York in 1942.

## **Custodial History**

Wallace Munro donated the collection to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1942.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Frederick G. Ross Scrapbooks consist of 4 volumes of clippings documenting 19th century theater and actors of the day. Included as well is a portfolio of letters from William Gorman Seymour to Frederick G. Ross. The letters discuss events and happenings during the mid to late 19th century theater as well as personal items from the life of Seymour and his family.

**Arrangement:** Series I: Scrapbooks Series II: Letters

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Actors -- United States  
Actresses -- United States  
Theater -- History -- 19th century  
Theaters -- United States

### **Names**

Ross, Frederick G., 1858-1942  
Booth, Edwin, 1833-1893  
Booth, John Wilkes, 1838-1865  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865  
Mansfield, Richard, 1857-1907  
Russell, Lillian, 1861-1922  
Seymour, William Gorman, 1855-1933

## Container List

### Series I: Scrapbooks 1876-1930 (4 vols.)

This series consists of scrapbooks from the library of actor/business manager Frederick Ross documenting theater and actors and actresses from the late 19th century through the middle of the early 20th century. Included are clippings and some programs. One of the scrapbooks is entirely about Richard Mansfield and includes clippings and programs about his performances in *Peer Gynt*, *Beau Brummell*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *The Scarlet Letter*.

- b. 1 Scrapbook / Richard Mansfield 1906-1907 (1 scrapbook)  
Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894--Stage adaptations  
Beau Brummell  
bsen, Henrik, 1828-1906  
Fitch, Clyde, 1865-1909  
Sullivan, T. R. (Thomas Russell), 1849-1916  
Scrapbook containing programs and clippings about Richard Mansfield's performance in *Peer Gynt*. Also mentioned are *Beau Brummel*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
- b. 2 Scrapbook / Frederick G. Ross 1893-1929 (1 scrapbook)  
Theaters--United States  
Actors--Portraits--19th century  
Scrapbook from the library of actor/business manager Fred G. Ross containing clippings, portraits of actors, and pictures of theaters from the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- b. 3 Scrapbook / Frederick G. Ross 1886-1927 (1 scrapbook)  
Actors--Portraits--19th century  
Theaters--United States  
Scrapbook from the library of actor/business manager Fred G. Ross containing clippings, portraits of actors, and pictures of theaters from the 19th and early 20th centuries. An index is included.
- b. 4 Scrapbook / Frederick G. Ross 1876-1930 (1 scrapbook)  
Actors--Portraits--19th century  
Scrapbook from the library of actor/business manager Fred G. Ross containing clippings and portraits of actors from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

### Series II: Letters 1925-1929 (1 portfolio)

This series contains 4 letters written by William Gorman Seymour to Frederick G. Ross. The letters discuss theater events in the mid to late 19th century and talk especially about Edwin Booth. The earliest letter [1925] concerns John Wilkes Booth and the details of his death and burial.

Chronological

- b. 5 Correspondence / William Gorman Seymour 1925-1929 (1 portfolio (4 letters, 1 partial letter))  
Theater--United States--History--19th century  
Booth, Edwin, 1833-1893  
Booth, John Wilkes, 1838-1865  
Seymour family  
Four letters and one incomplete letter from William Seymour to Fred G. Ross.