



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

James Young papers

1904-1948

*T-Mss 2000-035

Summary

Creator: Young, James, 1878-

Title: James Young papers

Date: 1904-1948

Size: .21 linear feet. (1 box)

Abstract: James Young (1872?-1948) was active on stage and in motion pictures as an actor, director, and writer. Born on New Year's Day 1872 (some sources say 1878), in Baltimore, Md., James Young was appearing onstage by the 1890s. Eventually, his theatrical career would encompass playwriting, producing, directing, and management, as well as nationwide lecturing on Shakespeare. Mr. Young began acting in motion pictures in 1909 and writing and directing them three years later; he had appeared in some 35 films by 1917, including Maurice Tourneur's *TRILBY* (1915) opposite his then-wife Clara Kimball Young, when he gave up acting to focus on directing his own scripts. With F. Richard Jones he co-directed *MICKEY* (1918) starring Mabel Normand. He directed a number of literary adaptations, including *BEAU BRUMMELL* (1913), *OLIVER TWIST* (1916), and a remake of *TRILBY* (1923). Among his last films was *THE BELLS* (1926) starring Lionel Barrymore and Boris Karloff. James Young's film career ended with the coming of talking pictures. After several years of poor health he died in New York City on June 9, 1948. The James Young papers consist of nine folders of material and includes personal correspondence, financial documents, newspaper clippings, and ephemera, most of it from the last three years of Mr. Young's life. The early period of James Young's career is represented by a booklet of testimonials praising his lectures on Hamlet and Shylock, and by clippings from the *New York Times* and the *Baltimore American*, both dated July 1896, which describe James Young's collection of theatrical portraits, especially of the Booth family, which he donated to the Players Club in New York. Much of the material from Mr. Young's last years details the deterioration of his health.

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: James Young papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

James Young (1872?-1948) was active on stage and in motion pictures as an actor, director, and writer. Born on New Year's Day 1872 (some sources say 1878), in Baltimore, Md., James Young was appearing onstage by the 1890s. Eventually, his theatrical career would encompass playwriting, producing, directing, and management, as well as nationwide lecturing on Shakespeare. Mr. Young began acting in motion pictures in 1909 and writing and directing them three years later; he had appeared in some 35 films by 1917, including Maurice Tourneur's *TRILBY* (1915) opposite his then-wife Clara Kimball Young, when he gave up acting to focus on directing his own scripts. With F. Richard Jones he co-directed *MICKEY* (1918) starring Mabel Normand. He directed a number of literary adaptations, including *BEAU BRUMMELL* (1913), *OLIVER TWIST* (1916), and a remake of *TRILBY* (1923). Among his last films was *THE BELLS* (1926) starring Lionel Barrymore and Boris Karloff. James Young's film career ended with the coming of talking pictures. After several years of poor health he died in New York City on June 9, 1948.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Actors -- United States
Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States
Motion picture producers and directors -- United States
Theater -- History -- 19th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence

Names

Young, James, 1878-
Booth, Edwin, 1833-1893
Booth, John Wilkes, 1838-1865
Booth, Junius Brutus, 1796-1852
Players (Club)