



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Reminiscences of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company

*T-Mss 1998-059

Summary

Creator: Horner, Ralph

Title: Reminiscences of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company

Size: (1 portfolio)

Source: Gift, Lam, Laurie, 12/08/1998

Abstract: Ralph Horner was a conductor for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company of London from the late 1870s until the early 1890s. In addition to conducting the orchestra, Horner served as stage manager on the company's tours. He also wrote *FOUR BY HONOURS*, a one-act "curtain raiser" performed as a prolog to the Gilbert and Sullivan shows on the tours of 1879 and 1880. Consists of an eight page draft of a letter, written by Ralph Horner to an unknown recipient, in which he reminisces about his years with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, conducting the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. The bulk of the text concerns incidents which occurred during the troupe's extensive tours of England. A number of emendations in the author's hand have been made in the text.

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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Creator History

Ralph Horner was a conductor for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company of London from the late 1870s until the early 1890s. In addition to conducting the orchestra, Horner served as stage manager on the company's tours. He also wrote *FOUR BY HONOURS*, a one-act "curtain raiser" performed as a prolog to the Gilbert and Sullivan shows on the tours of 1879 and 1880.

Scope and Content Note

Consists of an eight page draft of a letter, written by Ralph Horner to an unknown recipient, in which he reminisces about his years with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, conducting the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. The bulk of the text concerns incidents which occurred during the troupe's extensive tours of England. A number of emendations in the author's hand have been made in the text.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Horner, Ralph

Carte, Richard D'Oyly, 1844-1901

Gilbert, W. S. (William Schwenck), 1836-1911

Sullivan, Arthur, 1842-1900

D'Oyly Carte Opera Company