Summary

Creator: Urban, Joseph, 1872-1933

Title: Designs for The garden of paradise

Date: 1914

Source: This collection was part of the original donation of the Liebler & Co. records, donated in 1937 by Theodore Liebler, Jr.


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Processing note: Processed by Elisabeth Elkind; machine-readable finding aid created by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Creator History

Joseph Urban, artist, architect and designer for the theater, was born in Vienna, Austria and died in
New York City.

His designs for *The Garden of Paradise* were his first for the New York theater.

**Scope and Content Note**

Consists of 15 costume designs, 6 set designs, and 6 plates depicting props for a production in nine scenes of *The Garden of Paradise*, produced by Liebler & Co. at the Park Theatre in New York City.

An adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Little Mermaid*, the play opened on November 28, 1914, but closed after only seventeen performances. It was then bought by Florenz Ziegfeld for his *Midnight Frolics*. According to Best Plays of 1909-1919, “The later downfall of the house of Liebler & Co...was presaged by [this] elaborately handsome production.”

**Arrangement:** Arranged in three series: Series I. Set designs Series II. Costume designs Series III. Prop designs

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
Costume design
Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
Costume design drawings
Set design drawings

**Names**
Urban, Joseph, 1872-1933
Andersen, H. C. (Hans Christian), 1805-1875
Sheldon, Edward, 1886-1946
Liebler & Co.
Container List

Series I: Set Designs (6 designs)

b. 1 f. 1  
*Garden of Paradise set designs*  
Set designs include 4 designs for garden and palace views and 2 for the shipwreck.

Series I: Costume Designs

b. 1 f. 2  
*Garden of Paradise costume designs* 1914 (15 costume designs)  
Includes costume designs for The Queen, Courtiers, Eglamour, The Gran Visier, the Queens Ladies, Toad Servants of the Sea Witch, The Drenched King, Prince Jelly Fish, Crabs, Queens Court, The Little Queen, Ladies from the Holy Island, The Witch, the Empress Dowager, the Merman Emperor, Undersea Musicians, Undersea Cook and Master of Ceremonies and the Emperor of Crabs.

Series III: Prop Designs

b. 1 f. 3  
*The Garden of Paradise prop designs* (6 mounted sheets)  
Included are prop designs for such items as pillows, couches, vases, cups, mirrors, headdresses, musical instruments, combs, keys, throne, shrine and altar, a ring and assorted other items.