



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Letters to Claire Reis

1926-1961

*T-Mss 2003-022

Summary

Creator: Reis, Claire R. (Claire Raphael)

Title: Letters to Claire Reis

Date: 1926-1961

Size: 1 portfolio

Source: papers:

Abstract: Claire Raphael Reis (1888-1978) was a music promoter, teacher, and author of works on American composers. Born in Brownsville, Texas, on August 4, 1888, Claire Raphael was educated in New York, France, and Germany. She married Arthur Reis in 1915. From 1912 to 1922 Claire Reis was involved with the People's Music League of the People's Institute of New York, an organization which provided free concerts for immigrants and public school students. In 1914 Reis helped establish the Walden School. She became a kindergarten music teacher, and adapted Montessori teaching methods to music. Working with several composers she helped establish the League of Composers in 1923, and served as executive director for twenty-five years. Claire Reis wrote *AMERICAN COMPOSERS OF TODAY* in 1947, and revised the book under the title *COMPOSERS IN AMERICA: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES* in 1977. She also published *COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS, AND CRITICS* in 1955, and a number of articles. Reis was secretary of the board of directors of the New York City Center of Music and Drama, and was also a founder of the City Center. Claire Raphael Reis died in New York on April 11, 1978, at the age of 89. Letters to Claire R. Reis consists primarily of notes from scenic designer Robert Edmond Jones (1887-1954). Jones' notes touch on contemporary music and theater, as in one undated letter written during European travel in which he speaks of seeing Max Reinhardt's Shakespeare productions, Giacomo Puccini conducting his own work, etc. There are also brief notes from Helen Hayes, director Rouben Mamoulian, and puppeteer Remo Bufano.

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

Claire Raphael Reis (1888-1978) was a music promoter, teacher, and author of works on American composers. Born in Brownsville, Texas, on August 4, 1888, Claire Raphael was educated in New York, France, and Germany. She married Arthur Reis in 1915. From 1912 to 1922 Claire Reis was involved with the People's Music League of the People's Institute of New York, an organization which provided free concerts for immigrants and public school students. In 1914 Reis helped establish the Walden School. She became a kindergarten music teacher, and adapted Montessori teaching methods to music. Working with several composers she helped establish the League of Composers in 1923, and served as executive director for twenty-five years. Claire Reis wrote AMERICAN COMPOSERS OF TODAY in 1947, and revised the book under the title COMPOSERS IN AMERICA: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES in 1977. She also published COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS, AND CRITICS in 1955, and a number of articles. Reis was secretary of the board of directors of the New York City Center of Music and Drama, and was also a founder of the City Center. Claire Raphael Reis died in New York on April 11, 1978, at the age of 89.

Scope and Content Note

Letters to Claire R. Reis consists primarily of notes from scenic designer Robert Edmond Jones (1887-1954). Jones' notes touch on contemporary music and theater, as in one undated letter written during European travel in which he speaks of seeing Max Reinhardt's Shakespeare productions, Giacomo Puccini conducting his own work, etc. There are also brief notes from Helen Hayes, director Rouben Mamoulian, and puppeteer Remo Bufano.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Music teachers -- United States

Theater -- Europe

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Reis, Claire R. (Claire Raphael)

Bufano, Remo

Hayes, Helen, 1900-1993

Jones, Robert Edmond, 1887-1954