



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Felix Mendelsohn scrapbook

1927-1962 [bulk 1927-1935]

*T-Mss 1991-025

Summary

Creator: Mendelsohn, Felix, Jr

Title: Felix Mendelsohn scrapbook

Date: 1927-1962 [bulk 1927-1935]

Size: 1 vol

Source: found in Brian O'Connell's desk, 1991

Abstract: Felix Mendelsohn, Jr. (1906-1991), was an advertising copy writer based in Chicago. As a young man, Mendelsohn aspired to be a journalist. He found work writing promotional copy, booklets and brochures for various companies. He died in 1991 at the age of 84. The Felix Mendelsohn scrapbook holds a number of interviews with prominent actors and actresses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the age of 21, aspiring journalist Felix Mendelsohn, Jr. conducted a number of interviews with famous stage performers in which he asked each one to describe the "most thrilling moment" of his or her career. Mendelsohn developed these interviews into profiles, and hoped to sell the resulting series to a newspaper or magazine, but was unable to do so. He later compiled the profiles into a scrapbook, adding photographs of all the interviewees, some of which were inscribed to him. The performers profiled were Helen Hayes, Otis Skinner, Helen Gahagan, John Drew, Irene Bordoni, Richard Bennett, Helen Menken, John Cromwell, Ina Claire, Dennis King, Fay Bainter, Laurette Taylor, Grant Mitchell, Lowell Sherman, Ruth Draper, Florence Reed, Estelle Winwood, John E. Kellard, Wilton Lackaye, O.P. Heggie, Effie Shannon, Elsie Janis, Frank Keenan, Leo Carillo, Amelita Galli-Curci, Arthur Byron, Louis Mann, Lenore Ulric, and Raymond Hitchcock. Mendelsohn also included in his scrapbook rejection notes the proposed series received from several newspapers and publishing syndicates, dated between 1927-1935. More photographs are tucked into the back of the book, mostly actors who were not interviewed by Mendelsohn and prominent personalities outside the field of theater; many of these photographs are autographed and inscribed to Mendelsohn. Subjects include Pauline Frederick, H. L. Mencken, Frank Harris, Fritz Feld, Whitford Kane, William Faversham, Fortune Gallo, James O'Donnell Bennett, Oscar Tschirky ("Oscar of the Waldorf"), and Burl Ives.

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: Felix Mendelsohn scrapbook, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Felix Mendelsohn, Jr. (1906-1991), was an advertising copy writer based in Chicago. As a young man, Mendelsohn aspired to be a journalist. He found work writing promotional copy, booklets and brochures for various companies. He died in 1991 at the age of 84.

Scope and Content Note

The Felix Mendelsohn scrapbook holds a number of interviews with prominent actors and actresses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the age of 21, aspiring journalist Felix Mendelsohn, Jr. conducted a number of interviews with famous stage performers in which he asked each one to describe the "most thrilling moment" of his or her career. Mendelsohn developed these interviews into profiles, and hoped to sell the resulting series to a newspaper or magazine, but was unable to do so. He later compiled the profiles into a scrapbook, adding photographs of all the interviewees, some of which were inscribed to him. The performers profiled were Helen Hayes, Otis Skinner, Helen Gahagan, John Drew, Irene Bordoni, Richard Bennett, Helen Menken, John Cromwell, Ina Claire, Dennis King, Fay Bainter, Laurette Taylor, Grant Mitchell, Lowell Sherman, Ruth Draper, Florence Reed, Estelle Winwood, John E. Kellard, Wilton Lackaye, O.P. Heggie, Effie Shannon, Elsie Janis, Frank Keenan, Leo Carillo, Amelita Galli-Curci, Arthur Byron, Louis Mann, Lenore Ulric, and Raymond Hitchcock. Mendelsohn also included in his scrapbook rejection notes the proposed series received from several newspapers and publishing syndicates, dated between 1927-1935. More photographs are tucked into the back of the book, mostly actors who were not interviewed by Mendelsohn and prominent personalities outside the field of theater; many of these photographs are autographed and inscribed to Mendelsohn. Subjects include Pauline Frederick, H. L. Mencken, Frank Harris, Fritz Feld, Whitford Kane, William Faversham, Fortune Gallo, James O'Donnell Bennett, Oscar Tschirky ("Oscar of the Waldorf"), and Burl Ives.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Appointment books
Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names

Mendelsohn, Felix, Jr
Bainter, Fay, 1892-1968
Bennett, Richard, 1873-1944
Bordoni, Irene
Byron, Arthur, 1872-1943
Carillo, Leo, 1880-1961
Claire, Ina, 1892-1985
Cromwell, John, 1888-1979

Douglas, Helen Gahagan, 1900-
Draper, Ruth, 1884-1956
Drew, John, 1853-1927
Galli-Curci, Amelita, 1882-1963
Hayes, Helen, 1900-1993
Heggie, O. P. (Otto Peters), 1876-1936
Hitchcock, Raymond, 1865-1929
Janis, Elsie, 1889-1956
Keenan, Frank, 1858-1929
Kellard, John E
King, Dennis, 1897-1971
Lackaye, Wilton
Mann, Louis, 1865-1931
Menken, Helen, 1902-1966
Mitchell, Grant, 1874-1957
Reed, Florence, 1883-1967
Shannon, Effie, 1867-1954
Sherman, Lowell, 1888-1934
Skinner, Otis, 1858-1942
Taylor, Lurette, 1884-1946
Ulric, Lenore, 1892-1970
Winwood, Estelle, 1883-1984