



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Paul Myers papers

1938-1994

*T-Mss 2004-005

Processed by Francesca Pitaro.

Summary

Creator: Myers, Paul, 1917-

Title: Paul Myers papers

Date: 1938-1994

Source: Papers:

Abstract: Papers of Paul Myers, librarian, author and curator of the Theatre Collection of the New York Public Library, 1967-1980.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

Photocopying prohibited.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

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Processing note: Processed by Francesca Pitaro.

Related Materials:

Please see the Theatre Collection Clipping files and MWEZ+ n.c. 20, 353 for articles by and about Paul Myers.

Creator History

Paul H. Myers, librarian, was born in New York City on March 5, 1917. He was educated at the Trinity

School and received a B.F.A. from New York University in 1938 and an M.L.S. from Pratt Institute in 1960. Mr. Myers began his work in the theatre while a student. From 1936 to 1938 he was a stage manager and actor in the Washington Square Players at New York University. He also toured for several months (1940-1941) with the James Hendrickson-Claire Bruce Shakespearean Repertory Company. After a short association with *Stage* magazine (1941), Mr. Myers started his career at the New York Public Library in 1945. In 1967 he became the curator of the Theatre Collection, succeeding George Freedley who was the first curator of the collection. He retired in 1980 and that same year he received a special award from the Outer Critics Circle. Paul Myers was married to Elizabeth Burke on August 14, 1948. He died in New York State on February 20, 2004.

Scope and Content Note

The Paul Myers papers span the years 1938-1994 (bulk dates 1963-1994). The collection includes correspondence, several folders of miscellaneous items and ephemera, and some material related to the Players.

Arrangement: Series I: Correspondence Series II: Writing Projects Series III: Players Club Series IV: Miscellaneous Papers Series V: Ephemera

Key Terms

Occupations

Librarians

Subjects

Theater librarianship

Names

Myers, Paul, 1917-

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Billy Rose Theatre Division
Players (Club)

Container List

Series I: Correspondence 1938-1994 (1 box, 7 folders)

Correspondence is predominantly incoming and includes letters from friends and colleagues. Myers corresponded with many people from the theatre community including Brooks Atkinson, Lillian Gish, Phyllis Hartnoll, Sol Jacobson, Elia Kazan, Paul Kozelka, Glenn Loney, Stan Marguiles, Miguel Pinero and Marian Seldes. Correspondence from the 1960's and the 1970's mainly concerns library business. Two folders of letters from 1967 are related to the death of George Freedley, Myers' predecessor. Correspondence received after Myers' retirement in 1980 is for the most part personal.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1938-1963
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1964-1966
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1967
- b. 1 f. 4-5 Correspondence re: death of George Freedley 1967 (2 folders)
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence 1968-1970
- b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence 1971-1973
- b. 1 f. 8 Correspondence 1974-1975
- b. 1 f. 9 Correspondence 1976-1977
- b. 1 f. 10 Correspondence 1978-1979
- b. 1 f. 11-12 Correspondence 1980 (2 folders)
- b. 1 f. 13 Correspondence 1981
- b. 1 f. 14 Correspondence 1982
- b. 1 f. 15 Correspondence 1983-1984
- b. 1 f. 16 Correspondence 1985-1987
- b. 2 f. 1-2 Correspondence 1993 (2 folders)
- b. 2 f. 3 Correspondence 1994
- b. 2 f. 4 Correspondence undated
- b. 2 f. 5-7 Correspondence - Greeting cards undated (3 folders)

Series II: Writing projects 1971-1987 (1 folder)

Includes correspondence and contracts with publishers regarding writing assignments. The file also includes Myers' article on theatre in the United States for *Encyclopedia International*.

Chronological

- b. 2 f. 8 Writing projects 1971-1987

Series III: The Players Club 1968-1987 (2 folders)

Correspondence related to Myers' membership in the Players, his work in the library there, and other Players' business.

Chronological

- b. 2 f. 9-10 The Players 1968-1987 (2 folders)

Series IV: Miscellaneous Papers ca. 1953-1994 (4 folders)

The series includes miscellaneous notes, programs, personal papers, fliers and announcements of speaking engagements and also a manuscript titled: "The Woods Adventure". Written by Albert D. Weissberg, it is an account of the life and career of his uncle, Al Woods.

By type of material

Series IV: Miscellaneous Papers (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 11-12 **Miscellaneous Papers** ca. 1964-1991 (2 folders)
- b. 2 f. 13 **Miscellaneous - Speaking engagements** ca. 1953-1977
 Programs and announcements for Myers' speaking engagements.
- b. 2 f. 14 **"The Woods Adventure"** ca. 1980-1982
 Typed manuscript re: the life and career of Al Woods.

Series V: Ephemera 1978-1980 (1 folder)

Includes a plastic slipcase with a photo of Dan Laurence as Malvolio and program for *Twelfth Night*. Also includes an autograph book from Myers' retirement party in 1980.

By type of material

- b. 2 f. 15 **Ephemera** 1978-1980