



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Betty and John Wharton papers**

1917-1978

\*T-Mss 2007-011

## Summary

**Creator:** Wharton, Betty

**Title:** Betty and John Wharton papers

**Date:** 1917-1978

**Size:** 2.5 linear feet, (6 boxes and 1 oversized scrapbook)

**Abstract:** The Betty Wharton Papers contain photographs, programs, scrapbooks and correspondence documenting the careers of Ms. Wharton and her husband. Ms. Wharton's papers include photographs, scrapbooks and programs from 1917-1947. The papers of her husband, John F. Wharton, include business correspondence and papers from 1962-1978, and a theatrical scrapbook from 1921-1922.

**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:** Betty and John Wharton papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

Betty Wharton, actress, was born in 1911 in Pasadena, California. She made her acting debut at age 7 in a Los Angeles production of PENROD. She moved to New York in 1934 and appeared on the Broadway stage in numerous productions including: THE SKY'S THE LIMIT, BROTHER RAT, THE PRIMROSE PATH, CAFE CROWN and CHARLEY'S AUNT.

John F. Wharton, Betty's husband, practiced law in New York City from the 1920s through the 1970s, with a special focus on theatrical law.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Betty Wharton Papers contain photographs, programs, scrapbooks and correspondence documenting the careers of Ms. Wharton and her husband. Ms. Wharton's papers include photographs, scrapbooks and programs from 1917-1947. The papers of her husband, John F. Wharton, include business correspondence and papers from 1962-1978, and a theatrical scrapbook from 1921-1922.

**Arrangement:** I. Betty Wharton Papers; II. John F. Wharton Papers

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Actresses -- United States

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photoprints

Programs

Scrapbooks

### **Subjects**

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

### **Names**

Wharton, Betty

Anderson, Maxwell, 1888-1959

Rice, Elmer, 1892-1967

Sherwood, Robert E. (Robert Emmet), 1896-1955

Wharton, John F. (John Franklin), 1894-1977

Playwrights' Producing Company