



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Frederick Fox design files**

1880-1959 [bulk 1950s]

\*T-Vim 1990-027

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Fox, Frederick, 1910-1991

**Title:** Frederick Fox design files

**Date:** 1880-1959 [bulk 1950s]

**Size:** 1.6 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Frederick Fox, 2013.

**Abstract:** Frederick Fox (1910-1991) was a scenic designer for theater, opera, and television. The Frederick Fox design files date from 1880 to 1959 and consist of designs, scale drawings, paint elevations, blueprints, photographs, and slides that document his work.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2014

## Creator History

Frederick Fox (1910-1991) was a scenic designer for theater, opera, and television. Fox designed scenery and lighting for Broadway shows and Metropolitan Opera House productions. He was a pioneer in television design, working on shows such as Admiral Broadway Revue (1949) and the Your Show of Shows (1950-1954) series. Fox was a member of the United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829. He died in 1991 after a stroke in New Jersey.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Frederick Fox design files date from 1880 to 1959 (bulk dates 1950s) and consist of designs, scale drawings, paint elevations, blueprints, photographs, and slides that document his work as a scenic designer.

The bulk of the collection relates to Fox's television design work on the Your Show of Shows (1950-1954) series. There are four volumes of labeled designs and scale drawings that convey the visual concepts. The blueprints and paint elevations detail the set construction, and the photographs and slides reveal the completed scenes. Most of Fox's work includes a United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 stamp.

There are materials from a few other productions such as paint elevations for the television show Admiral Broadway Revue (1949), and slides for the theater production of The Merry Widow (1944).

There are also carte de visite photographs of performing artists collected by Fox.

**Arrangement:** The materials are arranged by file type: designs and scale drawings; paint elevations and blueprints; and photographs and slides.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Blueprints (reprographic copies)  
Cartes-de-visite (card photographs)  
Preparatory drawings  
Scale drawings  
Slides (photographs)

### **Subjects**

Opera -- Stage-setting and scenery  
Television -- Stage-setting and scenery  
Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

### **Occupations**

Set designers

### **Names**

United Scenic Artists. Local USA 829

## Container List

### Designs and Scale Drawings

- b. 1 Your Show of Shows 1950-1954  
Volumes I and II.
- b. 2 Your Show of Shows 1950-1954  
Volumes III and IV.

### Paint Elevations and Blueprints

- b. 3 f. 1 Admiral Broadway Revue 1949
- b. 3 f. 2 Barber of Seville 1950s
- b. 3 f. 3 Bob Hope Special 1950
- b. 3 f. 4 Heidi and Summer in Town 1950s
- b. 3 f. 5 Olsen and Johnson Buick Show 1949
- b. 3 f. 6-12 Your Show of Shows 1950-1954

### Photographs and Slides

- b. 4 Cartes de Visite -- Performing Artists 1880-1900s
- b. 5 Slides -- Your Show of Shows 1950-1954
- b. 6 Slides 1940s-1950s  
1-11: Babes in Toyland 12-25: Desert Song 26-32: Merry Widow 33-40: Connecticut Yankee  
41-46: Naughty Marietta 47-48: Lady in the Dark 49-50: Museum 51-56: Chocolate Soldier 57-  
62: City Center (Zizi Jeanmaire) 63-66: Grand Tour 67-69: Heidi 70-74: Good News 75-77: Billy  
the Kid 78-83: Merry Widow 84-93: Miscellaneous Interiors 94-119: Your Show of Shows
- b. 3 f. 13 Your Show of Shows -- Rehearsal Photographs 1953