Anne Nichols papers, Additions
1925-1955 [bulk 1940s-1955]
*T-Mss 2001-012
Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Nichols, Anne, 1891-1966

Title: Anne Nichols papers, Additions

Date: 1925-1955 [bulk 1940s-1955]

Size: .9 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Louis Simon, 1974.

Abstract: Anne Nichols (1891-1966) was an American playwright. The Anne Nichols papers, Additions date from 1925 to 1955 and predominantly document the resurgence of her play Abie’s Irish Rose through clippings, photographs, and a few programs. The collection also includes writings, letters, sheet music, and recordings.

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:
Audiovisual materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access. Sound recordings available by appointment only.

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Processing note: Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015
Related Materials:

Creator History
Anne Nichols (1891-1966) was an American playwright. Throughout her career she wrote several plays, but she was best known for her successful comedy Abie's Irish Rose. The comedy opened on Broadway in 1922 and ran until 1927 with over 2300 performances. It later inspired two film adaptations and a radio series. The stage production of Abie's Irish Rose saw a resurgence in the 1940s.

Scope and Content Note
The Anne Nichols papers, Additions date from 1925 to 1955 (bulk dates 1940s-1955) and contain clippings, photographs, programs, writings, letters, sheet music, and recordings.

The bulk of the collection relates to the 1944 resurgence of Nichols' play Abie's Irish Rose during its 22nd anniversary. The programs, photographs, and clippings document the numerous productions across the country in cities such as Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, and New York City.

The collection also reflects Nichols' interest in writing both a musical and an autobiography. Materials related to the development of a musical include a copy of "It's the Little Things that Count" written by Nichols and Adelaide Matthews. This verse is accompanied by a draft of sheet music. Other sheet music and verses in the collection appear to be reference materials. The recordings were also used for research and include well-known compositions such as Homage to Rameau by French composer Claude Debussy, music by Louise Lyon, and experimentation with sound.

The autobiographical project is represented through typewritten recollections about Nichols' childhood, her introduction to New York City theater, the development of her early work, and the reception of Abie's Irish Rose. The manuscript drafts communicate Nichols' desire to publish this project through the organization of her recollections with accompanying chapter notes, page numbers, and edits.

Additionally, the collection includes letters that pertain to personal matters and the development of a few plays.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms
Genre/Physical Characteristic
Letters (correspondence)
Sheet music
Writings (document genre)

Subjects
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Occupations
Women dramatists
Container List

b. 1 f. 1-6  Abie's Irish Rose 1925, 1944-1945
b. 2 f. 1-7  Abie's Irish Rose 1943-1945
b. 2 f. 8-10  Letters 1942, 1954-1955

Writings

b. 2 f. 11-16  Autobiography Project 1930s-1950s
b. 3 f. 1  Autobiography Project 1950s

Musical Project

b. 3 f. 2  It's the Little Things that Count 1950s
b. 3 f. 3-4  Sheet Music and Verses 1950s

Recordings

Sound recordings available by appointment only.

- 1950s
  - origsr.221030
- 1950s
  - origsr.221031
- 1950s
  - origsr.221032
- Buckner, William R 1950s
  - origsr.221033
- Debussy, Claude and Rachmaninoff, Sergei 1952
  - origsr.221034
  Homage to Rameau and The Prelude in E-flat Major.

- Lyon, Louise
  - 1950s
    - origsr.221037
  - 1955
    - origsr.221035
  - 1955
    - origsr.221036
- Pirez, Mary 1955
  - origsr.221038
- Sorrenti, Madeline 1955
  - origsr.221039