



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Rachel Crothers papers

1882-1957

*T-Mss 2016-002

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Crothers, Rachel, 1878-1958

Title: Rachel Crothers papers

Date: 1882-1957

Size: 1.09 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Mint Theater, 2016.

Abstract: Rachel Crothers (1878-1958) was a playwright, theater director, and co-founder of the Stage Women's War Relief and the American Theatre Wing. These papers were assembled by the executor of her estate, Anne Sheffield, and consist of programs and photographs of Crothers' productions; photographs of her colleagues and friends; three play scripts; photographs and others papers related to Crothers' war relief work; and other personal and professional mementos. A typescript titled "The Box in the Attic" contains Crother's account of some of her formative experiences as a dramatist. Among the photographs are candid behind-the-scenes images from a short film, *Nice and Easy*, with Charlie Chaplin and Eulalia and Frederick Neilson; the collection also contains photographs inscribed to the Neilsons.

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>

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Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2016.

Custodial History

This collection was given to Mint Theater Company by Anne Sheffield, who was the executor of Crothers' estate.

Key Terms

Occupations

Dramatists

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Scripts (documents)

Subjects

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

Women dramatists, American -- 20th century

Container List

Production Photographs and Programs

Some files also contain clippings.

- b. 3 f. 1 *39 East* 1919
- b. 1 f. 1 *As Husbands Go* 1931
- b. 1 f. 2 *The Coming of Mrs. Patrick* 1907
- b. 1 f. 3 *Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining* circa 1882
- b. 3 f. 2 *Everyday* circa 1921-1922
- b. 3 f. 3 *Expressing Willie* 1924
- b. 1 f. 4 *He and She* 1920
- b. 1 f. 5 *A Lady's Virtue* 1926
- b. 1 f. 6 *Let Us Be Gay* 1929
- b. 1 f. 7 *A Little Journey* 1919
- b. 1 f. 8 *A Man's World* 1910
- b. 1 f. 9 *Nice People* 1921
- b. 1 f. 10 *Old Lady 31* 1917
- b. 1 f. 11 *Ourselves* 1913
- b. 1 f. 12 *Susan and God* circa 1937
- b. 3 f. 4 *Susan and God* circa 1937
- b. 1 f. 13 *The Three of Us* 1906
- b. 1 f. 14 *When Ladies Meet* 1933
- b. 1 f. 15 *Young Wisdom* circa 1914

Scripts

- b. 1 f. 16 *My South Window*
- b. 1 f. 17 *The Rector*
- b. 1 f. 18 *We Happy Few*

Writings

- b. 2 f. 1 "The Box in the Attic" 1953
- b. 2 f. 2 "The War and the Women of Our Stage" 1917

Miscellaneous Papers

- b. 2 f. 3 American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy: Writers, Editors and Publishers Committee Minutes 1952 October 18
- b. 3 f. 5 Christmas Card from Crothers to Anne Sheffield
- b. 2 f. 4 Letter from President Dwight Eisenhower to Crothers 1956 November 9
- b. 2 f. 5 National Institute of Arts and Letters Membership Certificate 1933
- b. 2 f. 6 War Relief 1917-1918, 1940
Includes a short letter from Woodrow Wilson.

Photographs

Photographs (cont.)

b. 2 f. 7-21 **1910-1957**

Charles Cherry, Rachel Crothers, Emma Dunn, Maxine Elliott, Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Rene Fonck, Louise Closser Hale, Henry Hull, Louise Mountbatten and Edwina Ashley, *Nice and Friendly* (film), Princess Alice of Battenberg, Kate Douglas Wiggin Riggs, Anne Sheffield, and Ellen Terry and Edith Craig.

b. 3 f. 6-12 **1910-1950s**

Charlie Chaplin, Rachel Crothers, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, Louis Mountbatten and Edwina Ashley, Anne Sheffield, Wallis Simpson, and unidentified.