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Margaret Anglin Papers
1898-1952
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Summary

Main entry:	Anglin, Margaret, 1876-1958
Title:	Margaret Anglin papers, 1898-1952 (bulk 1911-1936)
Size:	18.63 linear feet (32 boxes)
Source:	Gift of Basile Anglin, a niece of Margaret Anglin; date of donation unknown.
Abstract:	Margaret Anglin was a Canadian-born actress, director, and producer who was considered one of the finest actresses of her day. This collection extensively covers the professional career of Anglin, who performed primarily from 1889 to 1936. Materials include correspondence both from other theatrical professionals and fans, production files, images of Margaret Anglin, and scrapbooks documenting her career.
Access:	Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.
Copyright information:	For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.
Preferred citation:	Margaret Anglin papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Photographs, Posters, Prompt books, Scrapbooks.
Alternate formats:	Selected scrapbooks available on microfilm, *ZC-181

Related materials note

The Margaret Anglin Papers. Toronto Reference Library, Toronto Public Library.

Biographical note

Margaret Anglin (1876-1958) was a Canadian-born actress, director, and producer who was considered one of the finest actresses of her day. Anglin performed on Broadway and around the country from 1889 to 1936. Like many of Broadway's stars at the beginning of the century, Anglin refused to compromise her reputation as a serious actress by performing in the new medium, motion pictures. She was born in Ottawa to T.W. Anglin (Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons) and his wife Ellen, and was educated in convent schools in Toronto and Montreal.

When Anglin was 17, she moved to New York City to study theater under Nelson Wheatcroft. Shortly thereafter she made her professional debut in *Shenandoah* and by 1898 had not only made her Broadway debut in *Lord Chumley*, but was touring with Richard Mansfield in *Cyrano de Bergerac* as Roxanne. She went on to appear in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lady Windemere's Fan*, and *Camille*. Among Anglin's most notable productions were *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, and *Twelfth Night*, which she performed in repertory on Broadway at the Hudson Theater in 1914.

In 1911 Anglin married actor Howard Hull and became a US Citizen. Well educated and confident, Anglin began producing, directing and starring in productions of classic Greek theater -- often financing extravaganzas with large casts and elaborate sets that produced little income but were regarded artistic achievements. Anglin was a prolific performer, starring in 34 productions on Broadway alone, along with countless touring and regional engagements. She retired from the stage in 1936 after portraying Lady Mary Crab in *Fresh Fields*. Anglin continued with radio work and dramatic readings through the 1940s, and retired to Toronto in 1953.

Scope and content note

This collection extensively covers the professional career of Margaret Anglin, who performed primarily from 1889 to 1936. Materials include correspondence both from other theatrical professionals and fans; production files which include marked scripts, notes, clippings, contracts and publicity; images of Margaret Anglin at work, and general scrapbooks documenting her career.

The collection reflects the development of Anglin's career and the degree of respect she commanded in the theater world. Later scripts are more heavily marked with her own suggestions, especially as she gained renown as a producer and director. Anglin's strength at promoting her interests and her work is evident throughout her materials -- she writes to the *New York Times* when she is displeased with what they print about her, she negotiates her own contracts, and keeps up a steady stream of social obligations. As her standing grows, young actors write to her for advice -- by the 1920s theater companies are offering to hold private dress rehearsals for her to solicit her opinion on a specific production. Later letters contain inquiries about possible public appearances, as well as acquaintances looking to catch up and asking after her health.

Notable items in this collection include correspondence with impresarios, such as producer David Bales and fellow performers Mary Pickford, Alfred Lung and Lynn Fontana; many detailed hand marked production scripts; and several production sketches attributed to Hildreth Meiere.

Arrangement note

The Margaret Anglin papers are organized in the following series:

- I. Correspondence, 1911-1952
- II. Production files, 1900-1943
- III. Images, 1898-1936
- IV. Scrapbooks, 1909-1923

Series descriptions and container list

I. Correspondence, 1911-1952

This series contains Anglin's personal and professional correspondence. While a portion of the correspondence is sorted by name, the bulk of the material is arranged by date. The material ranges from notes from friends and professional acquaintances, to fan mail from both theater aficionados and people from rural areas who had heard Anglin's radio performances. Other materials include telegrams arranging travel and contract negotiations, playwrights suggesting their work, and Anglin requesting translations of foreign language pieces. In the 1920s there is a great deal of correspondence regarding Anglin's radio work. This work helped make her a household name and exposed her to fans who never could see legitimate theater. There is some correspondence to her husband Howard Hull, but generally these pertain to Anglin or address them as a couple. At the end of this series is a selection of "freak" letters, containing odd, intense and often sexual fan mail that Anglin received during the height of her popularity.

Notable correspondents include David Belasco, Mary Pickford, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and Anglin's close friend and fellow actress Minnie Fiske.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	<u>By Correspondent</u>
1	1-2	General, A-Z
	3	Anderson, Mary
	4	Archer, William
	5	Belasco, David
	6	Bellew, Kyrle
	7	Bond, Carrie Jacobs
	8	Brown, Chamberlain
	9	Brady, William
	10	Cantor, Eddie
	11	Clarendon, Anita
	12	Coburn, Charles
	13	Cocroft, Thoda
	14	Crosby, Bing
	15	Damrosch, Walter
	16	Diggs, Dudley
	17	Draper, Ruth
	18	Drew, John
	19	Elizabeth Marbury, Inc.
	20	Emergency Unemployment Relief Fund
	21	Emery, Gilbert
	22	Faversham, William
	23	Fields, Gracie
	24-	Fiske, Minnie
	25	
	2	1
2		Frohman, Charles
3		Gottlob, Jacob
4		Hampden, Walter
5		Howard, Sidney
6		Howe, Julia Ward
7		Hull, Josephine
8		Hurst, Fannie
9		Jones, Henry
10		Jones, Robert Edmond

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	11	Kauffman, Stanley
	12	Kauser, Alice
	13	Kelly, George
	14	Kester, Paul
	15	Le Gallienne, Eva
	16	Long, John Luther
	17	Lowell, Amy
	18	Luce, Claire (Booth)
	19	Lunt, Alfred and Fontanne, Lynn
	20	Mackaye, Percy
	21	Maeterlinck, Maurice
	22	Mansfield, Richard
	23	Marbury, Elisabeth
	24	Micheloff, Marie
	25	Millay, Edna St. Vincent
	26	Miller, Henry
	27	Modjeska, Helena
3	1	Phillips, Charles
	2	Pickford, Mary
	3	Platt, Livingston
	4	Rinehart, Mary Roberts
	5	Rollins College
	6	Rollins, Leighton
	7	The Saint Louis Pageant
	8	Sheldon, Edward
	9	Shubert, Lee
	10	Sikelianos, Eva
	11	Somerville, Randolph
	12	Sothern, E. H.
	13	Towne, Charles Hanson
	14	Tree, Herbert Beerbohm
	15	Tyler, George
	16	Welles, Orson
	17	West, Rebecca
	18	Wharton, Edith
	19	Wiggins, Kate Douglas
	20	Wilder, Thornton
	21	Young, Stark
		By Date
4	1	1900-1909
	2-3	1910-1919
	4-8	1920-1924
5	1-4	1920-1924
	5-7	1925-1929
6	1-2	1925-1929
	3-6	1930-1934
7	1	1930-1934
	2-6	1935-1939
8	1-10	1940-1949
	11	1950-1953
	12	Freak letters

II. Production files, 1900-1943

The production files contain programs, notated scripts, business correspondence, contracts, notes and other materials relating to the specific productions that Anglin both starred in and often produced or directed. This series includes both general production files and files from Anglin's Greek plays. The material includes correspondence and contracts to and from her lawyers and managers as well as her husband Howard Hull, who worked closely to support Anglin in her work. The richest material in these files are the prompt scripts, with Anglin's notes as to how scenes are to be played, entrances made, and dramatic pauses given.

The Greek plays files within this series reflect much of the same kind of material contained in the general production files, but show Anglin exerting a higher level of creative control over her work. In the first two decades of the 20th century Anglin became noted for producing and starring in Greek tragedies that focused on women, including *Medea* and *Electra*. The Greek plays files include correspondence, posters, scrapbooks, programs, and Anglin's notes regarding the individual productions. The correspondence from these files demonstrates Anglin's skill at all aspects of theater -- she was involved in nearly every detail of her Greek productions, from casting to directing, starring and producing. This series also includes several sketches attributed to Hildreth Meiere.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		General
9	1	<i>The Adventure of the Lady Ursula</i> , 1900
	2	<i>Les Anges d'Acier</i> , undated
	3	<i>The Angel of Midnight</i> , undated
	4	<i>Ashes of Roses</i> , undated
		<i>As You Like It</i> , 1914
	5	General
	6	Prompt script
	7-11	<i>Athalia</i> , undated (Prompt scripts)
		<i>The Awakening of Helena Richie</i> , 1909-1910
10	1	General
	2-3	Prompt script
	4	<i>Boadicea</i> , undated
	5	<i>Billeted</i> , 1917-1918
		<i>Camille</i> , 1904
	6	General
	7	Prompt script
	8	<i>Caroline</i> , 1916
		<i>A Charming Conscience</i> , 1924
11	1	General
	2	Prompt script
23	1-15	<i>The Divine Friend</i> , 1916 (Tempera paintings by Hildreth Meiere)
11	3-8	<i>Dandy Dick</i> , undated - Prompt scripts
	9	<i>The Eternal Feminine</i> , 1904
	10	<i>Evangeline</i> , 1934
	11	<i>Fiber</i> , undated
	12	<i>Forget-Me-Not</i> , 1925
		<i>Fresh Fields</i> , 1936
12	1	General
	2	Prompt script
	3	<i>The Great Divide</i> , 1906-1907

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		<i>The Great Lady Dedlock</i> , 1929
12	4	General
	5-7	Prompt scripts
		<i>Green Stockings</i> , 1911
	8	General
	9	Prompt script
13	1	<i>The Gulf</i> , undated
	2	<i>Gypsy April</i> , 1927
	3	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> , 1902
	4	<i>Iris</i> , 1924
	5	<i>King Lear</i> , 1916
	6	<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i> , 1914
	7	<i>The Lioness</i> , 1915
		<i>Macbeth</i> , 1926
	8	General
	9	Prompt script
14	1-2	<i>Madame Raquin</i> , 1943
	3	<i>Marguerite</i> , 1901
	4-5	<i>Mrs. Dane's Defense</i> , 1905
15	1	<i>Nos Intimes</i> , undated
		<i>The Open Fire</i> , 1919
	2	General
	3-5	Prompt scripts
	6	<i>The Oto Cockade</i> , undated script
	7	<i>Party</i> , 1933
	8-9	<i>The Persians</i> , 1938
	10	<i>Retreat from Folly</i> , 1935
	11	<i>The Return of the Soldier</i> , 1925
		<i>The Rivals</i> , 1937
	12	General
	13	Prompt script
16	1	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1916
		<i>The Sea Woman</i> , 1923
	2	General
	3	Prompt script
	4	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , 1914
	5	<i>Trelawny of the Wells</i> , undated
		<i>The Trial of Jeanne d'Arc</i> , 1921
	6-7	General
	8-9	Prompt scripts
17	1	Prompt script
	2	<i>The Trojan Women</i> , 1937
		<i>Twelfth Night</i> , 1914
	3	General
	4	Prompt script
	5	<i>Wakefield</i> , undated
		<i>The Woman of Bronze</i> , 1921, 1927
	6	General
	7-8	Prompt scripts
18	1	<i>A Woman of No Importance</i> , 1916
		General

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
18	2-3	Prompt scripts
24	8	Scrapbook
18	4-6	Clippings, 1911-1936
		Greek Plays
		Correspondence
	7	1911-1922
	1-2	1923-1926
19	3-4	1927-1931
	5	1932-1941
	6	1942-1952
		Production Files
		<i>Antigone</i> , 1912-1933
20	1	General
	2	Financial
		<i>Electra</i> , 1918-1927
	3	General
	4	Financial
	5	Prompt script
21	1-4	Prompt scripts
		Scrapbook
26	3	General (disassembled)
27		Berkley, 1913
28		San Francisco, 1926
27		New York, 1927
		<i>Hippolytus</i> , 1928
21	5	General
	6-7	Prompt scripts
		<i>Iphigenia in Aulis</i> , 1921
	8	General
	9-10	Prompt scripts
22	1-2	Prompt scripts
24	1	Sketches (Tempera paintings by Hildreth Meiere)
22	3	<i>Iphigenia in Tauris</i> , 1915
		<i>Medea</i> , 1915-1916
	4	General
	5	Prompt script
24	2-6	Sketches (Tempera paintings by Hildreth Meiere)
26	2	Posters
22	6	Press

III. Images, 1898-1936

This series includes sketches, paintings, and other images produced of Anglin at work, often for use in publicity. These include pencil and ink drawings, caricatures, and photo headshots and assorted production shots. Of note is a caricature by Merle Johnson.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
25	1	Caricatures and drawings
26	1	Charcoal sketch (by James Montgomery Flagg)
25	2	Headshots and publicity shots
	3	General production shots

IV. Scrapbooks, 1909-1923

This series contains a set of scrapbooks that document Anglin's many touring productions and some of her extended engagements in New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco. These include publicity materials and clippings from publications from across the country. Additional scrapbooks associated with specific productions can be found in Series II, Production files.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
24	7	1909-1911 (Disassembled)
29		1914-1915
30		1915-1923
31		1917-1923
32		1920-1922