

The New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Michael Weightman-Smith Designs for *Hamlet*,
1937

*T-VIM 2013-212

Summary

Main entry: Weightman-Smith, Michael.

Title: Michael Weightman-Smith Designs for *Hamlet*, 1937

Size: 2.1 linear feet (2 boxes)

Preferred citation: Michael Weightman-Smith Designs for *Hamlet*, *T-VIM 2013-212, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Michael Weightman-Smith designed sets and costumes for summer theaters, including the Mohawk Drama Festival in Schenectady, New York and the Casino Theatre, Newport, Rhode Island. He also designed for the San Francisco Chamber Opera Co. and spent a year in Hollywood, where he worked with Robert Edmond Jones and Cedric Gibbons. In 1944, he was appointed director of television scenic design for NBC's experimental television staff, becoming television's first scenic designer.

Scope and content note

This collection contains 39 original set and costume designs plans and elevations by Michael Weightman-Smith for the Cape Playhouse, Dennis, Massachusetts production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1937). Actress Eva Le Gallienne, who directed and starred as Hamlet, collaborated with Weightman-Smith on the set design.

Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Plans and Elevations Includes 8 pencil on tracing paper technical drawings.
		Costumes
1	6	Sketches Includes 11 leaves (pencil on brown paper) sketches of costumes; extremely fragile.
1	7	Claudius
1		Danish Soldier
2	1	Fortinbras
2	1	Gertrude
2	2	Hamlet Includes 2 color on illustration board designs; signed and dated.
2	3	Horatio
2	3	Laertes
2	4	Polonius
2	4	Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
2	4	Soldier to Fortinbras
		Sets
1	2	Set Design - Red and Black Includes color on brown paper; signed (partially visible) and dated; pieces missing on top and bottom.
1	3	Set Design with Figures - Red and Black Includes color on grey flecked paper; initialled and dated.
1	5	In the Castle Includes color on board; matted; signed and dated.
1	5	The Queen's Closet Includes color on board; matted; signed and dated.
1	4	The Ramparts Includes color on illustration board; matted; signed and dated.
1	4	The Throne Room Includes color on illustration board; signed and dated; matted.