The New York Public Library

Billy Rose Division

David Ffolkes Designs
1939-1950

*T-VIM 2010-027
Summary

Title: David Ffolkes Designs, 1939-1950
Size: 3.5 linear feet (4 boxes)
Preferred citation: David Ffolkes Designs, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Related materials note

The David Ffolkes Papers, 1924-1966 are housed at the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theatre Research.
Biographical note

Costume and set designer David Ffolkes (1912-1966) was born in West Hagley, England and designed costumes and sets for numerous theatre productions and films. He served in the Royal Artillery during World War II and was a prisoner of war in Siam for over three years. Ffolkes received a 1947 Tony award for his set designs for *King Henry VIII*. He died of a heart attack in 1966.

Scope and content note

Primarily original costume designs (ca. 110 designs) by costume and set designer David Ffolkes for the theatrical productions *All Gaul Is Divided* by John McGiver, 1947; *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, 1939; *King Henry VIII* by William Shakespeare, 1946; *Man and Superman* by George Bernard Shaw, 1947; and *What Every Woman Knows* by James M. Barrie, 1947. Many of the designs include swatches and samples, and several designs are for wigs. There is also 1 color backdrop design for the musical *Seventeen*, music by Walter Kent; lyrics by Kim Gannon; book by Sally Benson; based on the novel by Booth Tarkington; the production opened 1951; the design is dated 1950.
## Container list

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| 1   | 1   | **All Gaul Is Divided** (Shubert-Lafayette Theatre, Detroit), 1947  
(9 costume and wig designs mounted on 4 boards with swatches and samples) |
| 2   |     | **Hamlet**, 1939  
(4 costume designs for a production starring and produced by Maurice Evans; pencil on paper; 2 of the Queen; 2 of Hamlet) |
| 3   |     | **Man and Superman**, 1947  
(20 costume designs; mostly color; mounted with swatches and samples) |
| 4   |     | **Anne** (3 color costume designs with swatches) |
| 5   |     | **John Tanner and Maid**  
(6 costume designs with swatches and samples mounted on 3 boards) |
| 6   |     | **Miss Ramsden and Mrs. Whitefield**  
(3 costume designs with swatches and 5 designs of hat mounted on 3 boards) |
| 7   |     | **Octavius, Straker, Roebuck Ramsden, and Violet** (6 costume designs mounted on 3 boards) |
|     |     | **Violet** (4 costume designs with swatches) |
|     |     | **King Henry VIII**, 1946  
(55 costume designs for the American Repertory Theatre production; mostly black and white and mounted; many with swatches and samples) |
|     |     | Designs (38 x 28 cm. or smaller)  
(Pencil designs on paper (38 x 28 cm. or smaller); many of minor characters) |
| 2   | 1   | **A-B** (8 pencil costume designs; some with swatches) |
| 2   |     | **C-W** (10 pencil costume designs; some with swatches) |
| 3   |     | **Fabric Swatches and Samples**  
(2 leaves with swatches and samples for unidentified costumes for this production) |
|     |     | Designs (58 x 38 cm. or smaller) |
| 4   |     | **Abergavenny**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatches and samples; mounted) |
| 5   |     | **Anne Boleyn**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatches and samples; mounted.) |
| 6   |     | **Capucius and Court Lady**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches and samples mounted) |
| 7   |     | **Cromwell**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted) |
| 8   |     | **Cross Bearer**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatch; mounted) |
| 9   |     | **Duchess of Norfolk with French Noble**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 10  |     | **Duke of Buckingham**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted) |
| 11  |     | **Duke of Norfolk**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted) |
| 3   | 1   | **Earl of Surrey and 1st Narrator and Prologue**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 2   |     | **Garter, King of Arms**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatch and notes) |
| 3-4 |     | **Henry**  
(8 costume designs (1 with some color) with swatches; 7 are mounted; 5 of the 8 designs are mounted on 1 board.) |
| 5   |     | **Herald**  
(1 black and white costume sketch with swatches; mounted) |
| 6   |     | **Katherine**  
(2 black and white costume designs with swatches and sample; mounted) |
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| 7    | 2nd Lady and Lord Sands  
|      | (2 black and white costume designs with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 8    | Old Lady  
|      | (1 color costume sketch with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 9    | Patience/First Lady  
|      | (1 black and white costume sketch with swatches; mounted) |
| 4    | Sir Harry Guildford and Sir Thomas Loval [Lovell]  
|      | (2 black and white costume designs with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 2    | Sir Nicholas Vaux  
|      | (1 black and white costume sketch with swatches and sample; mounted) |
| 3    | Spanish Lady (1st and 2nd)  
|      | (2 black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted) |
| 4    | Duke of Suffolk and Yeoman [Sergeant] of the Guard  
|      | (2 black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted) |
| 5    | Seventeen (Musical) (1951), 1950  
|      | (Watercolor rendering of Act I, Scene 1 backdrop dated Aug. 1950, for the musical  
|      | Seventeen; music by Walter Kent; lyrics by Kim Gannon; book by Sally Benson; based on  
|      | the novel by Booth Tarkington; production opened 1951.) |
| 6    | What Every Woman Knows, 1947  
|      | (14 color and black and white costume designs with swatches for the American Repertory  
|      | Theatre production; mounted) |
| 7    | The Countess and The Lady Sybil  
|      | (6 color and black and white costume designs with swatches; mounted on 3 boards) |
| 7    | Maggie, John Shand and Venables  
|      | (8 color and black and white costume designs; some with swatches; mounted on 3  
|      | boards) |