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ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 61 M 42

Location 11-i-1

Title Victor Barnowsky. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1920-1949

Date of receipt April 13, 1961

Received from Theater Collection

Volume on arrival 2 RC

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 3 AB, 1 ½AB, 1 RC; 2.8 l.f.

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description

(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

(SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

Accessioned by JT

Date 4/15/88

VICTOR BARNOWSKY PAPERS

Biographical Note

Victor Barnowsky (1876-1952) was an actor, theatrical director and producer, and university professor of drama. Barnowsky began his career as an actor in Germany around the turn of the century. For at least 25 years he was a producer-director in Berlin. He operated the Kleines Theater from 1905 to 1913, the Lessing Theater from 1913 to 1924, and the Komoedienhaus from 1925 to 1930; he was particularly well-known for his work at the Lessing Theater. In 1931 C. Hooper Trask said in the New York Times that Barnowsky's repertory "formerly stood on the highest intellectual level of any in the world". More conservative than his contemporary Max Reinhardt (1873-1943), Barnowsky was not concerned with innovation but rather with the continued staging of both classic and modern works without sacrificing artistic integrity to box-office appeal. He was noted for his productions of Ibsen, Shaw, Strindberg, and Shakespeare. Several successful actors worked closely with Barnowsky, including Elizabeth Bergner (1900- ?) who began her career in Barnowsky's production of As You Like It.

Barnowsky left Germany in 1933 after Hitler came to power. He endeavored to continue his career as a theatrical producer in Europe and then the United States. He worked in Hollywood briefly as a writer. He settled in the Bronx with his wife Sophie Apsel Barnowsky and taught the history of theater and dramatics at Fordham University and Hunter College, starting around 1941 and continuing for the rest of his career.

VICTOR BARNOWSKY PAPERS

Scope and Content

The collection consists of Correspondence (1934-1949), Dramatic Production Papers (1938 & nd), Writings - Non-fiction, Writings - Fiction (1920-1944), Biographical Papers (c.1930-1933), and Photographs. Correspondence contains drafts of a letter, 1949, to George Bernard Shaw in which Barnowsky discusses his work. Dramatic Production Papers include a stage version of Ibsen's Ghosts, along with synopses and outlines of various works including Goethe's Egmont and Schiller's Don Carlos. Writings - Non-fiction includes the lecture series "The European theater of Yesterday and the American Theater of Today" and "Priests, Nuns and the Theater" which Barnowsky used when he taught at Fordham University but apparently also hoped to have published. There are essays written in the form of reminiscences about his career in Germany. Writings - Fiction include several drafts and annotated copies of Barnowsky's play The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, an anti-war drama based on an idea by A. J. Righthouse, and bearing similarities to the Lysistrata of Aristophanes. Other writings include synopses of Barnowsky's ideas for screenplays and dramatic works, and a manuscript of a work of narrative fiction entitled the Matinee Idol. Biographical Papers are journalistic accounts and promotional pieces written in the early 1930's and concerned with Barnowsky's life and work. The Photographs are of Alexander Granach, an actor who worked with Barnowsky.

VICTOR BARNOWSKY PAPERS

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
|------------|---|
| 1 | <u>Correspondence</u> ; 1934-1949, nd <u>Dramatic Production Papers</u> ; 1938, nd |
| 2-3 | <u>Writings - Non-fiction</u> <u>Writings - Fiction</u> ; 1920-1944, nd |
| 4 | The Hand that Rocks the Cradle; The Matinee Idol |
| 5 | various writings <u>Biographical Papers</u> ; c. 1930-1933 <u>Photographs</u> |

VICTOR BARNOWSKY

TEMPORARY CATALOG CARD ADDED ENTRIES

Bergner, Elizabeth (1900- ?)
Dramatists, German
Drama - 20th century
European Drama - History and criticism
Fordham University - Drama
Granach, Alexander
Ibsen, Henrik (1828-1906)
Reinhardt, Max (1873-1943)
Righthouse, A. J.
Shaw, George Bernard (1856-1950)
Theater - Biography
Theater - Germany
Theater - History - To 500
Theater - History - Medieval 500-1500
Theater - History - 16th century
Theater - History - 18th century
Theater - History - 19th century
Theater - History - 20th century
Theatrical producers and directors - Germany - Berlin
Wedekind, Frank (1864-1918)
World War, 1939-1945 - Theater and the war