

VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

PAPERS, 1894-1973  
2.5 linear feet

The Billy Rose Theatre Collection  
The New York Public Library at Lincoln Center

8-MEZ + n.c.  
28,546-28,551

March, 1990 (jem)

## INTRODUCTION

The Victor Herbert Collection was donated to the New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Collection in September of 1989 by Mr. Herbert P. Jacoby, an administrator of The Victor Herbert Foundation, Inc. The material received was in very good condition and loosely alphabetical order. The final arrangement of the material is close to the arrangement of the material as it was received. Some correspondence and other material was removed and placed in the CAGE file for security reasons and xeroxed copies of everything except the checks signed by Victor Herbert are filed within the collection for use by researchers. It was decided that the checks were not of great research value, but could be used in an exhibition. Duplicate material was deaccessioned.

## BIOGRAPHY

Victor Herbert, composer and conductor, was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1859. He was the son of Fanny (Lover) and Edward Herbert and the grandson of Samuel Lover, the Irish novelist. He lived in Germany for eighteen years, and the Viennese operetta tradition can be seen in his romantic scores, full of soaring ballads, lilting waltzes, and stirring marches. His first job in New York City was in 1886 as a cellist in the Metropolitan Opera. He was director of the Pittsburgh Symphony, 1901-1903, and in 1904 he formed his own orchestra with which he toured the United States. He was also a leader in the formation of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

Victor Herbert was the dominant composer for the Broadway musical stage from the late 1800s to the 1920s. His first Broadway success was *THE SERENADE* (1897). Other major works include *THE FORTUNE TELLER* (1898), *BABES IN TOYLAND* (1903), *MLLE. MODISTE* (1905), *THE RED MILL* (1906), *NAUGHTY MARIETTA* (1910), *SWEETHEARTS* (1913), and *THE ONLY GIRL* (1914). Herbert's most frequent lyric partner was Harry B. Smith, but he also worked with Henry Blossom, Glen MacDonough, Robert B. Smith, George V. Hobart, Rida Johnson Young, Francis Neilson, Frederic Ranken and Kirke La Shelle, Edgar Smith, Joseph Herbert, James O'Dea, David Stevens and Justin Huntly McCarthy, P. G. Wodehouse, William Le Baron, Frederic Kummer, and B. G. DeSylva. Fritzi Scheff starred in four Herbert musicals, Alice Nielsen and Lew Fields in three each.

Many Victor Herbert musicals were adapted for film: *BABES IN TOYLAND* (cinema 1934) and (cinema 1961); *MLLE. MODISTE* (retitled *KISS ME AGAIN*) (cinema 1931); *NAUGHTY MARIETTA* (cinema 1935); and *SWEETHEARTS* (cinema 1938). There was also a film biography made of his life entitled *THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT* (cinema 1939).

Victor Herbert died in New York in 1924.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Victor Herbert Collection measures 2.5 linear feet and consists of correspondence, contracts, newspaper articles, photographs, memorabilia, royalty statements, and other material related to the career of Victor Herbert. The material is arranged into the following series:

Series I. Subject Files, 1894-1973 (2 linear feet) is arranged alphabetically and includes contracts for many of Victor Herbert's major shows. Some of the contracts are signed by him and others are signed by his heirs primarily for films of his shows produced posthumously. The bulk of the correspondence

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont'd)

is between his heirs (particularly Ella Herbert Bartlett) and others regarding royalties or copyrights. There is some very interesting correspondence in Box 28,549 Folder 1 regarding his daughter's insights into her father's personality for the making of THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT (cinema 1939). Also in this series are photographs from his shows, articles about his career, and memorabilia.

Series II. Royalty Statements, 1935-1973 (5 linear inches) is arranged alphabetically by publishing company and consists of royalty statements and some correspondence about royalties.

The collection was organized by Victor Herbert's daughter Ella Herbert Bartlett and most of the correspondence and documents in the collection were her business papers. For this reason, apart from the contracts, there is very little in the collection written or signed by Victor Herbert. There is also no information about the formation of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SERIES I. SUBJECT FILES

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,546 (1)	1	"All Hail To You, Marines" correspondence, magazine article, and music	1918, 1945
	2	"Alma Mater"--Song of the Catholic University of America--contract	1947-1948
	3	THE AMEER contracts	1899, 1901
	4	ANGEL FACE contracts	1915-1938
	5	American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers contracts and correspondence	1935-1973
	6	"Aschenbrodel March" royalty contract	1955
	7	BABES IN TOYLAND photographs, programmes, contracts, correspondence	1905-1953
	8	BABETTE contracts	1904, 1906
	9	Boston Music Company contract	1925
	10	"Butterfly Ballet" from SALLY correspondence, copyright forms	1948
	11	"The Call To Freedom!" correspondence, contract	1918, 1931-1946
	12	The Century Theatre contracts	1916-1918
	13	"Christ Is Risen" correspondence, music, programme	1944-1950
	14	Copyright renewal certificates for instrumental numbers	1953
	15	Cosmopolitan Theatre contract	1923
	16	CYRANO DE BERGERAC contract	1899
	17	THE DEBUTANTE correspondence, newspaper clipping, copyright renewal	1914, 1942
	18	DREAM CITY AND THE MAGICAL KNIGHT contracts, copyright	1906-1907
	19	DREAM GIRL contract amendment	1921
	20	THE DUTCHESS (originally ROSITA) contracts	1910

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SERIES I. SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,546 (1)	21	Eells, Howard correspondence	1941-1972
	22	EILEEN correspondence, contracts	1917-1946
	23	THE ENCHANTRESS correspondence, contracts	1911-1940
28,547 (2)	1	"The Finest" (police band march) copyright	1945
	2	Fischer, Carl Carl Fischer, Inc. contracts and correspondence regarding individual songs	1925-1939
	3	THE FORTUNE TELLER contracts, correspondence	1898-1952
	4	Foster, Stephen "Stephen Foster's Songs For Children" correspondence, contract	1945
	5	"Golden Days" correspondence, contract	1967
	6	GYPSY LADY correspondence, contracts, financial statements	1945-1948
	7	HER REGIMENT correspondence, contract, stock certificate	1917-1940
	8	Herbert, Clifford	1935-1960
	9	Herbert, Victor Memorabilia--musical notations, certificate of naturalization, etc.	1894-1926
	10	Herbert, Victor Programmes and photographs from LITTLE NEMO, THE RED MILL, IT HAPPENED IN NORDLAND, THE PRIMA DONNA, MLE. MODISTE	undated
	11	Herbert, Victor Articles and biographical information	1944-1968
	12	Herbert, Victor Victor Herbert Foundation	1965-1973
	13	Herbert, Victor Unidentified photographs (his home in Lake Placid?)	undated
	14	Herbert, Victor Victor Herbert song albums	1940-1943
	15	Herbert, Victor Memorial Tributes	1940-1959

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SERIES I. SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,547 (2)	16	Herbert, Victor Correspondence regarding his statue	1969
	17	THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT correspondence, contracts	1918-1938
28,548 (3)	1	"I Want To Be A Good Lamb" correspondence, contract	1940
	2	Income Tax Forms for Ella Herbert Bartlett	1952-1953
	3	Jacoby, Herbert correspondence	1971-1972
	4	THE LADY OF THE SLIPPER correspondence, contracts	1912-1921
	5	THE LAVENDER LADY correspondence, contracts	1912-1946
	6	Library of Congress--correspondence regarding donations of Victor Herbert's manuscripts	1944-1955
	7	LITTLE NEMO contract, certificate	1908
	8	"Love Is Like A Cigarette" correspondence	1944
	9	Lover, Samuel	1965
	10	THE MADCAP DUCHESS correspondence, contract	1921-1942
	11	MADELEINE correspondence, contracts	1913-1942
	12	MISS DOLLY DOLLARS correspondence, contract	1917-1921
	13	MLLE. MODISTE correspondence, contracts	1904-1931
	14	MLLE. MODISTE Warner Brothers contracts, correspondence	1951-1952
	15	MY GOLDEN GIRL contracts	1918-1919
	16	NATOMA contracts, correspondence	1909-1940
	17	NAUGHTY MARIETTA correspondence, contracts	1910-1973
	18	OLD DUTCH correspondence regarding OLD DUTCH, WHEN SWEET SIXTEEN, MISS CAMILLE, SONGBIRDS	1937
	19	OUI MADAME correspondence, contracts	1920-1943

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SERIES I. SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,549 (4)	1	Paramount Pictures Inc. THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT (cinema) correspondence, contracts	1934-1939
	2	Paramount Pictures, Inc. THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT royalty statements	1939-1940
	3	THE PRIMA DONNA contract	1908
	4	THE PRINCESS PAT correspondence, contracts, clipping	1915-1931
	5	PRINCE ANANIAS contract	1894
	6	Publishers Statements	1953
	7	Publishers Statements	1954
	8	THE RED MILL correspondence, contracts	1906-1946
	9	Ricordi and Co. contract for musical compositions	1905
	10	THE ROSE OF ALGERIA correspondence, contracts	1907-1940
	11	Ella Bartlett's Correspondence - S	1965
	12	Schirmer G. Schirmer Inc. blanket renewal contract and royalty guarantee	1939
	13	Schirmer G. Schirmer Inc. Single Numbers	1909-1938
	14	Edward Schuberth and Co. Inc. correspondence, contracts, copyrights	1934-1945
	15	THE SERENADE contracts, copyright	1896-1949
	16	SEVEN LITTLE WIDOWS correspondence, contracts	1912-1930
	17	THE SONG BIRDS contract	1912
	18	SWEETHEARTS contracts, correspondence, musical score	1912-1949

## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SERIES I. SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,550 (5)	1	THE TATTOOED MAN contracts	1907
	2	TRILBY contracts	1910, 1914
	3	THE VELVET LADY contract, correspondence	1918, 1946
	4	Waters, Edward	1949-1958
	5	WHEN SWEET SIXTEEN contracts	1908-1909
	6	White-Smith Music Publishing Company correspondence, contract	1926-1948
	7	Witmark Music Publishers Company Correspondence, blanket contract regarding publishing and small rights	1935-1943
	8	Witmark and Sons Music Publishers Single numbers contracts, correspondence	1900-1950
	9	THE WIZARD OF THE NILE contracts	1895-1904
	10	WONDERLAND contract, correspondence	1925-1938
	11	ZIEGFELD FOLLIES contract	1921

## SERIES II. ROYALTY STATEMENTS

28,551 (6)	1	Leo Feist, Inc.	1935-1965
	2	Carl Fischer, Inc.	1966-1973
	3	Harms, Inc.	1961-1973
	4	Music Publishers Holding Corporation	1953-1967
	5	Remick Music Corporation	1969-1973
	6	Theodore Presser Company	1967 .
	7	G. Schirmer, Inc.	1963-1973
	8	Tams-Witmark Music Library Inc.	1969-1971
	9	Warner Brothers-Seven Arts Music	1968-1969
	10	WB Music Corporation	1969-1973
	11	Witmark and Sons Publishers	1938-1973



## VICTOR HERBERT COLLECTION

## SEPARATION SHEET

Autograph material removed from the collection for preservation and security. A reading copy is available to readers in the collection. Original copies are not to be used by the readers without special need and permission from the curator. There is not a reading copy provided for the checks since it has been determined that these are valuable for exhibition purposes, but have no research value.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REMOVED FROM</u>
14 checks signed by Victor Herbert	1919-1924	28,547 #9
Last meal check signed by Victor Herbert	26 May 1924	28,547 #9
Musical notations signed by Victor Herbert	August 1894 and March 1896	28,547 #9
Victor Herbert envelope produced as a memorial tribute	13 May 1940	28,547 #15
L.s. from Lawrence Welk to Ella Herbert Bartlett	9 January 1959	28,547 #15
A.l.s. re PRINCESS PAT initialled by Victor Herbert and Henry Blossom	undated	28,549 #4