

EWALD SCHINDLER COLLECTION

PAPERS, 1888-1955
5 linear inches

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

8-MWEZ + n.c.
28,410

August, 1989 (jem)
November, 1990 (jem)

INTRODUCTION

The Ewald Schindler Collection was donated to The New York Public Library, The Billy Rose Theatre Collection in April, 1989 by Donald Weissmuller (whose mother Kendra Weissmuller was related to Liljan Espenak). The donor separated the Schindler material from a larger collection identified by Weissmuller as the collection of Liljan Espenak, the Norwegian dancer, who together with Schindler founded a school for dramatic instruction. A second donation was received by the library from the same source January 31, 1990.

The collection was divided into correspondence and photographs and then arranged chronologically. The obituaries for Schindler are filed at the end of the collection. The Schindler Collection measures five linear inches and is in good condition. Both donations were interfiled. Duplicate material was deaccessioned.

BIOGRAPHY

Ewald Schindler was born in Berlin in 1891. He graduated from the Reinhart Seminar for Dramatics in Berlin in 1910 and began a career as an actor, stage director, and opera producer. In 1912 he performed at the Court Theatre of Karlsruhe-Bade. At the suggestion of Bruno Walter, Schindler was appointed the stage director for the opera at Dusseldorf after having been Walter's assistant at the Statische Opera-Berlin.

When Hitler came to power, Schindler fled with his wife Nora to Czechoslovakia where he became the head director of the opera at the Deutsches Theatre in Prague. He was also appointed professor of dramatic opera at the "State Deutsche Akademie Fur Musik and Verstellende Kunst." Schindler became a Czech citizen in 1937. Shortly after, he obtained the state concession to conduct a school of dramatics in German at Prague.

After Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, Schindler and his family fled to Italy. When Italy entered the war in 1940, Schindler was put in a concentration camp for eleven months. After much effort, Serge Koussevitzky, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, secured an America visa for Schindler. He came to America in 1941 and replaced Leon Askin as the director of the King-Smith Playhouse. He also founded his own school of dramatics with Liljan Espenak called The Playhouse Studio. Schindler separated from his wife Nora in America and became romantically involved with Ms. Espenak.

Schindler died in America in 1948.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Schindler Collection measures five linear inches and consists of correspondence in English, German, and Russian; photographs; newspaper clippings; pencil drawings; programmes; production schedules; and other material related to the career of Ewald Schindler. The strength of the collection lies in the wealth of correspondence between Schindler and Liljan Espenak and the extensive photographic material which covers both Schindler's life from childhood to adulthood and many of his dramatic roles.

FOLDER LIST

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BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	INCLUSIVE DATES
28,410	1	Correspondence	1888-1933
	2	Correspondence	1942-1945
	3	Correspondence	1946-1951
	4	Correspondence	n.d.
	5	Programmes, Clippings, Set Designs, Production Schedules, and other production material	1925-1948
	6	Yearbook	1948
	7	Photographs Ewald Schindler as a child and his family	1894-1903
	8	Photographs Ewald Schindler and others	1910-1955
	9	Obituaries	1948
