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Guide to the

Bertha Case papers

1932-1985 (bulk 1963-1984)

*T-Mss 2012-029

Compiled by Sarah Wade, Pratt Institute, 2012, July 2012

Summary

Creator: Case, Bertha

Title: Bertha Case papers, 1932-1985 (bulk 1963-1984)

Size: 2.52 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Donated by Dolores Sutton, July 1990.

Abstract: As a literary agent, Bertha Case worked with a variety of authors, playwrights, and performers, including María Irene Fornés, Anthony Quinn, and Ira Wallach. Case also served as the literary representative of the estates of German playwright Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill. This collection primarily documents Case's career through correspondence with clients, publishers, and producers; the collection also contains contracts, press clippings, performance programs, and photographs.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org).

Preferred citation: Bertha Case papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Original folders and folder titles have been retained when possible. The creator's filing system has been maintained: the bulk of the collection is arranged alphabetically in client files. A small amount of previously unorganized material has been arranged alphabetically by document type.

Related collections

Alan Schneider papers. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Anthony Quinn letters to Bertha Case. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Bertha Case collection. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Henry Miller letters to Bertha Case, Uncataloged Manuscripts. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Papers relating to Lotte Lenya and Bertha Case. Weill-Lenya Research Center, Kurt Weill Foundation for Music.

Creator history

Known professionally as an authors' and artists' representative, Bertha Case worked to promote and establish the literary works of a variety of authors, playwrights, and performers. According to her 1984 obituary in *The New York Times*, Case worked in the literary and film industries for Hollywood's A. S. Lyons Agency and New York's M.C.A. agency before establishing her own agency in New York in the 1950s.

Notably, Case acted as the literary representative of the estates of German playwright Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill.

Source:

"Bertha Case," *The New York Times*, December 13, 1984. Accessed July 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/1984/12/13/obituaries/bertha-case.html>.

Scope and content note

The Bertha Case papers document the literary agent's career in New York City, mostly from 1963 through her death in December 1984. The vast majority of the collection consists of client files, which contain correspondence with clients, publishers, and producers demonstrating the agent's fondness for, and championing of, the individuals with whom she worked. The client files remain as they were organized by Case; in addition to correspondence, the files may also contain contracts, screenplays, royalty statements, photographs, press clippings, reviews, drafted writings, and poems, including works by Clarissa Aikens, María Irene Fornés, and Melba Thomas. Other notable clients include Lotte Lenya, Anthony Quinn, James Schevill, and Ira Wallach.

As the American literary representative for the Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill estates, many of the client files in this collection concern their works and royalties, specifically regarding Brecht. Not all correspondence relating to Brecht's estate is filed under his name. Researchers interested in the Brecht and Weill literary estates should review files of known collaborators and translators, as well as files containing titles of their works.

Separate from the client files, the Bertha Case papers include three folders of professional correspondence, royalty statements, and a telephone message book relating to Case's clientele. Correspondence consists of one folder of letters received after Case's death in December 1984 while the other two, titled by correspondent, concern inquiries into the Brecht estate.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by document type.

Key terms

Names

Brecht, Bertolt, 1898-1956
Brecht, Stefan, 1924-2009
Case, Bertha
Quinn, Anthony, 1915-2001

Occupations

Authors
Dramatists
Literary agents
Theatrical agents

Container list

Client Files

- b.1 f.1 Aikens, Clarissa [Lorenz], 1981-1984, undated
- Boretz, Allen
- b.1 f.3 *Gaming*, 1980-1982
- b.1 f.4 *Loner*, 1980-1981
- b.1 f.5 *Flying Elephant*, 1977-1981, undated
- Brecht, Bertolt--Estate
- b.1 f.6-8 General, 1967-1978
- b.1 f.9 *Happy End*, 1974-1979
- b.6 f.22 Performance Programs and Photographs, 1966-1973, undated
- b.1 f.10 *The Shameless Old Lady*, 1977-1978, undated
- b.1 f.11 Engelstein, Louis, 1982-1984
- b.1 f.12-14 European American Music Distributors Corporation, 1981-1984 (Regarding Brecht/Weill)
- b.1 f.15-16 Feingold, Michael, 1978-1985 (Regarding Brecht/Weill)
- b.2 f.1 Feingold, Michael, 1978-1985 (Regarding Brecht/Weill)
- b.2 f.2-3 Feuchtwanger, Marta, 1980-1983, undated
- Fornés, María Irene
- b.2 f.4-6 General, 1973-1984, undated
- b.2 f.7-9 *Fefu and Her Friends*, 1978-1984, undated
- b.2 f.10 *The Office*, 1965
- b.2 f.11-13 *Promenade*, 1965-1984, undated
- b.2 f.14 Publication Contracts, 1965-1971
- b.2 f.15 Grant, Micki--Television and Film, 1967-1973
- b.6 f.23 Grant, Micki--Musicals, circa 1972-1978
Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope (program) and *Working* (libretto vocal book)
- b.2 f.16 Gray, Timothy, and Hugh Martin, 1971-1983
Includes materials regarding a Kurt Weill project.
- b.2 f.17-19 Gray, Timothy, and Hugh Martin--*High Spirits*, 1963-1982
- b.2 f.20 Halevy, Arrah (Sarah), 1932-1935, undated
- b.3 f.1 Hill, Robert, 1975-1979
- b.3 f.2 Kapp, Yvonne--*Threepenny Opera*, 1972-1982
Regarding Brecht/Weill. Kapp was heir to Margaret Mynatt, who was an heir of Elisabeth Hauptmann. Includes correspondence with Joy Westendarp.
- b.3 f.3 Kurt Weill Foundation (Kowalke, Kim), 1984
- b.3 f.4-6 Lenya, Lotte, 1976-1984, undated
Regarding Brecht/Weill and independent projects.
- b.3 f.7 Lenya, Lotte--*Threepenny Opera*, 1976-1977 (Regarding Brecht/Weill)
- b.3 f.9 Manheim, Ralph, 1982-1985 (Regarding Brecht/Weill)
- b.3 f.10 Mercier, Mary, 1982-1984, undated
- b.3 f.11 Mueller, Carl, 1982-1983 (Regarding Brecht)

Client Files (cont.)

- b.3 f.12 Mynatt, Margaret, 1974-1977
Regarding Brecht/Weill. Mynatt was an heir of Elisabeth Hauptmann. Includes correspondence with Joy Westendarp.
- b.3 f.13 Nellhaus, Gerhard, 1962-1984 (Regarding Brecht)
- b.3 f.14 Packard, William, 1980-1983
- b.3 f.15 Packard, William--*Sandra and the Janitor*, 1982-1984
- b.3 f.16 Potter, Robert--*Just Across the Border*, 1979-1981
- b.3 f.17 Potter, Robert--*Mother Courage*, 1980-1981 (Regarding Brecht)
- Quinn, Anthony
- b.4 f.1-4 General, 1963-1984
Includes photocopies of correspondence from Quinn.
- b.4 f.5 Contracts, 1963-1975
- b.4 f.6 *Mama Borgia*, 1972-1977
- b.4 f.7-8 *The Original Sin*, 1972-1974, undated
- b.4 f.9 *Suddenly Sunset*, 1973-1978
- Schevill, James
- b.5 f.3-4 General, 1979-1984, undated
- b.5 f.5 *Cathedral of Ice*, 1975, undated
- b.5 f.6 *Edison's Dream*, 1981-1983, undated
- b.5 f.7 *In Moby Dick's Skull*, 1983
- b.5 f.8 Sutton, Dolores, 1971-1972
- b.5 f.9 Sutton, Dolores--*The Web and the Rock*, 1971-1973, undated
- Tabori, George
- b.5 f.10-12 General, 1979-1984, undated (Includes materials regarding Brecht.)
- b.5 f.13-14 *The Cannibals*, 1979-1981, undated
- b.5 f.15 *Jubilee*, 1983-1984, undated
- Thomas, Melba
- b.5 f.16 General, 1981-1984
- b.5 f.17 Contracts, 1974-1978
- b.5 f.18 *Come Dressed in Red*, 1975-1984, undated
- b.6 f.1 *Goodbye and Good Luck*, 1982-1984, undated
- b.6 f.2 *In My Father's Court*, 1981-1982, undated
- b.6 f.3 *Sears and Roebuck*, 1977-1979, undated
- b.6 f.4-5 *Where Have All the Dreamers Gone?*, 1977-1984, undated
- Wallach, Ira
- b.6 f.6 General, 1981-1984
- b.6 f.7 *Company of Thieves*, 1981-1982

Client Files (cont.)

Wallach, Ira (cont.)

- b.6 f.8 *General's Privates*, 1981-1982
- b.6 f.9 *Horatio*, 1982, undated
- b.6 f.10 *The Liechtenstein Alarm Clock*, 1982-1984, undated
- b.6 f.11-12 *The Porn Is Green*, 1980-1982, undated
- b.6 f.13 *The President's Wife*, 1981-1983
- b.6 f.14 *Sir and Lady Triangle*, 1983, undated
- b.6 f.15 *Washington Follies*, 1983, undated
- b.6 f.16 Warmber, Irma, 1976-1981, undated
Regarding Brecht/Weill. Sister, and heir, of Elisabeth Hauptmann.
- b.6 f.17 Weber, Irmgild--*Happy End*, 1982-1984
Regarding Brecht/Weill. Daughter, and heir, of Irma Warmber.
- b.6 f.18-19 Westendarp, Joy, 1977-1984, undated
Westendarp was the literary representative for the British rights of the Brecht and Weill estates.
- b.6 f.20 Willett, John, 1978-1983 (Regarding Brecht)
- b.6 f.21 Wolfson, Victor--*Sophia*, 1977-1980, undated (Previously titled *Farewell Apollo*)

Correspondence

- b.1 f.2 Bently, Eric, 1983
- b.6 f.24 Case, Bertha--Letters Following Death, 1984
- b.3 f.8 Lindfors, Viveca, 1972-1981
Includes correspondence with Stefan Brecht and Lotte Lenya.
- b.5 f.1-2 Royalty Statements--Samuel French, Inc., 1981-1985, undated
- b.6 f.25 Telephone Message Book, 1980-1983