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New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center  
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

**Dorothy Fields scripts**

1927-1973

\*T-Mss 1984-001

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, September 2012

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Fields, Dorothy, 1905-1974

**Title:** Dorothy Fields scripts, 1927-1973

**Size:** 2.52 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Source:** Donated to The New York Public Library, Billy Rose Theatre Collection in December, 1984 by Dorothy Fields's children, David Lahm and Eliza Lahm Oprava.

**Abstract:** Dorothy Fields (1905-1974) was an American lyricist and librettist, writing films, musicals and pop songs. The Dorothy Fields scripts contain scripts for plays and films written by Fields and her brother Herbert Fields.

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

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**Preferred citation:** Dorothy Fields scripts, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Scripts were arranged in alphabetical order.

## **Related collections**

Dorothy Fields papers, 1911-1977. Billy Rose Theatre Division, New York Public Library.

## **Creator history**

Dorothy Fields, lyricist and librettist, was born in Allenhurst on New Jersey, July 15, 1905. She was the daughter of Lew Fields, comedian and producer, and Rose (Harris) Shoenfeld. Her first well known song was "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," which she wrote with James McHugh in 1928. She collaborated extensively with her brother Herbert Fields, who also was a librettist. Their most famous production was "Annie Get Your Gun," produced in 1946.

Her other brother Joseph Fields was a dramatic actor, producer, and playwright. She was married in 1938 to Eli Lahm and they had two children, David and Eliza. She also collaborated with Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, Sigmund Romberg, Burton Lane, Arthur Schwartz, Fritz Kreisler, Norton Gould, Cy Coleman, Albert Hague, Oscar Levant, Harry Warren, and her son David Fields Lahm.

Dorothy Fields is probably best known for having written the lyrics to *Sweet Charity*. She was a representative of the Dramatists' Guild on the Council of the Author's League of America; secretary of the Dramatists' Guild, and one of the few women members of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. She died in 1974 in New York City.

### **Scope and content note**

The Dorothy Fields scripts consist mainly of scripts for musical plays and films with lyrics and/or librettos written by Dorothy Fields. Musicals written by Fields include *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1951), *Sweet Charity* (1966) and *Seesaw* (1973). Some unproduced projects with lyrics by Fields are also here, such as *Love Insurance*, *Keep It in the Family* and *A Smiling Spring*.

There are also scripts for the many musicals Fields wrote librettos for, in collaboration with her brother, Herbert Fields, such as *Let's Face It* (1941), *Something for the Boys* (1943), *Mexican Hayride* (1944), *Annie Get Your Gun* (1946), *Up in Central Park* (1947), *Arms and the Girl* (1950) and *Redhead* (1959). Fields also provided her own lyrics for some of these projects.

Also here are projects written by Herbert Fields such as stage productions like *Hit the Deck* (1927), *DuBarry Was a Lady* (1939) and *Panama Hattie* (1940). His screenplays include *The Hot Heiress* (1931), *Let's Fall in Love* (1933), *Mississippi* (1935), *People Will Talk* (1935), *Hands Across the Table* (1935), *Ship Cafe* (1935) and *Love Before Breakfast* (1936).

### **Arrangement**

The Dorothy Fields scripts are arranged alphabetically, by title.

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Motion Pictures -- United States -- 20th century  
Musical Films -- United States -- 20th century  
Musical Theater -- United States -- 20th century  
Popular Music -- United States -- 20th century

#### **Occupations**

Librettists  
Lyricists

#### **Names**

Coleman, Cy  
Fields, Dorothy, 1905-1974  
Fields, Herbert, 1857-1958

#### **Special formats**

Scripts

## Container list

- b.1 f.1-2 *Annie Get Your Gun*, 1966, undated
  - b.1 f.3 *Arms and a Girl*, undated
  - b.1 f.4 *Babes in Arms*, 1937
- b.1 f.5-6 *The Big Song and Dance*, 1952
  - b.2 f.1 *The Big Song and Dance*, 1952, undated
  - b.2 f.2 *DuBarry Was a Lady*, undated
  - b.2 f.3 *Face the Wind*, 1959
  - b.2 f.4 *Hands Across the Table*, 1935
  - b.2 f.5 *Hit the Deck*, 1927
- b.2 f.6-7 *The Hot Heiress*, 1930, undated
  - b.3 f.1 *How Big is Baby*, undated
  - b.3 f.2 *If there Were More People Like You*, 1970
  - b.3 f.3 *Keep It In the Family*, 1966  
A proposed musical adaptation of Samuel Taylor's *The Happy Time* by Fields and Cy Coleman
  - b.3 f.4 *Let's Fall In Love*, undated
  - b.3 f.5 *Let's Face It*, undated
  - b.3 f.6 *Love Before Breakfast*, 1935
  - b.3 f.7 *Love Insurance*-Outline, undated
  - b.3 f.8 *Love Match*, 1967 (By Christian Hamilton and Milton Kaye)
  - b.3 f.9 *The Luckiest Girl in the World*, undated
- b.4 f.1-2 *Mexican Hayride*, undated
  - b.4 f.3 *Mississippi*, 1934 October 9
  - b.4 f.4 *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*-Copy, 1959 May 18
- b.4 f.5-6 *Panama Hattie*, 1940, 1976
  - b.5 f.1 *Panama Hattie*, undated
  - b.5 f.2 *Poor Little Ritz Girl*, undated
  - b.5 f.3 *People Will Talk*, 1935 January 26
  - b.5 f.4 *Redhead*, undated
  - b.5 f.5 *Seesaw*, 1973 February 25
  - b.5 f.6 *Ship Cafe*, 1935 August 14
  - b.5 f.7 *A Smiling Spring*, 1957 June  
A musical adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness*, with music by Harold Karr, lyrics by Matt Dubey and a book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields
  - b.5 f.8 *Something for the Boys*, 1943 January 7
  - b.5 f.9 *Spring Storm*, undated
- b.6 f.1 *Sweet Charity*-Screenplay, 1968 January 17
- b.6 f.2 *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, 1969
- b.6 f.3-4 *Up in Central Park*, 1945, 1970
  - b.6 f.5 *Winter Love*, undated

b.6 f.6-8 Untitled Musical, undated

This project, labeled "Untitled Musical" had music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Fields and a book by Stefan Kafner and Jess Korman. Included the song "Poor Everybody Else" used in Fields and Coleman's *Seesaw*.