

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

Guide to the Jack Pearl Papers, 1899-1973

*T-Mss 1985-001

Expanded and revised by
Annemarie van Roessel, October 2011

Summary

- Creator: Pearl, Jack
- Title: Jack Pearl Papers, 1899-1973
- Size: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)
- Source: This collection was donated to the New York Public Library by Kevin Kaufman in July 1985. Mr. Kaufman obtained these papers from the estate of Jack Pearl.
- Abstract: The Jack Pearl Papers include printed materials and photographs documenting the life and work of American actor and comedian Jack Pearl. Pearl appeared in eighteen Broadway shows and several films. He was also well-known for his on-going radio role as Baron Munchausen.
- Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.
- Preferred citation: Jack Pearl Papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.
- Special formats: Photographs, Programs, Scripts

Biographical Note

Jack Peal was born on October 29, 1894, in New York City. After leaving school at the age of twelve, Pearl got his first stage job appearing in Gus Edwards' *School Days* in 1912. The production toured the United States. Pearl later appeared in both vaudeville and burlesque. In 1919 he joined the Shubert organization and appeared on Broadway in *The Dancing Girls* (1923), *A Night in Paris* (1926), *Pleasure Bound* (1929), and *International Revue* (1930). Pearl also appeared in *Ziegfeld Follies of 1931* and *Pardon My English* in 1933. He appeared in a total of eighteen Broadway shows.

However, Pearl's greatest success was on radio, where his Baron Munchausen character became a national hit. He also appeared in two films, *Meet the Baron* (1933) and *Hollywood Party* (1934). During World War II, Pearl toured military bases and performed in many benefit shows. In recognition of his impact on radio, Pearl was inducted to the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960.

Pearl was married to a former showgirl, Winnie Desbrought. He died in New York City on December 25, 1982.

Arrangement Note

Materials were previously cataloged under the classmarks 8-MWEZ + n.c. 27,789-28,792.

The Jack Pearl Papers document the career and personal life of comedian Jack Pearl. Materials are arranged in two series, with separated material noted:

Series I: Papers, 1899-1956

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes). Arranged chronologically in 3 subseries: general papers, programmes, and scripts.

Series II: Photographs, 1915-1973

.4 linear feet (1 box). Arranged alphabetically by production and subject. Includes publicity photographs of Jack Pearl with other noted actors.

Separated Material:

From Series 1, Silk program from the Benefit for Treasurers Club of America, February 11, 1934. Stored in *T-cabinet. Please consult the Theatre Curator for additional information.

Key Terms

Subjects

Cantor, Eddie, 1892-1964.

Pearl, Jack

Stand-up comedy.

Musical theater.

Occupations

Actors – United States

Comedians – United States

Genres

Photoprints.

Correspondence.

Scripts.

Playbills.

Contracts.

Container List

Series I: Papers, 1899-1956

Subseries 1: General Papers

- b.1 f.1 Contracts, 1915-1952
- b.1 f.2 Correspondence, 1922-1952
- b.1 f.3 Correspondence, Telegrams, 1916-1956
- b.1 f.4 Entertainment Guides, Atlantic City, Chicago, Detroit, Las Vegas, New York City, 1924-1954
- b.1 f.5 Flyers, various, undated
- b.1 f.6 Perlman, Louis, Citizenship Certificate, 1899
- b.1 f.7 Zenith Official Radio Log, 1937
- b.1 f.8 Miscellaneous: sketch and sheet music for "Baron Munchausen," undated

Subseries 2: Programmes

- b.2 f.1 *All for All*, 1943
- b.2 f.2 *Artists and Models*, 1927-1928
- b.2 f.3 Benefits, various, 1924-1931
- b.2 f.4 *Better Times*, 1931
- b.2 f.5 *The Boys and Girls of Avenue B*, 1914
- b.2 f.6 *The Dancing Girl*, 1923
- b.2 f.7 *The Fun Shop*, 1914
- b.2 f.8 *Hitchy-Koo of 1922*
- b.2 f.9 *International Revue*, 1930.
- b.2 f.10 *The Live Wires*, 1915-1916
- b.2 f.11 *Merry-Go-Round*, 1945
- b.2 f.12 Nedra, 1917-1919
- b.2 f.13 *One Night in Paris*, 1927
- b.2 f.14 *One Flight Down*, 1937
- b.2 f.15 *Pleasure Bound*, 1929

- b.2 f.16 *Powder Puff Revue*, [1915?]
- b.2 f.17 *Running to Form*, 1916.
- b.2 f.18 *School Days*, 1912-1913
- b.2 f.19 *Temptations of 1923*
- b.2 f.20 Vaudeville, various, 1925
- b.2 f.21 *The Whirl of New York*, 1921-1922
- b.2 f.22 *Yokel Boy*, 1939
- b.2 f.23 *Ziegfeld Follies of 1931*

Subseries 3: Scripts

- b.3 f.1 *American Pastoral*, 1940
- b.3 f.2 *The Gag Album*, No. 1, 1937
- b.3 f.3 *John and Albert*, undated
- b.3 f.4 *Madison's Budget*, No. 17, Comedy material, 1918
- b.3 f.5 *Madison's Budget*, No. 18, Comedy material, 1921
- b.3 f.6 *Madison 57 Varieties of Laughs for Radio, Screen and Stage*, 1933
- b.3 f.7 *The Music Master*, undated
- b.3 f.8 *Somersaults for God*, undated

Series II: Photographs, 1915-1973

- b.4 f.1 Arbuckle, Roscoe "Fatty", undated.
- b.4 f.2 Dafoe, Allan Roy and the Dionne Quintuplets, 1937
- b.4 f.3 The Friars Club, 1973
- b.4 f.4 *The Ile de France*, with Buster Keaton and Maurice Chevalier, 1934
- b.4 f.5 The Jewish Theatrical Guild of America, 50th Anniversary Party, 1929
- b.4 f.6 *The Live Wires*, 1915-1916
- b.4 f.7 *Meet the Baron*, 1933
- b.4 f.8 New York Curb Exchange War Bond Rally, 1944
- b.4 f.9 The Pace Makers, 1917
- b.4 f.10 Portraits, undated
- b.4 f.11 Powder Puff Revue, [1915?]
- b.4 f.12 Publicity, undated
- b.4 f.13 Publicity, undated
- b.4 f.14 Radio, undated
- b.4 f.15 The Stork Club, undated
- b.4 f.16 Toots Shor's, 1946
- b.4 f.17 Vaudeville, undated
- b.4 f.18 *The Ziegfeld Follies*, 1931