

Guide to the Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood papers,1929-1986

*T-Mss 1992-039

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York
The Billy Rose Theatre Division. New York Public Library.
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023-7498
(212) 870-1639

theatrediv@nypl.org

<http://nypl.org/research/lpa/the/the.html>

Processed by:Jeanne Mixon

Date Completed: May 1992

Encoded by:Thea Constantine

©2003 The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

- Title: Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood papers, 1929-1986
- Creator: Hapgood, Elizabeth Reynolds.
- Size: 3.5 lin. ft., (10 boxes)
- Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division. New York, New York
- Abstract: Renowned Russian translator and Soviet culture lecturer Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood (1894-1974) is best known as the English translator for Konstantin Stanislavsky, the actor, director, and dramatics coach for the Moscow Art Theatre. The collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, manuscripts in Russian, and Elizabeth Hapgood's translations. The magazine article is dated 1986.

Administrative Information

- Source: Gift of papers from Mrs. Hapgood's son, Norman.
- Processing Information: The papers were processed in 1992 and originally cataloged as 8-MWEZ 22184-22193. In 2003 they were re-cataloged and given the new classmark *T-Mss 1992-039.
- Access: Collection is open to the public. Advance notice may be required.
- Preferred Citation: Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood Papers, *T-Mss 1992-039, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Biographical Note

Mrs. Hapgood was born January 29, 1894. She graduated in two years from the three year program at L'Ecole Speciale Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes, the branch of the University of Paris that provided training for the consular and diplomatic service. At 21 she was appointed the first head of the newly created Russian department at Columbia University, a position she occupied until her marriage a year later. In 1916 she married Norman Hapgood, a prominent journalist and statesman. In 1918 she was appointed the first woman instructor and the first instructor of Russian at Dartmouth College.

Elizabeth Hapgood is best known as Konstantin Stanislavsky's translator. She met him in 1924 when her husband arranged for Stanislavsky and several senior members of the Moscow Art Theatre to tour the White House and meet President Coolidge. She translated for them, and Stanislavsky was so impressed that he asked her to translate *My Life in Art*. In 1928 Stanislavsky suffered a heart attack, and went to Germany to recuperate. Elizabeth Hapgood started a fund raising drive to enable him to publish his acting techniques so that he could financially afford to stay longer in the West and concentrate on preserving his acting techniques on paper. She also arranged publication contracts. He completed *An Actor Prepares* and *An Actor Works on Himself: Part One* before his death in 1938. After his death, the remainder of his writings were prepared for publication in the eight volumes that comprise his *Complete Works*. These works were published in segments throughout the fifties and sixties.

Although Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood is best known as Konstantin Stanislavsky's translator, she also translated works of a number of other prominent Russian artists. She was also a popular teacher and lecturer on the Russian language and culture.

She died in 1974.

Scope and Contents

The Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood Papers contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, manuscripts in Russian, and English translations.

There has been considerable controversy surrounding the Hapgood's translations of Stanislavsky's works. Elizabeth Hapgood would receive the Russian language manuscript from Stanislavsky and translate it. Her husband Norman would then edit the manuscript. Stanislavsky did not, however, completely relinquish artistic control and only allowed them to cut, not to rewrite, his prose. Because it was considered necessary to cut the manuscript heavily so that American readers would understand the Stanislavsky system, critics have alleged that there are significant differences between the American and Russian publications of Stanislavsky's writings. The blame for any discrepancies has traditionally been placed on the translator, editor, and publisher of the American texts. The controversy is described in Burnet Hobgood's article "Stanislavski's Books: An Untold Story" (Box 1, Folder 6). This collection allows the scholar to judge himself how significant the edits to the original Russian manuscript were. Since Norman Hapgood's papers are housed at the Library of Congress, there may be other manuscripts related to this collection there.

Organization

- Series I: Papers
- Series II: Translations

Series Descriptions/Container List

Series I: Papers, 1929-1986

.20 lin. ft. (1 box)

This series consists of correspondence regarding fund raising for Stanislavsky, an article, Russian language newspaper clippings, and unidentified writings.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence regarding fund raising for Stanislavsky, 1929-1932
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 2 "Stanislavski and Melodrama" by Elizabeth Hapgood, first draft, n.d.
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 3 "Stanislavski and Melodrama" by Elizabeth Hapgood, n.d.
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 4 Unidentified writings and translations, n.d.
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 5 Unpublished Russian language article by A. Vishnevsky and correspondence, 1924
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 6 Russian language newspaper clippings, 1950
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 7 "Stanislavski's Books: An Untold Story," by Burnet Hopgood, 1986
1 folder

Series II: Translations, 1930-1973

3.4 lin ft. (9 boxes)

This series consists of Russian language manuscripts, primarily authored by Stanislavsky, Elizabeth Hapgood's handwritten translations, typewritten drafts, and correspondence.

Stanislavsky On Opera by P.I. Romyantsev and Konstantin Stanislavsky, 1973

- b. 2 f. 1 Forward and Chapter One
1 folder
- b. 2 f. 2 Chapter Two

1 folder

b. 2 f. 3 Chapter Three through Four
1 folder

b. 2 f. 4 Chapter Five through Eight
1 folder

Stanislavsky On Opera by P.I. Rummyantsev and Konstantin Stanislavsky, first edited version, n.d.

b. 2 f. 5 Notes and research
1 folder

b. 2 f. 6 Chapter One
1 folder

b. 2 f. 7 Chapter Two
1 folder

b. 2 f. 8 Chapter Three
1 folder

b. 3 f. 1 Chapter Four
1 folder

b. 3 f. 2 Chapter Five
1 folder

b. 3 f. 3 Chapter Six through Eight
1 folder

An Actor Prepares by Konstantin Stanislavsky, Russian language manuscript, 1930-1931

b. 4 f. 1-5 Manuscript
5 folders

b. 5 f. 1-3 Manuscript
3 folders

b. 6 f. 1-4 Manuscript
4 folders

An Actor Prepares by Konstantin Stanislavsky, Russian language manuscript, 1935-1936

b. 6 f. 5 Chapter I
1 folder

b. 6 f. 6	Chapter II 1 folder
b. 6 f. 7	Chapter III 1 folder
b. 6 f. 8	Chapter IV 1 folder
b. 7 f. 1	Chapter V 1 folder
b. 7 f. 2	Chapter VI 1 folder
b. 7 f. 3	Chapter VII 1 folder
b. 7 f. 4	Chapter VIII 1 folder
b. 7 f. 5	Chapter IX 1 folder
b. 7 f. 6	Chapter X 1 folder
b. 7 f. 7	Chapter XI 1 folder
b. 8 f. 1	Chapter XII 1 folder
b. 8 f. 2	Chapter XIII 1 folder
b. 8 f. 3	Chapter XIV 1 folder
b. 8 f. 4	Chapter XV 1 folder
b. 8 f. 5-6	Chapter XVI 2 folders

An Actor Prepares by Konstantin Stanislavsky, 1930-1947

b. 8 f. 7	Correspondence and table of contents 1 folder
-----------	--

b. 8 f. 8 Handwritten translation by Elizabeth Hapgood
1 folder

b. 8 f. 9 Corrected draft by Elizabeth Hapgood and Robert MacGregor
1 folder

Creating a Role by Konstantin Stanislavsky, c.a. 1959-1961

b. 8 f. 10 Draft translation by Elizabeth Hapgood
1 folder

b. 9 f. 1 Handwritten translation pgs 1-70 (photocopied)
1 folder

b. 9 f. 2 Handwritten translation pgs 1-70 (original)
1 folder

b. 9 f. 3 Handwritten translation pgs 71-166
1 folder

b. 9 f. 4 First typescript of her translation by Elizabeth Hapgood
showing corrections and notes by her and Hermine Isaacs
Popper
1 folder

b. 9 f. 5 Part I
1 folder

b. 9 f. 6 Part II
1 folder

b. 9 f. 7 Part III
1 folder

b. 9 f. 8 Correspondence
1 folder

b. 10 f. 1 *My Life in Art* by Konstantin Stanislavsky correspondence and
financial Records, 1935
1 folder

b. 10 f. 2 *The Pattern of Physical Actions* by Konstantin Stanislavsky
translated manuscript, n.d.
1 folder

b. 10 f. 3 *Stanislavsky's Collected Works* by Konstantin Stanislavsky
Volumes 5-8 translation notes, n.d.
1 folder

Stanislavsky's Legacy by Konstantin Stanislavsky, c.a. 1936-1968

- b. 10 f. 4 Translated manuscript
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 5 Edits and correspondence between Elizabeth Hapgood and
Theatre Arts Books
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 6 New 1965 copy
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 7 Edits and correspondence
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 8 New material translated but not to be used
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 9 Correspondence and radio interview
1 folder
 - b. 10 f. 10 *Tulane Drama Review* translated manuscripts, n.d.
1 folder
-