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Guide to the

Abbey Theatre records

1910-1938

Berg Coll MSS Abbey Theatre

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Summary

Creator: Abbey Theatre

Title: Abbey Theatre records

Date: 1910-1938

Size: 72 linear feet (items)

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, financial and legal documents, and a portrait.

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Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash.

Creator History

The Abbey Theatre in Dublin is an Irish theatrical company, founded in 1904 by William Butler Yeats and Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory. J. M. Synge and Lady Gregory were its first directors. It is devoted to Irish drama.

Custodial History

Some of the materials were among Ria Mooney's correspondence and with Lady Gregory's correspondence.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, financial and legal documents, and a portrait. The manuscripts and typescripts include stage directions, lists of actors, extracts of reviews of performances, schedules, and other matters related to the Theatre, as well as articles, notes, and reviews by Sean O'Casey, a lecture by Alfred Wareing, and addresses by W. B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, and J. M. Synge. The correspondence, dating from 1910 to 1928, includes letters from the Theatre to Sean O'Casey, Lady Gregory, and W. B. Yeats, as well as letters relating to the Theatre between various correspondents, including Sara Allgood, Annie Elizabeth Fredericka Horniman, and Bertha June Lucas. The bulk of the collection consists of financial documents, specifically weekly returns dating from 1920 to 1931, financial statements, and lists of checks made out to various payees.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Abbey Theatre

Allgood, Sara, 1883-1950

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932

Horniman, Annie Elizabeth Fredericka, 1860-1937

Lucas, Bertha June (Richardson), Mrs

Mooney, Ria, 1903-1973

O'Casey, Sean, 1880-1964

Synge, J. M. (John Millington), 1871-1909

Wareing, Alfred, 1876-1942

Yeats, W. B. (William Butler), 1865-1939

Container List

Correspondence

Outgoing

- | | |
|--|--|
| Manuscript box
(Gregory) | Telegram to Lady Gregory 1916 May 19 (1 item) (1 item) |
| Enclosed in: Sean
O'Casey.
Windfalls. Early
typescript. On
versos of p. 1-3 of
rough draft of
"The job."
Envelope 1 | 3 TN to Sean O'Casey 1928 June 9 - 1928 June 30 (3 items) (3 items)
Signed J. H. Perrin |

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Manuscript box
(Yeats) | Telegram to William Butler Yeats 1913 Sept. 19 (1 item) (1 item)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers |
|---------------------------|---|

Incoming

- | | |
|--|---|
| In his: Holograph
notebooks. Vol. 3,
p. [73] | Sean O'Casey. AL (draft) to the Abbey Theatre (?) n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box
(Gregory) | John D Sinclair. TLS to Abbey Theatre. To W. B. Yeats? 1906 June 20 (1 item)
(1 item)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers |

Related correspondence

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Manuscript box
(Allgood) | Fred J. Harris. 2 TLS to Sara Allgood. Relates to Abbey theatre
engagement of Miss Allgood 1922 June 24, 1922 July 13 (2 items) (2 items) |
| Manuscript box | Annie Elizabeth Fredericka Horniman. ALS to [--?]. Relates to the Abbey
theatre 1910 Dec. 7 (1 item) (1 item) |
| Manuscript box
(Allgood) | Bertha June (Richardson) Lucas. ALS to Sara Allgood. Mentions W. B.
Yeats and various Abbey Theatre actors and playwrights n.d. (7 p) (7 p) |

Financial & Legal Documents

Financial Documents

- | | |
|--|---|
| Manuscript box
(Gregory) | Financial statement for the year ending Aug. 31, 1912. Typescript 1912 (1 p)
(1 p)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers |
| On verso of first
inserted page of:
Lady Gregory.
[The jester]
Holograph outline,
undated | Return for week ending 23rd Nov. [1918?]. Typescript (carbon) 1918? (1 item)
(1 item) |
| Manuscript box | Returns for weeks ending Aug. 15, and Oct. 16, 1920 1920 (2 items) (2 items)
On versos of p. [4] and [6] of: Lady Gregory. [Aristotle's bellows] Songs. Holograph lists. |
| In: Lady I. A. P.
Gregory. [Hugh
Lane's life and
achievement.
London, 1921]
Page proof.
Following p. 172 | Returns for Sept. 9, 1920 1920 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed J. H. Perrin |
| Manuscript box
(Gregory) | Returns for week ending April 16, 1921. Typescript 1921 (1 item) (1 item)
On verso: Lady Gregory's holograph autobiographical notes Removed from: Lady Gregory.
Memoirs. 14 holograph notebooks. Vol. 9 |

Financial & Legal Documents (cont.)

Financial Documents (cont.)

Manuscript box. In: Lady Gregory. [Memoirs] Typewritten draft. Folder 17	Returns for week ending Aug. 26, 1922. Typescript 1922 (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box	Returns for week ending March 26, 1925. Typescript (1 p) (1 p) On verso of: Lady Gregory. [On the racecourse] Holograph passage of dialogue, undated. 1 p.
Manuscript box	Checks drawn, dated Jan. 28, 1926, made out to various payees. Typewritten list n.d. (1 p) (1 p) On verso of: Lady I. A. P. Gregory. [Excerpts from her readings] Holograph, undated. 1 p. Mutilated
Manuscript box. In: Lady Gregory. TL (copies) to John Quinn. Jan. 4, 1903-Feb. 6, 1924. On versos of p. 36, 30, 28 of carbon	Returns for weeks ending May 1, 8, and 15, 1926 1926 (3 items) (3 items)
Manuscript box	Return for week ending July 17, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p) On verso of p. 2 of typescript of: Lady Gregory. ALS to George William Russell, July 24, 1926
In: Lady Gregory. [Case for the return of Sir Hugh Lane's pictures to Dublin] Earlier typewritten draft	Returns for weeks ending Aug. 7 and 21, 1926. Typescript 1926 (2 items) (2 items)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 20	Returns for week ending Sept. 11, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 16	Returns for week ending Sept. 18, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 8	Returns for week ending Oct. 2, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 10	Returns for week ending Oct. 9, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 6	Returns for week ending Oct. 16, 1926. Typescript (carbon) 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 36	Returns for week ending Oct. 23, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)

Financial & Legal Documents (cont.)

Financial Documents (cont.)

In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 35	Returns for week ending Oct. 30, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 31. Carbon. On verso of p. 32	Returns for week ending Nov. 6, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 32. Carbon. On verso of p. 9	Returns for week ending Dec. 4, 1926. Typescript (carbon) 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 32. Carbon. On verso of p. 40	Returns for week ending Dec. 18, 1926. Typescript 1926 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box	Returns for week ending April 2, 1927. Typescript 1927 Apr. 4 (1 p) (1 p) On verso of: Lady Gregory. AL (draft) to [--?], April 25 [1927] Removed from her: Journal, v. 35, p. 4238
In: Lady Gregory. Figures in clay. Typewritten draft. On verso of p. [27]	Returns for week ending Aug. 13, 1927. Typescript 1927 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 33. Carbon. On verso of p. 32	Returns for week ending Feb. 11, 1928. Typescript 1928 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 33. Carbon. On verso of p. 15	Returns for week ending Feb. 25, 1928. Typescript 1928 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 33. Carbon. On verso of p. 41	Returns for week ending March 10, 1928. Typescript 1928 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 34. Carbon. On verso of p. 35	Returns for week ending March 24, 1928. Typescript 1928 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. [Journal] Typescript. Book 35. Carbon. On verso of p. 7	Returns for week ending April 14, 1928. Typescript 1928 (1 p) (1 p)
In: Lady Gregory. The volunteer bridge. Typescript. On verso of p. 2	Returns for week ending Aug. 9, 1930. Typescript 1930 (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box	Lady Gregory. [Abbey theatre. Statement of returns for performances covering July 2, 1930-July 6, 1931] Holograph 1931 (3 p) (3 p)
Manuscript box (Gregory)	Returns for unspecified performances. Mutilated n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed A. Patrick Wilson Came with Lady Gregory's papers

Financial & Legal Documents (cont.)

Financial Documents (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Gregory) [Provision for disposal of trust funds] in event of winding up of company. Typescript with ms. corrections in an unidentified hand n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers
- Manuscript box (Gregory) List of expenses for production of Lady Gregory's Workhouse ward in an unidentified hand. Manuscript n.d (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Gregory) Cheques, undated, made out to various payees. Typewritten list n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With Lady Gregory's marginal ms. note, "I am asking about this"

Legal Documents

- Manuscript box (Gregory) Charles Prestwich Scott. [Abbey theatre. Typescript of arbitration between A. E. F. Horniman and the directors of the National Theatre Society, relating to the sale of the Abbey theatre, April 29, 1911]. Directors cited are Lady Gregory and W. B. Yeats 1911 (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box (Colum) Agreement between Padraic Colum and the Directors of the Abbey theatre for permission to perform his play Thomas Muskerry 1911 Aug. 17 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed by W. B. Yeats and Padraic Colum

Manuscripts & Typescripts

Manuscripts

- Manuscript box The Abbey stage. Holograph measurements in an unidentified hand n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by photograph of exterior of Abbey theatre the morning of the fire (1951) Came with Ria Mooney's correspondence
- Manuscript box (Gregory) List of players and payments essential in the event of a definite offer from Australia, in an unidentified hand. On letterhead of The Little Theatre, The Irish Players [London] n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers
- In his: Holograph notebooks. Vol. 7, unnumbered page at back Sean O'Casey. [Notes. Abbey Theatre] Plays ... 1929. Holograph. Schedule of Abbey Theatre performances, Jan. - Aug., 1929 1929 (1 p) (1 p)
- In his: Holograph notebooks. Vol. 19, p. [84-88] Sean O'Casey. [Reviews. Peter Kavanagh; The story of the Abbey theatre. Notes] and holograph draft n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
- Manuscript box Salary list proposed. Play proposed. Manuscript n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
With: Lady Gregory. [Abbey theatre] Salaries. Loss, February to June. Holographs, undated. 5 p.
- Manuscript box (Gregory) Alfred Wareing. The Abbey Theatre's first invasion of Britain. Holograph draft of lecture 1938 Oct. 26 - 1938 Oct. 28 (14 p) (14 p)
Signed Enclosed in: Alfred Wareing. ALS and 6 TLS to Ethel Allenby. Letter of Oct. 25, 1938

Typescripts

- Manuscript box (Gregory) English reviews (extracts) of Abbey theatre performances in England. Typescript n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers
- Cased Sean O'Casey. [Articles. Ireland] Seven typescripts with the author's ms. Corrections n.d. (7 items) (7 items)
With: O'Casey v. Abbey. Typescript (photocopy). 39 p. Begun as letter to Ronald Ayling. On verso of p. 12 of "Abbey theatre": Macmillan & co., Ltd., London. TLS to Sean O'Casey. July 12, 1934. 1 p.
- Manuscript box (Gregory) Rules and regulations. Typescript (carbon) with Lady Gregory's ms. note n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
With envelope with Lady Gregory's ms. note: "Abbey fragment from Henderson's desk, given me 1929."

Manuscripts & Typescripts (cont.)
Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscript box.
In: W.B. Yeats. TL
(copies) to Lady
Gregory. 1897-
1910. 19 p. On
verso of p. 6

[Schedule of performances, June 12-17, 1922] Typescript n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Statement for year ending 28th February 1914. Typescript n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With: Lady Gregory and W. B. Yeats. TLS (copy) to the editor of the Irish times. Abbey
theatre, Dublin, Sept. 1914

Manuscript box

W. B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, and J. M. Synge (?) [Abbey theatre. Address]
Typescript with Lady Gregory's (?) ms. corrections. Address delivered to
Abbey company over division of Abbey funds at Sept. 23, 1905, meeting
n.d. (2 p) (2 p)

Portraits

Cased

Sara Allgood. Album of photographs. Contains 63 pieces, including Abbey
theatre players, Lady Gregory, Lennox Robinson and Sir Roger Casement
n.d. (1 v) (1 v)