



The New York Public Library
Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

Scrapbooks on Sarah Siddons

1780-1837

Pforz BND-MSS (Siddons, S.)

Summary

Title: Scrapbooks on Sarah Siddons

Date: 1780-1837

Size: 2 volumes

Abstract: Two quarto scrapbooks put together by an unidentified compiler, containing a large collection of newspaper clippings, playbills (printed originals and manuscript tracings), and various theatrical notices relating to the career of Sarah Siddons. Includes manuscript accounts, checks, and statements of payment to her; and letters, most by her husband, William Siddons, some by her son, Henry Siddons, a few by Sarah Siddons herself. Bound in drab wrappers, paper-covered cloth spines with manuscript spine titling. Formerly owned by Alfred Morrison, with his monogram bookplate in each volume.

Preferred citation: Scrapbooks on Sarah Siddons, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Scope and Content Note

Two quarto scrapbooks put together by an unidentified compiler, containing a large collection of newspaper clippings, playbills (printed originals and manuscript tracings), and various theatrical notices relating to the career of Sarah Siddons. Includes manuscript accounts, checks, and statements of payment to her; and letters, most by her husband, William Siddons, some by her son, Henry Siddons, a few by Sarah Siddons herself. Bound in drab wrappers, paper-covered cloth spines with manuscript spine titling. Formerly owned by Alfred Morrison, with his monogram bookplate in each volume.

This finding aid provides item-level descriptions for only the manuscript material contained within the scrapbooks, all of which is in volume II.

Arrangement: This finding aid considers the manuscripts in volume II of the Scrapbooks on Sarah Siddons in chronological order, which is not the order in which they are mounted within the volume. Each item's physical placement within the volume corresponds to its call number: (MISC 3203a-z);

(MISC 3204a-z); and (MISC 3205a-e).

Key Terms

Names

Combe, Cecilia, 1794-1868
Elliston, R. W. (Robert William), 1774-1831
Kemble, John Philip, 1757-1823
Morrison, Alfred, 1821-1897
Peake, Richard, 1757-1829
Siddons, Henry, 1774-1815
Siddons, Sarah, 1755-1831
Siddons, William, 1744-1808
Tahourdin, Peter, 1771-1844
Ward, Charles, active 1806-1833
Westley, Thomas, active 1776-1803
Hammersleys & Co.
Ransom, Morland & Hammersley
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (London, England)

Container List

1780s

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre 17 May 1785

MISC 3204k (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £200, through Thomas Westley, for partial payment of Mrs. Siddons's salary.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre 14 November 1785

MISC 3204L (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt, acknowledging £140, through Thomas Westley.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 23 March 1786

MISC 3204m (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £134.1 for Mrs. Siddons's benefit.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 4 December 1786

MISC 3204n (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £200 for Mrs. Siddons's salary.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 9 June 1787

MISC 3204o (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £250 for Mrs. Siddons's salary.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 12 December 1787

MISC 3204p (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £200 from Thomas Westley for Mrs. Siddons's salary.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 11 February 1788

MISC 3204q (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £196.12.6 for Mrs. Siddons's benefit.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 15 March 1788

MISC 3204r (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £50 for Mrs. Siddons's salary

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 29 May 1788

MISC 3204s (1 item single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £233.11.10.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 15 January 1789

MISC 3203u (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £400, for "Mrs. Siddons's salary."

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 18 February 1789

MISC 3203v (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £178.14.6 for Mrs. Siddons's Benefit.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 18 March 1789

MISC 3203w (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £300 for Mrs. Siddons's performances.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 25 April 1789

MISC 3203x (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £50 for Mrs. Siddons's performances.

John Philip Kemble, receipt to Thomas Westley 10 June 1789

MISC 3203y (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £190.7.11 for Mrs. Siddons's performances, on behalf of William Siddons.

1790s

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 15 April 1791

MISC 3203z (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £223.1.0 for Mrs. Siddon's performances.

William Siddons, receipt to Thomas Westley 15 April 1791

MISC 3204j (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt acknowledging £223.1.0 from Thomas Westley, for Mrs. Siddon's performances.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 20

February 1792

MISC 3204a (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £200.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 22 May 1792

MISC 3204b (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £780 for 26 nights of performances.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 22 May 1792

MISC 3204c (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £126.18.8 for Mrs. Siddons's benefit.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 8

January 1793

MISC 3204d (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £150 for salary.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of the Drury Lane Theatre 21

February 1793

MISC 3204e (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on manuscript receipt for £250 for salary.

Richard Peake, check to William Siddons 5 August 1794

MISC 3204f (1 page single sheet)

Printed check accomplished in manuscript, signed, for £18.15.0 from Messrs. Ransom, Morland & Hammersley.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre 5 August 1794

MISC 3204g (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on printed receipt accomplished in manuscript for £19.5.0 for rent due on 77 nights of performances, through Ransom, Morland & Hammersley.

William Siddons, receipt to the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre 22 August 1795

MISC 3204h (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on printed receipt accomplished in manuscript for £48 for rent due on 192 nights of performances, through Ransom, Morland & Hammersley.

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed + autograph acknowledgement signed 7 November 1797

MISC 3203t (1 page double sheet)

[No place] : begins, "On the above date I acknowledge the receipt of forty pounds" Two pieces on one sheet, a signature for each.

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 6 November 1799

MISC 3203a (2 pages double sheet)

[No place]; : begins, "Let us understand the account betwixt us and the Proprietors with all speed I pray"

1800s

1800s (cont.)

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 15 May 1800

MISC 3203L (1 page single sheet)

[No place]; begins, "I think tis time a little more money should find its way here"

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 28 September 1800

MISC 3203n (1 page double sheet)

[No place]; begins, "I have had no communication with Mr. Sheridan"

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 7 November 1800

MISC 3203k (1 page double sheet)

[No place]; begins, "What a pleasant and what a new thing it would be to have a few voluntary payments"

William Siddons to John Philip Kemble, autograph letter signed 10 November 1800

MISC 3203m (1 page single sheet)

[No place] : begins, "I could wish you to be prepared against any embarrassment"

Forwarded to R. Peake on the verso.

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 11 December [1800]

MISC 3203o (1 page double sheet)

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 21 December 1800

MISC 3203r (1 page double sheet)

[No place]; : begins, "Now Mr. Peake, Mrs. Siddons has performed twenty nights and half of them in arrears"

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter signed 4 February 1801

MISC 3203j (1 page double sheet)

[No place]; begins, "I hope you are commissioned & enabled to send me a £100 draft payable to morrow"

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter (incomplete) signed 1

June 1801

MISC 3203b (2 pages double sheet)

[No place]; : with calculations of Sarah Siddons's income; begins, " . . . at the end of the season 98=99 -- the arrears to Mrs. Siddons were settled"

William Siddons to Richard Peake, autograph letter (incomplete) signed 31

January 1802

MISC 3203c (2 pages 2 sheets glued together)

[No place]; : with calculations of Sarah Siddons's income; begins, "NB. A statement of arrears due to Mrs. Siddons from the Proprietors of Drury Lane"

Henry Siddons to "Sir," autograph letter signed 24 January [watermark = 1804]

MISC 3205a (1 page double sheet)

From No. 4 Charles Street, Covent Garden; begins, "I have to thank you for your polite note" With someone else's extensive contemporary notes on Henry Siddons on the verso and second leaf, which is partly missing.

Henry Siddons to "Sir," autograph letter signed [watermark = 1804]

MISC 3205b (2 pages single sheet)

From no. 6 Brewer Street near Peter Street, Bloomsbury; begins, "As Mr Charles Kemble informs me you expect to hear from me"

Richard Peake, check to Mr. and Mrs. Siddons 5 October 1805

MISC 3204w (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on printed check accomplished in manuscript for £8 to be paid through Hammersleys & Co.

Richard Peake, check to Mr. and Mrs. Siddons 4 January 1806

MISC 3204x (1 page double sheet)

Autograph signature on printed check accomplished in manuscript for £16 to be paid through Hammersleys & Co.

1800s (cont.)

Peter Tahourdin to Mr. [Winston?], autograph note signed 24 May 1806

MISC 3205d (1 page single sheet)

From Argyll Street; reads, "I am decidedly against engaging Mr. H. Siddons on the [terms?] he wishes." The addressee is at 34 Rathbone Place.

Richard Peake, check to Mr. and Mrs. Siddons 11 February 1809

MISC 3204y (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on printed check accomplished in manuscript for £16.13.4 to be paid through Hammersleys & Co.

Richard Peake, check to Mr. and Mrs. Siddons 18 February 1809

MISC 3204z (1 page single sheet)

Autograph signature on printed check accomplished in manuscript for £13.6.8 to be paid through Hammersleys & Co.

Henry Siddons to Charles Ward, autograph letter signed 1 October 1809

MISC 3205c (1 page double sheet)

From Hardwick Place, Edinburgh; : begins, "I think of every thing that relates to the Drury Lane management with too much regard"

1810s

Sarah Siddons, receipt to [?] 15 February 1813

MISC 3204t (1 page single sheet)

Autograph receipt signed, acknowledging £4 for six silk petticoats.

Sarah Siddons to Charles Ward, autograph note signed 30 November 1815

MISC 3203h (1 page partial sheet)

[No place]; begins, "I Nominate Lt. Col. Ranken"

Sarah Siddons to R. W. Elliston, letter (third person) 25 June 1816

MISC 3203g (2 pages double sheet)

From Westbourne; in an unidentified hand; saying she "thanks him for his proposal, but as Mrs. Siddons never had the least intention of accepting any engagement again, she could not but be much surprised at receiving it"

Cecilia Siddons to R. W. Elliston, autograph letter signed 3 December 18[19?]

MISC 3203p (2 pages double sheet)

From Stoke; begins, "My mother desires me to present her compliments to you"

1830s

Fragmentary biographical notes on Siddons [no date, but after 1831]

MISC 3204v (1 page (single sheet, loose) + 2 additional leaves further along in volume)

In unidentified hand; begins, [canceled] "John Kemble Jul 7 when he first [?] was 5 guineas";

Biographical fragment on Siddons [watermark = 1835]

MISC 3204u (1 page double sheet)

In unidentified hand; begins, "Her mother the daughter of Ward"

Date undetermined

[Unidentified] to Richard Peake, letter unsigned [no date]

MISC 3203d (1 page single sheet)

[No place]; begins, "The Information you request for making up Mrs. Siddons' account lies in a very short compass"

Sarah Siddons to Mr. Gilliland, autograph letter signed 28 November [no year]

MISC 3203e (2 pages (double sheet) + letter cover)

From Westbourne [Place?], Paddington; begins, "Before I enter on the subject of your most obliging letter permit me to offer you my most sincere thanks"

[Samuel Thomas Russell?] to Sarah Siddons, letter signed [no date]

MISC 3203f (3 pages 2 single sheets)

[No place]; begins, "In the improving fortunes of Drury Lane Theatre, I hope I shall not be deemed too intrusive"

On the verso of leaf 2 is written in another [later?] hand: "Sam. I Russell Esqre / Theatre Royal / Drury Lane."

Date undetermined (cont.)

Printed admission card for "Mrs. Siddons's Benefit. Box." [no date]

MISC 3203i (1 item card)

"No. 145" written in ink in lower left corner. "S. Siddons" [apparently not her signature] written in ink in upper left corner.

Statement of payments to Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Jordan, and Mr. Kemble [no date]

MISC 3203q (1 page double sheet)

[No place]; in unidentified hand. Titled "Statement."

William Siddons to [Richard Peake?], autograph letter signed [no date]

MISC 3203s (1 page single sheet)

[No place]; begins, "I receive the fifty pound but at the same time declare when this lingering business -- occasioned by Mrs. Jordan illness is over, I mean Mrs. Siddons to wait without performing"

Biographical note on Sarah Siddons's great uncle [no date]

MISC 3204i (1 page single sheet)

Manuscript biographical note, in unidentified hand, on Sarah Siddons's great uncle, a priest in the reign of Charles I; begins, "The great uncle to the late John Philip Kemble"

Copy of lyrics to "Discarded Lover" and "Answer to Siddons" [no date]

MISC 3205e (4 pages double sheet)

In unidentified hand; begins, "Ye ladies of Breacon whose hearts ever feel"