



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Frederick A. and Elsa Muschenheim collection of musicians' portraits and correspondence

1919-1956

JPB 91-155

Summary

Creator: Muschenheim, Frederick A

Title: Frederick A. and Elsa Muschenheim collection of musicians' portraits and correspondence

Date: 1919-1956

Size: .6 linear feet

Source: Gift, Arms, Anelli

Abstract: The collection includes some memorabilia of Artur Bodanzky: 2 batons, portrait drawings by Emil Orlik and Albert Sterner, a tiny photograph of Bodanzky swimming with the child Linda Muschenheim, 2 commemorative items including a poem by Brenda Putnam illustrated with photographs of sculptures of Bodanzky conducting, and 1 drawing inscribed to the Bodanzkys by Hendrik Willem Van Loon. The bulk of the collection consists of portrait photographs of musicians inscribed to one or both of the Muschenheims. Some of these are also postcards with handwritten messages. Musicians represented include: Adolf Busch, Kirsten Flagstad, Sigrid Onégin, Arturo Toscanini, and others. Other correspondence consists of 4 postcards with views, 1 letter and 1 telegram. There are also several clippings and a list of donors in "Mrs. Muschenheim's group" to the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York.

Preferred citation: Frederick A. and Elsa Muschenheim collection of musicians' portraits and correspondence, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Chiefly in German or English ; several inscriptions are in Italian, and 1 in Chinese

Creator History

Frederick A. Muschenheim was president of the Astor Hotel. He and his wife Elsa were acquainted with many musicians. In 1930, their son William was married to Elizabeth Bodanzky, daughter of Artur Bodanzky, Austrian conductor at the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes some memorabilia of Artur Bodanzky: 2 batons, portrait drawings by Emil Orlik and Albert Sterner, a tiny photograph of Bodanzky swimming with the child Linda Muschenheim, 2 commemorative items including a poem by Brenda Putnam illustrated with photographs of sculptures of Bodanzky conducting, and 1 drawing inscribed to the Bodanzkys by Hendrik Willem Van Loon. The bulk of the collection consists of portrait photographs of musicians inscribed to one or both of the Muschenheims. Some of these are also postcards with handwritten messages. Musicians represented include: Adolf Busch, Kirsten Flagstad, Sigrid Onégin, Arturo Toscanini, and others. Other correspondence consists of 4 postcards with views, 1 letter and 1 telegram. There are also several clippings and a list of donors in "Mrs. Muschenheim's group" to the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Drawings
Photoprints
Portraits
Postcards

Subjects

Musicians -- Portraits

Names

Muschenheim, Frederick A
Arms, Anelli
Bodanzky, Artur, 1877-1939
Busch, Adolf, 1891-1952
Flagstad, Kirsten, 1895-1962
Muschenheim, Elsa
Onégin, Sigrid, 1889-1943
Orlik, Emil, 1870-1932
Putnam, Brenda, 1890-1975
Sterner, Albert, 1863-1946
Toscanini, Arturo, 1867-1957
Van Loon, Hendrik Willem, 1882-1944
American Music Collection