



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