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Guide to the Richard Rodgers scrapbooks

ca. 1946-1980

Call number: JPH 85-5

Finding aid created February 2013

Summary

Creator: Rodgers, Richard

Title: Richard Rodgers scrapbook

Size: 60 volumes and 5 boxes

Source: Donated by Dorothy Rodgers, 1984

Abstract: The Richard Rodgers scrapbooks contain materials collected by Richard Rodgers, generally pertaining to his shows and other professional activities.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Richard Rodgers scrapbooks, JPH 85-5, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Related collections:

- Richard Rodgers papers, *T-Mss 1987-006
- Richard Rodgers collection of musicals and interviews, *L(89-19)
- Richard Rodgers Songs, JPG 86-1

Richard Rodgers scrapbooks Call number: JPH 85-5

Creator history

As Richard Rodgers's life is well-documented in many reference sources, only a basic outline is provided here.

Richard Rodgers, composer and producer, was born in New York on June 28, 1902. He composed his first song, *My Auto Show Girl* when he was fourteen years old. In 1918 Rodgers met his first professional partner, Lorenz Hart. Together they presented their first hit show, *The Garrick Gaieties* in 1925. In 1929 Rodgers and Hart appeared in a two-reel autobiographical short, *Masters of Melody* produced by Paramount-Famous-Lasky Corp. and written and directed by S. J. Kaufman. In 1948, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a biographical film about the professional relationship and career of Rodgers and Hart.

Rodgers teamed up with Oscar Hammerstein II in 1942 to produce *Oklahoma!*. After the death of Lorenz Hart in 1943, Hammerstein became Rodgers' permanent collaborator. They worked together until Hammerstein's death in 1960. Among the works created by Rodgers and Hammerstein are: *Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific,State Fair, Flower Drum Song, The King and I* and *Cinderella*. Following Hammerstein's death Rodgers continued to produce musicals. In 1962 he wrote both the music and the lyrics for *No Strings*, and in 1965 he teamed up with Stephen Sondheim on *Do I Hear a Waltz?* His last musical was an adaptation of John Van Druten's play *I Remember Mama* which opened on Broadway on May 31, 1979.

Richard Rodgers married Dorothy Feiner in 1930. They had two daughters, Mary and Linda. Richard Rodgers died December 30, 1979.

Scope and contents note

During the early years of his career Richard Rodgers occasionally kept clippings and other ephemera documenting his career. With the advent of his collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein II, Rodgers (or more likely members of his staff) increased their clipping activity covering productions (for which he was a composer as well as those for which he was a producer such as *Annie Get Your Gun*) and his career in general. This explains why the first 10 scrapbooks cover his the beginnings of his career from 1916 to the death of Lorenz Hart in 1943, but that the remaining 50 scrapbooks (and most of the additional 5 boxes) cover his career after 1943.

It would appear that Rodgers probably had these clippings loose and only at a point later in his career did he (or perhaps his wife) mount them in scrapbooks and attempt to provide a table of contents for each volume. This would explain the scrapbooks' uniformity of appearance from the first through 58th scrapbook (bound in dark blue). Scrapbooks 59 and 60 (bound in a light

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maroon), containing additional clippings on *No Strings*, appears to have been a cache of material missed when the collection was initially put together.

It's hard to understand how the five boxes put at the end of the collection fit in, since they contain a variety of loose clippings most which date after 1943 but where not integrated into the scrapbooks.

Rodgers or his staff attempted to create a table of contents for each of the volumes. In some cases each article was inventoried, but in other cases the general contents of the volume are simply listed as the title of a show. These tables of contents are affixed to the inside front cover of each volume and were copied to make this finding aid.

Researchers should not assume that this collection contains all the contemporaneous articles ever written on a show (for example, the reviews for *Do I Hear a Waltz* are only those with a positive outlook). The tables of contents (from which this finding aid is created) should not be regarded a definitive or even wholly accurate index as occasionally Rodgers inserted articles for shows or other career activities that are not relevant to the stated contents.

Arrangement

Arrangement of the scrapbooks is generally chorological up through volume 58. The chronology is usually based on a particular show. Successive productions of a show are often gathered in a single volume, resulting in overlapping dates. Such is the case with volumes 12 and 13 (for example). Volume 12, concerning touring and later productions of *Carousel*, dates from 1946-1954, whereas volume 13, covering *Annie Get Your Gun* (for which Rodgers and Hammerstein functioned as producers) dates from 1946-1950.

The boxes at the end of collection contain a variety of miscellaneous material (including letters, programs and photographs) ranging from 1905 through 1985.

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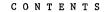
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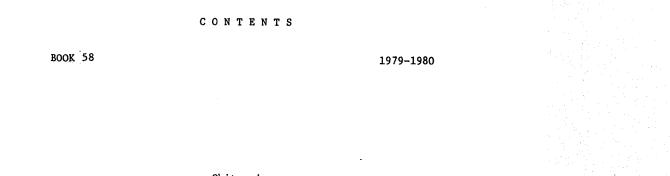
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LIST OF MATERIAL SUPPLEMENTING THE RICHARD RODGERS SCRAPBOOKS (LOCATED UNDER CLASSMARK JPH 85-5)

- BOXES 1 & 2: Two scrapbooks containing clippings of obituaries and various tributes to Rodgers following his death on December 30, 1979. (Note: Many of these clippings can also be found in Book 58 of the scrapbook series mentioned above. In addition, there are many overlaps between these two boxes. Most of the material in Box 1 can also be found in Box 2, in a different order.)
- BOX 3: 1) Material from a folder marked "New Clippings for R. Rodgers Scrapbooks (1980-85)". Also included are programs from various Rodgers productions and the following letters: 1 TLS from Ian B. Albery, London England, to Dorothy Rodgers, New York, NY dated 10/8/80 (concerning "Pal Joey"); and, 1 TLS from Judith Felsenfeld (affiliated with Symphony Space in New York) to Dorothy Rodgers dated 4/9/85. (112 items altogether)
 - 2) Material from a folder marked "ASCAP/Richard Rodgers Awards"; this includes 3 issues of "ASCAP in Action" (from 1983-85) and 3 clippings. (6 items)
 - 3) One folder of miscellaneous Rodgers clippings including:
 - a) A Carnegie Hall program (along with an accompanying set of program notes by Deems Taylor) dated 12/25/38 from a Paul Whiteman concert that included the first performance of Rodgers' "Nursery Ballet".
 - b) A tribute to Rodgers, a "Columbian of the Class of 1923", from 1953. (Note: This is a one-page photocopy.)
 - c) Two copies of an "Incomplete article [from] Book 11" (of the Rodgers scrapbooks). (5 items altogether)
 - 4) One folder marked "Add to Scrapbooks--Clippings from 1960's, 1970-71" which includes a photocopied article written by Rodgers for the <u>New York Times</u> from 1964 and a photocopied typewritten, carbon from Rodgers to Mrs. Charles Weiss, New York, NY, dated 7/15/68. (10 items)
 - 5) One folder marked "Duplicated for Book 25" (of the scrapbooks); this consists of a <u>New York Herald Tribune</u> editorial on Rodgers dated 10/24/50, and a clipping from the <u>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</u> dated 3/1/53. (2 items)
 - 6) One folder marked "Book 56" including two duplicate clippings from that scrapbook: a <u>Stereo Review</u> article from February, 1978 and one from the Durham, N.C. <u>Morning Herald</u> (dated 7/9/78). (2 items)
 - 7) One folder marked "Duplicates & Originals (All Bound In Book 58--Extra Copies)". This consists mostly of material found in Boxes 1 & 2 above. (26 items)
- BOX 4: 1) "'King and I' Revival"; material from a folder containing clippings; two photographs (of Dorothy Rodgers with Mr. and Mrs. Yul Brenner); 2 playbills for the production; and the following letters: 1 invitation to a party for Yul Brenner celebrating his 4,000th performance in "The King And I" (from September, 1983); 1 photocopied TLS from Dorothy Rodgers, New York, NY to Yul Brenner in Chicago, IL (dated 11/20/84); 1 TLS from Ellen McLynch, New York, NY to Dorothy Rodgers, New York (dated 3/14/85); and, 1 ALS from Ted Chapin to Dorothy Rodgers (undated). (There are 45 items altogether)
 - 2) "On Your Toes" Revivals; These folders consist entirely of clippings, unless otherwise noted:
 - a) The Washington, D.C. production from December 1982 (18 items, including 1 program).
 - b) The New York, NY production from March, 1983 (58 items).
 - c) The London, England production from June, 1984 (26 items).

LIST OF MATERIAL SUPPLEMENTING THE RICHARD RODGERS SCRAPBOOKS (LOCATED UNDER CLASSMARK JPH 85-5)

- BOX 5: 1) Letters: Mostly photocopies of carbons from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodgers. as listed below:
 - a) 4 typewritten carbons from Dorothy Rodgers to various governmment officials. dated July-October, 1964, concerning the Rodgers' donation of a clock for the Queen's Bedroom of the White House. (Included are 2 replies and a certificate from the United States Department of the Interior acknowledging the gift.)
 - b) 1 photocopied, typewritten carbon from Richard Rodgers to George Wedge dated 11/19/46. (Along with this is a photocopied TLS from Dorothy Rodgers dated 4/16/86 updating information given in the earlier letter.)
 - c) 1 photocopied, typewritten carbon from Richard Rodgers to Harold Spivacke dated 3/28/63.
 - d) 1 TLS from Mrs. A.S. Ince of the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery to Dorothy Rodgers (from 1966?), with a typewritten, carbon reply from Richard Rodgers (dated 10/19/66). (12 items altogether)
 - 2) Transcript of the memorial service for Richard Rodgers, held on January 2, 1980 at Beth-El Chapel, Temple Emanu-El, in New York City. (1 item; typewritten, 9 leaves)
 - 3) Correspondence concerning the Piccott case. (See Mrs. Rodgers' letter of explanantion in Folder #1; there are 31 items in 4 folders.)
 - 4) Photographs of backdrops for productions, as listed below:
 - a) "On Your Toes" (1936)

 - b) "Pal Joey" (1940)
 c) "Oklahoma!" (1943)
 d) "I Remember Mama" (1944)
 - e) "Carousel" (1945) (5 items altogether)
 - 5) Early programs (from 1916 and 1924) and sheet music, as listed below:
 - a) "The Wigwam" (1916)

 - b) "The Prisoner of Zenda" (1924; Souvenir program)c) "My King Can Do No Wrong" (Sheet music from 1923; 2pp. on 1 leaf)
 - d) "My King Can Do No Wrong" (Photocopy of same; 2 leaves)
 - e) "Class Song of 1923"
 - f) "Barnard! Barnard!" (Sheet music from 1964) (5 items altogether)
 - 6) Photograph of Richard Rodgers from 1905.
 - 7) Photograph (black and white) of a portrait of Richard Rodgers done by William F. Draper.