



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Sidney Rose collection of Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia**

1865-1950

JOB 14-02

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Rose, Sidney

**Title:** Sidney Rose collection of Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia

**Date:** 1865-1950

**Size:** .75 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Irene Rose, unknown date.

**Abstract:** The Sidney Rose collection of Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia dates from 1865 to 1950. It contains clippings, posters, programs, photographs, and color souvenir cards pertaining to performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas on the east coast of the United States; a scrapbook of clippings from the British magazine Punch; newsletters and flyers produced by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society; letters to the theatrical producer Rudolph Aronson regarding performances; and essays by Sidney Rose on Gilbert and Sullivan.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Sidney Rose collection of Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia, JOB 14-02. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 Original order was maintained. Most content was rehoused.

**Related Materials:**

MSS 12, The Sidney Rose Collection of Gilbert and Sullivan. Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

## Creator History

Sidney Rose was a collector of Gilbert and Sullivan material who was planning to write a history of Gilbert and Sullivan productions in the United States. The book was never completed. Rose did write an

article entitled "Half a Century of Pinafore" which appeared in Musical Digest in June, 1928.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Sidney Rose collection of Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia dates from 1865 to 1950. It contains clippings, posters, programs, photographs, and color souvenir cards pertaining to performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas on the east coast of the United States; a scrapbook of clippings from the British magazine Punch; newsletters and flyers produced by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society; letters to the theatrical producer Rudolph Aronson regarding performances; and essays by Sidney Rose on Gilbert and Sullivan.

Most of the clippings, programs, and posters are from Boston (regarding the Globe and Royale Theatres), New York City, and Baltimore, dating from 1879 to 1939. The clippings advertise performances, and some hold reviews or articles about the productions. The scrapbook of Punch magazine clippings dates from 1865 to 1950. Some of the nineteenth century Punch clippings contain writings or drawings by Arthur Gilbert.

The color souvenir cards were produced by the Royale Theatre in Boston. They depict characters in Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and date from the 1890s. The black and white photographs are of Federal Theatre Project productions of The Mikado and other operas, and likely date from the 1930s or 1940s.

The letters to Rudolph Aronson date from 1888 to 1889, and are from the singers Helen Lamont and John Lloyd Wilson; an unidentified costume designer; and others associated with Aronson's Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

## **Key Terms**

### **Geographic Names**

Baltimore (Md.)  
Boston (Mass.)  
New York (N.Y.)

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Black-and-white photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Collecting cards  
Commercial correspondence  
Posters  
Programs (documents)

### **Occupations**

Composers  
Musicians  
Producers (managers)

### **Subjects**

Opera -- Production and direction -- United States

### **Names**

Aronson, Rudolph, 1856-1919  
Gilbert, W. S. (William Schwenck), 1836-1911  
Sullivan, Arthur, 1842-1900  
Gilbert and Sullivan Society

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Aronson, Rudolph 1888-1889
- b. 1 f. 2-6 Clippings, Posters, Programs, and Scrapbook 1865-1950
  - b. 2 f. 1 Clippings, Posters, Programs, and Scrapbook 1865-1950
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Clippings, Posters, Programs, and Scrapbook 1865-1950
- b. 2 f. 2-3 Photographs 1930s - 1940s
  - b. 2 f. 4 Rose, Sidney
  - b. 2 f. 5 Souvenir Cards 1890s