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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Carrie and Lizzie Burton papers

1878-1891

*T-Mss 1997-031

Compiled by Sarah Wade, Pratt Institute, 2012, July 2012

Summary

Creator: Burton, Carrie

Title: Carrie and Lizzie Burton papers, 1878-1891

Size: .88 linear foot (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Ruth Bugzester, Doris B. Genton, and Nancy Macdonald, 1997.

Abstract: Sisters Carrie and Lizzie Burton were comic opera singers who performed predominantly throughout New York and New England in the late 1800s. The collection documents the professional lives of the Burton sisters through photographs, correspondence, performance programs, fliers, sheet music, and a scrapbook of press clippings.

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

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Carrie and Lizzie Burton papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Upon donation, the materials in this collection were unarranged except for the correspondence, which was grouped together. The collection has been grouped by genre and placed into folders.

Creator history

Born in Massachusetts, sisters Carrie (1858-1931) and Lizzie Burton (1856-1939) promoted themselves as English operetta singers throughout their performing careers in New York City and New England. Carrie Burton made her New York debut in 1878 with Ruben's Grand Opera Company. Both sisters performed with the Boston Ideal Opera Company and the Saville Opera Company.

Carrie Burton was married to Theodore G. Korony, with whom she had two children: Theodore B. Korony and Edith Korony. Her performances included roles in *The Spectre Knight* (1880); *Agnes Ago and Charity Begins at Home* (1880); *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Pinafore*, and *Billee Taylor* (1881); *Patience* (1883); and *Falka* (1884).

Lizzie Burton was married to performer Herndon Morsell. Her performances included roles in *The Musketeers* (1885) and *La Mascotte* (1881).

Scope and content note

The Carrie and Lizzie Burton papers document the operetta careers of the American sisters. The collection contains photographs, correspondence from fans, performance programs, fliers, a scrapbook of sheet music, a scrapbook of press clippings, and an autograph book. Photographs make up the bulk of the collection, some signed, and many with photographer's information on the back. The majority of the photographs are cabinet photographs. The photographs include portraits of Carrie Burton, Lizzie Burton, Herndon Morsell, other performers, and unidentified performers.

Carrie Burton's career is documented through performance programs, fliers, correspondence from fans, an autograph book, photographs, press clippings, sheet music, and a contract with D'Oyly Carte Opera Company for the 1881-1882 performance season. Lizzie Burton's career is portrayed via photographs, press clippings, and sheet music.

An electronic reproduction of a playbill listing Carrie Burton as a soprano can be found by conducting a keyword search for "Carrie Burton" in the catalog (www.nypl.org/catalog).

Arrangement

Alphabetical by document type.

Key terms

Subjects

Opera -- 19th century
Operetta
Women in opera
Women in operetta

Names

Burton, Carrie
Burton, Lizzie
Morsell, Herndon, 1858-1937

Special formats

Cabinet photographs
Card photographs
Fliers
Sheet music

Container list

- b.1 f.1-3 Correspondence, 1880-1888, undated (Fan mail)
- b.1 f.4 Performance Programs and Fliers, 1881-1882, undated
 - Photographs
- b.1 f.5-7 General, 1878-1891, undated
- b.3 f.1-2 Burton, Carrie, undated
 - b.1 f.7 Burton, Lizzie, undated
 - b.3 f.3 Burton, Lizzie, undated
 - b.1 f.7 Morsell, Herndon, undated
 - b.3 f.4 Morsell, Herndon, undated
- b.1 f.7-8 Unidentified, undated
 - b.2 f.1 Unidentified, undated
 - b.2 f.2 Scrapbooks--Press Clippings, undated
 - b.3 f.5 Scrapbooks--Sheet Music, undated
 - b.2 f.3 Sheet Music Catalogue and Autograph Book, undated