

DOROTHY FIELDS COLLECTION

PAPERS, 1911-1977  
10 linear inches (2 hollinger boxes)

The Billy Rose Theatre Collection  
The New York Public Library At Lincoln Center

8-MWEZ + n.c. 27,913 and 27,914

March, 1988 (jem)

## INTRODUCTION

The Dorothy Fields Collection was donated to The New York Public Library, Billy Rose Theatre Collection in December, 1984 by Mrs. Fields's children, David Lahm and Eliza Lahm Oprava. The bulk of the material remained with the collection. Scripts were separated and filed with the script collection (see the separation sheet for a list of scripts removed). The material received was in good condition and in relatively good order. It has been divided into five series. The papers were organized into alphabetical order by production and a distinction was made between published and unpublished material. There was also a distinction made between material produced by Dorothy Fields and material produced by other members of her family without her involvement. Some correspondence was removed and placed in the CAGE file for security reasons and xeroxed copies of the correspondence were filed with the collection for use by researchers. Duplicate material was deaccessioned.

## BIOGRAPHY

Dorothy Fields, lyricist and librettist, was born in Allenhurst, New Jersey, July 15, 1905. She was the daughter of Lew Fields, comedian and producer, and Rose (Harris) Shoenfeld. Her first well known song was "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," which she wrote with James McHugh in 1928. She collaborated extensively with her brother Herbert Fields, who also was a librettist. Their most famous production was "Annie Get Your Gun," produced in 1946. Her other brother Joseph Fields was a dramatic actor, producer, and playwright. She was married in 1938 to Eli Lahm and they had two children, David and Eliza. She also collaborated with Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, Signmund Romberg, Burton Lane, Arthur Schwartz, Fritz Kreisler, Morton Gould, Cy Coleman, Albert Hague, Oscar Levants, Harry Warren, and her son David Fields Lahm. Dorothy Fields is probably best known for having written the lyrics to "Sweet Charity." She was a representative of the Dramatists' Guild on the Council of the Author's League of America, secretary of the Dramatists' Guild, and one of the few women members of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. She died in 1974 in New York City.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Dorothy Fields Collection measures ten linear inches and consists of lyrics, including drafts of lyrics never published; scripts, including working outlines and rafts of scripts never produced; newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, programs, ephemera, and other material related to the career of Dorothy Fields and her father and two brothers. The collection reveals how she worked from notes and drafts of lyrics to the final published product. Another strength of the collection is that it contains an extensive clipping file on the career of Mrs. Fields's father Lew Fields. Correspondence is limited--there are only eight letters.

The collection is divided into the following four series: Series 1. Personal Papers; Series 2. Productions (arranged alphabetically); Series 3. Unpublished material (arranged alphabetically); Series 4. Material Related to Other Members of the Fields Family (arranged chronologically).

DOROTHY FIELDS COLLECTION 8-MWEZ + n.c.  
27,913 - 27,914

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	# OF ITEMS	INCLUSIVE DATES
PERSONAL PAPERS				
27,913 (1)	1	Biographical information	4	undated
	2	Biographical clippings and family photographs	5	1928, 1966
	3	Correspondence	4	1965
	4	Charitable organizations	3	1951, 1957
PRODUCTIONS				
	5	ANNIE GET YOUR GUN clippings	11	1963, 1966
	6	HIT THE DECK contract	1	1977
	7	HOLD BACK THE DAWN notes and lyrics	6	undated
	8	LET'S FACE IT script	3	1976
	9	REDHEAD lyrics and sheet music	26	1958
	10	SEESAW lyrics and clipping	23	undated
	11	SWEET CHARITY lyrics, programs, ephemera, and clippings	62	1965-1966
	12	SWEET CHARITY oversized clippings	14	1966-1969
PRODUCTIONS (cont'd)				
27,914 (2)	1	A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN (LOOK WHO'S DANCING) script	2	1951
	2	UP IN CENTRAL PARK music	2	1944-1945
UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL				
	3	THE COFFEE LOVERS lyrics	8	undated
	4	ELEANOR lyrics	12	undated
	5	THE HAPPY TIME lyrics	8	undated
	6	"I'm A Nothing" lyrics	1	undated
	7	"Keep It In The Family" lyrics	1	undated
	8	RIDE OUT THE STORM ("People Never Change" lyrics)	1	undated

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BOX	FOLDER	TITLE	# OF ITEMS	INCLUSIVE DATES
UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL (cont'd)				
27,914 (2)	9	Untitled musical--script	3	undated
	10	Unidentified Working Outline	1	undated
	11	Assorted Lyrics and Sheet Music	18	undated
	12	Notes	9	1959
MATERIAL RELATED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIELDS FAMILY				
	13	Clippings related to Lew Fields	102	1911-1941
	14	Herbert and Joseph Fields Productions FOOLS FOR SCANDAL (cinema 1938) script and correspondence	2	1937

DOROTHY FIELDS COLLECTION 8-MWEZ + n.c. 27,913-27,914

CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

<u>Correspondence From</u>	<u>Correspondence To</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Dates</u>
27,913 Folder 3			
Jordan, Lee	Dorothy Fields	1	undated
Logan, Joshua	Dorothy Fields	1	12-31-65
O'Brian, Jack	Dorothy Fields	1	12-20-65
Rodgers, Richard	Dorothy Fields	1	12-31-65
27,913 Folder 8			
Da Silva, Albert I.	Lucy Kroll	1	9-27-76
27,914 Folder 9			
Kanfer, Stefan	Dorothy Fields	1	undated
27,914 Folder 14			
Le Roy, Mervyn	Herbert Fields	2	10-29-37, 12-6-37

SEPARATION SHEET

SCRIPTS FROM THE DOROTHY FIELDS COLLECTION TRANSFERRED TO SCRIPTS LIBRARIAN

PLAYS, MUSICALS, AND LYRICS BY DOROTHY FIELDS

ARMS AND A GIRL

IF THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU By Jerome Coopersmith, Music by Cy Coleman,  
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields August 11, 1970 [2 copies]

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY (Lyrics by Dorothy Fields), 1966

SEESAW Book by Michael Bennett, Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields

SOMETHING FOR THE BOYS

SWEET CHARITY Final Screenplay January 17, 1968

A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN By Betty Smith and George Abbott (Lyrics by Dorothy Fields)  
as performed by La Salle Music Theatre, 1969. [2 copies, one with musical scores.]

"UNTITLED MUSICAL," Book by Stefan Kanter and Jess Korman; Music by Cy Coleman;  
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields [one first draft; one second draft; three unidentified  
copies]

PLAYS, MUSICALS, AND LYRICS BY HERBERT FIELDS

COLLECTED PLAYS BY HERBERT FIELDS VOL. I (bound):

The Girl Friend (1926)  
Peggy Ann  
A Connecticut Yankee  
Present Arms

LOST  
VOLUME  
3/2008  
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COLLECTED PLAYS BY HERBERT FIELDS VOL. II (bound):

Dearest Enemy  
Chee-Chee  
Star Dust  
Babes in Hollywood

LOST  
VOLUME  
3/2008  
CK-1111

DU BARRY WAS A LADY By Herbert Fields and B. G. De Sylva [2 copies]

HANDS ACROSS THE TABLE Screenplay by Herbert Fields, Norman Krasna, and  
Vincent Lawrence.

HIT THE DECK By Herbert Fields; Music by Vincent Youngens; Lyrics by Leo Robbins  
and Clifford Grey, 1927.

THE HOT HEIRESS [2 copies]

LET'S FALL IN LOVE

LOVE BEFORE BREAKFAST Screenplay December 14, 1935

PLAYS, MUSICALS, AND LYRICS BY HERBERT FIELDS

LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD Screenplay by Herbert Fields and Henry Myers

MISSISSIPPI October 9, 1934

PANAMA HATTIE By Herbert Fields and B. G. De Sylva [3 scripts, one October 29, 1940 and 2 prompt books, October 29, 1940 and February 1976 (revised)]

PEOPLE WILL TALK January 26, 1935

POOR LITTLE RITZ GIRL

SHIP CAFE By Harlan Thompson and Herbert Fields August 14, 1935

SPRING STORM

PLAYS AND MUSICALS BY HERBERT AND DOROTHY FIELDS

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN as produced by the Music Theater of Lincoln Center, 1966  
[2 copies, one bound]

THE BIG SONG AND DANCE (REACH FOR THE STARS) four versions: May 1, 1952; August 11, 1952; August 20, 1952; and undated

HOW BIG IS BABY Synopsis

LOVE INSURANCE Working outline

MEXICAN HAYRIDE

REDHEAD

A SMILING SPRING (Musical version of Eugene O'Neil's "Ah Wilderness!")  
Lyrics by Matt Dubey, Music by Harold Karr First Draft June 1957

UP IN CENTRAL PARK [one January 27, 1945 and four 1970]

PLAYS, MUSICALS, AND FILMSCRIPTS BY OTHER AUTHORS

WINTER LOVE By Oliver Crawford outline

FACE IN THE WIND, February 18, 1959

BABES IN ARMS By Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON May 18, 1959

LOVE MATCH Book and Lyrics by Christian Hamilton, Music by Milton Kaye, November 1, 1967 rewrite.

MARRY ME, undated, author unknown.