

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
THE BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION

MAUDE ADAMS, 1872-1953.
COLLECTION, 1879-1956.

*T-Mss 1956-001
slm 5/95

MAIN ENTRY:	Maude Adams, 1872-1953.
TITLE:	Collection, 1879-1956.
SIZE:	3 boxes (2.5 lin. ft.).
ACCESS:	Unrestricted.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:	Actress Maude Adams [1872-1953] was, according to a critic of the time, “for many years the greatest personal box office magnate in the theatre”. She was the quintessential J. M. Barrie heroine and is best known for her roles in <i>Peter Pan</i> and <i>The Little Minister</i> . When she retired from the stage, she worked on the development of theater lighting and taught drama at Stephens College in Missouri.
DESCRIPTION:	The Maude Adams collection consists of correspondence, personal papers, Stephens College materials, writings, art work, and ephemera.

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 gifts from several sources were reprocessed to form an archival collection. The donors were: Phyllis Robbins and Mrs. Frederick Gore King in 1956, Mrs. Bruce W. Fordham in 1960, Kathryn Mulholland, and the sisters of the Cenacle of St. Regis.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The Maude Adams collection is arranged in six series: I. Correspondence; II. Personal Papers; III. Stephens College Materials; IV. Writings; V. Art Work; VI. Ephemera.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Actress Maude Adams (nee Kiskadden) was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 11, 1872. Her parents were James Kiskadden and stock actress Annie Adams. Maude was only a few months old when she made her stage debut during one of her mother's performances. From 1877-1887 she played children's roles in twenty-six plays. In 1890 Charles Frohman engaged both mother and daughter for his new stock company at New York's Empire Theatre. Under his tutelage Miss Adams eventually became John Drew's leading lady, made a great hit in *The Masked Ball*, and was fortuitously cast in J.M. Barrie's *The Little Minister*. She met with incredible success as Lady Babbie and went on to become the quintessential Barrie heroine in *What Every Woman Knows*, *Quality Street*, *The Legend of Leonora*, and, of course, *Peter Pan*. Among her many other successes were roles in *L'Aiglon*, *Chantecler*, and *The Jesters*. For years Miss Adams not only performed in New York but also took many of her productions on tour. When she retired from the stage in 1918, she focused on perfecting stage lighting and became interested in color photography for motion pictures. She returned to the stage twice: in 1931 to play Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* and in 1934 to play Maria in *Twelfth Night*.

In 1937, at the age of 65, she accepted a teaching position at Stephens College in Missouri where she developed an acting program and directed student productions. In 1950, when she was no longer physically able to continue her activities, she returned to her home in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. where she died in 1953 at the age of 81.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Maude Adams collection reflects many of the actress' varied interests: acting, directing, lighting, writing, sketching, and teaching. Included in the collection, which spans the years 1879-1956, is a small amount of correspondence; writings by Miss Adams and others; papers related to her teaching and directing at Stephens College; and programs, autographed material, portraits, clippings, and mementos from friends and colleagues.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Correspondence. (1899-1956) 2 folders.

Letters from Maude Adams include a thank you note to Robinson Locke (1899), telegrams to the *Quality Street* company agent S. Goodfriend (1902), letters to her friends Marion and Paralee (1950's), and rough drafts of letters.

Letters to Miss Adams include Julia Tompkins Pottle's suggestions for M.A.'s proposed film adaptation of *Kim* (1923) and a note from Burr McIntosh (1937).

Letters about Maude Adams include a copy of a note from Ruth Gordon to Phyllis Robbins re: her book *Maude Adams: An Intimate Portrait*.

II. Personal Papers. (1898, 1913 and undated) 6 folders.

This series includes Maude Adams' income statement for 1913, two handwritten notebooks, a handmade book by Miss Adams entitled *S'milestones*, a collection of humorous poems about cast members of *The Little Minister*, a handpainted birthday card from that same cast, and a bookplate with the initials MEK.

III. Stephens College Materials. (1937 and undated) 6 folders.

These papers relate to Miss Adams' teaching experience. There are radio scripts for the Humanities course, a copy of her *Pamphlet On English Speech and English Verse* including handwritten notes, a speech concerning women and national defense, and miscellaneous teaching resource materials. In 1937 Miss Adams staged the college production of *Chantecler*. Included are her notes, script revisions, and remarks to her students.

IV. Writings. (1935 and undated) 6 folders.

This series consists of two typescripts [author unknown but may have been written by Miss Adams]: one about the life of Christ and another about Jonah; poems about Peter Pan entitled *Betwixt and Between* by Katharine Irons Brett; a rough draft of *Mary of Des Moines* [original title *Our Lost World*], a play based on Henry James stories and written by Annie Austin Flint in collaboration with Miss Adams; a synopsis of *La Chanson de Roland*; part of a radio script based on Dicken's *Pickwick Papers*; and a synopsis entitled *Benjy* (possibly an idea for a screenplay).

V. Art Work. 3 folders.

A silhouette of Maude Adams in *Quality Street*, a pencil sketch [artist unknown], and three watercolors by Mary McAndrew based on the Aladdin story complete this series.

V. Ephemera. (1879-1937 and undated) 11 folders.

This series contains programs, autographed material, a few photographs, a disassembled scrapbook of portraits and articles about various Maude Adams productions, two Maude Adams calendars, halftones, clippings, and a poster-size memento from the 1937 Stephens College production of *Chantecler* signed by cast and crew. Among the clippings is a series of articles written by Miss Adams in 1926 and 1927 for *The Ladies' Home Journal* recounting her life in the theater.

***T-Mss 1956-001**

**Maude Adams Collection
Container Listing**

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1, folder 1	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1901-1956
Box 1, folder 2	Correspondence, 1899-1953 / Maude Adams.

Series II: Personal Papers

Box 1, folder 3	Income statement, 1913 / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 4	Notebooks / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 5	<i>S'milestones</i> (Handmade book) / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 6	<i>The little minister</i> poems.
Box 1, folder 7	Handpainted birthday card, 1898.
Box 1, folder 8	Bookplate / Maude Adams.

Series III: Stephens College Materials

Box 1, folder 9	Stephens College speech / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 10	A pamphlet on English speech and English verse / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 11	Radio scripts / Stephens College.
Box 1, folder 12	Teaching materials / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 13	<i>Chantecler notes</i> , 1937 / Maude Adams.
Box 1, folder 14	<i>Chantecler notes</i> , 1937 / Maude Adams.

Series IV: Writings

Box 2, folder 1	<i>The life of Christ</i> (Script).
Box 2, folder 2	<i>Jonah : a biblical comedy with Jewish jokes culled far and wide</i> , 1942.
Box 2, folder 3	<i>Betwixt-and-between</i> / Katharine Irons Brett.
Box 2, folder 4	<i>Mary of Des Moines</i> , 1935 / Annie Austin Flint.
Box 2, folder 5	<i>Benjy</i> (Synopsis) / Maude Adams.
Box 2, folder 6	Miscellaneous writings by others.

Series V: Art Work

Box 2, folder 7	Maude Adams silhouette / Bunny Kite.
Box 2, folder 8	Pencil sketch.
Box 2, folder 9	<i>Aladdin</i> watercolors / Mary McAndrew.

Series VI: Ephemera

Box 2, folder 10	Programs / Maude Adams.
Box 2, folder 11	Autographed material, 1899-1937 / Maude Adams.
Box 2, folder 12	Arabian journal : volume 4, 1946.
Box 2, folder 13	Biographical materials / Maude Adams.
Box 2, folder 14	Clippings, 1898-1956 / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 1	Clippings, 1926-1927 / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 2	Photographs / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 3	Halftones / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 4	Scrapbooks / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 5	Calendars, 1900-1901 / Maude Adams.
Box 3, folder 6	<i>Chantecler</i> , 1927 / Edmond Rostand.

SEPARATED MATERIALS

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs were removed from the Maude Adams Collection and added to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection A, B and C photograph files:

Chantecler - 1A

L'Aiglon - 8A

The Legend of Leonora - 3B

The Little Minister - 3A, 1B, 1C

Peter Pan - 3B, 1C

Quality Street - 1A

Romeo and Juliet - 4A

Maude Adams - 25A, 13B, 12C

Ruth Draper - 1A, 1B

*T-CABINET

Friendship calendar presented to Miss Adams in 1912. Each page has a special saying, message, drawing, watercolor, or photograph.