

Guide to the Harold Goldberg Papers, 1918-1961

*T-Mss 1996-005

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

New York, New York

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Harold Goldberg Papers.

Collection ID: *T-Mss 1996-005

Extent: .25 lin. ft. (1 box)

Repository: Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, 40 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY 10023-7498

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notification may be required.

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Biographical Note

Theater production manager, often for the national companies of musicals on the road, Harold Goldberg's career in the theater spanned forty years. He was born in New York City in 1898 and entered the theater business as an usher at the Old Audubon Theater in Washington Heights. He later became a talent scout for Fox Motion Pictures and then worked for Paramount-Publix Films and the Manhattan Opera House. In the mid 1920s he went to Europe as an aide to impresario Morris Gest who brought many notable productions to the United States.

In 1947 Goldberg was named general manager for Billy Rose, becoming "the first man on record who has had full authority in the Rose empire" according to a press release. He was also a production manager for Rodgers and Hammerstein. Goldberg was the road manager for the national companies of *Carmen Jones*,

1945-1947, *South Pacific*, 1950-1954, *The King and I*, 1954, and *Inherit the Wind*, 1956.

At the time of his death he was the executive secretary of the Independent Booking Office in New York, arranging theatrical touring productions in the United States and Canada, and the president of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers.

Goldberg died on December 24, 1960 at the age of 62.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of correspondence, clippings, awards, programs and photographs that span Goldberg's career. The correspondence is mostly incoming, on both personal and professional matters, primarily letters of thanks, bulk dates, 1950-1956. Correspondents include Oscar and Dorothy Hammerstein, Leland Hayward and Louis R. Lurie. Programs are for the *Plantation Revue*, a vaudeville act, which he managed in 1923 and photographs include a shot of Goldberg with Moscow stagehands in 1926. The collection, though small, gives some sense of the range and variety of Goldberg's career.

Organization

- Series I. Correspondence
- Series II. Clippings
- Series III. Awards
- Series IV. Programs and other printed material
- Series V. Photographs

Series Descriptions and Container Listing

Series I: Correspondence, 1918-1961.

10 folders

Alphabetical by correspondent

Correspondence, mostly incoming, is on both personal and professional matters. The bulk of it is dated 1950-1956.

Correspondents include Oscar and Dorothy Hammerstein, Leland Hayward and Louis R. Lurie. There are also letters of reference written for the young Goldberg in 1918, a carbon of a letter by Goldberg and a small amount of third party correspondence including two letters to his wife after his death.

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|------|------|--|
| b. 1 | f. 1 | Correspondence / Major Edward Bowes, 1943.
1 folder
Letter to Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 2 | Correspondence / Dorothy Hammerstein, 1950-1960.
1 folder (13 letters and 1 telegram
Letters to Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 3 | Correspondence / Oscar Hammerstein, 1950-1954.
1 folder (4 letters and 1 telegram
Letters to Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 4 | Correspondence / Leland Hayward, 1950-1951.
1 folder (4 letters and 1 telegram
Letters to Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 5 | Correspondence / Louis R. Lurie, 1950-1956.
1 folder (4 letters and 1 telegram
Letters to Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 6 | Miscellaneous correspondence, 1927-1956.
1 folder
Letters to Harold Goldberg from miscellaneous individuals. |
| b. 1 | f. 7 | Letters of reference, 1918.
1 folder
Letters of reference for the young Harold Goldberg. |
| b. 1 | f. 8 | Correspondence / Harold Goldberg, 1952.
1 folder
Carbon copy of a letter by Harold Goldberg on a financial concern of the <i>South Pacific</i> road company. |

- b. 1 f. 9 **Third party correspondence, 1950-1953.**
1 folder
Third party correspondence pertaining to Harold Goldberg and the road company of *South Pacific*.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Letters to Mrs. Harold Goldberg, 1960-1961.**
1 folder
Letters received by Ellen Goldberg after the death of her husband Harold Goldberg.

Series II: Clippings, 1944-1960.

1 folder

One folder of clippings reflects Goldberg's career.

- b. 1 f. 11 **Clippings / Harold Goldberg, 1944-1960.**
1 folder
Clippings about to the career of Harold Goldberg.

Series III: Awards, 1944-1957.

1 folder

- b. 1 f. 12 **Awards / Harold Goldberg, 1944-1957.**
1 folder
Four awards received by Harold Goldberg.

Series IV: Programs and Other Printed Material, 1923-1949 and n.d.

4 folders

Programs are for two productions of the Plantation Revue's *Away Down South*, 1923. Other printed material consists of a schedule for the road company of *Carmen Jones* and pictorial publicity for *Showboat*.

- b. 1 f. 13 ***Sketches in black and white* / Sidney S. Meyers, 1923 Jan. 10.**
1 folder
Program for *Sketches in Black and White* performed at the 15th annual banquet of the Motor and Accessory Manufacturers Association at the Hotel Commodore in New York City includes Lew Leslie's Plantation Revue produced under the direction of Harold Goldberg.
- b. 1 f. 14 ***Dover Street to Dixie revue* / Charles B. Cochran, 1923 June 11.**
1 folder
Program for *Dover Street to Dixie Revue* at the London Pavilion includes Lew Leslie's Planatation Revue managed by Harold Goldberg.
- b. 1 f. 15 ***Carmen Jones (Musical)* / Georges Bizet.**
1 folder

Tour schedule [n.d.] for *Carmen Jones*, managed on the road by Harold Goldberg.

b. 1 f. 16

Show boat (Musical) / Jerome Kern, 1947-1949.

1 folder

Printed ephemera from the musical *Show Boat* received by Harold Goldberg.

Series V: Photographs, 1925-1961 and n.d.

1 folder

Photographs are of Harold Goldberg at various moments in his career.

b. 1 f. 17

Photographs / Harold Goldberg, 1925-1961 and n.d.

1 folder

Photographs consist of one of Goldberg standing in front of a propeller plane in Berlin, Germany in 1925; one of him seated with Moscow stagehands in 1926; one of him leaving the Orpheum Theatre in Chicago where *South Pacific* was playing; two, undated, with colleagues; and one of the plaque erected in his honor at the Lamb's Club after his death.

Separated Materials

Audiovisual materials separated from archival collections are cataloged individually and can be found in the Library catalog. Search CATNYP, The New York Public Library catalog.

- One sound recording with handwritten label, "Dick Rodgers *South Pacific*, 3rd Ann." was transferred to Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.
- One bulova watch with silver chain band inscribed "To Harold Goldberg from a few of the *Carmen Jones* Co 1946" has been placed in the Library's T-cabinet.
- Five photographs: four of the road company of *South Pacific* and one of the Lamb's Club, 1961 have been placed in the Library's Photograph Files.