



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Francis Wilson letters to DeWitt Miller**

1890-1911

\*T-Mss 1998-016

## Summary

**Creator:** Wilson, Francis, 1854-1935

**Title:** Francis Wilson letters to DeWitt Miller

**Date:** 1890-1911

**Size:** .63 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Abstract:** Francis Wilson (1854-1935), actor and author, was a member of the legitimate comedy group at the Chestnut Street Theatre, 1887-1888, in Philadelphia, and became involved in comic opera as the leading actor of McCaull Opera Company, 1885-1889. He subsequently organized his own company, was president of the Actor's Theatre, and wrote several biographies, e.g., John Wilkes Booth and Joseph Jefferson, and drama, e.g., "The Magic Ring.". The collection contains Wilson's letters, 1890-1911, to his friend DeWitt Miller, book collector. Miller is addressed by his nickname "Jahu". The letters are primarily concerned with personal matters, Francis Wilson career as an actor, and the family hobby of collecting books, autographs, book-plates and monograms. The letters were written in New Rochelle, New York, at Wilson's home, "The Orchard" and while Wilson was on road tours.

**Preferred citation:** Francis Wilson letters to DeWitt Miller, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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## Scope and Content Note

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**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Actors

Collectors and collecting

Theater -- United States

### **Names**

Wilson, Francis, 1854-1935

Miller, Dewitt, 1857-1911