

## **Guide to the Tunis Dean Papers, 1875-1939**

\*T-Mss 1939-002

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
New York, New York

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## **Descriptive Summary**

Title:	Tunis Dean Papers, 1875-1939
Creator:	Dean, Tunis F., b. 1870.
Size:	1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository:	The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Billy Rose Theatre Division. New York, New York
Abstract:	This collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, account books, clippings, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting the career of theatrical manager and press agent Tunis Dean, who had a long association with both the David Belasco organization and the Academy of Music in Baltimore.
Languages Represented:	English

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## **Administrative Information**

Source:	The collection was donated in 1937 by Dean's sister, Miss Katherine Dean. The collection was formerly cataloged in the Cage Files and as MWEZ + n.c. 2149, 2151, 2153, 5281 and 5659-5660.
Access:	Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required.
Preferred Citation:	Tunis Dean Papers, 1875-1939, *T-Mss 1939-002, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

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## **Biographical Note**

Tunis Dean, theatrical manager and fashionable civic leader in Baltimore, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in about 1865. Affiliated for years with the David Belasco organization, Dean acted as Belasco's personal representative and press agent, and served as tour manager for a number of prominent actors including Blanche Bates, Mrs. Leslie Carter, David Warfield, Frances Starr, and James O'Neill. Dean was, at various times, the manager of the Baltimore Academy of Music and the Grand Opera House in Pittsburgh, and agent for firms such as Nixon & Zimmerman, Klaw & Erlanger, Liebler & Co., and Harry Davis. He was also a promoter of beach parades and carnivals.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, account books, clippings, photographs, and ephemera documenting the professional life of Tunis Dean. Includes correspondence with David Belasco, B. F. Roeder and Harry Dean Shook on bookings and other matters of theatrical management and handwritten press releases that Dean wrote about himself. The collection also contains two scrapbooks of programs, clippings, and ephemera on the Academy of Music in Baltimore, 1875-1877, and 1888; an account book of box office receipts for the Grand Opera House in Pittsburgh, 1902-1904, with letters to Dean pasted in; and many clippings on Dean's career.

## **Organization**

- Series I. Correspondence
  - Sub-series 1. Incoming correspondence
  - Sub-series 2. Outgoing correspondence
- Series II. Manuscripts
- Series III: Account Books
- Series IV: Photographs, ephemera, and miscellaneous printed material
- Series V. Clippings
- Series VI: Scrapbooks

## **Related Collection**

Another larger grouping of Tunis Dean papers, GEN MSS 797, is held by the Beinecke Rae Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, new Haven, Connecticut.

## Series Descriptions/Container List

### **Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1938**

13 folders

Correspondence consists of letters to Dean followed by letters from him. Within the two groupings, folders are alphabetical by prominent correspondent. Folders for miscellaneous or unidentified correspondents follow the folders for individuals.

This series includes correspondence with people prominent in the world of theatre, including David Belasco and many of his stars. Many of the letters are mounted on cardboard, probably from earlier display.

#### **Sub-series 1. Incoming correspondence, 1907-1938**

7 folders

This sub-series is mainly one or two letters or telegrams from stars of the time: Blanche Bates, Mrs. Leslie Carter, E. H. Sothern, and Frances Starr. Also includes telegrams from David Belasco, a letter from Samuel Nixon, and general correspondence to Dean from others on theatrical matters.

- |      |      |   |
|------|------|---|
| b. 1 | f. 1 | Letter from Blanche Bates with clipping included, 1907 Mar 23<br>1 item |
| b. 1 | f. 2 | Telegrams from David Belasco, 1913-1919<br>1 folder                     |
| b. 1 | f. 3 | Telegrams from Mrs. Leslie Carter, 1930<br>1 folder                     |
| b. 1 | f. 4 | Letter from Samuel F. Nixon, 1915 Oct 21<br>1 item                      |
| b. 1 | f. 5 | Letters from James H. Preston, Mayor of Baltimore, 1914<br>1 folder     |
| b. 1 | f. 6 | Telegram from E. H. Sothern, 1913 Nov 8<br>1 item                       |
| b. 1 | f. 7 | Letter from France Starr, undated<br>1 item                             |
| b. 1 | f. 8 | Letters to Tunis Dean, 1912-1938<br>1 folder                            |

### **Sub-series 1. Outgoing correspondence, 1918-1937**

This sub-series contains lengthy letters from Tunis Dean to David Belasco, B. F. Roeder, Harry Dean Shook and others on professional matters such as the national tours of Belasco's Company. Also includes a few letters he wrote and Christmas cards he sent.

- b. 1 f. 9 Letters to David Belasco, 1924-1929  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 10 Letters to B. F. Roeder, 1919-1929  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 11 Letters to Harry Dean Shook, 1929  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 12 Letters on professional matters by Tunis Dean, 1929 and undated  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 13 Letters by Tunis Dean to correspondents identified by first names only, undated  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 14 Christmas cards by Tunis Dean, 1918-1937 and undated  
1 folder

### **Series II: Manuscripts, undated**

5 folders

The most interesting materials of this series are the press releases that Dean wrote, many about himself in his capacity as representative for David Belasco. "My profession, that of press agency, is not one of shrinking violets, you know." Also includes a few notes in Dean's hand, a story probably sent to him for consideration, and some miscellaneous writings by unknown authors.

- b. 1 f. 15 Manuscript press release by Tunis Dean, undated  
1 folder  
Many are written about himself.
- b. 1 f. 16 Typed press release about Tunis Dean, probably written by him, undated  
1 folder
- b. 1 f. 17 Manuscript notes by Tunis Dean, undated  
1 folder

Two handwritten lists, mainly of names, and notes praising Barbasol shaving cream.

- b. 1 f. 18      Typescript of *Beth of the Grass* by Frank Connelly, undated  
1 folder  
“Kentucky Story,” perhaps considered for production. Includes envelope of Mr. Harry Davis’ Enterprises.

- b. 1 f. 19      Miscellaneous manuscripts, authors unknown, undated  
1 folder  
Arrived with Tunis Dean papers, though connection to Dean unclear.

**Series III: Account books, 1902-1904 and undated**  
2 folders

Two bound account books kept by Tunis Dean.

- b. 1 f. 20      Bound account book of Tunis Dean for the Grand Opera House, Pittsburgh, 1902-1904  
1 folder  
Some letters to Dean have been pasted into this book.

- b. 1 f. 21      Bound account book of Tunis Dean, undated  
1 folder  
Contains weekly grosses for various shows, notes, and addresses.

**Series IV: Photographs, ephemera, and miscellaneous printed materials**  
3 folders

This small series of miscellany contains a few photographs, certificates and membership cards, and stray printed items that reflect Dean’s career.

- b. 2 f. 1      Three photographs of Tunis Dean, undated  
1 folder

- b. 2 f. 2      Ephemera, 1912-1920 and undated  
1 folder  
Includes membership cards, certificates, and tickets.

- b. 2 f. 3      Printed material from Tunis Dean’s career, 1906-1930  
1 folder (3 items)  
Consists of printed publicity for Mrs. Leslie Carter when Dean was her representative, a program for a Belasco production where Dean was the business manager, and a piece of sheet music dedicated to

Dean.

**Series V: Clippings, 1889-1939**

5 folders

Arranged chronologically.

Consists of photocopied clippings about Tunis Dean and a few clippings about others that he collected.

- b. 2 f. 4 Clippings on Tunis Dean, 1889-1914  
1 folder
- b. 2 f. 5 Clippings on Tunis Dean, 1915  
1 folder
- b. 2 f. 6 Clippings on Tunis Dean, 1916-1939  
1 folder
- b. 2 f. 7 Clippings on Tunis Dean, undated  
1 folder
- b. 2 f. 8 Clippings on others, 1908-1928  
1 folder

**Series VI: Clippings, 1875-1888**

2 boxes

Consists of two bound scrapbooks for the Academy of Music in Baltimore that contain programs, box office statements, clippings, and ephemera.

- b. 3 Scrapbook for the Baltimore Academy of Music, 1875-1877  
1 volume  
This scrapbook from before the tenure of Tunis Dean contains programs, clippings, and box office statements.
- b. 4 Scrapbook for the Baltimore Academy of Music, 1888  
1 volume  
This scrapbook contains programs, clippings, and ephemera.

## SEPARATED MATERIALS

Material with no obvious connection to Dean, separated from the Tunis Dean Papers.

- Broad­sides for the Boston Museum Theatre, 1849-1850. Catalogued as MWEZ+ n.c. 2154A.
- Souvenir program for *A Runaway Girl*, 1898 Apr 21. Catalogued as MWEZ + n.c. 2150.
- Scrapbook of clippings on Bostock Midway Carnival Co., a traveling circus, 1900. Catalogued as MWEZ + n.c. 2148.
- Two scrapbooks of clippings on the stage and other topics that belonged to Louise Muldauer and are mostly in German. Catalogued as MWEZ + n.c. 2152 and 2154.
- Oversized photograph of original New York cast of David Belasco's *It's a Wise Child* arriving in California. Separated to the Photograph Collection. Formerly catalogued as MWEZ + n.c. 5281.
- Oversized photograph (in two pieces) of an unknown actress. Separated to the Photograph Collection. Formerly catalogued as MWEZ + n.c. 5281.