

**The New York Public Library
The Library for the Performing Arts
The Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**Lemuel Ayers Set Designs, Elevations and Blueprints
1941-1954 and undated**

***T-VIM 2010-040**

Summary

Title: Lemuel Ayers Set Designs, Elevations and Blueprints, 1941-1954 and undated

Size: 2.2 linear feet (1 box)

Preferred citation: Lemuel Ayers Set Designs, Elevations and Blueprints, *T-VIM 2010-040, The Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Related materials note

Lemuel Ayers theatrical designs . The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Billy Rose Theatre Collection. Call number: *T-VIM 1991-022

Biographical note

Award winning designer of sets and costumes and a theatrical producer, Lemuel Ayers had a brief but brilliant career with extensive Broadway credits, including *High Button Shoes* and *Oklahoma!* He was born in New York City, received a degree in architecture from Princeton University, and one in drama from the University of Iowa. He died in 1955 at the age of forty.

Scope and content note

There are original set designs, working drawings and sketches, blueprints, elevations, floor plans, and sections by Lemuel Ayers, for the following productions: *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Opera; Central City Opera House, Central City, Colorado), 1954; *Angel Street* (also titled *Gaslight*) by Patrick Hamilton, 1941; *Bloomer Girl* by Sig Herzig and Fred Saidy, adapted from a play by Lilith and Dan James; music by Harold Arlen; lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, 1944; *Camino Real* by Tennessee Williams, 1953; *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, adapted by Brian Hooker, 1946; *Inside U.S.A.* (Revue, book by Arnold Auerbach, Moss Hart, Arnold B. Horwitt, Joseph Stein, and Will Glickman; music by Arthur Schwartz; lyrics by Howard Dietz), 1948; *Kiss Me Kate* (book by Sam and Bella Spewack; music and lyrics by Cole Porter), 1948; *The Pajama Game* (book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell, based on the novel, *7 1/2 Cents*, by Richard Bissell; music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross), 1954; *The Pirate* by S. N. Behrman, adapted from a play by Ludwig Fulda; music by Herbert Kingsley, 1942; and *St. Louis Woman* (book by Arna Bontemps, Countee Cullen; music by Harold Arlen; lyrics by Johnny Mercer), 1946. For *Oklahoma!* there is only one blueprint in the collection. There are also a few designs for unidentified productions.

Most of the designs, elevations, floor plans, and sections are signed. A number of the materials are mounted. Several items are cracked or in fragile condition. A set design (53 x 86 cm.), possibly for *Bloomer Girl*, 1944, too large for shelves, is housed separately.

Container list

		<i>Angel Street</i> , 1941
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Blueprints 6 blueprints (some labeled <i>Gaslight</i>).
1	4	Elevations, Floor Plans, Sections 6 items.
1	15	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> (Opera; Central City Opera House, Central City, Colorado), 1954 3 items: Ink Sketch, Act II; Floor Cloth, Act I; Scrim Drop and Z (?) Wings, Act II.
		<i>Bloomer Girl</i> , 1944
1	2-3	Blueprints 26 blueprints.
1	5-6	Elevations, Floor Plans, Sections 27 items; 2 folders.
		Set Designs
1	11	Jail; Jail Drop; Conservatory Back Wall 3 color designs.
1	13	Damask Wall Pattern 1 color design; matted. Oversized - Stored in Drawer 1 color set design, possibly for <i>Bloomer Girl</i> .
1		<i>Camino Real</i> , 1953
1	8	Working Drawings 12 ink drawings, plus fragments; fragile condition; sketches not labeled <i>Camino Real</i> ; also includes costume list.
1	10; 12	Set Design Sketches 3 ink sketches of set.
1	14	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> , 1946 2 color designs: framed drop - Rageneau's Shop; Battle Scene Drop; both are mounted.
1	4	<i>Inside U.S.A.</i> , 1948 2 items, for <i>Inside U.S.A.</i>
1	13	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i> , 1948 1 color design (Backstage?) with linen frame.
1	1	<i>Oklahoma!</i> , 1943 1 blueprint for <i>Oklahoma!</i> (labeled <i>Away We Go!</i>).
1	12	<i>The Pajama Game</i> , 1954 1 b/w sketch for <i>The Pajama Game</i> .
		<i>The Pirate</i> , 1942
1	7	Elevations, Floor Plans, Sections 10 elevations, floor plans, sections.
1	10	Set Designs 2 color designs; mounted: "#2 Sail Set Piece" and building exterior with balcony and palm trees; both are in fragile condition, broken.
		<i>St. Louis Woman</i> , 1946 Color backdrop – café.
1	9	Unidentified, undated 3 pencil working drawings.
1	10	Unidentified, undated 1 color set design; mounted; living room set, ca. 1940s-1950s.
		Oversized - Stored in Drawer 1 unidentified color set design; canvas frame; possibly for <i>Bloomer Girl</i> , 1944.