



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Edward Fielding and Elizabeth Sherman Clark papers

1876-1975 [bulk 1910-1920]

*T-Mss 1996-056

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2014.

Summary

Creator: Fielding, Edward, 1875-1945

Title: Edward Fielding and Elizabeth Sherman Clark papers

Date: 1876-1975 [bulk 1910-1920]

Size: 4.67 linear feet (4 boxes, 4 volumes, 2 oversized folders)

Source: Donated by William C. McMaster, 1996.

Abstract: Edward Fielding (1875-1945) was an actor in theater and film. Fielding's wife, Elizabeth Sherman Clark (1883-1959) was an opera singer. The Edward Fielding and Elizabeth Sherman Clark papers date from 1876 to 1975 and document their careers through photographs, posters, programs, and scrapbooks.

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Processing note: Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2014.

Creator History

Edward Fielding (1875-1945), born Edward B. Elkins in Brooklyn, New York, was an actor in theater and film. He made his theater debut in the United Kingdom, but also worked in New York and Los Angeles throughout his career. Fielding performed in numerous plays, and was known for his work in Alfred Hitchcock films such as *Rebecca* (1940). Fielding died in Beverly Hills, California in 1945.

Elizabeth Sherman Clark (1883-1959) was a concert, oratorio, and recital singer. She was a regular member of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. She appeared in standard repertoires until she toured as a concert singer in cities such as New York City, Kansas City, and Pittsburgh.

In 1913, Fielding married Elizabeth Sherman Clark. Fielding and Clark had one child, Lisabeth Fielding

Elkins (1923-1996), who acted professionally under the name of Lisabeth Field.

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Fielding and Elizabeth Sherman Clark papers date from 1876 to 1975 (bulk dates 1910-1920) and document Fielding's career as an actor and Clark's career as an opera singer. The papers are comprised of photographs, posters, programs, and scrapbooks.

The bulk of the collection is related to Edward Fielding. The programs span his entire career, and showcase the breadth of his work in theater. The posters, such as one for the play *Sapho* (1903), document the beginning of Fielding's theater work in the United Kingdom. The photographs demonstrate Fielding's acting range through stage and still photography from various theater and film productions. The majority of the photographs are not labeled. The scrapbooks primarily contain correspondence and clippings of reviews. There are many clippings related to his performances in *Sapho* (1903) and *Rebecca* (1940). Some of the programs and posters are not related to Fielding, but were possibly materials he collected.

Elizabeth Sherman Clark's operatic performances, recitals, and concerts are documented through photographs and scrapbooks. One of the scrapbooks was created by her daughter, Lisabeth Field, who wrote a few annotations and selected photographs, postcards, correspondence, programs, and reviews that recounted milestones in Clark's career.

The collection includes a few materials related to Lisabeth Field, such as programs from productions she participated in or shows she attended.

Arrangement: The collection is separated by individual and organized by file type: photographs, posters, programs, and scrapbooks. A few of the scrapbooks were dismantled; loose material from the scrapbooks was housed separately.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs
Posters
Programs (documents)
Scrapbooks

Occupations

Male actors
Motion picture actors and actresses
Women singers

Subjects

Motion picture acting
Musical theater
Performing arts
Theater

Women in opera

Names

Clark, Elizabeth Sherman, 1883-1959

Elkins, Lisabeth Fielding, 1923-1996

Container List

Edward Fielding

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1913-1943
- b. 1 f. 2 Newspapers 1901-1920
- b. 4 f. 1-5 Photographs 1900s-1930s
- b. 1 f. 3-6 Photographs 1900s-1940s
 - o. 1 Posters 1876-1904
 - o. 2 Posters 1876-1904
- b. 1 f. 7-10 Programs 1880-1931
- b. 2 f. 1-7 Programs 1899-1937

Scrapbooks

- v. 1 1897-1937
- v. 2 1903-1939
- b. 2 f. 8 Separation 1903-1939
Volume 2
- v. 3 1903-1942
- b. 3 f. 1 Separation 1903-1942
Volume 3
- b. 3 f. 2-3 1911-1937

Elizabeth Sherman Clark

- b. 3 f. 4 1910s
- b. 3 f. 5 Photographs 1910s

Scrapbooks

- b. 3 f. 6 1907-1940s
- b. 4 f. 6 Separation 1907-1940s
From scrapbook in b.3 f.6
- v. 4 1908-1914

Lisabeth Fielding

- b. 3 f. 7-9 Programs and Publications 1946-1975