



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Roland Burke Hennessy papers

1858-1935 [bulk 1900-1930]

*T-Mss 2004-020

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015

Summary

Creator: Hennessy, Roland Burke, 1870-1939

Title: Roland Burke Hennessy papers

Date: 1858-1935 [bulk 1900-1930]

Size: .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Cecile Burke Barnett, 2004.

Abstract: Roland Burke Hennessy (1870-1939) was an editor, publisher, drama critic, and poet. He founded the theatrical publication the New York Star and was its editor from 1908 to 1936. He became editor of the Vaudeville News, a publication of the Keith circuit, when it merged with the New York Star. He was also publisher and editor of the periodical Radio World. The Roland Burke Hennessy papers (1858-1935, bulk 1900-1930) contain photographs of vaudeville performers, producers, and other associates of Hennessy's; letters, cards, and telegrams to Hennessy; clippings; programs; and miscellaneous other materials. The bulk of the programs are for vaudeville shows and plays in New York City theaters. Subjects of the letters include Hennessy's poems, publications, writings, and other activities. There are letters regarding his poem Liberty Aflame, which was adapted into a vaudeville spectacle in 1917. Photographs include images of E.F. Albee, Lew Dockstader, Blanche Ring, and Maude Adams as Peter Pan. Hennessy was friends with actor Louis Mann, who is represented in the collection by photographs, letters, clippings, and programs. There are also programs and clippings from the career of Hennessy's wife, Muriel McArthur, who acted with Mann in Julie Bonbon (1906). The collection includes printed copies of two poems by Hennessy. The earliest item in the collection is an 1858 program for a Philadelphia performance of An Unequal Match and Blanche of Brandywine. The collection includes some photocopies and annotations by Hennessy's daughter, Cecile Burke Barnett.

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Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Photographs

Programs (documents)

Subjects

Vaudeville

Names

Mann, Louis, 1865-1931

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-12 Photographs; Correspondence; Clippings; Programs; and Miscellany 1858, 1893-1935
- b. 2 f. 1-5 Photographs circa 1900s-1920s
Includes photographs of E.F. Albee and Lew Dockstader.