



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Charles B. Dillingham papers

1903-1931 [bulk 1910-1927]

MssCol 813

Processed by John Stinson.

Summary

Creator: Dillingham, C. B. (Charles Bancroft), 1868-1934

Title: Charles B. Dillingham papers

Date: 1903-1931 [bulk 1910-1927]

Source: Received, 1952-1953

Abstract: Collection consists of correspondence, stage managers' reports, receipt books, roster and salary records, and some personal papers of Dillingham. Correspondence, 1903-1927, of Dillingham and his associates Bruce Edwards and Fred G. Latham with theatrical people relates mainly to the casting and production of shows at the Globe Theatre and at the Hippodrome. Some of the correspondence concerns the management of the road shows on tour in the United States. Records include stage managers' reports, 1910-1911 and 1926-1927; receipt books, 1906-1907, 1913-1914 and 1920-1928, recording box office receipts for shows at the Globe Theatre; and roster and salary records, 1908-1909. Also, personal and miscellaneous papers, some of which were removed from the R.H. Burnside Papers, containing Dillingham's memoirs of his life in the theater, last will and testament, notebook, and research notes.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Charles Bancroft Dillingham Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by John Stinson; machine readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

Creator History

Charles Bancroft Dillingham (1868-1934) was one of the leading theatrical producers in New York City during the first three decades of the 20th century. With his own company, the Dillingham Theatre Corp., and in partnership with A.L. Erlanger and Florenz Ziegfeld, he produced more than 200 comedies,

musical comedies, operettas and vaudeville shows for the Broadway stage. He built and owned *The Globe Theatre* (at Broadway and 46th St.) and for many years he managed *The Hippodrome*, reputed to be the largest theatrical house in the world.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence series is arranged alphabetically in over-lapping two-, three-, and four year intervals in the period 1903-1927 with some unsorted correspondence of various dates at the end of the series. It consists of correspondence of Dillingham and of his associates Bruce Edwards and Fred G. Latham of the Dillingham Theatre Corp. with actors, actresses, theatrical managers, theatrical agents and producers, impresarios, literary agents, playwrights, song writers, musicians, band leaders, costumers and others. The correspondence relates mainly to the casting and production of plays, musical comedies, operettas, and vaudeville shows at The Globe Theatre and at The Hippodrome. Some of the correspondence relates to the management of the road shows on tour in the U.S.. Substantial correspondence is present with George Ade, Hans Bartsch, David Belasco, Irving Berlin, Col. E.A. Braden, Sir Alfred Butt, George M. Cohan, Francis W. Crownshield, Carrère and Hastings, Haddon Chambers, A.L. Erlanger, W.C. Fields, James Forbes, Chares Frohman and Daniel Frohman, Sam H. Harris, J. Clarence Hyde, Arthur Houghton, Elsie Janis, Frederick Lonsdale, Cyril Maude, Louis Nethersole, and Florenz Ziegfeld.

There are also stage managers' reports (1910-11, 1926-27) for *Over the River*, *The Old Town*, *Criss-Cross*, and *Sunny*. There are 9 receipt books (1906-07, 1913-14, 1920-28) recording box office receipts for shows mainly at the Globe Theatre. There are also roster and salary records (1908-09) for The Top O' Th' World Company which provide the names of the principals, staff, chorus and orchestra and the amount of their weekly salaries. There are a few personal and miscellaneous papers of Dillingham (some of which is labelled as having been removed from the R.H. Burnside Papers) consisting of Dillingham's memoirs of his life in the theater in carbon typescript (104 p.), a copy of his last will and testament, a notebook labelled 'Options and Expirations', and research notes made from the letters in the unsorted section of the correspondence series.

Key Terms

Subjects

Actors
Musical theater
Theater -- Casting
Theater -- Production and direction
Theater management
Theaters -- New York (State) -- New York
Vaudeville

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Memoirs
Wills

Occupations

Theatrical managers
Theatrical producers and directors

Names

Dillingham, C. B. (Charles Bancroft), 1868-1934
Ade, George, 1866-1944
Belasco, David, 1853-1931
Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989
Butt, Alfred, Sir, 1878-
Chambers, C. Haddon (Charles Haddon), 1860-1921
Cohan, George M. (George Michael), 1878-1942
Crowninshield, Frank, 1872-1947
Edwards, Bruce
Erlanger, Abraham Lincoln, 1860-1930
Fields, W. C., 1879-1946
Frohman, Charles, 1860-1915
Frohman, Daniel, 1851-1940
Houghton, Arthur
Janis, Elsie, 1889-1956
Latham, Fred G., 1853-1943
Lonsdale, Frederick, 1881-1954
Maude, Cyril, 1862-1951
Nethersole, Louis
Ziegfeld, Flo, 1869-1932
Dillingham Theatre Corporation
Globe Theatre (New York, N.Y.)
Hippodrome Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

General Correspondence

- b. 1. 1903-1907
- b. 2. A-L 1907-1910
- b. 3. L-R 1907-1910
- b. 4. S-W 1907-1910
- b. 4. A 1910-1912
- b. 5. B-C 1910-1912
- b. 6. C-F 1910-1912
- b. 7. F-M 1910-1912
- b. 8. M-S 1910-1912
- b. 9. S-Z 1910-1912
- b. 10. A-K 1913-1914
- b. 11. L-S 1913-1914
- b. 12. S-W 1913-1914
- A-B 1914-1916
- b. 13. B-C 1914-1916
- b. 14. C-F 1914-1916
- b. 15. F-H 1914-1916
- b. 16. H-K 1914-1916
- b. 17. K-M 1914-1916
- b. 18. M-Q 1914-1916
- b. 19. S-T 1914-1916
- A-B 1916-1918
- b. 20. B-Z 1916-1918
- b. 21. A-B 1919-1923
- b. 22. C-H 1919-1923
- b. 23. L-Z 1919-1923
- b. 24. A-E 1924-1926
- b. 25. E-R 1924-1926
- b. 26. S-W 1924-1926
- b. 27. W-Z 1924-1926
- A-K 1926-1927
- b. 28. K-R 1926-1927
- b. 29. S-Z 1926-1927
- Unsorted letters
- b. 30. Unsorted letters
- Stage Manager's Reports, Accounting Records, Routing Books and other materials
- b. 30. Stage Manager's Reports 1910-1927
- b. 31. Stage Manager's Reports 1926-1927

Stage Manager's Reports, Accounting Records, Routing Books and other materials (cont.)

- b. 31. Expense Vouchers 1919
- b. 31. Receipt books containing box office receipts 1906-1928
- b. 32. Personal and Miscellaneous Papers
- b. 33. Routing books
Routing books show engagements for various shows produced by Dillingham in New York and on tour. Some of the volumes are housed within Box 33, others (when noted) are shelved separately as volumes.
- v. vol. 1 1911-1912
- v. 2-3. 1912-1913
- v. 4-6. (vol. 6 in box 33) 1914-1915
- v. 7. 1915-1916
- v. 8. 1916-1917
- v. 9-10. (vols. 10-11 in box 33) 1917-1918
- v. 11. 1918-1919
- v. 12-13. 1919-1920
- v. 14-16. (vol. 14 in box 33) 1920-1921
- v. 17-18. 1921-1922
- v. 19. 1922-1923
- v. 20-21. 1923-1924
- v. 22-23. (vol. 22 in box 33) 1928-1929
- v. 24. 1931-1932
- v. 25. Map
- b. 34. Account books
- b. 35. Address books
- b. 36. Ledger (?)
- b. 37. Miscellaneous material