



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Howard E. Potter papers

1929-1961

JPB 91-37

Processed by Music Division staff.

Summary

Creator: Potter, Howard E., 1877-1961

Title: Howard E. Potter papers

Date: 1929-1961

Size: .2 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donor unknown.

Abstract: Howard E. Potter, who died in 1961 at age 84, promoted concerts in the United States for musicians and theater personalities. The Howard E. Potter papers include correspondence received by Potter and clippings.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Preferred citation: Howard E. Potter papers, JPB 91-37. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Music Division staff.

Creator History

Born in New Providence, New Jersey, Howard E. Potter (1877-1961) began as an insurance agent in Newark, New Jersey. Eventually, he began working in the advertising department of *Musical America*. During World War I, he served in the White House detail of the Secret Service and during World War II, in the Academy of Aeronautics at La Guardia Airport. His primary career was as a manager of transcontinental tours by musicians, actors, and dancers, working especially with the management agencies of Charles L. Wagner, Loudon Charlton, and Sol Hurok. Some of the artists he worked for

included Marcella Sembrich, Lillian Nordica, Mary Garden, Will Rogers, and Anna Pavlova.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence received by Potter, as well as clippings. Correspondents include Geraldine Farrar, Elsie Janis, Rafael Kubelik, Nellie Melba, Lauritz Melchior, Fritzi Scheff, and Maggie Teyte. One of the clippings documents a Nellie Melba concert in Raleigh, NC, in 1914.

Arrangement: Collection is organized by format and correspondent. Folder titles created by archivist.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Opera

Performing arts -- Management

Names

Farrar, Geraldine, 1882-1967

Potter, Howard E., 1877-1961

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1 **Farrar, Geraldine 1951-1961**
Includes three handwritten, signed letters and one printed, signed letter.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Hempel, Mrs. M**
Includes one letter.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Janis, Elsie c. 1951-1952**
Includes one postcard mailed from Janis in Beverly Hills, California.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Kubelik, Rafael 1958**
Includes three typed, signed letters.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Melba, Nellie**
Includes photocopy of one handwritten, signed letter.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Melchior, Kleinchen Lauritz**
Includes one handwritten, signed letter.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Melchior, Mr. and Mrs**
- b. 1 f. 3 **P., M 1950 May**
Mailed from Genna Walska Management Co., 655 Fifth Ave., New York. Letter refers to Mother's Day and Valentine's Day.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Parks, John A 1931 February 27**
Mailed from Raleigh, N.C.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Scheff, Fritzi 1951**
Includes one handwritten and one typed signed letter, both mailed from 308 E. 79th St., New York.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Teyte, Maggie 1947-1949**
Includes three handwritten, signed letters.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Clippings and related letters 1914, undated**