



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Ira Aldridge Society records**

1886-1973

Sc MG 131

Processed by Diana Lachatanere.

## Summary

**Creator:** Ira Aldridge Society

**Title:** Ira Aldridge Society records

**Date:** 1886-1973

**Size:** 1.88 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Smith, Hughie Lee and unknown donor, 09/09/81

**Abstract:** Interracial organization devoted to the discovery and promotion of talented black artists and educating people on the contributions of black artists to the performing arts. Constitution and bylaws, financial and legal documents, financial reports, correspondence to private individuals as well as government institutions, news clippings, and other printed material relating to the Society. Also, Aldridge family papers consisting of copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and correspondence to and from Ira Aldridge and other family members.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Ira Aldridge Society records, Sc MG 131, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Diana Lachatanere; updated by Barrye Brown, 2020.

## Creator History

Interracial organization devoted to the discovery and promotion of talented black artists and educating people on the contributions of black artists to the performing arts.

## Scope and Content Note

The Ira Aldridge Society records consist of constitution and bylaws, financial and legal documents, financial reports, correspondence to private individuals as well as government institutions, news

clippings, and other printed material relating to the Society. Of particular interest is a script by Ossie Davis titled, "Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge, Sir." The Aldridge family papers consisting of copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and correspondence to and from Ira Aldridge and other family members. The scrapbook has been disbound and includes photocopies of articles and playbills featuring *The African Roscious*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *The Slave*, *Obi*, *the Ethiopian*, *The Death of Christophe*, and a booklet *Ira Aldridge, American Negro Tragedian and Taras Shevchenko, Poet of the Ukraine: Story of a Friendship*, published by Marie Trommer, 1939.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American families  
African Americans -- Societies, etc  
African Americans in the performing arts

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Birth certificates  
Death certificates  
Marriage certificates

### **Names**

Aldridge, Ira Frederick, -1867  
Aldridge family  
Ira Aldridge Society

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Incorporation Papers – Bylaws and Constitution 1943
- b. 1 f. 2 Annual Meetings 1961-1964, 1969-1971
- b. 1 f. 3 Corporate Membership Certification
- b. 1 f. 4 London Society 1955
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1972
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence 1955-1968
- b. 1 f. 7 Financial Records 1960-1964
- b. 1 f. 8 Script by Ossie Davis, "Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge, Sir," 1963
- b. 1 f. 9 Play scripts
- b. 2 f. 1 Flyer negatives 1959
- b. 2 f. 2 Correspondence 1962, 1972
- b. 2 f. 3 Aldridge Family Documents (Copies) 1864-1869, 1893, 1915, 1933, 1956
- b. 2 f. 4 Ira Aldridge Society 1955-1967
- b. 2 f. 5 Miscellaneous 1956-1964
- b. 3 Address Cards
- b. 4 Scrapbook