



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Typescript and notes for *The Avante-garde Woman*

ca.1957

*T-Mss 2001-032

Summary

Creator: Lothar, Minda

Title: Typescript and notes for *The Avante-garde Woman*

Date: ca.1957

Size: .21 linear feet. (1 box)

Abstract: Minda Lothar, author of *RAGE OF JOY: THE DIVINE SARAH BERNHARDT* (1968), a novel based on the life of actress Sarah Bernhardt, also wrote a paper analyzing what she termed the Avante-garde Woman personality type, primarily drawing upon women associated with the theater as her models for discussion. The typescript and notes for Minda Lothar's *The Avante-garde Woman* consist of 12 folders, each containing one section of the work. Textual evidence suggests that Lothar wrote this paper in 1957, but it appears never to have been published. The first chapter features analysis of the Avant-garde type as represented by fictional women, such as Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Henrik Ibsen's *Nora Helmer* and *Hedda Gabler*, Arthur Wing Pinero's *Paula Tanqueray*, and Tennessee Williams' *Blanche Du Bois*. In the second chapter, Lothar discusses real life actresses such as Sarah Bernhardt, Eleanora Duse, Gertrude Lawrence, and Tallulah Bankhead, as well as the French novelist George Sand. In the third and final chapter, Lothar examines the different ways these women dealt with the challenges each faced in their lives. Also included is an outline for the paper.

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: Typescript and notes for *The Avante-garde Woman*, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Minda Lothar, author of *RAGE OF JOY: THE DIVINE SARAH BERNHARDT* (1968), a novel based on the life of actress Sarah Bernhardt, also wrote a paper analyzing what she termed the Avante-garde

Woman personality type, primarily drawing upon women associated with the theater as her models for discussion.

Scope and Content Note

The typescript and notes for Minda Lothar's *The Avante-garde Woman* consist of 12 folders, each containing one section of the work. Textual evidence suggests that Lothar wrote this paper in 1957, but it appears never to have been published. The first chapter features analysis of the Avant-garde type as represented by fictional women, such as Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Henrik Ibsen's *Nora Helmer* and *Hedda Gabler*, Arthur Wing Pinero's *Paula Tanqueray*, and Tennessee Williams' *Blanche Du Bois*. In the second chapter, Lothar discusses real life actresses such as Sarah Bernhardt, Eleanora Duse, Gertrude Lawrence, and Tallulah Bankhead, as well as the French novelist George Sand. In the third and final chapter, Lothar examines the different ways these women dealt with the challenges each faced in their lives. Also included is an outline for the paper.

Key Terms

Subjects

Actresses
Women -- Biography
Women -- Conduct of life
Women entertainers
Women in literature
Women in the theater
Women novelists, French

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Typescripts

Names

Lothar, Minda
Bankhead, Tallulah, 1902-1968
Bernhardt, Sarah, 1844-1923
Duse, Eleanora, 1858-1924
Flaubert, Gustave, 1821-1880
Ibsen, Henrik, 1828-1906
Lawrence, Gertrude
Pinero, Arthur Wing, 1855-1934
Sand, George, 1804-1876
Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983