



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Doretta Morrow papers**

1916-1971 [bulk 1946-1971]

\*T-Mss 1994-019

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Morrow, Doretta

**Title:** Doretta Morrow papers

**Date:** 1916-1971 [bulk 1946-1971]

**Size:** 1.51 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Virginia Esternaux, 1994.

**Abstract:** Doretta Morrow was an American actress and singer, best known for creating roles in the classic musicals *The King and I* and *Kismet*. The Doretta Morrow papers contain photographs, programs, telegrams, clippings, reviews, a diploma, and two religious documents.

**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>

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**Preferred citation:** Doretta Morrow papers, \*T-Mss 1994-019. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2014

## Creator History

Doretta Morrow was born Doretta Marano on January 27, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York. She attended New Utrecht High School. She made her stage debut in *Shooting Star*, a musical that closed out of town in 1946. Later that year she replaced Ann Andre in the revival of *The Red Mill*. She is best remembered for originating major roles in three classic musicals: *Where's Charley?* (1948), *The King and I* (1951), and *Kismet* (1953). Morrow also appeared in the 1955 London production of *Kismet* and

the 1957 national tour of Fanny. In 1959 she appeared in Cole Porter's Aladdin in London.

During the 1950s Morrow appeared on various television shows and televised productions of musicals such as Knickerbocker Holiday (1950), Miss Liberty (1951), and The Beggar's Opera (1952), as well as the original television musical The Adventures of Marco Polo (1956). She appeared in one film, Because You're Mine (1952).

Morrow retired from performing in 1960 and married London insurance underwriter Albert Hardman, with whom she had one daughter. Morrow had previously married and divorced airline executive Fred A. Miller during the 1950s. Doretta Morrow died of cancer in London on February 28, 1968.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Doretta Morrow papers contain production files, which focus mainly on Morrow's stage career, covering the major Broadway, London, and touring musicals in which she performed, and her one film appearance, Because You're Mine. Stage productions documented here include The Chocolate Soldier, The Desert Song, The Great Waltz, The King and I, Kismet, The Red Mill, Rosalie, and Where's Charley? Production Files contain photographs, playbills, souvenir programs, opening night telegrams, fan letters, reviews, and clippings.

Morrow's occasional appearances in fashion shows and nightclubs are documented with photographs, programs, and clippings. This collection also contains professional headshots, personal and family photographs, clippings regarding her second marriage, watercolor paintings on paper by Morrow, a diploma, and religious membership documents. Many photographs contain Morrow's hand-written notes dating the photograph, or identifying the subject. This collection contains some photographs taken after Morrow's death, of her daughter Elena.

**Arrangement:** The Doretta Morrow papers are arranged into Production Files and Other Materials.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Actresses  
Singers

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Drawings  
Paintings  
Photographs  
Programs (documents)

### **Subjects**

Musical films  
Musicals -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century  
Musicals -- United States  
Operetta -- 20th century  
Television musicals  
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century

## Container List

### Production Files

- b. 1 f. 1 *The Adventures of Marco Polo* 1956
- b. 1 f. 2 *Because You're Mine* 1953
- b. 1 f. 3 *Brigadoon* 1959
- b. 1 f. 4 *The Chocolate Soldier* 1947-1948
- b. 1 f. 5 *The Desert Song* 1950
- b. 1 f. 6 *Fanny* 1957
- b. 1 f. 7 *The Great Waltz* 1950
- b. 1 f. 8 *The King and I* 1951
- b. 2 f. 1-2 *Kismet* 1953-1954
- b. 2 f. 3 *Miss Liberty* 1951
- b. 2 f. 4 *Oh Captain!* 1959
- b. 2 f. 5 *The Poker Game* 1959
- b. 2 f. 6 *The Red Mill* 1946-1947
- b. 2 f. 7 *Rosalie* 1950
- b. 2 f. 8 *Shooting Star* 1947
- b. 2 f. 9 *Where's Charley?* 1948-1949
- b. 3 f. 1 Clippings, Interviews, and Profiles 1953-1959
- b. 4 f. 1 Diploma - Alfonso Marano 1928
- b. 3 f. 2-6 Family Photographs 1916-1971
- b. 3 f. 7 Fashion Shows - Photograph and Program 1954
- b. 3 f. 8 Nightclub Appearances - Photographs, Clippings and Programs 1952-1959
- b. 4 f. 2 Paintings undated
- b. 3 f. 9 Professional Headshots and Publicity Photographs 1940-1960
- b. 4 f. 3 Publicity Photograph 1950s
- b. 3 f. 10 Religious Documents 1968
- b. 4 f. 4 Scrapbook - Clippings, Photographs, and Drawings 1938-1965