



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Anne Nichols papers, Additions

1925-1955 [bulk 1940s-1955]

*T-Mss 2001-012

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Nichols, Anne, 1891-1966

Title: Anne Nichols papers, Additions

Date: 1925-1955 [bulk 1940s-1955]

Size: .9 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Louis Simon, 1974.

Abstract: Anne Nichols (1891-1966) was an American playwright. The Anne Nichols papers, Additions date from 1925 to 1955 and predominantly document the resurgence of her play *Abie's Irish Rose* through clippings, photographs, and a few programs. The collection also includes writings, letters, sheet music, and recordings.

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: Anne Nichols papers, Additions, *T-Mss 2001-012. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Related Materials:

Anne Nichols papers, 1873-1965. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator History

Anne Nichols (1891-1966) was an American playwright. Throughout her career she wrote several plays, but she was best known for her successful comedy *Abie's Irish Rose*. The comedy opened on Broadway in 1922 and ran until 1927 with over 2300 performances. It later inspired two film adaptations and a radio series. The stage production of *Abie's Irish Rose* saw a resurgence in the 1940s.

Scope and Content Note

The Anne Nichols papers, Additions date from 1925 to 1955 (bulk dates 1940s-1955) and contain clippings, photographs, programs, writings, letters, sheet music, and recordings.

The bulk of the collection relates to the 1944 resurgence of Nichols' play *Abie's Irish Rose* during its 22nd anniversary. The programs, photographs, and clippings document the numerous productions across the country in cities such as Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, and New York City.

The collection also reflects Nichols' interest in writing both a musical and an autobiography. Materials related to the development of a musical include a copy of "It's the Little Things that Count" written by Nichols and Adelaide Matthews. This verse is accompanied by a draft of sheet music. Other sheet music and verses in the collection appear to be reference materials. The recordings were also used for research and include well-known compositions such as *Homage to Rameau* by French composer Claude Debussy, music by Louise Lyon, and experimentation with sound.

The autobiographical project is represented through typewritten recollections about Nichols' childhood, her introduction to New York City theater, the development of her early work, and the reception of *Abie's Irish Rose*. The manuscript drafts communicate Nichols' desire to publish this project through the organization of her recollections with accompanying chapter notes, page numbers, and edits.

Additionally, the collection includes letters that pertain to personal matters and the development of a few plays.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Letters (correspondence)
Sheet music
Writings (document genre)

Subjects

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Occupations
Women dramatists

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-6 Abie's Irish Rose 1925, 1944-1945
- b. 2 f. 1-7 Abie's Irish Rose 1943-1945
- b. 2 f. 8-10 Letters 1942, 1954-1955
- Writings
- b. 2 f. 11-16 Autobiography Project 1930s-1950s
- b. 3 f. 1 Autobiography Project 1950s
- Musical Project
- b. 3 f. 2 It's the Little Things that Count 1950s
- b. 3 f. 3-4 Sheet Music and Verses 1950s
- Recordings
- Sound recordings available by appointment only.
- origsr.221030 1950s
- origsr.221031 1950s
- origsr.221032 1950s
- origsr.221033 Buckner, William R 1950s
- origsr.221034 Debussy, Claude and Rachmaninoff, Sergei 1952
Homage to Rameau and The Prelude in E-flat Major.
- Lyon, Louise
- origsr.221037 1950s
- origsr.221035 1955
- origsr.221036 1955
- origsr.221038 Pirez, Mary 1955
- origsr.221039 Sorrenti, Madeline 1955