

**The New York Public Library
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**Alice Lewisohn Crowley Gift
1916-1931 and undated**

***T-VIM 2010-056**

Summary

Title: Alice Lewisohn Crowley Gift, 1916-1931 and undated

Size: 1.5 linear feet (1 box)

Preferred citation: Alice Lewisohn Crowley Gift, Billy Rose Theatre Division, *T-VIM 2010-056, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Alice Lewisohn Crowley was born in New York City in 1883, a daughter of Leonard Lewisohn. With her sister Irene Lewisohn, she established the Neighborhood Playhouse on Grand Street in 1915, a theater and teaching facility for dance and drama. By 1920, professional actors had replaced the amateur troupe of children and adults and the Playhouse became known for its avant-garde productions.

The neighborhood theater closed in 1927. In 1928, Alice Lewisohn Crowley, Irene Lewisohn and Rita Wallach Morgenthau established The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre still in operation in New York City. Crowley died in 1972 in Zurich at the age of 88.

Scope and content note

The Alice Lewisohn Crowley Gift consists of approximately 101 original costume and set designs for theatrical, musical and dance works presented at the Neighborhood Playhouse founded by Crowley and her sister, Irene Lewisohn. There is also a small number of textual materials including notes and publicity materials.

The designs are primarily costume designs, with a few set designs for theatrical productions, including *Everybody's Husband* by Gilbert Cannan, 1919; *Harlequinade* by Harley Granville-Barker and Dion Calthrop, 1921; *The Mummer's Revel* and *The Masque of the Apple*, music by Kurt Schindler, 1931; *Night at an Inn* by Lord Dunsany, 1916; *Pinwheel* by Francis Edward Faragoh, 1927, with sketches and notes by Donald Oenslager; and *The Player Queen* by William Butler Yeats, 1923, with costume designs probably by Alexander Koiransky.

Ballets represented in the collection are *La Boutique Fantasque*, music by Ottorino Respighi, 1921, with costume designs by Esther Peck; *Petrouchka*, music by Igor Stravinsky, 1916; *Royal Fandango* by Gustavo Morales, 1921, with costume designs and a set design by Ernest de Weerth; and a costume design for *Le Tricorne*, 1922, "after Picasso's design for a costume for the ballet." There is a set design by Jo Davidson of the Wailing Wall for the symphonic drama, *Israel*, by Ernest Bloch, 1928.

There are also several unidentified costume and set designs.

Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1-2	<i>La Boutique Fantasque</i> (Ballet), music adapted by Frederick Jacobi from Rossini-Respighi, 1920 19 costume designs by Esther Peck; color on paper; 1 design is signed on verso.
3		<i>Everybody's Husband</i> by Gilbert Cannan, 1919 6 costume designs by Esther Peck for "Girl," "Great Grandmother," "Grandmother - 1860," "Mother - 1890," "1830 [Female]," and Untitled [Maid]; color and pencil on paper; some initialed.
4		<i>Harlequinade</i> by Harley Granville-Barker and Dion Calthrop, 1921 3 costume designs by Esther Peck for "Clown," "Gelsomino" and "Pantaloon;" color and pencil on board.
5		<i>Israel</i> (Symphonic Drama) by Ernest Bloch, 1928 1 set design by Jo Davidson of <i>The Wailing Wall</i> ; color on paper; signed
6-7		<i>The Mummer's Revel</i> and <i>The Masque of the Apple</i> , music by Kurt Schindler, 1931 18 costume designs (possibly by Esther Peck) on 9 boards for "Children Dancers," "Clown and Bessie," "Fiddler and Children;" "Hobby Horse," "Mistress and Children," "Older Dancers" (2 boards); 17 color on paper; 1 pencil on paper; mounted on boards; notes on verso of 1 "Older Children" design includes " <i>Jeptha's [sic] Daughter</i> - Dance [illegible] by Alice and Irene Lewisohn."
8		<i>Night at an Inn</i> by Lord Dunsany, 1916 (1 costume design; color on board).
9		<i>Petrouchka</i> (Ballet), 1916 6 costume designs on 3 boards; color; 1 board (containing 4 costume designs) is broken with loose pieces on top.
10		<i>Pinwheel</i> by Francis Edward Faragoh, 1927 12 sheets of costume sketches and 6 sheets of notes by Donald Oenslager; pencil on paper; most sheets are brittle.
11-12		<i>The Player Queen</i> by William Butler Yeats, 1923 16 costume designs on 12 boards; color and pencil; probably by Alexander Koiransky.
13		<i>Royal Fandango</i> (Ballet), music by Gustavo Morales, 1921 12 items by Ernest de Weerth: 11 costume designs and sketches; some color on paper, mounted; some pencil on paper; some are initialed; 1 set design; color, mounted, signed.
14		<i>Le Tricorne</i> (Ballet), music by Manuel de Falla, 1922 and Miscellaneous Material, 1922 and 1925 1 costume design "After Picasso's design for a costume in the ballet <i>Le Tricorne</i> ," 1922; color and pencil on paper; mounted; signed. Miscellaneous materials consist of 3 items: a postcard for <i>Exiles</i> , <i>The Legend of the Dance</i> and <i>Sooner and Later</i> (Dance), 1925; a cast list for <i>Salut au Monde</i> , 1922; and a printed sheet with an illustration of the Neighborhood Playhouse (Grand Street) exterior, undated.
15		Unidentified - Costume Designs, undated 3 costume designs: 3 color (1 on paper; mounted; 1 on board; 1 on paper); 1 is titled "Quin;" 1 is titled "Malachik."
16		Unidentified - Set Designs, undated 3 set designs: color; 1 on paper with pencil notes; 2 on board.