

Inventory of the Margaret Hamilton correspondence and ephemera, 1944-1979

*T-Mss 1998-040

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Margaret Hamilton correspondence and ephemera, 1944-1979

Collection ID: *T-Mss 1998-040

Creator: Margaret Hamilton .

Extent: .25 lin. ft. (1 box)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited.

Preferred Citation: Margaret Hamilton Correspondence and Ephemera, *T-Mss 1998-040,
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Biographical Note

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1902, actress Margaret Hamilton initially trained to be a kindergarten teacher, however she also studied voice and acting and made her first New York appearance in 1932 in *Another Language*. Her best known role was The Wicked Witch of the West in the 1939 movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. Hamilton went on to have a long career on the stage, in film and on television. She lived in New York City, married and divorced Paul Meserve, and had one son, Hamilton Meserve.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is primarily letters and cards written by Margaret Hamilton to Helen Fay (Mrs. Joseph Juneman). Though personal, they include information on Hamilton's theatrical work with mention of rehearsals and travel for various productions. There is also a file of letters by Hamilton's son, Hamilton Meserve, to "Aunt Helen." The ephemera of the collection consists of a few scraps and notes as well as six photographs (two are of her son as a boy), some programs for shows in which Hamilton appeared, and clippings of reviews.

Organization

- Series I: Correspondence
- Series II: Ephemera

Series Descriptions /Container Listing

Series I: Correspondence, 1943-1973

5 folders

Correspondence to Helen Fay Juneman from Margaret Hamilton and her son, Hamilton Meserve.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1944-1965
1 folder
Letters by Margaret Hamilton to Helen Fay.
- b. 1 f. 2 Postcards / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1946-1969
1 folder
Postcards from Margaret Hamilton to Helen Fay.
- b. 1 f. 3 Greeting cards / Margaret Hamilton.
1 folder
Undated Christmas and birthday cards sent by Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 4 Third party correspondence, ca. 1948-1973
1 folder
Third party correspondence.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence / Hamilton Meserve, ca. 1950-1961
1 folder
Letters and cards by Hamilton Meserve, Margaret Hamilton's son.
Most are to his "Aunt Helen".

Series II: Ephemera, 1945-1974

9 folders

By form of material

Photographs, programs and clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.

- b. 1 f. 6 Ephemera / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1952-1972
1 folder
Notes and scraps by and about Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 7 Photographs / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1947-1951
1 folder
6 photographs consist of 2 production photographs, 1 portrait, 1

publicity card and 2 photographs of Margaret Hamilton's son, Hamilton (Tony) Meserve as a young boy.

- b. 1 f. 8 Programs / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1950s
1 folder
Programs signed by Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 9 Programs / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1951-1962
Unsigned programs are for productions in which Margaret Hamilton appeared.
- b. 1 f. 10 Clippings / Margaret Hamilton, 1945-1949
1 folder
Clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 11 Clippings / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1950-1956
1 folder
Clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 12 Clippings / Margaret Hamilton, 1962-1969
1 folder
Clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 13 Clippings / Margaret Hamilton, ca. 1970-1974
1 folder
Clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 14 Clippings / Margaret Hamilton
1 folder
Undated clippings documenting the career of Margaret Hamilton.