THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
THE BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION

FRANCIS WILSON, 1854-1935
PAPERS, 1875-1958

*T-MSS 1999-020
EHE, 9/99
MAIN ENTRY: Francis Wilson, 1854-1935
TITLE: Papers, 1875-1958
SIZE: 8 boxes (3.25 lin. ft.)
ACCESS: Unrestricted
SOURCE: Estate of Francis Wilson.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT: Comic actor, dramatic author and manager, Francis Wilson, an active spokesperson for theatrical interests, was elected the first president of the Actors’ Equity Association in 1913.

DESCRIPTION: Collection contains correspondence, speeches, accounts, clippings, scripts and other papers reflecting Wilson’s personal and professional life.

INTRODUCTION

The Francis Wilson Papers were most likely given to The Billy Rose Theatre Collection of The New York Public Library by his widow, Edna Bruns Wilson in the late 1950s. They were originally cataloged in the Library’s MWEZ classification system and were reprocessed in 1999 for inclusion in the Library’s online system and posting on the web.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The papers are arranged in 9 series:

Series I: Professional correspondence
  Sub-series 1 - Alphabetical by correspondent
  Sub-series 2 - Alphabetical by subject
Series II: Family correspondence
Series III: Financial papers
  Sub-series 1 - Correspondence
  Sub-series 2 - Accounts, contracts, etc.
Series IV: Speeches
Series V: Clippings
Series VI: Printed material
Series VII: Visual materials
Series VIII: Ephemera
Series IX: Scripts
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON FRANCIS WILSON

Born in Philadelphia on February 7, 1854 to Charles Edwin and Emily Von Erdon Wilson, Francis Wilson began his theatrical career as a child in minstrel shows. “It may seem a little odd that a boy of Quaker forebears should have gravitated so early toward the stage. I was not older than eight or nine when I made my first appearance. I can explain it only on the theory that it was an overdue protest against the solemn repression suffered by generations of ancestors,” Wilson wrote in his 1924 autobiography, Francis Wilson’s Life of Himself (Houghton Mifflin Company, p. 33). He was soon the main breadwinner of his family.

Wilson made his debut on the legitimate stage at the Chestnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia in the 1878-79 season. For thirty-five years he was one of the best known and best loved of American comedians. His greatest success was as Cadeaux in Erminie. This operetta opened at the Casino Theatre in New York City in May 1886, ran for 1256 performances, had a long run on the road and was revived in 1921 with Wilson and his co-star, De Wolf Hopper, assuming again their famous roles.

In 1889 Wilson established his own production company, Francis Wilson and Company, and ran up against the Theatrical Syndicate, a trust trying to control theater bookings. Allied with other actor-managers including Joseph Jefferson, Richard Mansfield, Minnie Maddern Fiske and David Belasco, Wilson fought the Syndicate beginning in the 1896 season, but ultimately surrendered. This experience led the founders of Actors’ Equity Association to ask him to serve as the first president of the organization, a post he assumed in 1913. Frank Gillmore, one of the founders and a later president said, “No man was more responsible for the success of the Actors’ Equity Association than Francis Wilson… He was a notable actor, a fiery and logical speaker, and he was a man of independent means whose livelihood could not be destroyed by his assumption of the leadership of this movement.” (The New York Times, “Francis Wilson, 81, Noted Actor, Dead” Oct. 8, 1935.) In 1919, Wilson led the successful strike against the Producing Managers’ Association, a strike that involved 8 cities, closed 37 plays, and prevented the opening of 16 others. Most of the casts of the leading Broadway productions walked out. Equity won recognition as the bargaining agent for actors and eventually affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Wilson retired from the presidency in 1920, but was made president emeritus for life.

Wilson was also a writer and lecturer. He wrote books on Eugene Field, Joseph Jefferson, John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth as well as plays including The Bachelor’s Baby and his own reminiscences. Except for roles in the Players Club productions, Wilson made his last professional appearances in the title role of Rip Van Winkle and in The Rivals, both at the opening of the new Boston Repertory Theatre in 1925. His final appearance was in the Players Club revival of The Little Father of the Wilderness in 1930.
Wilson was married twice: first to Mira Barrie from 1881 until her death in 1915, then to the actress, Edna Bruns, from 1917 until his own death in 1935. He had four children, two daughters, Frances Barrie and Adelaide Craycroft, with his first wife and a son and daughter, Craycroft Francis and Margalo Francis, with his second. He had three homes: in New York City, Lake Mahopac, N.Y. and Clearwater, Florida. In Florida he was active in the Little Theatre movement where the Francis Wilson Little Theatre was named for him. Francis Wilson died of a heart attack at his home on Gramercy Park in New York City on October 7, 1935. He was 81 years old. At his request, he was buried in the Actors’ Fund Plot in Kensico, N.Y. under an epitaph he composed for himself: “Here lies the man who tried to free the actor.”

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence, speeches, accounts, clippings, scripts and other papers reflecting the personal and professional life of Francis Wilson. Wilson carried on an active correspondence with many contemporaries prominent in the theatrical or literary field. The large series of speeches illustrates his wide-ranging interests. There is material on the plays in which he appeared, especially Erminie, and information on his involvement with the Players Club, but there is very little material documenting his role as the first president of Actors’ Equity Association or the pivotal strike he led in 1919. The main political battle documented in these papers is Wilson’s efforts to keep child actors out from under the jurisdiction of state labor laws. The collection also sheds some light on Wilson’s family and his personal financial transactions.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I. Professional correspondence
   Sub-series 1: By correspondent, 1887-1935 and n.d. 115 folders 2+ boxes

The professional correspondence documents Wilson’s career as an actor, theater manager, dramatic author and activist for theater interests. The bulk of it is incoming letters arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Most are from colleagues in the theatrical or literary world or from Wilson’s publishers. Correspondents include Albert H. Canby, Minnie Maddern Fiske, Charles and Daniel Frohman, Edmund H. Garrett, Frank Gillmore, Arthur F. Goodrich, J. Cheever Goodwin, Ferris Greenslet, Walter
Hampden, Frank E. Hopkins, E. W. Kemble, William Seymour, Louis Evan Shipman, Otis Skinner, and Leon H. Vincent, among others. Also includes a small amount of incomplete letters, letters from unidentified correspondents, third party correspondence and one folder of letters by Wilson.

Sub-series 2: By subject, 1893-1940 13 folders in 1 box

Subject arrangement was maintained in the instances when it seemed to reflect the original order of the papers. Topics are: child labor laws being applied to child actors, a situation Wilson campaigned against ca. 1910-1912 and his popular play, Erminie. The stage child material includes a series of letters Wilson wrote to his first wife while he was in New Orleans lobbying for a bill to exempt stage children from the state’s labor laws, some of his letters to the editor on the subject and printed reports. The Erminie correspondence reflects the struggle over the rights to perform it and fan mail, especially during the 1921 revival. This series also contains one folder of correspondence and notes on the publication of Wilson’s book on John Wilkes Booth.

Series II. Family correspondence, 1920-1958 7 folders

This series is predominately the correspondence of Wilson’s second wife, Edna Bruns Wilson. It includes correspondence between husband and wife, personal letters from third parties and letters of condolence she received on the death of her husband. It also contains her correspondence with lawyers, real estate agents and insurance companies on Wilson’s property and estate after his death. There is also one folder of correspondence of other Wilson family members, mostly his children Craycroft and Margalo.

Series III. Financial papers

Sub-series 1: Correspondence, 1888-1930 2 folders

The financial papers reflect primarily Wilson’s personal affairs rather than his professional relations. The correspondence consists of incoming letters on non-theatrical financial matters and some receipts. One folder contains the letters, notes and receipts that were folded up inside Wilson’s bound account book.

Sub-series 2: Accounts, contracts, etc., 1889-1939 6 folders and 1 volume

This series contains accounts, some in notebooks, of properties, insurance policies, production expenses and dealings with individuals. It also contains certificates of copyright, a contract for Erminie [1920], a few box office statements and a partial inventory of the contents of the living room of The Hill, Wilson’s house in Lake Mahopac, NY.
Series IV. Speeches, 1893-1932 and n.d.  

This series includes manuscript and typescript drafts for speeches, as well as notes, fragments and partial speeches. It is arranged alphabetically by topic or title. Includes speeches given before the Actors’ Equity Association and the Players Club, opening night speeches at the 1893 revival of *Erminie* and at the opening of the Repertory Theatre of Boston, and his *Rip Van Winkle* speech made nightly in Boston in 1925. Other topics include the issue of child labor law as it pertains to stage children, various subjects of his research such as Eugene Field and Joseph Jefferson, and liberty bonds and theater’s contribution to the war effort during World War I. Wilson also spoke at honorary dinners for fellow actors, at graduations and gave miscellaneous addresses on topics such as laughter.

Series V. Clippings, 1875-1935 and n.d.  

This series documents the various aspects of Wilson’s career. It begins with clippings on Wilson’s career overall, from “Early scrapbook – Chestnut St. Theatre, Philadelphia, etc.” to more general, non-specified clippings. Clippings of reviews of many of the plays in which he appeared, especially *Erminie*, and on his writings, including his book, *John Wilkes Booth*, and his play, *The Bachelor’s Baby*, are arranged alphabetically by title. Also arranged in the alphabetical sequence are clippings on his political work with the Actors’ Equity Association and on the issue of child labor as it pertains to stage children. The clippings of writings and speeches by Wilson published in newspapers follow and then his obituaries, a good source of biographical information. Miscellaneous clippings found with the papers are at the end of the series. Some of the clippings were pasted into scrapbooks, but now all of the material has been photocopied onto acid-free paper.

Series VI. Printed material, 1881-1926 and n.d.  

Printed material is arranged in the following order. First, a libretto and a sheet music cover for *Erminie*, then theater programs for shows in which Wilson appeared and usually starred, programs for addresses given by Wilson, cast lists photocopied from programs, and finally, a souvenir program for the Woman’s Titanic Memorial at the Century Theatre, December 6, 1912. This last contains a photograph of Wilson as well as of many of the other well-known actors who participated.
Series VII. Visual materials, 1910-1928 and n.d. 2 folders

One folder contains photographs of Francis Wilson, most cut from newspapers and magazines. Also includes photos of one of his homes and some of his family members. The other folder contains drawings of Wilson and some other actors in costume for various roles as well as the drawing of an unidentified country home.

Series VIII. Ephemera, 1893-1940 and n.d. 2 folders

One folder contains poems, most written about or in honor of Francis Wilson, some are anonymous. Includes poems by Eugene Field to Francis Wilson and to De Witt Miller and a poem written to honor Field. The other folder contains bookplates, membership cards, an auction catalog [1940] of Rare Books, Autographs, and Manuscripts “comprising the library collected by the late Francis Wilson, Actor – Bibliophile,” and a few miscellaneous scraps.

Series IX. Scripts, 1897-1921 and n.d. 9 folders

The scripts series consists of three typescripts of Erminie, two containing revisions, some in the hand of Francis Wilson, the third with annotations in an unknown hand; two handwritten scripts: The Inventor and The Monks of Malabar, in Wilson’s hand; two annotated typescripts for plays in which Wilson appeared: The Mountain Climbers and When Knights Were Bold with revisions in an unknown hand; an actor’s side with Wilson’s handwritten notes for the part of David in Robert Brinsley Sheridan’s The Rivals; and a typescript for the play Robert Macaire stamped property of Arthur W. Tams Musical Library. Wilson had extensive dealings with this organization so the script, an early version of the Erminie story, may have come to be in his possession. All the scripts were removed from the papers sometime after their arrival in the Library so provenance is not clear in all cases.
**Series I: Professional Correspondence**

**Sub-Series 1 - By Correspondent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence &quot;A-C&quot;, 1893-1931</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1910 / W. G. Barron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1923-1924 / Sidney Blackmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1921-1927 / Edward William Bok.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1924 / Will Bradley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1917-1934 / Albert H. Canby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1924 / Henrietta Crosman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence &quot;D-F&quot;, 1892-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1927-1931 / Roy Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1927-1929 / Malcolm Duncan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 11</td>
<td>Correspondence / Minnie Maddern Fiske.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 12</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1893 / Clyde Fitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1904-1906 / Charles Frohman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 14</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1922-1932 / Daniel Frohman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 15</td>
<td>Correspondence &quot;G-H&quot;, 1888-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 16</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1891-1896 / Edmund Henry Garrett.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 17</td>
<td>Correspondence / William Gillette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 18</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1915-1929 / Frank Gillmore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 19</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1900 / Lulu Glaser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 20</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1922-1927 / Arthur Frederick Goodrich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 21</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1889-1901 / J. Cheever (John Cheever) Goodwin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 22</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1924-1925 / Ferris Greenslet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 23</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1892-1902 / Grolier Club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 24</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1921-1923 / Edwina Booth Grossman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 25</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1888 / Pauline Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 26</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1927-1928 / Clayton Meeker Hamilton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 27</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1919-1927 / Walter Hampden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 28</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1915-1916 / Alf Hayman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 29</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1906 / George V. (George Vere) Hobart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 30-31</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1893-1897 / Frank Easton Hopkins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 32</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1889 / De Wolf Hopper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 33</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1928 / W. T. Horne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 34</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1921 / Harry Houdini.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 35</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1921-1925 / Houghton Mifflin Company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 36</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1906 / William Dean Howells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 37</td>
<td>Correspondence &quot;I-L&quot;, 1889-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 38</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1916-1917 / J. B. Pond Lyceum Bureau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 39</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1897-1900 / Joseph Jefferson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, folder 40</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1921-1922 / H. F. Jenkins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, folder 41  Correspondence, 1925 / Henry Jewett.
Box 1, folder 42  Correspondence, 1905 / Henry Arthur Jones.
Box 2, folder 1  Correspondence, 1931-1935 / Daniel Kearns.
Box 2, folder 2  Correspondence, 1924 / Ian Keith.
Box 2, folder 3  Correspondence, 1903 / E. W. (Edward Windsor) Kemble.
Box 2, folder 4  Correspondence, 1924 / Lucille La Verne.
Box 2, folder 5  Correspondence, 1927 / Eva Le Gallienne.
Box 2, folder 6  Correspondence, 1901-1921 / Richard Le Gallienne.
Box 2, folder 7  Correspondence, 1930 / L. Brooks Leavitt.
Box 2, folder 8  Correspondence, 1894-1930 / Paul Lemperly.
Box 2, folder 9  Correspondence, 1889 / Frederick Leslie.
Box 2, folder 10  Correspondence, 1914 / Ben B. (Ben Barr) Lindsey.
Box 2, folder 11  Correspondence, 1925 / John H. Love.
Box 2, folder 12  Correspondence, 1892-1912 / Paul Hyacinth Loyton.
Box 2, folder 13  Correspondence, 1924 / Alfred Lunt.
Box 2, folder 14  Correspondence "M-O", 1890-1934
Box 2, folder 15  Correspondence, 1931 / Percy MacKaye.
Box 2, folder 16  Correspondence, 1927 / Beatrice Mansfield.
Box 2, folder 17  Correspondence, 1928 / Genevieve Hamper.
Box 2, folder 18  Correspondence, 1893 / John B. Mason.
Box 2, folder 19  Correspondence, 1895-1898 / DeWitt Miller.
Box 2, folder 20  Correspondence, 1902-1920 / Edward Sylvester Morse.
Box 2, folder 21  Correspondence, 1923-1924 / Montrose Jonas Moses.
Box 2, folder 22  Correspondence, 1928 / Fred Niblo.
Box 2, folder 23  Correspondence, 1924 / Nance O'Neil.
Box 2, folder 24  Correspondence "P-R", 1897-1931
Box 2, folder 25  Correspondence, 1922-1935 / James Pedersen.
Box 2, folder 26  Correspondence, 1919-1921 / George Hough Perry.
Box 2, folder 27  Correspondence, 1924 / John S. (John Sanburn) Phillips.
Box 2, folder 28  Correspondence, 1922 / Mary Pickford.
Box 2, folder 29  Correspondence, 1888-1924 / Players.
Box 2, folder 30  Correspondence, 1905 / Paul M. (Paul Meredith) Potter.
Box 2, folder 31  Correspondence / Fanny Rice.
Box 2, folder 32  Correspondence, 1887-1923 / Sydney Rosenfeld.
Box 2, folder 33  Correspondence, 1922 / Lillian Russell.
Box 2, folder 34  Correspondence "S-T", 1893-1932
Box 2, folder 35  Correspondence, 1906 / Augustus Saint-Gaudens.
Box 2, folder 36  Correspondence, 1900-1915 / Charles Scribner's Sons.
Box 2, folder 37  Correspondence, 1922-1931 / William Gorman Seymour.
Box 2, folder 38  Correspondence, 1922 / Mary Shaw.
Box 2, folder 39  Correspondence, 1921 / James Shields.
Box 2, folder 40  Correspondence, 1922-1929 / Louis Evan Shipman.
Box 2, folder 41  Correspondence, 1920-1933 / Otis Skinner.
Box 2, folder 42  Correspondence, 1901 / Harry Bache Smith.
Box 2, folder 43  Correspondence, 1913-1932 / E. H. (Edward Hugh) Sothern.
Box 2, folder 44  Correspondence, 1892-1922 / John Philip Sousa.
| Box 2, folder 45 | Correspondence, 1922 / Austin Strong. |
| Box 2, folder 46 | Correspondence, 1924 / Harry Stubbs. |
| Box 2, folder 47 | Correspondence, 1924 / Basil Sydney. |
| Box 2, folder 48 | Correspondence, 1922 / Conway Tearle. |
| Box 2, folder 49 | Correspondence, 1935 / Charles H. Teeter. |
| Box 2, folder 50 | Correspondence, 1915-1923 / Augustus Thomas. |
| Box 2, folder 51 | Correspondence, 1927 / J. Ranken (John Ranken) Towse. |
| Box 2, folder 52 | Correspondence, 1923-1931 / Frank Tucker. |
| Box 2, folder 53 | Correspondence, 1922-1934 / Paul N. Turner. |
| Box 2, folder 54 | Correspondence, 1920-1923 / George Crouse Tyler. |
| Box 2, folder 55 | Correspondence "U-Z", 1905-1930 |
| Box 2, folder 56 | Correspondence, 1925-1930 / Edward S. (Edward Sims) Van Zile. |
| Box 2, folder 57 | Correspondence, 1914-1924 / Leon H. (Leon Henry) Vincent. |
| Box 2, folder 58 | Correspondence, 1920-1924 / M. Leon Walker. |
| Box 2, folder 59 | Correspondence, 1906 / David Warfield. |
| Box 2, folder 60 | Correspondence, 1927 / Hy S. Watson. |
| Box 2, folder 62 | Correspondence, 1928 / Peggy Weaver. |
| Box 2, folder 63 | Correspondence / Charles B. Wells. |
| Box 3, folder 1 | Correspondence, 1908 / Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin. |
| Box 3, folder 2 | Correspondence, 1919 / Andrew H. Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 3 | Correspondence, 1920 / Tom Wise. |
| Box 3, folder 4 | Correspondence, 1922-1924 / Peggy Wood. |
| Box 3, folder 5 | Correspondence, 1925 / Sam Wren. |
| Box 3, folder 6 | Letters from unidentified correspondents, 1903-1934 |
| Box 3, folder 7 | Letters, incomplete, 1893-1925 |
| Box 3, folder 8 | Correspondence, 1902-1929 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 9 | Third party correspondence, 1888-1921 |
| Box 3, folder 10 | Third party correspondence, 1918 |

**Sub-Series 2: By Subject.**

| Box 3, folder 11 | Correspondence, 1927-1929 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 12 | Child labor and children on the stage files, 1910-1912 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 13 | Correspondence, 1911 / Francis Wilson |
| Box 3, folder 14 | Correspondence, 1912 / Francis Wilson |
| Box 3, folder 15 | Child labor and children on the stage files, 1910-1915 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 16 | Child labor and children on the stage files, 1912 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 17 | Child labor and children on the stage files, 1909-1912 / Francis Wilson. |
| Box 3, folder 18 | *Erminie* correspondence, 1/2/1921-1/6/1921 |
| Box 3, folder 19 | *Erminie* correspondence, 1920-1921 |
| Box 3, folder 20 | *Erminie* correspondence, 1893-1930 |
| Box 3, folder 21 | Correspondence, 1900-1934 / Tams-Witmark Musical Library. |
| Box 3, folder 22 | Correspondence, 1936-1940 / Tams-Witmark Musical Library. |
| Box 3, folder 23 | Correspondence, 1924-1934 / Francis Wilson. |
Series II: Family Correspondence

Box 3, folder 24  Family correspondence, 1921-1937 / Francis Wilson.
Box 3, folder 25  Correspondence, 1924-1932 / Francis Wilson.
Box 3, folder 26  Correspondence, 1920-1924 / Edna Bruns.
Box 3, folder 27  Family correspondence, 1935-1937 / Francis Wilson.
Box 3, folder 28  Family correspondence, 1936-1939 / Francis Wilson.
Box 3, folder 29  Correspondence, 1936-1939 / Edna Bruns.
Box 3, folder 30  Family correspondence, 1920-1958 / Francis Wilson.

Series III: Financial Papers

Sub-Series 1 - Correspondence.

Box 3, folder 31  Financial correspondence, 1888-1930
Box 3, folder 32  Financial correspondence, 1889-1910

Sub-Series 2 - Accounts, contracts, etc.

Box 3, folder 33  Account books, 1919 / Francis Wilson.
Box 3, folder 34  Account books / Francis Wilson.
Box 4  Account books, 1887-1911 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 1  Contracts, 1920 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 2  Box office statements, 1921 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 3  Copyright registrations, 1889-1920 / Francis Wilson.

Series IV: Speeches

Box 5, folder 4  Actors' Equity Association speeches, 1918-1920 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 5  Actors' Equity Association speeches, 4/20/1919 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 6  Actors' Equity Association speeches, 4/19/1923 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 7-9  Actors' Equity Association speeches / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 10  Address to graduates of American Academy of Dramatic Arts, 3/19/1907 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 11  Speech on John Wilkes Booth / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 12  Speech delivered at Chautauqua, 8/20/1910 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 13-17  Speeches on child labor / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 18  Address at China Club, 2/14/1923 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 19  Speech in honor of George M. Cohan, 11/9/1930 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 20  Speeches on Erminie, 10/3/1893 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 21  Speeches on Erminie, 1920-1921 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 22  Speeches on Erminie / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 23  Speeches for Eveready Hour (Radio program), 9/28/1926 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 24  Speech on Eugene Field, 8/1925 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 25  Speech at Daniel Frohman tribute dinner, 11/30/1930 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 26  Speech at Walter Hampden dinner, 1/12/1919 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 27  Speech to high school graduates, 6/28/1893 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 28  Speech on De Wolf Hopper / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 29  Speech on Joseph Jefferson / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 30  Speeches on laughter / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 31  Speech on Eva Le Gallienne's theater / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 32  Speeches on Liberty Bonds, 1918 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 33  Speech on Thomas Paine / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 34  Speech before the Philadelphia People's Theater Committee, 11/14/1929 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 35  Speeches on the Players Club, 6/7/1930 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 36-37  Speeches on the Players Club / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 38  The psychological moment to speak / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 39  Speeches made when appearing at the Repertory Theatre of Boston / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 40  Rip Van Winkle speech, 11/1925 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 41  The rivals speech, 5/7/1923 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 42  Rollins College speech, 3/29/1932 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 43  Sothern-Marlowe speech, 5/7/1916 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 44  Speech on John Philip Sousa / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 45  The theatre's contribution to the war, 5/19/1918 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 46  The Theatrical Syndicate speech, 2/11/1914 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 47  World War I speech, 1918 / Francis Wilson.
Box 5, folder 48  Speech on receiving an honorary doctorate, 6/17/1929 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 4-5  Speeches / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 4  Notes / Francis Wilson.

Series V: Clippings

Box 6, folder 5  Early scrapbook: Chestnut St. Theater, Philadelphia, etc, 1878-1889 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 6  Clippings, 1875-1934 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 7  Clippings, 1920-1927 / Actors' Equity Association.
Box 6, folder 8  The bachelor's baby, 1911 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 9  John Wilkes Booth: fact and fiction of Lincoln's assassination, 1929 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 10  Clippings on stage children and child labor laws, 1910-1911
Box 6, folder 11  The devil's deputy / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 6, folder 12  Erminie (Operetta), 1886-1923 / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 6, folder 13  The lion tamer, 1892 / Richard Stahl.
Box 6, folder 14  Little father of the wilderness, 1930 / Austin Strong.
Box 6, folder 15  The merry monarch (Operetta) / Woolson Morse.
Box 6, folder 16  The oolah, 1889-1890 / Charles Lecocq.
Box 6, folder 17  Clippings, 1925 / Repertory Theatre of Boston.
Box 6, folder 18  The rivals, 1923 / Richard Brinsley Sheridan.
Box 6, folder 19  School for scandal, 1923 / Richard Brinsley Sheridan.
Box 6, folder 20  Writings, 1890-1925 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 21  Obituaries, 1935 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 22  Miscellaneous clippings, 1905-1928

Series VI: Printed Material

Box 6, folder 23  *Erminie* (Operetta), 1887-1921 / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 6, folder 24  Programs, 1881-1921 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 25  Programs, 1917-1926 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 26  Programs, 1883-1899 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 27  Program, 12/6/1912 / Woman's Titanic Memorial Association.

Series VII: Visual Materials

Box 6, folder 28  Photographs, 1910-1918 / Francis Wilson.
Box 6, folder 29  Drawings, 1921-1928 / Francis Wilson.

Series VIII: Ephemera

Box 6, folder 30  Poetry written for Francis Wilson, 1893-1922
Box 6, folder 31  Ephemera, 1920-1940 / Francis Wilson.

Series IX: Scripts

Box 7, folder 1  *Erminie* (Operetta) / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 7, folder 2  *Erminie* (Operetta), 8/1921 / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 7, folder 3  *Erminie* (Operetta) / Edward Jakobowski.
Box 7, folder 4  *The inventor*, 1900 / Francis Wilson.
Box 8, folder 1  *The monks of Malabar*, 11/23/1897 / Francis Wilson.
Box 8, folder 2  *The mountain climber* / Curt Kraatz.
Box 8, folder 3  *The mountain climber* / Curt Kraatz.
Box 8, folder 4  *The rivals* / Richard Brinsley Sheridan.
Box 8, folder 5  *Robert Macaire* / Charles Selby.
Box 8, folder 6  *When knights were bold* / Charles Marlowe.