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THE BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION**

**J. A. (JOHN ALLAN) PARTINGTON, 1890-1944  
PAPERS, 1924-1931**

**\*T-Mss 1991-006  
MER 9/91**

MAIN ENTRY: J.A. (JOHN ALLAN) PARTINGTON, 1890-1944

TITLE: Papers, 1924-1931

SIZE: 1.75 lin.ft.; 5 boxes

ACCESS: Unrestricted

SOURCE: Unknown

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT: J.A. Partington was a producer, inventor and stage manager.

DESCRIPTION: The papers of J.A. Partington contain virtually complete production notes for the weekly stage presentations of San Francisco's Granada Theatre for the years 1926-1927. After this the papers reflect his change of employment to Publix Theatres Corporation and the papers included production files for the Paramount Theatres in both New York and Los Angeles. Photographs of the weekly productions are included for almost all shows. Missing are materials from Partington's career at the Roxy Theatre in New York City.

## J. A. PARTINGTON PAPERS INTRODUCTION

The J. A. Partington Papers were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection by an unknown source. Materials were in poor condition. Photographs were often faded and spotty. Manuscript materials appeared to have been wet at some time and were in many cases fused together and moldy. In these instances, materials were xeroxed and the originals discarded. Individual issues of the Publix Theatres Corp. newsletter, Publix Opinion were sent to conservation for encapsulation.

*"Moonlit Waters", "Havana", "Hulla Blues", and "Hey! Hey!"* materials were donated to The Billy Rose Theatre Collection by Jeanne B. Partington in 1990 and were integrated into The J.A. Partington Papers in 1994.

NOTE: Billy Rose Theatre Collection Cage File contains the opening night program for the Granada Theatre in San Francisco. Also included is a dinner menu from a testimonial for J. A. Partington.

## ARRANGEMENT NOTES

The J. A. Partington Papers are arranged in two series. They are: I. J. A. Partington Productions; II. Publix Theatres Corp. Productions; III. Musical Scores and Sheet Music

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON J. A. PARTINGTON

J.A. Partington was a producer, inventor and stage manager. Born on the Isle of Man in 1890, he and his family emigrated to California when he was five. Partington produced stage shows which were performed before featured films for the Granada and Metropolitan Theatres in San Francisco and later for the Publix Theatre Corp. Partington is best known for his invention of the rising orchestra pit and the disappearing footlights. Partington produced the stage shows for the Roxy Theatre for Fanchon & Marco until his death. He died in New York City in 1944.

## SCOPE NOTE

The J. A. Partington papers span the years 1924-1931 and consist of photographs, production notes, and in some cases, stage plans and scores of his productions at the Granada Theatre in San Francisco and his productions for the Publix Theatres Corporation primarily for the Paramount Theatre in Los Angeles and the Paramount Theatre in New York City. There are some issues of *Publix Opinion*, the house newsletter of the Publix Theatres Corporation. There are no materials from Partington's career at the Roxy Theatre in New York.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

**Series I: J. A. Partington Productions, 1924-1927** .4 lin. ft.  
arranged chronologically

Weekly production notes and photographs from the Granada Theatre in San Francisco. Production notes include plot descriptions, cast lists, music and lighting cues. There are also some files from the Metropolitan Theatre in San Francisco.

**Series II: Publix Theatres Corp. Productions, 1927-1931** .8 lin.ft.  
arranged chronologically

Weekly production notes and photographs primarily from the Paramount Theatre in Los Angeles. There are some files from the Paramount Theatre in New York City and other Publix Theatres in New Orleans and New Have. Also included are issues of *Publix Opinion*, the newsletter of the Publix Theatres Corporation, some clippings, programmes and correspondence.

**Series III: Musical Scores and Sheet Music.** .5 lin.ft.  
arranged alphabetically

Handwritten scores for individual productions of the Granada Theatre. There are approximately 20 selections.

J. A. PARTINGTON PAPERS  
Container Listing  
\*T-Mss 1991-006

**SERIES I - J. A. PARTINGTON PRODUCTIONS**

**BOX NO. 1**

Folder No.

1	Granada Theatre -	<i>Return of Paul Ash</i> (6/28/1924)
2		<i>20 Minutes in the Limehouse District</i> (11/22/1924)
3		<i>Charleston on the bowery</i> (9/26/1925)
4		<i>Red Hot Revue</i> (11/7/1925)
5		<i>Irving Berlin Revue</i> (1/16/1926)
6		<i>In Dutch</i> (3/20/1926)
7		<i>Hello Hawaii</i> (3/20/1926;3/27/1926)
8		<i>Jazz Week</i> (4/3/1926)
9		<i>Blossoms</i> (4/10/1926)
10		<i>The Jazz Grab Bag</i> (4/17/1926)
11		<i>A Novelty Revue</i> (4/24/1926)
12		<i>Banjomania</i> (5/1/1926)
13		<i>May Days</i> (5/8/1926)
14		<i>The Kit Kat Revue</i> (5/15/1926)
15		<i>Black &amp; White Jazz Revue</i> (5/22/1926)
16		<i>Lanterns</i> (5/29/1926)
17		<i>A Novelty Revue</i> (6/5/1926)
18		<i>Xylophonia</i> (6/12/1926)
19		<i>Demi Tasse Revue</i> (6/19/1926)
20		<i>Spanish Follies</i> (6/26/1926)
21		<i>St. Louis Hop</i> (7/3/1926)
22		<i>Talking to the Moon</i> (7/10/1926)
23		<i>Steppin' High</i> (7/17/1926)
24		<i>Rays of Sunshine</i> (7/24/1926)
25		<i>Nothing but Hits</i> (7/31/1926)
26		<i>Up in the Clouds</i> (8/7/1926)
27		<i>Down on the Farm</i> (8/14/1926)
28		<i>Happy Go Lucky</i> (8/21/1926)
29		<i>So This Is Venice</i> (8/28/1926)
30		<i>Pep Week</i> (9/11/1926)
31		<i>Purple and Gold Revue</i> (9/18/1926)
32		<i>Bits from Broadway</i> (9/25/1926)
33		<i>Russian Revels</i> (10/2/1926)
34		<i>Joy Week</i> (10/9/1926)

35		<i>Radio Revue</i> (10/16/1926)
36		<i>Dancing Around</i> (10/30/1926)
37		<i>Jazz A La Carte</i> (11/6/1926)
38		<i>Way Down South</i> (11/13/1926)
39		<i>Rah-Rah-Rah</i> (11/20/1926)

**BOX NO. 2**

Folder No.

1	Granada Theatre -	<i>Gypsy Follies</i> (11/27/1926)
2		<i>Anniversary Week</i> (12/4/1926)
3		<i>For No Reason At All</i> (12/11/1926)
4		<i>Xmas Follies</i> (12/18/1926)
5		<i>A Spicy Surprise</i> (12/25/1926)
6		<i>Jazz Mannequins</i> (1/8/1927)
7		<i>Radiana</i> (1/15/1927)
8		<i>January Varieties</i> (1/22/1927)
9		<i>Marching Thru Jazzland</i> (1/29/1927)
10		<i>A Trip to the Moon</i> (2/12/1927)
11		<i>Four Leaf Clovers</i> (2/19/1927)
12		<i>Smart Bits from Hits</i> (2/26/1927)
13		<i>The Doll Dance</i> (3/4/1927)
14		<i>Spanish Follies</i> (3/5/1927)
15		<i>Wedding Bells</i> (3/12/1927)
16		<i>Yankee Rose</i> (3/19/1927)
17		<i>Isle of Paradise</i> (3/26/1927)
18		<i>Way Out West</i> (3/30/1927)
19		<i>Recreation Revue</i> (4/6/1927)
20		<i>Pianomania</i> (4/9/1927)
21		<i>Novelties</i> (4/16/1927)
22		<i>Opera vs. Jazz</i> (4/24/1927)
23		<i>Way Out West</i> (4/30/1927)
24		<i>Carnival Follies</i> (5/7/1927)
25		<i>The Paramount Revue</i> (5/14/1927)
26		<i>Sailing On</i> (5/21/1927)
27		<i>Sunshine and Rain</i> (5/28/1927)
28		Miscellaneous Materials & Photographs
29	Metropolitan Theatre -	<i>Hello Hawaii</i> (4/9/1926)
30		<i>Jazz Week</i> (4/16/1926)
31		<i>Rays of Sunshine</i> (8/6/1926)
32		<i>Way Down South</i> (11/26/1926)

**SERIES II - PUBLIX THEATRES CORPORATION PRODUCTIONS**

**BOX NO. 3**

Folder No.

1	Paramount (NY) -	<i>Way Out West</i> (8/27/1927)
2		<i>Dixieland</i> (10/8/1927)
3		<i>Florida Frolics</i> (10/22/1927)
4		<i>Moonlit Waters</i> (11/5/1927)
5		<i>Russian Revels</i> (12/24/1927)
6	Olympia (CT)	<i>Steps and Steppers</i> (1/27/1928)
7	Paramount (NY)	<i>Welcome Sophie</i> (2/4/1928)
8		<i>Hula Blues</i> (3/3/1928)
9		<i>Hey! Hey!</i> (3/24/1928)
10	Paramount (L.A.)	<i>Martha</i> (12/11/1930)
11		<i>The Peanut Vendor</i> (12/18/1930)
12		<i>Mitzi Green Setting</i> (12/18/1930)
13		<i>Yuletide Fantasia</i> (12/25/1930)
14		<i>Musical Echoes</i> (1/22/1931)
15		<i>Fighting Caravans</i> (1/29/1931;2/4/1931)
16		<i>Operatic Impressions</i> (2/5/1931)
17		<i>Valentine Impressions</i> (2/12/1931)
18		<i>Regimental Impressions</i> (2/19/1931)
19		<i>Castillian Impressions</i> (3/5/1931)
20		Max Fisher & the Mayfair Band (3/26/1931)
21		<i>Camino Real</i> (3/26/1931)
22		<i>K.H.J. Radio Follies</i> (4/16/1931)
23		<i>Siamese Impressions</i> (4/23/1931)
24		Lina Basquette (5/7/1931)
25		<i>Dude Ranch</i> (5/14/1931)
26		<i>Girls - Just - Girls</i> (5/28/1931)
27	Paramount (L.A.)	<i>Syncopated Rhythm and Black and White Impressions</i> (6/4/1931)
28		<i>Fantasia Russe Impression &amp; A Kiss in the Dark</i> (6/11/1931)
29		<i>Manhattan Nights</i> (6/18/1931)
30		<i>Happy Tunes Overture</i> (6/25/1931)
31		Bubbles Impressions & Conchita Montenegro in person (7/2/1931)
32		<i>Round the World Revue</i> (7/9/1931)
33		<i>Broadway Stars</i> (7/16/1931)
34		<i>Limehouse Nights</i> (7/23/1931)
35		<i>Garden of Youth</i> (7/31/1931)
36		<i>Oh Teacher</i> (8/6/1931)

37		<i>Three Long weeks and Three Blues</i> (8/13/1931)
38		<i>Gypsy Overture and Drive In and Smile</i> (8/20/1931)
39		<i>How Talkies are Made</i> (9/3/1931)
40		<i>La Fiesta Impressions</i> (9/3/1931)
41		<i>Clown Topics</i> (9/10/1931)
42		<i>Syncopated Street Scene</i> (9/17/1931)
43		<i>Dames and Doughboys</i> (9/24/1931)
44		<i>A Night at the Coconut Grove</i> (10/1/1931)
45		<i>Marchin' on</i> [n.d.]
46		<i>Havana</i> [n.d.]
47	Publix Theatres Corp. -	<i>Oysters</i> (Script)
48		Clippings
49		Correspondence
50		Lyrics
51		Programme (3/2/1927)
52	The Art or Business of Personality Leadership and Master of Ceremonies	by Ben Black

## **OVERSIZED MATERIALS**

### ***BOX NO 4***

#### Publix Opinion

Vol. II -	No. 1 (10/31/27)
	No. 6 (12/31/27)
	No. 9 (1/21/28)
	No.11 (2/4/28)
	No.13 (2/18/28)



**SERIES III - MUSICAL SCORES AND SHEET MUSIC**  
**BOX NO. 5**

Item No.

1. *Alegrias*
2. *Armistice Medley*
3. *Banjo March*
4. *British Fleet Opening* (July 5,1924)
5. *C'est Vous (It's You)*
6. *Chinese Medley*
7. *Coffee Dan Song*
8. *Come On Let's Step*
9. *Finale*
10. *Frontier of the Stars*
11. *Gonna Get A Girl*
12. *Grand Opera vs. Jazz*
13. *Hello K.C.*
14. *In Dutch*
15. *Melody Shop*
16. *Miscellaneous Prologues*
17. *Opening Dance*
18. *Opera vs. Jazz*
19. *The Spaniard Who Blighted My Life*
20. *Spanish Dance*
21. *When You Wore A Tulip and Tulip Time*