MS-037: The Papers of Richard A. Arms

Description
This collection represents an interesting variety of research materials in the area of theatre arts. The majority of the plays in Series I date to the midnineteenth century and include details from professional productions of the time. Series II contains playbills from numerous Broadway shows, many from the original productions, as well as souvenir books from famous turn-of-the-century actors. Series III consists of the promptbooks of shows produced in the 1970's by the Players Repertory Theatre of Harrisburg, PA, of which Anthony Arms, a nephew of Richard Arms, was a member.

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Keywords
Theatre Arts, Owl and Nightingale, theater, Broadway, playbills, theatre history

Disciplines
Cultural History | History | Social History | Theatre and Performance Studies | Theatre History
Guide to the
The Papers of Richard A. Arms

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Processed by Jennifer Chesney
August 2002
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Provenance: Musselman Library received the Richard A. Arms Collection from the estate of Anthony Arms.

Biography: Richard A. Arms arrived at Gettysburg College in 1920 at the age of 27, as head of the Mathematics Department. Having received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Arms spent the next 43 years imparting his knowledge of both Mathematics and his love of theatre arts to the student body on campus.

Arms' love of the theatre was noted early and encouraged on the college campus. In 1921 he was invited to serve as the director of dramatics. In 1924, he reorganized the Owl and Nightingale Players, leading them to take first place at the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Drama Contest in 1925. In 1935, upon the recommendation of President Hanson, he was listed officially as Director of Dramatics-a position he held until his retirement in 1963. While at Gettysburg he produced over 200 plays and taught courses in Theatre Appreciation and Play Production that boasted enrollments of 90 students.

In addition to his contributions in the Theatre Arts, Arms was a member of the American Mathematical Society as well as the Mathematical Association of America. He served on the Athletic Council and coordinated the ROTC preflight school. The 1924 yearbook was dedicated to him, and the Green Room of Brua Hall was named in his memory. In 1964, Richard Arms suffered a heart attack and died in New York City.

Series Description: The collection is divided into three series: I. Published plays; II. Playbills and Souvenir Books; and, III. Promptbooks from plays produced by Richard Arms' nephew Anthony.

Scope and Content: This collection represents an interesting variety of research materials in the area of theatre arts. The majority of the plays in Series I date to the mid-nineteenth century and include details from professional productions of the time. Series II contains playbills from numerous Broadway shows, many from the original productions, as well as souvenir books from famous turn-of-the-century actors. Series III consists of the promptbooks of shows produced in the 1970's by the Players Repertory Theatre of Harrisburg, PA, of which Anthony Arms, a nephew of Richard Arms, was a member.
1/1 -- As You Like It


1/2 -- As You Like It

Shakespeare, William, "As You Like It: a Comedy in Five Acts, with the Stage Business, Casts of Characters, Costumes, relative positions, etc." New York: Samuel French, 186-

1/3 -- Betsy Baker; or Too Attentive by Half


1/4 -- Bill the Coachman; or, A Couple of Curious Courtships


1/5 -- The Black Crook

Paulton, Harry, "The Black Crook; A Grand Spectacular Fairy Opera/ by Harry Paulton, Founded on 'La Biche Au Bois.'"

1/6 -- A Breach of Promise

Robertson, T.W., "A Breach of Promise; an Extravagant Comic Drama in Two Acts. Adapted from 'Les amours de Cleopatre.'" New York: De Witt, 187-

1/7 -- David Copperfield

Brougham, John, "David Copperfield: A Drama in Two Acts, Adapted from Dicken's Popular Work of the Same Name. By John Brougham, Esq. With Cast of Characters, Stage Business, Costumes, Relative Positions, etc. etc.." New York: Samuel French, 185-

J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

1/8 -- Elopement
London, New York: Samuel French, 1880?
light annotation

1/9 -- Elopement


1/10 -- Family Album

Coward, Noel, "Family Album: A Victorian Comedy with Music from 'Tonight at 8:30.'" New York: Samuel French, 1938.
Director's Copy -- Heavily annotated

1/11 -- Fanchon, the Cricket

Waldauer, Augustus, "Fanchon, the Cricket: A Domestic Drama, in Five Acts, from a tale of Georges Sand. Translated from the German by Aug. Waldauer. To which are added a description of the costume, cast of characters, entrances and exits, relative positions of the performers on the stage, and the whole of the stage business. As now performed at the principal English and American Theatres." New York: Samuel French, 1862?
J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

1/12 -- A Fisherman's Luck

light annotation

1/13 -- Floradora

light annotation

1/14 -- Furnished Apartments

light annotation

1/15 -- Guy Mannering: or, the Gipsey’s Prophecy
New York: Samuel French, 186-

1/16 -- Ici on Parle Français


1/17 -- Ingomar, the Barbarian

Lovell, Maria, "Ingomar, the Barbarian; a Play in Five Acts; translated from the German, and Adapted to the English Stage."
New York: Samuel French, (n.d.)
light annotation; J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

1/18 -- The Innkeeper of Abbeville

Fitzball, Edward, "The Innkeeper of Abbeville, or, the Ostler and the Robber: a Drama in Two Acts. By Edward Fitz-Ball; printed from the Acting copy, with remarks biographical and critical by D.-G. to which are added, A Description of the Costumes, Cast of the Characters, Entrances and Exits, Relative Positions of the Performers on the Stage, and the whole of the Stage Business, as now performed in the Metropolitan Minor Theatres. Embellished with a fine engraving by Mr. Bonner, from a drawing taken in the theatre by R. Cruikshank." London: Davidson, 185-
light annotation

1/19 -- Ion

Talfourd, Thomas Noon, "Ion. A Tragedy in five acts. With Stage Business, Cast of Characters, Costumes, Relative Positions, etc."
New York: Samuel French, 186-
light annotation; J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

1/20 -- Ivanhoe, or the Jew's Daughter

Dibdin, Thomas, "Ivanhoe; or, the Jew's Daughter; a Romantic Melo-Drama, in Three Acts." New York: Samuel French, 1820?
light annotation; J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

Box/Folder

2/1 -- A Kiss in the Dark

2/2 -- Kitty Clive

Moore, Frank Frankfort, "Kitty Clive: Comedy, One Act, By F. Frankfort Moore." London, Samuel French, 1895?

Little annotation

2/3 -- The Lady of Lyons, or, Love and Pride


2/4 -- Married and Single


2/5 -- Nicholas Nickleby

Stirling, Edward, "Nicholas Nickleby, A Farce in Two Acts. Taken from the Popular Work of that Name by 'Boz.' By Edward Stirling, Esq. With Cast of Characters, Stage Business, Costumes, Relative Positions, Etc., Etc.," New York: Samuel French, 186-

Stamped by J.W.C. O'Neal (Class of 1844)

2/6 -- Libretto of Olivette


2/7 -- Popping the Question

Buckstone, John Baldwin, "Popping the Question: a Farce, in One Act/ by John Baldwin Buckstone. . . Printed from the acting copy. To which are added, a description of the costume-cast of the characters-entrances and exits-relative positions of the performers on the stage, and the whole of the stage business, as performed at the New-York theatres." New York: Samuel French, 1870?

2/8 -- A Pretty Piece of Business

2/9 -- Richelieu, or, the Conspiracy

Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron, "Richelieu; or, The Conspiracy; a Play in Five Acts. By Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer. From the author's latest edition, with the stage directions, costumes, etc." New York: W. Taylor, 1846.
heavily annotated

2/10 -- Rob Roy; or, Auld Lang Syne

heavily annotated; J.W.C. O'Neal's copy (Class of 1844)

2/11 -- Romeo and Juliet


2/12 -- School for Scandal

Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, "The School for Scandal: a Comedy, in Five Acts, with the stage directions, costumes, &c." New York: Samuel French, 185-

2/13 -- Sea Drift

Houston, Harry, "Sea Drift, a Melodrama in Four Acts, with Prologue, by Harry Houston." Chicago: T.S. Denison, 1890.

2/14 -- The Sea of Ice; or, A Thirst for Gold

Dennery, Adolphe Philippe, "The Sea of Ice; or, A Thirst for Gold, and the Wild Flower of Mexico. A Romantic Drama, in five tableaux . . . As performed at the Broadway Theatre." New York: Samuel French, 186-
little annotation

2/15 -- The Speckled Band


2/16 -- The Tale of Two Cities

Rivers, Henry J., "The Tale of Two Cities: a Drama in Three Acts and a Prologue Adapted from Mr. Charles Dickens's Story by Henry J. Rivers." London: Davidson, 1862.
2/17 -- Timothy Delano's Courtship


2/18 -- Virginius

Knowles, James Sheridan, "Virginius: a Tragedy in Five Acts/ by James Sheridan Knowles. As performed by Mr. Forrest, Mr. Macready, and other eminent tragedians." New York: Samuel French, 184-

little annotation

2/19 -- Wanted -- A Widow with Immediate Possession

Boucicault, Dion, "Wanted - A Widow with Immediate Possession; a Farce, in One Act, by Dion Boucicault and Charles Seymour." New York: Samuel French, 1857

2/20 -- Wizard of the Wave

Haines, John Thomas, "The Wizard of the Wave; or, the Ship of the Avenger; a Legendary Nautical Drama, in Three Acts." London: Thomas Hailes Lacy, 1840?

Box/Folder: Series II

3/1  "Annie Get Your Gun"

Dates: 1950's
Author: Herbert and Dorothy Fields
Director: Joshua Logan
Starring: Mary Martin
Special Notes:

3/2  "As You Like It"  Cort Theatre, NY

Dates: 1/16/1950 -- 6/3/1950
Author: William Shakespeare
Director: Michael Benthall
Starring: Katharine Hepburn
Special Notes: 19th Revival on Broadway
3/3  "Camelot"  Hershey Community Theatre, Hershey, PA  
Dates: 3/8 & 9, 1974  
Author: Lerner & Lowe  
Director: Christopher Hewett  
Starring: John Raitt  
Special Notes: program signed on back cover by John Raitt

3/4  "Carmen Jones"  Broadway Theatre, NY  
Dates: 12/2/1943 - 2/10/1945  
Author: Oscar Hammerstein  
Director: Hassard Short  
Starring: Muriel Smith, Jack Carr  
Special Notes: 1st and only production on Broadway

3/5  "Carousel"  Hershey Community Theatre, Hershey, PA  
Dates: 4/19/1948  
Author: Rodgers & Hammerstein  
Director: Rouben Mamoulian  
Starring:  
Special Notes: Touring cast for original production

3/6  "Earl Carroll's Vanities"  Earl Carroll Theatre, NY  
Dates: 8/6/1928 - Closing date unknown  
Author:  
Director: Earl Carroll  
Starring: W.C. Fields, Joe Frisco, Dorothy Knapp  
Special Notes:

3/7  "The Garden Of Allah"  The Century Theatre, NY  
Dates: 10/21/1911 - Closing date unknown
Author: Robert Hinchen
Director: Hugh Ford
Starring:
Special Notes: Original Production

3/8 "Guys and Dolls" 46th Street Theatre, NY
Author: Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
Director: George S. Kaufman
Starring: Vivian Blaine, Robert Alda, Sam Levene, Stubby Kaye
Special Notes: Original production

3/9 "Hamlet" Empire Theatre, NY
Dates: 10/8/1936 - Closing date unknown
Author: William Shakespeare
Director: Guthrie McClintic
Starring: John Gielgud, Judith Anderson
Special Notes:

3/10 "King Lear" Vivian Beaumont Theatre
Author: William Shakespeare
Director: Gerald Freedman
Starring:
Special Notes: In repertory with:
"A Cry of Players"
Author: William Gibson
Director: Gene Frankel
Starring:
Special Notes:

3/12 "Kiss Me Kate"
Dates:  
Author: Cole Porter, Samuel and Bella Spewack  
Director: John C. Wilson  
Starring: Frances McCann, Robert Wright  
Special Notes: National Company

3/13 "The Miser"  
Vivian Beaumont Theatre, NY  
Author: Moliere  
Director: Carl Weber  
Starring: Blythe Danner  
Special Notes: 1st revival of show

3/14 "Peer Gynt"  
The Playhouse, Eagles Mere, PA  
Dates: 8/2-5/1950  
Author: Henrik Ibsen  
Director: Alvina Krause  
Starring: 
Special Notes:

3/15 "Porgy and Bess"  
Ziegfeld Theatre, NY  
Dates: 3/10/1953 - 11/28/1953  
Author: Du Bose Heyward, George Gershwin  
Director: Robert Breen  
Starring: Cab Calloway  
Special Notes: Souvenir and Regular program

3/16 "Redemption:"  
Ambassador Theatre  
Dates: 11/19/1928 - Closing date unknown  
Author: Leo Tolstoy  
Director: Morris Gest  
Starring: Alexander Moissi  
Special Notes: 1st American Tour
3/17 "The School for Wives" The Virginia Museum Theatre
  Dates:
  Author: Moliere
  Director: James Dyas
  Starring:
  Special Notes:

3/18 "Sherlock Holmes" Majestic Theatre
  Dates: 3/17/1932
  Author: William Gillette
  Director: Erlanger-Tyler
  Starring: William Gillette
  Special Notes: 3rd to last performance of Gillette as Holmes

3/19 "Show Boat" Ziegfeld Theatre
  Author: Edna Ferber, Oscar Hammerstein II
  Director: Florenz Ziegfeld
  Starring: Aunt Jemima
  Special Notes: Original Production

3/20 "Show Boat" Ziegfeld Theatre
  Dates: 1/5/1946 - 1/4/1947
  Author: Edna Ferber, Rodgers and Hammerstein
  Director: Hassard Short
  Starring:
  Special Notes: 2nd revival

3/21 "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" Winter Garden Theatre, NY
  Author: Meredith Wilson, Richard Morris
  Director: Dore Schary
Starring: Tammy Grimes
Special Notes: 1st and only production on Broadway

3/22 "The Vagabond King"

Dates:
Author: W.H. Post and Brian Hooker
Director: Ben Roberts
Starring:
Special Notes: produced by George E. Wintz

3/23 "The Wanderer" Manhattan Opera House, NY

Dates: 2/1/1917 - Closing date unknown
Author: Maurice V. Samuels
Director: Ben Teal
Starring:
Special Notes: 1st and only production on Broadway

3/24 "The World of Shalom Aliechem"

Dates:
Author: Arnold Perl
Director: Howard Da Silva
Starring: Ruby Dee
Special Notes: Ossie Davis (stage manager)

Box/Folder

4/1 -- Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
Program for the 1950-51 season.
Director: Sergei J. Denham

4/2 -- State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of the USSR
Program for the 1956 Season
Printed in USSR
4/3 -- Vincente Escudero
Program for Spanish Ballet
Director: Vincente Escudero

4/4 -- Martha Graham and Dance Company
Program for various performances, includes commentary on her choreography
Director: Martha Graham

4/5 -- Jose Greco and His Company of Spanish Dancers
Hershey Community Theatre, Hershey, PA
Dates: 11/16/1953
Director: Jose Greco

4/6 -- Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers
Carnegie Hall, NY
Dates: 10/27/1934-closing date unknown
Director: Ted Shawn

4/7 -- Katharine Cornell: Stage Portraits
"No Time For Comedy"
Hershey Community Theatre, Hershey, PA
Dates: 3/28/1940
"The Wingless Victory"
Empire Theatre, NY
12/23/1936

4/8 -- Henrietta Crosman Souvenir
Sketches from 1901 Season

4/9 -- Mr. N.C. Goodwin & Miss Maxine Elliot
Pictures from the 1900-1901 Season

4/10 -- Miss Alice Nielsen
Pictures from "The Fortune Teller" and "The Singing Girl"

4/11 -- Nixon's Apollo Theatre
Schedule of productions

4/12 -- Playbill Magazine
Issue from February of 1985; features article about Mark Hamil (of Star Wars fame) in his new Broadway musical

4/13 -- Playbill Magazine
Issue from July/August of 1984; features article about Jane Fonda in new Tennessee Williams play

4/14 -- Theatre Schedule
from unknown theatre; includes pictures of Jack Dempsey

**Box/Folder**: Series III

5/1 -- '83 Skidoo; or, The Horses Shall Not Vote Tonight
Program and annotated script from presentation at Camp Hill High School. Includes set design, properties list, and libretto. Written and directed by Anthony Arms.

5/2 -- Celimare
Fairly complete promptbook including annotated script, rehearsal schedule, properties list, and set design

**Box/Folder**

6/1 -- The Contrast
Directed by Anthony Arms, nephew of Richard Arms. Complete prompt book including director's copy of script, stage manager's script, costume design, set design, cast list, photographs and correspondence regarding the performance. The show was put on in Philadelphia.

6/2 -- A Doll's House
Promptbook for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Directed by Richard Arms. Includes annotated script, cast list, set designs and sound cues.

6/3 -- The Dressing Gown
Annotated script with stage directions and sound cues. Also
includes properties lists.

**Box/Folder**

7/1 -- *The Importance of Being Ernest*
Prompt book for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Designed, directed, and starring Anthony Arms. Includes annotated script, cast list, properties list, light and sound cues, as well as set design.

7/2 -- *Mirandolina*
Prompt book for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Includes annotated script, set design, and light plot.

**Box/Folder**

8/1 -- *Playing with Fire; Mother Love; The Creditor*
Promptbook including an annotated script and set design for each play. Performed by the Players Repertory Company. All three plays were performed together.

8/2 -- *The School for Wives*
Promptbook for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Designed and directed by Anthony Arms. Includes annotated script, cast list, properties list and set design.

**Box/Folder**

9/1 -- *Spoon River Folk*
Promptbook for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Includes annotated script and other text materials used in the show.

9/2 -- *She Stoops to Conquer*
Promptbook including annotated script, properties list, and set design.

9/3 -- *Struggle Till Dawn*
Prompt book for performance by the Players Repertory Company. Includes annotated script, set design, properties list, and newspaper review of show.
Box/Folder

10/1 -- The Boor
Script

10/2 -- Ever Since Eden
Light and sound cue sheet, properties list

10/3 -- Jubilee
Annotated script, programs, cast list, properties list, stage design, and props

10/4 -- Last Curtain Call
Annotated script, set design

10/5 -- The Last Resort of Summer
Annotated script, sound cues, set designs

10/6 -- Marriage Proposal
Annotated script

10/7 -- On the High Road
Annotated script, sound cues

10/8 -- The Stronger
Annotated script

10/9 -- Miscellaneous Materials
Extra materials from the collection; Includes souvenir book: "An Exhibition of Stage Designs by Donald Oenslager," Marie Sterner Galleries, NY, 12/7-19, 1936 -- signed by Oenslager