MS – 138: The Emile O. Schmidt Collection
(10 boxes, 7.92 cubic feet)

Accession #2006-0355

Inclusive Dates: 1962-2004

Processed by: Chelsea Bucklin ’10
May 2013

Provenance: Musselman Library received the collection from Mr. Emile O. Schmidt.

Biography: A first-generation Danish American, Emile O. Schmidt was born and grew up in the Bronx, New York. His love of the theatre began when he saw his first Broadway play as a child. As a young man, he worked in the professional theatre with some of the major stars of the day. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he attended Ursinus College and earned his master’s degree at Columbia University. He met his wife while a professor at Springfield College.

In 1963, Emile Schmidt, who joined the Gettysburg College Department of English in 1962, became the new director of dramatics, taking over for the recently retired Richard Arms. Professor Schmidt directed hundreds of productions in conjunction with both the College’s Owl & Nightingale Players, and the summer theatre that he and his wife Patricia Martell brought to the community for some 20 years.

Professor Schmidt advocated for and designed the Kline Theatre in Brua Hall. In 1984, with renovations completed, Professor Schmidt directed the inaugural production of “The Tempest” coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Owl and Nightingale. Professor Schmidt expanded the theatre arts curriculum establishing a theatre arts concentration within the English major. In 1987, as a result of Professor Schmidt’s work, Theatre Arts was established as an official major, leading to the establishment of a separate Department of Theatre arts in 1996. Emile Schmidt received the College’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997, and the Department of Theatre Arts honored him by establishing the Emile O. Schmidt award for outstanding theatre arts students. In 2009, the Brua Hall bell tower was renamed the Emile O. Schmidt tower in his honor. Emile Schmidt retired in 1999, but came back to direct and act in additional plays as a guest artist until 2004. As director, teacher, and mentor, he affected thousands of students. Professor Schmidt passed away on August 1, 2012, just after his 85th birthday. The College celebrated his life and work in a memorial celebration on September 8th, 2012 attended by hundreds of former students, colleagues, and family.

Series Description: The collection is divided into three series: Series I: Director’s Play Books; Series II: Plays written by Emile O. Schmidt Series III: Costume Sketch.

Scope and Content: This collection represents an interesting variety of research materials in the area of theatre arts. The majority of the play books in Series I are from Owl & Nightingale
productions directed by Emile Schmidt. Series II contains plays written by Emile Schmidt, and Series III consists of a costume sketch created by Emile Schmidt.

**Series 1 — Director’s Play Books**

**Box 1**

*Look Homeward, Angel* by Ketti Frings, 1961  
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (2 notebooks)  
*The Cocktail Party* by T.S. Eliot  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams  
*Darkness at Noon*, Scene plans  
*The Cherry Orchard*  
*The Blacks: a clown show* by Jean Genet  
*Caesar and Cleopatra* by Shaw  
*The Lady’s not for Burning* by Christopher Fry  
*Othello*  
*The Lower Depths*  
*The Lark*  
*Arms and the Man* (musical)  
*A Fable*  
*Darkness at Noon* by Sidney Kingsley  
*The Madwoman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux  
*Mister Roberts* by Thomas Heggen and Joshua Logan  
*Serjeant Musgrave’s Dance* by John Arden

**Box 2**

*The Good Woman of Setzuan* by Bertolt Brecht  
*Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco  
*The Chalk Garden*  
*T Bone N Weasel*  
*Ten Nights in a Barroom*  
*Our Country’s Good*  
*Ten Little Indians* by Agatha Christie  
*Blood Wedding*  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare  
*Dracula*  
*Chicago*  
*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare  
*Henry IV* by William Shakespeare  
*The Devil’s Disciple* by George Bernard Shaw  
*Elizabeth I* by Paul Foster
The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat
The Hostage
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Box 3

Six Characters in Search of an Author by Luigi Pirandello
The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman
The Trial, a Dramatization Based on Franz Kafka's Novel by Andre’ Gide and Jean-Louis Barrault
The Country Wife by William Wycherley
The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekov
Happy End, a melodrama with songs
The Gin Game
Hair
Godspell
The Curious Savage
Hotel Paradiso, October 1986
Inherit the Wind
The Sound of Music
Venus Observed
Ah! Wildnerness by Eugene O’Neill (pages from)
The Shadow of a Gunman
Our Town
Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
The Entertainer by John Osborne
Man and Superman
The Great God Brown

Box 4

The Rivals, February 1997
The Rivals, Director’s copy
Cotton Patch Gospel, February 1998
Side by Side
Breaking the Silence
Steel Magnolias
Macbeth
The Matchmaker
Where did Mr. Foster Go? By Ted Pezzulo (signed and dedicated to Emile Schmidt by author)
Rides, a screenplay and scenario by George Muschamp, May 1964
Script, Julia Would be Pleased by Harry Pauley (dedicated and signed by author)
When the Stars Begin to Fall by Lloyd Gold
The Learned Ladies
Anything Goes
The Time of Your Life
Fashion
Inherit the Wind
Our Town
Diary of Anne Frank
Ah, Wilderness
All Over
Major Barbara
Light up the Sky
Arsenic and Old Lace
The Contrast, October 1985
Canterbury Tales

Box 5

Night Must Fall
The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Creation by Emile O. Schmidt
Harvey
Wateeka
Harvey
Ah, Wilderness, 1989
Camino Real
She Stoops to Conquer
On the Verge, Summer 1991
The Boys Next Door, Summer 1991
Gathering of Fools (Blocking and extra copy)
Street Scene
As Is
Dark of the Moon
Of Thee I Sing
The Tempest by William Shakespeare
Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
You Can’t Take it With You

Box 6

A Man for All Seasons, May 1995
Another Part of the Forest, October 1976
The Memorandum
Beauty and the Beast
Juno and the Paycock
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
The Crucible
Picnic
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
The American Dream
Exceptions and the Rule by Bertolt Brecht
Henry IV by Pirandello
The Physicists
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Misc. pages

Box 7
Importance of Being Earnest
Fashion
Love’s Labour’s Lost
Once in a Lifetime

Box 8
Guys & Dolls
Importance of Being Earnest
School for Scandal

Series II – Plays written by Emile O. Schmidt

Script - Room and View by Emile Schmidt
Scripts – Four Plays by Emile Schmidt including The Diners, The Rockpickers, King me Queen, Room and View
Creation by Emile O. Schmidt

Series III – Costume Sketch

**Located in Vertical File Manuscript Oversize: Box 2 (Collections Storage)**