

5-2013

## MS-138: Emile O. Schmidt Collection

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### Recommended Citation

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## MS-138: Emile O. Schmidt Collection

### Description

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.

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### Keywords

Gettysburg College, Theatre Arts, Kline Theater, Owl and Nightingale

### Disciplines

History | Social History | Theatre and Performance Studies | Theatre History

**Guide to the  
Emile O. Schmidt Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Chelsea Bucklin '10  
May 2013**

## **MS – 138: The Emile O. Schmidt Collection**

(10 boxes, 7.92 cubic feet)

Accession #2006-0355

Inclusive Dates: 1962-2004

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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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. The College celebrated his life and work in a memorial celebration on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 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! Wilderness* 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*  
*Watseka*  
*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)