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MS-037: The Papers of Richard A. Arms

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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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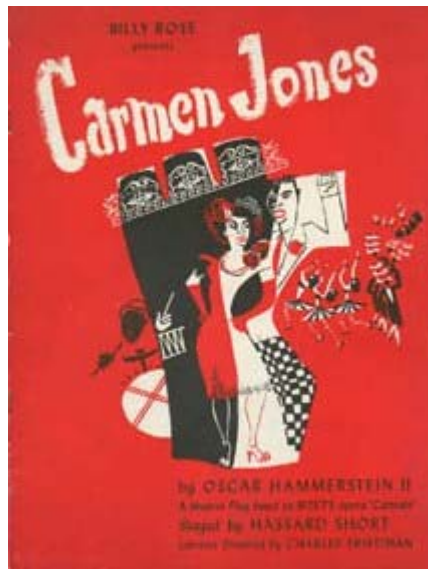
Keywords

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**

MS - 037: The Papers of Richard A. Arms

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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.

Box/Folder

1/1 -- As You Like It

Shakespeare, William, "As You Like It: A Comedy in Five Acts, by William Shakespeare, as performed by Madame Helena Modjeska, (Countess Bozenta)." Indianapolis: Hasselman-Journal Co., 1883.

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

Morton, John Maddison, "Betsy Baker, or, Too Attentive by Half; a Farce in One Act. By John Madison Morton. With cast of Characters, Stage Business, Costumes, Relative Position, etc., etc." New York: Samuel French, 186-

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

Francis, John M., "Bill the Coachman, or A Couple of Curious Courtships: A Farce Comedy in Three Acts by John M. Francis." New York: Samuel French, 1910.

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

Jones, Henry Arthur, "Elopement. A Comedy in Two Acts."
London, New York: Samuel French, 1880?

light annotation

1/9 -- Elopement

Jones, Henry Arthur, "Elopement: A Comedy in Two Acts. By H.
A. Jones." Ilfracombe: Printed by J. Tait, 1879?

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

Getchell, W.P., "A Fisherman's Luck. A Comedy Drama in Four
Acts by W.P. Getchell. As First Performed Under the Auspices of
the Plymouth Band at Davis's Opera House, Plymouth, Mass.,
April 3D and 4th, 1891." Boston: Walter H. Baker & Co., 1893

light annotation

1/13 -- Floradora

Stuart, Leslie, "Floradora: A Musical Comedy. Book by Owen
Hall; Lyrics by Ernest Boyd-Jones & Paul Rubens; Music by
Leslie Stuart." London: Francis, Day & Hunter, 1899.

light annotation

1/14 -- Furnished Apartments

"Furnished Apartments. A Comic Interlude, in One Act." New
York: Happy Hours Company. (n.d.)

1/15 -- Guy Mannering: or, the Gipsy's Prophecy

Terry, Daniel, "Guy Mannering; or, The Gipsy's Prophecy. A Musical Play in Three Acts. By Daniel Terry. Also the Stage Business, Casts of Characters, Costumes, Relative Positions, Etc." New York: Samuel French, 186-

1/16 -- Ici on Parle Français

Williams, Thomas J., "Ici on Parle Français: or, The Major's Mistake, a Farce in One Act. By Thomas J. Williams." Boston: Walter H. Baker and Co., 1889

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

Buckstone, Baldwin John, "A Kiss in the Dark, A Farce in One Act/ by John Baldwin Buckstone. With the Stage Business, Cast of Characters, Costumes, Relative Positions, &c." New York: Samuel French, (n.d.)

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

Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, "The Lady of Lyons, or, Love and Pride: a Play, in Five Acts by Edward Lytton Bulwer." New York: Samuel French, 1846?

2/4 -- Married and Single

Poole, John, "Married and Single a Comedy in Three Acts." New York: Samuel French, (n.d.)

2/5 -- Nicholas Nickleby

Stirling, Edward, "Nicholas Nickelby, 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

Audran, Edmond, "Noces d'Olivette; opera comique in three acts. English adaptations of words to music, by H.B. Farnie. Composed by Audran. The dialogue and business translated and adapted by T.L." Boston: O. Ditson & Co., 1881

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

Morton, Thomas, "A Pretty Piece of Business: a Comedy in One Act/ by Thomas Morton." London: Samuel French, 1853?

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

Pocock, I, "Rob Roy MacGregor, or, 'Auld Lang Syne;' an Operatic Play, in Three Acts." New York: Samuel French, (n.d.)

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

2/11 -- Romeo and Juliet

Shakespeare, William, "Romeo and Juliet. By William Shakespeare/ New and Complete Edition." London: J. Dicks, (n.d)

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

Denney, 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

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir, "The Speckled Band, an Adventure of Sherlock Holmes." New York: Samuel French, 1912.

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

Orne, Martha Russell, "Timothy Delano's Courtship: a Comedy in Two Acts/ by Martha Russell Orne." New York: Dick & Fitzgerald, 1892.

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 Hinchey
Director: Hugh Ford
Starring:
Special Notes: Original Production

3/8 "Guys and Dolls" 46th Street Theatre, NY
Dates: 11/24/1950 - 11/28/1953
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
Dates: 11/7/1968 - 2/12/1969
Author: William Shakespeare
Director: Gerald Freedman
Starring:
Special Notes: In repertory with :
"A Cry of Players"
Dates: 11/7/1968 - 2/12/1969
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
Dates: 5/8/1969 - 6/21/1969
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

Dates: 12/27/1927 - 5/4/1929

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

Dates: 11/3/1960 - 2/10/1962

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