

The Library of Congress: Music Division:

In preparation for the chat with Doug Reside and Stacy Wolf, I'd prepared to mention some collections related to musical theater that had recently been acquired, had their finding aids go online, or I felt people might not realize their possible significance. Here that list:

American Play Company/Century Play Company Collection. The company was a combination of producer and agent for writers and is basically in two series, scripts and business papers. Most of the scripts are typescripts, sometimes including early drafts, both well-known and obscure, American and European. The scripts date as early as 1894 and, given that the company was owned for a while by Elisabeth Marbury, also has a significant representation of women authors. While the collection doesn't focus on musical theater, it does include several librettos by Guy Bolton, as well as scripts for "Hit the Deck," "The Desert Song," "No, No, Nanette," and others.

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2017/mu017012.pdf

Peggy Clark Papers. Clark is a largely unknown name, but she worked on some of the most significant musicals of the 40s, 50s, and into the 60s, primarily as a lighting and scene designer, but also as a stage manager. Among the shows she worked on are: "On the Town," "Brigadoon," "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," "Paint Your Wagon," "Wonderful Town," "Kismet," "Peter Pan," "Bells Are Ringing," and "Bye Bye Birdie." The collection is rich in design and other materials:

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2012/mu012015.pdf

Barbara Cook Papers. The first half of the collection has just arrived at the Library, consisting of Cook's arrangements. Other papers are due to follow shortly.

Duke Ellington. The Library just acquired a notebook of music manuscripts for thirteen songs Ellington composed for the 1941 musical revue, "Jump For Joy". <https://catalog-dev.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibld=20546982>. In addition, we just acquired 40 additional Ellington manuscripts and sketches.

Adam Guettel Papers. Guettel has begun donating his collection to the Library. Though not yet processed, the collection includes music manuscripts, notes, scripts

and papers for “Floyd Collins,” “Light in the Piazza,” “Myths and Hymns,” and early works.

George and Ira Gershwin Collection. Although the Collection has long been one of the treasures of the Library, the last several years have found regular and significant additions (it’s a finding aid that should be revisited regularly). The newest arrival is George Gershwin’s holograph for “They Can’t Take That Away From Me.” Other recent and important additions have been five letters from George Gershwin to his psychiatrist, and 45 letters to his first biographer, Isaac Goldberg, the largest batch of letters from Gershwin to any single individual.

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2010/mu010014.pdf

Gershwin Fund Collection. Here are items cataloged that were purchased using the Leonore and Ira Gershwin Trust fbo the Library of Congress. These are non-Gershwin items, but mostly related to musical theater, including music holographs, correspondence, photographs, etc. These items may be found by searching the Library’s catalog (<https://catalog.loc.gov/>) for: ML30.27a (for music), ML30.27e (for correspondence), etc.

Henry Mancini Papers. The finding aid for this vast collection has only recently gone online. Although not known for his musicals, and the collection is primarily rich in film scores, it does include his scores for “Victor/Victoria” and songs that appeared in non-musical films.

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2020/mu020011.pdf

John McGlinn Papers. Although this finding aid has been online for a few years, not everyone appreciates its value and usefulness for research on several musical theater composers. Here you’ll find full scores of original orchestrations for shows and songs by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Victor Herbert, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Harry Warren, and several others, as well as rare librettos.

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2018/mu018017.pdf

Harold Prince Papers. Although a small collection, it includes all of Prince’s directing scripts, heavily annotated and with laid-in items and notes.

https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/music/2014/mu014005.pdf

Jeanine Tesori Papers. This is another fairly recently acquired collection, not yet processed, but it does include scores and other materials for “Caroline, or Change,” “Fun Home,” “Shrek,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “Violet,” and other shows.

Warner-Chappell Collection: Processing of the Warner-Chappell Collection is nearing completion and look for the finding aid to go online within the next few months. It is a large and revelatory collection, representing almost the entire history of musical theater from the late 1800s into the 1960s. Among its highlights are: original orchestrations for the Schwartz and Dietz shows “The Band Wagon,” and “Flying Colors”; scores for several De Sylva, Brown and Henderson shows; the original parts for “Paper Moon”; and scores for more contemporary shows, including “My Fair Lady,” “Subways are for Sleeping,” “Fade Out-Fade In”.

The Music Division is constantly acquiring new items in addition to our special collections, these are cataloged. For instance, in the last month we acquired three rare Jule Styne manuscripts for an unproduced film to star Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe, and a set of Oscar Hammerstein letters to Celeste Holm.