

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the John C. Wilson Papers

YCAL MSS 1127



Beinecke staff

2018

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1127

**CREATOR:** Wilson, John C., approximately 1899-1961

**TITLE:** John C. Wilson Papers

**DATES:** 1898-1978

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 22.6 linear feet (74 boxes) + broadside

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The John C. Wilson papers consist of scrapbooks, photographs, and other material documenting the life and work of American producer and director John C. Wilson.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jcwilson>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jcwilson>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Provenance

Acquired by purchase from Ken Lopez Bookseller and gift of John C. W. Macauley, 2015-2016.

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### Information About Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 60-61 (scrapbooks): Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

## Conditions Governing Use

The John C. Wilson papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Cite As

John C. Wilson Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Related Materials

Additional material by or relating to Wilson can be found in the John C. Wilson Theater Collection on Noel Coward (GEN MSS 608).

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## John C. Wilson (1899-1961)

Born in Trenton, New Jersey and educated at Phillips Academy and Yale University, John C. Wilson (1899-1961) worked briefly for C. D. Barney & Co. on Wall Street before becoming a producer and director. From the early 1930s to mid 1950s, Wilson served as Noel Coward's personal manager and, in 1934, with Coward, Lynn Fontanne, and Alfred Lunt, he established Transatlantic Productions, with exclusive production rights to Coward's plays in the United States. Wilson also served as co-director of the Westport Country Playhouse from the early 1940s to mid 1950s.

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## Description of the Papers

In Series I, sixty-one scrapbooks containing clippings, printed ephemera, and photographs document Wilson's life, activities, and interests. Clippings relate to Wilson's stage productions, stage and film actors, theater, and other topics. Photographic materials in Series II include photograph albums, studio and artists' portraits of Wilson, snapshots of Wilson and others, and publicity photographs of stage productions. There are photographs of Wilson, family members, friends, and stage colleagues, including: Wilson's wife, Natalie Paley, Leonora Corbett, Noel Coward, Martin Manulis, Armina Marshall, Mildred Natwick, Graham Payn, and Clifton Webb, among others. Other papers include correspondence, printed material, such as playbills, writings, and other material.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: Series I. Scrapbooks, 1919-1961. II. Photographs, 1900-1969. III. Other Papers, 1898-1978.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Scrapbooks, 1919–1961

15 linear feet (61 boxes)

Series I. consists of 61 scrapbooks containing material relating to Wilson's life, activities, and interests. Scrapbooks contain clippings chiefly, dating from 1919 through 1961, but printed ephemera and photographs can also be found. Clippings relate to Wilson's stage productions, stage and film actors, and other topics.

Clippings chiefly in English, with some material in French.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 60	Untitled Box 60: Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1919-1922, undated
b. 1	Untitled	1930-1936, undated
b. 2	Untitled	1933, undated
b. 3	"J.C.W. 1934 Vol. I."	1934
b. 4	"J.C.W. 1934 Vol. II."	1934, undated
b. 5	"J.C.W. 1935 Vol. I."	1935, undated
b. 6	"J.C.W. 1936 Vol. I."	1936, undated
b. 7	"J.C.W. 1936 Vol. II."	1936, undated
b. 8	"J.C.W. 1937 Vol. I."	1937, undated
b. 9	"J.C.W. 1937 Vol. II."	1937, undated
b. 10	"J.C.W. 1937 Special Coronation Volume"	1937, undated
b. 11	"J.C.W. 1938 Vol. I."	1938, undated
b. 12	"J.C.W. 1938 Vol. II."	1938, undated
b. 13	"J.C.W. 1939 Vol. I."	1939, undated
b. 14	"J.C.W. 1939 Vol. II."	1939, undated
b. 15	"J.C.W. 1940 Vol. I."	1940, undated
b. 16	"J.C.W. 1940 Vol. II."	1940, undated
b. 17	"J.C.W. 1941 Vol. I."	1941, undated
b. 18	"J.C.W. 1941 Vol. II."	1941, undated
b. 19	"J.C.W. 1942 Vol. I."	1942, undated
b. 20	"J.C.W. 1942 Vol. II."	1942, undated

b. 21	"J.C.W. 1943 Vol. I."	1943, undated
b. 22	"J.C.W. 1943 Vol. II."	1943, undated
b. 23	"J.C.W. 1944 Vol. I."	1944, undated
b. 24	"J.C.W. 1944 Vol. II."	1944, undated
b. 25	"J.C.W. 1945 Vol. I."	1945, undated
b. 26	"J.C.W. 1945 Vol. II."	1945, undated
b. 27	"J.C.W. 1946 Vol. I."	1946, undated
b. 28	"J.C.W. 1946 Vol. II."	1946, undated
b. 29	"J.C.W. 1947 Vol. I."	1947, undated
b. 30	"J.C.W. 1947 Vol. II."	1947, undated
b. 31	"J.C.W. 1948 Vol. I."	1948, undated
b. 32	"J.C.W. 1948 Vol. II."	1948, undated
b. 33	"J.C.W. 1949 Vol. I."	1949, undated
b. 34	"J.C.W. 1949 Vol. II."	1949, undated
b. 35	"J.C.W. 1950 Vol. I."	1950, undated
b. 36	"J.C.W. 1950 Vol. II."	1950, undated
b. 37	"J.C.W. 1951 Vol. I."	1951, undated
b. 38	"J.C.W. 1951 Vol. II."	1951, undated
b. 39	"J.C.W. 1952 Vol. I."	1952, undated
b. 40	"J.C.W. 1952 Vol. II"	1952, undated
b. 41	"J.C.W. 1953 Vol. I."	1953, undated
b. 42	"J.C.W. 1953 Vol. II."	1953, undated
b. 43	"J.C.W. 1954 Vol. I."	1954, undated
b. 44	"J.C.W. 1954 Vol. II."	1954, undated
b. 45	"J.C.W. 1955 Vol. I."	1955, undated
b. 46	"J.C.W. 1955 Vol. II."	1955, undated
b. 47	"J.C.W. 1956 Vol. I."	1956, undated
b. 48	"J.C.W. 1956 Vol. II."	1956, undated
b. 49	"J.C.W. 1956 Vol. III."	1956, undated
b. 50	"J.C.W. 1957 Vol. I."	1957, undated

b. 51	"J.C.W. 1957 Vol. II."	1957, undated
b. 52	"J.C.W. 1958 Vol. I."	1958, undated
b. 53	"J.C.W. 1958 Vol. II."	1958, undated
b. 54	"J.C.W. 1959 Vol. I."	1959, undated
b. 55	"J.C.W. 1959 Vol. II."	1959, undated
b. 56	"J.C.W. 1960 Vol. I."	1960, undated
b. 57	"J.C.W. 1960 Vol. II."	1960, undated
b. 58	"J.C.W. 1961 [Vol. I.]"	1961, undated
b. 59	"J.C.W. 1961 Vol. II."	1961, undated
b. 61	"J.C.W." Box 61: Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	circa 1936-1952, undated

**Series II: Photographs, 1900–1969***3.93 linear feet (4 boxes) + broadside*

Series II. Photographs contains photograph albums, studio and artists' portraits of Wilson, snapshots of Wilson and others, and approximately 50 publicity photographs of stage productions of Wilson's "Broadway Shows." Albums document Wilson's childhood and trips to Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. Snapshots include Wilson's family, friends, and stage colleagues: Wilson's wife, Natalie Paley, Leonora Corbett, Noel Coward, Martin Manulis, Armina Marshall, Mildred Natwick, Graham Payn, and Clifton Webb, among others. The publicity photographs identify actors and productions.

Organized into three subseries: Photograph Albums, Studio and Artists' Portraits, and Other Photographs.

Photograph Albums		
b. 62	Photograph album	[1925]
b. 63	Photograph album	[1920s-1930s]
b. 64	Photographs album ("JCW Childhood Photos")	circa 1905- [1950s]
b. 64	Photograph album	1939-1954, undated
b. 64	Photograph album	undated
Studio and Artists' Portraits		
b. 65	Photographs of John C. Wilson by Cris Alexander	undated
b. 65	Photographs of John C. Wilson by Cecil Beaton	1933
b. 74 (Oversize)	Photograph of John C. Wilson by Cecil Beaton	[1933]
b. 74 (Oversize)	Photographs of John C. Wilson by Maurice Beck and Helen MacGregor	1926
b. 65	Photographs of John C. Wilson by Marcus Blechman	undated
b. 74 (Oversize)	Photograph of John C. Wilson by Ira L. Hill	undated
b. 65	Photographs of John C. Wilson by Horst P. Horst	1937, undated
b. 65	Photograph of John C. Wilson by George Platt Lynes	undated
b. 74 (Oversize)	Photograph of John C. Wilson by Irving Penn	1947
Other Photographs		
b. 65	Wilson, John C. <i>3 Folders</i>	circa 1900-1950s
b. 65	Wilson, John C. (with others)	circa 1910-1950s
b. 74 (Oversize)	Wilson, John C. (with others)	1947, undated
b. 75 (Broadside)	Wilson, John C. (with others)	circa 1921
b. 65	Others	1969, undated



Other Photographs (continued)

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b. 74 (Oversize)	Others	undated
b. 65	Publicity photographs <i>2 Folders</i>	1943, undated

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**Series III: Other Papers, 1898–1978***3.67 linear feet (8 boxes)*

Series III. Other Papers includes correspondence, printed material, writings, and other material. Correspondents includes Noel Coward and Wilson's niece, Barbara (Cart) Macauley, and sister, Dorothy Wilson. The printed materials feature approximately 100 playbills for stage productions relating to Wilson and Coward. Writings include drafts of biographical and autobiographical works, "Actors Aren't People" and "Stagestruck" respectively. Other personal and juvenile items, such as a baby book, coloring book, and locks of Wilson's hair, can also be found.

Organized into four subseries: Correspondence, Printed Material, Writings, and Other Material.

## Correspondence

Organized into two subdivisions: John C. Wilson Correspondence and Third Party Correspondence.

## John. C. Wilson Correspondence

b. 66	Cannons of Hollywood	1938 February 8
b. 66	Coward, Noel	1951 February 20
b. 66	Macauley, Barbara (Cart)	1945–1955
b. 66	Wilson, Dorothy	1918–1928

## Third Party Correspondence

b. 66	Coward, Noel to Barbara (Cart) Macauley	1933, 1970
b. 74 (Oversize)	Coward, Noel to Barbara (Cart) Macauley	1969 March 17
b. 66	Loos, Anita to Barbara (Cart) Macauley	1951-1978, undated
b. 66	Manulis, Martin to Barbara [(Cart) Macauley]	undated

## Printed Material

Organized into three subdivisions: Periodicals, Playbills, and Other Ephemera.

## Periodicals

b. 67	<i>The Theatre</i>	1902
b. 68	"Special editions"	1950

## Playbills

b. 69	Playbills 5 Folders	1928–1948
b. 70	Playbills 5 Folders	1948-1955, undated
b. 71	Playbills 2 Folders	undated

## Other ephemera

## Printed Material &gt; Other ephemera (continued)

b. 71	Calling cards	undated
b. 71	Clipping	1952 June 3
b. 71	School program	1912 June 12
Writings Arranged alphabetically by title.		
b. 71	"Actors Aren't People," draft, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected <i>3 Folders</i>	circa 1958
b. 71	"Actors Aren't People," draft, typescript carbon <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1958
b. 72	"Actors Aren't People," draft, typescript (photocopy) (4 copies) <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 72	"Stagestruck," draft, typescript carbon	undated
b. 72	"Stagestruck," draft, typescript (photocopy) (4 copies)	undated
b. 73	"Copy of Speech by Anita Loose," typescript, corrected	undated
Other Material Arranged alphabetically by material type.		
b. 73	Address books	undated
b. 73	Baby book	circa 1899-1912
b. 73	"Bloomer Girl" material	1944
b. 74 (Oversize)	Certificate	1920
b. 73	Coloring book	circa 1898-1902
b. 74 (Oversize)	Diploma	1922
b. 73	Empty cloth bag	undated
b. 73	Locks of hair	circa 1900-1901
b. 73	Name plate	undated
b. 74 (Oversize)	Petition	1910 March
b. 73	Untitled picture book	1903 April

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Actors -- United States  
Actors -- United States  
Dramatists  
Theater -- Production and direction -- New York (State) -- New York  
Theater -- United States  
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States  
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States

### Genres / Formats

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Photographic prints  
Playbills  
Scrapbooks

### Occupations

Dramatists -- United States

### Names

Corbett, Leonora, 1908-1960  
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973  
Fontanne, Lynn, 1887-1983  
Lunt, Alfred, 1892-1977  
Manulis, Martin, 1915-2007  
Marshall, Armina  
Natwick, Mildred, 1905-1994  
Paley, Natalie  
Payn, Graham  
Webb, Clifton, 1893-1966  
Wilson, John C., approximately 1899-1961

### Corporate Bodies

Transatlantic Productions  
Westport Country Playhouse (Organization : Westport, Conn.)