

# **Guide to the Stephen O. Saxe Set Designs, Costume Designs, and Papers**

**YCAL MSS 1217**



by Tina Evans and Michael Rush

December 2021

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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 1217

**CREATOR:** Saxe, Stephen O.

**TITLE:** Stephen O. Saxe set designs, costume designs, and papers

**DATES:** 1925–1993

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.33 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** This collection consists of set and costume designs by Stephen O. Saxe, photographs of theatrical set designs and performances, photographs of the Saxe family, and other papers including printed materials, and writings. Also includes a set design by Robert Edmond Jones.

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

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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.saxe>.

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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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of James and Karen Horton, 2021.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Stephen O. Saxe Set Designs, Costume Designs, and 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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## Preferred Citation

Stephen O. Saxe Set Designs, Costume Designs, and Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Stephen O. Saxe

Stephen O. Saxe (1930-2019) was a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Drama School. His first career was as a set designer, working for summer stock and in television. He later worked as a book designer and graphic artist for Harcourt Brace. After retiring, Saxe devoted himself to the study of letterpress printing, and was a founding member of the American Printing History Association.

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## Content Description

This collection consists of set and costume designs by Stephen O. Saxe, photographs of theatrical set designs and performances, photographs of the Saxe family, and other papers including printed materials, and writings. Also includes a set design by Robert Edmond Jones.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Set and costume designs, 1925-1963. II. Photographs, 1936-1993. III. Other papers, 1949-1981.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Set and costume designs, 1925–1963

6.33 linear feet (5 boxes)

This series consists of set and costume designs by Stephen O. Saxe, costume design notes, and a set design for *Astrologer on the bridge* by Robert Edmond Jones.

b. 1	Set and costume designs <i>2 Folders</i> These files contain ink and watercolor designs with manuscript annotations for productions.	1949, undated
b. 2 (Oversize)	Set and costume designs <i>4 Folders</i> These files contain ink and watercolor designs with manuscript annotations for productions.	1963, undated
b. 3	Set and costume designs These files contain ink and watercolor designs with manuscript annotations for productions.	undated
b. 4 (Oversize)	Set and costume designs <i>2 Folders</i> These files contain ink and watercolor designs with manuscript annotations for productions.	1961, undated
b. 4 (Oversize)	Robert Edmond Jones set design for <i>Astrologer on the bridge</i>	1925
b. 5	Costume design notes: notebook	undated

**Series II: Photographs, 1936–1993**

*2.08 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series consists of photographs of theatrical sets and performances, as well as photographs of the Saxe family.

b. 5	Set photographs <i>2 Folders</i> This files contain black and white and color photographs of sets and performances.	circa 1953-1970, undated
b. 3	Set photographs This file contains black and white photographs of sets.	undated
b. 5	Saxe family photographs This folder contains color and black and white family photographs.	circa 1936-1993

Series III: Other papers, 1949–1981

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Other papers consist of printed materials, workbook production materials, and writings by or related to Stephen Saxe.

b. 5	Printed material <i>2 Folders</i>  These folders contain clippings and other printed ephemera including design reviews, programs, and material relating to a production of The Yeoman of the Guard.	circa 1949-1981
b. 5	Workbook production materials  This file contains papers relating to the production of workbooks.	circa 1967-1981
b. 5	Writings  This file contains manuscript and typescript poetry and other writings.	1951, undated

## **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**

Costume design  
Set designers -- United States  
Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographs  
Set design drawings

### **Occupations**

Set designers -- United States

### **Names**

Jones, Robert Edmond, 1887-1954  
Saxe, Stephen O.