

Guide to the Albert Selden Papers

YCAL MSS 866



Beinecke Staff

June 2014

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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 866

CREATOR: Selden, Albert

TITLE: Albert Selden papers

DATES: 1922–1983

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10.92 linear feet (24 boxes) + 1 art

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of material documenting Albert Selden's career as a composer and producer of musical and dramatic theater productions including typescript and manuscript playscripts and music scores by Selden and others; scrapbooks containing photographs, clippings and memorabilia relating to Selden's family and his theatrical career including *Man of La Mancha* and the Goodspeed Opera House; production window cards and programs; and published songbooks and music scores.

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

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.selden>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Albert Selden, 1988.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat ZA MS 81.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, at or around the time of acquisition. Additional rehousing and organization was performed in 2014.

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

Albert Selden (1922-1987)

Albert Wiggin Selden was born in 1922 in New York City, and graduated from Yale University in 1943. During World War II he served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army, and was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He was an investor in and composer and producer of Broadway and regional theater productions, beginning with the show *Small Wonder* in 1948. Other productions with which he was associated include *A Month of Sundays* (1951), *The Grey Eyed People* (1952), *The Amazing Adele* (1955), *The Body Beautiful* (1958), *The Girls Against the Boys* (1959), *Man of La Mancha* (1965), *Hallelujah, Baby!* (1967), and *Irene* (1974). Selden was instrumental in the restoration of the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut, and served as its managing director when the theater reopened in 1963. He co-produced the world premiere of *Man of La Mancha* at the Goodspeed in 1965. The production went on to open on Broadway where it won multiple Tony Awards including best musical of 1966. In 1968 he won the Tony Award for best producer of a musical, *Hallelujah, Baby!*, which also won the best musical award. Selden died in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1987.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of material documenting Albert Selden's career as a composer and producer of musical and dramatic theater productions including typescript and manuscript playscripts and music scores by Selden and others; scrapbooks containing photographs, clippings and memorabilia relating to Selden's family and his theatrical career including *Man of La Mancha* and the Goodspeed Opera House; production window cards and programs; and published songbooks and music scores.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by type of material.

Collection Contents

Scripts by Albert Selden		
b. 1	"The Amazing Adele" 3 Folders	undated
b. 1	"A Month of Sundays" 3 Folders	undated
Scripts by others		
b. 1	"Abraham's Mask" 3 Folders	undated
b. 1	"After You, Mr. Hyde"	undated
b. 1	"Amerika"	1981
b. 1	"...And Presumed Dead"	undated
b. 1	"The Art Gallery"	1979
b. 1	"As the Lady Said to the Sailor..."	undated
b. 1	"The Better Mousetrap"	1957
b. 1	"The Body Beautiful"	1957
b. 1	"The Booties of Butternut Hill"	undated
b. 1	"Canto XI" 2 Folders	undated
b. 1	"Canzada and the Boys"	1976
b. 2	"Christmas is Comin' Uptown"	undated
b. 2	"Climb the Greased Pole"	1978
b. 2	"Come Summer"	1968
b. 2	"Craters"	undated
b. 2	"The Deep End"	undated
b. 2	"Engaged!" 2 Folders Includes master production book.	undated
b. 2	"Even Steven" 3 Folders	undated
b. 2	"The Facts of Life"	undated
b. 2	"The Fair and Unfair Sex" 2 Folders	undated

b. 2	"Gomes"	undated
b. 2	"The Guy with the Flashlight" <i>2 Folders</i>	1977
b. 2	"Halloween" <i>2 Folders</i>	1971, 1973
b. 3	"Halloween" <i>3 Folders</i> Includes prompt script.	1971, 1973
b. 3	"Happily Ever After"	undated
b. 3	"A Hero's Song"	1974
b. 3	"Holiday" <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 3	"His and Hers"	undated
b. 3	"Irene" <i>6 Folders</i>	1972-1976, undated
b. 3	"King of the Boys"	1977
b. 4	"Life Support"	1982
b. 4	"A Likely Tale"	undated
b. 4	"The Lincoln Mask" <i>2 Folders</i>	1972
b. 4	"Love in a Piano Roll Factory"	1983
b. 4	"Maggie"	undated
b. 4	"Man of La Mancha" <i>3 Folders</i>	1961, undated
b. 4	"Merton of the Movies" <i>2 Folders</i>	1977, undated
b. 4	"Murder at the Gaiety"	undated
b. 4	"On Time"	undated
b. 4	"Padre Don Camillo"	1968
b. 4	"A Palm Tree in a Rose Garden"	undated
b. 4	"The Plaster Bambino"	undated
b. 4	"Pocahontas" <i>2 Folders</i> Includes outline.	undated
b. 4	"Rashomon"	undated

b. 4	"So Long, 174th Street" <i>2 Folders</i>	1975
b. 4	"Straitjacket" <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	"The Three-Toed Pony"	undated
b. 5	"To Sit on a Horse" <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	"Tricks of the Trade" <i>4 Folders</i>	1977-1978
b. 5	"The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall"	1978
b. 5	"A Very Special Baby"	undated
b. 5	"Waiting for Gillian" <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	"The Waterbury Tales" <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 5	"What Do You Really Know About Your Husband?" <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 6	Production programs	1948-1983, undated
Music		
b. 6	<i>Christmas Songs and More</i>	undated
b. 6	<i>Dear Santa: 53 Christmas Songs and Original Children's Letters to Santa</i> (New York: The Big 3 Music Corporation)	undated
b. 6	<i>A Treasury of Chistmas Songs and Carols</i> (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company)	1955
b. 6	<i>Too Many Songs by Tom Lehrer With Not Enough Drawings by Ronald Searle</i> (New York: Pantheon Books)	1981
b. 6	Vocal scores	1948-1955
b. 6	Unidentified manuscript and typescript lyrics <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 6	Manuscript music scores	undated
b. 6	Blank music manuscript notebooks	
Music scores		
b. 7 (Oversize)	"The Amazing Adele" <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 8 (Oversize)	"The Amazing Adele" <i>5 Folders</i>	undated

Music scores (continued)

b. 9 (Oversize)	"The Girls Against the Boys"	undated
b. 9 (Oversize)	"The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall" Includes reproductions of set and costume designs	1979
Scrapbooks		
Productions		
b. 10 (Oversize)	"Comin' Uptown"	1979-1980
b. 11 (Oversize)	"The Girls Against the Boys"	1958-1959
b. 12 (Oversize)	"His and Hers"	1953
b. 13 (Oversize)	"His and Hers"	1954
b. 14 (Oversize)	"Irene"	1972-1973
b. 15	"Irene"	1972-1973
b. 16 (Oversize)	"Man of La Mancha"	1966-1967
b. 17 (Oversize)	"Man of La Mancha"	1967-1970
b. 18 (Oversize)	"Man of La Mancha"	1965-1970
b. 19 (Oversize)	"Man of La Mancha"	1965-1969
b. 20 (Oversize)	"Small Wonder"	1948-1949
Other		
b. 21 (Oversize)	Goodspeed Opera House	1964
b. 22 (Oversize)	Family photograph album	1922-1937
Window Cards		
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>The Amazing Adele</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>The Body Beautiful</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>Come Summer</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>Comin' Uptown</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>The Girls Against the Boys</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>The Grey-Eyed People</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>Hallelujah, Baby!</i>	undated
b. 23 (Oversize)	<i>His and Hers</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Irene</i> (with Debbie Reynolds)	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Irene</i> (with Jane Powell)	

b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>The Lincoln Mask</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Man of La Mancha</i> (ANTA Washington Square Theatre)	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Man of La Mancha</i> (Vivian Beaumont Theatre)	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Portrait of a Queen</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Small Wonder</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>Waiting for Gillian</i>	undated
b. 24 (Oversize)	<i>What Do You Really Know About Your Husband?</i>	undated
Art work		
b. 25 (Art)	[Woman in flower garden], gouache on paper	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

Composers -- United States
Musicals -- Scores
Musicals -- United States
Theater -- Production and direction -- United States
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States

Genres / Formats

Scripts (documents) -- United States -- 20th Century
Theater posters -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations

Composers -- United States -- 20th Century
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Selden, Albert

Corporate Body

Goodspeed Opera House