

Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson manuscripts and notes

Ms. Coll. 1220

Finding aid prepared by Siel Agugliaro.

Last updated on April 14, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

June 16, 2016

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Jackson, Joseph, 1867-1946
Title	Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson manuscripts and notes
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1220
Date	1906, undated
Extent	0.2 linear foot (1 box)
Language	English
Abstract	Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson (1867-1946) was a historian, lecturer, artist, journalist, and writer active in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection offers insight into Jackson's intellectual activity as a theater historian. It includes a manuscript of an unpublished essay on the history of American dramatic literature, an alphabetical listing of American playwrights, a collection of portraits of 18th-century actors, and handwritten notes on the theatrical history of pre-and post-revolutionary Philadelphia.

Cite as:

Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson manuscripts and notes, 1906, undated, MS. Coll. 1220, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson (1867-1946) was a historian, artist, journalist, and writer active in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At age twelve, he began working as an office boy at the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, where his father was also employed as a printer. He continued in the *Ledger* employ until 1921, after having progressed to writing, reviewing, and editorial work. During his career, Jackson's articles on Philadelphia history and architecture were published in numerous magazines and newspapers, including the *Ledger* itself. He also wrote popular books such as *Market Street, Philadelphia: The Most Historic Highway in America: Its Merchants and Its Story* (1918), *Encyclopedia of Philadelphia* (1931), *Early Philadelphia Architects and Engineers* (1923), and *Literary Landmarks of Philadelphia* (1939). Many of these books first appeared as series in publications such as the *Ledger* or the trade publication *Building*, for which he also served as editor. Jackson is the author of two bibliographies on local writers George Lippard and Charles Godfrey Leland. He wrote articles about the connections of several literary figures to Philadelphia, including Alfred Tennyson, Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, and William Thackeray, and collected material about some of these authors – especially Poe and Dickens –, as well as on Lewis Carroll, American fiction and drama, and music.

Scope and Contents

The collection of manuscripts and notes by Joseph Francis Ambrose Jackson offers insight into Jackson's intellectual activity as a theater historian, and may be used as an integration of the archival material on and by this author currently held by the Historical Society in Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia History Museum. It consists of a manuscript of an unpublished essay on the history of American dramatic literature (dated June 1906), an undated alphabetical listing of American playwrights, a collection of portraits of 18th-century actors, and handwritten notes mostly focused on the musical and theatrical history of pre- and post-revolutionary Philadelphia. These notes, all of which are undated, cover themes such as the history of the Chestnut Street Theatre, the ballad opera *The Disappointment* (1762), and the work of Philadelphia-born playwright Thomas Godfrey (1736-1763), who authored the first American play ever performed by a professional cast (*The Prince of Parthia*, 1767). A smaller set of notes about Anglican priest Myles Cooper (1735-1785), actor John Moody (circa 1727-1812), actor and impresario Thomas Jefferson (1728-1807), playwright George Cockings (died 1802), and other unidentified topics is also part of the collection.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

June 16, 2016

Finding aid prepared by Siel Agugliaro.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Purchase, 1951

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania: Joseph Jackson manuscripts, 1863-1930. At the Philadelphia History museum: Joseph F. A. Jackson Papers, circa 1800-1945.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Chestnut Street Theatre (Philadelphia, Pa.).

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Manuscripts (document genre)
- Research notes
- Writings (document genre)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Jackson, Joseph, 1867-1946

SUBJECT(S)

- Actors--Portraits
- Authors
- Drama--History and criticism
- Musical theater
- Theater--United States

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
"A History of American Dramatic Literature", manuscript, unpublished, 1906 June.	1	1
Alphabetical listing of American playwrights of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, including their main works, manuscript, undated.	1	2
Portrait of actress Jane Barsanti playing Helena in <i>A Midsummer's Night's Dream</i> , copy of an engraving originally printed by Charles Grignion in 1792, undated.	1	3
Portrait of actor John Moody playing Commodore Flip in <i>The Fair Quaker of Deal</i> , copy of an engraving originally printed by Philip Audinet in 1792, undated.	1	3
Portrait of actor John Moody playing Teague in <i>The Committee</i> , copy of an engraving by J. Roberts originally published in 1776, undated.	1	3

Portrait of actor John Quick playing Tony Lumpkin in <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> , copy of an engraving by C. Cooke originally published in 1808, undated.	1	3
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Portrait of actor Edward Shuter playing Lovegold in <i>The Miser</i> , copy of an engraving by J. Roberts originally published in 1776, undated.	1	3
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Portrait of actor Harry Woodward playing Captain Bobadil in <i>Every Man in His Humor</i> , copy of an engraving by E. Rupenhausen.	1	3
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Handwritten notes on the history of Chestnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, undated.	1	4
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Handwritten notes on the ballad opera <i>The Disappointment</i> and on Philadelphian politician Thomas Forrest, whose name has been associated with the opera, including a transcription of a passage about Forrest from <i>Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania in Olden Time</i> by John Watson (1844), undated.	1	5
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Handwritten notes on playwright Thomas Godfrey and his tragedy <i>The</i>	1	6
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Prince of Parthia, undated.

Handwritten notes on Anglican priest Myles Cooper, actor John Moody, impresario Thomas Jefferson, playwright George Cockings, and other unidentified topics, undated.

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