

Savoy Company records

Ms. Coll. 905

Finding aid prepared by Leah Germer.

Last updated on May 30, 2017.

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

2013

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Savoy company, Philadelphia.
Title	Savoy Company records
Call number	Ms. Coll. 905
Date [inclusive]	1901-2010
Extent	226 linear feet (326 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	The Savoy Company is the oldest amateur theater company dedicated to the production of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. The collection contains administrative material, programs, musical and vocal scores, scrapbooks, audio-visual material and photographs which document its annual performance.

Cite as:

The Savoy Company records, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts,
University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

The Savoy Company of Philadelphia was founded in 1901 by Dr. Alfred Reginald Allen with the assistance of his sister Anne Carrington Allen (Nance) and Maria Scott Beale (Rydie). Dr. Allen's intent was for the Company to perform the operas based on the original English staging. He believed Americans had ruined the operas in their attempt to circumvent copyright laws.

Despite Dr. Allen's resignation from the Company in 1902, it has produced one of the thirteen surviving Gilbert and Sullivan operas annually since its inception, excluding the years 1918-1919, and 1942-1945 due to the World Wars. The operas performed include *Trial by Jury*; *The Sorcerer*; *H.M.S. Pinafore*; *The Pirates of Penzance*; *Patience*; *Iolanthe*; *Princess Ida*; *The Mikado*, *Ruddigore*; *The Yeomen of the Guard*; *The Gondoliers*; *Utopia, Limited*; and *The Grand Duke*. The productions are produced entirely through the volunteer labor of the Company's membership, which includes the actors, chorus members, backstage crew, board members, officers and committee chairs.

Revenue from each performance is donated to local charities including the Alfred Reginald Allen Scholarship Fund. The Fund was established in 1921 by Savoy members in memory of its founder and supports the acquisition of books and scores for the University of Pennsylvania's Otto E. Albrecht Music Library.

Scope and Contents

The Savoy Company records provide insight into the workings of the Savoy Company from its founding in 1901 through the beginning of the twenty-first century. Ranging from files pertaining to the Company's history and productions to the files of individual Company presidents, members, administrative board and committees. The first five sections constitute the bulk of the collection and provide the most insight into the Company's daily functioning. The remaining sections include programs and publicity materials, opera scores and parts, published annals, scrapbooks and photo albums, audio-visual, miscellaneous and oversize materials.

The structure of the collection deviates minimally from that of the Records as they were transferred from the Company to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and so reflects the Company's organizational structure. The distinction between production and presidential files, for example, though their contents overlap, indicates a separation between administrative and production-related responsibilities.

Throughout the lifespan of the Company represented in this collection, its members have consistently and actively not only preserved materials important to Company history, but published annals of its history in increasing detail; these can be found in Series VIII. Noteworthy items in the collection can also be found in the Historical Files, including correspondence between early Company members and from W.S.

Gilbert, and the Company Files and miscellaneous sections, including early bound books of minutes, accounts and performance roles.

Administrative Information

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

2013

Finding aid prepared by Leah Germer.

Access Restrictions

The bulk of this collection is open for research use; however, access to original audio/visual materials and computer files (located in Series X. Audio-Visual) is restricted. The Kislak Center will provide access to the information on these materials from duplicate master files. If the original does not already have a copy, it will be sent to an outside vendor for copying. Patrons are financially responsible for the cost. The turnaround time from request to delivery of digital items is about two weeks for up to five items and three to seven weeks for more than five items. Please contact Reprographic Services (reprogr@upenn.edu) for cost estimates and ordering. Once digital items are received, researchers will have access to the files on a dedicated computer in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. Researchers should be aware of specifics of copyright law and act accordingly.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Source of Acquisition

Gift of The Savoy Company, 2011.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Audiovisual materials
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Concert programs
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Scores

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Gilbert, W.S. (William Schwenck), 1836-1911
- Sullivan, Arthur, Sir, 1842-1900

SUBJECT(S)

- Musical theater
- Opera
- Operas--Scores

Other Finding Aids

The personal papers founder Alfred Reginald Allen and his son are located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Collection Inventory

I. HISTORICAL FILES.

Scope and Contents note

Arranged Chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Undated; 1901.	1	1-4
Roesham letter to Lippincott, 1902.	1	5
1903-1905.	1	6-7
Gilbert Letter to Lippincott, 1904.	1	8
1905-1920.	1	9-21
Booklet: <i>History of the Savoy Company</i> , 1921.	1	22
1923-1934.	1	23-34
Booklet: <i>History of the Savoy Company</i> , 1936.	1	35
1937-1940.	1	36-38
1940-1947.	2	39-50
1948-1949.	3	51-54
Savoy Song, 1950.	3	55

1950-1955.	3	56-65
1956-1970.	4	66-70
Eddy Letter to Hood, 1958.	4	71
1958-1961.	4	72-81
1962-1967.	5	82-95
1968-1970.	6	96-106
1970-1974.	7	107-118
1975-1976.	8	119-128
1976-1978.	9	129-140
1978-1981.	10	141-152
1982-1995.	11	153-169
1995-2006.	12	170-178
Annals, 1951-1980.	13	179-193
Annals, 1980-1992.	14	194-205
Annals; Annals Committee, 2001 and undated.	15	206-215
By-laws and Charter, 1912-1990.	16	216-225
Constitution, Policies and Standard Operating Procedures, 1912-2002.	16	227-228

II. PRODUCTION FILES.

Series Description

Arranged chronologically; see *Savoy Annals* 1901-2001 p. 24 for lists of the years in which each production was done. Contents for each production generally include the following subheadings: Academy of Music, Budget, Casting, Costumes, Events, General, Longwood, Miscellaneous, Music, Production, Program, Publicity, Rehearsals, Scenery, Schedule, Stage Direction, and Stage Management.

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III. PRESIDENTIAL FILES.

Series Description

Arranged chronologically; *see Savoy Annals, 1901-2001* for a complete list of company presidents.

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Willoughby, 1969-1970; Tuttle, 1971-1972.	43	506-510
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Knight: Club House-Longwood, 1975-1976.	45	524-540

Knight: Longwood-Publicity, 1975-1976.	46	541-552
Knight: Publicity-75th Anniversary, 1975-1976.	47	553-565
Pierce: Academy of Music-Correspondence, 1980-1981.	48	566-578
Pierce: D.C. Memorial-Rehearsals, 1980-1981.	49	579-593
Pierce: Taxes-Trial Troupe, 1980-1981.	50	594-599
Carnwath: Admissions-Tickets, 1983-1984.	51	600-620
Berwind: Academy-Entertainment, 1985-1986.	52	621-636
Berwind: Envoy-Publicity, 1985-1986.	53	637-652
Berwind: Publicity-Tickets, 1985-1986.	54	653-658
Nimick: Academy-Tickets, 1988-1989.	55	659-681
Randall: Beneficiary-Tickets, 1990-1991.	56	682-703
Randall: Bound Calendars, 1990-1991.	57	
Crumlish: Academy-Financial, 1992-1993.	58	704-716
Crumlish: Financial-Traveling Troupe, 1992-1993.	59	717-733
Tyler: Academy-Financial, 1994-1995.	60	734-754
Tyler: Financial-Miscellaneous, 1994-1995.	61	755-767
Tyler: Nominating-Taxes, 1994-1995.	62	768-782
Porter: Academy-Events, 1996-1997.	63	783-794
Porter: Financial-Rehearsals, 1996-1997.	64	795-805

Porter: Summer Festival-Tickets, 1996-1997.	65	806-807
Porter: Arco Chemical Grant and Rental Proposal, 1996-1997.	66	
Bosch: Academy-Business Volunteers, 1998-1999.	67	808-823
Bosch: Calendar-G&S Festival, 1998-1999.	68	824-838
Bosch: Grants-Production, 1998-1999.	69	839-854
Bosch: Production-Tickets, 1998-1999.	70	855-868
Bosch: Tickets-100 Year Gala, 1998-1999.	71	869-874
Wittich: Academy-Mann Advertising, 2000-2001.	72	875-894
Wittich: Mann Advertising-Mann Program Design, 2000-2001.	73	895-912
Wittich: Mann Programs-Publicity, 2000-2001.	74	913-923
Wittich: Publicity-100th Anniversary, 2000-2001.	75	924-929
Wittich, 2000.	76	
Segermark: Academy-Funding, 2002-2003.	77	930-960
Segermark: Global Neighborhood-Quotas, 2002-2003.	78	961-980
Segermark: Rehearsal-Website, 2002-2003.	79	981-991

IV. MEMBER FILES.

Series Description

Files of individual members who held office are arranged alphabetically and chronologically thereunder.

	Box	Folder
Berwind Files, 1979-1987.	80	992-1003
Knight Files, 1968-1981.	81	1004-1020
Knight Files, 1981-1986.	82	1021-1028
Knight Files, 1987-2000.	83	1029-1038

V. COMPANY FILES.

Series Description

Files of groups/committees within the Company. Arranged chronologically within each category.

	Box	Folder
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Meetings of the Board, 1976-1978.	85	
Meetings of the Board, 1981-1998.	86	1039-1047
Meetings of the Board, 1991-1992.	87	
Meetings of the Board, 1998-2003.	88	1048-1056
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Committees: Building, 1997-1999.	109	

Committees: Entertainment and Guide for Committee Chairman, 1970-1973.	110	
Committees: Entertainment, 1992.	111	
Committees: Program, 1970.	112	
Committees: Publicity, 1974, 1976.	113	
Committees: Tickets, 1968-1980.	114	1068-1077
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Traveling Troupe, 1963-2007.	118	1085-1098
Traveling Troupe Music.	119-121	
England Trip, 1972-1980.	122	1099-1108
England and British Isles Trips, 1980-1983.	123	1109-1121
England and France Trips, 1985-1988.	124	1122-1125
Costume Files, 1986-1994.	125-130	
Hood & Company, 1963-1965.	131	

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Series Description

Arranged chronologically within each category.

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Savoy Envoy, 1985-2006.	132	1126-1147
Membership Season Booklet, 1957-2010.	133	1148-1153
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Programs, 1968-1972.	139	1231-1241
Programs, 1973-1977.	140	1242-1251
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Programs, 2000-2003.	147	1305-1309
Programs, 2004-2008.	148	1310-1314

Programs, 2009-2010.	149	1315-1316
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VII. LIBRETTOS, PARTS, SCORES AND ORCHESTRATIONS.

Series Description

Arranged alphabetically by opera title within each category. Staging scores refer to scores with staging notes written and pasted into them.

A. LIBRETTOS.

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<i>Grand Duke: Winds, Brass, Percussion.</i>	152	
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<i>Iolanthe.</i>	157	
<i>Pirates of Penzance.</i>	155	
<i>Trial by Jury.</i>	156	

<i>Utopia Limited.</i>	157
<i>Mikado: Violin I.</i>	158
<i>Mikado: Violin II, Viola, Cello.</i>	159
<i>Mikado: Cello, Bass.</i>	160
<i>Mikado: Flute.</i>	161
<i>Mikado: Reeds.</i>	162
<i>Mikado: Brass, Percussion, Full Score.</i>	163

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	Box	Folder
<i>Gondoliers, Iolanthe, Princess Ida, Ruddigore, Sorcerer, Utopia, Limited: Vocal Score.</i>	164	

D. VOCAL SCORE.

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<i>Utopia, Limited.</i>	197
<i>Yeomen of the Guard.</i>	198-199
<i>The Sorcerer/ Trial by Jury</i> (photocopies).	200
<i>Thespis, Utopia, Limited</i> (photocopies).	201
Mann Gala Concert (photocopy).	202

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<i>H.M.S. Pinafore.</i>	204-205	
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<i>Patience, Pirates of Penzance.</i>	210
<i>Princess Ida.</i>	211
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Series Description

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Series Description

Arranged chronologically.

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X. AUDIO-VISUAL.

Conditions Governing Access note

Access to original audio/visual materials and computer files is restricted. The Kislak Center will provide access to the information on these materials from duplicate master files. If the original does not already have a copy, it will be sent to an outside vendor for copying. Patrons are financially responsible for the cost. The turnaround time from request to delivery of digital items is about two weeks for up to five items and three to seven weeks for more than five items. Please contact Reprographic Services (reprogr@upenn.edu) for cost estimates and ordering. Once digital items are received, researchers will have access to the files on a dedicated computer in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. Researchers should be aware of specifics of copyright law and act accordingly.

LPs, 1952-1961.	Box 301-306	Folder
	Box	Folder
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1967 May 19-June 3.	302		
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Oversized: Framed Photographs.	322	
Oversized: Newspaper Clippings.	323-324	
Oversized: Posters.	325-326	
