Guide to the Frank Alonzo McMullan Papers

MS 1470

compiled by Susan Brady and Rachel Pomerantz

March 1988

Yale University Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1470

**CREATOR:** McMullan, Frank Alonzo, 1907-

**TITLE:** Frank Alonzo McMullan papers

**DATES:** 1939–1976

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6 linear feet (16 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, topical files, lecture notes, production files and prompt books, typescripts and manuscripts, photographs, costume and set drawings, and printed material documenting Frank McMullan's career in educational and professional theatre.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1470

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1470.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

**Conditions Governing Access**
The materials are open for research.
Frank Alonzo McMullan, son of Birda Cornelia Brown McMullan and Wilson Henry McMullan, was born in Jonesboro, Georgia on October 12, 1907. He graduated from Boy’s High School, Atlanta, in 1925, received a B.A. from the University of Georgia in 1928, and the LL.B. from the Atlanta Law School in 1930. In 1934 McMullan completed the three year M.F.A. program in drama at Yale, where he studied with George Pierce Baker, Alexander Dean, and Allardyce Nicoll.

From 1934 to 1936, McMullan was on the faculty of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and was co-director of the Stephens College Theater. In 1936 he joined the Yale drama faculty as assistant professor of play production and was acting chairman of the drama department from 1941-1943. From 1943 to 1945 he served in the United States Army where he directed the soldier shows program in New York City for the Special Services division. From 1945 to 1965 McMullan was the head of the directing department at Yale, and until his death was associate professor emeritus of play production at the Yale School of Drama.

McMullan was the director of the University of Vermont School of Drama summer sessions from 1937-1940, and guest directed at numerous professional and educational theatres, including Wellesley (Massachusetts) Playhouse; the University of Arkansas; Ohio State University; University of Connecticut Summer Theatre; Shakespeare Festival (San Diego, California); the Champlain Shakespeare Festival (Burlington, Vermont).

In addition to his work in the United States, McMullan was involved in a number of international educational and professional theatre activities. With his production of Measure for Measure in 1946, McMullan became the first American to direct a Shakespearean play at Stratford-on-Avon, England.

In 1958 McMullan received a Fulbright grant to Chile where he was guest director and lecturer in theatre arts at the Teatro Experimental of the University of Chile and Teatro de Ensayo of Catholic University of Santiago. His direction of the Latin American premiere of Look Homeward, Angel at the Teatro Experimental, and a production of The Taming of the Shrew at the Teatro Ensayo earned him the Chilean national award for directing. As a recipient of a Smith-Mundt grant to Panama in 1959, McMullan assisted in establishing a theatre program and directed The Matchmaker at the University of Panama. In 1962 he organized and headed a performing arts mission to the United Arab Republic on behalf of the United States Department of State and National Guidance of the United Arab Republic.


McMullan contributed articles to Theatre Arts, Players Magazine and Education Theatre Journal, and authored One World in Drama (1950), Play Interpretation and Direction (1951) (translated into Spanish in 1959), Producing Shakespeare (1954), Shakespeare: Of an Age and for All Time (1954), The Directorial Image (1962), The Director’s Handbook (1964), and Directing Shakespeare in the Contemporary Theatre (1974).
McMullan married Elizabeth Eckhard on March 26, 1938 and was the father of two sons, David and John McMullan. Elizabeth McMullan died on December 5, 1977. McMullan subsequently married the former Audrey Tower. Frank McMullan died in Canaan, Connecticut on September 7, 1987.

**Scope and Contents**

The Frank McMullan Papers contain correspondence, topical files, lecture notes, production files and promptbooks, typescripts and manuscripts, photographs, costume and set drawings, and printed material relating to McMullan’s career in educational and professional theatre. The six linear feet of papers are arranged in four series: I. Correspondence and Topical Files, 1945-1966; II. Writings and Lecture Materials, 1931-1976; III. Production Files and Promptbooks, 1933-1967; and IV. Photographic Material, 1925-1972.

The bulk of the CORRESPONDENCE AND TOPICAL FILES (Series I) dates from 1945 to 1966 and relates to McMullan’s activities as a theatre educator and director at universities and professional theatres in the United States and abroad. The series includes McMullan’s correspondence with Sir Barry Jackson and Leonard Crainford relating to McMullan’s production at Stratford-on-Avon, England; correspondence, reports and printed material relating to McMullan’s work in Chile, Panama, and the United Arab Republic; personal and work-related correspondence with Allardyce Nicoll, Peter Brook, and John Shubert. No files relating specifically to McMullan’s administrative activities at the Yale School of Drama are contained in the papers. The correspondence files of Kingman Brewster, Walter P. Eaton and Allardyce Nicoll provide some insight into that aspect of his career.

Series II, WRITINGS AND LECTURE MATERIALS, dates from 1931 to 1976 and consists of teaching files containing notes and newspaper and magazine clippings which relate to dramatic theorists, playwrights, directors, actors and aspects of theatrical production; manuscripts and typescripts of lectures; notes, clippings and typescripts relating to his book *Directing Shakespeare in the Contemporary Theatre*. Two files, “Drama 27” and “Play Directing (Course Syllabus)” date from McMullan’s graduate study at Yale.

Series III, PRODUCTION FILES AND PROMPTBOOKS, consists of correspondence, notes, clippings, cast lists, set and costume sketches, promptbooks, and programs relating to productions which McMullan directed in educational and professional theatres in the United States, England, Chile, and Panama.

The bulk of PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL (Series IV) consists of photoprints and slides of theatrical productions which were directed by McMullan and others. In addition, there are portrait and candid photoprints of McMullan and photoprints of other individuals, institutions and course-related subjects.

**Arrangement**

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1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)
This series contains material arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Series II. WRITINGS AND LECTURE MATERIAL

1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by subject.

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<td>b. 7, f. 134</td>
<td>Richard II</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 135</td>
<td>The Rivals</td>
<td>1961, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 136-337</td>
<td>“Scene Design”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 138-339</td>
<td>“Scene Design”</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 140</td>
<td>Scene design and painting</td>
<td>1931, 1934, 1936, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 141</td>
<td>Shaw, George B.</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 142</td>
<td>Sherwood, Robert</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 143</td>
<td>Strindberg, August</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 144-146</td>
<td>Style</td>
<td>1938, 1946–1966, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 147</td>
<td>The Taming of the Shrew</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 148</td>
<td>The Tempest</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 149</td>
<td>Theatre of the Absurd</td>
<td>1962, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 150</td>
<td>Theatre of Cruelty</td>
<td>1962, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 151</td>
<td>Timon of Athens</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 152</td>
<td>Tragedy</td>
<td>1953, 1955, 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 153</td>
<td>Troilus and Cressida</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 154</td>
<td>Wilder, Thornton</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 155</td>
<td>Williams, Tennessee</td>
<td>undated</td>
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</table>
Series III. PRODUCTION FILES AND PROMPTBOOKS

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by title of production.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 156</td>
<td>Cock-A-Doodle Dandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 157</td>
<td>Coriolanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 158-160</td>
<td>The Dybbuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 161</td>
<td>Die Feuersbrunst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 162</td>
<td>Die Beuersbrunst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 163</td>
<td>Golden Harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 164-165</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 166</td>
<td>Heartbreak House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also: box 16, folder 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 168-170</td>
<td>Look Homeward Angel (&quot;El angel que nos mira&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 171</td>
<td>Measure for Measure</td>
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<tr>
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<td>See also: box 16, folder 225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 172</td>
<td>The Merchant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 173-174</td>
<td>Merry Wives of Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 175</td>
<td>Othello</td>
</tr>
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<td>See also: box 16, folder 226</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 176</td>
<td>Right You Are...</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 177</td>
<td>The Rivals</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 178-179</td>
<td>The Taming of the Shrew (&quot;La fierecilla&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 180</td>
<td>Telephone Pioneers of America</td>
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<td>See also: box 16, folder 227</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 181</td>
<td>The Tempest</td>
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<td>See also: box 16, folder 228</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

This series is arranged in three sections: *Photoprints*, *Oversized photoprints* and *slides*. Within each section the files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photoprints</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 182 Chile</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 183 Furniture arrangement</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 184 Individuals C-S</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 185-186 McMullan, Frank</td>
<td>1962, 1966, 1972, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 187 San Diego National Shakespeare Festival</td>
<td>1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre auditoriums</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 188 Globe, Gutherie</td>
<td>1963, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theatrical productions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>McMullan productions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 190 Ah, Wilderness!</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 191 Barchester Towers</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 192 The Barrets of Wimpole Street</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 193 Cock-A-Doodle Dandy</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 194 The Dybbuk</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 195 The Importance of Being Earnest</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 196 King Lear</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 197 Look Homeward Angel (“El angel que nos mira”)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 198 Measure for Measure</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 199 The Merchant</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 200 The Merry Wives of Windsor</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 201 Othello</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 202 Pelleas and Melisande</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 203 Quality Street</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 204 The Taming of the Shrew</td>
<td>[1950]</td>
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### Photoprints > Theatrical productions > McMullan productions (continued)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 205</td>
<td><em>Telephone Pioneers of America</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 206</td>
<td><em>Three Sisters</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 207</td>
<td><em>You and I</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 208</td>
<td>Productions directed by others A-T</td>
<td>1925, 1959, 1966, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 209-212</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
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#### Oversized Photoprints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, f. 213</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14, f. 214</td>
<td><em>The Mighty Ghost O’th’ Lower Glunk</em></td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, f. 215</td>
<td><em>Othello</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, f. 216-217</td>
<td>Unidentified productions</td>
<td>undated</td>
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#### Slides

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 216-217</td>
<td>4x3¼ and 2x2 formats</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folio</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 218</td>
<td>1962 calendar with photos of “La Pergola de las flores”</td>
<td>1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 219</td>
<td>Section and ground plan for Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 222</td>
<td>Ground plan, section, and stage configuration drawings, Macalester College.</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 223</td>
<td>Ground plan and costume sketch, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, California</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 224</td>
<td>Ground plan and set sketch for <em>King Lear</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 225</td>
<td>Set renderings for <em>Measure for Measure</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 226</td>
<td>Ground plan for <em>Othello</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 227</td>
<td>“Photo story” of <em>Telephone Pioneers of America</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 228</td>
<td>Ground plan for <em>The Tempest</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
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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
College theater
Theater -- Production and direction

Genres / Formats
Photoprints
Prompt books

Names
Brook, Peter, 1925-
Crainford, Leonard
Jackson, Barry, 1879-1960
McMullan, Frank Alonzo, 1907-
Nicoll, Allardyce, 1894-1976

Corporate Bodies
Yale School of Drama
Yale University. Department of Drama