

Guide to the Frank Alonzo McMullan Papers

MS 1470



compiled by Susan Brady and Rachel Pomerantz

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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: <https://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 <https://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

Gift of John McMullan, 1987.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Frank Alonzo McMullan Papers (MS 1470). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

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.

In 1950 McMullan directed stage and film versions of *Telephone Pioneers* for the Southern New England Telephone Company, and in 1954 his production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was televised for the NBC series "Omnibus." Between 1956 and 1957 McMullan appeared on his own weekly television series on station WNHC in New Haven, Connecticut.

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

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. IV. Photographic Material, 1925-1972.

Collection Contents

Series I: CORRESPONDENCE AND TOPICAL FILES, 1931-1976

1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 1, f. 1	Actor's Equity	1964-1965, undated
b. 1, f. 2	Bevan, Frank	1951-1962, 1974
b. 1, f. 3	Brewster, Kingman	1971
b. 1, f. 4	Brook, Peter	1946-1947, 1953, 1964
b. 1, f. 5-8	Chile	1957-1959
b. 1, f. 9	Chile See also: box 16, folder 218	1960-1966
b. 1, f. 10	Chile See also: box 16, folder 218	undated
	Chile	
b. 1, f. 11	Printed material	1950-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 12	Teatro de Ensayo, Teatro Experimental, and others	1958, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Commendation letters	1938-1961, undated
b. 1, f. 14	Connecticut, University of (Storrs)	1963-1964, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Crainford, Leonard See also: box 16, folder 219	1946 January- July
b. 1, f. 16-18	Crainford, Leonard	1946, August- December-1948, undated
b. 2, f. 19	Dean, Alexander A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1932, 1936-1938
	<u>The Directorial Image</u>	
b. 2, f. 20	Comments	1963-1973, undated
b. 2, f. 21	Permissions	1961 March-May

The Directorial Image (continued)

b. 2, f. 22	Permissions	1961 June–Dec, 1962 June
b. 2, f. 23	<i>The Director's Handbook</i>	1964, 1969, undated
b. 2, f. 24	Eastern Washington College of Education	1960-1961, undated
b. 2, f. 25	Eaton, Walter Prichard	1938, 1940, 1942– 1944, undated
b. 2, f. 26	Gilder, Rosamond	1946-1947, 1958, 1959, 1962
b. 2, f. 27	International Theatre Institute	1966-1967
b. 2, f. 28-30	Jackson, Sir Barry	1945-1960, undated
b. 2, f. 31	Keiser, David M.	1961, 1975, 1976
b. 2, f. 32	Kelada, Naguib	1962
b. 2, f. 33	Kommisarjevsky, Theodore	1953
b. 2, f. 34	King, Eleanor	1955
b. 2, f. 35	Light, James	1950
b. 2, f. 36	Lytell, Bert	1954
b. 2, f. 37	Mielziner, Jo	1946 May 1
b. 2, f. 38	Macalester College See also: box 16, folder 222	1967-1969
b. 2, f. 39	Macalester College	1970-1971, undated
b. 2, f. 40	Meeks, Everett	1947
b. 3, f. 41-46	Nicoll, Allardyce	1936–1943, 1945–1966, undated
b. 3, f. 47	North, Alex	1963
b. 3, f. 48	Ohio State University	1952-1953
b. 3, f. 49	Old Globe Theatre See also: box 16, folder 223	1954-1955
b. 3, f. 50	Old Globe Theatre	undated
b. 3, f. 51-54	Panama	1958 December– 1959 March– Oct, 1960–1961, undated

b. 3, f. 51-54	Panama	
	Panama	
b. 4, f. 55-56	Printed material	
b. 4, f. 57	Patterson, Tom	1955 December 15
b. 4, f. 58	Plays directed	undated
b. 4, f. 59	Rockefeller Foundation	1960-1962
b. 4, f. 60	Saint-Denis, Michel	1959
b. 4, f. 61	San Diego Festival	1954-1959, undated
b. 4, f. 62	Scofield, Paul (Mrs.)	undated
b. 4, f. 63	Shubert, John	1946-1962
b. 4, f. 64	Slocum, John See also: box 12, folder 185 See also: box 4, folder 66	1962-1963
b. 4, f. 65	Slocum, John	undated
b. 4, f. 66	United Arab Republic Mission See also: box 4, folder 64	1962
b. 4, f. 67	United Arab Republic Mission United Arab Republic Mission	1963-1964
b. 4, f. 68	Printed material	1962
b. 4, f. 69	Vermont, University of	1939-1941
b. 4, f. 70	Webster, Margaret	1962
b. 4, f. 71	Wellesley College	1947, undated
b. 4, f. 72	Yale Alumni Convocation	1963, 1966
b. 4, f. 73	Yale University Library	1976
b. 4, f. 74	Young, Stark	1935
b. 4, f. 75	Miscellaneous and unidentified	1968, 1976, undated

Series II: WRITINGS AND LECTURE MATERIAL, 1931-1976*1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 5, f. 76-77	Acting	1947-1949, 1951, 1954, undated
b. 5, f. 78	Anderson, Maxwell	undated
b. 5, f. 79	Anouilh, Jean	undated
b. 5, f. 80	Art (general subject)	1956-1957
b. 5, f. 81	Audience	1956-1963, undated
b. 5, f. 82	Baker, George Pierce	1931
b. 5, f. 83	Bibliographies	undated
b. 5, f. 84	Brecht, Bertolt	1966
b. 5, f. 85	Calhoun seminar	1972
b. 5, f. 86	Chekhov, Anton	1965
b. 5, f. 87	Costume design	undated
b. 5, f. 88	Copeau, Jacques	undated
b. 5, f. 89	Criticism	1960-1963
<u>Directing Shakespeare in the Contemporary Theatre</u>		
b. 5, f. 90-91	Notes	1973-1974, undated
b. 5, f. 92-93	Clippings	1938, 1945, 1950- 1959, 1961-1976, undated
b. 5, f. 94	"Making Shakespeare Contemporary" English	undated
b. 5, f. 95	pp. i-75	undated
b. 5, f. 96	pp. 76-150	undated
b. 5, f. 97	pp. 151-225	undated
b. 5, f. 98	pp. 226-230	undated
b. 6, f. 99	pp. 301-380	undated
b. 6, f. 100	Drama 27	1934
b. 6, f. 101	Dramatic values	1938, 1951-1958, 1962

b. 6, f. 102	"Essentials of Play Production" English	1961
b. 6, f. 103	Expressionism	undated
b. 6, f. 104	<i>Faust</i> English	undated
b. 6, f. 105	Furniture arrangements and ground plans	undated
b. 6, f. 106	Giraudoux, Jean	undated
b. 6, f. 107	Genet, Jean	1966
b. 6, f. 108	Grotowski, Jerzy	1969
b. 6, f. 109	<i>Hamlet</i> English	1957, undated
b. 6, f. 110	Happenings	1966
b. 6, f. 111	Ibsen, Henrik	1945, undated
b. 6, f. 112	Inge, William	undated
b. 6, f. 113	Interpretation	1957, 1966, undated
b. 6, f. 114	<i>Macbeth</i> English	1962
b. 6, f. 115	<i>Measure for Measure</i> English	1945, 1956, undated
b. 6, f. 116	Melodrama	1954-1957, 1962, 1972, undated
b. 6, f. 117	Miscellaneous writings	undated
b. 6, f. 118	New Theatre	1963-1969, undated
b. 6, f. 119	O'Casey, Sean	undated
b. 6, f. 120	Odets, Clifford	undated
b. 6, f. 121	O'Neill, Eugene	1953-1957, undated
b. 6, f. 122	<i>Othello</i> English	1955-1958, undated
b. 7, f. 123	Pantomime	undated
b. 7, f. 124	Pictorial dramatization	1940, 1948, undated
b. 7, f. 125	Pirandello, Luigi	undated

b. 7, f. 126	<i>Play Directing</i> (course syllabus)	1931
b. 7, f. 127	Play interpretation and direction	1950, undated
b. 7, f. 128	Playwriting 1956: U.S. 1918-1956	1956
b. 7, f. 129	Playwrights and playwriting	1939-1940, 1947-1954, undated
b. 7, f. 130	Repertory theatre	1959
b. 7, f. 131	Reprints	1936-1963
b. 7, f. 132	Resident theatre	1966
b. 7, f. 133	Restoration	1948, 1953, 1965
b. 7, f. 134	<i>Richard II</i>	undated
b. 7, f. 135	<i>The Rivals</i>	1961, undated
b. 7, f. 136-337	"Scene Design" English	undated
b. 8, f. 138-339	"Scene Design" English	undated
b. 8, f. 140	Scene design and painting	1931, 1934, 1936, undated
b. 8, f. 141	Shaw, George. B.	undated
b. 8, f. 142	Sherwood, Robert	undated
b. 8, f. 143	Strindberg, August	undated
b. 8, f. 144-146	Style	1938, 1946-1966, undated
b. 8, f. 147	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	1956
b. 8, f. 148	<i>The Tempest</i>	undated
b. 8, f. 149	Theatre of the Absurd	1962, undated
b. 8, f. 150	Theatre of Cruelty	1962, 1966
b. 8, f. 151	<i>Timon of Athens</i>	undated
b. 8, f. 152	Tragedy	1953, 1955, 1957
b. 8, f. 153	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	undated
b. 8, f. 154	Wilder, Thornton	undated
b. 8, f. 155	Williams, Tennessee	undated

Series III: PRODUCTION FILES AND PROMPTBOOKS, 1933-1967*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by title of production.

b. 9, f. 156	<i>Cock-A-Doodle Dandy</i> English	1955, undated
b. 9, f. 157	<i>Coriolanus</i> English	1955
b. 9, f. 158-160	<i>The Dybbuk</i>	1933-1935, undated
b. 9, f. 161	<i>Die Feuersbrunst</i> English	1961-1963
b. 9, f. 162	<i>Die Beuersbrunst</i> English	undated
b. 9, f. 163	<i>Golden Harvest</i> English	1952
b. 9, f. 164-165	<i>Hamlet</i> English	1941
b. 10, f. 166	<i>Heartbreak House</i> English	1946
b. 10, f. 167	<i>King Lear</i> English See also: box 16, folder 224	1964, 1965, 1967, undated
b. 10, f. 168-170	<i>Look Homeward Angel</i> ("El angel que nos mira") English	1958
b. 10, f. 171	<i>Measure for Measure</i> English See also: box 16, folder 225	undated
b. 10, f. 172	<i>The Merchant</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 173-174	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> English	1954, undated
b. 11, f. 175	<i>Othello</i> English See also: box 16, folder 226	undated
b. 11, f. 176	<i>Right You Are...</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 177	<i>The Rivals</i>	1961, undated
b. 11, f. 178-179	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> ("La fierecilla")	[1958]
b. 11, f. 180	<i>Telephone Pioneers of America</i> See also: box 16, folder 227	1950

b. 11, f. 181

The Tempest

1969, undated

See also: [box 16, folder 228](#)

Series IV: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL, 1933-1967*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.

<u>Photoprints</u>		
b. 12, f. 182	Chile	undated
b. 12, f. 183	Furniture arrangement	undated
b. 12, f. 184	Individuals C-S	undated
b. 12, f. 185-186	McMullan, Frank	1962, 1966, 1972, undated
b. 12, f. 187	San Diego National Shakespeare Festival	1954
Theatre auditoriums		
b. 12, f. 188	Globe, Guthrie	1963, undated
Theatrical productions		
McMullan productions		
b. 12, f. 189	A-T	1952, 1954, 1955, undated
b. 12, f. 190	<i>Ah, Wilderness!</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 191	<i>Barchester Towers</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 192	<i>The Barrets of Wimpole Street</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 193	<i>Cock-A-Doodle Dandy</i>	1955
b. 12, f. 194	<i>The Dybbuk</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 195	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 196	<i>King Lear</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 197	<i>Look Homeward Angel</i> ("El angel que nos mira")	undated
b. 12, f. 198	<i>Measure for Measure</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 199	<i>The Merchant</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 200	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 201	<i>Othello</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 202	<i>Pelleas and Melisande</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 203	<i>Quality Street</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 204	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	[1950]

Photoprints > Theatrical productions > McMullan productions (continued)

b. 12, f. 205	<i>Telephone Pioneers of America</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 206	<i>Three Sisters</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 207	<i>You and I</i>	undated
b. 13, f. 208	Productions directed by others A-T	1925, 1959, 1966, undated
b. 13, f. 209-212	Unidentified	
<u>Oversized Photoprints</u>		
b. 14, f. 213	<i>Hamlet</i>	undated
b. 14, f. 214	<i>The Mighty Ghost O' th' Lower Glunk</i>	1965
b. 14, f. 215	<i>Othello</i>	undated
b. 14, f. 216-217	Unidentified productions	undated
<u>Slides</u>		
McMullan Productions		
b. 15, f. 216-217	4x3¼ and 2x2 formats	undated

FOLIO

b. 16, f. 218	1962 calendar with photos of "La Pergola de las flores"	1962
b. 16, f. 219	Section and ground plan for Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon	undated
b. 16, f. 219	<i>Pomaire</i> , December 1958-February 1959	1958-1959
b. 16, f. 222	Ground plan, section, and stage configuration drawings, Macalester College.	undated
b. 16, f. 223	Ground plan and costume sketch, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, California	undated
b. 16, f. 224	Ground plan and set sketch for <i>King Lear</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 225	Set renderings for <i>Measure for Measure</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 226	Ground plan for <i>Othello</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 227	"Photo story" of <i>Telephone Pioneers of America</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 228	Ground plan for <i>The Tempest</i>	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

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