

Guide to the William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Theater Ephemera

YCGL MSS 24



by Susan Brady and Andrea Benefiel

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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: YCGL MSS 24

CREATOR: Speck, William A. (William Alfred), 1864-1928 , collector

TITLE: William A. Speck collection of Goetheana : theater ephemera

DATES: circa 1725-1984

BULK DATES: 1829-1940

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (10 boxes + 5 broadside folders)

LANGUAGE: Chiefly in German.

SUMMARY: The William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Theater Ephemera consists of eighteenth- through twentieth-century theater playbills, programs, broadsides, posters, and other ephemera documenting performances of plays, operas, magic and puppet shows, burlesques and lectures based on works by Goethe (primarily *Faust*) and other German and European writers and composers.

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

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.specktheater>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Most of the material in the Speck Collection was assembled by William A. Speck. Much of the *Faust* material probably came from the Ehrhardt Collection, purchased by the library in 1922. Additional items have been added more recently by the library.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Theater Ephemera is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

The William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Theater Ephemera. Yale Collection of German Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced primarily from information on the folders in which the material was formerly housed. All pertinent descriptive information has been retained, including photocopies of folder labels and see references on cards within the folders. "Speck numbers" formerly used to classify material have been replaced by standard box and folder references.

Associated Materials

Associated Materials: William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Manuscripts (YCGL MSS 6), William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Music (YCGL MSS 9), and William A. Speck Collection of Prints (YCGL MSS 11), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

William A. Speck (1864-1928)

William A. Speck, the son of German immigrants, was born in New York City in 1864. A pharmacist by profession, he amassed the largest Goethe collection outside of Germany. In 1913, he and his collection came from Haverstraw, New York to Yale, where he served as curator of the collection until his death in 1928. For further biographical information on William A. Speck and a general history and description of the Speck Collection, see the finding aid for the [William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Manuscripts \(YCGL MSS 6\)](#).

Scope and Contents

The William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana: Theater Ephemera consists of eighteenth- through twentieth-century theater playbills, programs, broadsides, posters, and other ephemera documenting performances of plays, operas, magic and puppet shows, burlesques and lectures based on works by Goethe (primarily *Faust*) and other German and European writers and composers. The collection reveals the extent to which Goethe's work was popularized and incorporated into a wide range of theatrical and musical performance genres. While the majority of materials document performances in Germany, performances in other European and American cities are also represented. The collection also includes original catalogue cards which formerly served to provide access to the collection.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Performances of Goethe's Works and Other Productions Based on Them, circa 1725-1984. II. Performances of Plays and Operas by Other Writers, 1759-1929. III Additional Playbills, Programs, Posters, and Other Ephemera, 1806-1934.

Collection Contents

Series I: Performances of Goethe's Works and Other Productions Based on Them, circa 1725-1984

2 linear feet (8 boxes)

Series I. is organized into ten subseries: *Faust* in Europe without Music, *Faust* in Europe with Music, *Faust* in the United States, Operas Related to *Faust*, *Faust* by Others than Goethe, *Faust* as Burlesque, Magic Shows Related to *Faust*, *Faust* Puppet Plays, Works Based on *Faust*-Related Characters, and Goethe Works Other than *Faust*. Within each subseries material is arranged alphabetically by name of city, title of work, or creator of work.

	<i>Faust</i> in Europe without Music	1829-1932
b. 1, f. 1	Altenberg, Altonae	1912-1913
b. 1, f. 2-3	Berlin	1899-1936
b. 1, f. 4	Chemnitz, Coburg	1911-1913
b. 1, f. 5	Dresden	1829-1906
b. 1, f. 6	Frankfurt, Halle, Hamburg, Josefstadt Also located in BSD 55	1899-1912
b. 1, f. 7	Leipzig, London Also located in BSD 55	1829-1929
b. 1, f. 8	München, Paris, Reichenberg, Weimar	1908-1932
b. 1, f. 9	Wien, Zwickau Also located in BSD 55	1910-1932
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Urfaust</i> in Europe	1900-1934
b. 1, f. 11	Eastern Europe	1867-1918
	<i>Faust</i> in Europe with Music	1856-1935
b. 2, f. 12	Berlin, Braunschweig, Breslau, Chemnitz, Coburg, Köln	1896-1933
b. 2, f. 13	Darmstadt, Dresden, Düsseldorf	1879-1935
b. 2, f. 14	Frankfurt, Freiburg, Leipzig	1856-1935
b. 2, f. 15	London, Meiningen, München, Plauen, Prag, Stuttgart, Teplitz-Schönau Also located in BSD 55	1866-1924
b. 2, f. 16	Weimar, Wien	1870-1928
b. 2, f. 17	Zwickau Also located in BSD 55	1910-1915
	<i>Faust</i> in the United States	1864-1947
b. 2, f. 18	Performances in New York Also located in BSD 55	1892-1933, undated

Faust in the United States (continued)

b. 2, f. 19	Performances in Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Utah, and Washington Also located in BSD 55	1864-1947
	Operas Related to <i>Faust</i>	1824-1930
b. 3, f. 20	<i>Faust's Verdammung</i> , by Hector Berlioz	1854-1930
b. 3, f. 21	<i>Mephistopheles</i> , by Arrige Boito, <i>Doktor Faust</i> , by Ferruccio Busoni	1882-1925
b. 3, f. 22-25	<i>Faust, Faust und Margarethe, er Margarethe</i> , by Charles Gounod Also located in BSD 56	1864-1928
b. 3, f. 26	<i>Don Juan</i> , by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	1837-1907
b. 3, f. 27	<i>Faust</i> , by Louis Spohr	1824-1860
	<i>Faust</i> by Others than Goethe	1773-1934
b. 4, f. 28	Boeddicker - Wolzogen, unidentified Also located in BSD 56	1810-1934
b. 4, f. 29-30	Unidentified authors Also located in BSD 56	1773-1900, undated
b. 4, f. 31	<i>Faust</i> as Burlesque Also located in BSD 56	1825-1893, undated
b. 4, f. 32	Magic Shows Related to <i>Faust</i> Also located in BSD 56	1800-1912
	<i>Faust</i> Puppet Plays	circa 1725-1954
b. 5, f. 33	Altenberg - Dresden Also located in BSD 57	1812-1935
b. 5, f. 34-35	Frankfurt - Löbau Also located in BSD 57	circa 1725 - 1954
b. 5, f. 36-37	Mannheim - Zwickau, unidentified	1807-1932, undated
b. 6, f. 38	<i>Don Juan</i> plays, <i>Medea</i> plays, <i>Robert der Teufel</i> , <i>Christoph Wagner</i> plays, <i>Casperl</i> plays, and Goethe groteske Also located in BSD 57	1808-1934,undated
	Works Based on <i>Faust</i> -Related Characters	1774-1912
b. 6, f. 39	<i>Don Juan</i>	1856-1906, undated
b. 6, f. 40	<i>Faust und Margarethe</i> Also located in BSD 57	1854-1907
b. 6, f. 41	<i>Margarethl und Fäustling</i> by Julius Hopp, <i>Margarethe</i> , and <i>Dr. Faust's Zauberkäppchen</i> Also located in BSD 58	1844-1904

Works Based on Faust -Related Characters (continued)

b. 6, f. 42	<i>Der ewige Jude, Helena, Mephisto, and Tanzmärchen</i> Also located in BSD 58	1774-1912
b. 6, f. 43	<i>Robert der Teufel</i>	1833-1897
	Goethe Works Other than <i>Faust</i>	1775-1984
b. 7, f. 44	<i>Clavigo and Egmont</i> Also located in BSD 58	1849-1932
b. 7, f. 45	<i>Die erste Walpurgisnacht, Erwin und Elmire, Die Fischerin, Die Geschwister, and Goethe-Feier</i>	1775-1932
b. 7, f. 46	"Goethe in fiction" (Goethe as a character in productions), <i>Götz von Berlichingen, Harzreise im Winter, and Iphigenia</i>	1849-1940
b. 7, f. 47	<i>Das Jahrmarktfest von Plundersweilern, Jery und Bätely, Laune des Verliebten, Lieder und Balladen, Mignon, and Die Mitschuldigen</i> Also located in BSD 58	1849-1932
b. 7, f. 48	<i>Die natürliche Tochter, Paläophron und Neoterpe, Pandora, Prometheus, Satyros, Stella, Torquato Tasso, Triumph der Empfindsamkeit, Was wir bringen, and Werther</i> Also located in BSD 58	1802-1984

Series II: Performances of Plays and Operas by Other Writers, 1759-1929

3 Folders

This series is arranged alphabetically by name of author or composer.

b. 8, f. 49	Byron, Borngräber, Giordano-Bruno, Fuchs, and Hauptmann	1860-1907
b. 8, f. 50	Hell, Herzer und Löhner, Hiller, Hirschfield, Hölz, Ibsen, and Iffland Also located in BSD 58	1791-1928
b. 8, f. 51	Klinger, Kotzebue, Lenz, Lessing, Rousseau, Sachs, Schiller, Strindberg, Wagner, and anonymous authors	1759-1929

Series III: Additional Playbills, Programs, Posters and Other Ephemera, 1806-1934

3 Folders

This series is organized into three subseries: Lectures on Goethe, Miscellaneous Stage Productions, and Miscellaneous Puppet Plays. Lectures and Stage Production material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the city where presented; Puppet Play material is not arranged.

b. 8, f. 52	Lectures on Goethe	1895-1929, undated
b. 8, f. 53	Miscellaneous Stage Productions Also located in BSD 58 and 59	1908-1934
b. 8, f. 54	Miscellaneous Puppet Plays Also located in BSD 58	1806-1934, undated

Objects

b. 10	Toy theatre <i>13.5 x 15.5 x 4.25 inches</i> Paper and cardboard proscenium showing a scene from Faust, assembled from printed lithographic illustrations.	undated
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Broadside Material

Broadside Material consists of items from Series I through Series III as indicated in the above listing.

b. BSD, folder 55 Broadside folder 55

b. BSD, folder 56 Broadside folder 56

b. BSD, folder 57 Broadside folder 57

b. BSD, folder 58 Broadside folder 58

b. BSD, folder 59 Broadside folder 59

Original Collection Catalogue Cards

Original catalogue cards formerly served to provide access to the collection.

b. 9

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

Magic shows -- Germany
Opera -- Germany
Puppet plays, German
Theater -- Germany

Genres / Formats

Playbills
Posters
Theater programs

Names

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832
(Faust, Musical settings)
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832
(Faust)
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832 --
Adaptations
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832 --
Stage history
Speck, William A. (William Alfred), 1864-1928