

MS-360

Victoria Theatre Collection

**Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

**Processed by:
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Introduction

The Victoria Theatre collection dates between 1910 and 1927. This collection documents the performances, shows and activities of the Victoria Theatre through the play bills of those dates.

There are no restrictions on the use of the Victoria Theatre Collection.

The Victoria Theatre Collection is organized chronologically.

The provenance is unknown.

Historical Sketch

The Victoria Theatre of downtown Dayton, Ohio has its very own vivid and dramatic story to tell. Originally built as the Turner Opera House, the theatre's doors were opened on January 1st 1866. After three years of satisfying crowds and successful ventures, the theatre was destroyed in a fire. It was rebuilt in 1871 as the Music Hall. Over the next 100 plus years, the theatre would fight flood, fire and demolition to become a historic relic to Dayton.

It took multiple attempts to get a name to stay with the theatre. The name changed from the Music Hall to the Grand Opera House in 1885, to the Victoria Opera House in 1899, and finally, in 1902, to the Victoria Theatre. In 1919 after World War I, it was named Victory Theatre in honor of America's victory, however, after a \$17.5 million restoration in 1989, the theatre was again and remains named, the Victoria Theatre.

In 1913, both Dayton and the Victoria felt the devastating effects of the flood. The theatre was swiftly rebuilt only to be taken down again by a fire in 1918. It was rebuilt and reopened in 1919 and enjoyed almost 40 years of success serving as the home for performers such as Fredric March and the Wright Players. It was also the birthplace of the Dayton Philharmonic, a showcase for Warner Brothers and headquarters for Disney films.

Poor economy and low attendance for performances left the Victoria threatened under the wrecking ball. In 1972, it was put on the list to be demolished but the Dayton community managed to get it on the National Register of Historic Places, saving it from destruction.

Today the theatre is still alive and home to the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra as well as home to many of Dayton's art performances including dance, theatre and Broadway style plays.

(Courtesy of the official site for the Victoria Theatre- <http://www.victoriatheatre.com>)

Scope and Content Note

The Victoria Theatre Collections includes Playbills with information about events, performances and performers included in many of the Playbills

The Playbills include material from November of 1910 to February of 1927. There are periods with no playbills from 1918-1919 (possibly due to the fire in 1918) and there are also no playbills for the year of 1921.

Container Listing

Series I			
Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Play Bill: <i>The Easiest Way</i>	November, 1910
1	2	Play Bill: <i>The Fortune Hunter</i>	February, 1911
1	3	Play Bill: <i>Chantecler</i>	February, 1912
1	4	Play Bill: <i>Chantecler</i> (copy 2)	February, 1912
1	5	Play Bill: <i>Chantecler</i>	February, 1912
1	6	Play Bill: <i>The Girl of the Golden West</i>	February, 1912
1	7	Play Bill: <i>The Siren</i>	February, 1912
1	8	Play Bill: <i>The Siren</i> (copy 2)	February, 1912
1	9	Play Bill: <i>Everywoman</i>	March, 1912
1	10	Play Bill: <i>The Girl of My Dreams</i>	October, 1912
1	11	Play Bill: <i>Widow by Proxy</i>	January, 1913
1	12	Play Bill: <i>The Garden of Allah</i>	March, 1914
1	13	Play Bill: <i>Disraeli</i>	March, 1914
1	14	Play Bill: <i>The Lady of the Slipper</i>	April, 1914
1	15	Play Bill: <i>Potash and Perlmutter</i>	September, 1914
1	16	Play Bill: <i>Never Say Die</i>	January, 1915
1	17	Play Bill: <i>Undercover</i>	February, 1915
1	18	Play Bill: <i>The Auctioneer</i>	March, 1915
1	19	Play Bill: <i>Quality Street</i>	April, 1915
1	20	Play Bill: <i>The Lie</i>	October, 1915
1	21	Play Bill: <i>In Cold Type</i>	February, 1916
1	22	Play Bill: <i>Paganini</i>	March, 1916
1	23	Play Bill: <i>Passing of the Third Floor Back</i>	March, 1916
1	24	Play Bill: <i>The Princess Pat</i>	March, 1916
1	25	Play Bill: <i>La Boheme</i>	May, 1916
1	26	Play Bill: <i>College Prom (Given by Notre Dame Alumnae)</i>	May, 1916
1	27	Play Bill: <i>Mister Antonio</i>	February, 1917
1	28	Play Bill: <i>The Birth of a Nation</i>	March, 1917
1	29	Play Bill: <i>Oh Look</i>	January, 1920
1	30	Play Bill: William Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i>	March, 1920
1	31	Play Bill: William Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> (copy 2)	March, 1920
1	32	Play Bill: <i>What's Your Number?</i>	August, 1920
1	33	Play Bill: <i>Smilin' Through</i>	January, 1922
1	34	Play Bill: <i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	February, 1922
1	35	Play Bill: <i>Ziegfeld Follies</i>	March, 1922
1	36	Play Bill: <i>Le Ballet Foret</i>	June, 1922
1	37	Play Bill: <i>Irene</i>	January, 1923
1	38	Play Bill: <i>Blossom Time</i>	October, 1923

1	39	Play Bill: <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	March, 1924
1	40	Play Bill: <i>The Second Mrs. Tanqueray</i>	January, 1925
1	41	Play Bill: <i>The Rivals</i>	April, 1925
1	42	Play Bill: <i>The Rivals</i>	April, 1925
1	43	Play Bill: <i>The Arabian</i>	October, 1926
1	44	Play Bill: <i>Young Woodley</i>	January, 1927
1	45	Play Bill: <i>The Vagabond King</i>	February, 1927
1	46	Play Bill: <i>The Poor Nut</i>	February, 1927
1	47	Play Bill: <i>Chantecler</i>	Undated