



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the John B. Rogers
Producing Company Collection

NMAH.AC.0245

NMAH Staff

2006

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	John B. Rogers Producing Company Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0245
Date:	1929-1934.
Extent:	0.33 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Rogers, John B., Producing Company Community Life, Div. of, NMAH, SI
Language:	English
Summary:	The John B. Rogers Producing Company was established in 1903 as a supplier of costumes, sets, lights, and scripts for amateur theater. Its main office remained in Fostoria, Ohio until 1977, when the company moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by The Rogers Company, 1980, May 17.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Community Life, November 3, 1986.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, 2006

Preferred Citation

John B. Rogers Producing Company Collection, 1929-1934, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The John B. Rogers Producing Company was established in 1903, with its main office in Fostoria, Ohio and billed itself as the "World's Largest Directors of Amateur Theatricals."

The company "supplied its client towns with costumes, sets, lights and a pageant script consisting of local historical episodes (based on the company's general formula) and standard spectacular symbolic interludes ."

In 1977 the company moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where it continued to produce "historical spectacles" into the 1980's.

Source

Glassberg, David. "American Civic Pageantry and the Image of the Community, 1900-1930." Ph. D. dissertation, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, 1981: 240.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of material for a musical production, titled "Minstrel Mimics" (dated 1934), by the John B. Rogers producing company.

Included are the musical score, libretto, publicity notices, instructions for packing scenery and props, a notice of "Changes for Directors," a "Talent Sheet" and "Chorus Sheets." Dates noted on some of these items cover the period 1/15/29 to 7/1/34.

In addition to the original score and libretto ("The Hunts' Club Minstrel" and "Isle of Never Known") are a number of published songs that are incorporated in the two-part production.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Costumes
- Musical productions
- Theater -- 1920-1940
- Theatrical equipment
- Theatrical producers

Types of Materials:

- Libretto
- Musical scores
- Professional papers
- Publicity notices

Names:

- Rogers, John B.

Container Listing

- Box 1, Folder 1 Libretto - "Isle of Never Known"
4 Copies
Reference Material: a. "Check-up Sheets" - (costumes, props, make-up, packing instructions); b. "Changes for Directors" - (3 copies); c. "Write-ups" for publicity; d. "Talent Sheet" - (how to select Principals and Groups) - (5 copies); e. Minstrel Mimics Chorus Sheet - (6 copies) (lyrics to ten songs)
- Box 1, Folder 2 Songs in the Minstrel Mimics
Includes: The Golf Song; Those Longing for You Blues; At the Chicken Chaser's Ball; Knock, Knock, Knock; The World is Waiting for the Sunrise; Hello Aloha! How are You; Where the Bamboo Babies Grow; Sailing Along to Hawaii; Song of Hawaii; Hawaiian Sunset; Sun-Kist Hawaii; and Honolulu-Home Sweet Home;
- Box 1, Folder 3 Songs in the Minstrel Mimics
Includes: Orchestration; Hawaii Medley - "Isle of Never Known"; Opening Chorus - "Knock, Knock, Knock" and "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise"; First part Finale; It's a Pop-Pop-Popular Song; The Golf Song; Where the Bamboo Babies Grow; and I Want to be a Bride.