LOUIS HASSELMANS PAPERS

Mss. 865

Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections,
Special Collections, LSU Libraries
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Revised 2009
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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.
SUMMARY

Size 116 items, 4 printed volumes

Geographic Locations France, New York, Chicago, Spain

Inclusive Dates 1825-1940

Bulk Dates 1914-1940

Languages English

Summary The papers of Louis Hasselmans consist of concert programs, newspaper reviews of opera and orchestral concerts, several personal papers (1914-1945), and photographs of Metropolitan Opera singers. Papers of his grandfather, 1825, 1844-1896, consist of musical programs and concert announcements, congratulatory letters and poems, and other items relating to his musical career.

Access Restrictions Baton used by Hasselmans restricted due to fragility.

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Citation Louis Hasselmans Papers, Mss. 865, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Stack Location(s) U:156, 11:10, Vault, Mss.Mf:H

See also Richard Wagner letter available on microfilm. Some digital images of photographs are available on the digital library: http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/index.php?name=Louis%27%20Musicians%20Photographs
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Louis Hasselmans was the son of the Belgian harpist Alphonse Hasselmans and grandson of Joseph Hasselmans. He was born in Paris in 1878 and received his musical education at the Paris Conservatoire where he studied composition and conducting and, in 1893, won the First Prize in cello. From 1893 to 1909 he toured Europe as cellist with the Capet Quartet; his debut as a conductor occurred in 1905 with the Lamoureux Orchestra in Paris. In 1909 he began a conducting career which included seasons with the Opera-Comique in Paris (1909-1911) and Montreal (1911-1913), the Chicago Civic Opera (1918-1920), and the Metropolitan Opera as its director of French repertory (1921-1936). His wife, Minnie Egener, died during his tenure at the Met. In 1936, Hasselmans became a Professor of Music at Louisiana State University and remained there until 1948. Hasselmans died in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1957.

Joseph (Josef) Hasselmans, grandfather to Louis, was born in Antwerp in 1814. He was a conductor, violinist, and harpist; two major schools of harp playing arose from his teachings (one through his son, Alphonse). He conducted the Strasbourg Theatre Orchestra and the Strasbourg Conservatory, was involved in the Grand Theatre of Marseilles, and taught in the Marseilles Conservatory.


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Items relating to the musical careers of Louis Hasselmans and Joseph Hasselmans. The papers of Louis Hasselmans consist of correspondence, personal papers, concert programs, newspaper reviews of operas and orchestral concerts, printed volumes, autographed photographs of Metropolitan Opera performers (1922-1943), and a baton.

Joseph Hasselmans papers include correspondence with a photostatic copy of a letter from Richard Wagner (Feb. 12, 1858); manuscripts, with lyrics, poems, and a biographical sketch; printed material including playbills and a prospectus of the Strasbourg Theatre; and legal documents, with a contract dated Apr. 12, 1896.

Some digital images of photographs are available on the digital library:
SUBGROUP AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup I: Louis Hasselmans Papers, 1894-1940 (111 items)

Series 1. Correspondence, 1921-1945

Correspondence to Hasselmans includes four letters written by Paul Dukas, Jaroslav Turek, Albert Huberty, and an unknown author. These letters are in reference to performances conducted by Hasselmans and are complimentary in nature. A fifth letter, written by Hasselmans, expresses thanks on receiving an honorary doctorate. Letters have been filed chronologically. The original of the Huberty letter is found in the Photograph Series.

Series 2. Printed Material, 1914-1940

Materials include programs and newspaper reviews of performances conducted by Hasselmans, publicity items, a fraternity certificate, and four printed volumes containing the scores of "Pelléas et Mélisande," "Louise," Paul Dukas's "La Péri," as well as a copy of Gabriel Fauré (Paris: Rieler, 1929), a biography by Fauré's son Phillipe Fauré-Fermiet. Operas often encountered in the reviews include "Manon," "Pelléas et Mélisande," and "Ariane et Barbe-Bleue." Of interest are several reviews of the Orquesta Pau Casals. Programs from the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago City Opera, and Orquesta Pau Casals are also included. An 1894 invitation to a concert with Hasselmans as cellist and a newspaper advertisement for opera training comprise the publicity. Two items are filed in oversize—these are the Kappa Gamma Psi fraternity certificate and the Paul Dukas score of "La Péri," which is in fragile condition.

Series 3. Photographic Material, 1917-1943

Photographs include autographed studio portraits of Metropolitan Opera singers, Lionel Barrymore, and several unidentified individuals. Some are oversize, as indicated by “OS” after the number. The following is a complete inventory of photographs:

P865-2: Angelo Bada, 1922 autographed, in costume in "La Savoie"
P865-3: Lionel Barrymore autographed studio portrait
P865-7: Mario Chamlee autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-8: Julia Claussen, 1927 autographed studio portrait
P865-9: Philine Falco, 1922 autographed studio portrait, at Ravinia
P865-10: Yvonne Gall autographed studio portrait on postcard
P865-40: Albert Huberty, 1924 autographed studio portrait on postcard, letter on reverse
P865-16: Marguerite Luft, 1943 autographed studio portrait
P865-17: Jose Mojica, 1926 autographed photograph of a sketch, Ravinia
P865-18: Grace Moore, 1929 autographed full studio portrait, in costume
P865-19: G. Morera, 1933 autographed studio portrait, Barcelona
P865-20: Frances Peralta autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-21: Lilly Pons, 1931 autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-22: Rosa Ponselle, 1925 autographed full studio portrait, in flapper garb
P865-23: Rosa Ponselle, 1928 autographed full studio portrait, in costume
P865-24: [Rosa] Raisa autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-26: Elizabeth Rethberg, 1927 autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-27: Giacomo Rimini autographed studio portrait
P865-28: Tito Schipa, 1925 autographed full studio portrait
P865-29: Marion Talley, 1927 autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-30: Georges Thill, 1932 autographed studio portrait
P865-31: Ambrogio Thomas autographed studio portrait on postcard, in costume
P865-32: Lawrence Tibbett, 1931 studio portrait, autographed to Minnie Egener
P865-33: Armand Tokatyan, 1930 autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-34: Gertrud Wettergren autographed studio portrait
P865-35: Clarence Whitehill, 1926 autographed studio portrait, in costume
P865-36: Unidentified to Minnie Egener, 1917 autographed studio portrait
P865-37: Unidentified to Louis Hasselmans, 1932 autographed studio portrait in costume of "Ariane et Barbe-Bleue"
P865-38: unidentified, New York, 1927 postcard, autographed by (?)ervatuy
P865-1 OS: Pasquale Amato in costume "as Columbus"
P865-4 OS: Michael Bohnen, 1925 autographed studio portrait
P865-5 OS: Lucrezia Bori, 1926 autographed studio portrait
P865-6 OS: Ana Bourskaya, 1926 autographed at Ravinia, full portrait in flapper garb
P865-11 OS: Beniamino Gigli, 1923 autographed studio portrait
P865-12 OS: Jeanne [Gordon], 1926 studio portrait, autographed to Minnie Egener
Series 4: Artifacts (1 item)

A baton, used by Hasselmans, is housed in the vault and restricted due to fragility.

Subgroup II Joseph Hasselmans Papers, 1879-1902, (18 items)

Series 1. Correspondence, 1851-1883 (1899?)

Letters in the group are mainly congratulatory in nature and include three presentations written in honor of Joseph Hasselmans and signed by his students at Strasbourg and Marseilles. Of particular interest is a photostatic copy of a letter written by Richard Wagner (12 February 1858).

Series 2. Manuscripts, 1862-?

Papers include what appears to be a biographical sketch; the lyrics for a presumably unpublished cantata, "Sebastopol, or, The Revenge of Moscow;" and two poems of unknown origin, one of which is dedicated to the Duc D'Orleans.

Series 3. Printed Material, 1825, 1844, 1858, 1885

Includes two broadside playbills for concerts given in Nantes and Baden-Baden, a prospectus for the 1825 season of the Strasbourg Theatre, and a citation naming Hasselmans an "Officier d'Academie."

Series 4. Legal Documents, 1884, 1896

Group contains a contract dated 12 April 1884 and a French Treasury note of 1896.
INDEX TERMS

Hasselmans, Joseph, 1814-1902.
Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883.
Opéra-Comique (Paris, France)
Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)
Chicago Civic Opera (Chicago, Ill.)
Opera--United States--History.
Musicians--United States--Photographs.
Singers--United States--Photographs.
Photoprints.
Programs.
Artifacts.
Autographs.
Conductors (Music)
Musicians.
Harpists.
Violoncellists.
CONTAINER LIST

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<td>2</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td><strong>Series 2</strong>, Printed Material, 1914-1940</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1-13</td>
<td><strong>Series 3</strong>, Photographic Material, 1917-1943</td>
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<td>11:10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Oversize printed items (certificate and Dukas score) and 10 photographs.</td>
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<td>Richard Wagner letter on microfilm (Feb. 12, 1858)</td>
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