Inventory of the Charles Henry Meltzer Papers, 1839-1940
# Table of Contents

- Descriptive Summary ................................................................. 3
- Biographical Note ................................................................. 3
- Collection Overview ............................................................... 3
- Restrictions ........................................................................... 4
- Search Terms ......................................................................... 4
- Related Material .................................................................... 4
- Administrative Information ..................................................... 5
- Inventory ................................................................................ 6
Descriptive Summary

Title: Charles Henry Meltzer papers

Date(s): 1839-1940

Creator: Meltzer, Charles Henry, 1853-1936

Abstract: Collection contains correspondence to dramatist Charles Henry Meltzer from well-known composers (1839-1928), including Cécile Chaminade, Gustave Charpentier, Alphonse Daudet, Claude Debussy, Edward Elgar, George Gershwin, Jules Massenet, Felix Mendelssohn-Barthody, Giacomo Puccini, and Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari. Also includes newspaper clippings relating to Meltzer, and a typescript transcription of Meltzer's biography.

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Repository: Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424
Phone: (843) 953-8016
Fax: (843) 953-6319
URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu

Call Number: Mss 0009

Language of Material: Materials in English. Some letters in French and German.

Biographical Note

Dramatist and critic. Born in London in 1853, Charles Henry Meltzer studied at Oxford University, where he won a scholarship at the age of fourteen. Meltzer also studied music in London and Paris. Meltzer became a correspondent for several newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune and the New York Herald, and was also a music critic and writer for magazines. From 1912 to 1916, Meltzer was librettist for the Chicago Opera Company. He was the author or adaptor of a number of plays, and founder of Criterion Magazine (1903) and the American Society for the Promotion of Opera in English (1907). A linguist, Meltzer was proficient in seven languages. Meltzer died in New York City in 1936.

Collection Overview

Collection contains correspondence (1839-1928), clippings, and a typescript transcription of Meltzer's biography taken from the National Cyclopedia of American Biography (1938).

Letters and notes to Meltzer include a letter (1928 August 3) from George Gershwin regarding Gershwin's taste in opera, an undated picture postcard from Gustave Charpentier, an undated letter from C.C. Chaminade (with an autographed photo) regarding a visit to the United States, and a letter (1916 April 14) from Edward Elgar concerning a libretto entitled The Garden of Allah. Other correspondents are Alphonse Daudet, Claude Debussy, Jules Massenet, Felix Mendelssohn-Barthody, Giacomo Puccini, and Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari. Correspondence also includes a letter (1839 December 14) in German from Felix Mendelssohn to F. Trebar.

Clippings concern Charles Henry Meltzer, Vernon Weston, and the donation of the Meltzer papers to the College of Charleston. Collection includes typewritten transcripts and translations of foreign language letters.
Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Related Material


Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names
- Chaminade, Cécile, 1857-1944
- Charpentier, Gustave, 1860-1956
- Daudet, Alphonse, 1840-1897
- Debussy, Claude, 1862-1918
- Elgar, Edward, 1857-1934
- Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
- Massenet, Jules, 1842-1912
- Meltzer, Charles Henry, 1853-1936
- Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Felix, 1809-1847
- Puccini, Giacomo, 1858-1924
- Wolf-Ferrari, Ermanno, 1876-1948

Subjects
- Composers--Correspondence
- Music--19th century
- Music--20th century

Types of Material
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Postcards
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles Henry Meltzer papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information


Processing Information

Originally processed by Special Collections staff, date unknown.

Reprocessed by Cara McHugh, March 2013.

Encoded by Cara McHugh, March 2013.

Reviewed, edited, and uploaded by Martha McTear, April 2013.
## Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 1</th>
<th>Typescript transcription of Meltzer's biography, 1938 December 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taken from <em>The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography</em>, 1938.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 2</td>
<td>J. Kenneth Donahue, College of Charleston Department of Biology, to Harrison Randolph, College of Charleston President, 1939 March 10, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters and notes relate to a College of Charleston news story about the Charles Meltzer letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 3</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, 1940-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 4</td>
<td>Cécile Chaminade to Meltzer, 1939 July 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regarding a recent trip to the United States; includes autographed photo of Chaminade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 5</td>
<td>Picture postcard from Gustave Charpentier to Meltzer, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 6</td>
<td>Alphonse Daudet to Meltzer, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mentions critic Jules Lemaître, gives Meltzer permission to use Daudet's composition <em>Souls in Purgatory</em> from <em>Les Amoureuses</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 7</td>
<td>Claude Debussy to Meltzer, 1907 July 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 8</td>
<td>Edward Elgar to Meltzer, 1916 April 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concerning a libretto entitled <em>Garden of Allah</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 9</td>
<td>George Gershwin to Meltzer, 1928 August 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regarding Gershwin's taste in the opera.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 10</td>
<td>Jules Massenet to Meltzer, 1909 May 21, 1888 September 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mentions work on <em>Esclarmonde</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 11</td>
<td>Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy to F. Tretbar, 1839 December 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes note about using Mendelssohn autograph letter for an editorial about Meltzer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 12</td>
<td>Giacomo Puccini to Meltzer, 1911 May 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 13</td>
<td>Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari to Meltzer, 1911 September 22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>