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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the Charles Henry  
Meltzer Papers, 1839-1940**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections  
College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## 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

<b>Title:</b>	Charles Henry Meltzer papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	1839-1940
<b>Creator:</b>	Meltzer, Charles Henry, 1853-1936
<b>Abstract:</b>	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.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 linear feet (1 slim document box)
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 0009
<b>Language of Material:</b>	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 Cyclopaedia 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. Tretbar.

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.

### Copyright Notice

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## Related Material

See also: Meltzer, Harold, *All the world's a stage: the lively recollections of an actor who never became a star but played with some of the greatest in England and America*, Chicago: Adams Press, 1976. Call Number: PN2287.M44 A3 1976.

## 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**

Donated by Harold Meltzer, son of Charles Henry Meltzer, 1939.

### **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

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