

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Rhode Island Collection
025-02
John B. Archer Collection
circa 1912

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 025-02

Title: John B. Archer Collection

Creator: Archer, John B. (Benjamin), 1872-1954

Dates: circa 1912

Quantity: 3 boxes (3 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown.

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2014 by Meghan Sullivan-Silva.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item title], John B. Archer Collection, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library

Property Rights: Copyright has not been assigned to Providence Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be obtained by the researcher from the copyright holder.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None.

Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Archer, John B., 1872-1954 Music – Rhode Island – 20 th century Performing Arts – Rhode Island Clippings. aat Music (discipline). aat Photographs. aat Scrapbooks. aat Scores. aat Sheet music. aat Theater programs. aat

SEE ALSO

035-03, Florence Nelson Scrapbook, Providence Public Library

HISTORICAL NOTE

Operettas or *Comic Operas* became popular in England in the mid 19th century. Gilbert and Sullivan rose to popularity, and their style inspired many other composers to create similar experiences. These comic operas typically featured elaborate plots and humorous dialogue, and almost always ended happily.

John B. Archer was born in North Andover, MA, on October 24th, 1872. He authored numerous Comic Operas, many of which were performed in Rhode Island. A composer, he also directed choral arrangements and lectured on choral music and on composers. He conducted the Choral Art Society of Providence. He also gave a series of talks on international music. He died on February 6th, 1954 and is buried in Swan Point Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection is comprised primarily of the work of John B. Archer. It contains scripts, arrangements, and sheet music of the various comic operas he wrote. Included are drafts in various stages of completion, almost all with handwritten notations. A scrapbook also contains extensive photographs of the staging of *The Romany Maid*. This scrapbook also includes programs and newspaper reviews.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The John B. Archer Collection is organized into a single series. It is organized by production, with music and scripts from the same play kept together. The only exception is for *The Romany Maid*, which is separated into two different boxes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>
Conscience = Freedom	1	1
Isle of Rest Part 1	1	2
Isle of Rest Part 2	1	3
Lend Me Five Shillings	1	4
No Trespassing	1	5
The Red Letter Orchestral Part 1	2	6
The Red Letter Orchestral Part 2	2	7
The Red Letter Orchestral Part 3	2	8
The Red Letter Script	2	9
The Red Letter Vocal Score Part 1	2	10
The Red Letter Vocal Score Part 2	2	11
The Romany Maid Vocal Score	2	12
The Romany Maid Scrapbook	3	13