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**Special Collections**  
**035-03**  
**Florence Nelson Scrapbook**  
**1898-1902**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 035-03

Title: Florence Nelson Scrapbook

Creator: Nelson, Florence, 1875-1957

Dates: 1898-1902

Quantity: 1 scrapbook

**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, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
*Florence Nelson Scrapbook, Special Collections, Providence Public Library*

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**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material None

Published description Not applicable

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Location of originals | Not applicable   |
| Location of copies    | Not applicable   |
| Publication note      | Not applicable   |
| Subject headings      | Bristol Opera House<br>Providence Opera House<br>Operas – Rhode Island<br>Performing Arts – Rhode Island<br>Scrapbooks. aat<br>Clippings. aat<br>Playbills. aat<br>Theater Programs. aat |

**SEE ALSO**

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 034-03    | Robert Bonner Scrapbook         |
| 002-02-02 | Rhode Island Theater Collection |

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

Florence Nelson was an aspiring actress and dedicated follower of the arts in the Providence area. She was born in Bristol in 1875. Little is known about her personal life. Nelson kept a scrapbook in which she collected memorabilia from various plays and performances. Her scrapbook documents a significant portion of Rhode Island culture in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Prominently featured are performances held at the Providence Opera House, which opened in 1871 and was demolished in 1931. Theater was extremely popular in Providence at this time; while open, the Opera House housed numerous performances and hosted a number well-known actors and actresses.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This scrapbook contains memorabilia from various performances in the Rhode Island area from 1898-1902 collected by Florence Nelson. It includes playbills, newspaper reviews, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, and autographs. Many of the performances documented took place at the Providence Opera House or the Bristol Opera House. Performers of note in the scrapbook include Julia Marlowe, Mary Mannering, William Gillette\*, Virginia Harned, DeWolf Hopper, Viola Allen, Lionel Barrymore, Maude Adams, Robert Edeson, William H. Crane\*, Miss Percy Haswell\*, Olga Nethersole\*, Hamilton Revelle, Ethel Barrymore, John Drew, Isabel Irving, Frank Worthing, Vincent Serrano, Elsie de Wolfe, Marguerite Sylva, Suzanne Adams, Victor Maurel, Marcella Sembrich, E.H. Sothorn, Fanny Davenport\*, Jobyna Howland, Arthur Hoops, Julia Arthur, Arnold Daly, David Belasco, Cecilia Loftus, Margaret Dale, James Hackett, Bertha Galland, Margaret Illington, Suzanne Adams, Hilda Spong, Viola Allen, Edwin Arden, Florence Kahn, Maxine Elliot, Malcolm Williams, Macklyn Arbuckle, and Hattie Williams, among others. (\*indicates autograph included)

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection is entirely contained within a single bound scrapbook. Newspaper clippings and images are pasted within. Items are somewhat chronological and are arranged with like subjects.