Fred A. Mayer Silhouette Collection, ca. 1923 - ca. 1946
84 items

Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10029

Telephone: 212-534-1672
Fax: 212-423-0758
research@mcny.org
www.mcny.org

© Museum of the City of New York. All rights reserved.

Prepared by Amber C. Nigro, Archival Intern
July 2012
Edited by Morgen Stevens-Garmon, Theater Collections Archivist
February 2013
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary
Creator: Fred A. Mayer (1904-1993)
Title: Fred A. Mayer Silhouette Collection
Dates: ca. 1923 – ca. 1946
Abstract: Cut-paper silhouettes depicting scenes and/or characters from various Broadway theatre productions
Quantity: 84 items
Accession numbers: 41.217.1-2; 75.136.1-82
Language: English
Biographical Note
Artist Friedrike Mayer was born in Germany on April 4, 1904. At the age of nineteen, he emigrated to New York, arriving on April 22, 1923. While few resources exist concerning Mayer’s biographical history, evidence of his success as a visual artist can be found in the publication and exhibition history of his work. The height of Mayer’s creative output was during the 1930s and 1940s. His work was displayed at two branches of the New York Public Library and the advertising offices of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn. He contributed the illustrations for a 1933 edition of Emile Zola’s *Nana* and a 1937 edition of *Sonnets from the Portuguese* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. His silhouette illustrations accompanied *New York Times* theater reviews, and the newspaper frequently noted Mayer in their listing of current art shows. Mayer’s silhouettes also appeared in the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

Arrangement
Objects are arranged according to accession numbers assigned upon receipt in 1941 and 1975. Collection is located onsite at the Museum’s Curatorial Center.

Scope and Content
The collection contains 84 of Mayer’s cut-paper silhouettes that depict scenes and characters from various theater productions, dating primarily from the 1930s and 1940s. At least one silhouette present in the collection (75.136.70) was published to accompany a *New York Times* theater review.

Language of Materials
Materials are entirely in English.

Access and Use
The Museum of the City of New York collections must be examined on site. Appointments to examine materials must be made in advance by contacting the Archivist through e-mail at research@mcny.org.

Collection use is subject to all copyright laws. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Rights and Reproductions Office at the Museum of the City of New York. For more information please contact:
- Rights and Reproductions office
- Museum of the City of New York
- 1220 Fifth Avenue
- New York, NY 10029
- Telephone: 212-534-1672, ext. 3375
- Fax: 917-492-3960
- rights@mcny.org

Administrative information
Custodial history
Objects in the collection were donated by Fred A. Mayer.
Preferred citation
Title, date. Fred A. Mayer silhouette collection. Museum of the City of New York. Accession #.

Acquisition information
Gift 41.217 was donated in May 1941 and accession series 73.136 was given in July 1975.

Processing information
Collection was processed by intern Amber Nigro. Reference photographs were taken of each item in the collection and item-level cataloging was performed during June and July of 2012.

Related collections
Additional material related to the personalities listed may be found in the Theatrical Personalities files. Additional material related to productions mentioned may be found in the Collection on Broadway Productions.

Access Points
Personal names:
    Abbey, Harold
    Adair, Jean, 1873-1953
    Adler, Luther, 1903-1984
    Angelus, Muriel, 1909-2004
    Baird, Bil, 1904-1987
    Baird, Cora
    Baker, Phil, 1896-1963
    Barrymore, Ethel, 1879-1959
    Barrymore, John, 1882-1942
    Bergen, Edgar, 1903-1978
    Berle, Milton
    Beverley, Helen
    Birell, Tala, 1908-1959
    Boland, Mary, 1880-1965
    Bolger, Ray
    Bourneuf, Philip, 1912-1980
    Brando, Marlon
    Breon, Edmund, 1882-1951
    Brice, Fanny
    Brown, Anne, 1912-2009
    Burr, Donald
    Cadell, Jean, 1884-1967
    Carnovsky, Morris
    Christians, Mady, 1900-1951
    Christians, Mady, 1900-1951
    Clark, Bobby, 1888-1960
    Clark, Bobby, 1888-1960
    Clift, Montgomery
Cobb, Lee J., 1911-1976
Cook, Donald, 1901-1961
Corbett, Leonora, 1908-1960
Cornell, Katharine, 1893-1974
Dooley, Raymond
Dowling, Eddie
Draper, Paul, 1909-1996
Duncan, Todd
Dunham, Katherine
Dunnock, Mildred
Durante, Jimmy, 1893-1980
Durante, Jimmy, 1893-1980
Evans, Maurice, 1901-1989
Farrell, Tommy
Ferrer, José, 1912-1992
Fields, W. C. (William Claude), 1880-1946
Flemyng, Robert, 1912-1995
Ford, Helen, 1894-1982
Gaxton, William
Gessner, Adrienne, 1896-1987
Gessner, Adrienne, 1896-1987
Gordon, Ruth, 1896-1985
Gwenn, Edmund, 1875-1959
Hampden, Walter, 1879-1955
Harrigan, Nedda
Hayes, Helen, 1900-1993
Holman, Libby
Holtz, Lou, 1893-1980
Homolka, Oscar, 1898-1978
Hope, Bob, 1903-2003
Howard, Eugene
Howard, Willie, 1886-1949
Howard, Willie, 1886-1949
Hull, Josephine, 1877-1957
Johnson, Chic, 1891-1962
Johnson, Chic, 1891-1962
Kean, Jane
Klein, Adelaide, 1901-1983
Lahr, Bert, 1895-1967
Lawrence, Gertrude
Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991
Leigh, Vivien, 1913-1967
Lillie, Beatrice, 1894-1989
Locke, Katherine
Lynn, Eleanor
March, Fredric, 1897-1975
Margotson, Arthur, 1897-1951
Mason, Mary, 1911-1980
Mayer, Fred A., 1904-
McCarthy, Charles J., 1903-1960
McCauley, Jack
McGuire, Dorothy, 1918-2001
Menken, Helen, 1902-1966
Merman, Ethel
Moore, Victor, 1876-1962
Moore, Victor, 1876-1962
Natwick, Mildred, 1905-1994
Olivier, Laurence, 1907-1989
Olsen, Ole, 1863-1943
Olsen, Ole, 1892-1963
Radio Rogues
Randolph, Donald
Reid, Frances, 1914-2010
Roberts, Beverly
Roberts, Leona, d. 1954
Savage, Archie
Schildkraut, Joseph, 1895-1964
Schnee, Thelma
Scourby, Alexander, 1913-1985
Selwart, Tonio
Sheldon, Gene, 1909-1982
Smart, J. Scott (Jack Scott), 1903-1960
Stoddard, Haila
Tetzel, Joan, 1921-1977
Tonge, Philip, 1897-1959
Treseder, Kenneth
Waters, Ethel, 1896-1977
Webb, Clifton, 1889-1966
Wences, Señor, 1896-1999
Wengraf, John, 1897-1974
Williams, Rhys, 1892-1969
Wilson, Dooley, 1894-1953
Wonder, Tommy
Wood, Peggy, 1892-1978
Woolley, Monty, 1888-1963
Wynn, Ed, 1886-1966
Zoritch, George, 1917-2009

Corporate names:
New York times

Productions:
Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989. As thousands cheer
Boucicault, Dion, 1820-1890. Poor of New York
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973. Blithe spirit
Fain, Sammy, 1902-1989. Boys and girls together
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937. Let ’em eat cake
Hellzapoppin
Hersey, John, 1914-1993. Bell for Adano
Ibsen, Henrik, 1828-1906. Doll’s house
Kaufman, George S. (George Simon), 1889-1961. Man who came to dinner
Kesselring, Joseph, 1902-1967. Arsenic and old lace
Kober, Arthur, 1900-1975. Having wonderful time
Lindsay, Howard, 1889-1968. Life with father
Porter, Cole, 1891-1964. Anything goes
Porter, Cole, 1891-1964. Du Barry was a lady
Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979. I married an angel
Schwartz, Arthur, 1900-1984. Revenge with music
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. Taming of the shrew.
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 1751-1816. Rivals
Sullivan, Arthur, 1842-1900. Mikado (Hot Mikado)
Thomas, Brandon, 1848-1914. Charley’s aunt.
Weill, Kurt, 1900-1950. Eternal road
Williams, Emlyn, 1905-1987. Corn is green.

Topical subjects:
Musical theater--New York (State)--New York.
Theater--Broadway (New York, N.Y.)
Theater--New York (State)--New York
Theater--New York (State)--New York--Caricatures and cartoons.
Theater--New York (State)--New York--Periodicals.
Theater--New York (State)--New York--Pictorial works.
Theater--New York (State)--New York--Reviews--Periodicals.

Geographic subjects:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acc#</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.217.1</td>
<td>&quot;The Corn is Green&quot;</td>
<td>ca. 1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.217.2</td>
<td>&quot;The Man Who Came to Dinner&quot;</td>
<td>ca. 1939-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.1</td>
<td>“Having A Wonderful Time”</td>
<td>ca. 1937-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.2</td>
<td>“A Doll’s House”</td>
<td>ca. 1937-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.3</td>
<td>“Lightnin’”</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.4</td>
<td>“A Bell for Adano”</td>
<td>ca. 1944-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.5</td>
<td>“Arsenic and Old Lace”</td>
<td>ca. 1941-1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.6</td>
<td>“Dame Nature”</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.7</td>
<td>[Edgar Bergen, W. C. Fields, Charles McCarthy]</td>
<td>ca. 1930-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.8</td>
<td>“American Jubilee”</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.9</td>
<td>“Revenge with Music”</td>
<td>ca. 1934-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.10</td>
<td>“The Country Wife” (1)</td>
<td>ca. 1936-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.11</td>
<td>“I Married an Angel”</td>
<td>ca. 1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.12</td>
<td>“My Dear Children”</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.13</td>
<td>“Americana”</td>
<td>ca. 1926-1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.14</td>
<td>“Boys and Girls Together”</td>
<td>ca. 1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.15</td>
<td>“The Streets of New York”</td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.16</td>
<td>“Blithe Spirit” (1)</td>
<td>ca. 1941-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.17</td>
<td>“Life with Father”</td>
<td>ca. 1939-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.18</td>
<td>“Eternal Road”</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.19</td>
<td>“I Remember Mama”</td>
<td>ca. 1944-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.20</td>
<td>“Strike Me Pink”</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.21</td>
<td>“No Time for Comedy”</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.22</td>
<td>“Rocket to the Moon”</td>
<td>ca. 1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.23</td>
<td>“Spring Meeting”</td>
<td>ca. 1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.24</td>
<td>“Blithe Spirit” (2)</td>
<td>ca. 1941-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.25</td>
<td>“Alison’s House”</td>
<td>ca. 1930-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.26</td>
<td>“Mary of Scotland”</td>
<td>ca. 1933-1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.27</td>
<td>“White Oak”</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.28</td>
<td>“You Never Know”</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.29</td>
<td>[Beatrice Lillie]</td>
<td>ca. 1924-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.30</td>
<td>“The Old Maid”</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.31</td>
<td>“On Borrowed Time”</td>
<td>ca. 1938-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.32</td>
<td>“The Wookey”</td>
<td>ca. 1941-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.33</td>
<td>“It Happens on Ice” (1)</td>
<td>ca. 1940-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.34</td>
<td>“Charlie’s Aunt”</td>
<td>ca. 1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.35</td>
<td>“The Gentle People”</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.36</td>
<td>“The Country Wife” (2)</td>
<td>ca. 1936-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.37</td>
<td>“Hellzapoppin’”</td>
<td>ca. 1938-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.38</td>
<td>“The Good Fairy”</td>
<td>ca. 1931-1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.136.39</td>
<td>“Hold Your Horses”</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Priorities of 1942” 1942
“Candle in the Wind” ca. 1941-1942
“Strip for Action” ca. 1942-1943
“High Tor” 1937
“Ziegfeld Follies of 1934” 1934
“Uncle Harry” ca. 1942-1943
“It Happens on Ice” (2) ca. 1940-1942
“Laugh, Clown, Laugh” (1) ca. 1923-1924
“The Taming of the Shrew” (1) ca. 1930-1957
“Red Hot and Blue” ca. 1936-1937
“On Your Toes” ca. 1936-1937
“Thumbs Up” (1) ca. 1934-1935
“Thumbs Up” (2) ca. 1934-1935
“The Hot Mikado” 1939
“Singin’ the Blues” 1931
“Du Barry Was a Lady” ca. 1939-1940
“The Green Pastures” ca. 1930-1951
“Jason” 1942
“Anything Goes” ca. 1934-1935
“Claudia” 1941
“Early to Bed” ca. 1943-1944
“The Ice Show” 1977 ()
“Laugh, Clown, Laugh” (2) ca. 1923-1924
“Laugh, Clown, Laugh” (3) ca. 1923-1924
“Ziegfeld Follies of 1943” ca. 1943-1944
“Let ‘Em Eat Cake” ca. 1933-1934
“Jumbo” ca. 1935-1936
“Reunion in Vienna” ca. 1931-1932
“Sons O’ Fun” ca. 1941-1943
“Panama Hattie” ca. 1940-1942
“Louisiana Purchase” ca. 1940-1941
“You Can’t Take it With You” ca. 1936-1945
“Hamlet” (1) ca. 1938-1939
“The Rivals” 1942
“Romeo and Juliet” 1939
“Hamlet” (2) ca. 1938-1939
“Ziegfeld Follies of 1936” 1936
“As Thousands Cheer” 1933-1934
“Lady in the Dark” 1941-1943
“The Taming of the Shrew” (2) ca. 1930-1957
“Porgy and Bess” 1942
“Cabin in the Sky” 1941
[Two unidentified women] 1930-1950


