

Eugene Pillot:

An Inventory of His Collection in the Performing Arts Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Pillot, Eugene, 1886-1966

Title: Eugene Pillot Collection

Dates: 1917-1955

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize folder (0.42 linear feet)

Abstract: Joseph Eugene Pillot's notable plays include *Two Crooks and a Lady*, *My Lady Dreams*, *Hunger*, and *Just Two Men*. The Eugene Pillot Collection contains programs, printed works, correspondence, typescripts, photographs, and sheet music documenting his career as dramatist, poet, and lyricist.

RLIN Record #: TXRC03-A11

Language: English

Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gifts, 1930s-1950s

Processed by: Justin Glasson, 2002; Richard Workman, 2003

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

Joseph Eugene Pillot, son of Teolin and Anna C. (Drescher) Pillot, was born in Houston, Texas, on 25 February 1886. After attending the University of Texas, he moved to the East Coast to pursue an interest in theater and the arts. In the 1910s, Pillot spent several years at Harvard working with George Pierce Baker's well-known 47 Workshop, where a number of his one-act plays were first produced.

Noted for its technical merits and popularity among American high school students, Pillot's play *Two Crooks and a Lady* (1918) proved his biggest success. It was produced and republished many times during the 1920s and 1930s. Pillot's other notable plays include *My Lady Dreams*, *Hunger*, and *Just Two Men*, all written in the early 1920s. During his career, Pillot also wrote poems and lyrics for religious songs, and in 1955 he authored the book *Azalea* for the River Oaks Garden Club in Houston.

Pillot died 4 June 1966.

Source:

Strong, Julia Hurd. "Pillot, Joseph Eugene." *The Handbook of Texas Online*.
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/PP/fpi22.html>

Scope and Contents

The Eugene Pillot Collection contains programs, printed works, correspondence, typescripts, photographs, and sheet music documenting his career as dramatist, poet, and lyricist. The materials are arranged in a single series, Collection, 1917-55.

The collection includes typescripts of several poems and one play, printed copies of works published in newspapers and magazines, and a copy of his book *Azalea*. The bulk of the material relates to Pillot's career in the theater: correspondence from George Pierce Baker regarding royalties and other matters concerning performances of *Two Crooks and a Lady*; a few sketches of costumes and set designs; and a collection of over 100 programs from amateur and student performances of his plays (1918-26).

Relating to Pillot's career as a lyricist are copies of the sheet music for "Every Wind that Blows" (music by Leighton Lucas, 1932) and "Let Not Your Song End" (music by Noble Cain, 1954), as well as letters of acknowledgment from institutions and persons to whom Pillot sent copies of his songs.

Pillot, Eugene, 1886-1966

The remainder of the collection includes several photographs of Pillot, his family, and friends and personalities such as composer Leighton Lucas, radio singer Jessica Dragonette, and actor-dancer Jacques Cartier. Many of these photos are signed. There are also some clippings and programs relating to theater in Austin, Texas.

Index Terms

People

Baker, George Pierce, 1866-1935.

Cain, Noble, 1896-1977.

Lucas, Leighton, 1903-1982.

Subjects

Dramatists, American--20th century.

American poetry--20th century.

Document Types

Photographs.

Scripts.

Sheet music.

Theater programs.

Series I. Collection, 1917-55

Works, 1920-55, undated (*"Gossip" and <i>My Lady Dreams</i> moved to oversize folder 1)	Box 1 Folder 1-2*
Correspondence, 1917-37 (bulk 1920-26)	Folder 3
Stage and costume designs, undated	Folder 4
Programs, 1918-26, 1934, undated	Folder 5-6
Family photographs, 1937, 1943, undated (*high school graduation portrait moved to oversize folder 1)	Folder 7*
Miscellaneous photos, clippings, programs, etc., 1922-48, undated	Folder 8

Eugene Pillot Collection--Index of Works

- "Acting has never been to me"--1.1
- *Azalea*--1.1
- "Color in Autumn"--1.1
- Contemplation on a Terrace--1.2
- "Crepe Myrtle"--1.1
- "Every Wind that Blows"--1.1
- "Four O'Clocks Bloom in the Afternoon"--1.2
- "Gossip"--oversize folder 1
- Jacques Cartier--1.2
- Leaves at San Jacinto--1.2
- "Let Not Your Song End"--1.2
- *My Lady Dreams*--oversize folder 1
- "My Love, the Dancer"--1.2
- One Word Only--1.2
- "Song on the Prairie"--1.2
- The Star at San Jacinto--1.2
- *Telephone Number One*--1.2
- *The Young Wonder*--1.2