

# Basil Langton:

## An Inventory of His Theater Interview Transcripts at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Langton, Basil, 1912-  
**Title:** Basil Langton Theater Interview Transcripts 1960-1962  
**Dates:** 1960-1962  
**Extent:** 1 box (.42 linear feet)  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-02382  
**Access:** Open for research

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### Administrative Information

**Acquisition:** Purchase, 1964 (R980)  
**Processed by:** Bob Taylor, 1999  
**Repository:** Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

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## Biographical Sketch

Born in Bristol, England, in 1912, Basil Langton was educated in Vancouver, British Columbia, and began his theatrical career there in 1930. By 1935 Langton was performing at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford; during the Second World War he became a producer and director associated with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Since 1945 Langton has been active in the performing arts in the United States, serving as director of numerous productions. Langton has also been involved in teaching, writing, and the graphic arts.

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## Source:

*Contemporary Theatre, Film, and Television*, v.2. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1985.

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## Scope and Contents

Research material for a projected book on the stagecraft of Bernard Shaw ( "George Bernard Shaw at Work in the Theatre"), consisting of unedited typescript transcripts of 26 interviews with 27 interviewees. Interviewees include Dame Edith Evans, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Christopher Fry, and Dame Sybil Thorndike.

The interviews comprising this collection were conducted between January 1960 and August 1962 with actors who had performed in the plays of Shaw at a time when he had personal involvement in their production. Langton wished to test by this means his thesis that while Shaw was "at the forefront of the modern theatre," his stagecraft was of an earlier epoch, depending on "the 19th century *actor's* theatre of declamation and rhetoric."

The 26 transcripts comprising this collection were taken from 74 reel-to-reel tapes held by the Ransom Center. It's probable these tapes have not been fully transcribed in all cases.

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## Separated Material

Sound recordings were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recording collection and are described individually in a list at the end of this finding aid and in a [searchable database](#).

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Ballantine, E. J., July 23, 1962	<b>Box 1 Folder 1</b>
Barton, Mary, July 24., 1962	<b>Folder 2</b>
Beldon, Eileen, July 5, 1962	<b>Folder 3</b>
Bishop, George, Aug. 9, 1962	<b>Folder 4</b>
Bourne, Adeline, Aug. 18, 1962	<b>Folder 5</b>
Casson, Lewis, Sir and Thorndike, Sybil, Dame, Jan. 1960	<b>Folder 6</b>
Colbourne, Maurice, Sir, June 15, 1962	<b>Folder 7</b>
Evans, Edith, Dame, Oct. 26, 1960	<b>Folder 8</b>
Fry, Christopher, Aug. 17, 1962	<b>Folder 9</b>
Grey, Earl, July 3, 1962	<b>Folder 10</b>
Halstan, Margaret, Oct. 29, 1960	<b>Folder 11</b>
Hardwicke, Cedric, Sir [1961?]	<b>Folder 12</b>
Hiller, Wendy, July 6, 1962	<b>Folder 13</b>
Iden, Rosalind [n.d.]	<b>Folder 14</b>
Jackson, Barry, Sir, Jan. 13, 1960	<b>Folder 15</b>
Johnston, Oliver, June 1, 1962	<b>Folder 16</b>
Lawson, Wilfred, Aug. 22, 1962	<b>Folder 17</b>
Leahy, Eugene, Aug. 8, 1962	<b>Folder 18</b>
Limerick, Mona, July 15, 1962	<b>Folder 19</b>
Lohr, Marie, Aug. 8, 1962	<b>Folder 20</b>
McCarthy, Lillah, Jan. 25, 1960	<b>Folder 21</b>

Nesbitt, Cathleen, Mar. 21, 1962

**Folder 22**

Scott, Hilda, Aug. 25, 1962

**Folder 23**

Shelving, Paul, July 10, 1962

**Folder 24**

Thesiger, Ernest, Jan. 18, 1960

**Folder 25**

Tree, Iris, June 27, 1962

**Folder 26**

## Sound Recordings List

- C 0503.1 : audiocassettes : Interview of Basil Dean regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- C 0503.2 : audiocassettes : Interview of Basil Dean regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- C 0504.1 : audiocassettes : Interview with B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw, tape 1
- C 0504.2 : audiocassettes : Interview with B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw, tape 2
- C 0504.3 : audiocassettes : Interview with B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw, tape 3
- CD 0021 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0022 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0023 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0024 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0025 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0026 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0027 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0028 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0029 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0030 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0031 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0032 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0033 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0034 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0035 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0036 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- CD 0037 : compact discs : CD degraded, no longer playable
- R 0175.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-3rd meeting, Tape 1
- R 0175.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-3rd meeting, Tape 2
- R 0180.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Elvy and Michel St. Denis regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0180.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Elvy and Michel St. Denis regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 0180.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Elvy and Michel St. Denis regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 0180.4 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Elvy and Michel St. Denis regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 0181.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ernest Thesiger and Ellen O'Malley regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0181.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ernest Thesiger and Ellen O'Malley regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 0181.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ernest Thesiger and Ellen O'Malley regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 0181.4 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ernest Thesiger and Ellen O'Malley regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 0182.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley, Paul Carroll, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0182.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley, Paul Carroll, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2

- R 0182.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley, Paul Carroll, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 0182.4 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley, Paul Carroll, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 0183.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Auction at Sotheby's, Tape 1
- R 0183.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Auction at Sotheby's, Tape 2
- R 0188.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting, Tape 1
- R 0188.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting, Tape 2
- R 0189.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting, Tape 1
- R 0189.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting, Tape 2
- R 0189.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting, Tape 3
- R 0190.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting, Tape 1
- R 0190.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting, Tape 2
- R 0191.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting, Tape 1
- R 0191.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting, Tape 2
- R 0191.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting, Tape 3
- R 0192.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Lillah McCarthy (Lady Keeble) regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0192.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Lillah McCarthy (Lady Keeble) regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 0193.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Dame Edith Evans regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0193.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Dame Edith Evans regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 0194.1 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Sir Barry Jackson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 0194.2 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Sir Barry Jackson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 0194.3 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Sir Barry Jackson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 0195 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Mary Morris regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0254 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Dame Sybil Thorndike regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0255 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Charles Landstone, Sybil Thorndike, Kewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0256 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Ellen O'Malley regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting
- R 0257 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ernest Thesiger, Ellen O'Malley, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0258 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley, Paul Carroll, Norman Marshall regarding George Bernard Shaw

- R 0259 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of James Dale and Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0260 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Lillah McCarthy (Lady Keeble) and Maurice Elvy regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0261 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Elvy and Michel St. Denis regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 0262 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : terview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting
- R 0263 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of B. Iden Payne regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting
- R 0264 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-1st meeting
- R 0265 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Herbert Ransom regarding George Bernard Shaw-2nd meeting
- R 0266 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Mary Morris regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 1538 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley and Margaret Halstan regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 1539 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley and Margaret Halstan regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 1540 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley and Margaret Halstan regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 1541 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Ellen O'Malley and Margaret Halstan regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 1595 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of James Dale and Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 1596 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of James Dale and Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 1597 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of James Dale and Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 1598 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of James Dale and Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 2311 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Shaw's Actors, Reel 1
- R 2312 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Shaw's Actors, Reel 2
- R 2550 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Hilda Scott interview regarding Charles MacDonagh, Tape 1
- R 2551 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Hilda Scott interview regarding Charles MacDonagh, Tape 2
- R 2552 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Mrs. Ann E. Jackson regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2553 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of George Wood regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2554 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Robert Young and Doris Little regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2555 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Wendy Hiller and Ronald Gow regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2556 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Leon Quartermaine and Alan Parsons (Tree) regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2557 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Earl Gray and Margaret Halford regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2558 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Blanche Patch regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2559 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Basil Dean regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2560 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Mona Limerick regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2561 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Robert Atkins and correspondence regarding George Bernard Shaw

- R 2562 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Oliver Johnston, Phyllis Shand, Eugene Leahy, Marie Mohr regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2563 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Maurice Colbourne and Ada Reeve regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2564 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Sir Donald Wolfit and Rosalind Iden (Lady Wolfit) regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2565 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Eileen Beldon, Paul Shelving regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2566 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Waldo Lanchester and Phyllis Shand regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2567 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Mary Barton regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2568 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of A. Hylton Allen, Renee Kelly, Hilda Park regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2569 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Blanche Patch, George Bishop, Barry Jones regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2570 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Letters and notes regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2571 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Harold Scott, Notes from Ellen O'Malley
- R 2572 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Iris Tree and E. J. Ballantine regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2573 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Adeline Bourne regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2574 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Georgina Chaworth regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2575 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of J. S. Collis and Wilfrid Lawson regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2576 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Janette Mary Fernie Ranken Thesiger regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2577 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interview of Miles Malleson regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2578 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Milton Rosmer, George Bishop, Norman MacDermott regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2579 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Godfrey Kenton, Norman Shelly, Chris Fry, Muriel Pope, Margaret Halford regarding George Bernard Shaw
- R 2674 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 1
- R 2675 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 2
- R 2676 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 3
- R 2677 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 4
- R 2678 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 5
- R 2679 : reel-to-reel audiotapes : Interviews of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson regarding George Bernard Shaw, Tape 6