

Leon M. Lion:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Lion, Leon M., 1879-1947
Title:	Leon M. Lion Collection
Dates:	1895-1951 (bulk 1904-1940)
Extent:	8 document boxes (3.36 linear feet), 1 oversize folder (osf)
Abstract:	The Leon M. Lion Collection contains correspondence, contracts, photographs, scripts, and a few miscellaneous items.
Call Number:	Performing Arts Collection PA-00053
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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Administrative Information

Acquisition: Purchases, 1981 and 1992

Processed by: Valerie Burns, 2002; Daniela Lozano, 2017

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

Biographical Sketch

Leon M. Lion (1879-1947) was an actor, manager, director, and dramatist on the London stage. He was born in London on March 12, 1879. His first break came in 1899 when he adapted a story by Tom Gallon. The play's success led to further collaborations with Gallon and others, and launched a successful stage career that crossed over into film. He died in Brighton on March 28, 1947.

Scope and Contents

The Leon M. Lion Collection, 1895-1951, contains correspondence, contracts, photographs, scripts, and a few miscellaneous items. It is arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1900-1951 (3 boxes); II. Contracts, 1903-1944 (4 boxes); III. Other Papers, 1895-1937 (1 box).

The correspondence includes mainly letters written to Lion, along with some carbons of replies, and concerns his activities as an actor, producer, dramatist working in collaboration with authors as well as other business and personal affairs. Among the correspondents are J. Jefferson and Eleanor Farjeon, Tom Gallon, Eden Phillpotts, Sybil Thorndike, and Tom Walls. The Contracts consist of agreements with actors and writers and for film rights, play rights, and radio programs, 1903-1944. These are arranged alphabetically by title of the work, except for a small number of other contracts, primarily leasing agreements, which are chronologically arranged. Completing this collection are a few photographs of actors and actresses associated with Lion and several scripts, including two prompt copies.

For further information about Lion, consult his autobiography, *The Surprise of My Life* (London: Hutchinson, 1948).

Separated Material

The following book was transferred to the Ransom Center Library:

Leon, Lion M. *The Surprise of My Life*. London, New York: Hutchinson, [1948].

Series I. Correspondence, 1900-1951

Incoming

A-B, 1901-1946	Container 1.1
Allen, Jerrald Grant, 1904-1933	Container 1.2
C-D, 1904-1951	Container 1.3
Coreth, Countess, 1938-1941	Container 1.4
E-F, 1904-1946	Container 1.5
Farjeon, J.J. and Eleanor, 1931-1948	Container 1.6
G, 1904-1940	Container 1.7
Gallon, Tom, 1902-1921	Container 1.8
H-J, 1901-1946	Container 2.1
K-L, 1901-1946	Container 2.2
M, 1903-1946	Container 2.3
Mannin, Ethel, 1930-1945	Container 2.4
Martin-Harvey, Sir John and Mrs., 1903-1945	Container 2.5
N-O, 1903-1944	Container 2.6
P, 1903-1945	Container 2.7
R, 1903-1945	Container 2.8
S-V, 1901-1946	Container 3.1
W-Z, 1902-1945	Container 3.2
Unidentified, 1900, 1947	Container 3.3
Edge of the Storm tour, 1904-1905	Container 3.4
Number Seventeen film rights, 1904, 1931	Container 3.5
Outgoing correspondence, 1902-1947	Container 3.6-7

Series II. Contracts, 1903-1944

A, 1912-1938	Container 4.1
B, 1909-1937	Container 4.2
C, 1918-1943	Container 4.3
D, 1926-1939	Container 4.4
E, 1926-1929	Container 4.5
F, 1921-1940	Container 4.6
G, 1932-1938	Container 4.7
H, 1910-1939	Container 5.1
The Holmeses of Baker Street, 1932-1933	Container 5.2
I-K, 1920-1940	Container 5.3
L, 1909-1934	Container 5.4
Land's End, 1934-1938	Container 5.5
Libel, 1934-1938	Container 5.6, 6.1
M, 1908-1941	Container 6.2
Many Waters, 1928-1943	Container 6.3
N, 1923-1938	Container 6.4
O, 1923-1940	Container 6.5
P, 1929-1940	Container 6.6
Q-R, 1920-1934	Container 7.1
S, 1909-1939	Container 7.2
The Snare, 1915-1939	Container 7.3
T, 1910-1938	Container 7.4
W, 1909-1932	Container 7.5

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While Parents Sleep, 1932-1944

Container 7.6

Various, 1903-1940

Container 7.7, 8.1

Series III. Other Papers, 1895-1937

Photographs, 1895-1930s	Container 8.2
Scripts, 1921-1937	
Beiser, R. and Edginton, M., The Ninth Earl, prompt copy	Container 8.3, osf
Dixon, Campbell, Point-Counterpoint	Container 8.4
Leslie, L. Gordon, Waterproof Alibi	Container 8.5
Lucas, F. L., The Bear Dances	Container 8.6
Wolfe, Humbert, Salvation Somehow	Container 8.7
Young, Frank Popham, The One-Eyed Herring, prompt copy	Container 8.8
Clippings, receipts, unidentified typescript fragments, 1895, 1931, undated	Container 8.9