

Jennie Lorenz Collection Relating to Charlotte Cushman

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Jennie Lorenz Collection Relating to Charlotte Cushman

Span Dates: 1830-1960

ID No.: MSS81445

Collector: Lorenz, Jennie, 1886-1962

Extent: 1,750 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm92081445>

Summary: Educator. Correspondence, research notes, reproductions of correspondence and portraits, and printed materials relating to Lorenz's research on the life of actress Charlotte Cushman.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Cushman, Charlotte, 1816-1876.

Lorenz, Jennie, 1886-1962.

Subjects

Actresses--Biography.

Titles

Jennie Lorenz papers

Occupations

Educators.

Acquisition Information

The Jennie Lorenz Collection Relating to Charlotte Cushman was given to the Library of Congress by Lorenz's estate in 1963.

Processing History

The collection was arranged and described by Laura J. Kells in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Jennie Lorenz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Jennie Lorenz Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Jennie Lorenz Collection Relating to Charlotte Cushman, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1886, July 6	Born, Sheboygan, Wis.
1905	Graduated from Milwaukee State Normal School, Milwaukee, Wis.
1911	Bachelor of arts degree, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1929	Master of arts degree in speech, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
1905-1933	Completed the junior course at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, N.Y., and the two-year special course at the Curry School of Expression (location unknown). Taught in Sheboygan grade schools, in several Wisconsin high schools, and in the Phoenix Union High School, Phoenix, Ariz.
1933-1934	Associate professor, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, La.
1934	Instructor, Winona State Teachers' College, Winona, Minn.
1935	Instructor, Texas State College for Women, Denton, Tex.
1936	Privately published doctoral dissertation, "Consistency of Auditory Acuity or Variability of Individuals Among Four Tests with the 2A Audiometer," written for Ph.D. at Columbia University, New York, N.Y. Assistant professor of speech, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
1937	Traveled to England and conducted research on Charlotte Cushman
1962, Dec. 31	Died, Phoenix, Ariz.

Scope and Content Note

Jennie Lorenz was an educator with an interest in the theater. Her papers consist of the accumulation of research on the life of actress Charlotte Cushman (1816-1876) and span the years circa 1830-1960. The Cushman material consulted in Lorenz's research dates from circa 1830-1890 and the bulk of the documents generated during this project span the years 1927-1960. Lorenz wrote a master's thesis on Cushman in 1929. In later years she collected material about Cushman and the theater of the period for a biography which she never completed. Most of her research notes appear to have been made between 1950 and 1960. The papers have been organized into three series: [General Correspondence](#), [Research Notes](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) file, 1927-1960, consists of correspondence relating to Lorenz's research on Cushman. A major portion of the correspondence includes responses from individuals and repositories regarding inquiries about Cushman material. There is also correspondence from descendants of the Cushman family, including those in England with whom Lorenz visited in 1937 as part of her research. Also included are letters from two other prospective Cushman biographers, Lyman Beecher Stowe and Helen Thomson.

The largest portion of this collection is the [Research Notes](#) file, circa 1830-1960, which Lorenz compiled from about 1930 to 1960. This section contains notes on the holdings of approximately twenty-five repositories, including the New York Public Library, Harvard University, and the Folger Shakespeare Library, as well as notes on material in the possession of individuals, including Cushman descendants in the United States and England. Lorenz also took extensive notes on the Cushman papers in the manuscript collections of the Library of Congress, but these notes were not retained because the originals are available for study here in the Manuscript Division. The Research Notes file contains notes on Cushman correspondence, other related correspondence, collections, playbills and programs, Cushman portraits, and exhibits of Cushman items. These are arranged alphabetically by the name of the repository. There are also notes on Cushman genealogy, books, newspapers and magazines, and plays.

Lorenz's notes on Cushman's correspondence consist principally of handwritten copies of letters, which date from 1836 to 1876 and touch on the actress's friendships, her acting engagements in the United States and abroad, and her later work giving dramatic readings. Copied from Johns Hopkins University are letters, 1876, to Sidney Lanier in which Cushman describes suffering from breast cancer in the last weeks of her life. The miscellaneous correspondence file includes letters from people close to Cushman, including her sister Susan, with whom Charlotte acted for a time. Letters from Emma Stebbins to Lanier describe Stebbins's effort to compile and publish a biography of Cushman after the actress's death.

The file of notes on collections contains information on material other than correspondence available in the repositories Lorenz visited. This material includes scrapbooks and clipping collections. There are also notes on a couple of Cushman's costumes at the Smithsonian Institution and on Cushman's annotated copy of *Henry V* at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Notes on playbills available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and on portraits in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress were not retained because the originals are available for study here at the Library. The notes on other playbills relate not only to Cushman's performances but also to other productions of plays in which she frequently acted and the performances of other actors and actresses of the period. The largest collection of notes on playbills covers the holdings of the Brander Matthews Museum at Columbia University.

The notes on books relate to those books which are not available in the Library of Congress collections. A large portion of these books concerns the theater.

The Miscellany file includes Lorenz's master's thesis completed in 1929, "Charlotte Cushman: A Study in Acting," notes containing thoughts for a biography of Cushman, printed matter, and a few reproductions of portraits and Cushman correspondence. There are two items dating from the period of Charlotte Cushman's lifetime: a November 1871 playbill from the Globe Theatre in Boston for *Henry VIII* in which Cushman played Katharine and an engraving of Charlotte and Susan Cushman as Romeo and Juliet.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- General Correspondence, 1927-1960
- Research Notes, circa 1830-1960
- Miscellany, 1871-1959

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

General Correspondence, 1927-1960

Correspondence relating to Lorenz's research on Charlotte Cushman.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 1-5

Research Notes, circa 1830-1960

Notes taken circa 1930-1960 on Charlotte Cushman correspondence and miscellaneous correspondence dating from circa 1830-1890, and on collections, playbills and programs, portraits, and exhibits arranged alphabetically by repository.

Notes on genealogy and books arranged alphabetically by name of ancestor or author. Notes on newspapers and magazines arranged alphabetically by title and chronologically therein.

BOX 5

Miscellany, 1871-1959

Master's thesis, notes and writings, printed matter, and reproductions.
Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General Correspondence, 1927-1960 Correspondence relating to Lorenz's research on Charlotte Cushman. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1927-1960, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1-5	Research Notes, circa 1830-1960 Notes taken circa 1930-1960 on Charlotte Cushman correspondence and miscellaneous correspondence dating from circa 1830-1890, and on collections, playbills and programs, portraits, and exhibits arranged alphabetically by repository. Notes on genealogy and books arranged alphabetically by name of ancestor or author. Notes on newspapers and magazines arranged alphabetically by title and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Notes on Charlotte Cushman correspondence
BOX 1	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.
BOX 1	Charlotte Cushman Club, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 1	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 1	Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio
BOX 1	Columbia University, Brander Matthews Museum, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Duke University, Durham, N.C.
BOX 1	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
BOX 1	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 1	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 1	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
BOX 1	Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 1	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.
BOX 1	Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.
BOX 1	Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	New York State Library, Albany, N.Y.
BOX 1	New York Historical Society, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Old State House, Boston, Mass.
BOX 1	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
BOX 1	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 1	Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
BOX 1	Notes on miscellaneous correspondence
BOX 1	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 1	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
BOX 1	Various repositories
BOX 1	Notes on collections
BOX 1	Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.

Research Notes, circa 1830-1960

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 1	Columbia University, Brander Matthews Museum, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Cooper Union Museum, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Mich.
BOX 1	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. (2 folders)
BOX 1	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (2 folders)
BOX 2	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 2	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
BOX 2	Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.
BOX 2	Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	New York State Library, Albany, N.Y.
BOX 2	Old State House, Boston, Mass.
BOX 2	Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
BOX 2	Private collections
BOX 2	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
BOX 2	Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
BOX 2	Notes on exhibits
BOX 2	Notes on playbills and programs
BOX 2	Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, N.Y.
BOX 2	Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.
BOX 2	Charlotte Cushman Club, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 2	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 2	Columbia University, Brander Matthews Museum, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	Duke University, Durham, N.C.
BOX 2	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
BOX 2	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 2	Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	New York Historical Society, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
BOX 2	Notes on portraits
BOX 2	Repositories
BOX 2	Miscellaneous locations
BOX 2	Notes on genealogy
BOX 2	Notes on books
BOX 2	Books relating to theater
BOX 2	Authors A-L
BOX 2	Authors M-Z
BOX 2	Miscellaneous topics
BOX 3	Notes on newspapers and magazines
BOX 3	<i>Albany Argus</i> , 1836-1837
BOX 3	<i>Albany Daily Advertiser</i> , 1836-1837
BOX 3	<i>Albany Evening Journal</i> , 1836, 1838
BOX 3	<i>Albany Microscope</i> , 1837

Research Notes, circa 1830-1960

Container

Contents

BOX 3	<i>Anglo-American</i> , 1843-1845
BOX 3	<i>Appleton's Journal</i> , 1874
BOX 3	<i>Boston American Traveller</i> , 1833-1835
BOX 3	<i>Boston Daily Advocate</i> , 1835
BOX 3	<i>Boston Daily Atlas</i> , 1835
BOX 3	<i>Boston Daily Evening Transcript</i> , 1835-1837, 1872
BOX 3	<i>Boston Mercantile Journal</i> , 1833-1836
BOX 3	<i>Boston Morning Post</i> , 1833-1836
BOX 3	<i>Boston Notion</i> , 1840-1846
BOX 3	<i>Bostonian</i> , 1894-1895
BOX 3	<i>Buffalo Daily Courier</i> , 1873
BOX 3	<i>Buffalo Daily Star</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Chicago Daily Democrat</i> , 1851, 1858
BOX 3	<i>Chicago Daily Journal</i> , 1851
BOX 3	<i>Le Courier de la Louisiane</i> , 1835
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Daily Advertiser</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Democratic Free Press</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Free Press</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Journal and Courier</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Morning Post</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Detroit Semi-Weekly Free Press</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>Emerson Quarterly</i> , 1939-1940
BOX 3	<i>The Era</i> (London), 1844, 1848-1850, 1905
BOX 3	<i>Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion</i> , 1851
BOX 3	<i>Illustrated London News</i> , 1845-1876
BOX 3	<i>Ladies' Companion</i> , 1849-1864
BOX 3	<i>Lady's Book</i> (Godey's), 1837
BOX 3	<i>New Orleans Bee</i> , 1835-1836
BOX 3	<i>New Orleans Bulletin</i> , 1876
BOX 3	<i>New Orleans Commercial Bulletin</i> , 1836
BOX 3	<i>New Orleans True American</i> , 1836
BOX 3	<i>New York Albion</i> , 1836-1838, 1849
BOX 3	<i>New York Daily Express</i> , 1837
BOX 3	<i>New York Daily Graphic</i> , 1874
BOX 3	<i>New York Daily Tribune</i> , 1876
BOX 3	<i>New York Evening Mirror</i> , 1844-1845
BOX 3	<i>New York Evening Post</i> , 1836-1838
BOX 3	<i>New York Evening Star</i> , 1837
BOX 4	<i>New York Herald</i> , 1837-1842 (4 folders)
BOX 4	<i>New York Mirror</i> , 1836-1842
BOX 4	<i>New York New Mirror</i> , 1843-1844
BOX 3	<i>New York Standard</i> , 1844-1845
BOX 4	<i>New York Weekly Herald</i> , 1840-1846
BOX 4	<i>New York Weekly Mirror</i> , 1844-1847
BOX 4	<i>New York Times</i> , 1851, 1915, 1924, 1925

Research Notes, circa 1830-1960

Container	Contents
BOX 4	<i>New York Times & Commercial Intelligencer/Times and Evening Star</i> , 1838-1840
BOX 4	<i>Newburyport Daily Herald</i> (Mass.), 1832-1843
BOX 4	<i>Newburyport Herald</i> (Mass.), Semi-weekly, 1825-1847, 1872
BOX 4	<i>Philadelphia Public Ledger</i> , 1840
BOX 4	<i>Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch</i> , 1861-1863 (2 folders)
BOX 5	<i>Scotch Thistle</i> , 1858, 1866
BOX 5	<i>Spirit of the Times</i> , 1841, 1843, 1850-1851, 1856, 1858, 1863, 1876
BOX 5	<i>Tallis's Democratic Magazine</i> and assorted Tallis's publications, 1850-1857
BOX 5	<i>Theatrical Journal</i> , 1853-1854
BOX 5	<i>Theatrical Times</i> , 1846-1848 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellaneous periodicals, 1825-1957
BOX 5	Notes on plays
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1871-1959 Master's thesis, notes and writings, printed matter, and reproductions. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 5	Master's thesis, "Charlotte Cushman: A Study in Acting," 1929 (6 folders)
BOX 5	Notes and writings
BOX 5	Suggestions for Cushman biography, undated
BOX 5	Working material for master's thesis, undated
BOX 5	Printed matter
BOX 5	Clippings, 1921-1959, undated
BOX 5	Hall of fame, 1933-1936, undated
BOX 5	Information on repositories
BOX 5	Maps of Mt. Auburn cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., annotated
BOX 5	Playbill, Globe Theatre, Boston, Mass., 1871
BOX 5	Miscellaneous, 1951-1955, undated
BOX 5	Reproductions
BOX 5	Charlotte Cushman correspondence, 1830, 1841, 1950
BOX 5	Charlotte Cushman portraits