

# **Paul Wilstach Collection of Richard Mansfield Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79031260>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008093>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Revised 2024 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Paul Wilstach Collection of Richard Mansfield Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1889-1918

**Bulk Dates:** 1898-1909

**ID No.:** MSS31260

**Collector:** Wilstach, Paul, 1870-1952

**Creator:** Mansfield, Richard, 1857-1907

**Extent:** 2000 items

**Extent:** 6 containers plus 2 oversize

**Extent:** 2.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and French

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79031260>

**Summary:** Author and biographer (Wilstach). Actor (Mansfield). Scrapbooks, correspondence, plays, printed matter, and biographical material mainly created by Mansfield and collected by Wilstach, who served as Mansfield's secretary.

## 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

Cameron, Beatrice, 1868-1940--Correspondence.

Ibsen, Henrik, 1828-1906.

Mansfield, Richard, 1857-1907. Paul Wilstach collection of Richard Mansfield papers. 1889-1918.

Pollard, J. P. (Joseph Percival), Mrs.

Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950.

Wilstach family.

Wilstach, Paul, 1870-1952.

Wilstach, Paul, 1870-1952. Richard Mansfield, the man and the actor. 1908.

### Subjects

Actors--Biography.

Theater--United States.

### Titles

*Paul Wilstach papers*

*Richard Mansfield papers*

### Occupations

Biographers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Richard Mansfield, actor, were given to the Library of Congress in 1925 by author and biographer Paul Wilstach. Additional items were received from the Wilstach estate in 1972.

## Processing History

The papers of Richard Mansfield were arranged and described in 1966 and 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2009 by Joseph K. Brooks. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Paul Wilstach Collection of Richard Mansfield Papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard Mansfield and Paul Wilstach is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Richard Mansfield are 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, Paul Wilstach Collection of Richard Mansfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

### Richard Mansfield

Date	Event
1857, May 24	Born, Berlin, Germany
1859-1872	Traveled with mother, Erminia Rudersdorff Mansfield, a singer, on concert tours of England and Europe
1872	Settled with mother in Boston, Massachusetts
1877-1888	Performed in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, London, England
1882	Returned to the United States Performed in the operetta <i>Manteaux Noirs</i> , New York, N.Y. Performed as Baron Chevrial in <i>A Parisian Romance</i> , his first major role in the legitimate theater, Boston, Mass. and New York, N.Y.
1886	Performed in <i>Prince Karl</i> , Boston, Mass. and New York, N.Y.
1887-1888	Performed the dual title role in <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , New York and London
1889	Performed in <i>Richard the Third</i> , London, England
1890	Acted the title role of <i>Beau Brummell</i>
1892	Married Beatrice Cameron
1893	Acted the role of Shylock in <i>Merchant of Venice</i>
1895	Produced and performed in George Bernard Shaw's <i>Arms and the Man</i>
1887	Produced and performed in Shaw's <i>The Devil's Disciple</i>
1898	Performed the tile role in <i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i>
1902	Acted the role of Brutus in <i>Julius Caesar</i>
1906	Produced and acted the title role in the first American production of Henrik Ibsen's <i>Peer Gynt</i>
1907, Aug. 30	Died, New London, Conn.

## Paul Wilstach

Date	Event
1870, July 1	Born, Lafayette, Ind.
ca. 1882	Graduated, St. Viateur's College, Bourbonnais, Ill.
1898-1907	Secretary to Richard Mansfield
1908	Published <i>Richard Mansfield: The Man and the Actor</i> . New York: C. Scribner's & Sons
1952, Feb. 9	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The Paul Wilstach Collection of the papers of Richard Mansfield (1857-1907), the noted actor who introduced the works of George Bernard Shaw and Henrik Ibsen to American audiences, spans the years 1889-1918, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1898-1909. Major components of the collection include correspondence, writings, and scrapbooks. The correspondence contains holographs of Mansfield, mostly addressed to his friend, secretary, and biographer, Paul Wilstach; letters from celebrities, theater figures, and the general public to Mansfield complimenting him on performances or asking favors; and correspondence spanning 1907-08 between Wilstach and Beatrice Cameron Mansfield, Mansfield's widow and a prominent actress, relating to Wilstach's biography of her husband.

A holographic manuscript of Wilstach's biography of the actor, *Richard Mansfield: The Actor and the Man*, is included in the writings section of the papers. Creative expressions by Mansfield include two plays, *As You Find It* and *Don Juan*, a children's book, *Blown Away*, and miscellaneous poems, notes, and fragmentary works. Also prominent in the writings are acting versions of plays prepared specifically for Mansfield's productions.

A small scrapbook compiled by Wilstach, dated 1886, is mostly related to general theater topics and the Wilstach family. More extensive scrapbooks compiled by Wilstach, spanning 1898-1901 and 1902-1907, and by Sarah Lindsey Myers Pollard containing items from 1896, relate almost wholly to Mansfield's career and include newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and playbills.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein by name of person or title.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1892, 1905, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	With Mansfield, 1900-1907, undated
BOX 1	With Wilstach
BOX 1	Mansfield, Beatrice, 1907-1908, undated
BOX 1	Others, 1901-1910, undated
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1906, undated
BOX 1	Playbills and sheet music, 1890-1907
BOX 1	Scrapbooks
BOX 1	Pollard, Mrs. J. P. (Sarah Lindsey Myers Pollard), 1896
BOX 1	Wilstach, Paul
BOX 1	1886
BOX 2	1889-1892
BOX 2	1898-1901 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	1902-1907 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	Books
BOX 2	Manuscripts
BOX 2	By Wilstach
BOX 2	<i>Richard Mansfield: The Man and the Actor</i> , 1909
BOX 2	(4 folders)
BOX 3	(1 folder)
BOX 3	Published works
BOX 3	By Mansfield
BOX 3	<i>Blown Away</i> (Boston: L.C. Page and Co., 1897)
BOX 3	<i>One Evening; Being an Entertainment of Songs Grave and Gay</i> (New York: Novello, Ewer & Co., 1891)
BOX 3	By others
BOX 3	American Art Galleries. <i>Catalogue of the Richard Mansfield Collection</i> (New York, 1908)
BOX 3	de Bergerac, Cyrano. <i>A Voyage to the Moon</i> (New York: Doubleday and McClure Co., 1899)
BOX 3	Mansfield, Richard, 2nd. <i>Courage!</i> (New York: Moffat, Yard and Co., 1918)
BOX 3	von Muller von der Werra, Begründel. <i>Allgemeines Reichs-Commerbuch für Deutsche Studenten</i> (Leipzig: Druck, Verlag and Hartel, 1895)
BOX 4	The Peerless Series. <i>The Story of Cyrano de Bergerac; Founded Upon and Written from the Play of That Name Which Was Written by Edmond Rostand</i> (New York: J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Co., 1898)
BOX 4	Selwyn & Co. <i>The Plays of Richard Mansfield</i> (New York, undated)
BOX 4	Smith, Herbert G. <i>Castle Sombras</i> (London: George Newes Ltd., 1895)
BOX 4	Miscellaneous

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	By Mansfield, 1892, 1900-1901, 1905, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	By others, 1887-1911, undated
BOX 4	Plays
BOX 4	Acting versions of plays by others
BOX 4	Fitch, Clyde. <i>Beau Brummel</i> (New York: John Lane Co., 1908)
BOX 5	Ibsen, Henrik. <i>The Richard Mansfield Acting Version of Peer Gynt</i> (Chicago: Reilly and Britton Co., 1906)
BOX 5	Rostand, Edmond. <i>Cyrano de Bergerac; A Heroic Comedy</i> , trans. by Howard T. Kingbury (Boston: Lamson, Wolfe and Co., 1898)
BOX 5	Shakespeare, William
BOX 5	<i>King Richard the Third, As Produced at the Globe Theater, London, Under the Management of Mr. Richard Mansfield</i> (New York: Clark and Zugalla, 1889)
BOX 5	<i>The Richard Mansfield Acting Version of King Henry V</i> (New York: McClure Phillips & Co., 1901)
BOX 5	By Mansfield
BOX 5	<i>As You Find It</i> , 1904
BOX 5	<i>Don Juan</i> (New York: J. W. Boulton, 1891)
BOX 6	By others
BOX 6	Gross, Samuel E. <i>The Merchant Prince of Cornville</i> (New York: Rand, McNally & Co., 1896)
BOX 6	Rostand, Edmond
BOX 6	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> (Paris: Librairie Charpentier et Fasquelle, [first edition])
BOX 6	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> , trans. by Gertrude Hall (New York: Doubleday & McClure Co., 1898)
BOX 6	<i>Cyrano de Bergerac</i> , trans. by Mary F. Guillemard and Gladys Thomas (New York: R. H. Russell, 1899)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks
BOX OV 1	1898-1901 (Container 2)
BOX OV 2	1902-1907 (Container 2)