

Isobel Stone Operettas



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020570172>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu022010>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jane Cross, March 2022

Collection Summary

Title: Isobel Stone Operettas

Inclusive Dates: 1932-1957

Call No.: ML31.S749

Creator: Stone, Isobel

Extent: 30 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570172>

Summary: Isobel Stone (circa 1892-circa 1969) was a lyric soprano, poet, author, librettist, and composer. This collection contains unpublished typescript libretti and holograph piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for sixteen of her operettas, including *The Midnight King*, *Ojeda*, and *Youthbound*.

Acquisition Information

Gifts, Isobel Stone, 1950s

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Isobel Stone Operettas and coded the finding aid in 2022.

Related Material

Stone's play *The Man Possessed* is part of the [Manuscript Plays Collection, Library of Congress Copyright Office drama deposits, 1863-1973](#). The Library of Congress has cataloged a book and several published collections that include her poetry: *The City of a Hundred Gates*, *Singing Davids*, *Daggers in a Star*, and *Lyric Invaders*. Libretti, poems, and other literary works can be found in copyright deposits at the Library of Congress.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Isobel Stone Operettas are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Isobel Stone Operettas are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Isobel Stone Operettas, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1892 or 1894	Isobel Stone (also known as Isabel or Isabella) was born in Washington, D.C., to Elizabeth B. White Stone (1853-1910) and William Alexis Stone (1846-1920), governor of Pennsylvania from 1898 to 1904
1898-1904	Lived in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1904-1920?	Lived in Pittsburgh
circa 1918-1920	Studied opera on a scholarship
1921	Made her stage debut in <i>Aphrodite</i> at the Century Theatre in New York City
circa 1922	Sang with the San Carlo Opera Company in the role of Siebel in <i>Faust</i>
circa 1922-circa 1930	Appeared in several Broadway productions Served as an understudy Continued voice studies
1925	Performed in the San Carlo Theater Company's production of <i>Carmen</i> in Pittsburgh
circa 1925-1926	Toured picture theaters with a photoplay
1927 July-September	Performed with Starlight Park Opera in the Bronx
1927 September	Booked for a series of picture house engagements that opened in Philadelphia
circa 1927	Moved into the derelict barge "Nancy May" on Sherman Creek near Dyckman Street with sister Peggy O'Neill Began singing in nightclubs
circa 1927-1930	Was heard on the radio in New York City
1928 January	<i>Billboard</i> reported that Stone was to head the vaudeville novelty <i>Gold Act</i> , set to play locally as well as tour on a major circuit Performed at the Pennsylvania Society's Tea and received favorable reviews
1928 July	Stone's "riches to rags" story of living on a barge published in newspapers across the country
1928 August	Bought a house on Barrow Street in Greenwich Village
1928 September	Engaged to editor, vanity publisher, and poet Henry Harrison, son of Dr. Morris and Fanny Harrison
1928 October	Studied music at the Charles Trier Operatic Workshop Offered roles by San Carlo Opera Company and Philadelphia Civic Opera
1929	Poetry included in the collection <i>5 Poets</i> published by Henry Harrison <i>Billboard</i> reported that Stone's act was being "rerouted" and that she filled in with road-house engagements, including ones at Ben Riley's Arrowhead Inn, and Shannon's Resort in New Jersey
1930 September	Featured in <i>The Royal Egyptians</i> produced by Prince Hadji Tahar, complete with Arabian swordsmen, gun twirlers, dancers, a singing comedienne, and seven-piece orchestra
1930	Poetry included in the collections <i>Singing Davids</i> , <i>Daggers in a Star</i> , and <i>Lyric Invaders</i> published by Henry Harrison Her work was included in the first issue of the literary and arts review <i>Gumby Studio Quarterly</i> published by L. S. Alexander Gumby
1938	Monograph <i>Crossroads of Night: A Novel of Ancient Egypt</i> published by Bruce Humphries, Inc. (Boston)
1941	Copyrighted her play <i>The Man Possessed</i>
1942	Monograph <i>The City of a Hundred Gates</i> published by Bruce Humphries, Inc. (Boston). Stone supplied the cover art

circa 1947	Lived at 2925 West Nineteenth Street, Coney Island, New York
1961	Either visited or moved to Washington, D.C., to apply for a job as an ambassador
circa 1969	Died
2001	Collection of Stone's work published in <i>Portraits and Snapshots</i> by United Press Ltd. (London)

Bibliography

- 1900 United States Census, Harrisburg Ward 4, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, s.v. "Isabel E. Stone," Ancestry.com.
- 1910 United States Census, Pittsburgh Ward 22, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, s.v. "Isabella Stone," Ancestry.com.
- "Alert Cameraman Brings News and Views from Here and There." *Los Angeles Times*, July 23, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Dog Has Her Day - And Is Freed by Court." *The New York Times*, June 18, 1947. ProQuest.
- "Ex-Heiress in Night Club." *New York Times*, July 27, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Ex-Heiress Tells of Struggle in City." *The New York Times*, July 22, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Girl Who Forsook Society for Art Engaged to Poet." *The Hartford Courant*, September 26, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Going on Today." *New York Tribune/Herald Tribune*, May 24, 1938. ProQuest.
- "Governor's Daughter Doing Single." *The Billboard*, June 13, 1925. ProQuest.
- "Hurled from Luxury into Want, Woman Strives to Win Career." *The Baltimore Sun*, July 20, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isabel Stone Wins Wealth and Fiance." *The New York Times*, September 25, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Does Concert." *The Billboard*, February 4, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Given Big Birthday Dinner." *The Billboard*, June 12, 1926. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Gets Opera Offers." *The Billboard*, October 13, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Heads 'Gold Act.'" *The Billboard*, January 7, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Signs with San Carlo Opera." *The Billboard*, August 2, 1927. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone to Marry Poet." *Los Angeles Times*, September 26, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Isobel Stone Will Head Arab Novelty." *The Billboard*, September 27, 1930. ProQuest.
- "Operatic Soprano to Play Picture Houses With Trio" *The Billboard*, September 3, 1927. ProQuest.
- "Radio Entertainers." *The Billboard*, October 19, 1929. ProQuest.
- "Rerouting Stone Act." *The Billboard*, August 17, 1929. ProQuest.
- Shelton, Isabelle. "Job Seeker." *The Sunday Star*, March 26, 1961. ProQuest.
- Schemburg, A. A. "New Magazine Is Accessible to All Shades of Thought." *New Journal and Guide*, November 8, 1930. ProQuest.
- "Starlight Park Opera to Begin July 6th." *New York Herald Tribune*, May 29, 1927. ProQuest.
- "Why the Million-Dollar Beauties Had to Live on a Barge." *The Philadelphia Enquirer*, September 2, 1928. ProQuest.
- "Wm. A. Stone's Daughters Live in Barge Hovel." *New York Herald Tribune*, July 20, 1928. ProQuest.

Scope and Content Note

The Isobel Stone Operettas span from 1932 to 1957. The [Operettas](#) series contains unpublished libretti and holograph piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for sixteen of her operettas. Stone provides brief descriptions on the title pages, such as "A Bavarian grand opera" for *The Midnight King* and "A French play with music, or play in verse" for *Sister Magdalene*. Not all libretti are complete; in some instances, the materials are select pages of changes and additions she submitted to the Library of Congress following her initial submissions for copyright.

Organization of the Isobel Stone Operettas

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Operettas, 1932-1957](#)

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

Stone, Isobel (Poet)

Stone, Isobel (Poet)

Stone, Isobel (Poet). Works. Selections.

Subjects

Operas--Librettos.

Operas--Vocal scores.

Form/Genre

Autographs (Manuscripts)

Lead sheets.

Librettos.

Operas.

Screenplays.

Vocal scores.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Operettas, 1932-1957

Unpublished, typescript libretti and holograph piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for sixteen operettas by Isobel Stone comprise this series. She provides brief descriptions on the title pages, such as "A Bavarian grand opera" for *The Midnight King* and "A French play with music, or play in verse" for *Sister Magdalene*. Not all libretti are complete; in some instances, the materials are select pages of changes and additions Stone submitted to the Library of Congress following her initial submissions for copyright. All libretti include the names and addresses of one or more New York City attorneys, D. Saavedra at Murry Hill Station and E. L. Cole on Liberty Street.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Container List

Container	Contents
	<p>Operettas, 1932-1957</p> <p>Unpublished, typescript libretti and holograph piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for sixteen operettas by Isobel Stone comprise this series. She provides brief descriptions on the title pages, such as "A Bavarian grand opera" for <i>The Midnight King</i> and "A French play with music, or play in verse" for <i>Sister Magdalene</i>. Not all libretti are complete; in some instances, the materials are select pages of changes and additions Stone submitted to the Library of Congress following her initial submissions for copyright. All libretti include the names and addresses of one or more New York City attorneys, D. Saavedra at Murry Hill Station and E. L. Cole on Liberty Street.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	<p><i>The Black Ace</i>, 1954</p> <p>Note: "A musical comedy with libretto, lyrics, and several songs set to music"</p> <p>Libretto; lead sheets</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	<p><i>Destiny in Spain</i>, undated</p> <p>Changes and additions to the libretto; piano-vocal score</p> <p><i>The Enchanted Diamond</i></p> <p>Note: "A Brazilian musical comedy"</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	<p>Birth of the Mamba, undated</p> <p>Lead sheet</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	<p><i>The Enchanted Diamond</i>, undated</p> <p>Changes and additions to the libretto</p> <p><i>Imerati</i></p> <p>Note: "A music-drama"</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	<p><i>Imerati</i>, undated</p> <p>Lead sheet</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	<p><i>Imerati</i>, undated</p> <p>Libretto</p> <p><i>King from Texas</i></p> <p>Alternate title: <i>The Yankee King</i></p> <p>Note: "A cowboy musical comedy"</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	<p><i>King from Texas</i>, 1941</p> <p>Lead sheets</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/4-5	<p><i>King from Texas</i>, 1941</p> <p>Libretto</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	<p><i>The Lost Empire</i>, 1954</p> <p>Note: "An Arabian operetta, libretto and lyrics, for stage production"</p> <p>Libretto</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	<p><i>The Man Possessed</i>, undated</p> <p>Changes and additions to the libretto</p> <p><i>The Midnight King</i></p> <p>Note: "A Bavarian grand opera"</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/5 to 2/1	<p><i>The Midnight King</i>, 1941</p> <p>Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets</p>

Operettas, 1932-1957

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/8	<i>The Midnight King</i> , 1941 Libretto
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	<i>The Midnight King</i> , undated Changes and additions to the libretto
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	<i>Oil Town, Pennsylvania</i> , 1932 Changes to the libretto <i>Ojeda</i> Alternate title: <i>Keeper of the Flame</i> Note: "The Aztecs and Toltecs of Mexico"
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	<i>Ojeda</i> , 1942 Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	<i>Ojeda</i> , 1955 Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	<i>Ojeda</i> , 1942 Libretto
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	<i>Ojeda</i> , 1955? Changes to the libretto
	<i>Red Gold</i>
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	<i>Red Gold</i> , undated Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	<i>Red Gold</i> , 1955? Changes to the libretto
BOX-FOLDER 4/6	<i>The Return</i> , undated Note: Described by Stone as "An Eskimo music-drama" Libretto (incomplete)
	<i>Sister Magdalene</i> Note: "A French play with music, or play in verse"
BOX-FOLDER 4/7	<i>Sister Magdalene</i> , undated Libretto
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	<i>Sister Magdalene</i> , undated Screen play
	<i>Sun-Man</i> Alternate title: <i>A Sculptor of Dreams</i> Note: Described by Stone as "An Indian operetta on the Canadian Blackfoot tribe"
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	<i>Sun-Man</i> , 1942 Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	<i>Sun-Man</i> , 1955? Additional libretto pages
BOX-FOLDER 4/10	<i>The Widow in White</i> , 1957 Note: "A play in verse, or music-drama" Libretto
	<i>Youthbound</i> Note: Described by Stone as "A Gypsy operetta"
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	<i>Youthbound</i> , undated Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 4/11	<i>Youthbound</i> , 1953 Libretto

Operettas, 1932-1957

Container

Contents

BOX-FOLDER 4/12

Youthbound, undated
Changes to the libretto