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://lccn.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 This collection contains unpublished typescript libretti and holograph piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for sixteen of her operettas, including The Midnight King, Ojeda, and Youthbound.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

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

Bibliography
"Hurled from Luxury into Want, Woman Strives to Win Career." The Baltimore Sun, July 20, 1928. ProQuest.
"Isobel Stone Given Big Birthday Dinner." The Billboard, June 12, 1926. ProQuest.
"Isobel Stone Signs with San Carlo Opera." The Billboard, August 2, 1927. 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.
"Rerouting Stone Act." The Billboard, August 17, 1929. 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.

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)

Subjects
Operas--Librettos.
Operas--Vocal scores.

Form/Genre
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Lead sheets.
Librettos.
Operas.
Screenplays.
Vocal scores.
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<td><strong>Operettas, 1932-1957</strong></td>
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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

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</table>
| BOX-FOLDER 3/1 | *The Black Ace*, 1954  
*Note:* "A musical comedy with libretto, lyrics, and several songs set to music"  
Libretto; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | *Destiny in Spain*, undated  
Changes and additions to the libretto; piano-vocal score |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | *The Enchanted Diamond*  
*Note:* "A Brazilian musical comedy"  
Birth of the Mamba, undated  
Lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/2 | *The Enchanted Diamond*, undated  
Changes and additions to the libretto  
*Imerati*  
*Note:* "A music-drama"  
Imerati, undated  
Lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/3 | *Imerati*, undated  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | *King from Texas*, alternate title: *The Yankee King*  
*Note:* "A cowboy musical comedy"  
King from Texas, 1941  
Lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/4-5 | *King from Texas*, 1941  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/6 | *The Lost Empire*, 1954  
*Note:* "An Arabian operetta, libretto and lyrics, for stage production"  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/7 | *The Man Possessed*, undated  
Changes and additions to the libretto  
*The Midnight King*  
*Note:* "A Bavarian grand opera" |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 to 2/1 | *The Midnight King*, 1941  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |

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| BOX-FOLDER 3/8 | *The Midnight King*, 1941  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/1 | *The Midnight King*, undated  
Changes and additions to the libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/2 | *Oil Town, Pennsylvania*, 1932  
Changes to the libretto  
*Ojeda*  
Alternate title: *Keeper of the Flame*  
*Note*: "The Aztecs and Toltecs of Mexico" |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/2 | *Ojeda*, 1942  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/3 | *Ojeda*, 1955  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/3 | *Ojeda*, 1942  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/4 | *Ojeda*, 1955?  
Changes to the libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/4 | *Red Gold*, undated  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/5 | *Red Gold*, 1955?  
Changes to the libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/6 | *The Return*, undated  
*Note*: Described by Stone as "An Eskimo music-drama"  
Libretto (incomplete) |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/7 | *Sister Magdalene*  
*Note*: "A French play with music, or play in verse" |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/8 | *Sister Magdalene*, undated  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/9 | *Sun-Man*, 1942  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/10 | *Sun-Man*, 1955?  
Additional libretto pages |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/11 | *The Widow in White*, 1957  
*Note*: "A play in verse, or music-drama"  
Libretto |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/5 | *Youthbound*, undated  
Piano-vocal scores; lead sheets |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/11 | *Youthbound*, 1953  
Libretto |
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 4/12</td>
<td><em>Youthbound</em>, undated</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Changes to the libretto</td>
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