Chippendale Company Play Scripts

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/2017563940

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu023001

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress
Finding aid encoded by Shantel Lambert and Rachel McNellis, 2022 December
Collection Summary
Title: Chippendale Company Play Scripts
Inclusive Dates: 1800-1868
Bulk Dates: 1830-1849
Call No.: ML31.C54
Creator: Chippendale, William Henry, 1801-1888
Extent: 16 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: 1 linear foot
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2017563940
Summary: William Henry Chippendale (1801-1888) was an English actor and theater manager who had an extensive
career in the United States and Great Britain. This collection is comprised of 16 anthologies of working scripts for plays
and operettas written by English playwrights, including William Bayle Bernard, John Baldwin Buckstone, Joseph Stirling
Coyne, James Robinson Planché, and Edward Stirling. Chippendale used the materials during his career as an actor
between 1834 and 1851, and likely while directing a dramatic company that toured the United States with Solomon Smith.
Many of the scripts are heavily annotated with cuts, additions, and stage markings.

Acquisition Information
Gift, Gregory Crow, 2018

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Custodial History
A theatrical company directed by William H. Chippendale likely used the scripts that constitute this collection. It is
believed that actor and theater manager Solomon Smith (1801–1869) arranged for Chippendale to direct and tour the United
States with an English dramatic company. While on tour, the company was victim to theft and needed to replace their
costumes and scripts. The police recovered the materials after the tour, but the company could not afford to ship them back
to England, and the materials remained in the possession of Smith’s family. The family bound the scripts at an unknown
date. During the 1980s, Gregory Crow inherited the collection from Mrs. Emerson Brown, Smith’s great-granddaughter.
Crow donated the scripts to the Library in 2018.

Print sources do not document the company’s U.S. tour. Chippendale signed, dated, and annotated many of the scripts.
These markings show that he used the materials while managing a dramatic company at Niblo’s Garden in New York City
from 1841 to 1842 and when Smith employed him as a stage manager in 1850–1851. Chippendale did not date any of
the scripts after 1851, the year his employment with Smith ended, which suggests that they were stolen at this time. It
is unlikely that Chippendale parted with the materials willingly, as he had used them for many years. Other actors also
signed a few of the scripts, which further supports the existence of a company. Smith’s son Thad signed a script in 1864,
connecting the materials with the family after Chippendale returned to England in 1853. Scripts dating later than 1853
are present, the year that Smith retired from theater and Chippendale returned to England. Consequently, it appears the
collection includes a few items added by Smith’s descendants that are unrelated to Chippendale or his company.

Processing History
Shantel Lambert processed the Chippendale Company Play Scripts, and Lambert and Rachel McNellis coded the finding
aid in 2022.
Other Repositories

Correspondence to and from William H. Chippendale is housed in the William Henry Chippendale Papers at the David Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University; the Theater Arts Manuscripts Collection at the Harry Ransom Center; the Papers of Noah Miller Ludlow at the Houghton Library at Harvard University; the New-York Historical Society; and the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Related Material

Other collections in the Music Division rich in materials related to theater production in the United States include the American Century Play Company Scripts and Business Papers, Federal Theatre Project Collection, Gilbert Miller Papers, Robert L. Stevens Papers, Robert Whitehead Papers, and the Rouben Mamoulian Papers. The Minnie Maddern Fiscke and Harrison Grey Fiscke Papers housed in the Manuscript Division are also relevant.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Chippendale Company Play Scripts 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 Chippendale Company Play Scripts 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], Chippendale Company Play Scripts, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

William Henry Chippendale was born in Somers Town, London, on August 14, 1801. He was raised in Edinburgh, and his father trained him in acting from a young age. In 1819, after briefly studying to be a printer, Chippendale turned to the stage and made his first professional appearance, playing David in *The Rivals* at the Montrose Theatre in Scotland. Between 1826 and 1836, he toured the provinces of Scotland as part of a theatrical company directed by a Mr. Alexander. Chippendale traveled to New York in August 1836 at the invitation of Stephen Price, manager of the Park Theater, and made his debut on September 1 as Sir Mark Chase in *A Roland for Oliver*. Between 1837 and 1853, Chippendale frequently performed in New York City at the Park Theater, Niblo’s Garden, Mitchell’s Olympic Theater, Palmo’s Opera House, Brougham’s Lyceum, and Castle Garden. He also directed a dramatic company at Niblo’s Garden between 1840 and 1842, and managed the theater from 1849 to 1850.

Although Chippendale’s career took place primarily in New York, he also toured widely in the United States. He performed in Boston and Pittsburgh several times. Between 1845 and 1848, he acted in Noah Ludlow and Solomon (Sol) Smith’s theatrical company, appearing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama, and was their stage manager in 1850. It is likely that Smith arranged for Chippendale to tour with an English dramatic company around this time, an event supported by markings in the Chippendale Company Play Scripts. In 1851, Chippendale performed at the New Varieties’ Theater in St. Louis, Missouri, under the management of J. M. Field, and directed the play *Fair One with the Golden Locks* the following year.
In 1853, Chippendale returned to London where he appeared at the Haymarket Theatre as St. Anthony Absolute in The Rivals. He stayed at the theater for the next fifteen years, starring in both dramatic and comedic roles and frequently working as stage manager. On February 24, 1878, Chippendale made his last theatrical appearance in London at the Lyceum, starring as Polonius in Hamlet. In August, he formed the Chippendale Comedy Company and toured Scotland. Chippendale performed on stage for the last time at the Royal Theatre in Glasgow the following year. He died on January 5, 1888, in London.

Chippendale married three times and had 26 children. His third wife, Mary Jane Seaman (married 1866), was an actress in Henry Irving’s company, performing in both the United States and England.

Bibliography
Ludlow, Noah Miller. Dramatic Life as I Found It: A Record of Personal Experience; with an Account of the Rise and Progress of the Drama in the West and South, with Anecdotes and Biographical Sketches of the Principal Actors and Actresses who Have at Times Appeared Upon the Stage in the Mississippi Valley. St. Louis: G.I. Jones and Company, 1880.

Scope and Content Note
The Chippendale Company Play Scripts consist of 16 anthologies of working theater scripts published between 1800 and 1868. William H. Chippendale used the scripts while working as an actor and stage manager in England and the United States between 1834 and 1851. It is likely that he also directed a dramatic company, which used the materials while on tour in the United States. The heavily annotated scripts document production practices in mainstream American theater at the time, as well as the performance histories for individual plays. Written by English dramatists and playwrights, the dramas, comedies, farces, and operettas in these volumes also lend insight into the types of British repertoire performed in America. The scripts encompass the works of William Bayle Bernard, John Baldwin Buckstone, Joseph Stirling Coyne, Charles Dance, Prince Hoare, Mark Lemon, John O’Keefe, Richard Brinsley Peake, James Robinson Planché, and Edward Stirling, among others.

Organization of the Chippendale Company Play Scripts
The collection is arranged in one series:
• Anthologies, 1800-1868
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**
- Buckstone, John Baldwin, 1802-1879.
- Chippendale, William Henry, 1801-1888--Archives.
- Chippendale, William Henry, 1801-1888.
- Coyne, J. Stirling (Joseph Stirling), 1803-1868.
- Planché, J. R. (James Robinson), 1796-1880.
- Smith, Sol. (Solomon), 1801-1869.
- Stirling, Edward, 1807-1894.

**Subjects**
- Melodrama, English--19th century.
- Theater--England--History--19th century.
- Theater--Scotland--History--19th century.
- Theater--United States--History--19th century.

**Titles**
- *Chippendale Company play materials*, 1802-1853.

**Form/Genre**
- Drama.
- Melodramas (Drama).
Description of Series

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This series consists of 16 anthologies of working theater scripts for approximately 250 plays and operettas by English dramatists and playwrights. William Henry Chippendale used the scripts while working as an actor and stage manager in England and the United States between 1834 and 1851. It is likely that he also directed a dramatic company, which used the materials while touring the United States with actor and theater manager Solomon Smith. The scripts are heavily annotated with cuts, additions, and staging notes that lend insight into theatrical production practices of the time. Additionally, some scripts include a list of English and American productions with their locations, dates, and casting. The dramas, comedies, and farces also document the diverse British repertoire performed in mainstream American theater. William Bayle Bernard, John Baldwin Buckstone, George Coleman, Joseph Stirling Coyne, Charles Dance, Prince Hoare, Mark Lemon, John Maddison Morton, John O'Keefe, Richard Brinsley Peake, James Robinson Planché, Charles Selby, and Edward Stirling are among the playwrights whose works appear in the anthologies.

Each script is dated separately. If available, the date listed is that which Chippendale wrote in the script. If not, the date refers to the script's publication or the play's first performance. Arranged alphabetically by title of anthology.
## Container List

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**Contents:**
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- Selby, Charles. *The Fairy Lake*, 1839
- Somerset, C. A. *Home! Sweet Home!*, 1845
- O’Keefe, John. *Sprigs of Laurel*, 1827
- Carey, Henry. *Chrononhotonthologos*, 1837
- Dibdin, Thomas. *The Two Gregories*, 1836
- Pitt, George Dibdin. *The Prisoner of Rochelle*, 1834
- Hoare, Prince. *The Prize*, 1827
- Cobb, James. *Paul and Virginia*, 1820
- Bishop, Henry Rowley. *The Marriage of Figaro*, 1827
- Terry, Daniel. *Guy Mannering*, undated
- Moncrieff, William Thomas. *Joconde*, undated
- Morton, Thomas. *The Knight of Snowdoun*, 1811

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**Contents:**
- Holcroft, Thomas. *The Road to Ruin*, 1836
- Cooper, Frederick Fox *The Deserted Village*, undated
- Walker, John. *Napoleon!*, undated
- Bonner, William. *The Hunchbacks*, undated
- Pocock, Isaac. *Zembuca*, 1824
- Stirling, Edward. *The Old Curiosity Shop*, 1840
Anthologies, 1800-1868

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• Beckett, Gilbert à Abbott. The Mendicant, 1836

BOX 1  Dramas and Comedies 1

Contents:
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. Everybody's Friend, 1859
• Buckstone, John Baldwin. A Lesson for Ladies, 1851
• Daly, Augustin. Under the Gaslight, 1867
• Talfourd, Thomas Noon. Ion: A Tragedy, 1832
• Anicet-Bourgeois, Auguste and Paul Féval. The Duke's Daughter, 1862
• Robertson, Thomas William. Caste, 1867
• Robertson, Thomas William. Play, 1868
• Daly, Augustin. Griffith Gaunt, 1868
• LeQuel, Louis. Identity, 1867
• Taylor, Tom. Nine Points of the Law, 1859
• Colman, George. The Poor Gentleman, 1800
• Planché, James Robinson. Secret Service, 1834

BOX 1  Dramas and Comedies 2

Contents:
• Courtney, John. Soldier's Progress, 1849
• Planché, Eliza. The Sledge-Driver, 1836
• Tomlins, Frederick Guest. Garcia: A Tragedy, 1849
• Lemon, Mark. The Three Secrets, 1840
• Taylor, Tom? Sir Roger De Coverley, 1851
• Mowatt, Anna Cora. Fashion, 1851
• Sullivan, Robert. A Beggar on Horseback, 1846
• Lemon, Mark. Fashionable Arrivals, undated
• Buckstone, John Baldwin. Single Life, 1839
• Peake, Richard Brinsley. The Sheriff of the County, 1851
• Boucicault, Dion. School for Scheming, 1847

BOX 1  Dramas & Comedies 3

Contents:
• Planché, James Robinson. Court Favour, 1848
• Mildenhall, Thomas. The Governor's Wife, 1849
• O'Keeffe, John. Wild Oats, undated
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. All for Love, 1838
• Simpson, John Palgrave. Poor Cousin Walter, 1850
• Unidentified. The Spanish Exile, 1844
• Talfourd, Thomas Noon. The Athenian Captive, 1838
• Lovell, George William. Look Before You Leap, 1846
• Sargent, Epes. Velasco, 1839
• Coape, Henry Coe. A Conspirator in Spite of Himself, 1852
• Stirling, Edward. The Cricket on the Hearth, 1845
• Dunlap, William. The Voice of Nature, 1803
• Haines, John Thomas. Angeline, 1837

BOX 1  Farces 1

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• Holcroft, Thomas. The Deserted Daughter, 1806
• Garrick, David. Every Man in His Humour, 1802
• Kenney, James. The World, 1808
• Fitzball, Edward. Thalaba, the Destroyer, undated
• Reynolds, Frederick. Folly as it Flies, undated
• Peake, Richard Brinsley. Court and City, undated
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*Contents:*
- Rede, William Leman. *Come to Town*, 1841
- Oxenford, John. *Twice Killed*, undated
- Cooper, Frederick Fox. *The Spare Bed*, 1833
- Jones, Richard. *Too Late for Dinner*, 1822
- Inchbald, Elizabeth. *Animal Magnetism*, 1826
- Poole, John. *Delicate Attentions*, undated
- Morton, John Maddison. *Going to the Derby!*, 1848
- The Earl of Glengall. *Irish Tutor*, 1839
- Dance, George. *Lucky Stars*, 1842
- Payne, John Howard. *The Lancers*, 1827
- Cooper, Fox. *The Queen's Visit*, undated
- Kotzebue, August von? *How to Die for Love!*, 1833

## Farces 3

*Contents:*
- Oxenford, John. *I and My Double*, undated
- Parry, Tom. *Meet Me by Moonlight*, undated
- O'Callaghan, P. P. *The Married Bachelor*, 1842
- Colman, George. *Blue Devils*, 1838
- Higbie, Thomas. *Wilful Murder!*, 1844
- Peake, Richard Brinsley. *Comfortable Lodgings*, 1827
- Rede, William Leman. *The Queen's Bench*, 1848
- Thackeray, Thomas James. *The Barber Baron*, 1830
- Morton, John Maddison. *Your Life's in Danger!*, 1848
- Kemble, Charles. *A Budget of Blunders*, 1843
- Payne, John Howard. *'Twas I*, 1845
- Thompson, William. *The Two Thompsons*, 1833
- Knight, Thomas. *The Honest Thieves*, 1822
- Baron-Wilson, Mrs. Cornwell. *Venus in Arms*, 1836
- Colman, George. *Who Wants a Guinea?*, undated

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- Selby, Charles. *The Unfinished Gentleman*, 1834
- Rodwell, George Herbert. *The Chimney Piece*, 1834
- Stirling, Edward. *The Little Back Parlour*, 1839
- Rede, William Leman. *The Old and Young Stager*, 1835
- Stirling, Edward. *Woman's the Devil*, 1837
- Millner, Henry M.? *Veteran and His Progeny*, 1828
- Planché, James Robinson and Charles Dance. *Olympic Revels*, 1835
- Colman, George. *Blue Devils*, 1838
- Burton, James. *Bathing*, 1842
- Millingen, John Gideon. *Borrowed Feathers*, 1842
- Buckstone, John Baldwin. *Popping the Question*, 1830
- Moncrieff, William Thomas. *The Diamond Arrow*, undated
- Townley, James. *High Life Below Stairs*, 1830
- Morton, John Maddison. *Who's the Composer?*, 1845
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<td>• List of miscellaneous songs, undated</td>
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<td>• Barnett, Morris. <em>The Yellow Kids</em>, 1835</td>
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<td>• Brough, Robert and William. <em>The Sphinx: A Touch from the Ancients</em>, 1849</td>
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<td>• Morton, Thomas. <em>Sketches in India</em>, undated</td>
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<td>• Reynolds, John Hamilton. <em>Confounded Foreigners</em>, 1850</td>
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<td>• Addison, Henry R. <em>The King's Word</em>, 1835</td>
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<td>• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. <em>Mrs. Bunbury's Spoons</em>, 1849</td>
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<td>• Talfourd, Francis? <em>Mammon and Gammon</em>, 1848</td>
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<td>• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. <em>Our National Defences</em>, 1848</td>
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- Morton, John Maddison. *Poor Pillicoddy*, undated
- Burnand, F. C. *Romance under Difficulties*, 1856
- Jones, Joseph Stevens. *The People’s Lawyer*, 1839
- Stirling, Edward. *Wanted a Wife*, 1844
- Unidentified. *Not a Word!*, 1841
- Coyne, Joseph Stirling. *Binks, the Bagman*, 1843
- Bayly, Thomas Haynes. *Comfortable Service*, 1836
- Honan, Michael Borke and James Robinson Planché. *The Queen’s Horse*, undated
- Marston, Westland. *Borough Politics*, 1846
- Morton, Edward and John M. *My Wife’s Come!*, 1845
- Planché, James Robinson. *Court Favour*, 1841
- A’Becket, Gilbert Abbott. *The Artist’s Wife*, 1838
- Stirling, Edward. *A Cheap Excursion*, 1851
- Stirling, Edward. *A Figure of Fun*, 1851
- Godwin, George. *The Last Day*, 1840
- Webster, Benjamin. *A Bird of Passage*, 1849
- Planché, James Robinson. *Hold Your Tongue*, 1849
- Unidentified. *Tooth-Ache*, 1851
- Stirling, Edward. *The Love Gift*, 1843

**BOX 1**

**Operettas 1**

- Cobb, James. *Paul and Virginia*, 1827
- Jerrold, Douglas? *The Statue Lover*, undated
- Thomson, James. *An Uncle Too Many*, undated
- Coleman, George. *We Fly by Night*, 1815
- Rossini, Gioachino. *Cinderella*, 1839
- Dibdin, Thomas? *Of Age To-Morrow*, 1808
- O’Keeffe, John. *The Poor Soldier*, 1821
- Arnold, Samuel James. *The Devil’s Bridge*, 1822
- Bishop, Henry Rowley. *The Marriage of Figaro*, 1827

**BOX 2**

**Operettas 2**

- Dibdin, Thomas. *The Cabinet*, 1839
- Hoare, Prince. *The Prize*, 1840
- Dibdin, Thomas? *Of Age To-Morrow*, 1808
- Colman, George. *The Review*, 1833
- Beazley, Samuel. *The Boarding House*, 1823
• Dimond, William. *The Young Hussar*, 1845
• Daniel, George. *Sworn at Highgate!*, 1836
• Morton, John Maddison. *The Trumpeter’s Wedding*, 1849
• Thompson, Pelham. *Nothing Superfluous*, 1845
• Fitzball, Edward. *Azazel, the Prodigal*, undated
• Lover, Samuel. *Il Paddy Whack in Italia*, 1841
• Rhodes, William Barnes. *Bombastes Furioso!*, 1843
• Hoare, Prince. *Lock and Key*, 1837
• Dance, George. *My Lord Is not My Lord*, 1840
• Bayly, Thomas Haynes. *The Swiss Cottage*, undated

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• Planché, James Robinson. *The Two Figaros*, 1836
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. *The Spirit of the Fountain*, 1843
• Smith, Albert. *Guy Fawkes*, 1849
• Dibdon, Thomas. *Novelty Fair*, 1850
• Planché, James Robinson. *The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood*, 1840
• Loder, Edward James. *The Night-Dancers*, 1847
• Planché, James Robinson. *Puss in Boots*, 1838
• Ricci, Frederico. *Corrado of Altamura*, 1847
• Planché, James Robinson. *Graciosa and Percinet*, 1845
• Planché, James Robinson. *The Birds of Aristophanes*, 1846
• Lemon, Mark. *The Pupil of Da Vinci*, 1839
• Talfourd, Francis. *The Merchant of Venice*, 1849
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. *Telemachus*, 1844
• Webster, Benjamin. *The Devil’s Violin and the Revolt of the Flowers*, 1849
• Knight, Edward. *Chip of the Old Block*, 1815

**BOX 2**

**Operettas 4**

Contents:
• Planché, James Robinson. *The Bee and the Orange Tree*, 1846
• Lemon, Mark. *The Ladies Club*, undated
• Planché, James Robinson. *Riquet with the Tuft*, 1836
• Smith, Albert and John Oxenford. *The Princess Fair Star*, 1851
• Planché, James Robinson. *The King of the Peacocks*, 1851
• Planché, James Robinson. *The Invisible Prince*, 1846
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. *The Spirit of the Fountain*, 1848
• Planché, James Robinson. *The Seven Champions of Christendom*, 1849
• Glover, Howard. *Aminta, the Coquette*, undated
• Brougham, John. *Pocahontas*, undated
• Morton, John Maddison. *The Sentinel*, 1837
• Selby, Charles. *Taming a Tartar*, 1846
• Coyne, Joseph Stirling. *Telemachus*, 1844
• Selby, Charles. *King Richard Ye Third*, 1844
• Bernard, William Bayle. *Locomotion*, 1842