

Guide to the Norris Houghton Papers, 1915-1998

Biographical Note

Norris Houghton was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 26, 1909. After graduation from Princeton University in 1931, Houghton began a long career as a theatrical designer, producer, and director. That career encompassed both the New York stage and regional theaters throughout the United States, as well as extended professional visits to Western Europe, the Soviet Union, and East Asia. In 1953 he founded, with T. Edward Hambleton, the Phoenix Theatre, one of the first and most successful of New York City's Off- Broadway theaters. Also a noted teacher and scholar of theater, Norris Houghton held academic positions at several colleges and universities. In 1962 Houghton joined the Drama Department of Vassar College, serving until 1967 as department chair and director of the Vassar Experimental Theatre. Norris Houghton died in October 2001.

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