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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Rothwell, William F., Jr., 1920-2001

Title: William F. Rothwell Jr. Papers

Dates: 1959-1985

Quantity: 0.5 cubic feet (1 box)

Abstract: The collection consists of librettos, letters of commendation, and programs from William Rothwell's work with the Experimental Theatre of Vassar College.

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Biographical Note

William F. Rothwell Jr., born in Kansas City, Missouri on November 17, 1920, taught in the Vassar College Department of Drama from 1957 until his retirement in 1991. The son of William Francis Rothwell and Frances Eleanor Meade, he served in the U.S. Army from 1942-46 as a tech sergeant. A graduate of the University of Arizona, he earned his Ph.D. at the Yale University School of Drama in 1953. From 1954 until 1957, he was an instructor in drama at the University of California at Berkeley. Coming to Vassar as an Instructor, he became an Assistant Professor in 1959, Associate Professor in 1966, and Professor in 1977. In addition to teaching, he was chair of the drama department on a rotating basis, translated several operas from French and Italian into English for staging at Vassar, and directed many plays, operas and other musical productions. Beginning in 1968, Rothwell was the director of the Experimental Theater at Vassar. Locally, he served on the boards of the Hudson Valley Playwright Music Theater and the Dutchess County Landmarks Association. Rothwell died on May 25, 2001 in Poughkeepsie, NY.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of librettos, letters of commendation, and programs from William Rothwell's work with the Experimental Theatre of Vassar College.

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Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).
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Related Material

Related Materials

- [Vassar College Drama Department Records](#)

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Subject Headings

Organizations:

- Experimental Theatre of Vassar College

Subjects:

- College theater
- Performing arts--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie

Places:

- Vassar College. Experimental Theatre

VCL Categories:

- Theater, Drama and Film
- Vassar College

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Encoding Information

Encoded by Jessica Kemm, September 2009. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, July 2025.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

William F. Rothwell, Jr. Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Original processing date unknown.

Acquisition Information

Gift from Edward Reilly via the Music Library, Vassar College, 2004 Aug 13.

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Container List

Folder 1.1	Letters of Commendation and Thanks, 1959-1985
Folder 1.2	Programs, circa 1960-1975
Folder 1.3	Librettos - La Cantera (Angelina), undated
Folder 1.4	Librettos - The Impressarion from Smyrna, undated
Folder 1.5	Librettosn- The Maid of the Mill, circa 1966
Folder 1.6	Librettos - The Maid of the Mill - Original Lyrics and Music, undated
Folder 1.7	Librettos - The Passionate Pasha (Le Cadi dupé), undated
Folder 1.8	Librettos - Rosina, 1976
Folder 1.9	Librettos - The Trimph of True Love (L'Ivrone Corrige), circa 1970
Folder 1.10	Librettos - L'Ivrone Corrige - Original Lyrics and Music, undated
Folder 1.11	Photographs of an unidentified production, undated
Folder 1.12	Miscellaneous, 1971, undated

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