



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Max Rabinoff papers 4079244

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical | 3 |
| Summary | 4 |
| Arrangement | 4 |
| Administrative Information | 4 |
| Related Materials | 6 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 6 |
| Collection Inventory | 6 |
| Series I: Cataloged Correspondence | 6 |
| Series II: Arranged Correspondence | 9 |
| Series III: Artifacts/Ephemera | 10 |
| Series IV: Business | 11 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Repository: | Rare Book and Manuscript Library |
| Creator: | Rabinoff, Max |
| Title: | Max Rabinoff papers |
| ID: | 4079244 |
| ID: | MS#1039 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1908-1961 |
| Physical Description: | 2.25 linear feet 4 boxes |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Max Rabinoff papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Musical impresario, international economist.

Max Rabinoff was born in Moghilev, Russia on March 9 1877. He immigrated to the United States in 1892 and was naturalized in 1898. He began his career as an employee of the Kimball Piano Store eventually becoming the owner of three piano stores of his own. In 1908 he left the musical instrument business to organize musical events for the general public. He initiated Sunday Concerts in Chicago and helped organize the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chicago Opera Company. In 1910 Rabinoff presented an opera season for the Mexican Republic's centennial celebration at the invitation of the Mexican Government. Rabinoff was instrumental in introducing Russian artists to the American public including Anna Pavlova the Russian Imperial Court Balalaika Orchestra and the Ukrainian National Chorus. From 1914 to 1917 he was the managing director of the Boston Opera Company featuring Anna Pavlova and her Russian Ballet Company. In 1922 Rabinoff founded the American Institute for Operatic and Allied Arts at Stony Brook on the Hudson to encourage the development of American talent.

Rabinoff at the age of 21 organized the American-Russian Importing and Exporting Company. In 1917 he attended the Paris Peace Conference where he was made economic advisor to the Republics of Estonia Georgia and Azerbaijan. He was a continuous advocate of economic trade with the Soviet Union and established a business to advise the American Government and American companies on trade with Russia and its satellites. He continued his interest in music encouraging young talent and establishing the Cosmopolitan Opera Company in New York in 1942-1943 to bring opera to the public at affordable prices. and

Rabinoff married his discovery, the singer Marie La Salle on March 22 1910. Following her death in 1912 he married Helene Gaubert on May 16 1913. Max Rabinoff died in 1966.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Papers and correspondence of Rabinoff. Part of the collection relates to Rabinoff's endeavors in opera in Chicago, New York, and Boston and to his founding the American Institute of Operatic Art. The second part of the collection concerns his career as an economic advisor to the republics of Estonia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, his work on the development of the Export Import Bank, and his interest in trade with Russia. Included in the collection are many photographs, clippings, and programs. Many of these pertain to the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova who was introduced to American audiences by Rabinoff.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Cataloged and arranged.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor

Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

Legacy finding aid created from Pro Cite. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-02-24 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Vera (Mrs. Michael) Kraus. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1967. Accession number--M-67.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/89.

MTM - 3/2000.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

See also the Joseph Urban Collection for Boston Opera Company set designs

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Ballerinas -- Soviet Union
- Opera -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Opera -- New York (State) -- New York
- Opera -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- International economic relations
- International trade
- Estonia -- Economic conditions
- Georgia (Republic) -- Economic conditions
- Azerbaijan -- Economic conditions
- Soviet Union -- Economic conditions
- Soviet Union -- Commerce
- Photographic prints
- Impresarios
- Economists
- Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931
- American Institute of Operatic Art
- Export-Import Bank of the United States

Collection Inventory

Series I: Cataloged Correspondence

Scope and Contents

The series contains the cataloged correspondence of Max Rabinoff, and is organized by last name of correspondent. Contracts, news articles, calling cards, and photographs of or about the correspondent are included . Correspondents include Lee de Forest, Otto Kahn, Leopold Stokowsky, and Vera Tchaikovsky.

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|-----------|
|-------------------|-----------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Bernstein, Leonard To: Max Rabinoff, [n.p.], 2 October 1947 <u>Physical Description:</u> t.l.s., 1p. | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Coolidge, Calvin To: Mary Belle King Sherman (Mrs. John D. Sherman); Alice Ames Winter (Mrs. Thomas G. Winter), [n.p.], 7 Jan. 1924; 26 Dec. 1923; 18 Feb. 1925 <u>Physical Description:</u> t.l.s. Scope and Contents [A series of letters reprinted as a presidential endorsement of <i>The American Institute of Operatic Art</i>] | box 1 | folder 1 |
| de Forest, Lee To: Max Rabinoff, Los Angeles, 28 October 1936 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2p. t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 1 |
| de Forest, Lee To: Max Rabinoff, [n.p.], 15 February 1938 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. Scope and Contents [clipping is missing] | box 1 | folder 1 |
| de Forest, Lee To: Max Rabinoff, [n.p.], 20 February 1939 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Diaghilev, Sergei Pavlovich & M.V. Gulok Drafts of contracts in Russian, St. Petersburg, Russia, 10 February 1911 <u>Physical Description:</u> a.d. and t.d | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Dreiser, Theodore To: Max Rabinoff, New York, 11 April 1929 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. a.l.s. photostat | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Eastman, George To: Max Rabinoff, Rochester, NY., 18 June 1923 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Ezekiel, Mordecai To: Max Rabinoff, [n.p.], 14 September 1933 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. photostat | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Farley, James A. To: John J. Hearne, New York, 10 September 1951 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. photostat | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Fisher, Irving To: C.P. Franchot, New Haven, Connecticut, 5 September 1933 | box 1 | folder 1 |

Physical Description: 1p. t.l.s.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Mary Steele (secretary to Oscar Hammerstein 2nd.) To: Max Rabinoff, New York, 27 July 1951 | box 1 | folder 1 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. t.l.s.

Scope and Contents

[Included is a carbon of agreement for sale of the Philidelphia Opera House dated 26 April 1910]

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Jones, Jesse Holman To: Max Rabinoff, Washington, D.C., 14 September 1933 | box 1 | folder 1 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. t.l.s with photostat of original

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Jones, Jesse Holman To Max Rabinoff, Washington, D.C., 3 September 1935 | box 1 | folder 1 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. t.l.s

Scope and Contents

[Says photostat on the folio, but appears to be original]

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Kahn, Otto Hermann To: Max Rabinoff, New York, Bar Harbor, Chicago, Waterford, London, Biarritz and others, 9 August 1910 - 4 January 1934 | box 1 | folder 2 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 30 t.l.s. or cables

Scope and Contents

[On various subjects ranging from the opera to U.S. Soviet trade]

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Melba, Nellie To: Max Max Rabinoff, Burlingame, Ca., 2 April 1917 | box 1 | folder 3 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. telegram

Scope and Contents

[Max Rabinoff telegram to Nellie Melba is missing]

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Morris, Newbold To: V. Clement Jenkins, New York, 24 March 1943 | box 1 | folder 3 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. t.l. (typescript copy of a signed note)

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Morros, Boris Mihailovitch To: Max Rabinoff, Hollywood, Ca., 28 October 1936 | box 1 | folder 3 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|

Physical Description: 1p. t.l.s.

Scope and Contents

[WithNYTclipping on Morros]

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Rabinoff, Max To: Herman Bernstein, New York, 27 May 1926 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Rabinoff, Max Memorandum on the late president Wilson, New York, [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. m.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Rabinoff, Max contract with government of Mexico, Mexico City, 19 July 1910 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3p. t.d. carbon copy | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Stokowski, Leopold To: Max Rabinoff, New York; Connecticut; Beverley Hills, 1941-1950 <u>Physical Description:</u> 10 t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Strauss, Lewis L. To: Max Rabinoff, Washington, 29 March 1955 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Tchaikovsky, Vera To: [Max Rabinoff]; Max Rabinoff, [n.p.] [Paris] London, n.d. <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 a.l.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Tchaikovsky, Vera To: Max Rabinoff, Paris, November 1919 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 calling cards; inscribed photo, 1p. a.n.s. | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Tchaikovsky, Vera To: Max Rabinoff, Paris, 26 March 1921 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. marconigram | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Tree, Sir Herbert Bearbohm Incomplete draft of contract with Max Rabinoff for an American tour, [n.p.], 1912 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Tynan, Brandon Contract to appear in the play <i>The Mandarin</i> signed by Herman Bernstein and Brandon Tynan with related letter and photograph, New York, 21 September 1920 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1p. t.l.s., 1p. contract | box 1 | folder 3 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II: Arranged Correspondence**

Scope and Contents

The series contains correspondence arranged in alphabetical order by last name of correspondent. The series includes letters to Rabinoff from Lyn Stiebel-Hunt (professionally known as "Saharah") and New York Times music critic Howard Taubman.

| Title/Description | Instances |
|------------------------|-----------|
| A-Z, [v.p.], 1916-1960 | box 4 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Artifacts/Ephemera**Scope and Contents**

The series contains material related to Rabinoff's activities as a music impresario. It is arranged chronologically and consists of correspondence, musical programs, photographs, and clippings.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Contains information on Rabinoff's struggle to institute Sunday concerts in Chicago, on the Chicago auditorium, on performances for the Mexican government (1910), and on Rabinoff's wife, the soprano Marie La Salle, [n.p.], 1908-1916 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Contains information on Rabinoff's opera companies and protégés, [n.p.], 1917-1960 | box 1 | folder 5 |
| Contains material from Rabinoff's scrapbook, some of which repeats the previous two files. Information is present on the performances for the Mexican government (1910), the production of <i>The Miracle</i> (1914), Marie La Salle, the US appearances of the Ukrainian National Chorus, the Imperial Balalaika Orchestra, and the American Institute of Operatic Arts at Stony Brook (1920s), [n.p.], 1910-1960 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Includes information on the Cosmopolitan Opera Company and Rabinoff's protégés, [n.p.], 1931-1961 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Chicago Grand Opera Company, [n.p.], 1908-1910 | box 1 | folder 8 |
| Mexican National Opera, [n.p.], 1910-1944 | box 2 | folder 1 |
| Boston Opera Company, [n.p.], 1910-1934 | box 2 | folder 2 & 3 |
| Anna Pavlova | box 2 | folder 4 |
| American Institute of Operatic Art | box 2 | folder 5 & 6 |
| Cosmopolitan Opera Association, [n.p.], 1932-1943 | box 2 | folder 7 |
| Photographs and biographical material | box 2 | folder 8 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IV: Business**Scope and Contents**

The series contains clippings, correspondence, speeches, and photostats relating to Rabinoff's work as economic adviser to Estonia and Georgia, and as a promoter of trade with Russia.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Documents and letters on Rabinoff's role as economic adviser to Estonia and Georgia, [n.p.], 1901-1950s | box 3 | folder 1 |
| Material relating to Rabinoff's efforts to promote trade with Russia, 1920-1950 | box 3 | folder 2-4 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)