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James Woodman Thompson papers 4079398

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Thompson, Woodman
Title:	James Woodman Thompson papers
ID:	4079398
ID:	MS#1239
Date [inclusive]:	1909-1955
Physical Description:	109 boxes 109 boxes, 5 pkgs, 12 map case drawers
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical / Historical

New York stage, costume, and scenic designer.

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Summary

Correspondence, documents, memorabilia, photographs, original drawings, sketches and studies, and printed materials of Thompson. Correspondence, mostly uncataloged, relating to purchases made in Spain, France, and Italy during 1928; documents; memorabilia; photographs; printed material including publicity, books, engravings, and reproductions; an illustration file containing source illustrations for architectural details, costumes -- subdivided

by century, country, societal role, sex, age, and by countries, crafts, painting, styles, etc., and including some original Thompson drawings; a production file containing related correspondence and documents; miscellaneous commissioned projects; and Thompson Studies, including studies done by Thompson, his work as a student, and materials pertaining to his activities as a teacher.

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Summary

Productions and miscellaneous commissioned projects contain one or more of the following items: correspondence; contracts (not Thompson's); expense itemizations; notes; property lists; costume lists; cast lists; schedules; rehearsal schedules; scripts; music "run-throughs;" programs; publicity; blueprints and other photo-reproductions of drawings; drawings, usually schematics or prop detail, done in pencil and/or ink; sketches, generally costume but some schematics, usually in pencil (costume sketches may have swatches of material attached and may be colored); rough sketches, often quite crude, usually schematics and construction, but also costume ideas (these are always in pencil); studies, usually in color: watercolors, poster paint, melted crayon, light oil, ink, and pencil (generally of backdrops or sets); cardboard miniature mock-ups, presumably for studies of different lighting effects; photographs of sets, scenes, and the cardboard mock-ups; and source illustrations and photographs for a particular production.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 10 series. Production files are arranged alphabetically and chronologically. Contracts are arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Legacy finding aid created from Pro Cite. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Map case locations updated by JG Oversized materials and addition integrated into Series I-X by CLB 2010-03-30 2019-05-20 2022-05-01 2022-05-13

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

Boxes A and B are located on site. The following boxes are located off-site: 1-107. You will need to request this material from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Accruals

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--1971. Accession number--M-71.

Processing Information

Processed by ELC 2/22/1973. Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/1989.

Processing Information

Series XI and XII contained oversized materials, and Series XIII contained an addition, all of which were otherwise related to materials in Series I through X. These materials were integrated into Series I through X and Series XI-XIII were deleted by Celeste Brewer in May 2022.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Much of the material is very fragile and must be handled with extreme care.

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

Transfer from Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, 1971.

Transfer from Art Properties, 2001.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Costume design
- Costume -- Spain
- Costume -- France
- Costume -- Italy
- Architecture -- Spain
- Architecture -- France
- Architecture -- Italy
- Theater
- Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery
- Drawings (visual works)
- Engravings (prints)
- Illustrations
- Set designers
- Costume designers

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence

Scope and Contents

[See also Map Cases]

Title/Description

Correspondence

Instances

box A

Scope and Contents

[See also map cases]

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II: Documents and Memorabilia****Title/Description**

Diplomas (High School and Carnegie Tech) -- Hofstra College Drama Club -- Photographs (of Woodman Thompson and of Thompson and an unidentified person) -- Tax material (1924 income, 1 sheet)

Instances

box B

Documents; Memorabilia; Photographs; Printed Materials; Source Material

mapcase 14-G-10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series III: Printed Material****Title/Description**Publicity for Thompson's Productions
Physical Description: Scrapbook and unsorted clippings, etc.**Instances**

box B

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series IV: Source Material****Title/Description**

Calendar for 1954 from Ciba of Switzerland

Instances

box B

Chinese Theater, N.Y. (a series of matted studies)

box B

"Chinese Theatre. N.Y."

mapcase 14-F-13

Eleven prints of works of Albrecht Durer

box B

Albrecht Durer prints (torn from a book)

box B

Five engravings

box B

Prints: Park's New Characters - Twelfth Night Characters	box B
Prints: 200 of people; landscapes; assorted eras and cultures; divided Woodman Thompson into 3 groups	box B
Source Illustrations: L'Amour italien -- The Park Theater of 1822 -- Piano (Harpichord?) -- "Umbragraph"	box B
<i>Le Dix-neuvieme siècle, Les Moeurs Les Arts, Les Idees</i> , [Paris?], [n.d.]	box B
<i>Leonardo the Painter</i> , [n.p.]: L'Illustrazione Italiana, June 18, 1939	box B

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Series V: Illustration File

Subseries V.1: Architecture

Title/Description	Instances
Architectural Details: Arabesques - Castles	box 1
Architectural Details: Ceilings - Gardens	box 2
Architectural Details: Gardens	box 3
Architectural Details: Halls - Moldings	box 4
Architectural Details: Musical Instruments - Schools	box 5
Architectural Details: Schools - Workshops	box 6

Subseries V.2: Costumes

Title/Description	Instances
Accessories	box 7
Particular A - O	box 8
Particular P - Z	box 9
Ancient Greek	box 10
Ancient Rome	box 10
Romanesque (several particular nations)	box 10
Medieval: Ecclesiastic, Military	box 11
13th Cent.: English.; French; German; Italian; Spanish	box 11
14th Cent.: Ecclesiastic; English; French; German; Italian	box 11
14th Cent.: Italian; Spanish	box 12

15th Cent. (1st half): English; Flemo-Dutch; French; German; Italian; Spanish	box 12
15th Cent. (2nd half): English; Flemo-Dutch; French; German	box 13
15th Cent. (2nd half): Italian; Spanish	box 14
15th - 16th Cent. transition: Flemo-Dutch; German; Italian	box 15
16th Cent.: Ecclesiastic; Military	box 15
16th Cent. (1st half): English; Flemo-Dutch; French; German; Italian	box 16
16th Cent. (1st half): Italian	box 17
16th Cent. (2nd half): English; Flemo-Dutch; French; German	box 17
16th Cent. (2nd half): Italian; Spanish	box 18
17th Cent. (1st half): Ecclesiastic; Military; Theatrical; English; Flemo-Dutch	box 18
17th Cent. (1st half): Flemo-Dutch	box 19
17th Cent. (1st half): Italian; Spanish	box 20
17th Cent (2nd half): English; Flemo-Dutch; French	box 20
17th Cent (2nd half): French; German; Italian; Scandinavian; Spanish	box 21
18th Cent.: Ecclesiastic; Illustrative; Military; Notes; Porcelain; Theatrical; English - men	box 21
18th Cent.: English - women; English - children; English - genre; English - misc. artists (A-Z); English - artists (A-R)	box 22
18th Cent.: English - artists (R-Z)	box 23
18th Cent.: French - men; French - women; French - children; French - genre; French - Revolution; French - misc. artists; French - artists (A-C)	box 23
18th Cent.: French - artists (D-Z); French - sculpture	box 24
18th Cent.: Dutch	box 24
18th Cent.: German - miscellaneous; German - artists	box 24
18th Cent.: Italian - miscellaneous; Italian - artists (A-L)	box 24
18th Cent.: Italian - artists (P-Z)	box 25
18th Cent.: Polish; Russian; Scandinavian; Spanish	box 25
19th Cent.: Ecclesiastic; Military; Miscellaneous	box 25
1810s	box 26

1820s	box 26
1820s	box 27
1830s	box 27
1840s	box 27
1840s	box 28
1850s	box 28
1850s	box 29
1860s	box 30
1870s	box 30
1870s	box 31
1880s	box 31
1890s	box 32
1890s	box 33
20th Cent.: 1900s	box 33
20th Cent.: Military	box 34
20th Cent.: 1910s	box 34
Modern (1920s)	box 35

Subseries V.3: Countries

Title/Description	Instances
Africa	box 35
American Indian	box 35
American Negro	box 36
Arabia	box 36
Austria	box 36
Austria-Hungary	box 36
Balkans	box 36
Barbary	box 37
Belgium	box 37
British Isles	box 37
British Isles	box 38
Bohemia	box 38
Canada	box 38

Central America	box 38
China	box 39
Egypt	box 40
Eskimo	box 40
France	box 40
France	box 41
Germany	box 41
Germany	box 42
Greece	box 42
Holland	box 42
India	box 42
India	box 43
Indo-China	box 43
Indo-China	box 44
Italy	box 44
Italy	box 45
Japan	box 45
Mexico	box 45
Mexico	box 46
Norway	box 46
Pacific Islands	box 46
Palestine	box 46
Palestine	box 47
Persia	box 47
Portugal	box 47
Russia	box 47
Russia	box 48
Scandinavia	box 48
South America	box 48
Spain	box 48
Spain	box 49
Switzerland	box 50

Syria	box 50
Turkestan	box 50
Turkey	box 50
U. S. A.	box 50
West Indies	box 51
Miscellaneous	box 51

Subseries V.4: Crafts

Title/Description	Instances
Unsorted	box 51
Bookbinding	box 51
Curtains	box 51
Glass	box 51
Glass	box 52
Heraldry	box 52
Illuminated manuscripts	box 52
Ironwork	box 52
Lace	box 52
Leather	box 52
Letters	box 52
Money	box 52
Musical instruments	box 52
Paper - mache	box 52
Picture frames	box 53
Pottery	box 53
Pottery	box 54
Pottery	box 55
Printing	box 55
Prints	box 55
Rugs	box 55
Silver	box 55
Silver	box 56
Stained glass	box 56

Stoves	box 56
Tapestries	box 56
Tapestries	box 57
Textiles	box 57
Tiles	box 58
Title pages	box 58
Tole	box 58
Vehicle	box 58
Wall paper	box 58
Water coloring	box 58
Weaving	box 58
Miscellaneous	box 58

Subseries V.5: Painting

Title/Description	Instances
Drawings	box 59
Miscellaneous	box 59
Perspectives	box 59
Still life	box 59
Murals	box 59
Portraits	box 59
American	box 60
British	box 60
British	box 61
French	box 61
French	box 62
German	box 62
Italian	box 63
Russian	box 63
Scandinavian	box 63
Trees & Landscapes	box 63

Subseries V.6: Styles

Title/Description	Instances
Primitive Nan	box 63
Ancient Western Asia	box 63
Ancient Egypt	box 63
Ancient Egypt	box 64
Ancient Rome	box 64
Ancient Rome	box 65
Biblical	box 65
Byzantine-Romanesque	box 65
Byzantine-Romanesque	box 66
Romanesque	box 67
Islamic	box 67
Gothic	box 67
Gothic	box 68
Gothic Architecture - exteriors	box 68
Gothic Architecture - details	box 68
Gothic Architecture - miscellaneous	box 69
Gothic Architecture - ecclesiastic	box 69
Gothic Architecture - ecclesiastic	box 70
Gothic Architecture - interiors	box 70
Gothic Architecture - furniture	box 70
Gothic Architecture - furniture	box 71
Renaissance - miscellaneous	box 71
Renaissance - English	box 71
Renaissance - Flemo-Dutch	box 71
Renaissance - French	box 71
Renaissance - French	box 72
Renaissance - French	box 73
Renaissance - German	box 73
Renaissance - Italian	box 73
Renaissance - Italian	box 74
Renaissance - Scandinavian	box 74

17th Cent.: miscellaneous	box 74
17th Cent.: American	box 74
17th Cent.: Flemo-Dutch	box 75
17th Cent.: German	box 75
17th Cent.: Italian	box 75
17th Cent.: Scandinavian	box 75
17th Cent. (1st half): English	box 75
17th Cent. (1st half): French	box 75
17th Cent. (2nd half): English	box 75
17th Cent. (2nd half): English	box 76
17th Cent. (2nd half): French	box 76
18th Cent.: American	box 76
18th Cent.: American	box 77
18th Cent.: Colonial American	box 77
18th Cent.: Dutch	box 77
18th Cent.: English	box 78
18th Cent.: English	box 79
18th Cent.: French	box 79
18th Cent.: French - Louis XV	box 79
18th Cent.: French - Provincial	box 79
18th Cent.: French - Louis XVI	box 80
18th Cent.: French - Directoire	box 80
18th Cent.: German	box 80
18th Cent.: Italian	box 81
18th Cent.: Miscellaneous	box 81
19th Cent.: French - Miscellaneous	box 81
19th Cent.: French - Empire	box 81
Victorian	box 82
Victorian	box 83
Victorian	box 84
1900	box 84
Modern	box 84

Modern	box 85
Subseries V.7: Miscellaneous	
Title/Description	Instances
Animals	box 85
Animals	box 86
Costumes	box 86
Exteriors	box 87
Functions	box 87
Functions	box 88
Illustrations	box 88
Illustrations	box 89
Illustrations	box 90
Industrial	box 90
Lighting	box 90
<i>Old England, A Pictorial Museum</i> <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Volumes,	box 91
Photographs Postcards	box 92
Props	box 93
Props	box 94
Props	box 95
Props	box 96
Shipping	box 96
Shipping	box 97
Theatre	box 97
Vehicles	box 97
Vehicles	box 98
War	box 98
War	box 99
War	box 100
Misellaneous	box 101
Miscellaneous Costume (ORIGINALS)	box 102

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Series VI: Production File

Scope and Contents

Contains: correspondence; contracts; expenses; notes; property lists; costume lists; cast lists; schedules; scripts; music "run throughs"; programs; publicity; blueprints; drawings, usually schematics or prop details, done in pencil and/or ink; sketches, generally costume, but some schematics; rough sketches in pencil; studies in color (watercolor, poster paint, melted crayon, light oil, ink and pencil) usually for sets; cardboard miniature mock-ups; photographs of sets, scenes, and mock-ups; source illustrations.

Title/Description	Instances
Unidentified material	box 103
"Unidentified Material"	mapcase 14-F-14
Contracts (arranged chronologically)	box 103
The Admiral	box 103
"The Admiral"	mapcase 14-F-14
The Adventures of Samuel Pickwick, Esq.	box 103
Antigone	box 103
"Antigone"	mapcase 14-F-14
Augustan Comedy (also called "A Neoclassical Comedy")	box 103
"Augustan Comedy"	mapcase 14-F-14
"Augustan Comedy"	mapcase 14-F-13
Balle Comique	box 103
The Beggar On Horseback	box 103
"The Beggar on Horseback."	mapcase 14-F-14
"Beggar on Horseback" ["The Cady Home"], [n.p.], 1933 <u>Physical Description</u> : 15 x 22 3/4 Gouache	mapcase 14-G-7
Scope and Contents	
[From the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, 1970. Transferred from Art Properties, 23 September 2001]	
The Bishop Misbehaves	box 103

"The Bishop Misbehaves" - "The Chastening."	mapcase 14-F-15
Bridal Quilt	box 103
Butterflies	box 103
Candida	box 103
Carioca Purple	box 103
The Chastening	box 104
Christopher Rand	box 104
"Christopher Rand" - "Daphnis & Chloe."	mapcase 14-G-1
Close Harmony (also called "Soft Music")	box 104
The Cocoanuts	box 104
Daisies Won't Tell	box 104
Dangerous Corner	box 104
Daphnis & Chloe	box 104
Deep River	box 104
"Deep River" - "God Loves Us."	mapcase 14-G-2
Delicate Justice	box 104
Desert Song (also called "Lady Fair")	box 104
Expressing Willie	box 104
The Firebrand	box 104
"The Firebrand" Acts I and III, [n.p.], [ca. 1930] <u>Physical Description</u> : 15 1/2 x 22 1/2 Watercolor (signed on back)	mapcase 14-G-7
Scope and Contents	
[From the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, 1970. Transferred from Art Properties, 23 September 2001]	
The Ghost of Yankee Doodle	box 104
God Loves Us	box 104
The Habitual Husband	box 104
"The Habitual Husband" - "Macbeth."	mapcase 14-G-3
Hedda Gabler	box 104
Hospitality	box 104

In the Meantime	box 104
Iolanthe	box 104
Ipinegia aus Tarus	box 104
Joan d'Arc	box 104
Lightnin'	box 104
Little Theater Concert	box 104
Macbeth	box 104
The Magnificent Yankee	box 105
"The Magnificent Yankee" - "Neighbors."	mapcase 14- G-4
Malvaloca	box 105
The Marriage of Figaro	box 105
The Merchant of Venice	box 105
"The Merchant of Venice."	mapcase 14- F-12
Midnight	box 105
Month In The Country	box 105
Neighbors	box 105
Nepenthe	box 105
"Nepenthe" - "Queen Victoria."	mapcase 14- G-5
The New Englander	box 105
Old Man Minick	box 105
Pirates Of Penzance	box 105
Plumes In The Dust	box 105
The Potters	box 105
A Primer For Lovers	box 105
Pure In Heart	box 105
Queen Victoria	box 105
Rhapsody Negro	box 105
"Rhapsody Negro" - "Rye."	mapcase 14- G-6
Richard The Third (John Carradine)	box 105
The Rivals	box 105

Roger Bloomer	box 105
Romeo and Juliet	box 105
"Romeo and Juliet" Act I, scene i, [n.p.], 1933 <u>Physical Description</u> : 14 1/2 x 22 1/4 Watercolor	mapcase 14-G-7
Scope and Contents	
[From the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, 1970. Transferred from Art Properties, 23 September 2001]	
Rye	box 105
She Stoops To Conquer	box 106
The Shelf	box 106
"The Shelf" - "Venus Vixtrix."	mapcase 14-G-7
The Squall	box 106
Sweet Nell Of Old Drury	box 106
Taboo	box 106
Theme And Variations	box 106
These Few Ashes	box 106
This One Man (also called "The Man Saul", etc.)	box 106
Tomorrow Is A Holiday	box 106
Venus Vixtrix	box 106
The Warrior's Husband	box 106
"The Warrior's Husband" - "Why Not?"	mapcase 14-G-8
"What Price Glory?"	box 106
"Scene from What Price Glory" Act II, [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 15 x 23 Watercolor	mapcase 14-G-7
Scope and Contents	
[Inscribed on verso: "What Price Glory"/ Scene II The Dugent/Designed by/Woodman Thompson/for Arthur Hopkins. From the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, 1970. Transferred from Art Properties, 23 September 2001]	
White Wings	box 106
"Why Not?"	box 106
"Will You Marry Me?"	box 106

The Winged Messenger	box 106
"The Winged Messenger" - "The Wolf At The Door."	mapcase 14-G-9
The Wisdom Tooth	box 106
The Wolf At The Door	box 106
Miscellaneous Productions -- Programs only	box 106
Miscellaneous material	mapcase 14-F-13

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Series VII: Miscellaneous Commissioned Projects

Scope and Contents

[See also Map Cases] -- Contains: correspondence; contracts; expenses; notes; property lists; costume lists; cast lists; schedules; scripts; music "run throughs"; programs; publicity; blueprints; drawings, usually schematics or prop details, done in pencil and/or ink; sketches, generally costume, but some schematics; rough sketches in pencil; studies in color (watercolor, poster paint, melted crayon, light oil, ink and pencil) usually for sets; cardboard miniature mock-ups; photographs of sets, scenes, and mock-ups; source illustrations.

Title/Description	Instances
The Chapin School	box 107
Costume design for Miss Houston	box 107
Costume Design for Miss Mae Murray	box 107
The Gotham Hotel Project	box 107
The Storm King School	box 107
The Surf Club	box 107
Weber and Heilbroner	box 107
Miscellaneous Commissioned Projects	mapcase 14-G-9

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Series VIII: Thompson Studies

Title/Description	Instances
"Discarded Drawings"	box 107
Empire Costumes	box 107
Oriental-style watercolors	box 107

Still-life pencil drawings box 107

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Series IX: Thompson the Student

Title/Description	Instances
"Egyptian and Assyrian costumes by Houston and Hornblower"	box 107
Scope and Contents	
[More than just Egyptian and Assyrian material; all near-eastern]	
French Intimate Court History (notes and drawings)	box 107
Notebook	box 107
Old schoolwork: charcoal, watercolor	box 107

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Series X: Thompson the Teacher

Title/Description	Instances
"Chats on Costume"	box 107
Thompson teaching (correspondence between W.T. and people wishing to study for the union exam with him; sample exam items; sample work of students correspondence with union officials, etc.)	box 107

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