

THE HYMAN FIREMAN COLLECTION

1931-1939

.75 linear feet

Accession Number 697

L. C. Number

The theatre and worker's theatre publications collected by Hyman Fireman were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May of 1974 by Mr. Fireman and were opened for research in July of 1985.

Mr. Fireman was a devoted collector of labor-related literature for most of his life. His extensive personal library included books, pamphlets, brochures, and periodicals which focused on the labor-arts movement of the early mid-twentieth century. This collection also contained a number of workers' theatre magazines published in the 1930's. The Hyman Fireman Collection is comprised of these periodicals.

The theatre was one of the most effective means by which the labor movement could reach the masses. Throughout the world the proletarian theatre expressed the aspirations and ideologies of working men and women, the politically oppressed, and the artistically stagnated. The proletarian theatre of the 1930's influenced the rise of such theatrical figures as Maxim Gorky in Russia; Erwin Piscator and Bertolt Brecht in Germany; and Clifford Odets and Harold Clurman in America.

The Hyman Fireman Collection of workers' theatre magazines contains the writings, biographies, and philosophies of theatrical artists aligned with organized labor. Descriptions of theatrical practices may be found throughout the collection in addition to actual labor-oriented scripts. Also included are a number of articles describing theatrical unions and screen guilds, and a personal memo from Hallie Flanagan, the head of the Federal Theatre Project.

Important subjects covered in these publications include:

Federal Theatre Project	Negro Theatre
International Revolutionary Theatre	Theatre Union Disputes

Among the important contributing writers are:

Hallie Flanagan	Langston Hughes
Maxim Gorky	Clifford Odets

An index to subjects and contributing writers will be found on p. 3.

Contents

1 and 1/2 manuscript boxes

Box 1

The Hallie Flanagan memo to Federal Theatre workers is included among editions of The International Theatre, which details the workers' theatre of the world, philosophical treatises concerning the proletarian dramaturgy, and short biographies of major theatrical artists; Worker's Theatre, which includes proletarian dramas and essays on world revolutionary theatres; New Theatre, formerly Worker's Theatre; and New Theatre and Film, which includes essays regarding the proletarian film movement of the 1930's. The magazines are arranged chronologically under title.

1. Hallie Flanagan memo to Federal Theatre workers, n.d.
2. The International Theatre, no. 4 1933, no. 2 1934, no. 3-4 1934
3. Worker's Theatre, Nov 1931-Jan 1932
4. Worker's Theatre, Apr 1932, Jun-Jul 1932, Sep-Oct 1932
5. Worker's Theatre, Mar 1933, Apr 1933, Jul-Aug 1933
6. New Theatre (formerly Worker's Theatre), Sep-Oct 1933, Jan 1934
7. New Theatre, Feb 1934-May 1934
8. New Theatre, Jul-Aug 1934-Oct 1934
9. New Theatre, Nov 1934-Jan 1935
10. New Theatre, Mar 1935, May 1935-Jul 1935
11. New Theatre, Sep 1935, Oct 1935, Dec 1935
12. New Theatre, Jan 1936-Mar 1936
13. New Theatre, Apr 1936-Jun 1936
14. New Theatre, Jul 1936, Aug 1936, Oct 1936
15. New Theatre and Film (formerly New Theatre), Mar 1937, Apr 1937

Box 2

This box contains editions of Theatre Workshop, which offers essays concerning the Federal Theatre and theatrical practices of the day; Federal Theatre Magazine, which describes the activities of the Federal Theatre Project; TAC (Theatre Arts Committee), describing the practices of that organization; and New Theatre News, which includes the opinions of several labor leaders regarding the labor theatre.

1. Theatre Workshop, Oct-Dec 1936
2. Theatre Workshop, Jan-Mar 1937
3. Theatre Workshop, Apr-Jun 1938
4. Federal Theatre Magazine, Jun-Jul 1937; Federal Summer Theatre Report, 1937
5. TAC (Theatre Arts Committee), Nov 1938-Jan 1939
6. TAC (Theatre Arts Committee), May 1939, Jul 1939
7. TAC (Theatre Arts Committee), Sep 1939, Oct 1939, Dec 1939
8. New Theatre News, Nov 1938

Index to Subjects and Contributing Writers

(contributing writers are indicated by an asterisk)

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