

Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern Commons

Finding Aids

Special Collections at Lane Library (Armstrong)

2010

902 Alumni Papers about Masquers: Shirley Hoffman Papers, 1947-1951 and Wray Kessell Papers, 1947-1950

Shirley Hoffman

Wray Kessell

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/finding-aids-lane>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoffman, Shirley and Kessell, Wray, "902 Alumni Papers about Masquers: Shirley Hoffman Papers, 1947-1951 and Wray Kessell Papers, 1947-1950" (2010). *Finding Aids*. 13.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/finding-aids-lane/13>

This finding aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Lane Library (Armstrong) at Georgia Southern Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Georgia Southern Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Reference Code: University Archives 902 Alumni Papers—Masquers Theatre

Name and Location of Repository: Special Collections. Lane Library. Georgia Southern Univ. Armstrong Campus. 11935 Abercorn Street Savannah GA 31419-1997.

Title: Alumni Papers about Masquers: Shirley Hoffman Papers, 1947-1951 and Wray Kessell Papers, 1947-1950

Dates: 1947-1951, 1994.

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted.

Language and Scripts of Material: English

Preferred Citation: Alumni Papers—Masquers Theatre. Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus, Lane Library. Special Collections. Savannah GA, 31419-1997. Box 902/Folder number.

Extent: .5 linear foot. Manuscript box and oversized folder

Name of Creators: Shirley Hoffman, Wray Kessell, Armstrong Masquers

Accession Number: 04-3 &

Collection processed by: Caroline Hopkinson

Latest revision of Finding Aid: 2023

Biographical History (2.7):

Shirley Bell Hoffman graduated Armstrong Junior College with the class of 1951. Ms. Hoffman was Drama Club Secretary 1949-1950; Assistant to Director of the Masquers, 1950-1951; and part of the Savannah Playhouse, 1949-1950. In addition to her work as assistant to the Director, Hoffman participated in Armstrong productions as actor, stage crew, stage manager and electrician. Hoffman went on to become a professional writer.

Scope and Content Note: 27 photographs and programs from about ten plays produced by the Savannah Playhouse of Armstrong College under the direction of Carlson R. Thomas (1947-1951) form the bulk of Hoffman's papers. In four letters that accompany the collection Hoffman describes people, events and places she remembers from her Armstrong career during 1949-1951. In this letter Hoffman states some of the material which was "before my time" she received from Carlson Thomas. Hoffman donated the collection in response to a request published in *Armstrong Magazine* by Dr. Janet Stone around 1994. Dr. Stone deposited the material in the University Archives at about the time it was established, 2000.

Wray Kessel was a student at Armstrong Junior College (1938/39) and served on the Board of the Savannah Playhouse, a college-community theatre of the College. Wray stayed involved with Armstrong's theatre through the 1940s and this collection include programs and other documents about Armstrong productions from that period. In 1950 Armstrong decided to focus the theatre program on students rather than community theatre, Wray and her husband Walter Kessell were founders of The Little Theatre in 1950. Also in this repository is their collection from that venture, titled Wray and Walter Kessell Collection about Little Theatre of Savannah, Ga., 1925-2007.

Kessell's donated records about Armstrong theatre include photographs, play programs, clippings and documents related to the 1949 Drama Festival.

Descriptor:

Armstrong Masquers (Savannah, GA)

Box List

Shirley Hoffman collection:

1. Hoffman's correspondence with Janet Stone.
 2. Notebook pages of diagrams of Savannah Playhouse stage and lighting, 1949?
- Photographs:
3. *My Sister Eileen*. November 17-22 1947. 3 photographs. See also Oversized folder 1.
 4. *Winterset*. 1948. 1 photograph. See also Oversized folder 1.
 5. *I Remember Mama* 1949. 2 photographs
 6. *Green Grow the Lilacs*. 1949. 6 photographs.
 7. *Taming of the Shrew*. May 1949. 5 photographs.
 8. *Charley's Aunt*. January 1950. 2 photographs.
 9. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* March 1950. 2 Photographs
 10. Cast Party, Pierre Patelin, unidentified play scenes. N.D. 4 photographs.

Programs, 1948-1951.

- From *Savannah Playhouse* and one (*The Mikado*) from *Armstrong Masquer's*
11. *Life with Father* 1948
 12. *The Importance of Being Earnest* 1948
 13. *Winterset* 1948
 14. Savannah Drama Festival 1949
 15. *Green Grow the Lilacs* 1949?
 16. Savannah Theatre Festival 1949?
 17. *Angel Street* 1949
 18. *The Taming of the Shrew* 1949
 19. *I Remember Mama* 1949
 20. The Savannah Playhouse Season 1949-1950
 21. *Charley's Aunt* 1950
 22. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* 1950
 23. *The Mikado* 1951
 24. News Clippings regarding *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*. 1950. And Misc

Oversized Folder 1: *Winterset* and *My Sister Eileen*.

Large photographs of production.

Wray Kessell Collection:

Photographs

25. *My Sister Eileen* (8)
26. *I Remember Mama* (9)
27. *How Green Was My Valley* (13)
28. Photographs Miscellaneous (14)

Documents

29. Drama Festival 1949 Promotion/Minutes
30. Play Programs 1947-1950
31. Clippings