

Finding Aid for the Mary Wickes Papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: University Archives, Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries, One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130, Telephone: (314) 935-5444 or (314) 935-9730, Fax (314) 935-8320, e-mail: spec@wumail.wustl.edu, website: <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives>

Creator: Mary Wickes.

Title: Mary Wickes Papers.

Dates: 1908 – 1995. (bulk of material 1930 – 1995)

Quantity: 45.0 linear feet.

Language: English.

Biographical Note

Mary Wickes was born Mary Isabella Wickenhauser in St. Louis, Missouri on June 13, 1910. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1930. She received the Distinguished Alumni Citation from Washington University in 1955. Later she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Arts Degree from Washington University in 1969. Wickes was an actress who had a long career on stage, in film, and on television in performances including *Oklahoma!*, *Sister Act*, and *The Father Dowling Mysteries*. She died in Los Angeles, California on October 22, 1995.

Scope and Content Notes

The material in this collection is both personal and professional material that covers much of Mary Wickes' life from her family life to school days through her long and active acting career. Much of the material was kept in its original groupings and arrangement, thus some material pertaining to certain subjects may appear in two or more series.

This collection is divided into twelve series as follows:

Series 1: Stage Career, arranged alphabetically by name of play. Multiple productions of the same play are organized by city in which the play appeared. Includes scripts, photographs, programs, news clippings, and reviews.

Series 2: Film Career, arranged alphabetically by title of the film. Includes scripts, photographs, programs, news clippings, and reviews. Some films in which Mary Wickes appeared are not represented.

Series 3: Television Career, arranged alphabetically by name of the television show. Includes scripts, photographs, news clippings, and reviews. Many television shows in which Mary Wickes appeared are not represented.

Series 4: Photographs and Scrapbooks – These photographs are mostly publicity shots of Wickes. The scrapbooks document Mary Wickes' growing up in St. Louis, her years at Washington University, and her early theatrical career, both in St. Louis and at the Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Series 5: Washington University, arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes material from Mary Wickes' years as an undergraduate, her Distinguished Alumni Citation and honorary degree, and material related to her teaching at the University.

Series 6: UCLA Material – Includes notes for her master's thesis in Theater Arts and material related to her volunteer work at the UCLA Medical Center.

Series 7: Professional Correspondence, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Series 8: Personal and Professional Material – Includes biographical material, publicity, speeches, contracts, sheet music, correspondence, awards, and posters.

Series 9: Genealogical – Correspondence and documents concerning MW's ancestors; also includes Wickes family photos, including childhood photos of Mary Wickes. (Publicity photos from Mary Wickes' acting career are found in Series 4.)

Series 10: Personal Effects – This material includes jewelry, phone and address books, memorabilia, awards, and more.

Series 11: Personal Library – Books from Mary Wickes' library.

Series 12: Audio-visual Material – Videotapes of programs in which Mary Wickes appeared; audio tapes of radio interviews; audio tapes of vocal coaching sessions; films; albums.

Administrative Information

Source of Collection

This material was donated to the University Archives by the Estate of Mary Wickes in 1997.

Accruals

There are no accruals.

Processing Information

Compiled by Archives Staff in 1997; updated by Sonya Rooney in 2009.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Personal correspondence of Mary Wickes is closed until 2027 by request of the Trustee of the Mary Wickes Estate.

The production stills in the Mary Wickes Papers are copyrighted works. The copyrights are held by the original creators and their successor agencies, not the estate of Mary Wickes or Washington University. We will do everything we can to make photographs from the collection accessible to researchers while observing the copyright laws pertaining to photographs in the collection.

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Collection Contents

Series 1: Stage Career, arranged alphabetically by name of play.

Box No.	Folder
Box 1	A.C.T. (American Conservatory Theater) - miscellaneous
	Adventures of a Black Girl in Her Search for God, 1968
	Antigone, 1962
	Anything Goes, 1962
	Apple of His Eye, 1946
	Arsenic and Old Lace, 1986
	Berkshire Playhouse, 1934
	Berkshire Playhouse, 1935
	Berkshire Playhouse, 1936

Berkshire Playhouse, 1937

Berkshire Playhouse, 1938

Berkshire Playhouse, 1941

Berkshire Playhouse, 1946

Berkshire Playhouse, 1949

Berkshire Playhouse, 1957

Berkshire Playhouse, undated

Berkshire Theatre Festival, 50th Anniversary Season, 1978

Berkshire Theatre Festiveal, 1982

Blocking notes for various plays

Bloomer Girl, n.d.

Christmas Memory, 1982

Christmas Triptych, n.d.

The Crucible (A.C.T.), 1973

Damn Yankees, 1978

Dandy Dick, 1950

Dark at the Top of the Stairs, 1959

Dark Hammock, 1944

Detective Story, 1984

Dorothy Parker (various scripts) n.d.

Dorothy Parker (Denver Script) / The Singular Dorothy Parker (one woman show), 1973

Drums of Father Ned O'Casey, 1960

Farmer Takes a Wife, 1934

Box 2 Foreigner, 1987
Henry IV, Part I, 1982
Heyday, 1947
High Spirits (Houston), 1966
High Spirits (Los Angeles), 1966
High Spirits (theatre unknown), n.d.
Hitch Your Wagon, 1937
Hollywood Pinafore, 1945
House of Blue Leaves (A.C.T.), 1972 – 1973
I Gave It Six Months, 1959
Importance of Being Earnest, 1981
Importance of Being Earnest (William & Mary), 1981
Jackpot, n.d.
Juno and the Peacock, 1974 (folder 1)
Juno and the Peacock, 1974 (folder 2)
Late Christopher Bean, 1950
Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, 1986
Light Up The Sky, 1983
[Lists of agents based in New York, n.d.]
Little Night Music, 1991
Little Women Follies, 1934
Man Who Came to Dinner, 1940
Meet Me in St. Louis, 1960

Meet Me in St. Louis, 1977

Music Man, 1946

Music Man, 1978

Mystery Cycle (A.C.T.), 1972 – 1973

[Monologues, n.d.]

Naughty Marietta, 1944

New Moon, 1949

Box 3 Oklahoma!, 1978 (folder 1)

Oklahoma!, 1978 (folder 2)

Oklahoma!, 1979 (folder 3)

Oklahoma!, 1979 (folder 4)

Oklahoma!, 1979 – 1980 (folder 5)

Oklahoma!, 1979 – 1980 (folder 6)

Oklahoma!, n.d. (folder 7)

Oklahoma!, n.d. (folder 8)

On Approval, 1950

Open Window, 1954

Park Avenue, 1946

Pleasure of His Company, 1960

Prompt scripts for “Hands Across the Sea” and Ways and Means”

(A.C.T.), n.d.

Ring Around the Moon, 1951

Scenes - various plays, n.d.

Scenes - Anatol's Wedding Morning, n.d.

Scenes - Apple of His Eye, n.d.

Scenes - Barefoot in the Park, n.d.

Scenes - Blithe Spirit, n.d.

Scenes - The Boor, n.d.

Scenes - Fam & Yam, n.d.

Scenes - Fumed Oak, n.d.

Scenes - George Washington Slept Here, n.d.

Scenes - Glass Menagerie, n.d.

Scenes - Hands Across the Sea, n.d.

Scenes - Having Wonderful Time, n.d.

Scenes - Importance of Being Earnest, n.d.

Scenes - Ludlow Fair, n.d.

Scenes - Male Animal, n.d.

Scenes - Man Who Came to Dinner, n.d.

Scenes - Merton of the Movies, n.d.

Scenes - My Sister Eileen, n.d.

Scenes - Pygmalion, n.d.

Scenes - Red Peppers, n.d.

Scenes - Ring Round the Moon, n.d.

Scenes - Royal Family, n.d.

Scenes - Scenes from Shakespeare

Scenes - Ways and Means, n.d.

- Scenes - The Women, n.d.
- Scenes - You Can't Take It With You
- Showboat (Anaheim, California), 1964
- Showboat (St. Louis), 1952
- Songs and Dances (sheet music for several songs, including Down By the Old Mill Stream, Shine On Harvest Moon, Sonny Boy, and La ci darem la mano), n.d.
- Spring Dance, n.d.
- Spring Meeting, 1949
- Box 4 St. Louis Municipal Opera (various productions, unidentified), n.d.
- Stage Door, n.d.
- Stars in Your Eyes, n.d.
- Student Prince, 1972
- Student Prince, n.d.
- Torchbearers, 1949
- Town House, 1948 (folder 1)
- Town House, 1948 (folder 2)
- Visit, 1959
- Wizard of Oz, 1987
- Wonderful Town, 1975
- You Can't Take It With You (A.C.T.), 1972 – 1973
- Box 5 Costume from Oklahoma!, 1979
- Box 6 Costume [from Music Man?], n.d.
- Box 7 Costume [shoes], n.d.

Series 2: Film Career, arranged alphabetically by title of the film.

Box No. Folder

Box 1 101 Dalmatians

Anna Lucasta, 1949

By the Light of the Silvery Moon, 1953

Cimarron, 1959 – 1960

Decision of Christopher Blake, n.d.

Destry, 1954

Grumpier Old Men, 1995

Higher and Higher, 1944

Hunchback of Notre Dame, 1995

I'll See You In My Dreams, 1951

The Jane From Maine, 1958

June Bride, 1950

Little Women, 1994

Man Who Came To Dinner, n.d

Marvin's Room, 1995

Music Man, 1962

My Kingdom For A Cook, 1943

Now Voyager, n.d.

On Moonlight Bay, 1951

Postcards From The Edge, 1990

Private Buckaroo, 1942

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 1), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 2), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 3), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 4), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 5), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 6), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 7), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 8), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 9), 1992

Box 2 Sister Act - Reviews (folder 10), 1992

Sister Act - Reviews (folder 11), 1992

Sister Act - production stills, news clippings, etc. (folder 1), 1991

Sister Act - production stills, news clippings, etc. (folder 2), 1991

Sister Act - production stills, news clippings, etc. (folder 3), 1991

Sister Act 2 (folder 1), 1993

Sister Act 2 (folder 2), 1993

Tom Sawyer, 1994

Trouble With Angels, 1965

Where Angels Go, Trouble Follows, 1967

White Christmas, 1953

Who Done It?, 1942

Series 3: Television Career, arranged alphabetically by name of the television show.

Box No.	Folder
Box 1	Annette, n.d.
	Bonino, 1953
	Canterville Ghost, n.d.
	Catbird Seat, n.d.
	Cindy's Fella, 1959
	Danny Thomas Show (folder 1), 1951-1957
	Danny Thomas Show (folder 2), 1951-1957
	Doc (folder 1), 1975 – 1976
	Doc (folder 2), 1975 – 1976
	Don Rickles Show, 1972
	Emmy Award nomination, 1962
	Father Dowling Mysteries, 1989 – 1991
	Halls of Ivy (folder 1), 1953 – 1955
	Halls of Ivy (folder 2), 1953 – 1955
	Hitchcock Presents – The Baby Sitter, n.d.
	Inside USA, 1950
	Lucille Ball Special, 1979
	Lucy Show, 1965 – 1972
	Ma and Pa, 1974
	Man Who Came to Dinner, 1972
	Mary Poppins, 1949 (folder 1)

Mary Poppins, 1949 (folder 2)

Mary Poppins, 1949 (folder 3)

Miscellaneous skits, n.d.

Miss Hargreaves, 1941

Mrs. G. Goes to College, 1961 – 1962

My Three Sons, n.d.

Schwartz-Metterklume Method, 1950

Sesame Street, 1980

Shirley Temple TV (“The Princess and the Goblins” / “Little Men”),
n.d.

Sigmund and the Sea Monsters (folder 1), 1973 – 1975

Sigmund and the Sea Monsters (folder 2), 1973 – 1975

Thin Man, 1959

Weldon Pond, 1994

Wickes Works, n.d.

Willa, 1979

[New television series ideas, n.d.]

Series 4: Photographs and Scrapbooks

Box No.	Folder
Box 1	Publicity Photographs (folder 1)
	Publicity Photographs (folder 2)
	Publicity Photographs (folder 3)
	Publicity Photographs (folder 4)
	Publicity Photographs (folder 5)

Publicity Photographs (folder 6)
Publicity Photographs (folder 7)
Heads and Full Length (taken by Bruno), 1941
Head Shots – Pierlow Portraits
Head Shots – Cris Alexander, June 1946
Head Shots – Blechman, 1955
Head Shots – Engstead (folder 1)
Head Shots – Engstead (folder 2)
Head Shots – Engstead (folder 3)
Head Shots – Color
Head Shots – Miscellaneous
Head Shots – Assorted (negatives)
Houston, 1967
Airport in ST. Louis, 1940
CBS, Berg Show
Composite – Nursing Roles
New York Foundling Home
TV Academy – Palladium
Celebrity Friends
Miscellaneous Comedy
Unidentified miscellaneous
Photographs (folder 1)
Photographs (folder 2)

Box 2	Scrapbook – Student Years (1 scrapbook)
Box 3	Scrapbook – Washington University (1 scrapbook)
Box 4	Scrapbook – Historical Theatre (1 scrapbook)
Box 5	Scrapbooks – Stage Effects (1 scrapbook)
Box 6	Scrapbook – Opening Nights (1 scrapbook)
Box 7	Scrapbooks (3 scrapbooks)
Box 8	Scrapbooks (2 scrapbooks)
Box 9	Scrapbooks (2 scrapbooks)
Box 10	Scrapbooks (1 scrapbook)

Series 5: Washington University, arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box No.	Folder
Box 1	Adele Chomeau Starbird Memorial Award, 1988
	Adele Chomeau Starbird Memorial Lecture, 1988
	Class of 1930, 50th Year Reunion, 1980
	Commencement, 1930 (graduation from W.U.)
	Commencement, 1969 (folder 1) (honorary Doctor of Arts degree)
	Commencement, 1969 (folder 2) (honorary Doctor of Arts degree)
	Commencement, 1969 (folder 3) (honorary Doctor of Arts degree)
	Distinguished Alumni Awards, 1955
	Loie Fuller poster (hangs in Mallinckrodt Center, entrance to Edison Theatre) - appraisal, 1973
	Glass Menagerie, 1968 (Artist in Residence, in the Performing Arts Dept.)
	Homecoming Grand Marshal, 1986

Mallinckrodt Center Dedication, 1973 (folder 1)

Mallinckrodt Center Dedication, 1973 (folder 2)

Performing Arts Department - Acting Seminar (Drama 441), 1977
(folder 1)

Performing Arts Department - Acting Seminar (Drama 441), 1977
(folder 2)

Photo of MW as a W.U. student, n.d.

Rose of Arizona, [n.d. but this is a production MW took part in while
a student]

Southern California Alumni Banquet, 1955

Box 2 Academic robes worn by Mary Wickes at the 1969 Commencement
ceremony, when she received her honorary degree.

Series 6: UCLA Material

Box No. Folder

Box 1: UCLA Graduate Work
Newsclippings

UCLA Volunteer Lunch Skit, 1978

Washington University and St. Louis Symphony Articles

Articles

Master's Thesis (folder 1)

Master's Thesis (folder 2)

Master's Thesis (folder 3)

Master's Thesis (folder 4)

Master's Thesis (folder 5)

Master's Thesis (folder 6)

Master's Thesis (folder 7)

Thesis Audio reel-to-reel (reel 1)

Thesis Audio reel-to-reel (reel 2)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 8, 1971

Box 2: UCLA Graduate Work

Master's Degree

UCLA Class Notes and Papers

Master's Thesis

UCLA Extension

Master's Thesis Research

UCLA Class Notes and Papers, 1970

UCLA One Act, 1972

Box 3: UCLA Volunteer Work

Volunteer Material – Hospital

Volunteer Work – UCLA Publications and Auxiliary Magazine

Series 7: Professional Correspondence, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Box No. Folder

Box 1	Correspondence, A-B
	Correspondence, C-D
	Correspondence, E-F
	Correspondence, G-H
	Correspondence, I-J
	Correspondence, K-L
	Correspondence, M-N

Correspondence, O-P

Correspondence, Q-R

Correspondence, S-T

Correspondence, U-V

Correspondence, W

Correspondence, X-Y-Z

Correspondence, miscellaneous (Mary Wickes kept this file separate from the above correspondence files, and we have maintained her original arrangement, rather than interfiling)

Series 8: Personal and Professional Material

Box No.	Folder
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Box 1: Biographical Accounts

Biographical

Biography (*Washington University Magazine* and Others)

Biography and List of Jobs

Clippings

General Publicity Stories

Mary Wickes – Theatre Credits

Mary Wickes – Mentioned in Publications

Original Writings – Ideas for TV Pilots, Poetry, All Saints Show, Myny Opera Program Article, etc.

Box 2: Publicity

Publicity Clippings (folder 1)

Publicity Clippings (folder 2)

Publicity Clippings (folder 3)

Publicity Clippings (folder 4)

Publicity Clippings (folder 5)

Box 3: Speeches

Speeches (folder 1)

Speeches (folder 2)

Speeches (folder 3)

Speeches (folder 4)

Box 4: Contracts

Old Contracts (folder 1)

Old Contracts (folder 2)

Box 5: Sheet Music

Sheet Music (folder 1)

Sheet Music (folder 2)

Sheet Music (folder 3)

Sheet Music (folder 4)

Sheet Music (folder 5)

Sheet Music (folder 6)

Box 6: Miscellaneous Ephemeral Items and Correspondence

Newsclippings – “Trouble with Angels”

Note from St. Mary’s Home Sisters

Notes

Typewriter Song

Los Angeles 188th Birthday Fiesta

Clippings – LA County Museum of Art

Miscellaneous Clippings

Miscellaneous Publicity Articles

All Saints Church Material (folder 1)

All Saints Church Material (folder 2)

Theatre Review Clippings

80th Anniversary of Mercantile

Newsclippings

Newsclippings (possible duplicates)

Various Newsclippings

Notes

Phi Mu Material

Washington University Clippings

Speeches and Clippings

Correspondence, War Ration Books, Organization Material, Family Memorabilia, etc.

Organization Material

Correspondence, Family Memorabilia, Award Certificates, etc.

Correspondence, Award Certificates, etc.

Correspondence, Clippings, Washington University Material, etc.

Stationery, Name Cards, Signature Plate

Postcards, Business cards, Tickets

Slides and Postcards

Box 7: Awards

Awards (stored in large box at end of collection)

Box 8: Awards and Poster

Awards and Posters (stored in large box at end of collection)

Series 9: GenealogicalBox No. Folder

Box 1 John R. Thomas (MW grandfather)

 John R. Thomas (MW grandfather) – discharge papers, Masonic lodge reinstatement

 August Wickenhauser

 Frank Wickenhauser (MW father)

 Isabella Wickenhauser (MW mother)

 Isabella Wickenhauser (MW mother), Christmas 1965

 Margaret Shannon (“Aunt Hes”)

 Mary Wickenhauser – baby book

 Mary Wickenhauser – Beaumont High School Class of 1926

 Mary Wickenhauser – childhood portraits

 Mary Wickes – passports

 Photographs, unidentified

 6830 Pershing Purchase, 1929

 6830 Pershing Sale 1943

 Bride Book, 1908

 Childhood Memorabilia

 Estate of Belle Rentchler, 1932 – 1936

 Estate of John R. Thomas, 1920 – 1922

 Graduation Program – Harrison School, June 1922

 Guardianship of Jerard Brooks Atkins, 1926

 Scottish Rite Woman’s Club – Roster, 1938 – 1939

Shiloh Cemetery and Family Data

“Three Centuries of Wickenhausers”

Box 2 Family Photographs

Box 3 Family Photographs and Memorabilia

Series 10: Personal Effects

Box No. Folder

Box 1 Personal Effects

Box 2 Personal Effects

Box 3 Personal Effects

Box 4 Personal Effects

Box 5 Personal Effects

Box 6 Personal Effects

Box 7 Personal Effects

Series 11: Personal Library of Mary Wickes

Box No. Folder

Box 1 Books – Featuring Wickes

Box 2 Books – Signed by or to Wickes

Box 3 Books – Grade School, High School, College

Box 4 Books – Stage Copies

Box 5 Books – Other books (stored separately)

Series 12: Audio-visual Material

Box No. Folder

Box 1 Films

Box 2	Film
Box 3	Video Recordings
Box 4	Video Recordings
Box 5	Reel-to-Reel Recordings
Box 6	Reel-to-Reel Recordings
Box 7	Audio Cassettes
Box 8	Audio Cassettes
Box 9	Albums