

# Guide to the Joseph Norton Ireland Papers

YCAL MSS 621



by Beinecke staff

July 2012

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 621

**CREATOR:** Ireland, Joseph Norton, 1817-1898

**TITLE:** Joseph Norton Ireland papers

**DATES:** 1770-1902

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 18.4 linear feet (68 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains material relating to Ireland's research and writings on American theater and personal papers. Forty-nine volumes in the collection contain clippings, printed ephemera, such as playbills, autograph manuscript material, letters, and other material, as well as lists of theatrical performances and lists and profiles of stage performers. The collection features drafts, proofs, and an extra-illustrated version of Ireland's major publication, Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ireland>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ireland>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of William Ireland Starr in memory of Susan Ireland Starr, 1945.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Joseph Norton Ireland Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Joseph Norton Ireland Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing around the time of acquisition in 1945. Further organization, rehousing, and description were carried out in 2012.

Former call number: Za Ireland.

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## Joseph Norton Ireland (1817-1898)

Joseph Norton Ireland, one of the major early historians of the American theater, entered his father's business after graduating from high school in his native New York. Leaving the company in 1855 and retiring to Bridgeport, Connecticut, Ireland devoted the rest of his life to studying and writing about the stage. His major work was *Records of the New York Stage from 1750-1860* (1866-67), although he also wrote two biographies, *Mrs. Duff* (1882) and *A Memoir of the Professional Life of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper* (1888).

Biographical information taken from the *Oxford Companion to American Theatre*.

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## Scope and Contents

The Joseph Norton Ireland papers contains material relating to Ireland's research and writing on American theater and personal papers. Forty-nine volumes in the collection contain clippings, printed ephemera, such as playbills, autograph manuscript material, letters, and other material, as well as lists of theatrical performances and lists and profiles of stage performers. Also included are drafts, proofs, and an extra-illustrated version of Ireland's major publication, *Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860*.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Bound Volumes, 1770-1885. II. Manuscripts, 1852-1880. III. Other Material, 1807-1902.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Bound Volumes, 1770-1885

13.35 linear feet (57 boxes)

Series I. Bound Volumes contains material relating to Joseph Norton Ireland's research on American theater dating from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries. Scrapbooks and other volumes contain clippings, printed ephemera, including playbills, autograph manuscript material, letters, and other material. There are also lists of theatrical performances and lists and profiles of stage performers. The series features an extra-illustrated version of Ireland's major publication, *Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860*.

Arranged alphabetically by title or supplied heading.

b. 1	"All Dramatic Performances in New York From 1750 to 1848 Vol. 1"	undated
b. 2	"All Dramatic Performances in New York From 1750 to 1848 Vol. 2"	undated
b. 3	"All Dramatic Performances from ca. 1660 to ca. 1870 Vol.1"	undated
b. 4	"All Dramatic Performances from ca. 1660 to ca. 1870 Vol. 2"	undated
b. 5	"Biographical Dictionary of New York Theatrical Performers from A.D. 1752... to the Present Time"	undated
b. 6	"Characters Performed by Well Known Artists in America Vol. 1"	undated
b. 7	"Characters Performed by Well Known Artists in America Vol. 2"	undated
b. 8	Diary	1836-1842
b. 9	[Fifty Years of a Playgoer's Journal]	undated
b. 10	"Garrick and His Contemporaries"	undated
b. 11	<i>A Memoir of the Professional Life of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper</i> , Part I Extra-illustrated version, with engravings, clippings, letters, and autograph manuscript notes	[circa 1888]
b. 12	<i>A Memoir of the Professional Life of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper</i> , Part II	[circa 1888]
b. 13	<a href="#">"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland," Vol. I</a>	[circa 1878]
b. 14	<a href="#">"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland," Vol. II</a>	[circa 1878]
b. 15	<a href="#">"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland," Vol. III</a>	[circa 1878]
b. 16	<a href="#">"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland," Vol. IV</a>	[circa 1878]
b. 17	<a href="#">Mrs. Duff, Part I</a>	[circa 1882]
b. 18	<a href="#">Mrs. Duff, Part II</a>	[circa 1882]
b. 19	<a href="#">Mrs. Duff, Part III</a>	[circa 1882]
b. 20	<a href="#">Mrs. Duff, Part IV</a>	[circa 1882]
b. 21	[New York Stage, 1823-1841]	1823-1832

b. 22	[New York Stage, 1823-1841]	1832-1841
b. 23	[New York Stage, 1848-1870]	1848-1870
b. 24	[New York Stage, 1848-1870]	1870-1872
b. 25	[New York Stage, 1848-1870]	1872-1874
b. 26	[New York Stage, 1848-1870]	[circa 1870s]
b. 27	[New York Stage: Actors and Actresses, etc.]	[circa 1828-1885]
b. 28	"Newspaper Programmes of the Boston Theatre, 1805 - 1812"	1805-1812
b. 29	"Nightly-Receipts of the Park Theatre From April 18th 1832 To April 5th 1837"	1832-1837
b. 30	"Nightly-Receipts of the Park Theatre From May 22nd 1837 to April 30th 1842"	1837-1842
b. 31	"Old New York"	undated
b. 32	<a href="#">[Playbills of the Theatre Royal]</a>	1799-1816
b. 33	Players of the Past, 1564 - 1800, Volume 1	undated
b. 34	Players of the Past, 1564 - 1800, Volume 2	undated
b. 35	Players of the Past, 1564 - 1800, Volume 3	undated
b. 36	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I</i> 2 v. in 19, extra-illustrated, with engravings, playbills, clippings, letters, photographs, and autograph manuscript notes	[circa 1867]
b. 37	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I-Part II</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 38	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I-Part III</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 39	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I-Part IV</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 40	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I-Part V</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 41	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. I-Part VI</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 42	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 43	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part II</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 44	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part III</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 45	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part IV</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 46	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part V</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 47	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part VI</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 48	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Vol. II-Part VII</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 49	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Supplement-Part I</i>	[circa 1867]

b. 50	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Supplement-Part II</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 51	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Supplement-Part III</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 52	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Supplement-Part IV</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 53	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Supplement-Part V</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 54	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, Index</i>	[circa 1867]
b. 55	Scrapbook	undated
b. 56	Scrapbook	undated
b. 57	[Theater in England]	[circa 1770-1855]

**Series II: Manuscripts, 1852-1880**

3.13 linear feet (8 boxes)

Series II. Manuscripts contains drafts and proofs for various writings by Ireland relating to the theater, including *Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860*.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 58	[Casts of Various Plays]	undated
b. 58	"Catalogue of Plays, 1852, In a Miscellaneous Collection & Longworth's Edition"	[1852?]
b. 58	"Catalogue of Plays Contained in Belle's Octavo..."	undated
b. 58	"Catalogue of Theatrical and Other Portraits"	undated
b. 58	"Characters Performed by Mr. Peter Richings, With the Number of Their Repetitions"	undated
b. 58	"Library Catalogue"	undated
b. 58	<i>A Memoir of the Professional Life of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper</i> , draft	undated
b. 59	"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland in Six Volumes"	1880
b. 59	"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland in Six Volumes" 4 Folders	1880
b. 60	"Memorials of Mrs. Duff Collected by Joseph N. Ireland in Six Volumes"	1880
b. 60	"Programs of the Royal Theatre Dublin Containing..."	undated
b. 60	[Record of Performances Attended, October 31, 1826 to September 6, 1888] 2 Folders	undated
b. 60	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , autograph manuscript, corrected 2 Folders	undated
b. 61	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 61	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , volume 2, autograph manuscript, corrected 3 Folders	undated
b. 62	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , volume 2, autograph manuscript, corrected 5 Folders	undated
b. 63	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , volume 2 index, autograph manuscript, corrected 2 Folders	undated
b. 63	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860</i> , first proofs, corrected, with proofreaders' marks 3 Folders	undated



b. 64	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, first proofs, corrected, with proofreaders' marks</i>	undated
b. 64	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, second proofs, volume 1 2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 64	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, second proofs, volume 2 2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 65	<i>Records of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, second proofs, volume 2</i>	undated

**Series III: Other Material, 1807-1902***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series III. Other Material contains letters to Ireland and various personal papers.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Personal Papers.

## Correspondence

b. 66	Ireland, George	1866-1869
b. 66	Lockwood, Abraham <i>2 Folders</i>	1864-1865
b. 66	Moore, Charles	1879
b. 66	Morrell, T. H.	1861-1874, undated
b. 66	Ryer, F. R.	1886, 1892
b. 66	Unsorted correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1855-1898, undated

## Personal Papers

b. 66	Acknowledgements	1860-1893
b. 66	Calling cards	undated
b. 66	Calling card holder	undated
b. 66	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize, Box 68	1859-1882, undated
b. 66	Drawing and illustrations	undated
b. 66	Empty envelopes	undated
b. 66	Family documents Also stored in: Oversize, Box 68	1872-1879, undated
b. 67	Financial records <i>2 Folders</i>	1832-1902
b. 67	Invitations	undated
b. 67	List of portraits	[circa 1850]
b. 67	Manuscript notes and fragments	undated
b. 67	Notebook	undated
b. 67	Photographs	undated
b. 67	Portraits	1859, 1864
b. 67	Printed ephemera Also stored in: Oversize, Box 68	1852-1865, undated

## Personal Papers (continued)

b. 67	Ribbons	undated
b. 67	Satchel	undated
b. 67	Signatures	1807-1822, undated
	Top board of box Stored in: Oversize, Box 68	undated
b. 67	Writings by others	1844-1884, undated

**Oversize, 1807-1902***0.08 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 68	Clippings (In Series III)	1859-1882, undated
b. 68	Family documents (In Series III)	1872-1879, undated
b. 68	Printed ephemera (In Series III)	1852-1865, undated
b. 68	Top board from box (In Series III)	undated

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Actors  
Theater critics -- New York (State) -- New York  
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York --  
History  
Theaters -- New York (State) -- New York --  
History  
Theater -- United States -- History -- 19th  
century

### Genres / Formats

Ephemera (general object genre)  
Photographs  
Playbills  
Scrapbooks

### Occupations

Theater critics -- New York (State) -- 19th  
century

### Names

Ireland, Joseph Norton, 1817-1898

### Families

Ireland family

### Corporate Body

Park Theatre (New York, N.Y. : Park Row)