

Guide to the Robert Benney Collection of Original Drawings, 1926-1942

*T-VIM 1984-005

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert Benney Collection of original drawings, 1926-1942

Collection ID: *T-VIM 1984-005

Creator: Benney, Robert, 1904-2001 .

Extent: 36 linear feet (45 boxes)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice required

Preferred Citation: Robert Benney Collection of Original Drawings, *T-VIM 1984-005, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Acquisition Information: The collection was donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division by Dr. Alma Berson, Robert Benney's daughter.

Biographical Note

Robert Benney, illustrator and painter, was born in Romania in 1904. He came to New York as a toddler. He studied art at New York's Cooper Union from 1921 to 1925. While in art school at the age of 19, he opened his own studio. Once the studio opened, New York newspapers and magazines began commissioning Benney for his illustration work.

He drew portraits of leading actors and actresses for New York City theater productions. These drawings were printed along side an article about the production in newspapers such as the *Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, the *New York World and Telegraph*, and other Greater New York newspapers of that era. Beginning in the late 1930s, the large Hollywood movie studios, such as Twentieth-Century Fox and United Artists, began commissioning Benney for his illustration talents.

Benney captured theater productions and stage personalities in his drawings in a number of ways. He set appointments with actors or actresses to sketch them during a sitting in

their dressing room. He also attended rehearsals and used photographs to sketch his subjects.

While earning a living as a commercial artist, Benney continued going to school. After graduating from Cooper Union, he attended the National Academy of Design from 1928 to 1932. He also studied under Frank A. Nankivell. Later he educated future artists at the Pratt Institute between 1949 and 1952 and Dutchess County College between 1964 and 1973.

Benney is most celebrated for his time as a war artist correspondent in the Pacific during World War II. In 1943, Abbott Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company based out of Illinois, hired Benney to paint the Naval Aviation Department's contributions to the war. In 1944, Abbott brought Benney back to paint the Army Medical Department's work in the South Pacific. While in WWII, Benney produced four series of paintings; Combat Medicine, Naval Aviation, Oil in Warfare, and Amphibious Operations. His depictions were published in 1944, in *Our Flying Navy*, and in 1945, in *Men Without Guns*. As a life member of the Society of Illustrators, he volunteered his services in 1954 to the US Air Force to draw their operations in North Africa. He spent two months with the US Marine Corp as a war artist correspondent documenting their work in Danang, Vietnam in 1968.

Besides the military and the theater industry, Benney worked as a commercial artist for large corporations such as American Sugar Refining Company, American Tobacco Company, General Foods, Shell Oil, Standard Oil Company and Western Electric. He also worked as a freelance illustrator for advertising agencies. When asked one time how an artist should approach a commercial project, Benney said, "The question, 'Is it fine art or commercial art?' is of little interest to the director of a large corporation which exists only for selling company products. The primary factors are: "Does the picture tell the story, does it do it with taste and dignity becoming to the product or industry; and, in the case if institutional advertising, will its art or esthetic content carry over in the public's subconscious mine the good that is so much coveted?"

His works for the military are housed in permanent collections at such places as the Smithsonian Institution and the US Army, US Navy, US Marine Corp and US Air Force Combat Art Collections. The Museum of the City of New York exhibited Benney's theater drawings as early as 1933. The Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center displayed a collection of Benney's illustrations spanning 1926 to 1942 at the Amsterdam Gallery between May 3, 1978 and June 19, 1978.

By the 1950s, Benney operated studios on West 57th Street in New York City, and in Wallkill, New York. Benney belonged to professional organizations such as the Art Students League, Artists and Writers Association and the Society of Illustrators. Robert Benny died in Boston in June of 2001. At his death, his wife of 28 years, Celia, and his daughter, Alma, survived him.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert Benney Collection of original drawings includes sketches that he did during his career as an illustrator of the stars of stage and screen.

The bulk of the material spans 1926 to 1947. The sketches are mostly portraits of actors and actresses in the costumes they wore for New York City theater productions. However, the collection does include sketches depicting entire production scenes, musicians, radio personalities, comedians and dancers. The collection also has a small amount of sketches representing films and film stars of that time period. Additionally, the collection includes photocopies of Robert Benney's original drawings.

Organization

- Series I - 10" X 20" Sketches
 - Sub-series 1 - Star of Stage and Screen
 - Sub-series 2 - Productions
 - Sub-series 3 - Unidentified
- Series II - 20" X 30" Sketches
 - Sub-series 1 - Stars of Stage and Screen
 - Sub-series 2 - Productions
 - Sub-series 3 - Unidentified
- Series III - Photocopies of Sketches

Container Listing and Series Descriptions

Series I: 10" x 20" Sketches, 1926-1947

8 boxes

- Sub-series 1 - Star of Stage and Screen
- Sub-series 2 - Productions
- Sub-series 3 - Unidentified

Sketches include mostly original drawings by Benney of actors, actresses, and theater productions. There are only a few photocopies of the original drawings where the original does not exist in the collection given to the library. The majority of the illustrations are matted on stock of 30" x 20". Some illustrations have been matted on stock of 10" x 20". Only a small amount of unidentified subjects exist among the sketches.

Sub-series 1 - Stars of Stage and Screen

8 boxes

Alphabetical

These are portraits of performers arranged alphabetically by last name. This group contains the sketches with the unidentified subjects.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Portrait / Lionel Atwill**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Lionel Atwill as he appeared in *The Thief*.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Portrait / Lionel Atwill**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Lionel Atwill as he appeared in *Napoleon*.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Portrait / Catalina Barcena**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Catalina Barcena as she appeared in *The Road to Happiness*.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Portrait / John Barclay**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of John Barclay as he appeared in *The Pirates of Penzance*.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Portrait / Craig Campbell**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Craig Campbell as he appeared in *Ruddigore*.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Portrait / Mary Carroll**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Mary Carroll as she appeared in *Rope*.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Portrait / Nancy Carroll**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Nancy Carroll as she appeared in *Night Angel*.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Portrait / Constance Collier**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Constance Collier as she appeared in *Serena Blandish*.

- b. 2 f. 1 **Portrait / Ray Collins**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ray Collins as he appeared in *Native Son*.
- b. 2 f. 2 **Portrait / Elisha Cook, Jr.**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Elisha Cooke Jr. as he appeared in *Lost Boy*.
- b. 2 f. 3 **Portrait / Ernest Cossart**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ernest Cossart as he appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 2 f. 4 **Portrait / George Coulouris**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George Coulouris as he appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 2 f. 5 **Portrait / Jane Cowl**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jane Cowl as she appeared in *The Road to Rome*.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Portrait / Katherine De Mille**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Katherine De Mille as she appeared in *Aloma of the South Seas*.
- b. 3 f. 1 **Portrait / Dudley Digges**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Dudley Digges as he appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Portrait / Dudley Digges**
Robert Benney's original drawing of Dudley Digges as he appeared in *Mr. Pim Passes By*.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Portrait / Dudley Digges**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original pencil drawing of Dudley Digges as he appeared in *A Month in the Country*.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Portrait / Desiree Ellinger**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Desiree Ellinger as she

appeared in *Kiss Me*.

- b. 3 f. 5 **Portrait / Ralph Forbes**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ralph Forbes as he appeared in *The Doctor's Dilemma*.
- b. 3 f. 6 **Portrait / Clark Gable**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Clark Gable as he appeared in *Gone with the Wind*.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Portrait / William Gaxton**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Gaxton as he appeared in *Partners*.
- b. 4 f. 1 **Portrait / James Gleason**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of James Gleason as he appeared in *The Shannons of Broadway*.
- b. 4 f. 2 **Portrait / Ruth Gordon**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ruth Gordon as she appeared in *Saturday's Children*.
- b. 4 f. 3 **Portrait / Charlotte Greenwood**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Charlotte Greenwood.
- b. 4 f. 4 **Portrait / Helen Hayes**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Helen Hayes as she appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 4 f. 5 **Portrait / Ted Healy**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ted Healy as he appeared in *A Night in Spain*.
- b. 4 f. 6 **Portrait / Louise Homer**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Louise Homer.
- b. 4 f. 7 **Portrait / Glen Hunter**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Glen Hunter as he

appeared in *Behold this Dreamer*.

- b. 5 f. 1 **Portrait / Earle Larimore**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Earle Larimore as he appeared in *Man's Estate*.
- b. 5 f. 2 **Portrait / Philip Leigh**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Philip Leigh as he appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 5 f. 3 **Portrait / Beatrice Lillie**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Beatrice Lillie as she appeared in *This Year of Grace*.
- b. 5 f. 4 **Portrait / Betty Linley**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Betty Linley as she appeared in *So Am I*.
- b. 5 f. 5 **Portrait / Bela Lugosi**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Bela Lugosi as he appeared in *Dracula*.
- b. 5 f. 6 **Portrait / Bert Lytell**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Bert Lytell as he appeared in *Brothers*.
- b. 6 f. 1 **Portrait / Philip Merivale**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Philip Merivale as he appeared in *The Road to Rome*.
- b. 6 f. 2 **Portrait / Philip Merivale**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Philip Merivale as he appeared in *Valley Forge*.
- b. 6 f. 3 **Portrait / Ivy Mertons**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ivy Mertons as she appeared in *Her Unborn Child*.
- b. 6 f. 4 **Portrait / Maurice Moscovitch**

- 1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Maurice Moscovitch as he appeared in *The Merchant of Venice*.
- b. 6 f. 5 **Portrait / J. C. (John Charles) Nugent**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of J. C. Nugent as he appeared in *Kempy*.
- b. 6 f. 6 **Portrait / Gypsy O'Brien**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Gypsy O'Brien as she appeared in *Beau Gallant*.
- b. 7 f. 1 **Portrait / Phyllis Povah**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Phyllis Povah as she appeared in *Blood Money*.
- b. 7 f. 2 **Portrait / Paul Robeson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Robeson as he appeared in *Porgy*.
- b. 7 f. 3 **Portrait / Eleanor Shaler**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Eleanor Shaler as she appeared in *The Manhattans*.
- b. 7 f. 4 **Portrait / George Siegmann**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George Siegmann as he appeared in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- b. 7 f. 5 **Portrait / Gloria Swanson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Gloria Swanson as she appeared in *What a Widow*.
- b. 7 f. 6 **Portrait / Frances Upton**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Frances Upton as she appeared in *Talk About Girls*.
- b. 8 f. 1 **Portrait / Nitza Vernille**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Nitza Vernille.

- b. 8 f. 2 Portrait / Reinald Werrenrath
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Reinald Werrenrath.
- b. 8 f. 3 Portrait / Leigh R. (Leigh Rollin) Whipper
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Leigh R. Whipper as he appeared in *Porgy*.
- b. 8 f. 4 Portrait / Estelle Winwood
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Estelle Winwood as she appeared in *Head or Tail*.
- b. 8 f. 5 Portrait / Linda Watkins
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Linda Watkins as she appeared in *In the Meantime*.

Sub-series 2 - Productions

1 box
Alphabetical
These are sketches of theater scenes and multiple performers arranged alphabetically by the title of the production.

- b. 9 f. 1 *Broadway* / Philip Dunning
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fay Wray and Lee Tracy in the production of *Broadway*.

Sub-series 3 - Unidentified

1 box
The people featured in the sketch are not identified.

- b. 10 Unidentified original drawings
1 box
3 unidentified original pencil drawings by Robert Benney.

Series II: 20" x 30" Sketches, 1926-1947

- Sub-series 1 - Stars of Stage and Screen
- Sub-series 2 - Productions
- Sub-series 3 - Unidentified

Sketches include mostly original drawings by Benney of actors, actresses, and theater productions. There are only a few photocopies of the original drawings where the original does not exist in the collection

given to the library. The majority of the illustrations are matted on stock of 30" x 20". Some illustrations have been matted on stock of 10" x 20". Only a small amount of unidentified subjects exist among the sketches.

Sub-series 1 - Stars of Stage and Screen

25 boxes

Alphabetical

These are portraits of performers arranged alphabetically by last name. This group contains the sketches with the unidentified subjects.

- b. 11 f. 1 **Portrait / George Abbott**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of George Abbott as he appeared in *John Brown's Body*.
- b. 11 f. 2 **Portrait / Milton Aborn**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Milton Aborn.
- b. 11 f. 3 **Portrait / Hyman Adler**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Hyman Adler as he appeared in *There You Are*.
- b. 11 f. 4 **Portrait / Brian Aherne**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Brian Aherne as he appeared in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*.
- b. 11 f. 5 **Portrait / Katharine Alexander**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Katharine Alexander as she appeared in *Best Years*.
- b. 11 f. 6 **Portrait / Sara Allgood**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Sara Allgood as she appeared in *To What Red Hell*.
- b. 12 f. 1 **Portrait / E. J. Ballantine**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of E. J. Ballantine as he appeared in *The Beautiful People*.
- b. 12 f. 2 **Portrait / Elmer Ballard**

- 1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Elmer Ballard as he appeared in *Alibi*.
- b. 12 f. 3 **Portrait / George Bancroft**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing George Bancroft as he appeared in *Thunderbolt*.
- b. 12 f. 4 **Portrait / John Barrymore**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of John Barrymore as he appeared in *Moby Dick*.
- b. 12 f. 5 **Portrait / Warner Baxter**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Warner Baxter as he appeared in *Surrender*.
- b. 12 f. 6 **Portrait / Noah Beery**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Noah Beery as he appeared in *Shanghaied Love*.
- b. 12 f. 7 **Wallace Beery**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Wallace Beery as he appeared in *The Big House*.
- b. 13 f. 1 **Portrait / Wallace Beery**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Wallace Beery as he appeared in *The Secret Six*.
- b. 13 f. 2 **Portrait / Jacob Ben-Ami**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Jacob Ben-Ami as he appeared in *The Cherry Orchard*.
- b. 13 f. 3 **Portrait / Helen Beverly**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Helen Beverly as she appeared in *Jason*.
- b. 13 f. 4 **Portrait / Charles Bickford**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Charles Bickford as he

appeared in *River's End*.

- b. 13 f. 5 **Portrait / Natasha Boleslavsky**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Natasha Boleslavsky as she appeared in *They All Come to Moscow*.
- b. 14 f. 1 **Portrait / J. Edward Bromberg**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of J. Edward Bromberg as he appeared in *Men in White*.
- b. 14 f. 2 **Portrait / Joe E. (Joe Evan) Brown**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Joe E. Brown as he appeared in *Beware Spooks*.
- b. 14 f. 3 **Portrait / Billie Burke**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Billie Burke.
- b. 14 f. 4 **Portrait / Arthur Byron**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Arthur Byron as he appeared in *One, Two, Three*.
- b. 14 f. 5 **Portrait / Eliot Cabot**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Eliot Cabot as he appeared in *Strange Interlude*.
- b. 14 f. 6 **Portrait / Eddie Cantor**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Eddie Cantor as he appeared in *Blackbirds of 1928*.
- b. 14 f. 7 **Portrait / Morris Carnovsky**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Morris Carnovsky as he appeared in *Success Story*.
- b. 15 f. 1 **Portrait / Hobart Cavanaugh**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Hobart Cavanaugh as he appeared in *Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.
- b. 15 f. 2 **Portrait / Hans Chlumberg**

- 1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Hans Chlumberg.
- b. 15 f. 3 **Portrait / George M. (George Michael) Cohan**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George M. Cohan.
- b. 15 f. 4 **Portrait / Claudette Colbert**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Claudette Colbert as she appeared in *Tin Pan Alley*.
- b. 15 f. 5 **Portrait / Patricia Collinge**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Patricia Collinge as she appeared in *The Little Foxes*.
- b. 16 f. 1 **Portrait / Ronald Colman**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ronald Colman as he appeared in *Condemned*.
- b. 16 f. 2 **Portrait / Frank Conroy**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Frank Conroy as he appeared in *Karl and Anna*.
- b. 16 f. 3 **Portrait / Ernest Cossart**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Ernest Cossart as he appeared in *Getting Married*.
- b. 16 f. 4 **Portrait / Ernest Cossart**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ernest Cossart as he appeared in *Kitty Foyle*.
- b. 16 f. 5 **Portrait / George Coulouris**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George Coulouris as he appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 17 f. 1 **Portrait / Charles Dalton**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Charles Dalton as he appeared in *Suspense*.
- b. 17 f. 2 **Portrait / William Danforth**

- 1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Danforth.
- b. 17 f. 3 **Portrait / William Danforth**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Danforth as he appeared in *The Mikado*.
- b. 17 f. 4 **Portrait / William Danforth**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Danforth as he appeared in *Ruddigore*.
- b. 17 f. 5 **Portrait / Aleksei Davor**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Aleksei Davor as he appeared in *The End of St. Petersburg*.
- b. 17 f. 6 **Portrait / Dolores Del Rio**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Dolores Del Rio as she appeared in *Evangeline*.
- b. 17 f. 7 **Portrait / Dudley Digges**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Dudley Digges as he appeared in *Volpone*.
- b. 18 f. 1 **Portrait / Jean Dixon**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jean Dixon as she appeared in *George Washington Slept Here*.
- b. 18 f. 2 **Portrait / Jean Dixon**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jean Dixon as she appeared in *Heat Lightning*.
- b. 18 f. 3 **Portrait / Fifi D'Orsay**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fifi D'Orsay as she appeared in *Those Three French Girls*.
- b. 18 f. 4 **Portrait / Melvyn Douglas**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Melvyn Douglas as he appeared in *Third Finger Left Hand*.

- b. 18 f. 5 **Portrait / Marie Dressler**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Marie Dressler as he appeared in *Politics*.
- b. 18 f. 6 **Portrait / Paul Everton**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Everton as he appeared in *A Connecticut Yankee*.
- b. 19 f. 1 **Portrait / Douglas Fairbanks**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Douglas Fairbanks as he appeared in *The Taming of the Shrew*.
- b. 19 f. 2 **Portrait / Douglas Fairbanks**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Douglas Fairbanks Jr. as he appeared in *Catherine the Great*.
- b. 19 f. 3 **Portrait / Georg Fasnacht**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Georg Fasnacht as he appeared in *The Frieburg Passion Play*.
- b. 19 f. 4 **Portrait / Sylvia Field**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Sylvia Field as she appeared in *Adams' Wife*.
- b. 19 f. 5 **Portrait / Sylvia Field**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Sylvia Field as she appeared in *Marco Millions*.
- b. 20 f. 1 **Portrait / Gertrude Flynn**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Gertrude Flynn as she appeared in *Jigsaw*.
- b. 20 f. 2 **Portrait / Phoebe Foster**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Phoebe Foster as she appeared in *The Truth Game*.
- b. 20 f. 3 **Portrait / Kay Francis**
1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Kay Francis as she appeared in *The Keyhole*.

b. 20 f. 4

Portrait / Tamara Geva

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Tamara Geva as she appeared in *The Divine Drudge*.

b. 20 f. 5

Portrait / John Gilbert

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of John Gilbert as he appeared in *Way for a Sailor*.

b. 21 f. 1

Portrait / Margalo Gilmore

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Margalo Gilmore as she appeared in *Man's Estate*.

b. 21 f. 2

Portrait / Margalo Gilmore

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Margalo Gilmore as she appeared in *Mary of Scotland*.

b. 21 f. 3

Portrait / Ruth Gordon

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Ruth Gordon as she appeared in *The Violet*.

b. 21 f. 4

Portrait / Martyn Green

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Martyn Green as he appeared in *Ruddigore*.

b. 21 f. 5

Portrait / Adelaide Hall

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Adelaide Hall as she appeared in *Blackbirds of 1928*.

b. 22 f. 1

Portrait / John Halliday

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of John Halliday as he appeared in *Rain from Heaven*.

b. 22 f. 2

Portrait / Neil Hamilton

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Neil Hamilton as he appeared in *The Cat Creeps*.

- b. 22 f. 3 **Portrait / Lyn Harding**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Lyn Harding as he appeared in *Macbeth*.
- b. 22 f. 4 **Portrait / Lyn Harding**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Lyn Harding as he appeared in *The Patriot*.
- b. 22 f. 5 **Portrait / Vivian Hart**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Vivian Hart as she appeared in *The Mikado*.
- b. 22 f. 6 **Portrait / Vivian Hart**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Vivian Hart as she appeared in *Patience*.
- b. 23 f. 1 **Portrait / O. P. (Otto Peters) Heggie**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of O. P. Heggie as he appeared in *The Letter*.
- b. 23 f. 2 **Portrait / O. P. (Otto Peters) Heggie**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of O. P. Heggie as he appeared in *The Truth About Blayds*.
- b. 23 f. 3 **Portrait / Richard G. (Richard Gilbert) Herndon**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Richard Herndon as he appeared in *Unexpected Husband*.
- b. 23 f. 4 **Portrait / Dorothy Heyward**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Dorothy Heyward.
- b. 23 f. 5 **Portrait / William Thomas Hodge**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Thomas Hodge as he appeared in *The Old Rascal*.
- b. 24 f. 1 **Portrait / Taylor Holmes**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Taylor Holmes as he

appeared in *A Day in the Sun*.

- b. 24 f. 2 **Portrait / Jack Holt**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jack Holt as he appeared in *War Correspondent*.
- b. 24 f. 3 **Portrait / Henry Hull**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Henry Hull as he appeared in *Tobacco Road*.
- b. 24 f. 4 **Portrait / Henry Hull**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Henry Hull as he appeared in *Tobacco Road*.
- b. 24 f. 5 **Portrait / Walter Huston**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Walter Huston as he appeared in *Wet Parade*.
- b. 24 f. 6 **Portrait / John Ivancovich**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of John Ivancovich as he appeared in *Mystery Square*.
- b. 25 f. 1 **Portrait / Emil Jannings**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Emil Jannings as he appeared in *Blue Angel*.
- b. 25 f. 2 **Portrait / Al Jolson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Al Jolson.
- b. 25 f. 3 **Portrait / George S. (George Simon) Kaufman**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George S. Kaufman.
- b. 25 f. 4 **Portrait / Ian Keith**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ian Keith as he appeared in *The Deceiver*.
- b. 25 f. 5 **Portrait / Maria Kurenko**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Maria Kurenko.

- b. 26 f. 1 **Portrait / Elsa Lanchester**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Elsa Lanchester.
- b. 26 f. 2 **Portrait / Sir Harry Lauder**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Sir Harry Lauder as he appeared in his one man show.
- b. 26 f. 3 **Portrait / Sir Harry Lauder**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Sir Harry Lauder.
- b. 26 f. 4 **Portrait / Eva Le Gallienne**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Eva Le Gallienne as she appeared in *Peter Pan*.
- b. 26 f. 5 **Portrait / Fritz Leiber**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fritz Leiber as he appeared in *Richard III*.
- b. 27 f. 1 **Portrait / Jacqueline Logan**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jacqueline Logan as she appeared in *Two Strange Women*.
- b. 27 f. 2 **Portrait / Walter Long**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Walter Long as he appeared in *The Maltese Falcon*.
- b. 27 f. 3 **Portrait / Montagu Love**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Montagu Love as he appeared in *The Wooden Slipper*.
- b. 27 f. 4 **Portrait / Alfred Lunt**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Alfred Lunt as he appeared in *Elizabeth the Queen*.
- b. 27 f. 5 **Portrait / Alfred Lunt**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Alfred Lunt as he appeared

in *Reunion in Vienna*.

- b. 28 f. 1 **Portrait / Joseph Macaulay**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Joseph Macaulay as he appeared in *Love Call*.
- b. 28 f. 2 **Portrait / Jeanne Madden**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jeanne Madden as she appeared in *Knickerbocker Holiday*.
- b. 28 f. 3 **Portrait / Howard Marsh**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Howard Marsh as he appeared in *The Gondoliers*.
- b. 28 f. 4 **Portrait / Howard Marsh**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Howard Marsh as he appeared in *The Mikado*.
- b. 28 f. 5 **Portrait / Howard Marsh**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Howard Marsh as he appeared in *The Pirates of Penzance*.
- b. 28 f. 6 **Portrait / Reginald Mason**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Reginald Mason.
- b. 29 f. 1 **Portrait / Raymond Massey**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Raymond Massey.
- b. 29 f. 2 **Portrait / F. J. McCormick**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of F. J. McCormick as he appeared in *Oedipus Rex*.
- b. 29 f. 3 **Portrait / Mildred McCoy**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Mildred McCoy as she appeared in *It's a Wise Child*.
- b. 29 f. 4 **Portrait / Philip Merivale**
1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Philip Merivale as he appeared in *Valley Forge*.

b. 29 f. 5

Portrait / Ethel Merman

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Ethel Merman as she appeared in *Panama Hattie*.

b. 29 f. 6

Portrait / Beth Merrill

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Beth Merrill as she appeared in *Hidden*.

b. 29 f. 7

Portrait / Alexander Moissi

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Alexander Moissi as he appeared in *Redemption*.

b. 30 f. 1

Portrait / Robert Montgomery

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Robert Montgomery as he appeared in *War Nurse*.

b. 30 f. 2

Portrait / Lois Moran

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Lois Moran as she appeared in *Transatlantic*.

b. 30 f. 3

Portrait / Maurice Moscovitch

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Maurice Moscovitch as he appeared in *Jew Suss*.

b. 30 f. 4

Portrait / Paul Muni

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Muni as he appeared in *Counsellor at Law*.

b. 30 f. 5

Portrait / Paul Muni

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Muni as he appeared in *Four Walls*.

b. 30 f. 6

Portrait / Paul Muni

1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Muni as he appeared in *Juarez*.

- b. 31 f. 1 **Portrait / Theodore Newton**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Theodore Newton as he appeared in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.
- b. 31 f. 2 **Portrait / Tom Powers**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Tom Powers as he appeared in *Sailors of Cattaro*.
- b. 31 f. 3 **Portrait / Irene Purcell**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Irene Purcell as she appeared in *Dancing Partners*.
- b. 31 f. 4 **Portrait / Claude Rains**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Claude Rains.
- b. 31 f. 5 **Portrait / Florence Reed**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Florence Reed as she appeared in *Macbeth*.
- b. 32 f. 1 **Portrait / Jazzlips Richardson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jazzlips Richardson as he appeared in *Hot Chocolates*.
- b. 32 f. 2 **Portrait / Stanley Ridges**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Stanley Ridges as he appeared in *Valley Forge*.
- b. 32 f. 3 **Portrait / George L. Rockwell**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of George L. Rockwell (a.k.a. Dr. Rockwell) as he appeared in *Broadway Nights*.
- b. 32 f. 4 **Portrait / Vera Ross**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Vera Ross as she appeared in *Patience*.
- b. 32 f. 5 **Portrait / Joseph Schildkraut**
1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Joseph Schildkraut as he appeared in *Lady of the Tropics*.

- b. 33 f. 1 **Portrait / Maurice Schwartz**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Maurice Schwartz as he appeared in *Wolves*.
- b. 33 f. 2 **Portrait / Ben Smith**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ben Smith as he appeared in *Brass Ankle*.
- b. 33 f. 3 **Portrait / Sir C. Aubrey Smith**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of C. Aubrey Smith as he appeared in *Spring Again*.
- b. 33 f. 4 **Portrait / Sir C. Aubrey Smith**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of C. Aubrey Smith as he appeared in *Spring Again*.
- b. 33 f. 5 **Portrait / Gloria Swanson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Gloria Swanson as she appeared in *What a Widow*.
- b. 34 f. 1 **Portrait / Michael Chekhov**
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of Michael Chekhov as he appeared in *Revisor*.
- b. 34 f. 2 **Portrait / Beatrice Thomson**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Beatrice Thomson as she appeared in *The Dreyfus Case*.
- b. 34 f. 3 **Portrait / Lawrence Tibbett**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Lawrence Tibbett as he appeared in *The Rogue Song*.
- b. 34 f. 4 **Portrait / Ernest Torrence**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ernest Torrence as he appeared in *King of Kings*.

- b. 34 f. 5 **Portrait / Raquel Torres**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Raquel Torres as she appeared in *Adam Had Two Sons*.
- b. 34 f. 6 **Portrait / Royal Tracy**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Royal Tracy as he appeared in *If Booth Had Missed*.
- b. 34 f. 7 **Portrait / Claire Trevor**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Claire Trevor as she appeared in *Whistling in the Dark*.
- b. 35 f. 1 **Portrait / Evelyn Varden**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Evelyn Varden as she appeared in *Second Helping*.
- b. 35 f. 2 **Portrait / Aida Ward**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Aida Ward as she appeared in *Blackbirds of 1928*.
- b. 35 f. 3 **Portrait / Winifred Westover**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Winifred Westover as she appeared in *LummoX*.
- b. 35 f. 4 **Portrait / Monty Woolley**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Monty Woolley as he appeared in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.
- b. 35 f. 5 **Portrait / Fred Wright**
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fred Wright as he appeared in *The Mikado*.
- b. 35 f. 6 **Portrait / Blanche Yurka**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Blanche Yurka as she appeared in *The Wild Duck*.

Sub-series 2 - Productions

8 boxes

Alphabetical

These are sketches of theater scenes and multiple performers arranged alphabetically by the title of the production.

- b. 36 f. 1 *Anna Christie* / Eugene O'Neill
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Marie Dressler and George Marion in *Anna Christie*.
- b. 36 f. 2 *The bad one* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Dolores Del Rio and Edmund Lowe in *The Bad One*.
- b. 36 f. 3 *Bitter sweet* (Musical) / Noel Coward
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Anna Neagle and Fernand Gravey in *Bitter Sweet*.
- b. 37 f. 1 *Captain Fury* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Virginia Field and Victor McLaglen in *Captain Fury*.
- b. 37 f. 2 *The cat and the fiddle* (Musical) / Jerome Kern
1 folder
A matted photocopy of Robert Benney's original drawing of a scene from *The Cat and the Fiddle*.
- b. 37 f. 3 *Cloudy with showers* / Floyd Dell
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Adrian Rosley, Thomas Mitchell, and an unidentified actress in *Cloudy with Showers*.
- b. 37 f. 4 **Collage of drawings**
1 folder
A collage of drawings of stars from various productions. It includes Jefferson DeAngelis, Violet Kemble Cooper, James Bell, Sidney Fox, Wesley Hill, Grace George, Margaret Perry, Helen Raymond, and Claire Devine.
- b. 38 f. 1 *Confessions of a nazi spy* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Lya Lys and Henry Victor in *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*.
- b. 38 f. 2 *A Connecticut Yankee* (Musical) / Richard Rodgers
1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Paul Everton and Constance Carpenter in *A Connecticut Yankee*.

- b. 38 f. 3 ***The corn is green* / Emlyn Williams**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ethel Barrymore and Thelma Schnee in *The Corn is Green*.
- b. 38 f. 4 ***The criminal code* / Martin Flavin**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Walter Huston and Phillips Holmes in *The Criminal Code*.
- b. 39 f. 1 ***Diplomacy* / Victorien Sardou**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Frances Starr and Rollo Peters in *Diplomacy*.
- b. 39 f. 2 ***Doctor X* / Howard Warren Comstock**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fay Wray and Lionel Atwill in *Doctor X*.
- b. 39 f. 3 ***First stop to heaven* / Norman Rosten**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of James Bell, Alison Skipworth, and *First Stop to Heaven*.
- b. 39 f. 4 ***The Florodora girl* (Motion picture)**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Marion Davies and an unidentified person in *The Florodora Girl*.
- b. 39 f. 5 ***Foreign correspondent* (Motion picture)**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Joel McCrea and an unidentified person in *Foreign Correspondent*.
- b. 39 f. 6 ***The great dictator* (Motion picture)**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Jack Oakie and Charlie Chaplin in *The Great Dictator*.
- b. 40 f. 1 ***I cover the waterfront* (Motion picture)**
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ben Lyon, Claudette Colbert, and Ernest Torrence in *I Cover the Waterfront*.

- b. 40 f. 2 *I love you again* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Myrna Loy and William Powell in *I Love You Again*.
- b. 40 f. 3 *King Richard II* / William Shakespeare
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of a scene from *King Richard II*.
- b. 40 f. 4 *Lawyer man* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Powell and Joan Blondell in *Lawyer Man*.
- b. 40 f. 5 *The left bank* / Elmer Rice
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Katharine Alexander and Donald McDonald in *The Left Bank*.
- b. 41 f. 1 *Living dangerously* / Reginald Simpson
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Conway Tearle and Phoebe Foster in *Living Dangerously*.
- b. 41 f. 2 *Lucky devils* (Motion picture : 1933)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of William Boyd and Dorothy Wilson in *Lucky Devils*.
- b. 41 f. 3 *Made for each other* (Motion picture : 1939)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Carole Lombard and James Stewart in *Made For Each Other*.
- b. 41 f. 4 *Meteor* / S. N. (Samuel Nathaniel) Behrman
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in *Meteor*.
- b. 41 f. 5 *Mr. Smith goes to Washington* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Thomas Mitchell and Guy Kibbee in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.
- b. 41 f. 6 *Nathan the wise* / Ferdinand Bruckner
1 folder

Robert Benney's original drawing of Herbert Berghof and Brian Nasser in *Nathan the Wise*.

- b. 41 f. 7 *A night in Venice (Revue) / Lee Davis*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ted Healy, the Dodge Sisters, and the McCarthy Sisters in *A Night in Venice*.
- b. 42 f. 1 *The party's over / Daniel Kusell*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Ross Alexander and Peggy Conklin in *The Party's Over*.
- b. 42 f. 2 *The personal history, adventures, experience, & observation of David Copperfield the younger (Motion picture : 1935)*
1 folder
Various original drawings of the stars of *David Copperfield*. It includes W. C. Fields, Freddie Bartholomew, Una O'Connor, Lionel Barrymore, Edna May Oliver, Elizabeth Allen, and Herbert Mundin.
- b. 42 f. 3 *Reducing (Motion picture : 1931)*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Polly Moran and Marie Dressler in *Reducing*.
- b. 42 f. 4 *Secrets (Motion picture : 1933)*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Mary Pickford and Leslie Howard in *Secrets*.
- b. 42 f. 5 *She stoops to conquer; or, the mistakes of a night / Oliver Goldsmith*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Horace Braham and Patricia Collinge in *She Stoops to Conquer*.
- b. 42 f. 6 *Shopworn (Motion picture)*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Barbara Stanwyck and Regis Toomey in *Shopworn*.
- b. 43 f. 1 *South of Pago Pago (Motion picture)*
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Victor McLaglen and an unidentified person in *South of Pago Pago*.

- b. 43 f. 2 *That Hamilton woman* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh in *That Hamilton Woman*.
- b. 43 f. 3 *Three live ghosts* / Frederick Stewart Isham
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Claude Allister, Charles McNaughton, and Robert Montgomery in *Three Live Ghosts*.
- b. 43 f. 4 *The three musketeers* (Musical) / Rudolf Friml
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Vivienne Segal and Dennis King in *The Three Musketeers*.
- b. 43 f. 5 *Trade winds* (Motion picture)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Joan Bennett and an unidentified person in *Trade Winds*.
- b. 43 f. 6 *Victor Chenkin* (One man show) / Victor Chenkin
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Victor Chenkin in his one man show.
- b. 43 f. 7 *We live again* (Motion picture : 1934)
1 folder
Robert Benney's original drawing of Fredric March and Anna Sten in *We Live Again*.

Sub-series 3 - Unidentified

1 box

The people featured in the sketch are not identified.

- b. 44 Unidentified original drawings
1 box
6 unidentified original drawings of Robert Benney.

Series III: Photocopies of Sketches, 1926-1947

1 box

Alphabetical

These are a group of various sized photocopies, which did not get matted but were printed on glossy paper stock. Most in this group mirror the original sketches in sub-series 1 and sub-series 2.

- b. 45 f. 1 Small photocopies
1 folder

51 photocopies of Robert Benney's sketches. Most of the photocopies are 3"x5" in size.

- b. 45 f. 2 **Mary of Scotland / Maxwell Anderson**
1 folder
A transparency of Benney's sketch of Helen Hayes as *Mary of Scotland*.
- b. 45 f. 3 **Photocopy of an unidentified sketch**
1 folder
A photocopy of an unidentified sketch.
- b. 45 f. 4 **Photocopies of various sketches**
1 folder
20 photocopies of various sketches.
- b. 45 f. 5 **Reverse image photocopies**
1 folder
11 reverse image photocopies of Robert Benney's sketches.
- b. 45 f. 6 **Oversized photocopies**
1 folder
5 oversized photocopies of Robert Benney's sketches.

Related Materials

Robert Benney Research Materials - *T-Mss 1984-005