

Inventory of the Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie Papers, 1894-1909

*T Mss 1993-013

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

New York, New York

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie Papers, 1894-1909

Collection ID: *T Mss 1993-013

Creator: Pearl Mary Teresa Richards Craigie .

Extent: 1 box (.25 lf.)

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.

Preferred Citation: Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie Papers, *T-Mss 1993-013, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing Information: Mrs. Craigie's papers have been part of the Theatre Collection for some time. They were rehousing and recataloged in 1993. The letters, in excellent condition, appear to have been removed from a scrapbook.

Biographical Note

Novelist, playwright, and lecturer Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie (nee Richards) was born in Boston in 1867 and raised in England. She studied music in London and Paris and the classics at University College, London. At the age of nineteen she married Reginald Walpole Craigie. Their marriage was an unhappy one and in the end she sued for divorce, retaining custody of their five-year old son. Although an accomplished pianist, Mrs. Craigie turned to writing. Using the pen name John Oliver Hobbes, she wrote novels and then plays. Her best known books were *The School for Saints* and *Robert Orange*. Her first play, *Journeys End in Lovers' Meeting*, was performed in 1894 and starred Ellen Terry. Her most successful play was *The Ambassador* which opened in 1898 and featured Sir George Alexander, H.B. Irving, Violet Vanbrugh, Fay Davis and Kate Sargeantson. She was praised for her remarkable dialogue and her ability to satirize the social mores of the time.

Mrs. Craigie was also a well-known lecturer in both America and England. Her subjects were the arts, literature and the advancement of women.

She died quite suddenly of heart failure on August 13, 1906.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence documenting Mrs. Craigie's career. It includes letters discussing productions of some of her plays, mainly *The Ambassador* (1898); book publications; and plans for future productions as well as personal thank you notes. The correspondents, representing a cross-section of writers, actors, critics and nobility of the time, include F. C. Burnand, Edmund Gosse, Henry Arthur Jones, George Moore, Arthur Symonds, Henry James, J. M. Barrie, Henry Irving, H.B. Irving, Ellen Terry, Olga Nethersole, Violet Vanbrugh, George Alexander, members of the Churchill family, and Queen Mary, among others.

Container Listing

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A", 1899-1906
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 2-3 *The ambassador* / John Oliver Hobbes, 1898
2 folders
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes, regarding the opening of her play *The Ambassador*. Guest list included.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence "B", 1900-1903
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence "C", 1897-1906 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes. Includes a flyer announcing Mrs. Craigie's lecture entitled "The Artist's Life".
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence / Churchill family, 1898-1903 and undated
1 folder (3 letters)
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes, from members of the Churchill family.
- b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence "D", 1900-1905 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 8 Correspondence "E-G", 1896-1906 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.

- b. 1 f. 9 Correspondence "H", 1894-1900 and undated
1 folder.
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 10 Correspondence "I-K", 1898-1900 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 11 Correspondence "L", 1895-1904
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 12 Correspondence "M", 1899-1909
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 13 Correspondence "N-Q", 1900-1902
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 14 Correspondence "R-T", 1898-1906 and undated
1 folder.
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 15 Correspondence / Dame Ellen Terry, 1899-1900 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes, from
actress Ellen Terry.
- b. 1 f. 16 Correspondence "V-W", 1899-1905 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
- b. 1 f. 17 Unidentified correspondence, 1893-1906 and undated
1 folder
Correspondence to Mrs. Craigie, pen name John Oliver Hobbes.
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