

Eva Le Gallienne

A Register of Her Papers in the Library of Congress

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Colton**

Revised by Laura J. Kells



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Eva Le Gallienne

Span Dates: 1875-1993

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1916-1983)

ID No.: MSS84002

Creator: Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-1991

Extent: 9,000 items; 65 containers plus 6 oversize; 27 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Danish

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Actress, theatrical director and producer, author, and translator. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, speeches and writings, translations, production scripts, programs and playbills, press clippings, appointment books and biographical material documenting Le Gallienne's theatrical career.

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.

Names:

Le Gallienne, Eva, 1899-

Andersen, H. C. (Hans Christian), 1805-1875

Bernhardt, Sarah, 1844-1923

Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich, 1860-1904

Duse, Eleonora, 1858-1924

Evenson, Marion Gunnar

Ewald, Carl, 1856-1908

Hutchinson, Josephine, 1904-

Ibsen, Henrik, 1828-1906

Nazimova, 1879-1945

Webster, Margaret, 1905-1972

Civic Repertory Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Le Gallienne, Julie Nørregaard, 1863-1942. Papers of Julie Nørregaard Le Gallienne

Le Gallienne, Richard, 1866-1947. Papers of Richard Le Gallienne

Subjects:

Drama

Motion pictures

Repertory theater

Theater--New York State--New York

Occupations:

Actresses

Authors

Theatrical producers and directors

Translators

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Eva Le Gallienne, actress, theatrical director and producer, author, and translator, were donated to the Library of Congress by Eloise Armen, Le Gallienne's literary executor, in 1997.

Processing History:

The papers of Eva Le Gallienne were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2006.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs and sketches have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Eva Le Gallienne Papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Eva Le Gallienne in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Eva Le Gallienne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1899, Jan. 11	Born, London, England
1914	Professional stage debut in <i>Monna Vanna</i> , Queen's Theatre, London, England
1914-1915	Attended Sir Herbert Tree's Academy of Dramatic Art (later named Royal Academy of Dramatic Art), London, England
1915	First important stage role in <i>The Laughter of Fools</i> , Prince of Wales Theatre, London, England Moved to the United States Broadway stage debut in <i>Mrs. Boltay's Daughters</i> , Manhattan Theatre, New York, N.Y.
1916-1917	First leading role in <i>Mr. Lazarus</i> , Shubert Theatre, New York, N.Y.; toured California and Arizona with same play titled <i>The Happy Stranger</i>
1918	Joined Ethel Barrymore's acting company
1921	Role of Julie in <i>Liliom</i> produced by the Theatre Guild Active in National Woman's Party
1923-1924	Role of Princess Alexandra in <i>The Swan</i> , Cort Theatre, New York, N.Y., and on tour
1925	Starred in <i>Jehanne d'Arc</i> , Porte Saint Martin Theatre, Paris, France Produced, directed, and starred in <i>The Master Builder</i> , New York, N.Y.
1926	Produced, directed, and starred in <i>John Gabriel Borkman</i> , New York, N.Y. Toured with <i>The Master Builder</i> and <i>John Gabriel Borkman</i> Founded Civic Repertory Theatre, based in Fourteenth Street Theatre, New York, N.Y.
1931	Closed Civic Repertory Theatre Seriously injured in propane explosion in her home; later campaigned to have a distinguishing odor added to tank gas

1932	Reopened Civic Repertory Theatre
1933	Closed Fourteenth Street Theatre; brought her repertory company to Broadway and on national tour
1934	Published <i>At 33</i> . New York: Longmans Green and Co.
1935	Disbanded Civic Repertory Theatre Declined offer to head Federal Theatre Project
1937	Played role of Hamlet, Cape Playhouse, Dennis, Mass.
1946	Founded American Repertory Theatre with Cheryl Crawford and Margaret Webster
1948	Dissolved American Repertory Theatre
1948-1949	Recital tour performing scenes from classical plays
1949	Published <i>Flossie and Bossie</i> . New York: Harper
1950	Published <i>Six Plays by Henrik Ibsen</i> . New York: Modern Library
1950-1951	Recital tour performing scenes from classical plays
1952	Founded Theatre Masterworks with Margaret Webster and Maurice Evans
1953	Published <i>With A Quiet Heart</i> . New York: Viking Press
1955	Appeared in film <i>The Prince of Players</i>
1958	Appeared in film <i>The Devil's Disciple</i>
1959	Published <i>Seven Tales</i> . New York: Harper
1961-1962	Performed with National Repertory Theatre on tour
1962	Directed and acted in Association of Producing Artists production of <i>Ghosts</i> , Ann Arbor, Mich.
1963-1967	Toured with National Repertory Theatre as actor and director
1966	Published <i>The Mystic in the Theatre: Eleonora Duse</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
1968	Joined Association of Producing Artists (APA) Phoenix Theatre as actress and director
1975-1976	Starred as Fanny Cavendish in <i>The Royal Family</i> at Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., on Broadway, and on tour
1978	Received Emmy Award for performance in television production of <i>The Royal Family</i>
1980	Appeared in film <i>Resurrection</i> ; received Academy Award nomination for her performance Published <i>The Spider and Other Stories</i> . New York: Thomas Crowell Co.

1982-1983	Directed and appeared as White Queen in <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
1984	Final acting performance in episode of television program "St. Elsewhere"
1986	Awarded National Medal of Arts
1991, June 3	Died, Weston, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Eva Le Gallienne (1899-1991) span the years 1875-1993, with the bulk of the material covering the period 1916-1983. They document the life and work of an actress, director, and producer whose professional career lasted seventy years and who influenced twentieth century American theater through her acting, directing, establishing and promoting repertory theater, training young actors, and translating plays by writers such as Henrik Ibsen and Anton Chekov. The papers are arranged in six series: [Diaries](#), [Family Papers](#), [Correspondence](#), [Professional File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Diaries](#) provide a personal record of Le Gallienne's activities and thoughts from a young actress in her teens to a woman in her eighties.

The [Family Papers](#) series contains documents relating to members of Le Gallienne's family, most significantly her mother, Julie Nørregaard Le Gallienne, a Danish journalist, and her father, Richard Le Gallienne, a poet and novelist. Included among her mother's papers is correspondence from her daughter from 1908 through 1942, a valuable source of information on Le Gallienne's various activities. Particularly useful are letters from the 1920s which describe her successes on Broadway in *Liliom* and *The Swan* and her founding of the Civic Repertory Theatre. The letters also describe her feelings about Eleonora Duse and Sarah Bernhardt, including her first meeting with Duse and her reactions to the death of Bernhardt in 1923 and the death of Duse in 1924. Papers relating to Julie Nørregaard Le Gallienne also contain copies of fashion and decorating columns she wrote in the 1890s for English newspapers as well as columns written in Danish under the pen name Eva for the Danish paper *Politiken*. Richard Le Gallienne's papers include handwritten poems and his letters to his wife written during their courtship and the frequent and lengthy separations during their marriage.

The [Correspondence](#) series is primarily personal but also includes fan mail and letters pertaining to Eva Le Gallienne's career. Prominent individuals in this series include former companions Marion Gunnar Evenson, Josephine Hutchinson, and Margaret Webster, all three of whom were involved with Le Gallienne professionally as well as personally. There are also letters from actress Nazimova in which she discusses returning to the stage to work with Le Gallienne as part of the Civic Repertory Theatre.

The [Professional File](#) consists of working material and files from Le Gallienne's lengthy career including are production scripts, many with annotations on staging, programs and playbills, and press clippings covering seventy-five years. There are also records from her work with repertory companies, primarily her Civic Repertory Theatre through which Le Gallienne endeavored to bring the classics to more people at popular prices. From 1926 to 1934, at the Fourteenth Street Theatre in New York, Le Gallienne staged thirty-four productions, directed thirty-two of them, and acted in most. She also trained apprentice actors. The most frequently performed plays in the repertory were *Alice in Wonderland*, which she adapted with Florida Friebus, *Camille*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Cradle Song*, and *Peter Pan*. Although material in this series reflects the primary importance of her stage work, there are also files pertaining to lecture tours, motion pictures, radio, sound recordings, and television.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series includes Le Gallienne's writings and lectures on her experiences on the stage, her hopes for the theater in America, two autobiographies, a biography of Eleonora Duse, and a children's book. There is also a large group of her English translations of plays by Chekov and Ibsen and the stories of Hans Christian Andersen and Carl Ewald. Le Gallienne's versions of plays by Ibsen were published in several editions, and the drafts of prefaces in which she analyzed the plays and characters are included in these files.

In the Miscellany are appointment books and biographical material which identify the chronology of events and activities in Le Gallienne's life. Several academic papers discuss Le Gallienne's career. In addition there are files compiled by Helen Sheehy, who used Le Gallienne's papers in writing *Eva Le Gallienne: A Biography*.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diaries, 1917-1983
- Family Papers, 1892-1991, n.d.
- Correspondence, 1908-1990, n.d.
- Professional File, 1911-1989, n.d.
- Speeches and Writings, 1926-1982, n.d.
- Miscellany, 1875-1993, n.d.
- Oversize, 1926-1982, n.d.

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-9	<u>Diaries, 1917-1983</u> Bound volumes and loose-leaf pages. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 9-18	<u>Family Papers, 1892-1991, n.d.</u> Correspondence, diaries, legal papers, clippings, writings, and personal items. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member, then by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 18-20	<u>Correspondence, 1908-1990, n.d.</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 20-49	<u>Professional File, 1911-1989, n.d.</u> Scripts, programs, playbills, clippings, correspondence, notes, schedules, set plans, contracts, printed matter, and other items relating to Le Gallienne's career. Arranged alphabetically by type of activity or by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 49-61	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1926-1982, n.d.</u> Articles, book manuscripts, essays, lectures, notes, translations, miscellaneous writings, and related material. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and title and chronologically therein.
BOX 61-65	<u>Miscellany, 1875-1993, n.d.</u> Address books, appointment calendars, awards and honors, biographical material, childhood material, theatrical memorabilia, writings about Le Gallienne, and material accumulated by Le Gallienne's biographer, Helen Sheehy. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX OV 1-OV 6	<u>Oversize, 1926-1982, n.d.</u> Scrapbooks, set plans, and logbooks. Described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-9	Diaries, 1917-1983 Bound volumes and loose-leaf pages. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1917-1918, 1934-1939 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1940-1943 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1944-1948 (6 folders)
BOX 4	1949-1953 (6 folders)
BOX 5	1954-1958 (7 folders)
BOX 6	1959-1965 (6 folders)
BOX 7	1966-1970 (5 folders)
BOX 8	1971-1975 (6 folders)
BOX 9	1976-1983 (6 folders)
BOX 9-18	Family Papers, 1892-1991, n.d. Correspondence, diaries, legal papers, clippings, writings, and personal items. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member, then by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 9	Le Gallienne, Hesper (half-sister) Correspondence from Eva Le Gallienne, 1913-1918 Miscellany, 1914-1917, 1930, n.d. Le Gallienne, Julie Nørregaard (mother) Correspondence Benson, Mary Duggett ("Mimsey"), 1930-1932 Brandes, Georg, 1895-1897, n.d. Evenson, Marion Gunnar, 1935-1941, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 10	Gallienne, Mary Elizabeth ("Sissie"), 1897-1907 Hutchinson, Josephine, 1931-1932 Le Gallienne, Eva Letters received 1908-1922 (11 folders)

Family Papers, 1892-1991, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11	1923-1927 (8 folders)
BOX 12	1928-1934 (10 folders)
BOX 13	1935-1940 (8 folders)
BOX 14	1941-1942, n.d. (3 folders) Letters sent, 1915-1917, 1925, 1934-1935, n.d. Miscellaneous, 1896-1914, 1923-1942, n.d. Prominent individuals, 1897-1900, 1907-1912, 1920-1932, n.d. Diaries, 1939-1942 Legal papers, 1911-1912, 1932-1942 Miscellany, 1899, 1911-1922, 1931-1942, n.d. (2 folders) Writings In Danish, 1892-1895, 1901, 1919, 1927-1935, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 15	(2 folders) In English, 1894-1900, n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 16	Miscellaneous family members, 1915-1916, 1973, 1979-1981, 1991, n.d. (3 folders) Le Gallienne, Richard (father) Correspondence To Eva Le Gallienne, 1911, 1920-1925, 1936, n.d. To Julie Nørregaard Le Gallienne 1895-1897 (6 folders)
BOX 17	1898-1902 (9 folders)
BOX 18	1903-1911, 1918, n.d. (5 folders) To others, 1902-1904, 1954, n.d. Miscellany, 1895-1899, 1905, 1926, 1947, 1965-1966, n.d. Writings, 1924-1926, n.d.
BOX 18-20	Correspondence, 1908-1990, n.d. Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 18	Armen, Eloise, 1964-1981, n.d. "A-B" miscellaneous, 1920, 1935, 1950, 1960, 1966-1982, 1988-1990, n.d. "C-D" miscellaneous, 1959-1966, 1973-1975, 1981-1988, n.d.
BOX 19	Elliott, Maxine, n.d. Evenson, Marion Gunnar, 1942, 1949-1958, 1971, n.d. "E" miscellaneous, 1948, 1975, 1981, n.d. Faversham, William, 1917, 1936

Correspondence, 1908-1990, n.d.

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- "F-G" miscellaneous, 1916-1919, 1933-1938, 1948-1951, 1965-1967, 1979-1980, 1987-1989, n.d.
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BOX 20 Rabb, Ellis, 1962-1973, 1980, n.d.
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Stenning, Susan ("Nanny"), 1916-1918, n.d.
"S" miscellaneous, 1916, 1924, 1937, 1958-1990
"T-V" miscellaneous, 1915-1916, 1941, 1947, 1972-1982, n.d.
Webster, Margaret, 1952-1959, 1972, n.d.
"W-Y" miscellaneous, 1916, 1948, 1964, 1972, 1981-1983, n.d.
Unidentified, 1908, 1914-1917, 1934, 1964, 1973, 1980-1981, n.d.
- BOX 20-49** **Professional File, 1911-1989, n.d.**
Scripts, programs, playbills, clippings, correspondence, notes, schedules, set plans, contracts, printed matter, and other items relating to Le Gallienne's career.
Arranged alphabetically by type of activity or by type of material and chronologically therein.
- BOX 20** Acting classes, White Barn Theatre, Westport, Conn., 1955-1956, 1972-1974, n.d.
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- BOX 21** Press clippings
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BOX 27	Television, 1983, n.d. (3 folders) <i>L'Aiglon</i> , 1934, n.d. (2 folders) <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> , 1970, n.d. (2 folders)
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BOX 31	<i>Ghosts</i> , 1948, n.d. (3 folders) <i>The Good Hope</i> , 1927 <i>Hamlet</i> , 1937, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 32	(3 folders) <i>Hedda Gabler</i> , n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 33	<i>Inheritors</i> , 1921, 1927, n.d. (5 folders) <i>L'Invitation au Voyage</i> , n.d.
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BOX 36	(1 folder) <i>Mary Stuart</i> , 1957-1959 (3 folders) <i>The Master Builder</i> , 1925, n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 37	<i>The Mother of Christ</i> , 1924 Miscellaneous, 1962, 1976, 1983, n.d. (6 folders)
BOX 38	<i>Peter Pan</i> , 1928, n.d. (2 folders) <i>Resurrection</i> (film), 1979 <i>The Rivals</i> , 1941, n.d. (2 folders) <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1930-1931, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 39	(3 folders) <i>Rosmersholm</i> , 1935, n.d. (2 folders) <i>The Royal Family</i> Stage, 1975 Television, 1977
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BOX 42	(2 folders) <i>The Trojan Women</i> , n.d. (2 folders) <i>Uncle Harry</i> , 1942 <i>The Women Have Their Way</i> , n.d.

Professional File, 1911-1989, n.d.

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	Theatre Masterworks, 1951-1953, n.d.
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BOX 43	Theater
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- BOX 49-61** **Speeches and Writings, 1926-1982, n.d.**
Articles, book manuscripts, essays, lectures, notes, translations, miscellaneous writings, and related material.
Arranged alphabetically by type of writing and title and chronologically therein.
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- BOX 54** (5 folders)
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- BOX 55** Andersen, Hans Christian, stories
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Publications

Speeches and Writings, 1926-1982, n.d.

Container

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The Nightingale, 1965-1966, 1979-1985
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- Chekov, Anton
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- BOX 56** *The Three Sisters*, n.d.
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- Ewald, Carl, stories
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(2 folders)
The Spider and Other Stories by Carl Ewald, 1980
(2 folders)
- BOX 57** Hochwalder, Fritz, et al., *Sur la Terre Comme au Ciel* ("On Earth as in Heaven"), n.d.
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- Ibsen, Henrik
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- BOX 58** Miscellany, 1951-1962, 1970-1974, 1980-1981, n.d.
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- BOX 59** *The Lady from the Sea*, n.d.
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- BOX 60** *The Wild Duck*, n.d.
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- Lenormand, H. R., *Time Is a Dream*, n.d.
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Soya, Carl Erik, *Two Threads*, 1962, n.d.
(4 folders)

Speeches and Writings, 1926-1982, n.d.

Container

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	Writings on the Civic Repertory Theatre, 1927-1928, 1966-1967, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 61	(1 folder)
BOX 61-65	Miscellany, 1875-1993, n.d. Address books, appointment calendars, awards and honors, biographical material, childhood material, theatrical memorabilia, writings about Le Gallienne, and material accumulated by Le Gallienne's biographer, Helen Sheehy. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 61	Address books, n.d. Appointment books 1929-1948 (10 folders)
BOX 62	1949-1959 (10 folders)
BOX 63	1960-1970 (7 folders) Awards and honors, 1927, 1937-1939, 1961-1962, 1972-1987, n.d. (4 folders) Biographical material, 1951, 1957, 1977, n.d. (2 folders) Childhood material, 1909-1913, n.d.
BOX 64	Personal items, 1900, 1914-1938, 1947-1952, 1963, 1972-73, ca. 1986, n.d. (3 folders) Sheehy, Helen, files Le Gallienne family, 1887-1911, 1941, 1960, 1986, n.d. Research notes, 1993, n.d. Webster, Margaret, 1948-1950, 1964-1975, 1991, n.d. Theater memorabilia Miscellaneous, 1888, 1912, 1928-1933, n.d. <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 65	Programs and playbills, 1875, 1894-1913, 1929-1940, 1976-1982, n.d. (4 folders) Writings on Le Gallienne, 1959, 1971-1975, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX OV 1-OV 6	Oversize, 1926-1982, n.d. Scrapbooks, set plans, and logbooks. Described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1-OV 4	Professional file Press clippings Scrapbooks, 1926-1982, n.d. (Container 24)
BOX OV 5	Scripts <i>A Doll's House</i> , 1974 (Container 29) Theater American Repertory Theatre <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> , n.d. (Container 43)

Oversize, 1926-1982, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX OV 6

General, n.d. ([Container 43](#))
Association of Producing Artists (APA) Repertory Co., n.d. ([Container 43](#))
Civic Repertory Theatre
Miscellany, n.d. ([Container 46](#))
Miscellany
Theatrical memorabilia
Miscellaneous, 1932-1933 ([Container 64](#))