



**Macready, William Charles, 1793-1873.
Collection, 1819-1988.
Nicholas A. Meyer, donor.**

Special Collections Department/Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Macready, William Charles, 1793-1873. Collection, 1819-1988.
1.6 cubic ft.

William Charles Macready was a British actor famous for his portrayal of Shakespeare's King John. Born in London, England, Macready was entered at Rugby School (Warwickshire) to prepare for the bar, but his father's financial troubles forced him to withdraw and join the family business, theater management. Shortly thereafter, he made his first dramatic appearance as Romeo in 1810. He continued to gain popularity in England for both his Shakespearean and modern dramatic performances. Macready starred in "Henry IV," "Winter's Tale," "Macbeth" and other Shakespearean plays as well as then-modern plays such as "Virginius" and "Doge of Venice." He also made two successful tours of the United States. On his last visit to this country, his American rival, Edwin Forrest, incited a riot at one of Macready's performances at the Astor Opera House. Seventeen people were killed during this riot, and many more were severely injured. After this, Macready did not return to the United States, but continued his acting career in Great Britain until his retirement in 1851.

Nicholas Meyer was a resident of East Williston, N.Y., and was the community's village historian. He donated the materials in this collection in honor of his late wife, Josephine Macready Meyer.

The collection, which spans the years 1819-1988, is comprised of papers of William Charles Macready, including playbills, correspondence, publications and printed materials, portraits, and a poem. Collection also contains papers of Nicholas A. Meyer that are either related to the life of William Charles Macready, or to theatre in general. Included among these papers are correspondence, playbills, programs, publications and printed materials, photographic prints, sketches, and notes.

SUBJECTS

Names:

Macready, William Charles, 1793-1873.
Meyer, Nicholas A.

Subjects:

Actors – England – London.
Astor Place Riot, New York, NY.

Places:

London (England)
New York, NY.

Form and Genre Terms:

Correspondence.
Playbills.
Publications.

The William Charles Macready Collection is arranged in two series:

I. William Charles Macready Papers – series is comprised mainly of chronologically arranged playbills from Macready performances on the British stage. Also included are letters from Macready to friends and associates, publications and printed materials, two portraits of Macready, and one untitled poem (handwritten) by Macready.

II. Nicholas A. Meyer Papers – material arranged under two topic headings:

- a. Macready-related materials – includes correspondence, publications and printed materials, and sketches and notes.
- b. Theatre-related materials – publications and printed materials, and a sketch

Macready, William Charles, 1793-1873. Collection, 1819-1988.
 Box and Folder Listing

Series I: William Charles Macready Papers

<u>Box /</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Playbills	
1-1	"Douglas"	6/9/1819
	"Virginus"	10/9/1820
	"Virginus" (framed) (See Oversize Box 3, Folder 1)	10/23/1820
	"Virginus"	10/23/1821
	"Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice"	4/25/1821
	"Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice"	4/30/1821
	"Mirandola"	11/13/1821
	"Winter's Tale"	11/10/1823
	"Othello"	3/16/1824
	"Hamlet"	3/17/1824
1-2	"Rob Roy"	3/18/1824
	"The Winter's Tale"	4/26/1824
	"The Winter's Tale"	5/28/1824
	"The Winter's Tale"	11/18/1824
	"Henry the Fourth"	5/11/1826
	"Henry the Fourth"	5/15/1826
	"Virginus"	11/26/1827
	"Macbeth"	11/30/1827
1-3	"Virginus"	12/7/1827
	"Virginus"	4/28/1827
	"Macbeth"	5/5/1828
	"The Stranger"	10/14/1828
	"Carnival at Naples"	11/11/1830
	"Werner; or, The Inheritance"	12/17/1830
	"Macbeth"	3/14/1831
	"Macbeth"	3/21/1831
1-4	"Macbeth"	4/6/1831
	"Macbeth"	1/23/1832
	"Virginus"	1/31/1832
	"Macbeth"	3/1/1832
	"Othello"	11/29/1832
	"Macbeth"	1/28/1833
	"Macbeth"	4/10/1833
	"Tempest; or, the Enchanted"	10/10/1833
1-5	"Henry IV"	10/22/1833
	"Macbeth"	10/25/1833
	"Winter's Tale"	10/28/1833
	"Sardanopalus"	4/14/1834

Series I: William Charles Macready Papers

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Playbills	
1-5	“King Henry IV”	5/6/1834
	“Tempest; or, the Enchanted Island”	5/9/1834
	“King Henry IV” (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 2)	5/14/1834
	“King Henry IV”	5/16/1834
1-6	“King Henry IV”	5/21/1834
	“King Henry IV”	5/22/1834
	“King Henry IV”	5/24/1834
	“King Henry IV”	6/4/1834
	“Manfred”	11/3/1834
	“King John” (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 2)	10/6/1836
	“English Plays at the Italian Opera”	1844
	“King Lear”	2/3/1847
	“Werner; or, The Inheritance”	2/4/1847
	“Othello” (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 2)	3/6/1850
	“Virginus” (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 2)	4/2/1850
	“The Doge of Venice”	11/2/1867
	Correspondence	
1-7	Letters from Macready to friends and associates	c.1820-1835
1-8	Letters from Macready to friends and associates	1846-1865, n.d.
1-9	Poetry, untitled poem written by Macready	[1860s]
	Portraits of Macready	
	Theatrical drawing (mixed media) (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 1)	c.1860
	Sketch (framed) (See Oversize Box 3, Folder 2)	[c.1860s]
	Publications and printed materials	
1-10	Booklet, <i>Account of the Terrific and Fatal Riot at the New York Astor Place Opera House</i>	1849
1-11	Book, <i>The Unique: or Biography of Many Distinguished Characters; with Fine Portraits.</i> (3 loose facsimile pages)	1830
	Newspaper, <i>The Weekly Herald</i> , Vol. XV. No.21. (Includes front page article re: the riot at the Astor Place Theatre) (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 3)	May 19, 1849
	Testimonial from the Sherborne Literary Institution (framed) (See Oversize Box 3, Folder 3)	1857

Series I: William Charles Macready Papers

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Publications and printed materials	
1-12	Theatre announcement (facsimiles), "English Plays at the Italian Opera" (written in English and French)	1844

Series II: Nicholas A. Meyer Papers

Macready-related materials

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Correspondence	
1-13	Letters between Meyer and Prof. Alan S. Downer, Princeton University. (2 items) (Enclosure – transcription of 1857 testimonial. For framed original, See Box 3, Folder 3)	1967, 1969
1-14	Letters between Meyer and Col. Terence Fitzpatrick re: "The Dickens Centenary Exhibition" (Knebworth, Hertfordshire), and Macready's association with great authors of his day. (2 items) (Enclosure – exhibition catalog)	1970
1-15	Genealogy materials, two sheets of paper outlining Macready's family tree	n.d.
	Publications and printed materials	
1-16	Booklet, <i>The Wisdom of William Shakespeare</i> (Includes sketch of Macready)	1966
1-17	News clippings, and an advertisement for <i>The Journal of William Charles Macready</i>	1956, 1967, n.d.
1-18	Sketches and notes, n.d. (2 items)	n.d.

Theatre-related materials

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Playbill, "Macbeth" (printed on silk) (See Oversize 2, Folder 4)	1889
	Photographic print (autographed) of famed 1922 Shakespearean actress Julia Marlowe Sothern. (See Oversize Box 2, Folder 5)	
1-19	Program (printed on silk), The National Broadcasting Company Presents Arturo Toscanini Conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra. All-Sibelius Program. In Celebration of the seventy-fifth birthday of Jean Sibelius.	December 7, 1940

Series II: Nicholas A. Meyer Papers

Theatre-related materials

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
	Publications and printed materials	
1-20	Booklet, "The Flood" - The Fishers' and Mariners' Play. A Play From the York Cycle of Mystery Plays	c.1966
1-21	Leaflet (commemorative), "Hamlet: to the Players"	1955
1-22	Playbill, "Hamlet," Manhattan Opera House (Performance starred John Barrymore)	1923
	Sketch (framed), proof copy of book cover of Haldane MacFall's "Woings of Jezebel" Pettyfer. (With signed note from MacFall, who was also the illustrator.) (See Oversize Box 3, Folder 4)	1898

Oversize materials

<u>Box / Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
2-1	Portrait (theatrical drawing) of Macready	c.1860
2-2	Playbills "King Henry IV" "King John" "Othello" "Virginius"	5/14/1834 10/6/1836 3/6/1850 4/2/1850
2-3	Newspaper, <i>The Weekly Herald</i> , Vol. XV. No.21. (Includes front page article re: the riot at the Astor Place Theatre)	5/19/1849
2-4	Playbill, "Macbeth" (printed on silk)	1889
2-5	Photographic print (autographed) of famed Shakespearean actress Julia Marlowe Sothern	1922
3-1	Playbill, "Virginius"	10/23/1820
3-2	Portrait of Macready, sketch (framed)	[c.1860s]
3-3	Testimonial from the Sherborne Literary Institution (framed)	1857
3-4	Sketch (framed), proof copy of book cover of Haldane MacFall's "Woings of Jezebel" Pettyfer. Signed by MacFall, who was also the illustrator.	1898

See also Lexicat for Macready related materials.