

ERIC HJORTH COLLECTION

Eric Hjorth was a member of the Hull-House Players which was the first little theater group in Chicago, Illinois. He was also affiliated with other dramatic groups, such as, the Benson Players; the Liberty Hall Players; the Strolling Players; and the Studio Players.

Not only did Eric Hjorth appear on stage, but plays were also broadcasted over radio station WJJD. One of the more famous presentations was "The Farmer's Wife" in which Eric characterized old Henry Coaker as a "racy, lusty, yet pleasant", fellow.¹

Laura Dainty Pelham founded [1889] and directed the Hull-House Players of which Eric Hjorth was a member. While under her direction, he enacted some of the following characterizations: Sam Mawhinney, "John Ferguson;" Geoffery Darrel, "The Show;" Nordling, "The Deluge;" Luka, "A Night's Lodging;" and many others. One of Eric's last tributes to Laura Dainty Pelham was to serve as a pallbearer at her funeral along with other Hull-House Players.

After January, 1924, Eric Hjorth and the Hull-House Players were directed by Maurice J. Cooney. Some of the roles that Eric made famous under Cooney's direction were Serverus, "Theodorea"; Peter, "The Whiteheaded Boy;" Father Flaherty, "Father Malachy's Miracle"; Mr. Ralph Twiller, "The Torchbearers;" and other characterizations too numerous to mention.

Eric Hjorth received wide acclaim when he portrayed Joseph of Arimathea in "The Passion Play," 1924. He was also complimented by the other members of the cast, not only for dramatic ability, but also for his willingness to help other performers.

The Eric Hjorth collection was obtained through Mildred Bruder, director of Public Relations, The Chicago Public Library and deposited at the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle Campus on June 28, 1967 with no known restrictions.

The material that was received was unarranged. Consequently, an alphabetical arrangement was created with the theater programs filed under the main title of Hull-House Theater, then classified alphabetically according to the writers.

The collection consists of programs of some of the plays in which Eric Hjorth appeared with the various little theater groups in Chicago, Illinois, including dramas, comedies, and tragedies; synopsis of the first little theater group in Chicago, Illinois, [Hull-House]; personal and public tributes to Laura Dainty [Pelham] when she gave her humorous and dramatic recitations, 1879-1880; and Laura Dainty Pelham's obituary.

Material in the Eric Hjorth Collection is filed under the following titles:

1. Benson Players - program
December, 1920
2. Bokstusan [Book House] "The Deluge" - clipping and program
November, 1923
3. Clipping - miscellaneous
May, 1928 - May, 1930
4. Hull-House Theater - clippings
January, 1929
5. Hull-House Theater - Anspacher, Louis K. , "The Unfastened Woman" -program
December, 1922

¹Hull-House Theater - Phillpotts, Eden "The Farmer's Wife" - programs and clippings, February, 1926 - May, 1930

6. Hull-House Theater - Bennett, Arnold and Edward Knoblock -
"Milestones" - program
n.d.
7. Hull-House Theater - Berger, Henning - "The Deluge" - programs
November, 1923
8. Hull-House Theater - Calderon, George - "The Fountain" - programs
June, 1919
9. Hull-House Theater - Doherty, Brian - "Father Malachy's Miracle" - programs
May, 1940
10. Hull-House Theater - Ervine, St. John - "John Ferguson" - programs
n.d.
11. Hull-House Theater - Gale, Zona - "The Neighbors;" Lady Gregory -
"The Workhouse Ward" - programs
February, 1922
12. Hull-House Theater - Galsworthy, John - "The Show"^{et al} - programs
February, 1927 - November, 1936
13. Hull-House Theater - Gorky, Maxim "A Night's Lodging" - programs
February, 1923
14. Hull-House Theater - Hope, Anthony "Apple Blossoms;" Alvarez Quintero Brothers
"Women Have Their Way" - programs
February, 1931
15. Hull-House Theater - Hughes, Harben "Ruins" - programs and clippings
April - May, 1938
16. Hull-House Theater - Kelly, George "The Torchbearers" - program
November, 1926
17. Hull-House Theater - MacNamara, Brinsley "Look At The Heffernans" - programs
November, 1927
18. Hull-House Theater - Marks, Jeannette "The Merry, Merry Cuckoo", The Welsh
Honeymoon; Davis, Mary Carolyn "The Slave With Two Faces;" Knoblock, Edward
"The War Committee" - programs
February, 1919
19. Hull-House Theater - Michalaros, Demetrios A. "Theodora" - programs and fliers
n.d.
20. Hull-House Theater - Phillipotts, Eden "The Farmer's Wife" - programs and
clippings
February, 1926 - May, 1930
21. Hull-House Theater - Play [One Act] Tournament - programs
n.d.
22. Hull-House Theater - Robinson, Lennox "The Lost Leader" - programs
November, 1920 - May, 1921
23. Hull-House Theater - Robinson, Lennox "The Whiteheaded Boy" - programs and
clipping
October, 1929
24. Liberty Hall Players - programs
April, 1917 - March, 1918
25. [The] Passion Play - clippings
April, 1924
26. Pelham, Laura Dainty - clippings
January, 1924

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27. Pelham, Laura Dainty - note
November, 1900
28. [Pelham], Laura Dainty - pamphlet
1879-1880
29. [The] Strolling Players - programs
November, 1917
30. Studio Players - clippings and programs
June [1918] - March, 1921

May Ann Zamberger
April 4, 1968