

Damrosch - Tee Van Collection

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Music Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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Latest revision: 2011 February

Collection Summary

Title: Damrosch - Tee Van Collection

Span Dates: 1856-1969

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1870-1939)

Call No.: ML31.D34

Creator: Damrosch, Leopold, 1832-1885

Size: around 600 items; 10 boxes; 8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: The collection includes biographical materials, correspondence, writings, manuscript and printed music, financial and legal papers, programs, scrapbooks, artwork, and photographs. The papers of L. Damrosch consist of correspondence (including a copy of a letter from Liszt), a few examples of writings, four scores (including his piano vocal score of Berlioz Requiem), and biographical materials. A large portion of the Damrosch family papers that included the bulk of their correspondence with Liszt, Wagner, von Bülow, and others was destroyed in a fire in 1887. F. Damrosch and other Damrosch family members were in correspondence with Harold Bauer, Andrew Carnegie, Edward Elgar, Percy Grainger, Josef Hofmann, Gustav Mahler, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

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.

People

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.

Damrosch, Frank, 1859-1937--Correspondence.

Damrosch, Frank, 1859-1937.

Damrosch, Frank, 1859-1937.

Damrosch, Frank, 1859-1937. Damrosch - Tee Van Collection. 1856-1969.

Damrosch, Leopold, 1832-1885--Correspondence.

Damrosch, Leopold, 1832-1885.

Damrosch, Leopold, 1832-1885.

Elgar, Edward, 1857-1934--Correspondence.

Grainger, Percy, 1882-1961--Correspondence.

Mahler, Gustav, 1860-1911--Correspondence.

Rachmaninoff, Sergei, 1873-1943--Correspondence.

Tee-Van, Helen Damrosch, 1893-1976.

Tee-Van, Helen Damrosch, 1893-1976. Damrosch - Tee Van Collection. 1856-1969.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift; Helen Tee Van, daughter of Frank Damrosch; 1972.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Damrosch - Tee Van Collection was processed in 1994 by Wilda Heiss with assistance from Margaret Collins. The original finding aid was prepared with Corel WordPerfect 5.1. In 2007 the Damrosch - Tee Van Collection finding aid was coded for EAD format by Michael A. Ferrando.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright on the materials of the Damrosch - Tee Van Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Damrosch - Tee Van Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Performing Arts Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: container number, Damrosch - Tee Van Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Sketch

The Damrosch family immigrated to America from Breslau, Germany in 1871. Leopold Damrosch (1832-1885), the family patriarch, was a violinist, conductor, and composer who was educated in Posen, his native city, and in Berlin. In 1857, Franz Liszt appointed him lead violinist in the court orchestra at Weimar. While there, he married the singer Helene von Heimburg. In 1860, he toured with Hans von Bülow and Karl Tausig and, in 1862, organized the Breslau Philharmonic Society. He came to America in 1871 to conduct the Arion Society, a men's choral group. In 1873, he founded the Oratorio Society of New York and, in 1878, the Symphony Society of New York. He introduced Wagner's operas, Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust*, and other large choral works to New York audiences; many of these were American premieres. In 1880, Columbia College conferred on him the Doctor of Music degree. During the 1884-85 season, he became a manager of the Metropolitan Opera and presented a "German" season which consisted primarily of German operas and some Italian operas sung in German. Six days before the end of the season, he died and his son, Walter, and the chorusmaster, John Lund, conducted the remaining performances. Walter conducted the tour of the Damrosch Grand Opera Company which followed the Metropolitan Opera season.

Frank Damrosch (1859-1937), the oldest son of Leopold and Helene, was a conductor and teacher. He began his musical studies as a child in Breslau and continued them in New York City. Later, he left City College and found work in various non-musical jobs. In 1879, he went to Denver, Colorado to see what business opportunities existed there; eventually, he abandoned the business world and devoted himself to music. He became conductor of the Denver Chorus Club, supervisor of music in public schools, and organist and choir director for several churches and a synagogue. After Leopold's death in 1885, he returned to New York City and served as conductor of the Newark Harmonic Society and chorus master and assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera until 1891. In 1892, he organized and conducted the People's Choral Union for which he published a *Popular Method of Sight Singing*. He founded and conducted the Musical Art Society of New York, a small professional chorus. From 1897 to 1905 he was supervisor of music in the New York City public schools. He succeeded his brother Walter as conductor of the Oratorio Society from 1898-1912. In 1904, he received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Yale University. In 1905, he founded the Institute of Musical Art and was its director until 1926, when it merged with the Juilliard Graduate School to become the Juilliard School of Music of which he served as dean until 1933.

Wilda Heiss, Music Specialist

Margaret Collins, Library Technician,
July 1994

Scope and Content Note

The Damrosch-Tee Van Collection consists of the papers of Frank and Leopold Damrosch and their families. The date span of the collection is 1856-1969, with the bulk of the materials dating from the 1870s to the 1930s. The collection includes biographical materials, correspondence, writings, manuscript and printed music, financial and legal papers, programs, scrapbooks, artwork, and photographs.

Included in the collection is a series of biographical materials that relate to various Damrosch family members, chiefly Frank and Leopold Damrosch, and consists of printed articles, manuscript notes, and transcripts of interviews. One item of interest is an autobiographical essay written by Leopold Damrosch as a graduation thesis from the high school at Posen.

The papers of Leopold Damrosch consist of correspondence (including a copy of a letter from Liszt,) a few examples of writings, four scores (including Leopold Damrosch's piano-vocal arrangement of the Berlioz *Requiem*), programs for concerts he conducted and attended, a scrapbook of clippings, and a few other miscellaneous items. This section of the collection is quite small, due in part to a fire in 1887 that destroyed many of Leopold's papers, including much of his correspondence with Liszt, Wagner, von Bülow, and others. Despite this fact, the collection contains important information on Leopold Damrosch.

A large part of the collection consists of the papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch family members. The correspondence comprises several hundred letters, with some of the more important correspondents being Harold Bauer, Andrew Carnegie, Edward Elgar, Percy Grainger, Josef Hofmann, Gustav Mahler, and Sergei Rachmaninov. Many of the letters of Frank Damrosch to his family were destroyed in the 1887 fire, mentioned above; there are, however, a long series of letters to his wife Hetty from Europe in 1891. Any letters to or from correspondents who wrote to both Frank Damrosch and other family members are filed together with Frank's correspondence.

The correspondence of other Damrosch family includes letters to and from family members. Included are letters from Georges Barrère, Teresa Carreño, Pablo Casals, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek (regarding John Tee Van's zoo pandas), and John D. Rockefeller. Many of these are simply condolence letters received after Frank Damrosch's death while others reveal more familiar relationships.

The remainder of the papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch family include manuscript and typescript copies of Frank Damrosch's book *Some Essentials in the Teaching of Music*; a copy of the libretto for Walter Damrosch's *The Scarlet Letter*; several printed editions of Frank Damrosch's choral music; programs for concerts the Damrosch family attended or that Frank conducted; original artwork by Frank Damrosch; photographs, and other family memorabilia. Also included are papers of the Institute of Musical Art, the music school which Frank Damrosch founded in 1905. This part of the collection includes catalogs, programs, and other publications produced by that institution.

Organization of the Damrosch - Tee Van Collection

The Damrosch - Tee Van Collection is organized in 3 series:

- Biographical Materials
- Papers of Leopold Damrosch
- Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Biographical Materials, 1879-1939, undated

The Biographical Materials series contains manuscript, typewritten and printed biographies and typewritten poem.

Arranged alphabetically by subject of biography, then by author.

BOX 1-2

BOX 8-10

Papers of Leopold Damrosch

The Papers of Leopold Damrosch series consist of correspondence (including a copy of a letter from Liszt,) a few examples of writings, four scores (including Leopold Damrosch's piano-vocal arrangement of the Berlioz *Requiem*), programs for concerts he conducted and attended, a scrapbook of clippings, and a few other miscellaneous items. This section of the collection is quite small, due in part to a fire in 1887 that destroyed many of Leopold's papers, including much of his correspondence with Liszt, Wagner, von Bülow, and others. Despite this fact, the collection contains important information on Leopold Damrosch.

Arrangement within subseries is as follows:

Correspondence	Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, then chronologically
Writings	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Music	Arranged alphabetically by composer, then by title
Financial	Arranged chronologically
Programs	Arranged alphabetically by organization or event
Scrapbooks	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Miscellany	Arranged alphabetically by subject

BOX 2-7

BOX 8

BOX 10

Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

A large part of the collection consists of the papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch family members. The correspondence comprises several hundred letters, with some of the more important correspondents being Harold Bauer, Andrew Carnegie, Edward Elgar, Percy Grainger, Josef Hofmann, Gustav Mahler, and Sergei Rachmaninov. Many of the letters of Frank Damrosch to his family were destroyed in the 1887 fire, mentioned above; there are, however, a long series of letters to his wife Hetty from Europe in 1891. Any letters to or from correspondents who wrote to both Frank Damrosch and other family members are filed together with Frank's correspondence.

Arrangement within subseries is as follows:

Correspondence of Frank Damrosch	Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, then chronologically
Correspondence of other Damrosch Family	Arranged alphabetically by author
Writings	Arranged alphabetically by author, then title
Music	Arranged alphabetically by composer, then title
Financial	Arranged chronologically by date
Legal papers	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Programs	Arranged alphabetically by organization or event then chronologically
Scrapbooks	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Artwork by Frank Damrosch	Arranged alphabetically by title then chronologically
Photographs	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Subject file	Arranged alphabetically by subject
Papers of the Institute of Musical Art	Arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Biographical Materials, 1879-1939, undated The Biographical Materials series contains manuscript, typewritten and printed biographies and typewritten poem. Arranged alphabetically by subject of biography, then by author. Damrosch, Dorothea
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Damrosch, "Uncle Juju," n.d. (poem) Damrosch, Frank
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Damrosch, Frank Conversation with Randall Thompson, 1937 Manuscript notes for autobiographical article, [1934] On leaving the opera, 1891-92
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Damrosch, Hetty Mosenthal Notes about F[rank] D[amrosch], n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	People's Choral Union To Frank Damrosch from the People's Choral Union, n.d. Frank Damrosch in memoriam, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Rice, Edwin T. A tribute to Frank Damrosch, n.d. A tribute to Frank Damrosch, reprinted from <i>The Musical Quarterly</i> , 1939 Apr.
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Richardson, A. Madeley Presentation of the portrait of Dr. Frank Damrosch, 1929 Oct. 22
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Unidentified author Article "Frank Damrosch: A biographical sketch" from <i>The Musical Times</i> , 1904 Dec. 1
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Unidentified author, n.d. Damrosch, Hetty Mosenthal
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Damrosch, Hetty Mosenthal Rough notes about summers abroad and elsewhere; also about various activities in New York, etc., n.d. Damrosch, Leopold
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	100th anniversary of birth Typescript of WOR broadcast, 1932 Four newspaper articles, 1932
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Damrosch, Frank Dictations to Helen Tee Van in reply to questions asked about old times, n.d. Manuscript in pencil written by Frank Damrosch about various episodes left out of typed story, n.d. Short biography of Leopold Damrosch by Frank Damrosch, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Damrosch, Leopold

Biographical Materials, 1879-1939, undated

Container

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	Autobiography of Leopold Damrosch, written when he was eighteen years old as a graduation thesis from the high school in Posen, n.d. [translation]
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Lists of Compositions Compositions of Dr. Leopold Damrosch, 1879 List of the compositions of Dr. Leopold Damrosch for violin, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Rice, Edwin T. Personal recollections of Dr. Leopold Damrosch, reprinted from <i>The Musical Quarterly</i> , 1942 July
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Damrosch, Walter Gilbert, Douglas Three newspaper articles from the <i>New York World-Telegram</i> , 1946
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Seymour, Ellie Damrosch Seymour, Ellie Damrosch
BOX 1-2 BOX 8-10	Papers of Leopold Damrosch The Papers of Leopold Damrosch series consist of correspondence (including a copy of a letter from Liszt,) a few examples of writings, four scores (including Leopold Damrosch's piano-vocal arrangement of the Berlioz <i>Requiem</i>), programs for concerts he conducted and attended, a scrapbook of clippings, and a few other miscellaneous items. This section of the collection is quite small, due in part to a fire in 1887 that destroyed many of Leopold's papers, including much of his correspondence with Liszt, Wagner, von Bülow, and others. Despite this fact, the collection contains important information on Leopold Damrosch. Arrangement within subseries is as follows:
	Correspondence Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, then chronologically
	Writings Arranged alphabetically by subject
	Music Arranged alphabetically by composer, then by title
	Financial Arranged chronologically
	Programs Arranged alphabetically by organization or event
	Scrapbooks Arranged alphabetically by subject
	Miscellany Arranged alphabetically by subject
BOX-FOLDER 1/17-26 BOX-FOLDER 8/1	Correspondence
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Beaulieu-Marconnay, Baron von, 1856

Papers of Leopold Damrosch

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX-FOLDER 1/18-19	Heimburg, Marie von, 1874, 1883 Note: Also, a letter written by Leopold Damrosch to a "friend" in Breslau, 1872
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Lichtenberg, Theodor, 1871
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Liszt, Franz, 1857 [photographic reproductions and negatives of letter and translation]
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	Miscellaneous, 1856-81 [typewritten transcript of handwritten letters in German; originals filed under author's name] Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaulieu-Marconnay, Baron von, 1856• Lichtenberg, Theodor, 1871• Praller, Friedrich, 1880• Ritter, F. L., 1881• Unidentified [illegible]
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	New York Sun, 1876 [rolled]. Letters from Leopold Damrosch in Bayreuth [facsimiles from <i>New York Sun</i> , dated 1876 Aug. 13, 18, 23, 26, and Sept. 3]
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	Philharmonic Society of New York, 1875-1877, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/24	[Praller, Friedrich?], 1870
BOX-FOLDER 1/25	Ritter, F. L., n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 1/26	Unidentified, 1857-1871
BOX-FOLDER 2/1-2	Writings
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Manuscript notebook, 1862 [Poetry for possible settings; some notes on music]
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	On Beethoven's <i>Egmont</i> overture, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 2/3-4	Music
BOX-FOLDER 10/1-2	
	Berlioz, Hector
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Requiem Piano-vocal score with Leopold Damrosch's annotations (G. Schirmer, 1880) Arranged by Leopold Damrosch Damrosch, Leopold
BOX-FOLDER 10/1	Bar not up the heart too closely Piano-vocal score (G. Schirmer, 1876)
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Melodie für Franz Holograph sketch, 1869
BOX-FOLDER 10/2	Mother dear, this cavalier Piano-vocal score (G. Schirmer, 1876)
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Financial
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Receipts [3 items]

Papers of Leopold Damrosch

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BOX-FOLDER 2/6

Beethoven's grosses Musikfest, 1870

BOX-FOLDER 2/7

Breslauer Orchester, 1871

BOX-FOLDER 2/8

The Damrosch Concert, St. Joseph Gazette, 1883 May 26

BOX-FOLDER 2/9

Scrapbooks

BOX-FOLDER 9/1

BOX-FOLDER 2/9

"Nachlass" scrapbook, 1871-1879, n.d.

BOX-FOLDER 9/1

Loose clippings from "Nachlass" scrapbook, 1876-1879, n.d.

BOX-FOLDER 2/10

Miscellany

BOX-FOLDER 10/4-5

BOX-FOLDER 10/4

Envelopes with notes on materials [copies of these are in corresponding folders]

BOX-FOLDER 2/10

Lock of Leopold's hair

BOX-FOLDER 10/5

Obituary notice of Leopold Damrosch, 1885

BOX 2-7

BOX 8

BOX 10

Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

A large part of the collection consists of the papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch family members. The correspondence comprises several hundred letters, with some of the more important correspondents being Harold Bauer, Andrew Carnegie, Edward Elgar, Percy Grainger, Josef Hofmann, Gustav Mahler, and Sergei Rachmaninov. Many of the letters of Frank Damrosch to his family were destroyed in the 1887 fire, mentioned above; there are, however, a long series of letters to his wife Hetty from Europe in 1891. Any letters to or from correspondents who wrote to both Frank Damrosch and other family members are filed together with Frank's correspondence.

Arrangement within subseries is as follows:

Correspondence of
Frank Damrosch

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent,
then chronologically

Correspondence of
other Damrosch
Family

Arranged alphabetically by author

Writings

Arranged alphabetically by author, then title

Music

Arranged alphabetically by composer, then title

Financial

Arranged chronologically by date

Legal papers

Arranged alphabetically by subject

Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

Container

Contents

	Programs	Arranged alphabetically by organization or event then chronologically
	Scrapbooks	Arranged alphabetically by subject
	Artwork by Frank Damrosch	Arranged alphabetically by title then chronologically
	Photographs	Arranged alphabetically by subject
	Subject file	Arranged alphabetically by subject
	Papers of the Institute of Musical Art	Arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically
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	Boericke & Tafel <i>see</i> People's Choral Union	
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Bonci, Alessandro, 1910	
BOX-FOLDER 2/19	Brandt, Marianne, 1889-1921	
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BOX-FOLDER 3/1	"D-G" miscellaneous	
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Dalmores, Charles, 1918	
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Damrosch, Clara, 1929	
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BOX-FOLDER 3/12	Damrosch, Jeannette, n.d.	
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Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

Container

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BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Gericke, Wilhelm, 1920-25
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	Gifford, R. Swain, 1897
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BOX-FOLDER 4/6	Gluck, Alma, n.d.
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	Goodale, John M. <i>see</i> People's Choral Union
	Goodson, Katharine <i>see</i> Hinton, Arthur and Katharine
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	Gordon, Jacques, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	Gorgoza, Emilio de, 1899
BOX-FOLDER 4/10	Grainger, Percy, 1914-38, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 4/11	Greene, Plunket, 1901-05
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	Hewitt, Abram S. <i>see</i> Cooper Union
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BOX-FOLDER 4/21	Hinton, Arthur and Katharine, 1908-09
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BOX-FOLDER 4/24	Hutcheson, Ernest, 1929-36
BOX-FOLDER 4/25	Indy, Vincent d', 1921
BOX-FOLDER 4/26	Joachim, Joseph, 1898, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 4/27	Johnson, Edward, 1935
BOX-FOLDER 4/28	Juilliard School of Music, 1929
	Kennedy, Edith Wynne <i>see</i> Matthison, Edith
	Kilpatrick, William D. <i>see</i> People's Choral Union
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Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX-FOLDER 4/34	<i>Mail and Express</i> , 1897-98
BOX-FOLDER 4/35	Mahler, Gustav, n.d.
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BOX-FOLDER 4/40	Mendelssohn Glee Club, N.Y., 1904
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BOX-FOLDER 4/42	Moszkowski, Moritz, n.d.
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BOX-FOLDER 4/45	"N-R" miscellaneous
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BOX-FOLDER 4/48	Nikisch, Arthur, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 4/49	Nordica, Lillian, 1898, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 4/50	Parker, Horatio, 1913
BOX-FOLDER 4/51	Peabody, George Foster, 1900
BOX-FOLDER 4/52	People's Choral Union, 1895-1937 People's Singing Classes <i>see</i> People's Choral Union
BOX-FOLDER 4/53	Philipp, Isador, 1915
BOX-FOLDER 4/54	Pierné, Gabriel, 1906-30
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BOX-FOLDER 5/1	Rachmaninoff, Sergei, n.d.
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BOX-FOLDER 5/3	Riddle, George, 1901
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BOX-FOLDER 5/12	Spalding, Albert, n.d.
BOX-FOLDER 5/13	Sternberger, Maurice, 1929
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BOX-FOLDER 5/15	Stokowski, Leopold, 1929

Papers of Frank Damrosch and other Damrosch Family

Container

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