



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visual Materials from the Dorothy Heyward Papers SCHS # 0180.00 VM

Description: 2.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Biographical/Historical Note: Playwright and novelist. The daughter of Herman Luyties Kuhns (b. 1855) and Dora Virginia Hartzell, Dorothy Hartzell Kuhns was born in Wooster, Ohio. Dorothy studied playwriting at Harvard University, and as a fellow of George Pierce Baker's Workshop 47 she spent a summer's residency at the MacDowell Colony, an artists' retreat in New Hampshire, where she met South Carolina author DuBose Heyward (1885-1940). They married in September 1923. Their only child was Jenifer DuBose Heyward (later Mrs. Jenifer Wood, 1930-1984), who became a ballet dancer and made her home in New York, N.Y. Dorothy collaborated with her husband to produce a dramatic version of his novel "Porgy." The play became the libretto for the opera "Porgy & Bess" (first produced in 1935) by DuBose Heyward and George and Ira Gershwin. She also collaborated with her husband to produce "Mamba's Daughters," a play based on DuBose Heyward's novel by the same name. In 1940 Dorothy Heyward succeeded her late husband as the resident dramatist at the Dock Street Theater (Charleston, S.C.). In the years following his death she continued to write and published a number of works including the plays "South Pacific" (1943) and "Set My People Free" (1948, the story of the Denmark Vesey slave insurrection), as well as the libretto for the children's opera "Babar the Elephant" (1953). Earlier works by Dorothy Heyward include the plays "Love in a Cupboard" (1925), "Jonica" (1930), and "Cinderelative" (1930, in collaboration with Dorothy DeJagers), and the novels "Three-a-Day" (1930) and "The Pulitzer Prize Murders" (1932).

Scope and content: This collection chiefly consists of photographs and other visual materials removed from the Dorothy Heyward Papers. It includes images of Dorothy and DuBose Heyward, George and Ira Gershwin, the Hartzell family, and the Kuhns family, as well as photographs, posters, and clippings relating to the play *Porgy & Bess*, *Mamba's Daughters*, and "The Half Pint Flask." Also included is a collection of miscellaneous news clippings, 1890-1919.

Preferred citation: Visual materials from the Dorothy Heyward papers, 1890-1985. (0180.00 VM) South Carolina Historical Society.

Container listing:

Box 1

1 Formal photographic portraits of Dorothy Heyward.

- 2 Formal photographic portraits of DuBose Heyward.
- 3 Formal photographic portraits of Jenifer Heyward.
- 4 Photographs of the Heyward family.
- 5 Hartzell family photo album.
- 6 Kuhns family photographs.
- 7 Small photograph album containing miniature photographs, ca. 1905. Includes photographs of Dorothy Kuhns [Heyward] and other girls and young people.
- 8 Miscellaneous photographs, including a photo of a portrait of Thomas Heyward by Peale; and a bride (Harriet Porcher Simons Williams, [1949]).
- 9 Copper printing plate for a wedding invitation.
- 10 Photographs of DuBose Heyward and the Gershwins.
- 11 Photograph of the hurricane scene in *Porgy & Bess*, 1935 production.
- 12 Color and black and white photographs of the 1942 production of *Porgy & Bess*, and marquis and posters.
- 13 Photographs of the 1952 production of *Porgy & Bess*, including images of Cab Calloway.
- 14 Photograph of the audience for a 1955 production of *Porgy & Bess* at the Theatre Royal.
- 15 *Theatre Arts* magazine, August 1942, which includes photos and articles about *Porgy & Bess*.
- 16 Photographs of scenes from an SCETV production of “The Half Pint Flask” (1985?).
- 17 Illustration from a magazine, *Die Hausfrau*, depicting a house in Charleston, 1947.
- 18 Miscellaneous artwork, 1870-ca. 1920 (5 items). Includes two small watercolor landscapes (1870, 1875).

Box 2 OVERSIZE

- 19 Oil portrait (1913) of [Dorothy Heyward?] by M. M. Leisenring.
- 20 Oversize portraits of Dorothy and DuBose Heyward, and a naval officer (relative of Dorothy Heyward).
- 21 Two color posters for an international tour of *Porgy & Bess*, 1950s.
- 22 Press clippings of articles about *Porgy & Bess*, 1929-1959.
- 23 Certificate, 1976, of the 1951 recording of *Porgy & Bess*, elected for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

- 24 Press clippings about Ethel Waters in *Mamba's Daughters*.
- 25 Miscellaneous news clippings (and photocopies), 1890-1919.