

# Felice Lyne Papers

This collection contains material that was used or was related to Felice Lyne, a world-renowned coloratura soprano opera singer in the early part of the 20th century. She received her early musical training while living in Kansas City.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Felice Lyne  
**Title:** Felice Lyne papers  
**Dates:** 1908-1941, bulk 1911-1915  
**Size:** 1 box, 13 folders  
**Location:** SC55

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Additional physical form available:** Collection photographs have been digitized.

**Acquisitions information:** Gift, Dr. Sanford Lyne, September 24, 1941.

**Custodial history:** Portions of collection were separated at time of donation and placed elsewhere in the library. Sheet music, music scores and books not found at time of processing. Probably part of the library's Art and Music Department, later transferred to Special Collections where it was classed as MVSC F 091.4 L98.

**Citation note:** Felice Lyne papers (SC55), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Felice Lyne was born in Slater, Missouri but received her early education in the schools of Kansas City attending the Lathrop School, Emerson School and Central High School. She later went to Paris to study and while there was heard by Oscar Hammerstein who signed her to sing in an opera house in London in 1911. She made her London debut as Gilda in "Rigoletto" and subsequently sang all over the world.

She returned to Kansas City in 1912 and sang at the Convention Hall. Miss Lyne divided her time between London and Paris between 1916 until 1932 when she returned to the United States in poor health. Felice Lyne died in Allentown, Pennsylvania on September 1, 1935. On November 20, 1935, she was re-buried in Kansas City, Missouri at Forest Hill Cemetery. Both of her parents are also buried in this cemetery.

### **Scope and content note**

Dr. Sanford Lyne was living in California at the time of his donation and the material was shipped to the library. According to a *Kansas City Star* newspaper article dated September 24, 1941, the collection contained four scrapbooks, 410

pieces of sheet music collected during Miss Lyne's career spanning from 1910 to 1932, the boots she wore in *Rigoletto* and 54 copies of concert and operatic scores used by her. This collection was not kept intact at the time but dispersed in the library. At the time of donation, there was a typewritten list of the articles and books presented and this is part of the collection.

This collection contains photographs, newspaper clippings both loose and in scrapbooks, typewritten reviews of Miss Lyne's performances, music scores, and some assorted ephemeral material. Also included are photocopies of selected clippings on Miss Lyne from the Special Collections mounted newspaper clippings collection as well as photocopies of the correspondence between Dr. Lyne and the library concerning the donation. Included with the original donation in 1941 was a pair of boots, sheet music, and opera scores. It appears that the opera scores and sheet music were incorporated into the library's general collection and the whereabouts of the boots is unknown. At the time of processing this collection, the Art and Music reference librarian was notified of this fact and as these pieces of music are found they are brought to the department and added to the collection.

The scrapbooks were all photocopied and only the photocopies have been retained. Part of the value of the collection is the depth of newspaper coverage found in the scrapbooks and loose clippings. Newspapers from around the world are included and give a thorough printed account of the career of Miss Lyne at its peak. It could not be determined for sure whether Miss Lyne kept the scrapbooks herself or if someone else perhaps in her family did. Many of the newspaper accounts contain photographs of Miss Lyne and give a graphic image of her also in her prime. These include her in both operatic costume and street clothes.

Original collection title: "Felice Lyne Portraits and Newspaper notices, 1911-1914"

### **Collection Inventory**

#### 1. Photographs - 4

- 9 ½" x 14" - Full body, standing. Dover Street Studios, b&w.
- 9 ½" x 11 ½" - Full body, standing. Apeda Studio, b & w.
- 9" x 11" - Full body, seated, Dover Street Studios, b&w.
- 5 ½" x 8" - Partial body, seated, Apeda Studio, b&w.

#### 2. Typewritten Reviews

- *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, April 12, 1915, 4p.
- *London Standard, Daily Telegraph, Evening Standard, Daily Sketch, Daily Graphic, Daily Express*. All Apr. 23, 1912, 8p. (Reviewing Miss Lyne as Juliet in "Romeo & Juliet")
- *London Daily Mail, Daily Graphic, Daily Express, Dramatic News, Morning Post, Standard, and Daily Telegraph*, Nov. 26, 1911-Dec. 9, 1911. (Reviewing Miss Lyne as Gilda in "Rigoletto")
- *London Vanity Fair, Evening Standard, Daily Express, Sporting Life, Standard, Musical News, The Stage*, Dec. 13, 1911. (Reviewing Miss Lyne as Lucia in "Lucia de Lammermoor")

#### 3. Special Collections Department Mounted Clipping Collection, selected clippings on Felice Lyne (Photocopies)

## 4. Ephemeral Material, loose

- "Felice Lyne, Coloratura Soprano," pamphlet, unsp., 4"x5 ½".
- Concert program-Ararat Shrine Concert, Oct. 7, 1912, Convention Hall, Kansas City, Mo., 4 ½" x 6".
- Periodical single sheets
- "The Tatler," no. 544, Nov. 29, 1911, p. 259-60.
- "The Sketch", supplement, Dec. 6, 1911, p. 9-10.
- Postcard – "Miss Felice Lyne...", 3 ½" x 5 ½", b&w.

## 5. Newspaper Clippings, loose in collection, 1912-29. Photocopies only.

## 6. Scrapbooks – 5 (Photocopies only, originals destroyed after photocopying)

- #1 - 6"x9" – Title on front- "Nitke as he appears to Tom. E. Powers" – Newspaper clippings pasted in booklet, 1908-11. Includes song recital program of Miss Lyne pasted in back.
- #2 - 8"x10" – Loose, unbound, 9p., 1911-12.
- #3 - 7"x 8 ½" – 2 ring binder notebook, 27p. (additional blank notebook pages discarded), 1911-12.
- #4 - 11" x 15 ½" – Clippings pasted in an issue of *Musical America* (Miss Lyne is included in magazine itself), Nov. 25, 1911 – Feb. 1, 1913, 48 p.
- #5 - 11" x 15 ½" – Clippings pasted in an issue of *Musical America*, 1911-16, 31p.

## 7. Sheet Music – Currently not listed out but available as part of the collection. At least 36 pieces of sheet music have been returned to the collection.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, February 1996.