

Finding Aid

➤ **Flora Ward HineLine Papers, ca. 1900-1992**◀  
MSS-007

**Size:** 3.5 linear feet

**Provenance:** Leone HineLine, daughter-in-law of Flora Ward HineLine, donated the bulk of this collection to the University of Toledo Libraries in 1975 and 1977. Additions were made to the collection in 1997 and 1998. These materials were received from The University of Toledo Theatre, Film and Dance Department.

**Access:** open

**Related Collections:** Arnold Krastin Papers, MSS-039.

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**Completed by:** Paul Gifford, 1986 and Laura Micham, 1998.

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**Biographical/Historical Sketch**

1879 - born in Pittsfield, Lorain County, Ohio.

c.1898-1908 - teacher in public schools of Oberlin and Elyria, Ohio.

1902 - married Herbert Bey Hinline.

1908 - moved to Toledo, joined staff of Blade, writing society news and acting as music critic.

1930 - began Town Hall Series of lectures; served thereafter as Executive Secretary of Town Hall Series, Inc.

1932 - began Town Hall Concert Series; after two seasons, concerts and drama were presented at the Paramount Theatre by Flora Ward Hinline herself.

1945-1946 - director of Town Hall Theatre.

1956 - discontinued Town Hall Series and engagement of performers.

1962 - died in Toledo.

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**Scope and Content Note**

The material in the Flora Ward Hinline Collection covers the period from the turn of the century to 1992 and documents Mrs. Hinline's activity as a Toledo impresario. Most of it consists of scrapbooks. The photographs are mainly autographed portraits of individuals whom Mrs. Hinline engaged as performers and speakers, but a number of others reflect her personal life and work.

The scrapbooks include the Town Hall Series of lectures; music and theater, mainly at the Paramount Theatre; and the Town Hall Theatre. Each scrapbook contains season programs and clippings thoroughly gleaned from all Toledo newspapers, with other items such as telegrams appearing occasionally. The form of the newspaper items changed little over the years. For the musical and dramatic performances, advertisements and announcements preceding the event were followed by reviews and gossip stories. The material in the Town Hall Series of lectures contains announcements and reports of the speakers' comments, but these latter events also provided news for the society page. Debutantes acted as ushers. The luncheons following the lecturers formed important occasions for society matrons to hobnob with celebrities.

The number of speakers and performers engaged by Mrs. Hinline is too large to mention here. Among others were Winston Churchill, H. G. Wells, Fritz Kreisler, and Eleanor Roosevelt. The autographed photographs in the collection comprise only a small minority of the total number of speakers and performers.

One group of photographs appears to represent a high school athletic event during the 1920s, possibly in Toledo. This is the only material in the collection outside its principal focus.

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**Series List**

<b>S1     Photographs</b>
ca. 1900-1960's
Arranged by type.
The bulk of this series is a collection of mostly autographed portraits of famous people in theater and film in the 1920's-1950's with a smaller group of photographs of FWH, her family, friends, and places she frequented. One of the photographs, apparently of a family member of FWH appears to have been taken at the turn of the century.
<b>S2     Printed Material</b>
ca. 1920-1992
Arranged by type.
Posters, programs, prints, and newspaper clippings relating to FWH's role in and contributions to theaters in Toledo, Ohio.
<b>S3     Scrapbooks</b>
1930-1956
Arranged by type and chronologically.
A collection of materials related to the local theater scene assembled by FWH. Each scrapbook contains season programs and clippings thoroughly gleaned from all Toledo newspapers, with other items such as telegrams appearing occasionally. There are nineteen scrapbooks in all.

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Arrangement

Box	Folder	Folder Title
		<b>S1. Photographs</b>
1	1	Family and personal, ca. 1900-1960's
	2	Personalities, 1 of 2, 1920's-1950's
	3	Personalities, 2 of 2, 1920's-1950's
		<b>S2. Printed Materials</b>
	4	Posters, Prints and Programs, 1920's-1940's
	5	Newspaper Clippings, 1931-ca.1950
		<b>S3. Scrapbooks</b>
	6	Dec. 1930-Dec. 1934
	7	Sept. 1931-Feb 1932
	8	Feb. 1932-Feb. 1935
	9	Sept. 1934-May 1937
	10	Feb. 1935-Apr. 1936
	11	Apr. 1936-Apr. 1937
2	1	Sept. 1936-Mar. 1939
	2	Apr. 1937-Nov. 1938
	3	Dec. 1938-May 1939
	4	Sept. 1939-Nov. 1940
	5	Sept. 1939-June 1942
	6	Nov. 1940-Apr. 1942
	7	Apr. 1942-Mar. 1944
3	1	Sept. 1942-June 1949
	2	Mar. 1944-Jan. 1949
	3	Apr. 1945-Aug. 1946
	4	Feb. 1949-Nov. 1953
	5	Sept. 1949-Jan. 1956
	6	Nov. 1953-Apr. 1956
		<b>ADDITIONS:</b>
	7	97-17: Photographs (theater people, FWH, FWH's daughter-in-law, newspaper clipping: Toledo Blade, 1-30-92)
	8	98-05: Photographs (5 portraits-Hollywood stars of the 1940's and 50's)