

# Charles Leslie Allen Playbook Collection, circa 1826-1900, undated

## Administrative Information

### Creator

Allen, C. Leslie (Charles Leslie), 1830-1917

### Call Number

PN 2220 .A45

### Extent

1 manuscript box (.4 linear feet)

### Repository

Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

### Abstract

Contains nineteenth century prompt books and plays belonging to actor Charles Leslie Allen.

### Terms of Use

The Charles Leslie Allen Playbook Collection is open for research.

### Reproduction of Materials

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### Preferred Citation

[Description and dates], Box/folder number, *Charles Leslie Allen Playbook Collection*, Central Library: Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

### Acquisition

See librarian for acquisition information.

## Biographical Note

Charles Leslie Allen was born in June, 1830 in Boston, Massachusetts. He performed in the first stage presentation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Troy, New York in 1852. "Before he made his professional debut at Troy... he appeared in many amateur productions, and in one of these in Boston he spoke the last words on the stage of the Old Drury Theatre. He made his first appearance in New York in 1880 at Wallack's in *Kit*, but prior to that he was for many years a member of the stock company at the Boston Theatre. In 1887 Mr. Allen appeared in Julia Marlowe's company, and among his roles was Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, a part he also played with Modjeska on one of her American tours. From 1892-1896 he was in John Drew's supporting company, and since 1900 he had played mostly in his daughter's companies."\*

Allen was best known as the father of Viola Allen, a famous stage actress in her own right, who performed in Buffalo eleven times between 1900 and 1910. In 1910, she starred in the world debut of *Love in Livery*, February 15 and 16, at the Star Theatre. Charles Leslie Allen died February 23, 1917 in Stamford, Connecticut.

\* Obituary, *The New York Times*, February 24, 1917, pp. 9.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains a series of 18 prompt books and plays belonging to actor Charles Leslie Allen. These playbooks were performance copies, with most signed and annotated by Allen. Many are in fragile condition; caution is advised.

## Container List

*Arrangement: Alphabetical by title.*

- 1.1            *Born to Good Luck*, undated; by Tyrone Power, signed and annotated by Allen.
- 1.2            *The Captain's Not A-Miss*, undated; by Thomas Egerton Wilks, signed and annotated by Allen.
- 1.3            *The Court of Old Fritz*, undated; by John Frederick Smith, signed by Allen.
- 1.4            *East Lynne*, undated; by Mrs. Henry Wood, signed by Allen.
- 1.5            *The Gambler's Fate*, undated; by H. M. Milner, signed by Allen and Harry Seymour.
- 1.6            *Grandfather Whitehead*, undated; by Mark Lemon, signed by Allen and G. W. Johnson.
- 1.7            *Helping Hands*, undated; by Tom Taylor, signed by Allen.
- 1.8            *Money*, undated; by Edward Bulwer Lytton, signed and annotated by Allen.
- 1.9            *Nursery Chickweed*, undated; by Thomas J. Williams, signed by Allen.
- 1.10          *The Octoroon*, undated; by Dion Boucicault.
- 1.11          *The Pet of the Petticoats*, undated; by John Baldwin Buckstone, signed by Allen.
- 1.12          *Rob Roy*, undated; by Isaac Pocock, signed and annotated by Allen.
- 1.13          *The School of Reform*, 1826; by Thomas Morton, signed and annotated by Allen.

- 1.14            *Simpson & Co.*, undated; by John Poole, signed and annotated by Allen.
- 1.15            *Teddy Roe*, undated; by Edward Stirling, signed by Allen.
- 1.16            *To Oblige Benson*, undated; by Tom Taylor, signed by Allen.
- 1.17            *The Toodles*, undated; by Richard John Raymond, signed by Allen.
- 1.18            *The Wandering Minstrel*, undated; by Henry Mayhew, signed by Allen.

## Search Terms

### Authors

- 700 Boucicault, Dion, 1820-1890
- 700 Buckstone, John Baldwin, 1802-1879
- 700 Lemon, Mark, 1809-1870
- 700 Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron, 1803-1873
- 700 Mayhew, Henry, 1812-1887
- 700 Milner, H. M. (Henry M.)
- 700 Morton, Thomas, 1764-1838
- 700 Pocock, I. (Isaac), 1782-1835
- 700 Poole, John, 1786?-1872
- 700 Power, Tyrone, 1797-1841
- 700 Raymond, R. J. (Richard John)
- 700 Smith, J. F. (John Frederick), 1806-1890
- 700 Stirling, Edward, 1807-1894
- 700 Taylor, Tom, 1817-1880
- 700 Wilks, Thomas Egerton, 1812-1854
- 700 Williams, Thomas J. (Thomas John), 1824-1874
- 700 Wood, Henry, Mrs., 1814-1887

### Subject terms

- 650 Drama—19<sup>th</sup> century
- 650 Theater

### Genre terms

- 655 plays (document genre)
- 655 scripts (documents)