

# THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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historictheatres.org

## **Finding Aid for the LEE SIEVAN COLLECTION (ANTHONY F. DUMAS DRAWINGS)**

Acc No.: xx-004

Future Additions Expected: No

Finding Aid creation: July 23, 2010

Size: Sixty (60) – 10x15” drawings, ink

### **Abstract**

This collection contains ink drawings of theatres by Anthony Dumas collected by Lee Sievan. The drawings are primarily theatre exteriors in the state of New York. Fifty-three of the sixty drawings are original artwork. Seven of the sixty drawings are copies of drawings ordered from the Museum of the City of New York.

### **Background Information**

There is scant information on Anthony Dumas's life. However, it is believed that he grew up in Connecticut and later lived in New York. He may have produced drawings for patent applicants. Anthony F. Dumas created these drawings in the 1920s and 1930s. Drawings may have drawn from the buildings in some cases, but in others he was likely working from a photograph of a building that had already been demolished. Occasionally, he took liberties in his depiction of a building. It is believed that Dumas died in 1943.

Lee Sievan (1902-1990) was a photographer and the wife of painter Maurice Sievan. She also served as librarian and archivist for the International Center for Photography. Her photography was exhibited at the International Center for Photography as well as the Museum of the City of New York.

Lee Sievan contributed Anthony Dumas drawings to be included in an exhibition at the Cooper Hewitt Museum in November 1982. The exhibit “Palaces of Pleasure” was created by author David Naylor. At the suggestion of Mr. Naylor and curator Elaine Dee (of Cooper Hewitt) Ms. Sievan donated the collection of Anthony Dumas drawings to Theatre Historical Society. The bulk of the collection was sent in September of 1982, with the remaining drawings (then on display at Cooper Hewitt) sent at the close of the exhibition.

### **Scope and Contents Note**

The drawings are façades of theatres in New York state with one drawing of the Poli's Theatre in Scranton, PA.

### **Related Materials**

**Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following resources in the THS holdings:**

Bill Clifford Collections (Brett Eddy Drawings)

**Other materials in the Theatre Historical Society holdings may relate to the topics in this archive. Consult the archivist for further research assistance.**

**Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following resources found in **other institutions**:**

Library of Congress holds approximately 250 additional drawings by Anthony F. Dumas. A large portion of these drawings were published in “Theaters” by Craig Morrison (2006).

Museum of the City of New York also holds approximately 230 drawings by Anthony F. Dumas. These drawings are primarily of buildings in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

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END	