

U DP164 Letters of Brook & Bulmer, Solicitors 1813-1837
(Trustees of the Theatres Royal of the York circuit)

Historical Background:

John [Joseph Tate?] Wilkinson may have been the son and successor of Tate Wilkinson (1739-1803) who was actor and manager of the York circuit of theatres from 1766 to 1803. John Wilkinson is recorded as having acted and been involved in the production of plays on the York Circuit from 1779. His wife, a Miss Reynolds, was also involved in theatre productions. Messrs Brook & Bulmer acted as trustees for the theatres on the Wilkinsons' circuit of Theatres Royal which hosted many touring companies.

Custodial history:

Purchased from AE Cox, Southampton, 1 August 1978

Description:

This collection comprises letters sent to John Brook of Messrs Brook & Bulmer, solicitors of York, who were trustees of the Theatres Royal of York, Leeds, Hull, Doncaster and Wakefield (the York Circuit). The letters come from a variety of people and largely concern the finances and tenancy agreements of the theatres. Some of the letters concern the finances of John Wilkinson. Reference is made to the building of scene rooms and the installation of gas lighting. A letter of M C Cummins of Hull to T Wilson explains the disastrous season at Hull in 1829 in terms of ruined wardrobes and scenery and cheap tenancies in rival theatres let to small, 'low class' travelling companies who charge low prices.

Extent: 21 items

Related material:

U DDX/16/6-9, 18-2;

University Theatre playbill collection

U DP208/1-2 York Theatre Royal Circuit Accounts, 1828 - 1830

Related material in other repositories:

Playbills, York Minster Library

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DP164/1	Letter from Broadley & Swann, Hull to John Brook, York Proposed meeting of creditors; '...what do the York Creditors (of Mr. Wilkinson) wish to be done in case the Theatres cannot be let on the Terms proposed' With copy of letter from him to them sending list of debts. Hopes the full amount will not be as high as estimated, no date 2 items	20 Nov 1813
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Hull History Centre: Letters of Brook & Bulmer, Solicitors

U DP164/2	Letter from E. Randall, Hull Acknowledging receipt of letter to Broadley & Swann 1 item	8 Feb 1814
U DP164/3	Letter from W.M. Maude, Hull and Leeds Sending statement of accounts of Mr. Wilkinson's Trust and copy of new patent for York Theatre. Lease of Leeds Theatre to W.J. Hammond; 'as he is to have a preference for York during the public Weeks...we must relinquish the project of Mr. Egerton and the Kembles...the expectations of Mr. C. Kemble will not be realised amongst us'. Money borrowed by Mr. Downe. Sends £50 'to cover your account at the Bank for the Theatre toast' 4 items	22 Jan 1821- 13 Nov 1834
U DP164/4	Letters from Robert Mansel, York Need for a scene - room and manager's office at Hull Theatre; and urgent need for a scene - room at York Theatre. (R.M. being the lessee) 2 items	13 Aug-27 Oct 1821
U DP164/5	Letter from Elizabeth Cummings, Leeds Asking for dividend from estate of John Wilkinson, due to her, to be paid to J.C. Stubbins 1 item	12 Mar 1823
U DP164/6	Letter from Joseph Clarke, Hull Execution of a Bond from Mr. Downe and rent due from him. Application by Mr. Clarke, on behalf of the lessees of the Liverpool Theatre, for a lease of the Yorkshire Theatres, their lease of the Manchester Theatre being about to end. Importance of getting Mr. Downe out of the York and Doncaster Theatres (he has applied for that at Sheffield). Mr. Egerton and Mr. Rayner of Covent Garden Theatre intend to offer for those at York and Hull. York Corporation's proposals to separate York Theatre from Hull and Leeds ('Independently of these towns there will not be a respectable company within 100 miles of York and the conveyance of performers and their paraphernalia from that distance thrice in the year - the Season, the Summer Assizes & Races - will be a heavy expence to a Manager'. Statement of accounts of York Theatre under Mr. Hammond (October 1830 - June 1832) showing a loss of £158.16.1d. List of bondholders of Hull and York Theatres (1837, amended to 1840) 5 items	19 Mar 1827- 14 Feb 1837

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U DP164/7	Letter from M.C. Cummins, King's Theatre, London and Leeds Applying for tenancy of Yorkshire Theatres, wishing to return to his native Yorkshire. Proposes keeping on the company after termination of his tenancy 2 items	12 May 1828- 3 Nov 1829
U DP164/8	Letter from W.J.Hammond, Theatre, Doncaster Deficiencies in his tenancy agreement 1 item	19 Oct 1830
U DP164/9	Letter from Robert Davies, Lendal, York Forwarding an application from Mr. Goodacre 1 item	2 Feb 1833
U DP164/10	Letter from J.B. Wilson, Fulford Distribution of Theatrical Fund 1 item	18 Sep 1833
U DP164/11	Letter from Robert Mansel, Theatre Royal, York to Trustee of York and Hull Theatres Proposals for installing gas lighting at Leeds Theatre, and extending Mrs. Fitzgerald's lease of it. 1 item	1819
U DP164/12	Letter from M.C. Cummins, Hull to T. Wilson Season in Hull 'unprecedented in failure'; spoliation of wardrobe and scenery there; attendances affected by performances at a theatre 'within forty yards of the Regular Building' infringing the Patent and with low admission prices (even sixpence)'. In Wakefield and Doncaster he followed a strolling company of the lowest class to whom the theatres had been let by Mr. Down, and who had removed or deteriorated scenery. He has never taken a shilling from the receipts and has expended over £200 in addition to them. Hopes to be allowed time to recoup. 1 item	16 Mar 1829