

University of Chicago Library Special Collections Research Center

# Guide to the Archibald Clavering Gunter Plays 1880s-1890s



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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Identifier</b>	ICU.SPCL.GUNTERPLAYS
<b>Title</b>	Gunter, Archibald Clavering. Plays
<b>Date</b>	1880s-1890s(inclusive)
<b>Size</b>	.75 linear ft. (2 boxes)
<b>Repository</b>	1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637

**Abstract** Archibald Clavering Gunter (1847-1907), American novelist, dramatist, stockbroker, mining and civil engineer and publisher, was a prolific and popular literary figure in late nineteenth century America. The Archibald Clavering Gunter Plays comprise .75 linear ft. The collection includes ten plays, some in the author's hand and others typescript copies with Gunter's manuscript revisions, plus occasional staging directions and set designs.

## Information on Use

### Citation

When quoting material from this collection the preferred citation is:

Gunter, Archibald Clavering. Plays, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

### Biographical Note

Archibald Clavering Gunter (1847-1907), American novelist, dramatist, stockbroker, mining and civil engineer and publisher, was a prolific and popular literary figure in late nineteenth century America. A native of Liverpool, England, Mr. Gunter was brought to New York by his parents when he was six years old. Shortly thereafter the family moved to San Francisco, where his father, Henry Gunter, was the proprietor of "the first conventional theater to be built in San Francisco...the National." After ten years of employment in a variety of technical areas, A.C. Gunter returned to New York in 1879 and remained there until his death.

Gunter's literary popularity spanned the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The bulk of Gunter's work was published, without advertising, by his own Home Publishing Company and in his own Gunter's Magazine. The critical reception of this work was never enthusiastic. Yet A. C. Gunter enjoyed enormous popularity among the novel-readers and theater-goers of his day. Best known among his novels were Mr. Barnes of New York (1887), Mr. Potter of Texas (1888), That Frenchman! (1889), Miss Nobody of Nowhere (1890), Miss Dividends (1892), Baron Montez of Panama and Paris (1893), The King's Stockbroker (1894), and A Princess of

Paris (1894). Of his plays, the greatest successes were scored by "Two Nights in Rome" (1880), "Fresh, the American" (1881), "The Deacon's Daughter" (1886) and "Prince Karl" (1886).

## Scope Note

The Archibald Clavering Gunter Plays were originally owned by Samuel French, Inc. of New York, a company that published scripts for plays in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. When Thomas C. F. Lowry submitted his doctoral dissertation on Gunter to the University of Chicago in 1956, these manuscripts were still the property of Samuel French, Inc. The plays were evidently given by French to the University of Chicago, which already owned four original Gunter typescripts as part of its Morton Collection (i.e. "The Deacon's Daughter," "Mr. Barnes of New York," "Prince Karl and Two Nights in Rome"). The French manuscripts, plus a photocopy of the Morton Collection's typescript of "The Deacon's Daughter," were shelved with the Morton Collection until they were organized as a separate collection in 1986.

## Subject Headings

- Gunter, Archibald Clavering
- Theater
- Drama

## INVENTORY

### Box 1

#### Folder 1

"Courage, " six acts, typescript and manuscript with numerous corrections in pencil and ink, including stage directions, with two copies of Act Five, 153 pp.

### Box 1

#### Folder 2

"Cuba, A Lost American, " five acts, manuscript, with drawings for stage direction, 219 pp.

### Box 1

#### Folder 3

The Deacon's Daughter, photocopy of the original typescript in the Morton Collection, box 115, number 1143.

### Box 1

#### Folder 4

"The Ingrate, " prologue plus three acts, typescript with numerous revisions in pencil and four original pencil drawings for stage direction, 184 pp.

### Box 1

#### Folder 5

Miss Nobody of Nowhere, prologue only, one polished typescript plus one rough draft in typescript and manuscript, 52 pp.

### Box 1

#### Folder 6

"Monsieur de Monta Lambert, " three acts, manuscript and typescript, with numerous notations in pencil and ink, including stage directions, 126pp.

### Box 1

**Folder 7**

"A Pompeiian Picnic, " two acts, typescript, with minor revisions in pencil, includes three copies of a typescript list of characters and two copies of a typescript description of the plot and proposal for its production, 81 pp.

**Box 1**

**Folder 8**

"Osuri Katsuma" [Tangled Flags], four acts, typescript, with minor revisions in pencil, includes nine original drawings for stage direction.

**Box 2**

**Folder 1**

"The Word in the Air, " four acts, typescript, with minor corrections in ink, 149 pp.

**Box 2**

**Folder 2**

"A Wall Street Bandit, or a Tale of Wall Street, " prologue plus four acts, typescript with numerous notations, corrections and additions in pencil, 172 pp.