Guide to the Uncle Tom's Cabin Collection 1852-1956
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier                ICU.SPCL.UNCLETOMSCABIN
Title                     Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Collection
Date                      1852-1956
Size                      2 linear feet (1 box)
Repository                Special Collections Research Center
                          University of Chicago Library
                          1100 East 57th Street
                          Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract                  Uncle Tom’s Cabin: or, Life Among the Lowly was an anti-slavery novel
                          that profoundly affected American attitudes towards African Americans and
                          slavery in the United States. The collection contains 23 documents, most of
                          which are of British origin and describe or announce theatrical presentations
                          of the tale.

Information on Use

Access                    Open for research. No restrictions.

Citation                  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Uncle Tom’s Cabin.
                          Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago
                          Library

Scope Note                Uncle Tom’s Cabin: or, Life Among the Lowly was an anti-slavery novel that profoundly
                          affected American attitudes towards African Americans and slavery in the United States. The
                          best-selling novel of the 19th century, Uncle Tom’s Cabin is credited both with galvanizing
                          Northern support for the Civil War and with creating a number of durable stereotypes about
                          blacks. Major themes of this sentimental novel are the fundamental incommensurability of
                          slavery and Christianity, the abiding power of Christian love, and the moral power and sanctity
                          of women.

Uncle Tom’s Cabin generated great interest in England. Vendors sold 200,000 copies in 1852,
its debut year. Critics generally agree that this fascination with the tale stemmed from British
antipathy to America. Brits did not necessarily harbor their own national hatred of slavery, but
felt vindicated by the play’s criticism of Americans’ self-professed freedoms.
The collection contains promptbooks, playbills, posters, programs and other pictorial or printed ephemera, most of which are of British origin and describe or announce theatrical presentations of the tale. The announcements of presentations typically contain specific information about actors, scenes, and the venue. Most of the other documents are critical reviews of performances of various adaptations of Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Although the documents span the dates 1852 to 1956, most date from the mid to late 19th century.

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896
- Aiken, George L., 1830-1876
- Slavery -- United States
- Drama

**INVENTORY**

**Box 1**
**Folder 1**
Astley’s Royal Ampitheatre Broadside for "The Entirely New Equestrian Drama of Uncle Toms Cabin," Monday Nov. 22nd, 1852

**Box 1**
**Folder 2**

**Box 1**
**Folder 3**
Cut-out Color Illustration showing different scenes of a young lady and a gentleman with a banjo. No title, no date.

**Box 1**
**Folder 4**
Broadside fragment, [Penny Dreadful], 1850s?

**Box 1**
**Folder 5**
Clipping: "Scene from the New Drama of ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ at the Olympic Theatre"," 2.10.52

**Box 1**
**Folder 6**
Broadside for Uncle Tom’s Cabin at the Royal Olympic Theatre, Monday, Nov. 8th and During the Week (no year given)
Two Programs for "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Royal Adelphi Theatre, Saturday, February 20th (no year given)

Box 1
Folder 8
  Broadside for the Theatre-Royal, Glasgow, Sat. March 11 and a program from The Institute, Eastleigh, Thursday Dec. 1, 1898.

Box 1
Folder 9

Box 1
Folder 10
  Broadside from the Theatre-Royal, Glasgow for Tuesday, March 14, 1854

Box 1
Folder 11
  Broadside for New City of London Theatre, Norton Folgate, Saturday May 28th, 1859

Box 1
Folder 12
  Theatre Guild Magazine, January 1931

Box 1
Folder 13
  Broadside for Theatre-Royal, Dunlop St., Glasgow, Sat. March 18, 1854

Box 1
Folder 14
  Broadside for the Royal Grecian Theatre, December 1860

Box 1
Folder 15
  The Amateur Book Collector. Vol 1. No. 10, June 1951

Box 1
Folder 16
  "A Link With 'Uncle Tom': Negro Controversy in Canadian Town." Clipping from Times Past The Times. Friday May 11, 1956

Box 1
Folder 17
  Clipping from a "Programme" for the Folkstone Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Monday, June 5th 1893

Box 1
Folder 18
  Broadside for the Theatre-Royal, Glasgow, Thursday March 16, 1854

Box 1
Folder 19
  Program for the Princess Theatre, London, Aug. 31, 1878

Box 1
Folder 20
  Program for the Royal Aquarium Theatre, Mon. Sept. 2, 1878
Folder 21
    Program for A Musical Version of Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Richmond Theatre, Sept. 28, 1925
Box 1
Folder 22
    Program for Her Majesty’s Theatre, [1882]
Box 1
Folder 23
    Three Programmes for the Picturedrome, Camborne dated March 13, 20, & 30