The Dumbells Collection
(1917-1976)
Inventory

1 box and 1 package; 603 items; .85 metres.

Includes programs, press clippings, photographs, sheet music, correspondence, scripts, route books and World War 1 memorabilia of the famous all-soldier troupe of Canadian entertainers which originated in France in 1917, and later toured Canada and the United States until 1933. (Also includes non-Dumbell material (1906-1975), relating to Ivor E. (Jack) Ayre.)

(Materials acquired by the library in Nov. 1978, from the estate of Jack Ayre is designated (J.A.))

Env. #1: World War 1 Memorabilia – 15 items (all J.A.)

La Médaille de la Délivrance de la Ville de Mons, France, Sept. 11, 1918 (medal plus small envelope).
Canadian Army Pay Book of Ivor E. Ayre, #681556, May 1, 1918 – Mar. 7, 1919.
Card (“troop mess hall, 1st sitting”).
Movement order from Le Havre to Paris.
Pass for Paris dated Feb. 9, 1919.
Letter from Buckingham Palace wishing godspeed and safe return home. (Facsimile signature of King George V).
Card (“Welcome gallant boys from the citizens of Halifax”).
Menu and program, New Year, 1918, (“In the Field, France”).
Military stripes.
Telegram, Mar. 24, 1919 (Jack Ayre to wife re: arrival in Halifax).
Telegram, Mar. 26, 1919 (Jack Ayre to wife re: departure from Halifax).
2 dried holly leaves.
Program dated Mar. 20, 1919 (“A Grand Concert held on board HMT Olympic”).
Program for sports event (“Canadian Corps Championships, France. Dominion Day, July 1, 1918”).

Env. #2: Correspondence to Jack Ayre (1938-1976) – 12 (J.A.)
Env. #3: Dumbells Reminiscences – 38 items

Notes by Jack Ayre for speeches, interviews, etc. (36 sheets, 1 invitation, 1 notebook) (J.A.)

Env. #4: Dumbells Sketches, original scripts – 8 items (J.A.)

“Billetted in a Barn”; “The Duchess Entertains”; The Dug-Out; “The Estaminet”; “Kit Inspection”; “20 Years After”; sketch with Jack Ayre, Alan Murray and Jack McLaren, dated Nov. 11, 1964; unidentified sketch with sergeant and recruit

(N.B. Use photocopies in Binder #1)

Env. #5: Route Books, etc. – 5 items

2 routes books: 1919-1921 and 1921-1924 (J.A.)
1 route card: 1920
1 note and address book belonging to Ivor E. Ayre (J.A.)

Env. #6: “The Dumbells” television program – 2 items

Presented on Camera Canada, CBC TV (filmed Sept. 1964) (all J.A.)
Toronto Musicians Association television contract with Jack Ayre
5 pages of script (2 typed; 3 hand written by J.A.)

Env. #7: Miscellaneous – 5 items (J.A.)

Menu card from Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, Ont. New Year’s, 1920.
Postcard of RMS Empress of France.
Concert program (‘aboard RMS Empress of France, Aug. 9, 1921’).
Envelope (‘Khaki Productions Limited presenting their new revue Full o’Pep’…) with line drawing of ‘Red’ Newman.

Env. #8: Scrapbook of press clippings, 1918-1923, belonging to Jack Ayre (J.A.)

N.B. Use photocopy in Binder #2
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Env. #9: Loose press clippings, 1918-1975 – 30 items (J.A.)
N.B. Use photocopy in Binder #2

Env. #10: Dumbells Sheet Music – 31 items (J.A.)

“Border Ballad” (1 pub. copy)
“Coal Black Mammy” (from Dumbell Revue of 1922) (2)
“Come Back Old Pal” (from Carry On) (incomplete pub. copy)
“The Dumbell Rag” (1 photocopy; 4 ms. copies)
“Everybody Slips a Little” (from Cheerio) (2 pub. copies).
“Full o’Pep” (1 ms. copy)
“I Know Where the Flies Go” (from Biff Bing Bang) (1 pub. copy)
“I’m a Daddy” (from Dumbell Revue of 1922) (1 pub. copy)
“Oh It’s a Lovely War” (1 pub. copy with lyrics; 14 pub. sheets for various orchestral parts)
“Stony-Broke in No Man’s Land” (from Full o’Pep) (1 pub. copy)
“Take in the Sun” (cover only)

Env. #11: Sheet Music, Manuscript – 28 items (J.A.)

“All Pals Together”
“The Army of Today’s Alright”
“Boys of the Old Brigade”
“Burlington Bertie”
“Bustles and Bows”
“Canadian Capers”
“Cascade” (novelty solo by Jack Ayre) (2)
“The Commanders March”
“Don’t Send Me”
“Finale” (10 parts)
“(Keep Your Head Down) Fritzi Boy” (1 sheet lyrics; 1 sheet music)
“Hats Off to the Men of the Sea”
“Hey Rube”
“I Lost You”
“I’ll Take You Back to Italy” (by Jack Ayre) (2)
“I’m On My Way Back Home to Caroline”
Env. #12: Sheet Music, Manuscript – 29 items (J.A.)

“Italy” (13 parts)
“Marche Militaire” (Schubert)
“March of the Mannikins”
“Normandy” (2 sheets)
“Old Timers” (3 parts)
“On Parade”
“Regimental Song”
“Rose of No Man’s Land”
“Victory Song” (opening chorus)
“Waiting Just For You”
“War Medley” (2 parts)
“Where?”
“Yes Indeed”

Env. #13: Sheet Music, Published – 17 items (J.A.)

“A Broken Doll”
“Cabaret”
“Carry On Madelon”
“Fragrance”
“Have a Smile”
“I Stopped, I Looked and I Listened”
“If You Were the Only Girl in the World”
“Just Rhythm”
“Marching Along Together”
“Nola”
“Old Comrades”
“Roses of Picardy” (1 pub. and 1 ms. copy)
“The Tickle Toe”
“Tipperary”
“We’re On Our Way” (WW. II army theme song by M.W. Plunkett) (2)

Env. #14: Sheet Music, Published – 3 items (J.A.)

Fragment of songbook (p. 9-46) containing 16 songs
Songbook (pub.1917) containing 7 songs. (32 p.)
Songbook (pub. 1918), music from *The Bing Boys on Broadway*, containing 15 songs. (p. 3-80).
Env. #15: Sheet Music from *Chin Up* – 17 items (J.A.)

1939 wartime revue featuring some of the former Dumbells

“Chin Up” (1 ms. copy)
“I’ve Seen Marie” (2 pub. copies)
“(We’re All Going) Over Again” (1 pub. copy; 1 photocopy; 11 ms. copies for various instruments)
“I’m Sending You the Siegfried Line to Hang Your Washing On”

Env. #16: *The Lifebuoy Follies* – 6 items (J.A.)

A wartime revue which originated in 1941 to entertain the Armed Forces in various camps throughout Canada and Newfoundland

2 programs; 1 piece of sheet music (“Opening”); 3 scripts (“Opening and closing number”; “Bathing Beauty Contest”; “Those Hospital Blues” (adapted from “The Duchess Entertains”)

Env. #17: Programs, 1917-1975

1917, France. The Dumbells, Third Canadian Divisional Concert Party.
1921, wk. May 2. Toronto, Grand Opera House. *Biff, Bing, Bang* (photocopy)
1921, Dec. 2. Guelph, Griffins Opera House. *Biff, Bing, Bang* (photocopy)
1923, Jan. 30. Toronto, Grand Opera House. *Full o’ Pep*. (photocopy)
1924, Apr. 11-12. Guelph, Collegiate Auditorium. *Let ‘er Go* (photocopy)
1924, no location. *Ace High*.
1924, wk. Nov. 10. Montreal, His Majesty’s Theatre. *Ace High* (photocopy)
1925, wk. Nov. 9. Montreal, His Majesty’s Theatre. *Lucky 7* (photocopy)
1926, May 7-8. No location. *Three Bags Full* (photocopy)
1927, wk. Sept. 5. Toronto, Royal Alexandra Theatre. *Oo, La, La* (photocopy)
1928, Aug. 27. Toronto, Royal Alexandra Theatre. *Why Worry* (photocopy)
1929, Apr. 9. Guelph, Capitol Theatre. *Here ‘Tis*.
1920s, Unidentified Dumbells production (*Dumbells at Home*?)
1920s, Toronto, Victoria Theatre. *Dumbells at Home* (photocopy)
1940, Jan. 30. Winnipeg, Walker Theatre. Chin Up (flyer)
1955, May 6. Toronto, Massey Hall. Dumbells Salute to A. Hamilton Gault...

(photocopy)

Env. #18: Photographs, Portraits – 29 items (J.A.)

Ayre, Jack (14); Brayford, Jerry (1); Charter, Ted (1); Fenwick, Fred (1); Goode, Jimmy (1); Hamilton, Ross (4); Holland, Arthur “Jock” (6).

Env. #19: Photographs, Portraits – 28 items (J.A.)

Killean, Madelyn (1); Langley, Bertram (1); McLaren, Jack (3); Murray, Alan (4); Plunkett, Al (6); Plunkett, M.W. (6); Plunkett, Al and M.W. (4); Tennant, Bill (2); Young, Leonard (1).

Env. #20: Photographs – 4 items (J.A.)

The Dumbells in France, 1917/18 (in uniform)

Env. #21: Photographs – 25 items (J.A.)

The Dumbells in France, 1917/18 (in costume)

Env. #22: Photographs – 12 items (J.A.)

Performances in London, Eng., 1917/18 (copy of photo added)

Env. #23: Photographs, Biff Bing Bang – 8 items (J.A.)

Env. #24: Photographs, Carry On – 1 item (J.A.)
Env.#25: Photographs, “The Duchess Entertains” (sketch) – 8 items (J.A.)

Env.#26: *The Dumbells* (CBC TV production) – 100 items (J.A.)


Env. #27: Photographs, *HMS Pinafore* – 3 items (J.A.)

Env. #28: Photographs, “Narcissus” (sketch) – 5 items (J.A.)

Env. #29: Photographs, “Twenty Miles Apart” (sketch) – 1 item (J.A.)

Env. #30: Photographs, unidentified – 8 items (J.A.)

A show, possibly titled *Dumbells at Home*, played Victoria Theatre, Toronto in the 1920’s (after 1926?)

Env. #31a: Photographs, Miscellaneous – 4 items (J.A.)

The Dumbell Quartette; photo with 3 Plunketts and 2 unidentified persons; audience welcoming The Dumbells in the Grand Theatre, Calgary; 2 unidentified Dumbells in costume.

Env. #31b: Phonograph – 1 item

10” 78 rpm recording: Red Newman in “We’ve rolled up the old umbrella” and “We’re coming over”. Bluebird B.4674 A4B.

Binder #1: Dumbells sketches (Photocopy of Envelope #4)

Binder #2: Press clippings, 1918-1975

From scrapbook and loose clippings belonging to Jack Ayre (photocopy of Envelopes #8 and #9. (2nd copy in Dumbells vertical file)
Binder #3: Script, *The Dumbells* (revised)

CBC TV drama for the series *Performance* (#2), telecast March 5, 1978, 9 p.m.

Binder #4: Script, *The Dumbells* (duplicate) (J.A.)

Env. #32: Correspondence, etc. – 65 items (J.A.; non-Dumbells)

Correspondence, 1938-1975 (52)
Press clippings, 1938-1973 (19)
Programs, 1936-1964 (4):

1936, May 18. Toronto, Margaret Eaton Hall. Fourth Annual Variety Revue presented by Dorothy Merrill.
1940, June 3. Toronto, Margaret Eaton Hall. Eighth Annual Variety Revue presented by Dorothy Merrill.

Miscellaneous items (16):

In Memoriam Card and obituary of George Martin, Sheepwash, Eng., July 27, 1924
Material relating to a Progress Club Dinner: program of events and lyrics to songs especially written for the occasion (10 sheets)
2 sheets of special lyrics to tune of “Dearie”
2 photographs, unidentified.

Env. #33: Diplomas, citations, etc., 1906-1972 – 7 items (J.A.; non-Dumbells)

(5 filed in this envelope, 2 filed in separate envelope as noted).

London College of Music Certificate, Honours, pianoforte playing, intermediate, Apr. 15, 1908 (in separate package, not in box)

American Legion Certificate of Appreciation for Cooperation, 2nd Annual Show, Hippodrome, N.Y.C., May 15, 1921.
Canadian Progress Club certificate of active membership, June 21, 1961.
Lions Club Membership, Sept. 1962.
Plaque: Ontario Place. (“Presented to Jack Ayres (sic.) in appreciation of your
participation at Ontario Place 1972”) (in separate package, not in box)

**Production Record, Dumbells (and related) Shows, 1917-1955**

(P) denotes programs, either originals or photocopies, located in Dumbells Collection
(Special Collections, Art Room) or in theatre program collection

(TPL) denotes Toronto Public Library Scrapbooks (FILM T686.5)

(RA) denotes Royal Alexandra Theatre Scrapbooks (FILM R8848.2).

(McA) denotes McAlpine Scrapbooks (Special Collections, Art Room)

The Dumbells, Third Canadian Divisional Concert Party, France, 1917. (P) (1 copy in Dumbells Collection only)
Y-Emmas, Third Canadian Divisional Concert Party, Mons, France. 1919. (P) (1 copy in Dumbells Collection only).


*Biff Bing Bang*, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Oct. 3, 1919; wk Nov. 3, 1919 (P); Dec. 1920 (P); wk. Apr. 18, 1921; wk. Apr. 25, 1921;
wk. May 2, 1921 (P); wk. Sept. 5, 1921 (P); wk. Sept. 12, 1921 (P); wk. Nov. 21, 1921
(P).

*Biff Bing Bang*, Ambassador Theatre, NYC.
May 1921 (TPL #125, p.300-1)

*Biff Bing Bang*, Grand Opera House, Kingston.

*Camouflage*, 4th Canadian Divisional Concert Party (Maple Leafs), Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Feb.28, 1921 (P)

*Camouflage*, 4th Canadian Divisional Concert Party (Maple Leafs), Star Theatre, St.
Thomas, Ont.
Feb.4-5, 1921. (P)
Dumbells Revue of 1922, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
wk. May 8, 1922 (P); wk. of June 3, 1922 (P); wk. of Aug. 28, 1922.

Private Bagsholt in Court Martial, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Aug. 8, 1922.

Carry On, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Jan. 1, 1923; Apr. 1923 (TPL #125, p.300).

Full o’Pep, Grand Opera House, Toronto.

Cheerio, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Aug. 27, 1923 (P)

Cheerio, Princess Theatre, Toronto.
Dec. 3-15, 1923 (P)

Rapid Fire, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Feb. 18, 1924 (P)

Let ‘er Go, Collegiate Auditorium, Guelph.
Apr. 11-12, 1924. (P)

Let ‘er Go, Grand Opera House, Toronto.
2 wks. Apr. 14, 1924.

Ace High (6th Annual Revue), Grand Opera House, Toronto.
Aug. 25, 1924 (P); Dec. 29, 1924 (P)

Ace High, His Majesty’ Theatre, Montreal.
wk. Nov. 10, 1924 (P)

Ace High, Walker Theatre, Winnipeg.

Stepping Out (The Originals), Grand Opera House, Toronto.
March 8, 1925.

Oh, Yes, Royal Alexandria Theatre, Toronto.
May 11-23, 1925 (TPL #238, p. 99)

Lucky 7, Royal Alexandria Theatre.
Aug. 31-Sept. 12, 1925 (P); Dec. 28, 1925-Jan. 9, 1926 (TPL #238, p. 108)
Lucky 7, Capitol Theatre, Guelph.  
Sept 30-Oct. 1, 1925 (P)

Lucky 7, His Majesty’s Theatre, Hamilton.  
wk. Nov. 9, 1925 (P)

Three Bags Full, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
wks. May 10, May 22, 1926 (P)

Joy Bombs, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
Aug. 30-Sept. 11, 1926; Dec. 27, 1926-Jan. 1, 1927.

That’s That, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
May 9-14, 1927 (P)

Oo, La, La, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
Sept. 5-10, 1927 (P); Oct. 17-22, 1927.

Bubbling Over, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
May 21-26, 1928.

Why Worry, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
Aug. 27-Sept. 8, 1928.

Here ‘Tis, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
March, 25-30, 1929.

Come Eleven, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
Nov. 4-9, 1929 (RA, p.F39-44)

As You Were, Royal Alexandra Theatre.  
Dec. 21-26, 1931 (RA, p.F533-546); Sept. 2, 1933.

As You Were, Capitol Theatre, Guelph.  
Jan. 20, 1932 (P)

Twenty Years After (Canadian Corps Reunion Revue), Coliseum, CNE.  
July 28, 1938.

Chin Up, His Majesty’s Theatre, Montreal.  
Dec. 25, 1939.

Chin Up, Walker Theatre, Winnipeg.  
Jan. 30, 1940 (P)
May 6, 1955 (P)

Material in Other Locations

Scott, R.B.  *A study in English Canadian dramatic literature.* University of Toronto.
Sept. 1968, pp. 133-7. (819.2209 S18, Stacks)

Plunkett, A.B.  *Al Plunkett, the Famous Dumbell.* (792.7028 P494 P494, Perart Openshlf)

Vertical Files, Performing Arts Centre:

Toronto Public Library Scrapbooks, no. 238, pp.91-2 (FILM T686.5): article on costumes by Martha for Dumbells production *Oo, La, La*, 1927.

Sheet music: “All that you can hear is ‘Yum yum yum yum’”, sung by Al Plunkett. (Mae Edwards Collection, Special Collections, Art Room).

Production Index: *Ace High; As You Were; Biff Bing Bang; Camouflage; Cheerio; Chin Up; Dumbells Revue of 1922; Let ‘er Go; Lucky 7; Oo, La, La; Rapid Fire; That’s That; Three Bags Full.*