

## Finding Aid for Broadbent Family Collection

**Date range:** 1911-1975 and undated (bulk 1920s-1950s)

**Finding aid created by:** Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, April 2019

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**Extent:** 0.33 linear feet

**Abstract:**

This collection consists primarily of programs and other ephemera related to theater in the Ardens from the 1930s to the 1950s, some of which highlight the Broadbent family's participation in various productions. There are also photographs of people and places in the Ardens, mostly dating from 1929 to 1939.

**Accession number:** 2018.023.001

**Language:** Materials primarily in English; some materials in Esperanto

**Acquisition Information:** Gift of Richard Broadbent, 2018

**Access Restrictions:** The collection is open for research.

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**Cite as:** [item], folder, Broadbent Family Collection, Arden Craft Shop Museum

**Biographical Note:**

Earl Livingston Broadbent (1886-1972) and Margaret Emminger Broadbent (1887-1973), originally from Philadelphia, married in 1913 and settled in Arden, Delaware the same year. Earl Broadbent, a physical therapist, was active in the Ardensingers and the Arden Players Gild and served as a clerk of the Arden Trustees. Margaret Broadbent was a teacher at the Arden School, retiring in 1958. She was also a talented musician, frequently acting as the accompanist for Ardensingers productions, and served as president of the Merry-Go-Rounders. The Broadbents had four children, all born in Arden: Robert L. Broadbent (1918-1989), Dorothy Broadbent Winter, Helen Broadbent

Shirley, and Jeanne Broadbent Harris. Robert and Helen were also active in local theatrical productions. Robert was an avid photographer and likely took many of the photographs in this collection.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection consists primarily of programs and other ephemera related to theater in the Ardens from the 1930s to the 1950s, some of which highlight the Broadbent family's participation in various productions. There are also photographs of people and places in the Ardens, mostly dating from 1929 to 1939.

The collection contains numerous programs from the Robin Hood Theatre dating from 1933 to 1957. Robert Broadbent is listed as an usher in Robin Hood programs dated 1933-1936 and as the Chief Usher in programs from 1937 to 1940. The family's connection to the Robin Hood Theatre after 1940 is unclear. Programs from Ardensingers and local Federal Theatre Project productions show that multiple members of the Broadbent family were active in theater from the 1930s to the 1950s. Margaret Broadbent was listed as the accompanist for several Gilbert & Sullivan productions while Helen Broadbent, Earl Broadbent, and Robert Broadbent acted in various productions.

The collection also contains several pamphlets and flyers, including a 1911 copy of "Arden Themes," an undated copy of Scott Nearing's "From Capitalism to Communism," an advertisement for a 1919 art exhibition with a design by Buzz Ware, and a promotional flyer for the 1914 Arden Fair. The Arden Fair flyer has pencil annotations of words in Esperanto along with their English translations.

Finally, the collection includes a series of photographs of people and places in the Ardens, most of which date from 1929-1939. These include images of the Robin Hood Theatre, the B & O Railroad Station, the Gild Hall, the Old Mill, and the Craft Shop. There are also images of residents skating on the frozen creek near Marcus Aurelius Renzetti's house and photos of Robert, Helen, and Jean Broadbent. Many of the photographs were probably taken by Robert Broadbent.

**Subjects:**

- Arden (Del.)
- Ardensingers
- Theater
- Robin Hood Theatre

**Separated Materials:**

Felt Arden pennant (2018.023.002)

**Container List:**

	<b>Broadbent Family Collection</b>
F1	Robin Hood Theatre programs, 1933
F2	Robin Hood Theatre programs, 1934
F3	Robin Hood Theatre programs, 1935
F4	Robin Hood Theatre programs, 1936-1939
F5	Robin Hood Theater programs, 1940-1957
F6	Ardensingers programs, 1932-1953
F7	Federal Theatre Project programs, 1937 and undated
F8	Other theatre programs, undated
F9	Pamphlets and ephemera, 1911-1919 and undated
F10	Photographs, 1929-1939, 1975