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Barto Performing Arts Collection, 1946-2003

Harold and Virginia Barto were both graduates of Lycoming College. Virginia received her master's degree in library science from Drexel University. Harold attained both a master's and a doctorate from Rutgers University. He was a professor of American History. In later years, they traveled to Europe during the summer, and made sure to spend extra time in London to enjoy the shows. The collection was donated in 2019 by their children: Elizabeth Stauder and Jeffrey Barto.

Box 1:

Collection of Playbills and Showbills mostly from New York City in the Broadway district. The programs date from March 1950 to May 1990. Each has the date of the show they attended on the front of the program. Some of the Theaters they visited multiple times. These include:

- Ambassador Theatre
- Alvin Theatre
- Broadhurst Theatre
- Century Theatre
- Circle in the Square Theatre
- Circle Repertory Company
- City Center
- Eugene O'Neill Theatre
- John Golden Theatre
- Lyceum Theatre
- Neil Simon Theatre
- New Apollo Theatre
- New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre
- Mark Hellinger Theatre
- Morocco theatre
- Palace Theatre
- Plymouth Theatre
- Roundabout Theatre Company
- Shubert Theatre
- St. James Theatre
- The Booth Theatre
- The Broadway Theatre

Box 2:

Includes the Playbills dating from May 1990 to December 1993. The remaining programs are from various forms of performing arts. The left side of the box are programs related to theatre shows, ranging from the 1940s through early 2000s. The right side of the box are all the Stagebills from Carnegie Hall, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Kennedy Center. The back half of the right side are various music and dance programs. There are also more than 20 programs of productions by the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

The couple visited London more frequently after Harold retired.

London trips occurred most often in the late 1980s and 1990s during the months of March and August. Theatres visited most frequently included:

- Adelphi Theatre
- Albery Theatre
- Aldwych Theatre
- Apollo Theatre
- Comedy Theatre
- Gielgud Theatre
- The Globe
- Haymarket
- Lyric Theatre
- Royal National Theatre
- Savoy Theatre
- Vaudeville Theatre
- Wyndham's Theatre

Box 3:

The main items in Box 3 are oversized programs. They are organized chronologically, but are mixed between Theatre, Art, and Dance. These include the larger programs, newspaper clippings, and London theatre guides. There is also a folder with several undated items.