

Handlist 24: Sources for Theatre and Performance

Contents

1	Theatre, dance and other performance records	page 2
2	Circus records	page 12
3	Puppets	page 13
4	Cock fighting, Cockpits and Bearbaiting	page 13
5	Secondary sources	page 14
6	Useful addresses and websites	page 14

1 Theatre, dance and other performance records

These items are listed in order of document reference. You will need to quote this reference if you wish to view the original documents when visiting the Lancashire Record Office.

This is not an exhaustive list. Collections are being catalogued and new items discovered constantly. Please bring to our attention any other sources that you may come across and they will be added to this source list.

In addition to those records listed here, newspapers are likely to be useful in giving advertisements and reviews of productions, and trade directories will give the location of theatres and possibly name their managers. Not all amateur, school and parish productions and societies for which LRO holds records are listed here.

For online catalogues see

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/advanced-search.aspx?tab=1>

http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/record_office/services/catalogue.asp

CC/CCC 4 acc 7203 (Box 13)	Applications for registration of theatrical employers 1925-c1950
CC/KV 3	Index to licensed premises in Lancashire under the Theatres Act 1968
CC/NV 178	Theatres Act 1968: miscellaneous LCC Parliamentary Committee correspondence re grants of licences, 1968-69
CNP/2/3/2/4	Apprenticeship indenture of Robert Lingard of Preston to John Hodgson of Preston to become a musician, n.d.
CR 18/6	Bury Coroner's inquest on Marius Silaborn, circus performer and variety artiste, who died on stage at Bury Hippodrome; an animal trainer and acrobat, he used the stage name Leo Nobles. Inquest held 23 March 1922, inquest 65
CUEC 1/13	King St Mission Church, Eccles: Amateur Dramatic Society minutes 1944-53
DDB 72/459	Letter describing costumes possibly loaned by Garrick for a performance at Preston Theatre, 1773
DDB 72/1581	Letter referring to Preston Theatre, 1773

DDB/acc/627 Box 2	Pack of hand printed playing cards with riddles, verses, names inscribed c.1790-1820
DDBD acc. 3019 5/91, 101-102	Papers of Colne Amusements Ltd, with other papers relating to the King's Theatre, Colne, 1911-20 RESTRICTED ACCESS
DDCL 1194/28	Letter from J C Ridyard, Queen's Theatre, Manchester, desiring a theatre in Lytham, 1843
DDCM further deposit 'Preston'	Accounts and Correspondence of Preston Pleasure Gardens 1876 - 1884
DDEY acc. 5400	Scrap books of theatre characters drawn by Patience Arnold 1921-57, and programmes for Fylde theatres (mainly Blackpool) 1920-60s
DDF 2438/103	Letter mentioning a masque at Court performed by the Queen and the ladies, 1608
DDGR Misc Papers Bundle 4	Programmes for London Theatres: Criterion, Savoy, Gaiety, Prince of Wales etc., 1893-94
DDHH	Theatre sales particulars: Athenaeum, Lancaster, 1906 (DDHH 1/315); Winter Gardens, Morecambe, and King's Palace Theatre and Royal Hippodrome, Preston, 1933 (DDHH 1/934)
DDHU 53/82/298	Notice concerning the reopening of Bolton Theatre, c.1820
DDHU 53/82/ 308-310	Play bills for Lancaster Theatre Royal and Bolton Theatre, 1814-16
DDKE/10/1/4/49	Letter from Edmund Hopwood to Archbishop of York re Preachers in Lancashire describes <i>The "enormoties" of the Sabboth, in Lancashire, which require suppression are these:-- "Fayres, marketts, wakes, ales, maye-games, pypinge and dauncing, bear-beates, bull-beates, resorting to ale-houses in tyme of dyvyne service, huntinge, hawkinge, and all manner of unlawfull gaminge."</i> 1591
DDM 39/101	Deed relating to part of a building [in Liverpool?] formerly used as a theatre, 1788
DDMC 34/24	Playbill for "Soldier's Daughter" and "Cinderella" at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane [London], 1804

- DDPR 28/1-6 Playbills for theatres in Blackburn, Lancaster and Preston, 1787-1867:
 /1 Blackburn New Theatre (12) 1787 [see G C Miller, Blackburn: the Evolution of a Cotton Town (1951), where these and others are transcribed or summarised]
 /2 The Theatre, Blackburn (2) 1826
 /3 Lancaster Theatre Royal (2) 1805, 1825
 /4 New Theatre, Preston (1) 1804
 /5 The Theatre, Preston (1) 1816
 /6 Preston Theatre Royal (73) 1824-67
- DDPR 138/76 Scrapbook including 4 playbills, 1800-02
- DDRE 17/1-4 Oldham theatres: Theatre Royal daily returns 1884-85 (gives names of performance and touring company and number of seats sold); Colosseum Theatre account book 1901-03 (gives details of performances and daily receipts); Empire Theatre ledger 1899-1913; Grand Theatre account book 1913-17
- DDSC 132 Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens records including legal papers and plans, 1774-1925 (for sales particulars 1902 see DDSC 139/1)
- DDTR Box 256 File of correspondence relating to the Palace Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, 1920-30
- DDTS box 123 Preston Theatre Royal: correspondence, playbills, accounts and deeds, 1867-79
- DDWW 3/15/12 Business papers concerning the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, 1934-41
- DDX 3/94 Programme of Blackpool children's pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk", 1963
- DDX 3/106 Programmes of children's pantomimes (27), 1915-60
- DDX 70 acc. 881 Deeds to Lancaster Theatre C19
 Box 28
- DDX 74/16/70-71 Sales particulars of theatres in Liverpool, Preston, Manchester and Salford, 1932-33
- DDX 75/154 Assignment of share in Rochdale Theatre, 1807
- DDX 89/1 Handbill advertising musical concert at Preston Town Hall, 1762

- DDX 89/2 Handbill advertising a new comedy, "Folly as it Flies", at the New Theatre, Preston, for the benefit of Mr and Mrs Siddons, 1802
- DDX 104 acc. 7410 Preston Theatre proprietors' minute book 1844-67 and leases 1805-67
- DDX 191 acc. 9626 Ormskirk Grammar School: programmes for various theatrical, sporting and other events 1908-68 (Box 34)
- DDX 207/97 Ticket for a seat at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane [London], 1842
- DDX 211/21, 26 Playbills for performances of "Macbeth", "The Beaux' Stratagem" and "High Life Below Stairs" at the Theatre, Leigh, 1789 and 1804
- DDX 282/1-4 Theatre bills for Theatres Royal, Bradford and Manchester, 1800, 1812-13, 1862
- DDX 305 Upholland Grammar School: collection of programmes and photographs relating to school theatrical productions (chiefly 1970s)
- DDX 334/41 Insurance policy for William Horton of Chadderton's Theatre or cockpit near Marsden's Row, Manchester, 1759
- DDX 380 Prestwich Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society minutes, accounts, and letter book, 1918-37
- DDX 398/40 Prologue to the new farce "The Candidate", 1782
- DDX 398/43 Advertisement for "King Lear" to be presented at the New Theatre in Back Lane, Preston, 1781
- DDX 398/105 Memorandum concerning theatre in Preston, 1852
- DDX 519/69 Music and drama programmes for events in Whitegate, Blackpool, Cleveleys, Fleetwood etc., 1929-55 [DDX 519 also includes handbills etc. for concerts]
- DDX 579/25 "The Last Night of Terror", a one-act play by Victoria Armitage, c1920
- DDX 595/58 Theatre programmes: Birmingham, Blackpool, Preston, Liverpool, Southport, Manchester, London, York, Brussels, Ostend, Rouen and Paris, 1890-1933
- DDX 679/2-20 Theatre and concert posters: Bolton 1810; Bury 1807; Crompton Shaw Concert Room 1809; Manchester Theatre Royal 1808-09; Oldham 1811; Rochdale 1794, 1798, 1802, 1805, 1809, n.d.

- DDX 706/1 Blackpool Musical Festival programmes etc., 1901-66
- DDX 706/3/1 Blackpool Amateur Operatic Society cast photographs c.1900-05
- DDX 706/3/2 Blackpool Glee and Madrigal Society programme and history, 1921-31
- DDX 706/3/3/1 British Music Society, Blackpool Branch, programme for song recital 1924
- DDX 818/42 Prologue for an Oldham play, n.d. C19th
- DDX 885/2/6 Programme of Palladium Theatre, London 1920
- DDX 892/2 Waterloo Grammar School, Crosby: school play programmes, 1939, 1964-68
- DDX 951/22 Dyeline print of plan of Blackpool Winter Gardens and Pavilion Co. estate at street level, n.d. [early C20]
- DDX 985
acc 9896 Chorley Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society minute books 1956-61 and 1971-1976 (see DDX 1861 for earlier minutes)
- DDX 1040/4 Programme for the opening of the Prince of Wales Theatre, Blackpool, 1877
- DDX 1040/8-9 Programmes for the Feldman Theatre and New Opera House, Blackpool, 1948
- DDX 1101/92/1-2 Visitors' books at Mrs Robinson's, Burnley, theatrical artists' lodgings, 1897-1909
- DDX 1119/11/1-13 Scripts of the little plays of Samlesbury Hall, 1929-41
- DDX 1181/6 Plans concerning alterations to the Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, 1899-1900 [a Frank Matcham design]
- DDX 1221/1-2 Programmes of theatre entertainments in Blackpool 1960-61 and Morecambe 1959-60
- DDX 1291/20 Programmes for productions by the Calderstones Revue and Dramatic Society in the Hospital Theatre, Calderstones, 1987-92
- DDX 1291/22 Collection of programmes relating to theatrical, musical and other entertainments in Preston, 1972-86

- DDX 1291/37-38, 45, 56-57, 59, 61, 63, 67-70 Printed seasonal programmes for Preston Guild Hall and Charter Theatre, The Rose Theatre, Edge Hill, Ormskirk, Southport Arts Centre, Southport Theatre and Floral Hall, the Nuffield Theatre, Lancaster, St Helens Citadel Arts Centre, Preston Playhouse, Dukes Theatre, Lancaster, Burnley Mechanics, King George's Hall, Blackburn, Darwen Library Theatre and Lancaster Grand Theatre 2002-07
- DDX 1291/65 Collection of programmes relating to theatrical, musical and other entertainments in Preston, Lancaster and Blackburn 2006
- DDX 1379/1/1-6 Blackpool Grand Theatre programmes 1981-2003, and brochure including history, 1994
- DDX 1379/2-5 Historical notes on the Royal Hippodrome and the Kings Palace Theatre, Preston, and on proprietors W H Broadhead & Sons, by 'The Ancient Newsgatherer' [A Burt-Briggs], 1982; and printed programmes for Blackpool Opera House 1952, Blackpool Queen's Theatre 1954, Preston Palace Theatre 1949-55, and Preston Royal Hippodrome 1953-57
- DDX 1438/13-14 Printed programme and admission ticket for the Royal Variety Performance at Blackpool Opera House, 13 Apr. 1955
- DDX 1462/2/3 Handbill for a concert by the [Irish] Emerald Minstrels at Preston Corn Exchange, n.d. [1865]
- DDX 1514/1 Blackpool Musical Festival, printed syllabuses and programmes etc., 1909-29
- DDX 1514/2 Printed programmes and handbills for musical festivals and concerts in Blackpool, Liverpool, Lytham, Manchester, Morecambe and Warrington, c.1910-47
- DDX 1572/3/1 Programme for the comic opera "Dorothy", performed by the Burnley St Catherine's Amateur Operatic Society, 1905
- DDX 1572/3/2 Programme for the comic opera "Iolanthe", performed by the Burnley St Catherine's Amateur Operatic Society at the Victoria Opera House, Burnley, 1908
- DDX 1603/1 Concert programme for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Blackpool, 1891
- DDX 1640 Marton Parish Church Operatic and Dramatic Society minutes 1931-76, reports 1946-58, balance sheets 1949-61, programmes of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and other productions 1932-94, and printed pamphlet on the Society's history

- DDX 1657/6 Curtain Up: The Hesketh Amateurs - in Pantomime, by Jim Whittingham (T E Whittingham), 1988, containing reproductions of programmes 1951-88
- DDX 1683 Hylda Baker, actress and comedienne: records including scripts, correspondence, financial information and playbills and programmes, 1940s-70s
- DDX 1849/1/5 Programmes of the little plays of Samlesbury Hall, with newscuttings and ephemera, 1930-66
- DDX 1861
acc 8665 Box 2 Chorley Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society minutes 1933-51 (see DDX 985 for later minutes)
- DDX 1964 Morecambe Royalty Theatre minutes 1919-57, programmes 1939-59; Morecambe Repertory Theatre minutes 1948-57
- DDX 1974/1 Programme for Bacup Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society production of "Call Me Madam", 1956
- DDX 1977 Blackpool Opera House summer season programme (featuring Tessie O'Shea, Terry-Thomas *et al*), 1950; and Preston theatre programmes (Empire Theatre, Royal Hippodrome Theatre, Palace Theatre, and Preston and District Amateur Operatic Society), 1926-47
- DDX 2152/1 Blackpool Winter Gardens programme 1917
- DDX 2321 Plans and elevations of the Royal Hippodrome Theatre and the Kings Palace Theatre, Preston, C20 (acc. 9106); A Pictorial Souvenir of Reginald Salberg Repertory Players at Preston Royal Hippodrome, 1949 (acc. 9370)
- DDX 2322
acc. 9101 Blackpool Grand Theatre Trust Ltd, Blackpool Grand Theatre (Arts and Entertainments) Ltd, and Blackpool Grand Theatre Catering Co Ltd, minutes, annual reports and accounts, 1981 - 2000
- DDX 2345 Amateur concert programmes, Blackpool and the Fylde, 1938-43
- DDX 2349/8 Printed programmes, newscuttings, artistes' photographs, publicity and correspondence, and accounts relating to the Grand Old Tyme Music Hall presentations produced by the Colne and District Round Table at the Municipal Hall, Colne, 1971-76

- DDX 2349/9 Printed programme for Colne Operatic Society's production *The Student Prince* at Colne Municipal Hall, Mar. 1973
- DDX 2398 Lancashire Theatre Programmes: Morecambe Royalty Theatre c.1940; Blackpool Queens Theatre 1956, Grand Theatre 1949-60, Opera House 1955, Royal Pavilion 1950, Winter Gardens Pavilion 1949; Bolton Theatre Royal 1947-48, Hippodrome 1947; Preston Royal Hippodrome 1947; Oldham Coliseum 1957
- DDX 2441 Programme for Winter Gardens, Morecambe 1941
acc 9581
- DDX 2468 Programmes for theatrical and other entertainments in Preston, Blackpool, Manchester, Liverpool etc 1961-2003
acc 9674
- DDX 2498/1 Programmes for "Moulin Rouge" at the Hippodrome, Blackpool, "Toni and the North Pier Orchestra" 1949-1951 and "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Winter Gardens Pavilion, Blackpool, c1940s-1950s
- DDX 2515/1 Preston Theatre Festival file of correspondence including handbills and other publicity material 1985-88
- DDX 2542/2 Printed programme for "A Chinese Honeymoon", Preston and District Amateur Operatic Society musical comedy production at the Empire Theatre, Preston, 7-12 February 1927
- DDX 2547 Programmes for amateur operatic and dramatic productions, particularly by groups from Lancaster University c1981-83 but including Ainsdale 1981, Birkdale 1981, Blackpool 1927, Hapton c1980, Lancaster 1945-46 and Southport 1981-82
acc 9954
- DDX 2808 Papers relating to James Taylor of Lancaster, singer, and "Priory Singers", including photographs of Heysham and Blackburn Amateur Operatic Societies and various programmes for musical, operatic and amateur dramatic events in Lancashire, 1929 – 1949
acc 10031
- DP 281/48 Letter from James Maxwele, actor, asking for parish relief (Bolton?), n.d. c.1830
- DP 311 Playbill, Theatre Royal, Preston, 1852
[This appears to be a spoof, possibly election-related?]
- DP 326/20 Letter from John Hudspeth, Queen's Theatre, London, giving news of theatre life, 1847
- DP 473/2/1 Print from an engraving of Barton Booth, actor, n.d. [C18]

DP 498/2	Ballet and dance programmes, Lancashire and London venues, 1945-56
DP 509 acc 9878	Lathom House scrapbook including <i>inter alia</i> programmes for Bootle-Wilbraham family theatrical productions at Lathom House 1849-97
MAC acc 8903	Amateur Dramatic Society programme for Whalley Road (Central) Methodist Chapel, Accrington, 1959
MCO 3 acc 7337/1	Skipton Road Methodist Church, Colne: amateur players minute books 1950-68
MBNE 59/364-371	Licences for theatrical performances in Nelson 1893-1959
MRO 17/31	Stage play licence, Rakefoot Methodist Church, Crawshawbooth, Dec. 1946
PLWI 30/1	Register of theatrical employers in Wigan, 1926-68
PR 3067/14/2-4	Musbury C of E Church: St Thomas Amateur Players, minute books 1916-37 and treasurers' accounts 1908-31
PR 3142/14/5	Earcroft Pierrot Troupe committee meetings minute book 1914-17
PR 3142/14/10	Darwen St Cuthbert's Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society minute book 1931-37
PR 3165/14/25	Minutes of St Leonard's Church, Penwortham, amateur dramatic society, 1935-60
PSBU 7/1	Specifications and conditions of contract for works at the Empire Theatre, Burnley, for the Victoria Theatre Co Ltd, Jul. 1910
PSPR 2/207 et al	Plans of licensed theatres in Preston, 1898-1957
QSB 1/106/72	Information concerning the acting of "Henry VIII" in the loft of an alehouse at Warrington, 1632
QSO [2/213?]	Licensing rules, Salford Hundred, 8 Feb. 1844
QSP 10/22	Statement naming people who have acted plays and interludes in Woodplumpton area, 1648
QSP/1582/35	Committal at Hundersfield of James Heward, actor and juggler, to [Manchester?] House of Correction 1746/7

- QSP 2338/37-38, 2358/3, 2374/44 Petitions of John Stanton, comedian, for theatrical licences, Preston and Bury, 1794-96
- QSP 2511/2-3 Petition of William McCready, comedian, for licence for the Rochdale Theatre, with grant, 1805
- SMWA 3 Brownedge St Mary's RC High School and Sports College: photographs, newscuttings and other records relating to school events including *inter alia* theatrical productions c1960-2007
- WCW 1581 Will of Alexander Houghton of Lea, 1581
- WCW 1638 Will of William Sandes of Preston, 1638, bequeathing to his son "my Shewe called the Chaos, the Wagon, the Stage, and all the goyners tooles and other ymplements & appurtenances to the said Shewe belonging..."
- WCW 1771 Will of William Gibson of Covent Garden, London but late of Theatre Royal, Liverpool, 1771

2 Circuses

CBBU/127	Burnley Borough Council building plans: 3672 Burnley Circus, Parker Lane: wooden structure to be used as a circus (George Howarth), 1889 4175 Trafalgar Street: circus building (corrugated iron) (George Weldon), 1891 5422 St James Street: temporary circus (Thomas Moorhouse, Nottingham), 1897
CC/CCC 4 acc 7203 (Box 13)	Applications for registration of performing animals 1926-1946
DDCM 2/185-203	Legal papers in Samwell vs. Wrigley, including plan, concerning the demolition of a circus on Blakeley Moor, Blackburn, 1838-40
DDHU 53/82	Printed advertisements/handbills for S Polito's Royal Menagerie, London, c.1812 and c.1821 (Folios 299 and 318)
DDPR 28/7	Poster advertising Pablo Fanque's Circus Royal at Preston, 1842
DDX 1040/7	Programme for Blackpool Tower Circus, 1948
DDX 1221/1/5	Programme for Blackpool Tower Circus, 1961
DDX 1291/60	Blackpool Tower and Circus printed advertising flier and programme 2004
DDX 1462/2/2	Handbill advertising circus in Preston (equestrianism), 1820
DDX 1482/69-70	Posters advertising William Manders' Grand National Mammoth Menagerie (circus) on its visit to Kirkham, 1866
DP 412/1/42-43	Letters noting the arrival of Wallet's circus at Farnworth and approving of its jugglers 1860
MBAC 23/3	Accrington Markets letter book, 1890-1898 (includes loose bundle of correspondence re circus and fairground coming to town, 1890-1895)
NTSK 4/1/344, 348-349	Circus licences for Skelmersdale 1973-82

3 Puppets

- CNP 2/13/72 Codman's Punch and Judy, Liverpool: letter and advertising material, 1882
- DDMC 34/57 Puppet theatre scenery, n.d. [c.1850]
- WCW Infra Administration bond of Henry Scott of Ashton, puppet showman, 1776

4 Cock fighting, Cockpits and Bearbaiting

- DDGE (E) 2 Assignment of a message called Cockpit in Wigan, 1677
- DDK box 231 Plan of Preston Cockpit 1790
- DDK/815/24 Lease of Cockpit premises and adjoining cottages, Preston, 1854
- DDKE/1/1/55/12 Letter from J Duckenfeild, Atherton - complaining against a person named Houghton who has come from London and brought a bear with him, and asks the justices to order that "the beareward and his beare may not stay soe neare us", 4 Aug 1682
- DDKE/10/1/4/15 Presentments within Rochdale parish including having a minstrel playing on a 'gythorne', dancing, keeping disorderly houses etc. 15 Apr 1588
- DDKE/10/1/4/79 Presentment by the churchwardens for Manchester. For negligent absence from church for a month or more, none. "For causing a bayre to be bayted upon Sundaie, beinge the xviith of March 1587[-8] att the bullringe neere the conduyte in Manchester", 1588
- DDKE/HMC/28 Regulations For The Sabbath -- Orders, signed by Judge Edward Bromley, to be observed within the county of Lancaster 1610 – 1627
- DP421/3/15 Preston Anecdotes 1881 – 1916 incl. Cockpit
- QDV/29 Return of Alehousekeepers in Blackburn Hundred 1655
- QSB 1/90/40 LATHOM & DALTON & ORMSKIRK -- Information on theft of skin of a fawn from Lathom Park by Robert Draper, husbandman, theft of "one palestaff" from Lathom Park by William Prescot, miller, and gaming in the house of Thomas Whytstones, bearward, 1631

- QSB 1/130/54 WESTHOUGHTON & WIGAN -- petition of Richarde Laythwait to prevent Alexander Ascrofte alias Ormeshawe, bring his bears past petitioner's house, 1633/4
- QSB 1/194/62 ORMSKIRK -- petition on behalf of Giffy Whystones, "most daungerously wounded with one of his Beares", 1637/38
- QSB 1/288/22 WARRINGTON -- petition of ministers and elders of the Classes against alehouses, ales, merrynghts, bearbaitings, etc, 1647

5 Secondary sources

Thomas Lewes Powell, comedian, who died at the age of 23 in 1788 and was buried at St George the Martyr, Preston, is recorded in the Monumental Inscriptions of that church (see SR Library).

D George, "Records of Interest at LRO", in Records of Early English Drama 1979.2

D George (ed.), Records of Early English Drama: Lancashire (1991)

E A J Honigmann, Shakespeare: The 'Lost Years' (1985)

Report of the Proceedings for a Conspiracy and Riot at the Theatre Royal Liverpool 1810 (In Searchroom Library at T71 LIV REP)

See also Lancashire Libraries catalogue <http://lclcat.lancashire.gov.uk/TalisPrism/>

6 Useful addresses and websites

The Curator
The Theatre Museum
1E Tavistock Road
Covent Garden
LONDON
WC2E 7PA
www.theatremuseum

University of Bristol
Theatre Collection
Department of Drama
Cantocks Close
Woodland Road
BRISTOL BS8 1UP
www.peopleplayuk.org

Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson Theatre Collection
Jerwood Library of the Performing Arts
Trinity College of Music
King Charles Court
Old Royal Naval College
LONDON SE10 9JF
<http://www.mander-and-mitchenson.co.uk>

Also: the Society for Theatre Research, www.str.org.uk; Manchester Central Library, Theatre Collection; John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Special Collections; International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts, www.theatrelibrary.org/sibmas/sibmas.html

The Backstage web site provides a single point of entry for finding and searching performing arts collections in the UK www.backstage.ac.uk/