TC132 – Joseph Jefferson (1829-1905)

I. Autobiography and Biography
   a. Jefferson’s autobiography and writings
      iii. Statement on the death of President McKinley, Boston Daily Globe, September 19, 1901.
   b. Biographical material

II. Newspaper clippings
   a. Concerning Jefferson’s life and career
      i. “Little Church story true.” The Evening Post, Letters to the Editor, April 28, 1924.
      ii. “Actor’s kin unveil Jefferson Shrine – clergy and stage join memorial services in ‘Little Church Around the Corner.’” The World, February 21, 1925.
      iii. Black and white newsprint drawing of a scene from “Rip Van Winkle,” with commentary.

v. “Window in ‘Little Church,’ to honor Joseph Jefferson – Rector announces plans to memorialize actor whose blessing gave edifice that title that has made it world famous.”

vi. “‘Little Church’ memorial for Joseph Jefferson – window will honor actor who made edifice famous.”


ix. “Joseph Jefferson on Edwin Booth.” Tribute of the new president of The Players Club to its founder, Edwin Booth who had started the club where actors and non-actors could meet, partly as reparation for his brother, John Wilkes Booth’s, assassination of President Lincoln.


xiv. “Joseph Jefferson’s seventieth birthday.” The Saturday Evening Herald, tributes from various writers including Francis Wilson,

xv. “Joseph Jefferson – a half-hour’s chat with the famous comedian, ‘Rip Van Winkle’ not intended to be a moral lesson, an artistic portraiture of the old Hollander, what the Boston theaters will offer next week,” by William E. Bryant, The Boston Journal.


xvii. “Jefferson at Harvard – noted actor talks to students across the Charles.”


b. Concerning Jefferson’s family

i. “Joseph W. Jefferson, son of actor, is dead - dies at home after operation for Cancer.” (Publication unknown).

ii. “‘My, My!’ Rip would have said – Edwin Doben Childe and the former Cynthia Carol Corlett, his bride of yesterday at ‘the Little Church Around the Corner.’” The World, with photograph.


iv. “Miss Jefferson is Engaged – she is the granddaughter of the celebrated actor.” The Sun, April 25.

III. Portraits

a. Portraits from performances

i. Jefferson, with his own writings on the character of Rip Van Winkle and signature.

iii. Doublesided portrait, Joseph Jefferson and Edwin Booth with commentary.

iv. Scene from “Rip Van Winkle,” Jefferson, as Rip Van Winkle confronts his tyrannical wife.

v. Scene from “Rip Van Winkle,” Black-and-white, Jefferson as the elderly Rip Van Winkle, reunites with his daughter.

vi. Portrait of Joseph Jefferson as an old man, probably from “Rip Van Winkle.”


viii. “Joseph Jefferson and John S. Clarke as Dr. Panglosss and Zekiel Homespun.” From original in possession of W.Winter.


xii. “Joseph Jefferson,” in a scene from Rip Van Winkle with biographical information on the back, Newsboy.


xiv. “Mr. Jefferson’s latest portrait (rest of title and information obscured).

b. Personal portraits

i. Color postcard – “Joseph Jefferson in his bicycle chair, the Palm Beach Coach.

ii. Large black and white painting of Joseph Jefferson

iii. Photo of Jefferson giving a speech at the Actor’s Home in West New Brighton, Staten Island.

iv. Second Photo of Jefferson giving a speech at the Actor’s Home, dedicating the home.

v. Photo of the Actor’s Home, West New Brighton, Staten Island.


viii. Photo of Jefferson leaning on pole, with bowtie and fedora, with closing sentences from Joseph Jefferson’s autobiography on the back.

ix. Photo of Jefferson sitting in front of one of his landscape paintings, with quote from Seneca, also quoted in Jefferson’s biography on the back.

x. Colored portrait, card-size and produced through Detroit Photographic Co, 1903.

xi. Photographs of Joseph Jefferson’s gravestone, 1909, pasted on cardboard backing.


IV. Playbills


b. Amphitheatre, Front-Street – Rob Roy: Or, Auld Lang Syne (one of Jefferson’s first performances, at five years old).

c. Booth’s Theatre – Rip Van Winkle, or the Sleep of Twenty Years, December 1st, 1877.

d. Baltimore Theatre – Mr. Wemyss & Mrs. Anderson’s Benefit, Tom and Jerry, or, Life in London, June 16th, 1823.

e. Boston Theatre

i. Dion Boucicault’s adaptation of Rip Van Winkle, or the Sleep of Twenty Years, May 10, 1869.

ii. Dion Boucicault’s adaptation of Rip Van Winkle, or the Sleep of Twenty Years, May 20, 21 & 22, 1869.

iii. Dion Boucicault’s adaptation of Rip Van Winkle, or the Sleep of Twenty Years, April 25, 1870.
iv. Dion Boucicault’s adaptation of Rip Van Winkle, or the Sleep of Twenty Years, May 14, 1872.
f. The Brooklyn Stage– The Rivals, at Colonel Sinns (under Musical and Dramatic Notes) January 24, 1881.
h. Garden Theatre, Madison Avenue and 27th Street.
   i. The Rivals, October 12, 1890 (2 copies).
   ii. The Rivals, 1890.
   iii. Cricket on the Hearth, October 19, 1895.
j. Holliday St. Theatre
   i. Our American Cousin and Rip Van Winkle, 1860.
   iii. The Rivals and the Lady of the Lions, November 19th, 1860.
   iv. Rip Van Winkle and Lend me Five Shillings, November 22nd, 1860.
   v. Our American Cousin and Robert Macaire, November 23rd, 1860.
   vii. Paul Pry and Caleb Plummer, or, the Cricket on the Hearth, November 30th, 1860.
   ix. Newman Noggs and Mazeppa, or the Fiery Untamed Rocking Horse, February 2nd, 1861.
k. Hollis St. Theatre between 781 Washington and 274 Tremont St., Boston.
   The Heir-at-Law, November 2-November 7th, 1891.
l. Park Theatre – Heir-at-Law, November 17-November 22, 1890.
m. Paterson Opera House – Rip Van Winkle, 1904.
n. Star Theatre, Broadway and 18th Street. The Cricket on the Hearth and Lend me Five Shillings, November 5th, 1887.

o. Union Square Theatre – Cricket on the Hearth and Lend me Five Shillings, October 19th, 1883.


V. Miscellaneous


b. Typed manuscript about Jefferson’s father, Joseph Jefferson the I (1774-1832)

c. Oil painting, described below:

   ARTIST: Jefferson, Joseph, 1829-1905
   NATION: American
   TITLE: Untitled [Landscape]
   DATE: 1905
   CENTURY: 19th
   TYPE: Painting
   MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
   COLLECTION: GC059 American Drawings and Paintings
   LOCATION: B-floor vault, unit G3
   NOTES: Physical description: Framed.
   NOTES: Signed and dated, l.r.: 'J. Jefferson // 05.'
   NOTES: Artist information: Jefferson was primarily an actor;
   Princeton University Library holds a large number of his papers in Theater Collection TC132.
   SUBJECT: Landscapes
   Record Id: 31382