

## Ronald Folkard Collection of Theatre Books

Friends of the SBW Foundation may be interested to learn of a generous donation of books which, until recently, formed part of the personal library of **Mr Ron Folkard**, an Australian actor and stage manager who, since 1939, was associated with “The Firm” of J.C. Williamson Theatre Limited, established in 1879 in partnership with George Musgrove and Arthur Garner, who were known as “The Triumvirate”. Mr Folkard’s first involvement with “The Firm” was in connection with a production of *Elizabeth the Queen*, and since that date, he enjoyed a varied career, embracing a variety of roles, stage management jobs, film and radio work.

Mr Folkard’s war service included four years in the infantry, after which he joined Peter Finch’s entertainment unit, during which he toured the Pacific Islands. Mr Folkard entered the field of musicals after World War 2 with *Follow the Girls*, (Theatre Royal, Sydney, 12 October 1946) after which he undertook a six-month trip to Japan with a troupe entertainment company. After returning to Australia, he was involved in both acting and stage management roles with performances of numerous shows including *Harvey* (Theatre Royal, Sydney, 9 September, 1950) with Joe E. Brown in the role of Elwood P. Dowd, and Ron Folkard as E.J. Lofgren; *Under the Counter*; *Born Yesterday*; *Edward My Son*; *Bonaventure* (Theatre Royal, 14 October 1950); the Bill Hodge Comedies; *Paint Your Wagon* (Empire Theatre, Sydney, 9 April, 1955) and Cole Porter’s *Can Can* (Empire Theatre, Sydney, 12 May 1956) in which Mr Folkard acted in three separate roles.

Other productions in which Mr Folkard acted or served as stage manager during his long career, include *Hassan* (Savoy Theatre, Sydney, 27 February, 1937); *French Without Tears* (Minerva Theatre, Kings Cross, 23 May 1940); *Charley’s Aunt* (Minerva Theatre, Kings Cross, July 1940); *Light and Shade: the Lost Generation* (Minerva Theatre, Kings Cross, January 1948); *Off The Record* (Minerva Theatre, Kings Cross, February, 1948); *Mandragola* (Independent Theatre, North Sydney, 1 September, 1949); *Born Yesterday* (Comedy Theatre, Melbourne, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1949); *September Tide* (Theatre Royal, Sydney, 14 September, 1951); *Seagulls Over Sorrento*, Victoria Theatre, Newcastle, 24 September, 1953); *Reluctant Heroes* (Theatre Royal, Sydney, 1954); *All For Mary* (Theatre Royal, Sydney, 9 March, 1957); *Carnival* (Her Majesty’s Theatre, Melbourne, 19 October, 1962); *Alice in Wonderland* (Phillip Theatre, Sydney, 26 December 1966); *The Mavis McMahon Show (or ‘Not on the Box!’*, Macleay Theatre, Kings Cross, 27 July, 1972); *Some of My Best Friends Aren’t* (Macleay Theatre, Sydney, 8 February, 1973); *Gordon Chater’s Scandals of ’74* (Macleay Theatre, Kings Cross, 21 February, 1974); and *Champagne Complex* (Macleay Theatre, Sydney, 1974).



Photograph of Mr Ronald Folkard from theatre programme for *All For Mary*, which opened at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1957

Mr Folkard, who is aged 92, resides at Pittwater Palms Aged Care Facility at Avalon. His generous presentation of books from his personal library is greatly appreciated by the SBW Foundation Performing Arts Collection.

Dr Peter Orlovich (Archivist)