

January 30, 1951

Mr. Ira Gershwin  
1021 North Roxbury Drive  
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dear Mr. Gershwin:

Many thanks for your quick reply to my letter. Thanks particularly for your thoughtfulness in sending the cancelled check with your brother's signature. It is certainly something for the collection.

That makes three autographs for me. The other two appear on the leather-bound copy of The Gershwin Song Book, and the Porgy and Bess score which I acquired when they were published.

As you know, The Gershwin Song Book contains what is supposed to be a list of George Gershwin's published songs up to 1932. With the exception of the "selections", I have all these pieces, except six as follows:

When You Want Them You Can't Get Them	pub. 1916
Tamale (from The French Doll)	" 1921
When East Meets West in Panama (from Scandals)	" 1921
Be The Life of The Crowd (from Sweet Little Devil)	" 1924
Just Supposing (from Sweet Little Devil)	" 1924
Great Big Bear (from Song of The Flame)	" 1925

If you should know of any music stores or music jobbers who may possibly still have copies of any of these, I would be happy to have such information.

Now, I am enclosing a list of the Arthur Francis pieces which I own. If there are others which you wrote under that pseudonym, I would like very much to know about them.

The second list represents the Arthur Jackson pieces. Somebody (maybe it was Elliott Shapiro) told me years ago that Arthur Jackson and Arthur Francis were the same. Maybe I am confused about that, but at any rate I indicated on my record that Arthur Jackson was Ira Gershwin. Am I right or wrong?

Will welcome all the information you can give me and will use it to the best advantage.

With thanks and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lester S. Levy

No. 1  
Arthur Francis

"A Dangerous Maid" - Boy Wanted 1921  
Dancing Shoes "  
Just To Know You Are Mine "  
The Simple Life "  
Some Rain Must Fall "

"For Goodness' Sake" - Someone 1922  
Tra-la-la "

"George White's Scandals" - I'll Build a Stairway  
to Paradise 1922

"Little Miss Bluebeard" - I Won't Say I Will But I  
Won't Say I Won't 1923

"The Sweetheart Shop " - Waiting for the Sun to  
Come Out 1920

The Sunshine Trail 1923

No. 2  
Arthur Jackson

"Broadway Brevities of 1920" -	Lu-Lu Snow Flakes	1920 "
"La La Lucille" -	* The Best of Everything * From Now On * Love of a Wife * Nobody But You * Somehow It Seldom Comes True * Tee-Oodle-Um-Bun-Bo	1919 " " " " "
"George White Scandals of 1920" -	Idle Dreams My Lady On My Mind The Whole Night Long The Scandal-Walk The Song of Long Ago Tum On and Tiss Me	1920 " " " " "
"George White's Scandals" -	I Love You She's Just A Baby South Sea Isles	1921 1921 "
"3rd George White's Scandals" -	Drifting Along With the Tide Where East Meets West	1921 "

\* With B. G. deSylva

IRA GERSHWIN  
1021 NORTH ROXBURY DRIVE  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Feb. 10, 1951

Dear Mr. Levy,

I doubt whether you could obtain any of the 6 songs you mention. You might try the publisher, though. "Be The Life Of The Crowd" I find was published under the title of "Hey, Hey, Let 'Er Go!" The publisher of 5 of the songs was Harms, Inc. This firm can be reached through Music Publishers' Holding Corp. 488 Madison Ave., N.Y. 22, N.Y. The 6th song "When You Want 'Em" was published by Von Tilzer and I'm afraid I don't know whether this company still exists.

Although the Song Book lists the songs through 1932 I imagine you have the songs from the shows and films after that year: "Pardon My English," "Let 'Em Eat Cake," "Shall We Dance?" "Adamsel In Distress," "Goldwyn Follies" and, (posthumous (1946) "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim."

No, Arthur Jackson and Arthur Francis are not, nor were they, one and the same. Arthur Jackson was a talented lyric writer who died in the early Twenties. He was the younger brother of Fred Jackson who wrote many farces and librettos including the book of my brother's first show "La la Lucille" and my first show "Two Little Girls In Blue."

Your list of songs that I, as Arthur Francis, wrote with my brother seems to be complete. I did write other songs under that pseudonym with Youmans, ~~Genzler~~ and Genzler. Nothing of any consequence - one, though, was played a bit - "Oh Me, Oh My, Oh You!" (Youmans).

Just happened to think of two songs my brother and I did you may not know about: "Till Then" and "By Strauss."

Incidentally, "By Strauss" "Tra La La" and "Stairway To Paradise" along with 6 or 7 better known songs are beautifully handled in Metro's forthcoming "American In Paris." The title piece, as a ballet, runs 18 minutes. It's quite a picture.

Sorry this letter isn't neater looking but I'm typing it in bed - just getting over ( I hope) the flu.

Anyway, I trust some of your questions have been answered,

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ira Gershwin

February 13, 1951

Mr. Ira Gershwin  
1021 N. Roxbury Drive  
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dear Mr. Gershwin:

Many thanks for your letter of February 10th. I am glad to be "tipped off" on a number of things I did not know, and will be on the lookout for some of the items which you mention.

As you may know, Howard Benedict was in Baltimore this past week-end and I gave him a package to take back on the plane with him, for which you may "throw the book" at me. I pulled out two songs from each show that you and your brother wrote and asked Benny to request autographs from you for as many of them as you would be willing to handle.

I hope it was not too much of an imposition, but if it is, I will accept with pleasure any that you will autograph for me.

You will note that I included all the published pieces from "Of Thee I Sing" and from "Porgy and Bess", items where you wrote ( or collaborated in) the lyrics. With the items from "Of Thee I Sing" I likewise sent the program of the play, and if you would autograph this, I would much rather have it, under your own picture which appears on the second page.

Incidentally, you will see that I included several pieces with lyrics by Arthur Jackson, and I recognize from your letter the mistake I made.

Frankly, when I gave the music to Benny, I never thought about what a nuisance it might be to get them shipped back here. If you wish, I will be glad to have somebody in Los Angeles pick them up when they are ready, and pack them and return them to me. Just give me whatever instructions you want.

I do appreciate your writing me from your sick bed, and hope that you are now well again. One of these days I look forward to meeting you.

With all good wishes, and thanks for all your help, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lester S. Levy

LSL...LRS