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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Groucho Marx Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0269
Date: 1911-1978
Extent: 12 Cubic feet (39 boxes)
Creator: Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
Marx, Groucho (Julius Henry), 1890-1977 (comedian)
Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Collection is open for research. Reference copies of audiovisual materials must be used.

Conditions Governing Use
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical
One of 20th century America's most enduring comics and cultural icons was Groucho Marx. Julius Henry Marx, better known as Groucho, was born in New York City on October 2, 1890. He was the third of five
sons born to Minna and Samuel Marx. Minna's brother, Al Shean, was a part of the well-known vaudeville
team, Gallagher and Shean.

The Marx family consisted of five boys: Leonard (Chico), Arthur (Harpo), Julius (Groucho), Milton
(Gummo) and Herbert (Zeppo). The family lived in the Yorkville section of New York City. Groucho had
a high soprano singing voice and his first job was singing in the choir of an Episcopal church. He joined
Gus Hall and his vaudeville troupe when he was eleven. Groucho attended P.S. 86 but never went beyond
the 7th grade. Minna organized the Three Nightingales with Groucho, Gummo and a girl singer. The girl
was eventually replaced by a boy tenor and Harpo joined the troupe. The name of the group was changed
to The Four Nightingales. Minnie acted as the group's manager. The group became known as the Marx
Brothers with everyone except Gummo taking part in the act. The family moved to Chicago ca. 1904
where their grandfather lived.

The brothers toured the South and Midwest performing a vaudeville skit called, "Fun in Hiskule". It is noted
that the comedy act began in Nacogdoches, Texas. The Marx Brothers first big success came in 1919
with their vaudeville act entitled "Home Again". In 1920, they were booked into the Palace Theatre in New
York City and played there for thirteen months. They were later banished from the circuit due to a contract
violation - they had accepted employment without Albee's permission. Groucho married Ruth Johnson on
February 4th, 1920 and divorced her in July 1942. They had one daughter, Miriam and one son, Arthur
born in 1921.

In 1923, they toured with the show, "I'll Say She Is", a collection of vaudeville routines that Groucho had
written in collaboration. The show ran on Broadway for thirty-eight weeks. On December 8, 1925, the
brothers (using their nicknames professionally for the first time) opened on Broadway in "The Cocoanuts".
The play was written expressly for them by George S. Kaufman and Morris Ryskind with music by Irving
Berlin. The brothers made a silent film circa 1924 called "Humor Risk" but it was never released. "Animal
Crackers" opened on October 23, 1928. It was in this show that Groucho created one of his most famous
characters, Captain Spaulding, the African explorer. Groucho was by this time paired with Margaret
Dumont, stooge and foil, whom Groucho claimed never, really understood the Marx Brothers comedy.

On the strength of their success in "The Cocoanuts", they were signed to a film contract. In 1929, they
made the film version of "The Cocoanuts" while performing "Animal Crackers" on the stage. Their mother,
Minna Marx died the same year. The following year they starred in the film version of "Animal Crackers".
Both films were made in New York City. In 1931, Groucho moved to Hollywood where The Marx Brothers
made thirteen films. The brothers signed with Paramount Pictures and made "Monkey Business" (1931),
"Horsefeathers" (1932) and "Duck Soup" (1933) while at the studio. In 1933, Zeppo left the troupe and
Samuel Marx died.

In February 1934, Groucho and Chico teamed up in a radio program called, "Flywheel, Shyster and
Flywheel", about characters who were comic lawyers. In March 1934, they replaced Ethel Waters on a
weekly radio series sponsored by the American Oil Company. In 1935, the brothers starred in "A Night
at the Opera" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, a film produced by Irving Thalberg and a sequel, "A Day at the
Races" (1937). In addition to working for MGM, the brothers starred in "Room Service" (1938) for the RKO
studio.

The brothers discontinued the act in September 1941 but reunited for the film "A Night in
Casablanca" (1946) and "Love Happy" (1949). Groucho found work as a solo artist making films for RKO,
Warner Brothers and Paramount. In March 1943, the Pabst Blue Ribbon Brewery sponsored a half-hour
variety show on CBS starring Groucho. Groucho married his second wife, Catherine "Kay" Gorcey in
July 1945, they had one daughter Melinda. They divorced in 1951. Groucho continued to guest on many
radio shows and continued to be at his peak when ad-libbing. John Guedel created "You Bet Your Life"
for Groucho in October 1947. The show aired over the ABC radio network. It moved to CBS and in 1950
it was purchased by NBC and ran on television until 1961. The show ran for a total of four years on radio
and eleven years on television. Groucho won radio's Peabody Award as best comedian on radio in 1948;
an Emmy award in 1951; and the Motion Picture Daily Annual TV poll from 1951-1954.
Groucho was also musical. He played the guitar, but never as part of his shows. He was also an author and a playwright. He wrote the stage play, "A Time for Elizabeth", in 1948 with Norman Krasna. The play ran for eight days on Broadway but had longer runs in summer stock. In July 1954, Groucho married his third and final wife Eden Hartford. They divorced in December of 1969. In 1967, Simon and Schuster published excerpts from letters Groucho had donated to the Library of Congress in 1965. The book was entitled The Groucho Letters. Groucho authored other books, Groucho and Me (1959) his autobiography, The Secret Word is Groucho (1976) with Hector Arce and The Grouchophile (1976).

Groucho retired in 1961 but in 1972 with the help Erin Fleming, his companion and manager since 1969, he toured in a solo act. The show entitled, "An Evening with Groucho" played Carnegie Hall in New York City in May 1972. Groucho was made a Commander of the French Order of Arts and Letters at the Cannes Film Festival in 1972. In 1974, Groucho received an honorary Academy Award (Oscar) for the contribution of the Marx Brothers to the art of film. Marx died on August 19th, 1977.

Scope and Contents

Series 1: Correspondence, 1932-1977 is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. In 1965, Marx gave the Library of Congress a portion of his correspondence with well-known personages. The majority of the correspondence in this collection dates from the post World War II era (Marx's early correspondence is located at the Library of Congress.) This series includes correspondence from well-known persons, fans, admirers and friends. There is an extensive amount of correspondence with the screenwriter Nunnally Johnson. The series includes letters concerning public relations, Walt Disney caricatures of the Marx Brothers, The Grouchophile permission letters, unidentified correspondence and one letter from Chico Marx to Gummo Marx.

Series 2: Publications, Manuscripts and Print Articles by Marx, 1930-1958, undated is arranged chronologically with circa and undated material placed before the book manuscripts. This series contains written material by Groucho Marx excepting scripts and sketches. The series includes articles written by Marx for national magazines, various speeches and manuscripts for three of Marx's books.

Series 3: Scripts and Sketches, 1939-1959, undated, is arranged alphabetically with television scripts and sketches placed before full-length movie and theatre scripts. This series contains television, motion picture and theatre scripts and sketches, monologues, and related written material pertaining to works starring or featuring Marx. It also contains scripts for the one theatrical play written by Marx, A Time for Elizabeth.

Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1923-1978 is arranged chronologically and contains sixteen scrapbooks spanning Marx's career from his first Broadway success, I'll Say She Is to the year after his death. Of particular interest are the early scrapbooks for the Marx Brothers career, a scrapbook spanning the years 1934-1958 compiled by Marx himself for his daughter Melinda, a photographic scrapbook compiled by the staff of Life magazine documenting a 1963 magazine layout of Marx and his then wife Eden Hartford Marx. There is also a scrapbook devoted to Chico Marx's brief career as a bandleader in the mid-late 1940s.

Series 5: Music, circa 1930-1975, undated is arranged alphabetically and includes original music manuscripts written by Marx and songs for Marx's shows and motion pictures and unidentified manuscripts perhaps written by Marx, his friends, his daughter Melinda or her music teacher. It also includes commercially produced sheet music purchased by Marx, copies of songs featured in Marx's motion pictures, music from "Minnie's Boys the theatrical production based on the Marx Brothers and their mother, an autographed copy of "Stay Down Here Where You Belong" by Irving Berlin, songs written by Marx published commercially, and Marx's copy of a collection of songs by Gilbert and Sullivan.
Series 6: Publicity, ca. 1911-1977 contains theatre programs, motion picture reviews, newspaper clippings both foreign and domestic, record album covers, a book cover and one poster of the Marx Brothers. There are items related specifically to Chico Marx. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 7: Artwork and Photographs, 1911-1976, undated is arranged according to subject matter and includes artwork, features cartoons and caricatures of the Marx Brothers by various artists including the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer art department and Hirschfield, sketches of the Marx Brothers by Sheila Smith, Peggy Jacobs, Bridget Crowe and Mark E. Williams (all probably fans of the Marx Brothers), various candid photographs, publicity photographs and studio portraits of Marx, his brothers, his immediate family, correspondence and related images and photographic negatives and transparencies.

Series 8: Personal and Family Documents, 1925-1975, undated contains documents relating to Marx's personal life and his brothers Chico Marx, Harpo Marx, and his daughter Melinda. Of particular interest is Marx's copy of the transcript of his divorce deposition from Eden Hartford Marx, two proclamations from the City of Los Angeles and a portfolio cover made for him by his daughter Melinda. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 9: Audiovisual, 1929-1970 includes home movies of Groucho, brothers Harpo and Chico, and Groucho's wife and children as well as film and kinescope copies of television programs featuring Groucho as the star or guest.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 9 series.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1932-1977

Series 2: Publications, Manuscripts, and Print Articles by Groucho Marx, 1930-1958, undated

Series 3: Scripts and Sketches, 1939-1959, undated

Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1923-1978

Series 5: Music, circa 1930-1975, undated

Subseries 5.1: Original Music Manuscripts

Subseries 5.2: Commercially Produced Sheet Music and Collections

Series 6: Publicity, circa 1911-1977

Series 7: Artwork and Photographs, 1911-1976, undated

Subseries 7.1: Artwork

Subseries 7.2: Photographs

Subseries 7.3: Photographic Negatives and Transparencies

Series 8: Personal and Family Documents, 1925-1978, undated

Series 9: Audiovisual

Subseries 9.1: Moving Images
Subseries 9.2: Sound Recordings

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives. Only reference copies of audiovisual materials may be used. Special arrangements required to view materials in cold storage. Contact the Archives Center at 202-633-3270.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Comedians -- 1920-1970
- Comedy
- Entertainment
- Radio comedies
- Radio programs
- Television programs
- Theater
- Vaudeville

Types of Materials:
- Correspondence -- 1930-1950
- Motion pictures (visual works)
- Personal papers
- Photographic prints
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks
- Sheet music

Names:
- Four Nightingales
- Marx Brothers
- Marx, Chico
- Marx, Harpo
- Palmer, Minnie
- Paramount Pictures
- RKO Pictures (studio)
- Three Nightingales
- United Artists
- Warner Brothers

Geographic Names:
- Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1932-1977

Box 1, Folder 1  Letters to/from Ace-Angell
Ace, Goodman; Adams, Richard, author of Watership Down; Adamson, Joe; Allen, Woody; Angell, Roger, of the New Yorker

Box 1, Folder 2  Letters to/from Arkin-Gleason
Arkin, Alan; Atkins, Irene (Mrs. Lenny); Baker, Russell; Barbi, Vincent (to Erin); Begelman, David (telegram); Berlin, Irving; Blackbeard, Bill, cartoonist; Bobbs-Merrill, publisher; Breecher, Irving, writer; Bruce, David, Ambassador to Great Britain; Cavett, Dick; Cukor, George; Desmond, Jodi; Dib, M. Dutch Masters Cigar Co.; Dwan, Bob, director; Evans, Bergen; Farmer, Georgia; Feuer, Cy; Foley, James E., student at Indiana University; Friendly, Fred W.; Galpern, Prof-Lasar; Gardner, Margaret, public relations; Garner, Peggy Ann (telegram); Garson, Toby and Bill; Gleason, Jackie

Box 1, Folder 3  Letters to/from Gottlieb-Krasna
Gottlieb, Robert, Simon and Schuster, book publisher; Guedel, John, radio and TV producer; Hamilton, William, cartoonist; Hamlisch, Marvin; Hansen, C.J., student at Montana State University; Harburg, E.Y., composer; Heaney, Robin, Groucho's cook; Hollander, Shirley Spector; Hughes, Howard; Jansen, Ilse; Jarmel, Victor; Jenkins, Dan, public relations; Johnson, Roxie; Jones, Harold, public relations; Kanter, Hal, writer; Kerr, Walter; Kirgo, George; Klein, Robert; Klock, Frank; Krasna, Norman, writer

Box 1, Folder 4  Letters to/from Kronholtz-Roberts

Box 1, Folder 5  Letters to/from Rodgers-San Francisco

Box 1, Folder 6  Letters to/from Schwartz-Young
Schwartz (?); Seaton, George, of Universal Studios; Shavelson Mel; Shawn, William, of New Yorker magazine; Shufro, Salwyn, stockbroker; Silverman, Stephen M., editor of Coast magazine; Sinatra, Frank; Spector, Sherman D.; Sullivan, Frank; Sullivan, Mark; Susskind, David; Thurber, James; Vanden-Heuvel, Jean; Wasch, Monte; Werner, Maurice, writer; West, Mae; White, Mrs. E.B.; Whitelaw, Arthur; Williams, Ira, president of Alfred Dunhill; Wilson, Earl; Wollcott, Alexander; Young, Charles E., Chancellor, UCLA

Box 1, Folder 8  Letters to/from Nunnally Johnson, 1955-1977

Box 1, Folder 9  Letters to/from Nunnally Johnson, 1955-1977

Box 1, Folder 10  Letters to/from Nunnally Johnson, 1955-1977
Box 1, Folder 11  
Public Relations Correspondence, 1945-1975

Box 1, Folder 12  
Letter Chico Marx to Gummo Marx, 1947

Box 1, Folder 13  
Walt Disney Correspondence and Caricatures, 1975

Box 1, Folder 14  
Correspondence Transparencies, 1963-1974

Box 1, Folder 15  
The Grouchophile Permission Letters, 1976

Box 1, Folder 16  
Unidentified Correspondence, 1949-1976
   Image(s)

Box 30, Folder 1  
Correspondence Oversize 1965-1973 undated Letters to/from Avignone
Charlene Cason R.N Cavett Dick Zbylut Cher

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Series 2: Publications, Manuscripts, and Print Articles by Marx, 1930-1958, undated

Series 2: Publications, Manuscripts, and Print Articles by Marx

Box 2, Folder 1  "Bad Days Are Good Memories", 1931
Box 2, Folder 2  Chasen's Speech, 1947
Box 2, Folder 3  Column for the Hollywood Reporter, 1949
Box 2, Folder 4  "Groucho on Laughter", 1958
Box 2, Folder 5  Heywood Brown Introduction, ca. 1930
Box 2, Folder 6  Unidentified Commencement Address, undated.
Box 2, Folder 7  "Gus: The Theatre Cat", undated
Box 2, Folder 8  "Look Back in Angus", undated
Box 20, Folder 1  "Look Back in Angus", 1965 (Oversize)
Box 2, Folder 9  "The Odyssey of the Goats", undated
Box 2, Folder 10  "One of the Marks to Shoot At", undated
Box 2, Folder 11  Unidentified News Article, undated
Box 2, Folder 12  Groucho and Me manuscript chapters 1-13
Box 2, Folder 13  Groucho and Me manuscript chapters 14-27
Box 2, Folder 14  The Grouchophile original manuscript (folder 1 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 15  The Grouchophile original manuscript (folder 2 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 16  The Grouchophile original manuscript (folder 3 of 3)
Box 3, Folder 1  The Secret Word is Groucho original manuscript (folder 1 of 2)
Box 3, Folder 2  The Secret Word is Groucho original manuscript (folder 2 of 2)
Box 3, Folder 3  The Secret Word is Groucho corrected manuscript (folder 1 of 2)
Box 3, Folder 4  The Secret Word is Groucho corrected manuscript (folder 2 of 2)

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Series 3: Scripts and Sketches, 1939-1959, undated

Box 3, Folder 5        Dinah Shore Show, 1945
Box 3, Folder 6        You Bet Your Life, 1947
Box 3, Folder 7        Unidentified Television Script, 1954
Box 30, Folder 2       An Evening With Groucho Carnegie Hall Erin Fleming's cue sheet, 1972 (Oversize)
Box 3, Folder 8        An Evening With Groucho cue cards, 1972
Box 3, Folder 9        An Evening With Groucho Iowa
Box 3, Folder 10       An Evening With Groucho San Francisco
Box 3, Folder 11       The Telephone an outline, undated
Box 3, Folder 12       Beds, undated
Box 3, Folder 13       Groucho monologue, undated
Box 3, Folder 14       "Mister Gallagher Mister Sheen", undated
Box 3, Folder 15       Muscle Bound, undated
Box 3, Folder 16       Napoleon, undated
Box 3, Folder 17       "Sheik Ali Ben Groucho", undated
Box 3, Folder 18       Yesterday Today and Groucho television proposal, undated
Box 4, Folder 1        Animal Crackers
Box 4, Folder 2        Anne
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Box 5, Folder 1        Diamonds in the Sidewalk
Box 5, Folder 2        Double Dynamite
Box 5, Folder 3  A Girl in Every Port
Box 5, Folder 4  Go West
Box 5, Folder 5  Go West
Box 6, Folder 1  Go West comedy scenes vaudeville tour
Box 6, Folder 2  Go West (Grand Central Terminal sequence)  
Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 3  Go West (Notes from Paramount stage show)
Box 6, Folder 4  Go West Stage Version Paramount Theatre
Box 6, Folder 5  Go West Notes from Paramount Stage Show
Box 6, Folder 6-7  Go West
Box 6, Folder 8  Go West air trailer script
Box 6, Folder 9  Go West comedy scenes - vaudeville tour - Harpo
Box 6, Folder 10-11  Go West comedy scenes - vaudeville tour
Box 6, Folder 12  Go West Young Man!
Box 6, Folder 13  The Grand Passion
Box 7, Folder 1-2  Harpo
Box 7, Folder 3  Hearts and Diamonds, 17572
Box 7, Folder 4  Madcap Mary Mooney
Box 7, Folder 5  The Middle Ages
Box 7, Folder 6-7  Minnie's Boys
Box 7, Folder 8  A Night in Casablanca
Box 7, Folder 9-10  A Pair of Shoes
Box 8, Folder 1  The Pasadena Story
Box 8, Folder 2  Room Service, 14049
Box 8, Folder 3  The Sidewalk
Box 8, Folder 4  Sidewalks of New York or Diamond Alley
Box 8, Folder 5-6  Time for Elizabeth
Box 9, Folder 1  Time for Elizabeth, 20047
Box 9, Folder 2  Time for Elizabeth, revised 1959
Box 9, Folder 3-6  Time for Elizabeth
Box 9, Folder 7  Time for Elizabeth (Amy)
Box 9, Folder 8  Time for Elizabeth (Jasper)
Box 9, Folder 9  Time for Elizabeth (Lily)
Box 9, Folder 10  Time for Elizabeth (McPherson)
Box 9, Folder 11  Time for Elizabeth (Martin Braddock)
Box 9, Folder 12  Time for Elizabeth (Charlie Oglethorpe)
Box 9, Folder 13  Time for Elizabeth (Schaeffer)
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Box 9, Folder 15  Tom Dick and Harry

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<td>Scrapbook The Cocoanuts, 1926</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Marx Brothers Scrapbook, 1934</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 2</td>
<td>Scrapbook:, 1934-1958</td>
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<td>Box 12</td>
<td>Photographic Scrapbook (Family and Career), ca. 1940s-1950s</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 13</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1944-1957</td>
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<td>Box 14, Folder 1</td>
<td>Scrapbook Chico Marx, 1942-1947</td>
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<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Photographic Scrapbook: Life magazine layout, 1963</td>
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<td>Box 31</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 14</td>
<td>Scrapbook The Groucho Letters, 1967</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 15</td>
<td>Scrapbook Groucho Vienna Film Festival, 1966-1968</td>
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<td>Scrapbook, 1973-1974</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 17</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1974-1975</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 18</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1975-1976</td>
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Box 21, Folder 2    Ain't That Love
Box 21, Folder 3    The Bee's Waltz
Box 21, Folder 4    Body and Soul
Box 21, Folder 5    Chimes of Spring
Box 21, Folder 6    Dark Eyes
Box 21, Folder 7    Doctor Hackenbush
Box 21, Folder 8    El Vito
Box 21, Folder 9    Estrellita
Box 21, Folder 10   Everybody Works But Father
Box 21, Folder 11   Go West (partial)
Box 21, Folder 12   Groucho's Day
Box 21, Folder 13   Guitar Fingering Charts (various tunes)
Box 21, Folder 14   Habanera #1
Box 21, Folder 15   Habanera #2
Box 21, Folder 16   Just in Time
Box 21, Folder 17   Kellerman Sally various arrangements for
Box 21, Folder 18   Loads of Love
Box 21, Folder 19   Lydia the Tattooed Lady
Box 21, Folder 20   Oh! How that Woman Could Cook
Box 21, Folder 21   Oh! Look at Me Now
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Box 21, Folder 23   Rosemary
Box 21, Folder 24   Show Me a Rose
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<td>A Streetcar and a Horsecar (partial)</td>
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<td>Box 21, Folder 29</td>
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<td>Box 21, Folder 30</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<td>Box 21, Folder 31</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
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<td>Box 21, Folder 32</td>
<td>When Day is Done</td>
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<td>Box 21, Folder 33</td>
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<td>Alone</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 4</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 5</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 6</td>
<td>The Big Bass Singer</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 7</td>
<td>Castanets - Spanish Dance</td>
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<td>Contemporary Piano Literature</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 9</td>
<td>Czerny - Selected Piano Studies - Vol. I</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 10</td>
<td>&quot;Joe Davis&quot; Song and Routine Book</td>
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<td>Deep Purple</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 12</td>
<td>Doucement Doucement</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 13</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 14</td>
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<td>Box 22, Folder 16</td>
<td>Hooray for Captain Spaulding</td>
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Box 22, Folder 17  I Can't Give You Anything But Love
Box 22, Folder 18  If It's You
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Box 22, Folder 21  Malaguena
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Box 22, Folder 24  Minnie's Boys various sheet music selections
Box 22, Folder 25  Modern Method for the Spanish Guitar
Box 22, Folder 26  Composition for the Piano - Mozart
Box 22, Folder 27  My Reverie
Box 23, Folder 1  Pickin' My Way
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Box 23, Folder 3  Show Me a Rose (Or Leave Me Alone)
Box 23, Folder 4  Someday I'll Find You
Box 23, Folder 5  Sonatinas/Sonatas
Box 23, Folder 6  Song of the Islands
Box 23, Folder 7  Stage Fright
Box 23, Folder 8  Stay Down Here Where You Belong (inscribed by Irving Berlin)
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Series 9: Audiovisual, 1929-1970

Subseries 9.1: Moving Images

Reel AC0259-OF0001  Groucho Marx Home Movies, 1929 – 1934
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white camera original reversal, 350 feet)
Creator: Marx Family Performer: Groucho Marx, Ruth Marx, Arthur Marx, Miriam Marx, Chico Marx, Harpo Marx, Gary Cooper Content: Home movie footage apparently shot, in part, by Zeppo Marx as well as Groucho and other family and friends. Includes scenes of the Marx family (Groucho, Ruth, Arthur, and Miriam) at home, at the beach, at a lakeside resort (scene of Groucho talking with Gary Cooper), on board ship (with shots of Chico), playing tennis, as well as Miriam's birthday party and Groucho and his children leaving for school.

Reel AC0269-OF0002  The Tonight Show, 1964 August 3
1 motion picture film
Creator: NBC Performers: Groucho Marx, Melinda Marx Content: Short excerpt from episode Groucho hosted. Includes conversation with and singing performance by Groucho's daughter, Melinda Marx.

Reel AC0269-OF0003  Television Commercials - DeSoto, 1956
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 160 feet.)
Performers: Groucho Marx, Melinda Marx Content: Three commercials with Groucho Marx (and Melinda Marx in the second and third spot) promoting the 1957 DeSoto. These commercials were apparently aired with You Bet Your Life which was sponsored at the time by DeSoto.

Reel AC0269-OF0004  "Groucho" On the Trapeze, 1943
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white silent print, 165 feet.)
Content: Groucho look-alike does a parallel bar act in a one-ring circus-like setting with two other performers.

Reel AC0269-OF0005  I'll Say She Is (scene), circa 1931
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 140 feet.)
Performers: Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Zeppo Marx
Content: A scene from the Marx Brother's Broadway play I'll Say She Is.

Reel AC0269-OF0006  Pony Express - Reluctant Bride, 1959
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 945 feet.)
Creator: California National Productions Performers: Content: In this episode a female geologist, Dr. A.R. Masters, from the East and "pony man" Brett Clark run into "Indian troubles" enroute to her field site.

Reel AC0269-OF0007 and 7B  The Swift Show Wagon with Horace Heidt, 1955 May 21
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 1066 feet.)
Creator: NBC Performers: Content: An episode of the NBC show sponsored by Swifts Premium and broadcast from Chicago with guest appearance by Groucho Marx. Includes "interview" between Heidt and Groucho, musical performances, high school talent contest, and conversation with Marty Marion,
manager of the White Sox. The roll also includes commercials for Swifts Premium meats and ice cream. This appears to be almost the entire episode, although a Groucho as Dr. Hackenbush skit in AC0269-OF0007b is not included in this role. The episode described in AC0269-OF0007 with the Groucho portions removed.

Reel AC0269-OF0008
Groucho Special - You Bet Your Life, circa 1960
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 485 feet.)
Performers: Groucho Marx
Content: A compilation reel of Groucho chatting with female contestants on You Bet Your Life.

Reel AC0269-OF0009
George E. Jessel Show, 1953-1954
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 1,450 feet.)
Creator: ABC
Performers: Groucho Marx, George E. Jessel
Content: Jessel attempts to interview Groucho about his book and his play "Time for Elizabeth."

Reel AC0269-OF0010
Groucho Tribute, 1966
1 motion picture film (16mm color silent print)
Performers: Groucho Marx
Content: Still image shots of Groucho as characters in famous paintings (Whistler's Mother, Mona Lisa) and on various magazine covers.

On the leader is the date 2-11-66. The film code date is 1966.

Reel AC0269-OF0011
The Arthur Murray Party, 1953 November 16
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 545 feet.)
Creator: NBC
Performers: Groucho Marx, Arthur Murray, Katherine Murray
Content: Groucho appears as the guest on the show and dances with both Katherine and Arthur Murray. The show was sponsored by Liquinet and Kranks Shave Cream. The commercials are included.

Reel AC0269-OF0012
Who Said That?, 1955 May 10
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 1,044 feet.)
Creator: Fred Friendly, broadcast on ABC
Performers: Groucho Marx (guest panelist), John Daly, Bob Considine, June Lockhart, Quincy Howe
Content: Groucho appears as a panelist on this quiz show in which the panelists attempted to identify who said "notable" quotes from the week's news. John Daly is the host.

Reel AC0269-OF0013
I've Got A Secret, 1959 September 16
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 1,060 feet.)
Creator: Broadcast on CBS
Performers: Groucho Marx (contestant), Garry Moore (host), Henry Morgan, Betsy Palmer, Bill Cullen, Monique Van Vooren (panelists).
Content: Groucho has a secret. The show was sponsored by Winston and Salem cigarettes and includes the commercials.

Reel AC0269-OF0015-1-2

Show Biz: An Entertainment History, 1955 October 9
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 3,000 feet.)

Description: Broadcast on NBC

Performers: Groucho Marx (narrator), Art Linkletter (host), Rosemary Clooney, Dennis Day, Eartha Kitt, Beatrice Kay, Bert Lahr, Buster Keaton, Phil Harris, Melinda Marx, and Gordon Jenkins and his Orchestra

Content: A 90 minute tribute to American "show business" that takes a musical look at the history of American entertainment from 1902. Melinda Marx sings a duet with her father. Songs include "This is the Army Mr. Jones," "You'll Never Walk Alone," and Rosemary Clooney singing "Rock Around the Clock." This kinescope also includes commercials for Sunbeam frypans and U.S. Rubber tires as well as a voice-over promo for the film, REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE.

Reel AC0269-OF0014

Groucho - Programme 3, 1965
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 970 feet.)

Performers: Groucho Marx Content: The British version of YOU BET YOUR LIFE, which Groucho hosted for the BBC for 13 weeks during 1965 and 1966.

Reel AC0269-OF0016

Groucho - Programme 9, 1965-1966
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 970 feet.)

Performers: Groucho Marx Content: The British version of YOU BET YOUR LIFE which Groucho hosted for 13 weeks for the BBC during 1965 and 1966.

Reel AC0507-OF0016

People Are Funny, 1958
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 900 feet.)

Creator: John Guedel (producer) Broadcast on NBC.

Performers: Art Linkletter (host)

Content: People do silly tasks to earn prize money.

Reel AC0269-OF0018

People Are Funny, 1958
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 900 feet.)

Creator: John Guedel (producer) Broadcast on NBC.

Performers: Art Linkletter (host)

Content: People do silly tasks to earn prize money.

Reel AC0269-OF0019

The Perry Como Show, 1956 December 15
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print (kinescope), 1,900 feet.)

Creator: Broadcast on NBC.

Performers: Perry Como, Groucho Marx, Gina Lollobrigida, Johnny Ray, Jo Stafford Melinda Marx (guests)

Content: Episode, live from Miami, in honor of the 30th birthday of NBC. Groucho "chats" with Como and Lollobrigida and sings "Omaha,
Nebraska" which he wrote with Harry Ruby. The show was written by Groucho friend Goodman Ace and broadcast on NBC. [commercials removed, some kine recording problems].

Reel AC0269-OF0020

*What Do you Want?*, circa 1960
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track print, 1,065 feet.)
Creator: John Guedel

Performers: Groucho Marx, George Fenneman

Content: Pilot episode of a "game" show in which contestants tell Groucho what they want and then answer questions for prize money. This program was not picked up for broadcast and this was the only episode produced.

Reel AC0269-OF0021

*What's My Line?*, 1959 September 20
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 1050 feet.)
Creator: Broadcast on CBS.

Performers: Groucho Marx (guest panelist), John Daley (host), Claudette Colbert (mystery guest), Arlene Francis, Bennett Cerf, and Dorothy Kilgallen (panelists)

Content: Groucho appears as a guest panelist with the regulars. Kellogg's sponsored the show and this episode includes Dennis James as a spokesman for Kellogg's. Also includes commercial for Sunbeam electric razors with baseball player Warren Spahn.

Reel AC0269-OF0022

*Hollywood Palace*, 1964 March 14
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white optical track composite print, 2000 feet.)
Creator: Broadcast on ABC.

Performers: Groucho Marx, Morrie Amsterdam and Rose Marie, Jose Greco

Content: Groucho appears in a musical sketch about a doctor with a bevy of chorus girl "nurses." Includes commercials for Salem cigarettes, Schlitz beer, and Playtex bras.

Reel AC0269-OF0023

Dick Cavett Show, 1969 September 5
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 1,750 feet.)
Creator: Broadcast on ABC
Performers: Groucho Marx (guest), Dick Cavett

Content: Groucho chats with Dick Cavett about his life and times as well as performing famous Groucho bits and songs.

Reel AC0269-OF0024

*The Last Word*, 1958
1 motion picture film (16mm black and white composite optical track print (kinescope), 1100 feet.)
Creator: Broadcast on CBS

Performers: Groucho Marx (guest panelist), Bergen Evans, Harriet van Horne, John Mason Brown.
Content: Show in which panelists discuss the meaning and history of words.

Reel AC0269-OF0025
Dupont Show of the Week: Merrily We Roll Along, 1961 October 25
1 motion picture film
Creator: Broadcast on NBC.
Performers: Groucho Marx (narrator)
Content: Groucho Marx narrates a program on the history of transportation in America, from horse to automobile.

Reel AC0269-OF0026
You Bet Your Life, 1954 September 16
1 motion picture film (35mm black and white composite optical track print)
Performers: Groucho Marx (host), George Fenneman (announcer)
Content: The beginning portion of the 9-16-54 program. Incomplete.

Reel un-numbered
Unnumbered 16mm composite optical track prints of Marx Brothers feature films
Horse Feathers Duck Soup A Night at the Opera Go West

Subseries 9.2: Sound Recordings
Minnie's Boys, undated
12 sound recordings (12" reference recording, acetate with metal core)

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0001
You Bet Your Life (audition), 1947
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0002
Unidentified Paper Tape
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0003
Under 21, 1955
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0004
Fred Allen and Groucho Marx, 1952
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0005
The Law of Arvada
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0006
McCalls-Groucho
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0007
Unknown Molecule
1 sound tape reel

Box 32, Reel AC0269-OT0008
Groucho and Eden
1 sound tape reel

Box 33, Reel AC0269-OT0009-1,2
Groucho Special
2 sound tape reels
Box 33, Reel AC0269-OT0010-1,2,3
A.T.A.S. Meeting, circa 1960
3 sound tape reels
Panel discussion moderated by George Fenneman about the role and status
of comedy on television. Panelists include Groucho Marx, Steve Allen, and
Robert Young. A.T.A.S. may be the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Box 33, Reel AC0269-OT0011
Groucho CBS TV, 1972 May 3
1 sound tape reel

Box 33, Cassette AC0269-OT0012
Interview with Groucho
1 sound cassette

Box 32, Cassette AC0269-OT0013
Groucho Marx and Melinda Marx
1 sound cassette
Appears to be Groucho and Melinda Marx rehearsing at home for an
appearance on the Dick Cavett Show.

Box 32, Cassette AC0269-OT0014
Gallagher and Shean/I'll Say She Is
1 sound cassette
Audio cassette dubs of songs from Gallagher and Shean and I'll Say She Is
apparently compiled for and sent to Groucho by a fan.

Box 33
Unidentified Audio Tapes
7 sound tape reels

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