



Smithsonian

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Dyer-Bennet audio recordings and papers

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Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Title:	Dyer-Bennet audio recordings and papers
Date:	1943-2014
Identifier:	CFCH.DYER
Creator:	Dyer-Bennet Records Dyer-Bennet, Richard Cort, Harvey
Extent:	9.85 Cubic feet (business records, audiotapes, phonograph records)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Dyer-Bennet audiorecordings, which date from 1955-1974, consist of phonograph records and master audiotapes from Dyer-Bennet Records. The collection also includes personal and business papers, most of which were accrued in 2024.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by the Dyer-Bennet family.

Preferred Citation

Dyer-Bennet audio recordings and papers, Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collection, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access by appointment only. Contact the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections at (202) 633-7322 for additional information.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions apply. Contact archives staff for additional information.

Biographical Note

English-born Richard Dyer-Bennet (1913-1991) was a major figure in the American folk music revival of the 1940s-1970s. He performed English ballads and European and American folk songs, blending indigenous rural and traditional materials with a unique musicality and urban artistry. In 1955, Dyer-Bennet founded his own record company in partnership with Harvey Cort. The objective of the new company was to ensure that Dyer-Bennet's recordings would truly reproduce his voice and guitar as they sounded in live performance, and that the songs on each record would be grouped as on his concert programs. Dyer-Bennet Records were released to high critical

acclaim. All fifteen albums in the collection were acquired for pressing and distribution by the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in 1995.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series: Series 1: Audio recordings Series 2: Papers Series 3: Photographs

Shared Stewardship of Collections

The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage acknowledges and respects the right of artists, performers, Folklife Festival participants, community-based scholars, and knowledge-keepers to collaboratively steward representations of themselves and their intangible cultural heritage in media produced, curated, and distributed by the Center. Making this collection accessible to the public is an ongoing process grounded in the Center's commitment to connecting living people and cultures to the materials this collection represents. To view the Center's full shared stewardship policy, which defines our protocols for addressing collections-related inquiries and concerns, please visit <https://doi.org/10.25573/data.21771155>.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Ballads
- Folk music -- United States
- Folk songs -- United States
- Popular music -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Business records
- Phonograph records

Names:

- Dyer-Bennet Records

Container Listing

Series 1: Audio recordings

Subseries 1.1: Phonograph Records

Dyer-Bennet.1: Richard Dyer-Bennet, Vol. 1, [1955]
 1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)
 Artist: Dyer-Bennet, Richard
 Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard
 Producer: Cort, Harvey
 Language: English.
 Notes: Dyer-Bennet.1
 Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, [1955].
 Access by appointment.
 Recording location: New York
 Texts of songs (4 p.) inserted in container.
 Produced by Harvey Cort.
 101. Oft in the Stilly Night / 00:03:53
 102. Molly Brannigan / 00:02:46
 103.. Down by the Sally Gardens / 00:02:50
 104. The Bold Fenian Men / 00:04:05
 105. Three Fishers / 00:03:30
 106. The Bonnie Earl of Morey / 00:03:07
 107. Fine Flowers in the Valley / 00:03:12
 108. The Vicar of Bray / 00:04:27
 201. So We'll Go No More A-Roving / 00:01:41
 202. Phyllis and Her Mother / 00:03:01
 203. The Joys of Love / 00:02:39
 204. I'm a Poor Boy / 00:03:14
 205. Pull Off Your Old Coat / 00:02:50
 206. Down in the Valley / 00:03:59
 207. Pedro / 00:02:27
 208. The Lonesome Valley / 00:03:11
 Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
 Folk music -- United States
 Popular music -- United States -- 1951-1960
 Folk music -- Ireland
 Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.2: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 2, [1956]

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.2

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, [1956]

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor vocals and Spanish guitar accompaniment.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container. Song texts included inside container.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. When Cockleshells Turn Silverbells / 00:03:39

102. Corn Rings are Bonnie / 00:02:50

103. The Garden Where the Praties Grow / 00:02:24

104. The Baliff's Daughter of Islington / 00:03:30

105. Two Maidens Went Milking / 00:02:22

106. Who Killed Cock Robin? / 00:03:26

201. Veillee de Noel / 00:01:41

202. Jan Hinnerk / 00:03:51

203. Woman, Go Home / 00:02:09

204. Blow the Candles Out / 00:01:38

205. Eggs and Marrowbone (Woman from Wexford) / 00:02:05

206. The Beggarman / 00:01:49

207. The Turkish Revery / 00:02:49

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States

Folk music -- United States

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.3: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 3, [1956]

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.3

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, [1956]

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor vocals and Spanish guitar accompaniment.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container.

Produced by Harvey Court.

101. The Lady's Policy / 00:04:05

102. Dinah and Villikens / 00:02:52

103. Fain I Would Wed / 00:02:39

104. Willie Taylor / 00:04:19

105. Charlie is My Darling / 00:01:25

106. Lilli Burlero / 00:01:53

201. The Beloved Kitten / 00:01:26

202. Spoolied auf Napoleon's Ruckzug aus Russland 1812 / 00:02:44

203. The Lass from the Low Country / 00:03:33

204. The Swapping Song / 00:02:14

205. House Carpenter (Child No. 243) / 00:04:34

206. The Lady Who Loved a Swine / 00:01:28

207. Go Down Moses / 00:03:02

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
Folk music -- United States
Ballads, English -- United States

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.4: Richard Dyer-Bennet, Vol. 4, 1957

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Artist: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.4

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1957.

Access by appointment.

Recorded in New York.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. A May Day Carol / 00:02:47

102. The Rising of the Moon / 00:03:15

103. The Kerry Recruit / 00:04:09

104. Searching for Lambs / 00:01:56

105. The Bonnets of Bonnie Dundee / 00:02:44

106. The Spanish Lady of Dublin City / 00:02:42

107. Three Ra-ens, The (The Three Ravens) (Child No. 26) / 00:04:07

201. Song of Reproach / 00:01:30

202. Vag Will Go Vail / 00:01:53

203. The Three Tailors / 00:03:59
 204. The Swagman / 00:03:27
 205. The Foggy Foggy Dew / 00:04:11
 206. The Fox / 00:01:52
 207. Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill / 00:01:58

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
 Folk music -- United States
 Popular music -- United States -- 1951-1960
 Folk music -- Ireland

Place: New York

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.5: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 5, 1958

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.5

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1958.

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor vocals and Spanish guitar accompaniment.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container. Song texts included inside container.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. Greensleeves / 00:02:01

102. The Golden Vanity (Child No. 286)/ 00:03:44

103. The White Lily / 00:02:32

104. Lord Rendal (Lord Randall) (Child No. 12) / 00:05:06

105. Westryn Wynde (Western Wind) / 00:01:33

106. Barbara Allen (Child No. 84) / 00:04:18

201. Venezuela / 00:02:42

202. The Quaker Lover / 00:02:07

203. John Henry / 00:03:56

204. Spanish is the Loving Tongue / 00:03:38

205. I Ride an Old Paint / 00:02:38

206. Edward / 00:04:12

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States

Folk music -- United States

Ballads, English -- United States

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Americans

Dyer-Bennet.6: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 6, 1958

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.6

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1958.

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor vocals and Spanish guitar accompaniment.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container. Song texts inserted in container.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. Come all ye / 00:01:25

102. Old Bangum / 00:04:14

103. Three jolly rogues of Lynn / 00:02:07

104. Aunt Rhody / 00:01:54

105. Frog went a courting / 00:02:26

106. John Peel / 00:03:02

107. The leprachaun / 00:01:45

201. The piper of Dundee / 00:01:32

202. Bow down / 00:04:53

203. The tailor and the mouse / 00:01:59

205. I went out one morning in May / 00:01:07

204. Green corn / 00:01:18

206. Buckeye Jim / 00:01:43

207. Little pigs / 00:01:16

208. Three crows / 00:01:46

209. The hole in the bottom of the sea / 00:02:41

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States

Folk music -- United States

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.7: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 7 Beethoven Scottish and Irish Songs, 1958

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Magg, Natasha

Magg, Fritz

Urigo, Rossi

Composer: Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827
 Producer: Cort, Harvey
 Language: English.
 Notes: Dyer-Bennet 7
 Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1958.
 Restrictions on access.
 Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor; Natasha Magg, piano; Urico Rossi, violin; Fritz Magg, cello.
 Recorded in New York.
 Program notes by Dyer-Bennet printed on verso of container. Song texts included inside container.
 Produced by Harvey Cort.
 All selections composed by Ludwig van Beethoven.
 101. Faithfu' Johnnie / 00:03:52
 102. On the Massacre of Glencoe / 00:05:37
 103. Bonnie Laddie, Highland Laddie / 00:02:00
 104. Sunset / 00:03:55
 105. The Lovely Lass of Iverness / 00:03:22
 106. The Pulse of an Irishman / 00:02:47
 201. Once More I Hail Thee / 00:04:29
 202. Morning a Cruel Turmoiler Is / 00:02:50
 203. The Morning Air Plays on My Face / 00:02:29
 204. The Return to Ulster / 00:04:33
 205. Oh, Who My Dear Dermot / 00:02:45
 206. Again My Lyre / 00:04:39
 Topic: Folk songs, English -- Scotland
 Folk songs, English -- Ireland
 Songs (High voice) with instrumental ensemble
 Genre/Form: Phonograph records
 Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.8: Richard Dyer-Bennet, [Vol.] 8, 1959
 1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)
 Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard
 Producer: Cort, Harvey
 Language: English.
 Notes: Dyer-Bennet.8
 Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1959.
 Access by appointment.
 Richard Dyer-Bennet, vocals and guitar.
 Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container.
 Produced by Harvey Court.
 101. The Agincourt song.

- 102. Come live with me.
- 103. Come away, Death.
- 104. I care not for these ladies.
- 105. Flow, my tears.
- 106. All in a garden green.
- 107. Henry Martin.(Child No. 250)
- 201. All mein Gedanken.
- 202. Die bekehrte Schäferin.
- 203. Kränzelkraut.
- 204. Jagdabenteuer.
- 205. Warnung.
- 206. Le brave marin.
- 207. Aminte.

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
Folk music -- United States
Genre/Form: Phonograph records
Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.10: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 10, 1962

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.10

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1962.

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, vocals and guitar.

Recorded in June 1962 at the Temple of Music, South Mountain, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container. Song texts included inside container.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. The Lincolnshire Poacher / 00:01:46

102. Lowlands / 00:03:15

103. I Once Loved a Girl / 00:02:36

104. She Moved Through the Fair / 00:03:00

105. The Seven Little Pigs / 00:01:57

106. O Speak Then My Love / 00:02:04

107. Le Veritable Amour / 00:02:36

201. The Unfortunate Troubador / 00:03:23

202. The Reaper's Ghost / 00:03:17

- 203. Two Comments / 00:01:20
- 204. Go Away Old Man / 00:02:08
- 205. The Wife Wrapped in Wether's Skin / 00:02:46
- 206. My Good Old Man / 00:04:26
- 207. No Hiding Place / 00:01:45

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
Folk music -- United States
Genre/Form: Phonograph records
Culture: Anglo-American

DY-COMM-LP-00010: Richard Dyer-Bennet. : Vol. 10 The Lincolnshire poacher, 1962

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English language

Notes: DY-COMM-LP-00010

Dyer-Bennet.10

Woodside, N.Y Dyer-Bennet 1962

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Commercial

Richard Dyer-Bennet (1913-1991) played a major role in the folk music revival of the 1950's and 1960's. He founded his own record label in 1955 in order to maintain artistic control over the sound quality, repertory, and style of his performances. His meticulously cultivated vocal and guitar styles, high tenor range, and studied delivery of poetic text attracted adoring audiences across North America and Europe. (For an extended biography of Dyer-Bennet, written by his daughter, Bonnie, see the liner notes for SFW40078.) This recording, the tenth album released on the Dyer-Bennet label, in 1962, presents Dyer-Bennet's interpretive minstrelsy in an eclectic program, including songs from the United States, England, Ireland, Spain, and France, plus several of his own composition. Liner notes provide background information and lyrics for each song. Program notes by R. Dyer-Bennet on container. Texts of songs (4 p.) inserted in container. Performer(s): Richard Dyer-Bennet, guitar and voice.

101 The Lincolnshire Poacher / Guitar.

102 Lowlands / Guitar.

103 I Once Loved a Girl / Guitar.

104 She Moved Through the Fair / Guitar.

105 The Seven Little Pigs / Guitar.

106 O Speak Then My Love / Guitar.

107 Le Veritable Amour / Guitar.

201 The Unfortunate Troubador / Guitar.

202 The Reaper's Ghost / Guitar.
 203 Two Comments / Guitar.
 204 Go Away Old Man / Guitar.
 205 The Wife Wrapped in Wether's Skin / Guitar.
 206 My Good Old Man / Guitar.
 207 No Hiding Place / Guitar.

Topic: Folksong revival
 Guitar
 Place: United States
 New York
 Culture: Americans
 Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.11: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 11 Stephen Foster songs sung by Richard Dyer-Bennet, 1962

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard
 Rubinstein, Harry A.
 Composer: Foster, Stephen Collins, 1826-1864
 Eastman, Charles G.
 Cooper, George, 1840-1927
 McCarthy, William H.
 Morris, George P.

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet

Richard Dyer-Bennet 11

Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1962.

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, vocals and guitar; Harry A. Rubenstein, piano.

Recorded in June 1962 at the Temple of Music, South Mountain, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container.

Produced by Harvey Court.

101. Linger in blissful repose / Stephen Foster. 1858.

102. Gentle Annie / Stephen Foster. 1856.

103. Come with thy sweet voice again / Stephen Foster. 1854.

104. If you've only got a moustache / George Cooper. 1864.

105. Jeanie with the light brown hair / Stephen Foster. 1854.

106. For thee love, for thee / William H. McCarthy. 1859.

201. Ah! May the red rose live away! / Stephen Foster. 1850.

202. Beautiful dreamer / Stephen Foster. 1850.

203. Sweetly she sleeps, my Alice fair / Charles G. Eastman. 1851.

204. There are plenty of fish in the sea / George Cooper. 1862.
 205. Open thy lattice love / George P. Morris. 1844.
 206. Come where my love lies dreaming / Stephen Foster. 1855.

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
 Folk music -- United States
 Genre/Form: Phonograph records
 Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet.13: Richard Dyer-Bennet. [Vol.] 13, [1964]

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet.13

Title from container: Stories and songs for children and their parents
 Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, [1964].

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, vocals and guitar.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container. Song texts
 included inside container.

101. The Tale of the Tales
 102. The Man Who Was Full of Fun
 103. The Wolf Who Was a Friend
 104. The King of the Noise
 201. The Soldier and the Lady
 202. The Devil and the Farmer's Wife (Child No. 278)
 203. The Old Gray Goose
 204. The Fox and the Geese

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
 Folk music -- United States
 Children's songs

Genre/Form: Phonograph records
 Culture: Anglo-American

Dyer-Bennet: 1601, 1962

1 Phonograph record (analog, 33 1/3 rpm; 12 in.)

Performer: Dyer-Bennet, Richard

Producer: Cort, Harvey

Creator: Twain, Mark, 1835-1910

Language: English.

Notes: Dyer-Bennet

Title from container: Mark Twain's 1601
 Woodside, N.Y. : Dyer-Bennet Records, 1962.

Access by appointment.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, vocals and narration.

Program notes by Dyer-Bennet on verso of container.

Produced by Harvey Cort.

101. 1601 / Mark Twain. 00:16:28

201. There Was a Friar in Our Town / 00:01:33

203. Old Joe Clark / 00:02:16

204. Erie Canal / 00:01:42

202. The Old She Crab / 00:02:10

205. The Tailor's Boy / 00:01:25

206. The Gatherin' of the Clan / 00:02:16

Topic: Folk songs, English -- United States
Bawdy songs -- United States.
Folksong revival

Genre/Form: Phonograph records

Culture: Anglo-American
Americans

Subseries 1.2: Cassettes

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