



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Sam DeVincent Collection
of Illustrated American Sheet Music,
Series 15: Holidays and Celebrations

NMAH.AC.0300.S15

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Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 15: Holidays and Celebrations |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.0300.S15 |
| Date: | 1847-1982 |
| Extent: | 6 Boxes |
| Creator: | DeVincent, Sam, 1918-1997 |
| Language: | English |
| Summary: | Sam DeVincent loved music and art and began collecting sheet music with lithographs at an early age. Series 15, Holidays and Celebrations contains approximately 500 pieces of sheet music and other materials documenting the development of and popular attitudes towards holidays, celebrations, and travel in the United States. An overview to the entire DeVincent collection is available here: Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music . |
| Digital Content: | Image(s): Holidays and Celebrations |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was purchased by the Smithsonian Institution in 1988 from Sam and Nancy Lee DeVincent.

Materials in Other Organizations

[Sam DeVincent Collection of American Sheet Music](#), Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

This collection contains duplicates of materials in the Smithsonian collection, as well as materials acquired by Mr. DeVincent after the donation to the Smithsonian. The phonograph records described above were transferred to the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Donald J. Stubblebine Collection of Musical Theater and Motion Picture Sheet Music and Reference Material, 1843-2010 (AC1211)

Forms Part Of

Series 15: Holidays and Celebrations forms part of the [Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music](#) .

An ongoing, updated list of DeVincent topical series is available [via the Smithsonian finding aid portal](#).

Preferred Citation

The Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Scope and Contents

Series 15, Holidays and Celebrations, 1847-1982, undated, contains approximately 500 pieces of sheet music and other materials documenting the development of and popular attitudes towards holidays, celebrations, and travel in the United States. Note that Christmas items are in Series 10, Sacred Music and Religious Themes, subseries 7.

Series 15 is divided into nine. The music comprises about two cubic feet plus one folder in Ephemera. Sheets are arranged alphabetically within each folder. Note that the dates always refer to copyright of the music and not to an event, person's life, or performance.

Arrangement

Arranged in 11 subseries.

- 15.1: Holiday, Travel, Vacation
- 15.2: Carnival
- 15.3: Mardi Gras
- 15.4: Masquerade
- 15.5: Halloween
- 15.6: Thanksgiving
- 15.7: New Year
- 15.8: Park
- 15.9: Picnic
- 15.10: Rolling Chairs
- 15.11: Ephemera

Container Listing

Subseries 15.1: Holiday, Travel, Vacation, 1866-1982

Subseries 1, Holiday, Travel, Vacation, 1866-1982. Many of the items have 'holiday,' 'travel,' 'journey,' or 'vacation' in the title.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder A-B | Holiday, 1881-1964 |
| Box 1, Folder A | General Songs, 1881-1964 <i>26 Items</i> Includes: "Half Holiday" with cover photo of The American Band, "Holiday for Strings," and "This Is My Holiday" from the Day Before Spring. |
| Box 1, Folder B | Folio, Holiday Songs (and Everyday Songs and Games), tenth edition, 1912 <i>1 Item</i> |
| Box 1, Folder C | Travel, 1881-1972 <i>32 Items</i> Includes: "Gotta Travel On," "Never Go Back on a Traveling Man" (or: "The Boys on the Road"), "Miss Lady Moon" from The Travelers, "Journey's End" from Up She Goes, and "Wanderlust." |
| Box 1, Folder D | Vacation, 1866-1982 <i>30 Items</i> Includes: "I'm Going to Spend My Vacation with a Dear Old Relation," and "Uncle Henry's Vacation" from The Phantom Empire. |

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Subseries 15.2: Carnival, 1847-1937, undated

Box 2, Folder A

Subseries 2, Carnival, 1847-1937, undated. Most items have to do with the Rio- and New Orleans-type carnival. Also see Series 11, subseries 16, Circus, Fair, Zoo.

Note variations in spelling. Includes: "Carnaval Romain," "King of the Carnival" and "Queen of the Carnival." Also see Series 11.16, Circus, Fair, Zoo. (19 items)

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Subseries 15.3: Mardi Gras, 1892-1958, undated

17 Items

Box 2, Folder A

Includes: "Daybreak" based on the "Mardi Gras" theme from Grofe's Mississippi Suite and "The Mardi Gras March" from Mardi Gras."

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Subseries 15.4: Masquerade, 1900-1973, undated

16 Items

Box 2, Folder A

Includes "The Masquerade," "Masquerade Scene" from Ernani, and "Meet Me at the Masquerade" from The Soul Kiss.

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Subseries 15.5: Halloween, 1853-1962

Box 2, Folder A-E

- Box 2, Folder A-B Halloween, 1853-1962, undated
Subjects include goblins, imps, bogie/boogie man, vampire, and pumpkins.
- Box 2, Folder A A-G
23 Items
Includes: "The Boogie Man," "Dance of the Demon," and "Frolic of the Imps."
- Box 3, Folder B H-Y
31 Items
Includes: five "Halloween" titles, "Mysterious Mose," "The Sneak," and "The Vampire Maids" from Odds and Ends of 1917.
- Box 3, Folder C Ghosts, 1904-1979, undated
34 Items
Subjects include haunted house, spooks, and phantoms. Titles include "The Ghost" from Miss Dudelsack, "Phantom Frolics," and "Spook-ooky Blues."
- Box 3, Folder D-E Witches, 1883-1979, undated
- Box 3, Folder D General Songs, 1883-1979
22 Items
Includes: "Chase of the Witches," "Salem Witches March," and "Witchcraft."
- Box 3, Folder E Multiple editions of "The Witches Dance," two compositions by J.
14 Items
DeLancey, 1909, and E. A. McDowell, 1915, undated.

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Subseries 15.6: Thanksgiving, 1853-1974, undated

Box 4, Folder A-D

- Box 4, Folder A B-R
33 Items
Includes: two "The First Thanksgiving" titles, "The Gobble Song" from The Mascot, and "Make Every Day Thanksgiving Day."
- Box 4, Folder B S-W

40 Items

Includes: "Thanks Be to God," and "The Turkey Gobbler's Ball" from Ziegfeld Follies of 1911.

Box 4, Folder C

Folio, Song of Thanksgiving, Novello's Original Octavo Edition, 1905
1 Item

Box 4, Folder D

Harvest Titles, 1895-1966, undated
29 Items

Includes: Several titles regarding the harvest moon and "Sing a Song of Harvest" from Kentucky Moonshine.

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Subseries 15.7: New Year, 1852-1970, undated

34 Items

Box 5, Folder A

Note that Father Time subjects relating to age, and not the New Year, are in Series 9. Includes: "Auld Lang Syne," "Midnight Referie," and "Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New."

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Subseries 15.8: Park, 1869-1969, undated

31 Items

Box 5, Folder A

Includes songs about Amusement Parks and Piers. Titles include "George Took Me Walking in the Park," "Meet Me at the Pier" with image of Electric Park, Detroit, Michigan, and "Only a Little While Longer."

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Subseries 15.9: Picnic, 1854-1964, undated

18 Items

Box 5, Folder A

Includes: "Picnic Waltz" and "Picnic Polka." 1954-1964, undated.

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Subseries 15.10: Rolling Chairs, 1905-1923, undated

9 Items

Box 5, Folder A

Includes: "Bessie on the Boardwalk," "Rolling Along" from All That Glitters, and "Why Don't You Try" from The Belle of Avenue 'A.'

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Subseries 15.11: Ephemera

Ephemera, contains items regarding carnival, Mardi Gras, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and New Year.

Note: Ephemera boxes are numbered separately from the sheet music.

Box 49, Folder A

Carnival and Mardi Gras - contains list of Mardi Gras titles and one page of 'see' notes.

- Box 49, Folder A Halloween - contains four articles and two pages of 'see' notes.
- Box 49, Folder A Thanksgiving - contains 25 articles, cartoons, poems, and messages, six church programs, two items in the over-size box, a BMI promo, WOWO music logs, and two pages of 'see' notes.
- Box 49, Folder A New Year - one article, six pages of New Year messages, two pages of titles, WOWO music log for January 1, and two pages of 'see' notes, 1960

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