



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 27: Gypsies

NMAH.AC.0300.S27

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 27: Gypsies
Date:	1900-1950
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0300.S27
Creator:	DeVincent, Sam, 1918-1997
Extent:	3 Boxes
Language:	English .
Summary:	Sam DeVincent loved music and art and began collecting sheet music with lithographs at an early age. An overview to the entire DeVincent collection is available here: Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Gypsies

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 27: Gypsies 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](#) .

Processing Information

Collection processed by Eva Buchanan, Katie DeFonzo, and Stephanie Haeg, interns, summer 2017; Amanda Scott; Monisha Bernard; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

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

Contains material documenting the cultural values and popular attitudes toward gypsies in the United States. The bulk of the material dates from 1900 to 1950. The material is arranged alphabetically by title in three boxes. The compositions are mostly arranged for piano and piano/vocal, with a few pieces made for violin and guitar. Subjects include stories and tales of gypsies, types of dances such as polka, gypsy carnivals, romance, and warnings against gypsies. Most of the songs discuss the day to day lives of gypsies traveling on caravans, wandering, camping, and walking along trails. They also focus on the role of the gypsy as a countess, a young woman, and a romantic. The illustrations in the series depict women in stereotypical gypsy attire, full of color and different patterns.

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Titles, A-F
Box 1, Folder 2	Titles, Ga-Gi
Box 1, Folder 3	Titles, Gi
Box 2, Folder 1	Titles, Gi-Gy
Box 2, Folder 2	Titles, Gy
Box 2, Folder 3	Titles, Gy-I
Box 3, Folder 1	Titles, I-O
Box 3, Folder 2	Titles, P-S
Box 3, Folder 3	Titles, T-Z