



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Henry S. Bukowski Big Band Collection

NMAH.AC.0678

David Haberstich

2001

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Henry S. Bukowski Big Band Collection, [primarily photoprints]
Date:	ca. 1930s-1940s
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0678
Creator:	Bukowski, Henry S., 1922- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Community Life
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Publicity photographs and postcards of entertainers, mostly jazz musicians and leaders of dance bands, etc., and related memorabilia.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Henry S. Bukowski Big Band Collection,[primarily photoprints]

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Henry S. Bukowski, 1984.

Provenance

Collection transferred from the Division of Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life) to the Archives Center in 1998.

Processing Information

Collection processed by David Haberstick, 2001.

Preferred Citation

Henry S. Bukowski Big Band Collection, ca. 1930s-1940s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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.

Most of the photographs presumably are under copyright, but they were made and widely distributed for free publication.

Biographical Note

Henry S. Bukowski collected these pictures and other memorabilia during the 1930s and 1940s as a fan of big band music. He began his collection while in grammar school through library research, by locating bands active in New York City, then sending them penny postcards to request autographed publicity pictures. He also listened to late-night radio broadcasts and copied the addresses of bands based in other parts of the country. AOut went my penny postcards,@ he notes. After hearing trombonist Tommy Dorsey=s band at a local ballroom at age fourteen, he became interested in the instrument, and his older brothers Bernie and Ted bought him his first trombone from a pawnshop for ten dollars. When he was old enough, he frequented the New Haven Arena and the State Theatre in Hartford, Connecticut to hear bands in person. These bands and the admission prices he paid (25 to 99 cents) are listed in his scrapbook. Mr. Bukowski maintained an avid interest in popular Abig band@ jazz and swing music as both a fan and a player, and eventually served with a U.S. Army band for three and a half years after being drafted.

Mr. Bukowski was born on April 11, 1922 in Wallingford, Connecticut, the youngest of nine children. He was married to Mildred Moss for forty-eight years until her death October 15, 2000; they had no children. In a letter of September 1, 2001, he reported that he had one surviving sibling, a brother in Wallingford.

Source

Letter, 2 pp., in Archives Center collection control file. The Archives Center is grateful to Mr. Bukowski for his generous gift as well as his thoughtfulness in providing the above information.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains primarily publicity photographs: a mixture of prints from original negatives, prints from copy negatives, etc. Most are 8" x 10" or 5" x 7", some smaller, and some are postcard size or smaller (these include Areal photo@ postcards, i.e., original photographic images printed on special silver gelatin paper). A few photomechanical images are included, as well as a few letters from celebrities to Mr. Bukowski, 1938-1939. The earliest item noted in the collection is a 1933 Christmas card. Several examples of Gene Krupa=s novelty pin, consisting of crossed drumsticks and a miniature phonograph record, are included. The actual number of items in each folder is shown in the Container List; items are conventional silver gelatin photoprints unless otherwise identified. There is also a scrapbook containing news clippings, photographs, and other memorabilia, with a list, affixed to the back cover, of bands which Mr. Bukowski heard in person. Although some of the photographs bear autographs with generic, somewhat impersonal messages, many are addressed personally to the collector and are fine examples of the interaction between celebrity and fan. The notation Assigned@ in the Container List identifies items autographed by performers.

Most of the subjects are musicians and entertainers associated with big jazz and popular music bands of the period; however, most of the images are studio publicity portraits of individual bandleaders and stars, rather than pictures of entire bands. Photographers represented include Bruno of Hollywood and Maurice Seymour, although many others are not identified.

Publicity photographs often were not archivally processed, and many photoprints in the collection show evidence of fading and yellowing from inadequate fixation or washing. Prints which are in exceptionally good condition are noted in the Container List.

Mr. Bukowski formed this collection in the 1930s and 1940s, but he added a few related items in the 1980s and 1990s.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Big bands
- Jazz -- 20th century -- United States
- Music -- 20th century -- United States
- Musicians -- 1900-1950
- Popular music -- 20th century -- United States
- Portraits
- Publicity

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- 1900-1950

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Van Alexander: 3 (signed), by Bruno of Hollywood, 1967-1981, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Missing?, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Andrews Sisters: 2 (signed), undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Louis Armstrong :1, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Gene Autry: 1, and real photo postcard (signed Richard III), undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Mitchell Ayres:5 (signed), by Bruno of Hollywood, 1981
Box 1, Folder 7	12, various artists, some signed, by Bruno of Hollywood (?) and Maurice Seymour, 1981
Box 1, Folder 8	Mildred Bailey by Maurice Seymour: 1, 1967-1974
Box 1, Folder 9	Charlie Barnett: 3 (2 signed), 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Dick Barnie: 3 (signed), 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 11	Blue Barron: 4 (3 signed)
Box 1, Folder 12	Count Basie: 2 (signed, 1 with Swingcerely) , by Bruno of Hollywood
Box 1, Folder 13	Gordon ATex@ Beneke, with Glenn Miller: 1
Box 1, Folder 14	Bunny Berigan: 2 (signed), with letter, 1938
Box 1, Folder 15	Ben Bernie: 1
Box 1, Folder 16	Will Bradley: 3 (1 signed)
Box 1, Folder 17	Les Brown: 2 (1 signed), by Harold Stein
Box 1, Folder 18	9 performers (all prints signed), plus a typed, signed letter from Ray Cannavaro which accompanied a small action portrait of him playing the guitar. Various photographers, including Harold Stein, Murray Korman, Delar, Calvert.
Box 1, Folder 19	Cab Calloway: 5 (4 signed), with envelope.
Box 1, Folder 20	Bill Carlsen: 2 (signed), by Maurice Seymour.
Box 1, Folder 21	Bob Chester: 2 (1 signed), by Bruno of Hollywood.

Box 1, Folder 22	Buddy Clarke: 1 (signed).
Box 1, Folder 23	Larry Clinton: 1 (signed), by Murray Korman (3 portraits; a band photoprint in good condition).
Box 1, Folder 24	Del Courtney: 3 (signed), with a 1939 letter.
Box 1, Folder 25	Bob Crosby: 4 (3 signed), by Maurice.
Box 1, Folder 26	Xavier Cugat: 3 by Maurice Seymour, with mounted newspaper clippings. Holograph messages on prints in Spanish.
Box 1, Folder 27	D, various artists, 4 (Lynn Davis, Bobby Day, Dolly Dawn, Sam Donohue)
Box 1, Folder 28	Al Donohue: 3 (2 signed).
Box 1, Folder 29	Jayne & Kathryn Donovan: 1 (8" x 10", flush-mounted, signed by both), good condition.
Box 1, Folder 30	Jimmy Dorsey: 5 small prints (signed), by Maurice Seymour. Postcard-size picture of the Dorsey trombone section with advertisement for Vincent Bach Corporation instruments on the verso.
Box 1, Folder 31	Tommy Dorsey: 6; with April 1939 issue of newspaper, The Bandstand.
Box 1, Folder 32	Eddy Duchin: 5 (signed), with 2 photographic greeting cards, by Maurice Seymour.
Box 1, Folder 33	E, Miscellaneous Performers, empty.
Box 1, Folder 34	Ray Eberle: 2
Box 1, Folder 35	Joan Edwards: 1 (signed). Attractive performer shown with flower in hair and a CBS microphone; good quality and good condition. Signed in white ink, To Henry: / Melodiously yours / Joan Edwards
Box 1, Folder 36	Roy Eldridge: 1 photomechanical reproduction.
Box 1, Folder 37	Duke Ellington: 2 photoprints and 1 photomechanical card (signed), by Maurice of Chicago.
Box 1, Folder 38	Ikinnay Ennis: 2.
Box 1, Folder 39	F, miscellaneous, 4 small prints, including 1 photomechanical reproduction, by photographers Murray Korman and Maurice Seymour.
Box 1, Folder 40	Shep Fields: 2.

Box 1, Folder 41	Ted Fiorito, ??? (all 8" x 10"), including 1 nice image of the band in a ballroom setting.
Box 1, Folder 42	Helen Forest: 2 (1 signed Best Chesterfield wishes).
Box 1, Folder 43	G, miscellaneous, 3.
Box 1, Folder 44	Garber, Jan, 3 (1 dated 1938).
Box 1, Folder 45	Glen Garr., 2.
Box 1, Folder 46	Benny Goodman: 2.
Box 1, Folder 47	Gray Gordon, 3 by Maurice Seymour.
Box 1, Folder 48	Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra: 8 prints, including several of entire band, and two issues of the Casa Loma Club News.
Box 1, Folder 49	Johnny Green, 2 (5" x 7"), 1 print showing whole orchestra: behind them is a large Philip Morris advertisement showing Johnny in bellhop costume.
Box 2, Folder 50	H, miscellaneous. performers: George Hamilton, 1 photomechanical (signed); Jackie Hieller, 1 (signed); Everett Hoagland, 1 (signed); Herbie Holmes, 1 (signed); Marion Holmes, 1 (signed); Claude Hopkins, 1; Dan Huey(?), 1 (signed); letter from Len Hopkins=s manager Bill Newton, with envelope postmarked Nov. 21, 1938; 1 real photo postcard of group with 2 signatures, 1 being C Harris.
Box 2, Folder 51	Mal Hallet: 5 (3 signed), including 1 real photo postcard and 2 by James J. Kriegsman.
Box 2, Folder 55	Phil Harris: 2 (1 with band).
Box 2, Folder 56	Horace Heidt: 4, plus 1 photomechanical reproduction; postcard; publicity flyer.
Box 2, Folder 57	Ray Herbeck, 4: 1 real photo postcard (signed); 2 of same pose by Maurice Seymour (1 signed); 1 of Betty Benson (signed).
Box 2, Folder 58	Milt Herldt, 1 real photo postcard.
Box 2, Folder 59	Woody Herman, 4: 3 photoprints by James J. Kriegsmann (2 of which are signed); and 1 photomechanical postcard, printed in blue
Box 2, Folder 60	Hildegarde: 1 real photo advertising card, autographed To Henry Bukowski with all good wishes... with My Gramophone Records list on verso.
Box 2, Folder 61	Tiny Hill: 2 photoprints, 1 photomechanical postcard; 1 photomechanical poster.
Box 2, Folder 62	Harriet Hilliard (Nelson): 1 real photo postcard.

Box 2, Folder 63	Richard Himber: 1 with band on bookcase set, and 1 showing Himber reading "A Studebaker Champions 1935" folder.
Box 2, Folder 64	Hoosier Hot Shots (Trietsch Brothers), musical comedy group, 1.
Box 2, Folder 65	Eddy Howard: 2 (signed) by Maurice Seymour..
Box 2	Dean Hudson: 1 photoprint, with NBC microphone; and 5 photomechanical reproductions, including 1 Christmas card.
Box 2, Folder 66	Ina Ray Hutton: 2 (including 1 in which she holds baton, signed).
Box 2, Folder 68	J, miscellaneous performers: Al Jahns, 1; Johnny James, 1 (signed) by Bruno of Hollywood; Jimmy Joy (holding baton), 1; Pete Johnson, African American pianist.
Box 2, Folder 69	Harry James: photographic Christmas card with Betty Grable (signed in red Betty & Harry); band (Harry James and his Chesterfield Music Makers); portrait by Bruno of Hollywood; portrait by Kriegsmann (signed A Best Chesterfield Wishes C@); another from same negative, autographed A To >Henry=C@; print by Apeda (signed); card with Service Club label (signed), stamped Jan 12 A.M. 1945"; 2 non-photographic Christmas cards; and a published article on James by Kate Holliday.
Box 2, Folder 70	Jack Jenny: 2 (signed) by Murray Korman.
Box 2, Folder 71	Dick Jurgens: 5 photoprints (1 signed), including several by Maurice Seymour and a photomechanical reproduction of a Seymour photo.
Box 3, Folder 1	K: Miscellaneous performers, 10 items, including. real photo postcards, and a fine 8" x 10" signed print of the King??
Box 3, Folder 2	Sammy Kaye, 4.
Box 3, Folder 3	Hal Kemp, 3 (incl. one with full orchestra), with obituary and another sheet with clippings.
Box 3, Folder 4	George King, 2 (signed), real photo postcards.
Box 3, Folder 5	Wayne King, 1 by Maurice Seymour, and 1 sheet of clippings.
Box 3, Folder 6	Andy Kirk (African American bandleader), 3.
Box 3, Folder 7	Felix Knight, 2 (1 signed: an 8" x 10" print by Ray Lee Jackson, showing Knight at an NBC microphone).
Box 3, Folder 8	Andre Kostelanetz, 1.
Box 3, Folder 9	Gene Krupa: a blank Gene Krupa autograph book and a greeting card with a pin (two crossed red drumsticks with pendant miniature phonograph records bearing

	the name Gene Krupa; 3 photomechanical reproductions of photographs; and 1 early 8" x 10" photoprint, in faded, yellowing condition.
Box 3, Folder 10	Kay Kyser: 3 photoprints; sheet of clippings; 1 diploma (signed) awarded to Bukowski from Kyser's Kampus Klass of Musical Knowledge.
Box 2, Folder 11	L, miscellaneous performers: Anita Louise with harp; Peg La Centra (?) by Bruno of Hollywood (signed); Vincent Lopez; Eddie Le Baron; Jack Leonard (signed); Phil Levant (signed); and Light Crust Doughboys (photomechanical reproduction).
Box 2, Folder 12	Ted Lewis, holding clarinet and top hat: 2 by Maurice Seymour (both autographed ATo HenryC).
Box 2, Folder 14	Enoch Light: 1 (signed).
Box 2, Folder 13	Guy Lombardo, his brothers Carmen and Liebert, and his Royal Canadians orchestra: 5 photoprints; 3 photographic Christmas cards (1 dated 1933), and a paste-up card with cutout newspaper reproductions, with Guy and Carmen Lombardo autographs, dated 11-10-35.
Box 2, Folder 15	Johnny Long: 2 (portrait, signed) and photoprint of band.
Box 2, Folder 16	Clyde Lucas: 2: photoprint by Bruno of Hollywood (signed), and photomechanical reproduction of same image.
Box 2, Folder 17	Jimmie Lunceford: 3 photoprints, 1 of band, 1 of rhythm section, 1 showing Lunceford signing an autograph.
Box 2, Folder 18	Abe Lyman: 2 portraits by Bloom, Chicago, 1 signed To Henry Bukowski...
Box 2, Folder 19	M, miscellaneous performers. Lani McIntyre, real photo postcard, signed on verso. Johnny McGee, signed. Ray McKinley with drums, signed. Carl Deacon Moore, real photo postcard, signed ATo Henry / your pal...@ Lou Martin (signed). Louise Massey and the Westerners, photomechanical reproduction. Bill Marshall (signed). Saxie Mansfield (photographic advertisement for Martin Saxophones). C? Murray (signed). Johnny Messner by Bruno of Hollywood.
Box 2, Folder 20	Freddy Martin: 4.
Box 2, Folder 21	Paul Martin: 3 (signed); with letter and envelope, Oct. 19, 1939.
Box 2, Folder 23	Frankie Masters: 2, 1 by Bloom and 1 by Bruno of Hollywood.
Box 2, Folder 24	Clyde McCoy: 2 real photo postcards (1 signed); and 1 photoprint autographed To / Ray / Eichenmuller...
Box 2, Folder 25	McFarland Twins: 1 photoprint and 1 real photo postcard (both signed).

Box 2, Folder 26	Glenn Miller: Vincent Bach photographic advertisement; 4 photoprints (3 signed); 2 photomechanical Christmas cards (1 signed); photomechanical promotional postcard; miscellaneous printed ephemera.
Box 2, Folder 27	Russ Morgan: 4 photoprints (1 signed) and 1 real photo postcard
Box 3, Folder 11	N: miscellaneous performers (4): Freddy Nagel, Frank Novak, Ruby Newman, and Don Norris, all autographed.
Box 3, Folder 12	Ozzie Nelson: 3 photoprints, and an advertising card endorsing Bach instruments.
Box 3, Folder 13	Red Nichols: 2 photoprints and 1 photomechanical reproduction; 1 greeting card.
Box 3, Folder 14	Leighton Noble, 2 (1 portrait and 1 one of entire orchestra, both signed).
Box 3, Folder 15	Ray Noble: 5 (4 signed). 1 very fine image shows Noble with two dogs.
Box 3, Folder 16	O, miscellaneous performers: George Olsen, 2 photomechanical greeting cards; Will Osborne, an autographed photomechanical reproduction; Dolores O'Neill, nice glamour photographic portrait, autographed to Henry.
Box 3, Folder 17	Tony Pastor: 2 (1 signed)
Box 3, Folder 34	P, miscellaneous performers: Walter Powell, 1, signed; Skeeter Palmer, 1 signed real photo postcard; Ray Pearl, 1 signed photo postcard; Teddy Powell, 1 signed; Eddie Paul, 1 signed
Box 3, Folder 39	R, miscellaneous performers: Clyde Rogers, 1 signed; Carl Ravazza, 1 signed; Genevieve Rowe, 1 signed (signature fading); Eddy Rogers, 1 signed; Luigi Romanelli, 1; Dusty Roades, 1 signed; Jimmy Richards, signed photomechanical postcard; Alvino Rey, 1 signed.
Box 3, Folder 40	Joe Reichman: 2, 1 signed To Henry.
Box 3, Folder 41	Tommy Reynolds, 2
Box 3, Folder 42	Rita Rio, 2 small prints, glamour portraits by Maurice Seymour, both signed To Henry...
Box 3, Folder 43	S, miscellaneous performers: Lee Shelley, signed portrait with letter (Sept. 30, 1938); Mildred Stanley, 1 signed; Bob Strong, 1 signed; Maurice Spitalny, 1 signed real photo postcard showing his Tap Time orchestra; Bernie Simmons, 1; Joseph Sudy, 1 signed; Dick Stabile, 1 signed photomechanical reproduction; Eddie South (African American violinist), 1; Leith Stevens by Maurice Goldberg, 1, signed; Kenny Sargent, 1 reproduction of a drawing or print.
Box 3, Folder 44	Jan Savitt: 3, signed.

Box 3, Folder 46	Raymond Scott, 2, 1 of which signed.
Box 3, Folder 20	Freddie Shaffer and His Victory Sweethearts (all-girl band), 7, including beach scene, and an Army Air Force photoprint dated on the verso June 4, 1944.
Box 3, Folder 47	Artie Shaw, 4, 3 of which signed, and 1 real photo postcard of the entire band.
Box 3, Folder 48	Dinah Shore, 2 by Bruno of Hollywood.
Box 3, Folder 49	Ginny Simms, 1 glamour portrait by Bruno of Hollywood, signed To Henry...
Box 3, Folder 50	The Smoothies, (trio): 3, 2 of which are real photo postcards, 1 signed.
Box 3, Folder 51	Charlie Spivak: 2 (1 by Bruno of Hollywood), both signed.
Box 3, Folder 52	Ted Weems, 2, one of which is a real photo postcard, both showing band, both signed.
Box 3, Folder 53	Bob Sylvester, 2 (1 by Bruno of Hollywood, the other being a real photo postcard), both signed.
Box 3, Folder 55	T, miscellaneous performers: Edith Taedwell, 1 signed; Three Tanner (?) Sisters, 1 by Maurice Seymour, signed To Henry from all 3, dated 8/23/39; Bee Gee Tavern Band, 1.
Box 3, Folder 56	Jack Teagarden, 1 signed, and another of Teagarden with singer Kitty Kallen.
Box 3, Folder 57	Lang Thompson, 2, signed (1 is a real photo postcard, by Maurice Seymour, and a letter from Thompson, Nov. 15, 1938.
Box 3, Folder 58	Claude Thornhill: 1, signed.
Box 3, Folder 60	Dick Todd: 2
Box 3, Folder 62	Orrin Tucker: 5, incl. 1 signed, plus 1 signed portrait of Bonnie Baker.
Box 3, Folder 63	Tommy Tucker: 1 photographic copy print, signed, and 2 photomechanical reproductions.
Box 3, Folder 65	V, miscellaneous performers: Joe Venuti, 1 photomechanical repro. with photomechanical repro of Tony Martin on verso; 2 with illegible signatures, 1 of which is a real photo postcard (?); 1 sultry portrait of Virginia Verrilly, signed To you, Henry...
Box 3, Folder 66	Rudy Vallee, 1.
Box 3, Folder 67	W, miscellaneous performers: 3 photomechanical postcards; Florio Whitney (?), with fading autograph; Randy (?) Weeks, 1, signed.

Box 3, Folder 68	Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians: 3 (2 signed); 1 sheet of clippings; and a xerographic copy of an article on the Waring Blendor from Yesterday's Tools, January 1996 (Fred Waring invented the Waring Blendor).
Box 3, Folder 69	Lawrence Welk: 2 real photo postcards (signed); 1 publicity leaflet, signed; and 1 souvenir photo album from Lawrence Welk Country Club Village, ca. 1980.
Box 3, Folder 70	Paul Whiteman: 4; also signed letter from Whiteman, undated but with references to the 1939 season.
Box 3, Folder 71	Griff Wilkins: 2 real photo postcards (signed).
Box 3, Folder 72	Barry Wood: 3 (2 signed).
Box 3, Folder 73	Nan Wynn: 1 (signed Best wishes to Henry...)
Box 3, Folder 75	Bob Zurke: 1 by Maurice Seymour.
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Scrapbook, 1936 Notes: Mostly photomechanical reproductions (many signed), but with another example of Gene Krupa=s pin on the first page). See back cover for list of bands heard by Bukowski and admission prices paid. Pages are in very poor, brittle condition. Also, 4 of Bukowski=s cards, signed by Carmen Lombardo, Russ Carlyle, etc.