



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Norman and Sally Coe Scopitone Film Collection

NMAH.AC.1230

Wendy Shay.

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Norman and Sally Coe Scopitone Film Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1230
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1962-1970
<b>Creator:</b>	Coe, Norman (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	141 Film reels
<b>Language:</b>	Lyrics in English, French, or German.
<b>Summary:</b>	Scopitones are three minute long 16mm films that were viewed on a Scopitone machine, a jukebox-like player. A precursor to music videos, Scopitones -- both the films and the machines -- were popular in the United States from around 1962 to 1968. The films featured sets, costumes, and dancers in support of well-known performers singing a single song. The collection includes Scopitone films from the United States and Europe.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Scopitone machine and films donated by Norman and Sally Coe in 2011.

### Related Materials

#### **Materials in the National Museum of American History**

The Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life) acquired a Scopitone machine as part of the same donation. Accession #: 2011.0056

### Processing Information

Processed by Wendy Shay, archivist, April, 2011.

### Preferred Citation

[Title], Norman and Sally Coe Scopitone Film Collection, circa 1964-1970, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

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## Biographical / Historical

Referring to both the films and the machines that played them, a Scopitone is song-length film viewed on a juke-box like machine with a screen. Introduced in the late 1950s in France, and based on technology developed during World War Two, the Scopitone machine offered a selection of up to thirty-six titles. Patrons would insert coins (twenty-five cents per play in the United States), press the button for the film desired, and the film would appear on a small screen that formed the top of the machine. The Scopitone films were three minute-long 16mm composite magnetic track prints that featured performers singing popular songs of the time. Like their predecessor, Soundies, and paving the way for music videos, Scopitones included basic sets, costumes, and choreography. Scopitones were made in France, Great Britain, and Germany. Scopitones (both the machines and the films) were most popular in France. Consequently, a large number of the films are in French and star performers well-known in France. One of the major producers of American Scopitone films was Harman-ee Productions, a company owned by Debbie Reynolds. In the United States, Scopitone machines could be found in bars, restaurants, and lounges. Performers as varied as Debbie Reynolds, Neil Sedaka, and Ethel Ennis appeared in American Scopitones. In many of the films the stars sang the songs while surrounded by scantily-clad dancers. On occasion the production numbers told the "story" of the song. More often, the sets, dance moves, and costumes appeared superfluous. The "look" of the films reflected the times with choreography influenced by the Twist and other contemporary dances and clothing and hairdos straight from a mid-1960s teen fashion magazine. Scopitones flourished in the United States for a very short period of time. First introduced around 1962, interest in producing and viewing Scopitones had ended by 1968. Most American machines and films were tossed in the trash. Collectors acquired the remaining machines and films. Scopitone films, once a mostly forgotten genre, are now easily viewed on Youtube, introducing this short-lived cultural phenomenon to new generations of viewers. The donor, Norman Coe, became involved with Scopitone as a business in 1964 when he purchased ten machines from the Scopitone division of Tel-A-Sign, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois. Coe placed his machines and the films in bars and restaurants around the Albany, New York area. He left the business in the late 1960s, selling all but one of his machines and several cartons of Scopitone films. He donated his remaining machine and films to the National Museum of American History in 2011.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection comprises approximately one hundred and forty 16mm color composite magnetic track motion picture prints produced to be played on a Scopitone juke box. These films were produced in Europe and the United States.

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## Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series. The order follows the original catalogue/distribution numbers.  
**Series 1, Original Films, 1962-1970**

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

16mm composite magnetic track motion picture film. No reference copies exist. Special arrangements must be made with the Archives Center to view film. Many Scopitones are available for viewing on Youtube.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

16mm motion picture film  
Music

### Names:

Alpert, Herb  
Anka, Paul  
Bach, Vivi  
Carr, Vikki  
Damone, Vic  
Darren, James  
Eckstine, Billy  
Ennis, Ethel  
Gore, Lesley, 1946-  
Greco, Buddy  
Hallyday, Johnny, 1943 -  
Lansing, Joi, 1934-1972  
Legrand, Michel, 1932 -  
McNair, Barbara  
Morgan, Jane, 1920 -  
Rawls, Lou  
Reese, Della  
Reynolds, Debbie  
Riley, Billy Lee, 1933-  
Rydell, Bobby  
Sedaka, Neil  
Sinatra, Frank, Jr., 1944-  
Starr, Kay  
Vee, Bobby  
Warwick, Dionne

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Original Films, circa 1964-1970

Language: English.

Das Susse Leben (La Dolce Vita), 1962  
1 Film reel  
Language: German.  
Notes: Performer: Vivi Bach

He's Got the Power, 1963  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: The Exciters

Tell Him  
Notes: Performers: The Exciters

Walk On By  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Dionne Warwick

Hurt by Love  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Charley and Inez Foxx

Mocking Bird  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Charley and Inez Foxx

Frenchie  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Annie Cordy

La Cage  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Marie-Helene

Truddie  
Notes: Performer: Marie-Helene

Bons Baisers a Bientot (Kisses and Farewells)  
Notes: Performers: Kessler Sisters

Je Suis Mordu (I Got Stung)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Johnny Hallyday

So High, So Wide, So Low

Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Delta Rhythm Boys

On the Street Where You Live (L'amour Est Dans Ta Rue)

Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Dominique

**On the Street Where You Live** (color)

Language: English.

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Black Boy  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: John William

Garde-Moi La Derniere Danse (Save the Last Dance)

Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Maya Casablanca

Le Bleu de Lete (The Blue of Summer)

Notes: Performer: John William

Itsi Bitsi Petit Bikini (Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini)

Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Richard Anthony

Une Boom Chez John (A Party at John's)

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Johnny Hallyday

Tom Pilibi

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Jacqueline Boyer

Pepito

Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Los Machucambos

Nous les Amoureux (We Who Love) (A-59)

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Jean-Claude Pascal

C'etait Bien (It Was Good)

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Juliette Greco

Reve Mon Reve (Dream My Dream)

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Isabelle Aubret

Dum Dum Twist

Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Hancy Halloway

Loin de Vous (Far From You)  
Notes: Performer: Dalide

Ya-Ya Twist  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Richard Anthony

Quando Quando (When, When)  
Language: French and German lyrics  
Notes: Performers: Kessler Sisters

Zizi! La Twisteuse  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Glenn Jack & ses Glenners

Locomotion  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Sylvie Vartan

Le Jour le Plus Long (The Longest Day)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Dalida

Sherry  
Notes: Performers: Les Chats Sauvages

Youpi Ya Tamoure  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Danyel Gerard

Une College Anglais (The English College Girls)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Audry Arno

Tous les Garcons et les Filles (All the Boys and Girls)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Francois Hardy

Dans le Train de Nuit (Night Train)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Dominique et Georges Jouvin et son Ochestre

El Gato Montes (Spanish Bullfight)  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: El Trompet Gitana - Leo Vidal

Basin Street Blues  
Language: English.



Notes: Performer: Colette Magny

My Prayer

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Les Brutos

Good Good Lovin'

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Nancy Halloway

Twiste et Chante (Twist and Shout)

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Sylvie Vartan

Remember Diana

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Paul Anka

Oui Les Filles (We Girls)

Language: French.

Notes: Performers: Les Gams

Ruby Baby

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Dion

Si J'Avais Un Marteau (If I Had a Hammer)

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Les Surfs

America

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Danyel Gerard

Ava Naguila

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Rika Zarai

Snappez a Mes Cotes (Snappy)

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Conrad Prindel

I Love Paris

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Michel Legrand

Scopitone Party

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Betty Claire

Viva! El Macho (Long Live the Man)

Notes: Performer: Carlos Aragon

Hello Dolly  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Georges Jouvan and Dolly Brothers

Belly Dancer  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Miguel Cordoba

Ca C'est Paris (It is Paris)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Josette Joubert

Etrangers Dans le Nuit (Strangers In the Night)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Ricardo

Le Catch (Wrestling Match)  
Notes: Performers: Christian Marin and Roger Delaporte

L'Argent Ne Fait Pas le Bonheur (Money Doesn't Buy Happiness)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Les Parisiennes

Mon Ami Lointain (My Friend From Far Away)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performer: Dick Rivers

La Chevalier d'Amour (American version)

Les Majorettes (Touchdown Girls)  
Language: French.  
Notes: Performers: Crazy Horse Saloon Dancers

A Whiter Shade of Pale  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Procol Harum

Johnny Liar  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Molly Bee

The Best is Yet to Come, 1967  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Barbara McNair

The Other Side of the Tracks  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Barbara McNair

## Ain't That Just Like Me

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: The Condors

## Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey?

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Della Reese

## Toreador

Notes: Performer: Mary Kaye

## C'est Si Bon, 1966

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Jane Morgan

## Under Paris Skies, 1966

Notes: Performer: Jane Morgan

## Cake Walkin' Baby, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Greenwood County Singers

## Around the World

Notes: Performer: Kay Starr

## Wheel of Fortune, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Kay Starr

## We'll Sing in the Sunshine, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Debbie Reynolds

## If I Had a Hammer, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Debbie Reynolds

## I've Got the World on a String, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: January Jones

## That Old Gang of Mine, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: January Jones

## High Heeled Sneakers

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Billy Lee Riley

## Pussycat A-Go-Go, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Stacy Adams

Tweedlee Dee

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Freddie Bell and Roberta Linn

For You

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Freddie Bell and Roberta Linn

Pretty Girls Everywhere

Notes: Performer: Bobby Vee

The Night Has a Thousand Eyes

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Bobby Vee

Queen of the House, 1965

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Jody Miller

The Race is On, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Jody Miller

Because You're Mine, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: James Darren

The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Joi Lansing

Three O'Clock in the Morning

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Lou Rawls

The Mighty Mississippi

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Back Porch Majority

Bless Them All

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Shani Wallis

Lost and Found

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Vic Damone

The Lady is a Tramp

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Buddy Greco

Good for Nothing Bill

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: The Legendaires

Yellow Haired Woman

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Frankie Randall

I Cried for You

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Sonny King

Sea Cruise, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: The Hondells

Padam Padam

Language: French.

Notes: Performer: Hanna Ahroni

Before the Rain

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Sue Raney

Silver Dollar

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Damita Jo

Everything I've Got

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Vicki Carr

I've Got that Feeling

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Ethel Ennis

One Has My Name

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Barry Young

Keep Your Eyes On the Hands

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Princess Leilani and Alex

Smoldering Drums

Language: English.

Notes: Performers: Princess Leilani and Alex

Bellazza, 1966

Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Bobby Rydell

Where Did All the Good Times Go?  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Dick and Dee Dee

Where Do You Go To Go Away?  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Gale Garnett

My Teenage Fallout Queen, 1964  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: George McKelvey

Mother Nature, Father Time, 1965  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Brook Benton

Just a Dream  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Marian Montgomery

Ike Cole Salutes His Brother Nat King Cole  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Ike Cole

If  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Timi Yuro

Prime of My Life  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Billy Eckstine

Five Card Stud  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Merle Kilgore

The Silencer, 1965  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Joi Lansing

Enamorado  
Notes: Performer: Enamorado

Love for Sale, 1968  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Frank Sinatra, Jr.

Feminity, 1968

Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Donna Theodore

The Web of Love  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Joi Lansing

Lazy River, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: January Jones

I Love Being Here With You  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: January Jones

If I Never Get to Heaven, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Della Reese

Irma La Douce, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Barbara McNair

Calendar Girl, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Neil Sedaka

Little Miss Go-Go, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Gary Lewis and the Playboys

Tijauna Taxi, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performers: Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass

St. Louis Blues, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Lou Rawls

Experience Unnecessary  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Donna Theodore

Wonder Boy, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Lesley Gore

Small Potatoes, 1966  
Language: English.  
Notes: Performer: Gale Garnett

Ole

Most Unusual Day, 1966

Language: English.

Notes: Performer: Vic Damone

Cabaret

Notes: Performer: Marilyn Maye

Winchester Cathedral, 1967

Notes: Performers: Ray Anthony and the Bookends

Love

Notes: Performer: Misti Walker

Whole World

Notes: Performer: Unknown

Down By the Riverside

Notes: Performer: Faith Flury

When You Make Such Pretty Eyes at Me (German)

Das Suss

Please Love Me

Notes: Performer: Michel Polnareff

Le Mone

Oh Yeah

Notes: Performers: Trio Athenee

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