



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to Art Thieme Folk Music Slides

NMAH.AC.1239

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Art Thieme Folk Music Slides
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1239
Date:	circa 1960s-1990
Extent:	459 Slides 0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Thieme, Art
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	Art Thieme was a noted folk singer who recorded many traditional ballads and folk songs from midwestern states. This collection is a series of 459 color slides documenting folk musicians and folk music, in both concert settings and informal portraiture, all taken by the donor.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Art Thieme in 2012.

Processing Information

Slides received in plastic storage sheets, many of which were damaged, although the slides did not seem to be physically damaged. Those that were damaged were replaced. The plastic storage sheets were contained in a red vinyl three-ring binder that has since been replaced with an acid-free binder box. The slides did not appear to be in any order.

Preferred Citation

Art Thieme Folk Music Slides, circa 1960s-1990, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of Michael Cuscuna.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

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.

Biographical / Historical

Art Thieme was born on July 9, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois. He became a noted folk singer. He launched his career at a Hyde Park, Chicago club, the Limelight, in 1959 and went on to perform for many years at a coffeehouse called No Exit, also in Chicago. Touring all over the country, he photographed and recorded many folk singers and concerts, documented in this collection. At the end of his career, he performed on the steamboats Julia Belle Swain, Twilight on the Mississippi, and Illinois Rivers. He has recorded traditional folk songs rendered by himself for Folk Legacy Records. Thieme died on May 26, 2015.

Scope and Contents

459 35mm color slides documenting folk musicians and folk music, in both concert settings and informal portraiture, all taken by the donor, Art Thieme, a noted folksinger. Subjects include such well-known performers as Stephen Wade, the New Lost City Ramblers, Mike Seeger, Pete Seeger, Peggy Seeger, Jack Elliott, Ike Everly, B.B. King, Dave Edmonson, Ray Harris, Kenny Baker, Tom Paxton, John Hammond, Bill Monroe, Justin Bishop, Steve Goodman, Cathy Fink, Wes Asbury, Ron F. Kirkpatrick, Doc Watson, Jim Kweskin, and Lightnin' Hopkins, and other notables such as oral historian Studs Terkel. The collection also contains a CD with Thieme's recordings and a folder of newspaper clippings, a program, and a map of local folk singers across the country. The slides are unarranged, but most slides have names, places, and dates.

Arrangement

The 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:

- Concerts
- Folk festivals
- Folk music
- Folk music -- Appalachian Region, Southern
- Folk music -- United States
- Folk musicians
- Folk songs -- United States
- Musical instruments -- 20th century
- Musicians -- 1950-2000

Types of Materials:

- Chromogenic processes
- Photographs -- Color transparencies -- 1950-2000
- Slides (photographs) -- 1950-2000

Container Listing

- Box 1, Folder 1 Art Thieme CD of recordings, 1998
[Image\(s\)](#)
The CD contains songs recorded by Thieme including: "Red Iron Ore," "Jerry, Go & Oil That Car," "A Lock & Dam Tale," "In & Around Nashville," "A Lumber Camp Tale," "The Pokegama Bear," "The Great Silkie of Sule Skerry," "The Master of the Sheepfold," "Why White Men Cannot See Clearly/The Cherokee Queen," "Bye & Bye," "A Ghostly Tale," "A North Country Tragedy," "Robin Hood's Death," "Way Down the Road," "Tennessee Stud," "Walkie in the Parlor," "Fair Margaret & Sweet William," "Betty and Dupree Blues," "In 1795," "Is Your Lamps Gone Out?" "Cowboy's Barbara Allen," and "A Handful of Songs."
- Box 1, Folder 2 Newspaper clippings, Thieme program, and map of folk singers, circa 1990s
- Box 1, Folder 3 Folk music slides, circa 1960s-1990
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Page 10 Claudia Schmidt at Winnipeg. [Jul 78 processing date on slide mount.], 1978
1 Item (Color dye on film.; 35mm.)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Thieme, Art, 1941-2015, Photographer
Thieme, Art, 1941-2015, Donor
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
- Local Numbers
AC1239-0000069 (AC Scan No.)
- Topic: Folk music
 Musicians -- 1950-2000
- Place: Winnipeg (Manitoba)
- Genre/
Form: Chromogenic processes
 Slides (photographs) -- 1950-2000
- Box 1, Page 10 Ian Robb & Grif Laskin [82 stamp without month on mount], 1978
1 Item (Color dye on film.; 35mm.)
[Image\(s\): Ian Robb & Grif Laskin \[82 stamp without month on mount\].](#)
Thieme, Art, 1941-2015, Photographer
Thieme, Art, 1941-2015, Donor
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
- Local Numbers
AC1239-0000068 (AC Scan No.)
- Topic: Folk music
 Musicians -- 1950-2000

Genre/ Chromogenic processes
Form: Slides (photographs) -- 1950-2000