Smithsonian
National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Boudini Brothers Vaudeville Collection

NMAH.AC.1426

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Boudini Brothers Vaudeville Collection
Date:	1909-1928
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1426
Creator:	Boudini, Phil (Creator) Boudini Brothers (Creator) Boudini, Dan, 1891- (Creator)
Extent:	1.25 Cubic feet (4 boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some items are in Italian.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Division of Culture and the Arts.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center in 2017 by the Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

Processing Information

The collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Boudini Brothers Vaudeville Collection, 1909-1928, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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

Phil and Dan Boudini (original names: Filippo and Domenico D'Agostino) were accordionists. Phil was born in Ireland, Dan in Italy. As children, they and their parents moved to Paris. After an apprenticeship, Dan worked in an accordion store. After immigrating to America, they appeared as a vaudeville act during the 1910s and 1920s, performing on the Orpheum Circuit. Initially, the act was called the Boudini Brothers. Their agent was also Harry Houdini's agent and suggested that they adopt the similar name. Phil left the act in

1917, and Dan Boudini's wife, Adele Bernard, joined the act. That act ended in 1928 and Dan and Adele lived the rest of their lives in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

The papers document the Boudini Brothers Vaudeville act. They include letters, postcards and telegrams, mostly of a business nature (such as relating to bookings); business papers including contracts and papers relating to expenses; photographs of the family and of the act; programs; scores and sheet music; music manuscripts; advertisements for appearances; magazines; periodicals; clippings and articles; calendars; scrip; and miscellaneous.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Accordion
Accordion music
Entertainers
Performing arts
Vaudeville

Types of Materials:

Advertisements
Business records
Clippings
Contracts
Magazines (periodicals)
Music -- Manuscripts
Periodicals
Postcards
Programs
Scores
Scrip
Sheet music
Telegrams

Names:

Bernard, Adele
Orpheum Circuit

Occupations:

Accordionists