Descriptive Summary
Title: Arnold Jacobsen Collection
Dates: 1889-1994
Collection number: ARS.0122
Collection size: 13 boxes: 227 open reel tapes ; multiple folders
Repository: Archive of Recorded Sound
Abstract: The Arnold Jacobsen Collection consists of open reel tapes of 78-era popular vocal music and accompanying documentation from the collection of record dealer and store owner Arnold Jacobsen.
Language of Material: English
Access
Open for research; material must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use. Contact the Archive for assistance.
Publication Rights
Property rights reside with repository. Publication and reproduction rights reside with the creators or their heirs. To obtain permission to publish or reproduce, please contact the Head Librarian of the Archive of Recorded Sound.
Preferred Citation
Source
The Arnold Jacobsen Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by Maurice Jacobsen in 2006.
Sponsor
This finding aid was produced with generous financial support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
Scope and Contents
The Arnold Jacobsen Collection consists of tapes of 78-era music and speech from the collection of collector, dealer, and record store owner Arnold Jacobsen, as well as correspondence, song lists, and other business records. Through his record store, The Memory Shop, and later his own custom-taping enterprise Arnold's Archives, Jacobsen would sell and trade copies of songs and home-made compilations, as well as the rare original recordings themselves. Many of these thematic compilations were provided for institutional clients (such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, and the National Baseball Library) for educational purposes, but Jacobsen's service also appealed to fans of old songs who needed help locating obscure, out-of-print recordings.
Most of Jacobsen's tape compilations were not retained; he did not necessarily possess the best available copies of records, and the filled-to-the-brim quarter track mono tapes did not age well. However, the valuable lists that accompanied the tapes were kept. These subject indexes are grouped around virtually any subject, including World War One, dentistry, baseball and other sports, U.S. states, obesity, coffee, alcohol and Prohibition, aviation, horses, dogs, cats and other animals, children, smoking, depression, cartoon characters, America's Bicentennial, big band theme songs, disaster songs, and political campaign songs. There are also compilations for certain artists (especially Al Jolson and Bing Crosby) and label surveys (such as Berliner, Zonophone, and early Columbia).
While the majority of recordings Jacobsen worked with were commercially-released 78 rpm records of popular music, the collection also contains spoken word, air checks (both radio and television), film soundtracks, home recordings, and live performances. Some of this material was obtained from other collectors and dealers, and others were recorded by Jacobsen himself. An abbreviated list of tape contents can be found below.
Related Collections
The Archive of Recorded Sound stores approximately 430 discs from the Jacobsen Collection separately; please refer to the Archive's Transcription and Instantaneous Disc Collections database for a listing of Jacobsen housed there. Stanford University Special Collections holds the Arnold Jacobsen Collection of 19th Century American Theater Programs, 1888-1913 (M1632).
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Jacobsen, Arnold
1. Tapes

Physical Description: 227 open reel tapes: 211 7" reels; 4 3" reels; 12 5" reels; 5 audiocassettes

Scope and Contents
Box 1 partial listing: Opera airchecks from WQXR-FM/WOR-AM, 1974-1978 (nearly all Metropolitan Opera, but also at least one from the Opera Association of Western Michigan).

Box 2 partial listing: Ben Lehr Park Church Organ; Ann Margret TV Special 10/28/73; Veterans Salute; Metaphysics for Everyday Living Lessons; Gen. Meyer Brainwashing Lecture; Inter-aircraft Communications; Baseballiana; Mozart Requiem, Easter Eve. 4/5/58; Victor Herbert Railroad Hour; Teddy Powell Show (Announced); Fanny, Civic Theatre rec. by Douglas Leitch; Operatic Cylinders; Packburn Demonstration Tape; Boston Transportation Museum Project; Hebrew 78s; Horowitz TV Concert; Eternal Light; Howie - J.A, Music Show 3/17/68; Memory Shop Radio Show - Wood - 1950; Comparison of Sweet and Dixie Arrangements; Lucia - Mad Scene 1904-1940; Reminiscences of a Record Collector (Musical Excerpts); Tom Ozinga Interview WUOH/WVGR 4/1980; Museum Show; Chuck Forster, Etc.; Electricity Salute

Box 3 partial listing: Presidential Voices Project; Jazz Drummers; Studs Terkel interviewing Earl Hines; Florida Songs; Unusual Instrumental Solos; Excerpts And Notes from Arnold's Archives; Jewish Comedy; Wizard of the Nile (Schenectady Light Opera Co.); Sweet Lorraine; Eddie Cantor Radio Show with Dinah Shore and Cesar Romero; Rare Cylinders; Hobo and Bum Songs; Political Campaign Songs; Public Library Project; Rigoletto (West Michigan Opera Co. 9/21/78); Rose Songs; Darrow - Scopes; Rosie the Riveter Project; Coney Island Project; Al Jolson Dialects and Imitations; Mother Project


Box 5 partial listing: Berliner/Zonophone; Bishop's Appeal; Auto Songs; Laurel & Hardy Silent Movies TV Soundtrack; Rudolf Ganz Interview with Manager of Chicago Symphony; Nixon Watergate Speech 8/15/73; Beethoven Emperor Schnabel/Stock Chicago Symphony; O'Halloran's Luck, TV 1961; Boris Godunov, Don Giovanni 1975; Hit Parade 4/11/36; Desert Island Discs 11/7/92; Sherrill Milnes Concert at St. Cecilia, Grand Rapids 10/16/91; Grand Rapids Symphony, The Alcanta Canta, Conductor. Mozart, Jupiter Symphony (#41); WGR Program 2/8/66; Ward Show; Early Movies; [radio songs, speeches and commentary 1941-1949]; Mississippi Project; Streisand Show, 19607; JFK Memorial; Breton School Play; Bennett, Symphonic Story of Jerome Kern. Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, William Steinberg, conductor; TV Pilot; Jolson - Chevalier Recreated Duets; Guest Star; Temple Emanuel Musical History Course

Box 6 partial listing: Herbert Hoover Military Situation 12/12/50; Oberhaus Film Project, Popular Hits Circa 1900; Bob Hope 25th Anniversary TV Show; Temple Emanuel Service - Musical Excerpts; Psychic Science and the Christian Bible; Warners 50th Anniversary 12/12/73; Duke Ellington TV Tribute 7/22/74; Metropolitan Opera airchecks 1975-78; Toscanini Programs; Ben Bernie, Off the Air 1939; Irving Berlin Interview; Zuben Mehta TV Show 3/13/70; George Jessel - Carnegie Hall Concert; Cagney Salute 3/18/74; TV Audition, Arnold Jacobsen; Big Bud Show WZZM 7/66; Train Songs; Spoken Word (France); Shipwreck Songs; Sewing Songs; Senior Citizen Project; Frank Lloyd Wright Discusses Architecture; Archeology Project; Tap Dancing Project; Political Songs and Speeches; History Speaks; WJR 35th Anniversary 1957; LaGuardia Reminiscences and Tribute

Box 7 tapes (17) are not labeled and will require an audio preview to identify.
2. Paper

Box 9  
**articles and miscellany**

- Physical Description: 1 folder
- Scope and Contents
- Includes photocopy of article from Grand Rapids Press 11/25/1979; article from New York World-Telegram 5/15/1948; article from Grand Rapids Express 12/8/1982; Turnover Magazine article photocopy, correspondence and photograph 1948; "Reminiscences of a Record Collector" radio script 1973; Arnold's Archives flier, etc.

Box 9  
**collection dispersal correspondence**

- Physical Description: 5 folders
- Scope and Contents
- One folder of correspondence chronicling Jacobsen's attempts to sell his collection to the University of Michigan and the Ford Museum, and four folders from a gift donation to the Chicago Public Library, including a grant application, agreement, and lists.

Box 9, Box 7  
**concert programs and playbills**

- Scope and Contents
- Older programs include the following: Detroit Symphony 1925; Edith Mason; Chaliapin 1923; Paderewski 1923, 1930; Jascha Heifetz; Josef Lhevinne 1924; Ignaz Friedman; Geiseking 1928; Werrenrath; Schumann-Heink; Rosa Ponselle and Tito Schipa 1923; Hofmann and Kreisler 1908; Kreisler 1922; Iturbi 1932; Gigli and Ponselle 1922; Farrar 1920; Elman 1926; De Gogorza 1926; Czerny 1923, 1925; Chicago Symphony 1922, 1923; German Grand Opera Co. 1930; London Symphony Orchestra 1914; Friedrich Music House Victrola Concert 1919; Powers Theatre, Anna Pavlova 1924; Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra 1901; Wagner Opera Company 1921; Metropolitan Opera at The Auditorium (Chicago?) 1899 and Boston Opera House 1910; Lyceum Theatre (Buffalo, New York) 1899; Star Theater (Buffalo, New York) 1889-98; Academy of Music (Buffalo, New York) 1922; Music Hall Programme (Buffalo, New York) 1900; Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts 1923.
- Newer programs include: Ivan Davis (autographed) 1961; Mstislav Rostropovich and Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra 1981; Radio City Music Hall 1956; Fiedler, Boston Pops 1969; Cincinnati Symphony 1953; Stadium Concert Review (Memory Shop ad p.52) 1946; Metropolitan Opera in Boston 1969; Isaac Stern 1994; Dionne Warwick c.1968; Sweet Charity (some autographs) 1969; Beverly Sills and Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra 1979. There are also a few museum brochures.

Box 9  
**discographies and research, unpublished**

- Scope and Contents
- Radano - Hoagy Carmichael 1986; Levandowski - Big Bands in the Grand Rapids Area 1900-1950, 1984; Fargo - Ada Jones Memorial Collection (undated); Prosser - Billy Murray 1978

Box 7, Box 9  
**Jolson material**

- Physical Description: 1 folder
- Scope and Contents
- International Al Jolson Society greeting and membership cards; photograph and negative reproductions
Memory Shop files

Box 10
catalogs
Physical Description: 1 folder
Scope and Contents
Lists and catalogs from The Memory Shop, from both its earlier location in Jackson Heights, New York (1946-1950) and in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Box 9
correspondence
Physical Description: 2 folders

Box 9
Memory Shop radio program 1951-1952
Physical Description: 1 folder
Scope and Contents
Produced radio program broadcast on WOOD, written and hosted by Jacobsen. Contains scripts, music logs, notes, and a program guide.

Box 9
wantlists 1960-1965
Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 9, Box 7
periodicals
Scope and Contents

Box 9, Box 7
photographs
Scope and Contents
Two large photographs of Jacobsen and The Memory Shop (c.late 40s); Spike Jones’ Musical Depreciation Revue promotional pictures (mostly reproductions); series of c.1937-1938 promotional pictures of Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra, Dave Apollon, Cass Daley and others (all autographed for Mary Ellen McCrary Visscher).

Box 9
record company catalogs (copies) 1906-1929
Physical Description: 36 folders
Scope and Contents
Photocopies of early catalogs from record companies. Includes catalogs or portions thereof from Victor, Edison, Brunswick, Vocalion and Columbia.

Box 8
song lists (from binders)
Physical Description: 14 folders

Box 7
song lists (from tape boxes)
Physical Description: 1 folder
2. Paper

song lists (from tape boxes)

Box 11  subject and name index files A-F

Box 12  subject and name index files G-O

Box 13  subject and name index files P-Z, plus performer list and partial category list