Guide to the American Folk Music Photograph Collection

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Collection number: Mss 229

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Descriptive Summary

Title: American Folk Music Photograph Collection

Dates: 1930s

Collection number: Mss 229

Collection Size: 0.2 linear feet (1 half-size document box)

Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Dept. of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Abstract: The collection contains 54 WPA related black and white photographs of musicians, singers, their homes and environs, from California and parts of the South, including Arkansas and North Carolina.

Physical location: Del Sur.

Languages: English

Access Restrictions

None.

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information


Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains 54 WPA related black and white photographs of musicians, singers, their homes and environs, from California and parts of the South, including Arkansas and North Carolina. Some are stamped “California Folk Music Recorded by the Music Dept. of the Univ. of California, in Cooperation with the Archives of American Folk Song of the Library of Congress under Works Progress Administration.”

Included are images connected with field recording projects, one with microphone visible. Southern subjects include old ballad singers and their homes, a man and his mules, small shots of a dowser, and a guitar player recording songs in the parlor. The California photos include a number of immigrant Eastern European musicians playing a variety of instruments.

Identified photographers include James L. Hall, Sidney Roberts and Dick Weston.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Folk music--United States.
Box 1: 1  Arkansas
Box 1: 2  California
Box 1: 3  North Carolina
Box 1: 4  Old Man Selleck - fiddle photos by Jim Hall
Box 1: 5  Unidentified