

Discoteca Pública Municipal de São Paulo collection

AFC 1943/001

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1995**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004695166>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af015002>

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Finding aid encoded by Kate Stewart, February 2015
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Collection Summary

Title: Discoteca Pública Municipal de São Paulo collection

Inclusive Dates: 1937-1943

Call No.: AFC 1943/001

Creator: Discoteca Oneyda Alvarenga (Centro Cultural São Paulo)

Creator: Alvarenga, Oneyda

Extent: 1184 items; 4 containers; 2 linear feet.

Extent (Manuscripts): 7 folders (1 box).

Extent (Sound recordings): 215 sound discs : analog, 78 rpm ; 10 in., 12 in., 16 in.

Extent (Graphic materials): 359 photographic prints : black and white ; 2 3/4 in. x 1 3/4 in.

Extent (Graphic materials): 259 photographic prints : black and white ; 3 1/2 in. x 4 3/4 in.

Extent (Moving images): 1 film reel (1445 ft.) : silent, black and white ; 16 mm.

Language: Manuscripts in Portuguese and English. Sound recordings in Portuguese, native Brazilian languages, and Afro-Brazilian languages.

Location: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004695166>

Summary: An ethnographic field collection of sound recordings, moving images, photographs, and accompanying materials that document religious and secular music, dance, and ritual in the northeastern Brazilian states of Maranhão, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, and also the state of São Paulo. Fieldwork was conducted in northeastern Brazil in 1937-1938, some audio recordings were accessioned in 1950. The collection includes correspondence between Harold Spivacke, then chief of the Music Division of the Library of Congress and Oneyda Alvarenga, Director of the Discoteca Pública Municipal de São Paulo (1941-1943), now Discoteca Oneyda Alvarenga (Centro Cultural São Paulo). Photographs document field research and include images of musical instruments and costumes in the museum in São Paulo. Silent black-and-white 16 mm film is comprised of 14 film rolls including footage of carnival in Recife, Pernambuco; footage from Belém do Pará; most was filmed in Paraíba.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Alvarenga, Oneyda

Alvarenga, Oneyda--Correspondence.

Spivacke, Harold, 1904-1977

Spivacke, Harold, 1904-1977--Correspondence.

Organizations

Discoteca Oneyda Alvarenga (Centro Cultural São Paulo)

Subjects

Blacks--Brazil, Northeast--Music.

Carnival songs--Brazil--Recife.

Carnival--Brazil, Northeast.

Children's songs--Brazil.

Costume--Brazil, Northeast.

Dance--Brazil, Northeast.

Field recordings--Brazil, Northeast.

Folk music--Brazil, Northeast.

Folk songs, Portuguese--Brazil, Northeast.

Folklore--Brazil, Northeast.

Hymns, Portuguese--Brazil.

Musical instruments--Brazil, Northeast.

Rites and ceremonies--Brazil, Northeast.

Songs, Portuguese--Brazil.
Work songs--Brazil.

Places

Brazil, Northeast--Social life and customs.
São Paulo (Brazil)--Social life and customs.

Form/Genre

Correspondence.
Ethnography.
Field recordings.
Manuscripts.
Photographs.
Sound recordings.

Arrangement

Organized by format into the following series: I. Manuscripts; II. Sound Recordings; III. Graphic Materials in 3 albums; IV. Moving Images.

Acquisition

Exchange project with the Discoteca Publica Municipal, São Paulo, Brazil; 1943, 1950.

Location of Originals

Original recordings collected by and housed at the: Discoteca Oneyda Alvarenga; Centro Cultura, São Paulo, Rua Vergueiro, 1000, São Paulo, SP 01504000, Brazil.

Copyright Status

Duplication of the recorded materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Preferred Citation

Discoteca Pública Municipal de São Paulo Collection (AFC 1943/001), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Bibliography

Catálogo histórico-fonográfico, Discoteca Oneyda Alvarenga, Centro Cultural São Paulo [São Paulo, Brazil] : Centro Cultural São Paulo, Secretaria Municipal de Cultura, Prefeitura de São Paulo, 1993.
Alvarenga, Oneyda, ed. *Catálogo Ilustrado do Museu Folclórico, Vol 2*. São Paulo, Brazil: Discoteca Pública Municipal, 1950. The Discoteca's museum catalog, comprised of 235 photographs of artifacts and corresponding descriptive notes. The photographs of artifacts in the collection are primarily reproductions of those in the catalog. In addition, the introduction to the volume may provide background on the fieldwork when the collection was gathered.

Alvarenga, Oneyda, ed. *Melodias Registradas por Meios Não-Mecânicos*. São Paulo, Brazil: Discoteca Publica Municipal, 1946. M1689.S3M4. The companion volume to the museum holdings that catalogs the Discoteca's recorded music collection. It features a list of titles, extensive notes, and some sheet music.

The following is a series of notes the Discoteca published on their music archive, divided into a rough typology of music and dance. These works may provide more information on the recordings accessioned in 1950:

Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo. *Babassue: discos FM 39 a FM 51*. São Paulo: Discoteca Publica, 1950. ML156.4.F6S4

Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo. *Catimbo: discos FM 28-B a FM 38*. São Paulo: Discoteca Publica, 1949. ML156.4F6S43

Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo. *Cheganca de Marujos: discos FM 72 e 73, 82-B a 86, 97 a 104*. São Paulo: Discoteca Publica, 1955. ML156.4.F6S433

Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo. *Tambor-de-Mina e Tambor-de-Crioulo: discos FM 15 a 28-A*. São Paulo: Discoteca Publica, 1948. ML156.4F6S45

Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo. *Xango: discos FM 1 a 14*. São Paulo: Discoteca Publica, 1949. ML156.4.F6S47

Recordings were issued as a 6 CD set in 2006 titled: *Missão de pesquisas folclóricas : música tradicional do Norte e Nordeste, 1938* / [Mário de Andrade] (SESC SP: Prefeitura da Cidade de São Paulo, Secretaria Municipal de Cultura, Centro Cultural São Paulo, 2006).

Selected recordings were released on CD as: *The Discoteca collection* (Salem, Mass.: RCD 10403 Rykodisc).

Dance Concordance

Dance	Location	Photograph Numbers	Film Numbers	Audio Reel Numbers
Babussué (Feitiçaria)	Belem (Pará)	334-359	3	AFS 7557-7563; AFS 7570; AFS 7572-7576
Brinquedo da Barca	Torrelandia (Paraíba)	133-147	7	AFS 7473-7479
Bumba-meu-boi	Patos (Paraíba)	15-19, 237	2(?)	AFS 7504-7505; AFS 7507-7508
Bumba-meu-boi	Belem (Pará)	263-282	14	AFS 7535-7552; AFS 7557
Caboclinhos	Itabaiana (Paraíba)	42-59	2	AFS 7437
Caboclinhos Indios Africanos	Torrelandia (Paraíba)	1-6	4, 9(?)	---
Caboclinhos Indios Tupi-Guarani do Rogi	Torrelandia (Paraíba)	111-132	11	AFS 7472
Catimbó (Feitiçaria)	João Pessoa (Paraíba)	78-110	6, 9	AFS 7467-7470
Côco	Baia da Traição (Paraíba)	69-77	13	AFS 7462-7466
Côco de Róda	Itabaiana (Paraíba)	30-41	13(?)	AFS 7433-7436; AFS 7438-7440
Reis de Congo	Pombal (Paraíba)	20-29	10	AFS 7586
Tambô de crioulo	São Luis (Maranhão)	314-333	14	---
Tambô de mina (Feitiçaria)	São Luis (Maranhão)	283-312	5	AFS 7480-7492
Toré	São Francisco (Paraíba)	60-68	---	AFS 7461

Biographical Notes

Oneyda Alvarenga (1911-1984) was a Brazilian journalist, poet, and ethnomusicologist. She attended the Music and Drama Conservatory of São Paulo and was a student of Mário de Andrade and Dinah and Claude Levi-Strauss. In 1935 she became the director of the Discoteca Pública de São Paulo and was a founding member of the Sociedade de Etnografia e Folclore.

Scope and Content

The Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo Collection consists of sound recordings, film, photographs, and some manuscript material documenting the music and dance of primarily Afro-Brazilians in northeast Brazil in the late 1930s. Accessioned in 1943 and 1950, it is the product of a four-year correspondence between Oneyda Alvarenga, Director of the Discoteca, and Harold Spivacke, then Chief of the Music Division at the Library of Congress, that resulted in an exchange of folklore materials. It represents one of the first ethnographic compilations of music, dance, and ritual from this area, presenting a view of the cultural life in those states before the modernizing influences that followed World War II and the growth of tourism. The collection also provides an example of the way fieldwork in Brazil was conducted at the time and includes visual documentation of a fieldworker making sound recordings.

The music and dance in the collection includes work songs, songs without dance, dance dramas, ritual ceremonies, solo dances, group dances, songs for children's games, instrumentals, and songs and dances performed at Carnival. They reflect the diversity of cultural influences in the region: European (Portuguese), Afro-Brazilian, and native Indians. For example, the bumba meu boi dance drama portrays the misfortunes of a prize bull that a cattle rancher has obtained to improve his herd. It is of Portuguese origin with added Brazilian elements. The caboclinho is a Carnival group of Afro-Brazilians that parade dressed as Amerindians, performing imitative dances to music provided by Afro-Brazilian instruments.

The materials span the years 1938 to 1943, with the largest portion documented in 1938. The collection is divided into four series by format: manuscripts, sound recordings, graphic materials, and moving images. These materials offer access to the events by providing visual and oral documentation.

An inventory provided by the Discoteca (in Portuguese) provides information about the audio recordings and accompanying photographs. A concordance in Appendix A links the audio recordings, photographs, and films for identified events. Besides documenting the events, the photographic prints include images of artifacts, including musical instruments and dance costumes, photographed after they were taken to the Discoteca. Books and notes published by the Discoteca and cataloged by the Library of Congress may provide further insight into the holdings.

Description of Series

Container

Series

[Series I: Manuscripts](#)

[Series II: Sound Recordings](#)

[Subseries I: Music recorded in the states of Maranhão, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, and São Paulo](#)

Discs: AFS 7399-AFS 7597

See [PDF](#) of the original, typed cards provided by the Discoteca in Portuguese for discs 1-199 (AFS 7399-7597) and [PDF](#) of listening log in English.

[Subseries II: Music acquired in 1950 from the Discoteca](#)

Discs: AFS 9813-AFS 9828

See [PDF](#) of listening log in English.

[Series III: Graphic Images](#)

ALBUMS 1-2

[Subseries I: Fieldwork Photographs](#)

The photographs document the fieldwork and audio recordings, arranged numerically and roughly grouped geographically. Copies of original envelopes that contained the photographs precede each set, and provide identifying information in Portuguese. For more information, see audio recordings inventory and dance concordance.

ALBUMS 2-3

[Subseries II: Museum Photographs](#)

Photographs of museum pieces housed in the Discoteca. Includes images of musical instruments and dance costumes. At the time of accessioning, no list or description was provided. For more information, see bibliography.

[Series IV: Moving Images](#)

Film: FCA 8123

Documents the music, dance, and ritual found on audio recordings and in photographs. Housed in the Motion Picture Division. See [PDF](#) in Portuguese of the contents of each original reel, also found in Folder 3. See also the Dance Concordance. FRA 6479-6480 (duplicate negatives); FRA 6338 (archival positive).

Container List

Container	Contents
Series I: Manuscripts	
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Archive of Folk Culture administrative materials Collection guide, accession log, copy of the project authorization, publicity and administration.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Correspondence, November 1941 to September 1943 Arranged chronologically. Consists of original correspondence primarily between Harold Spivacke, Chief, Division of Music, Library of Congress, and Oneyda Alvarenga, Chief, Discoteca Publica Municipal de São Paulo, Brazil (correspondence from Alvarenga in Portuguese and translated upon receipt into English). The content mainly concerns the transfer of materials between the two entities and budgetary matters. Also includes internal Library memoranda and correspondence between the Library and other federal agencies concerning the allotment of monies for the project and transportation of materials.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Lists and descriptions Originals and copies of material provided by the Discoteca (in Portuguese). Includes a list of audio recordings by genre, a six-page description of dance and song types, and a list of titles identifying the fourteen silent films.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4-5	Audio recordings inventory Copies of the original, typed cards provided by the Discoteca (in Portuguese) for discs 1-199 (AFS 7399-7597). Information includes date and location of recording, song titles, informants, instruments, photographic concordance, and additional notes.
BOX-FOLDER 1/6-7	Disc sleeves Photocopies of portions of original disc sleeves that contained numbering information. AFS 7399-7556, 7560.
BOX 1 (loose)	Audio recordings inventory Original versions of cards contained in Folders 4-5

Series II: Sound Recordings

Subseries I: Music recorded in the states of Maranhão, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, and São Paulo

189 12" and 10 16" discs

Discs: AFS 7399-AFS 7597

See [PDF](#) of the original, typed cards provided by the Discoteca in Portuguese for discs 1-199 (AFS 7399-7597) and [PDF](#) of listening log in English.

Subseries II: Music acquired in 1950 from the Discoteca

3 10" and 13 12" discs

Discs: AFS 9813-AFS 9828

See [PDF](#) of listening log in English.

Series III: Graphic Images

Series III: Graphic Images

Container

Contents

ALBUMS 1-2

Subseries I: Fieldwork Photographs

359 black and white photographic prints (2 3/4" x 2 3/4")

The photographs document the fieldwork and audio recordings, arranged numerically and roughly grouped geographically. Copies of original envelopes that contained the photographs precede each set, and provide identifying information in Portuguese. For more information, see audio recordings inventory and dance concordance.

ALBUMS 2-3

Subseries II: Museum Photographs

259 black and white photographic prints (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")

Photographs of museum pieces housed in the Discoteca. Includes images of musical instruments and dance costumes. At the time of accessioning, no list or description was provided. For more information, see bibliography.

Series IV: Moving Images

Film: FCA 8123

1 reel, 16 mm, 1445 ft., silent, black and white reference print compilation of the 14 original 16 mm reels.

Documents the music, dance, and ritual found on audio recordings and in photographs. Housed in the Motion Picture Division. See [PDF](#) in Portuguese of the contents of each original reel, also found in Folder 3. See also the Dance Concordance. FRA 6479-6480 (duplicate negatives); FRA 6338 (archival positive).