

# Abraham A. Schwadron "Chad Gadya" collection

AFC 1988/026

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
August 2015

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

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004695176>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af015007>

Prepared by American Folklife Center staff

Finding aid encoded by Valda Morris, August 2015  
Revised February, 2020

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Abraham A. Schwadron "Chad Gadya" collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1973-1985

**Call No.:** AFC 1988/026

**Collector:** Schwadron, Abraham A.,

**Extent (Manuscripts):** manuscripts: 28 folders.

**Extent (Sound Recordings):** sound recordings: 16 sound tape reels : analog, 7 1/2 ips ; 7 in.

**Extent (Sound Recordings):** sound recordings: 4 sound tape reels : analog, various speeds ; 7 in.

**Extent (Sound Recordings):** sound recordings: 2 sound tape reels : analog, various speeds ; 5 in.

**Extent (Sound Recordings):** sound recording: 1 microcassette : analog.

**Extent (Sound Recordings):** sound recordings: 6 sound cassettes : analog.

**Extent (Graphic Materials):** graphic materials: 4 photographic prints : black and white ; 8 x 10 in.

**Language:** Sound recordings and song texts in: Aramaic, Hebrew, Italian, Ladino, Yiddish, English, German, and Russian.

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004695176>

**Summary:** Collection consists of Abraham Schwadron's correspondence (1975-1985), manuscript materials, published and unpublished music transcriptions of the songs, field recordings, and other materials from his research on "Chad Gadya" ("One Kid"), a Jewish song associated with Passover. It contains recordings and transcriptions of more than 160 versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs from around the world. Some notes from and about Schwadron's informants include details about learning and transmission of the song. Four photographic prints document the donation of the collection to the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, in 1988.

## 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

Schwadron, Abraham A.

### Subjects

Folk songs, English.

Folk songs, German.

Folk songs, Hebrew.

Folk songs, Italian.

Folk songs, Ladino.

Folk songs, Russian.

Folk songs, Yiddish.

Folk songs--Texts.

Jews--Music.

Jews--United States--Music.

Passover music--United States.

Passover music.

Passover--Liturgy--Texts.

Songs, Aramaic.

Tradition (Judaism)

### Titles

*Chad gadya.*

*One kid.*

*Had gadya.*

### Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Field recordings.  
Manuscript music.  
Photographic prints.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into the following series: I. American Folklife administrative materials; II. Published materials; III. Research materials; IV. Sound recordings

## **Acquisition**

Ursula Schwadron; Donation; 1988.

## **Processing History**

The collection was processed by staff of the American Folklife Center.

## **Copyright Status**

Duplication of the collection 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**

Abraham A. Schwadron "Chad Gadya" collection (AFC 1988/026), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Bibliography**

Collection includes a cassette copy of the published sound recording titled "Chad gadya," edited from field and archival recordings by Abraham A. Schwadron, Folkways FR 8920 (1982).

## **Biographical Notes**

Abraham A. Schwadron, musician, composer-arranger, scholar, and educator, was born in Brooklyn, New York, on December 25, 1925, where he later attended Boys' High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College, his master's degree from the University of Connecticut at Storrs, and his doctorate from Boston University. He came to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1969, serving as Chair of the Department of Music from 1980 to 1983. The "Chad Gadya" was the focus of ten years of his research and travel to Jewish communities around the world. He died on September 23, 1987.

## **Scope and Content**

Collection consists of Abraham Schwadron's correspondence (1975-1985), manuscript materials, published and unpublished music transcriptions of the songs, field recordings, and other materials from his research on "Chad Gadya" ("One Kid"), a Jewish song associated with Passover. It contains recordings and transcriptions of more than 160 versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs from around the world. Some notes from and about Schwadron's informants include details about learning and transmission of the song. Four photographic prints document the donation of the collection to the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, in 1988.

## Description of Series

Container

Series

[Series I: American Folklife administrative materials](#)

[Series II: Published materials](#)

[Series III: Research materials](#)

[Series IV: Sound Recordings](#)

See [PDF](#) copy of inventory.

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>Series I: American Folklife administrative materials</b>	
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Finding Aid 1 folder Container list of archival materials.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Correspondence, 1988-89 1 folder Letters between the Schwadron family and the Library of Congress, as well as internal Library memoranda. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Public relations and promotion Newsletter articles, photographs, and other documentation on the gift of the collection and related activities
<b>Series II: Published materials</b>	
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Correspondence, 1975-1985 1 folder Letters and notes written between Schwadron and others (colleagues and informants). Arranged chronologically
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Writings by Schwadron (1/2), 1975-1985 1 folder Published articles, paper presentations, and other manuscripts written by Schwadron concerning Jewish music and "Chad Gadya." Arranged alphabetically by title. Includes a copy of liner notes to Folkways Recording FR 8920, Chad Gadya [One Kid], 1982.
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Writings by Schwadron (2/2) 1 folder Published articles, paper presentations, and other manuscripts written by Schwadron concerning Jewish music and "Chad Gadya." Arranged alphabetically by title. Includes a copy of liner notes to Folkways Recording FR 8920, Chad Gadya [One Kid], 1982.
<b>Series III: Research materials</b>	
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Informant information--informants' data sheets Documents recording pertinent information about each informant and his or her version of the song, arranged alphabetically by informant.
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Informant information--informants' data sheets Documents recording pertinent information about each informant and his or her version of the song, arranged alphabetically by informant.
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Informant information--informants' data sheets Documents recording pertinent information about each informant and his or her version of the song, arranged alphabetically by informant.
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Background research--collected publications and manuscripts Copies of articles, newspaper clippings, papers, and so forth concerning "Chad Gadya" and related topics.

### Series III: Research materials

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Background research--collected publications and manuscripts Copies of articles, newspaper clippings, papers, and so forth concerning "Chad Gadya" and related topics.
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Background research--collected publications and manuscripts Copies of articles, newspaper clippings, papers, and so forth concerning "Chad Gadya" and related topics.
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Music research--index to published music Typed citations of published music found in folders 14- 16.
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Music research--published music Copies of published music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 13.
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Music research--published music Copies of published music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 13.
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Music research--published music Copies of published music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 13.
BOX-FOLDER 2/17	Music research--index to unpublished music Typed index of sources of unpublished music found in folders 18-20.
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Music research--unpublished music Copies of music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 17.
BOX-FOLDER 2/19	Music research--unpublished music Copies of music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 17.
BOX-FOLDER 2/20	Music research--unpublished music Copies of music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya," some with annotations. Arranged in order as listed in the index in folder 17.
BOX-FOLDER 2/21	Music research--unindexed music Copies of published and unpublished music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs.
BOX-FOLDER 2/22	Music research--unindexed music Copies of published and unpublished music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs.
BOX-FOLDER 2/23	Music research--unindexed music Copies of published and unpublished music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs.
BOX-FOLDER 2/24	Music research--unindexed music Copies of published and unpublished music transcriptions and lyrics of different versions of "Chad Gadya" and related songs.
BOX-FOLDER 2/25	Indexes to recordings Typed table of contents of field recordings on AFC 1988/026:SR001-014. Includes traditional source, performer, language, recording location, recordist, and location of notation (as found in "published" and "unpublished" music). Arranged numerically by original recording number.
BOX-FOLDER 2/26	Notes and drafts Miscellaneous notes, ephemera, drafts, and music transcriptions.
BOX-FOLDER 2/27	Notes and drafts Miscellaneous notes, ephemera, drafts, and music transcriptions.

### Series III: Research materials

Container	Contents
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BOX-FOLDER 3/28

Index cards

Informant information--index to performers (cards). Names and addresses of informants, arranged alphabetically.

#### Series IV: Sound Recordings

See [PDF](#) copy of inventory.

7" reel to reel tapes

16 7" reel to reel tapes

**TAPE ID:** AFC 1988/026:SR001-014

Reels containing original field recordings of versions of "Chad Gadya." See folder 25 for the index to the recordings. Reference copies are available in the Folklife Reading Room

7 audiocassettes & 2 reel to reel tapes

7 audiocassettes, 4 7" and 2 5" reel to reel tapes

**TAPE ID:** AFC 1988/026:SR015-027

13 recordings containing copies of versions of "Chad Gadya" for research purposes and lecture demonstrations. Includes a copy of the Folkways Recording FR8920, Chad Gadya [One Kid] (AFC 1988/026:SR021).