

# Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2020**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017563957>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu020026>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jane Cross and Anthony Edwards, 2020

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers

**Span Dates:** 1909-1952

**Bulk Dates:** (1909-1939)

**Call No.:** ML94.G

**Creator:** Percy Grainger, 1882-1961

**Extent:** approximately 250 items

**Extent:** 4 containers

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and Danish

**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017563957>

**Summary:** Percy Grainger was an Australian-American composer, pianist, and folksong collector. The papers consist of photostats and photocopies of correspondence with Kären Holten, articles, lecture notes, writings, and sketches for the book *The Life of My Mother and Her Son*.

## Acquisition Information

Ella Grainger deposited writings, music manuscripts, correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, phonorecords, programs, and clippings from 1961 to 1969. Selected papers were reproduced prior to the deposit's 1978 transfer to the Grainger Museum in Melbourne.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers in 2020. Jane Cross and Anthony Edwards coded the finding aid in 2020.

## Transfers

The original material was transferred to the Grainger Museum at the University of Melbourne in Australia in 1978.

## Other Repositories

The Grainger Museum at the University of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia, contains items documenting the life, career, and music of Percy Grainger.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## Access and Restrictions

The Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1882 July 8	Born George Percy Grainger in Brighton, Victoria, Australia
1892	Began studying piano under Louis Pabst
1893	Composed first work, "A Birthday Gift to Mother"
1894 October	New tutor, Adelaide Burkitt, arranged for concert appearances in Melbourne
29 May 1895	Moved to Germany to study at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt
1901	Abandoned his studies and moved to London Began composing <i>Marching Song of Democracy</i> , <i>Train Music</i> , and <i>Charging Irishrey</i>
1902 February	First performance as a piano soloist with an orchestra
1905	Started collecting original folk songs Began close relationship with Danish music student Kären Holten
1911	Began publishing his compositions on a larger scale
1912 May 21	Presented the first concert devoted entirely to his own compositions
1914 September	Moved to America
1917-1919	Served in the U. S. Army with the 15th Coastal Artillery Corps Band in New York City
1922 April 30	His mother Rose committed suicide
1928 August 9	Married Swedish-born artist Ella Ström at the Hollywood Bowl
1932-1933	Appointed professor of music at New York University
1937 March	<i>Lincolnshire Posy</i> performed at the American Band Master's Association convention in Milwaukee
1937-1944	Taught at Interlochen National Music Camp in Michigan
1948 August 10	Performed on piano at the London Proms playing his <i>Danish Folksong Suite</i> with the London Symphony Orchestra under Basil Cameron
1950	Began working mostly on free music machines
1957 May	Made his only television appearance, a BBC Concert Hour performance of "Handel in the Strand"
1960 April 29	Gave his last public concert, at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire
1961 February 20	Died in White Plains, New York
1961 March 2	Funeral service conducted at St. Matthew's Church in Marryatville, South Australia

## Scope and Content Note

The Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers span from 1909 to 1952. The bulk of the materials date from 1909 to 1939 and consist of two boxes of photostats of Grainger's correspondence with Danish music student and confidant Kären Holten, which is primarily in Danish. The collection also contains reproductions of an article, lecture notes, writings, and sketches for the book *The Life of My Mother and Her Son*.

## 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**

Grainger, Percy, 1882-1961--Archives.

Grainger, Percy, 1882-1961--Correspondence.

Grainger, Percy, 1882-1961.

Grainger, Percy, 1882-1961. Life of my mother and her son.

Holten, Kären, 1879-1953.

**Subjects**

Composers--Biography.

**Titles**

*Percy Grainger reproductions of selected papers*

**Form/Genre**

Articles.

Autobiographies.

Lecture notes.

Personal correspondence.

Writings (Documents)

**Arrangement**

The Reproductions of Selected Percy Grainger Papers are organized in one series:

- [Papers, 1909-1952](#)

## Description of Series

**Container**

BOX 1-4

**Series**

**Papers, 1909-1952**

These selected reproductions include Grainger's correspondence with Kären Holten, an article, writings, lecture notes, and sketches for the book *The Life of My Mother and Her Son*. Arranged alphabetically.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	<b>Papers, 1909-1952</b> These selected reproductions include Grainger's correspondence with Kären Holten, an article, writings, lecture notes, and sketches for the book <i>The Life of My Mother and Her Son</i> . Arranged alphabetically.
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	Beatless Music Typer, 1925 April 4 Notes and schematics
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Deemths (Opinions), Book 1, 1940 December 18 Writings
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Deemths (Opinions), Book 2, 1942 October Writings
BOX 1-2	Holten, Kären, 1909-1939 Correspondence <b>Language:</b> Primarily in Danish with some English
BOX-FOLDER 3/4-5	Lecture notes, 1934, 1942, and undated
BOX 4	<i>The Life of My Mother and Her Son</i> , undated Sketches for book
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	The Organ as a Background Instrument, 1952 December 29 Lecture <i>Note:</i> For the American Guild of Organists
BOX-FOLDER 3/8	"Percy Grainger and the 'Frankfort Group,'" 1936 October By Cyril Scott Article
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Thanks, undated Writings