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

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1882 July 8</td>
<td>Born George Percy Grainger in Brighton, Victoria, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Began studying piano under Louis Pabst</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Composed first work, &quot;A Birthday Gift to Mother&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894 October</td>
<td>New tutor, Adelaide Burkitt, arranged for concert appearances in Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 1895</td>
<td>Moved to Germany to study at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Abandoned his studies and moved to London</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Began composing <em>Marching Song of Democracy, Train Music,</em> and <em>Charging Irishrey</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902 February</td>
<td>First performance as a piano soloist with an orchestra</td>
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<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Started collecting original folk songs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Began close relationship with Danish music student Kären Holten</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Began publishing his compositions on a larger scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912 May 21</td>
<td>Presented the first concert devoted entirely to his own compositions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914 September</td>
<td>Moved to America</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1919</td>
<td>Served in the U. S. Army with the 15th Coastal Artillery Corps Band in New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922 April 30</td>
<td>His mother Rose committed suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928 August 9</td>
<td>Married Swedish-born artist Ella Ström at the Hollywood Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>Appointed professor of music at New York University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937 March</td>
<td><em>Lincolnshire Posy</em> performed at the American Band Master's Association convention in Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-1944</td>
<td>Taught at Interlochen National Music Camp in Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948 August 10</td>
<td>Performed on piano at the London Proms playing his <em>Danish Folksong Suite</em> with the London Symphony Orchestra under Basil Cameron</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Began working mostly on free music machines</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957 May</td>
<td>Made his only television appearance, a BBC Concert Hour performance of &quot;Handel in the Strand&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 April 29</td>
<td>Gave his last public concert, at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961 February 20</td>
<td>Died in White Plains, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961 March 2</td>
<td>Funeral service conducted at St. Matthew's Church in Marryatville, South Australia</td>
</tr>
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**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--Correspondence.
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  Series
BOX 1-4  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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 1-4   | **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. |
| 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  
**Language:** Primarily in Danish with some English |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/4-5 | Lecture notes, 1934, 1942, and undated |
| BOX 4 | *The Life of My Mother and Her Son*, undated  
Sketches for book |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/6 | The Organ as a Background Instrument, 1952 December 29  
Lecture  
*Note:* 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 | Thunks, undated  
Writings |