Collection Summary

Title: Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts
Inclusive Dates: 1896-1968
Bulk Dates: 1923-1955
Call No.: ML31.H47
Creator: Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974
Extent: approximately 50 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 1 linear foot
Language: Collection material in English.
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570162

Summary: Lou Herscher was an American songwriter, composer, author, and music publisher. This collection consists chiefly of holograph and printed piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for his popular songs. Many of these items reflect his collaborations with other prominent songwriters of the time, including Jimmie Rodgers and Johnny Cash. Additional materials include programs, clippings, sheet music covers, and an article.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Lou Herscher, 1970 February 13

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts, and Cross and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2022.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts 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 Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container], Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Biographical Note

Lou Herscher was an American songwriter, composer, author, and music publisher. Born on April 19, 1894, in Philadelphia, he first studied music with his father, Cantor Elias Herscher, and accompanied his brother’s vaudeville performances. Herscher composed music for films and albums as well as many popular songs. His "Song of the N. R. A. (National Recovery Administration)" (1934), with lyrics by William I. Sirovich, was the first song performed at the United States Congress. Herscher collaborated with many other prominent songwriters and performers throughout his career, including Joe Burke, Benny Davis, L. Wolfe Gilbert, Frank Loesser, Jules Loman, and Mitchell Parish. He joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1920 and was also the co-owner of the publishing firm Accadia Music Company. In 1963, Herscher published the handbook titled Successful Songwriting: How to Succeed in Writing Songs (Beverly Hills, California: Accadia Music). Herscher died on March 12, 1974 in Beverly Hills, California.

Bibliography


Scope and Content Note

The Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts spans the years 1896 to 1968, with the majority dating between 1923 and 1955. The Music consists chiefly of holograph and printed piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for many of Herscher’s popular songs, including those written for Jimmie Rodgers and Johnny Cash. The Miscellany series includes a photograph, clippings, and an article.

Organization of the Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts

The collection is arranged in two series:
• Music, 1896-1968
• Miscellany, 1936 and undated

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
Cash, Johnny.
Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974--Archives.
Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974.
Rodgers, Jimmie, 1897-1933.

Subjects
Popular music--United States.

Form/Genre
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Lead sheets.
Photographs.
Programs (Publications)
Scores.
Songs.
Description of Series

Container: BOX 1


This series consists of holograph and printed scores and lead sheets for many of Lou Herscher’s popular songs. Significant items include the holograph score for "I’m Free (From the Chain Gang Now)" (1933), which Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers each recorded, as well as the holograph lead sheet for "Old Love Letters" (1934) that Rodgers also recorded. A holograph lead sheet for "Song of the N. R. A." (1934) with lyrics by William I. Sirovich is notable for its history as the first song performed on the floor of the United States Congress. Other materials in this series represent Herscher’s collaborations with prominent songwriters, including James C. Bradford, Joe Burke, Dwight Butcher, Art Coogan, Saul Klein, Mitchell Parish, Barry Richards, and Don Rockwell. Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers accompany the music in this series.

Music by Lou Herscher unless otherwise identified.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Series: Miscellany, 1936 and undated

This series consists of a description of a photograph of Stephen Foster’s daughter, an article and clippings about Jimmie Rodgers, and a photograph from the 25th anniversary celebration of Irving Berlin’s "Alexander’s Ragtime Band."

Arranged alphabetically by subject.
## Container List

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Music, 1896-1968</strong>&lt;br&gt;This series consists of holograph and printed scores and lead sheets for many of Lou Herscher’s popular songs. Significant items include the holograph score for &quot;I’m Free (From the Chain Gang Now)&quot; (1933), which Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers each recorded, as well as the holograph lead sheet for &quot;Old Love Letters&quot; (1934) that Rodgers also recorded. A holograph lead sheet for &quot;Song of the N. R. A.&quot; (1934) with lyrics by William I. Sirovich is notable for its history as the first song performed on the floor of the United States Congress. Other materials in this series represent Herscher’s collaborations with prominent songwriters, including James C. Bradford, Joe Burke, Dwight Butcher, Art Coogan, Saul Klein, Mitchell Parish, Barry Richards, and Don Rockwell. Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers accompany the music in this series. Music by Lou Herscher unless otherwise identified. Arranged alphabetically by title.</td>
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| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | After All (I Adore You), 1923<br>By Lou Herscher and Art Coogan<br>Holograph lead sheet<br><em>Laid in:</em> Photocopied clipping and sheet music covers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | Dream Daddy, 1923<br>Holograph lead sheet<br><em>Laid in:</em> Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | The Grasshopper, 1958<br>Holograph lead sheet; printed scores for voice and piano<br><em>Includes:</em> Editions published in Sweden and Argentina |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4 | I'm Free (From the Chain Gang Now), 1933<br>By Lou Herscher and Saul Klein<br>Holograph score for voice and piano<br><em>Note:</em> Recorded by Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 | Just a Dance Program of Long Ago, 1928<br>Lyrics by Don Rockwell<br>Holograph lead sheet<br><em>Laid in:</em> Photocopied clippings and sheet music covers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6 | Jungle Rhythm (Drums in the Moonlight), 1968<br>Printed lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | Love Me Forever, 1965<br>By Henry Friedman and Lou Herscher<br>Printed lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | Lucky Jim, 1968<br>By Charles Horwitz and Fred V. Bowers; arranged by Lou Herscher<br>Printed score for voice and piano<br><em>Laid in:</em> Photocopied photograph, clippings, and sheet music (1896) |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | My Heart Belongs to You, 1928<br>Photocopied sheet music cover and clippings |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | Old Love Letters (Bring Memories of You), 1934<br>By Lou Herscher, Dwight Butcher, and Jimmie Rodgers |
**Music, 1896-1968**

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| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | On My Ukulele (Tra la la la la), 1924  
By Lou Herscher, Mike Morris, and Mitchell Parish  
Holograph lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | Orange Blossoms, 1956  
By Ruth Graham and Lou Herscher  
Holograph lead sheet  
*Laid in*: Photocopied sheet music covers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/13 | The Scarlet Lady, 1923  
Compiled by James C. Bradford  
Photocopied silent film cue sheet  
*Includes*: Themes by Lou Herscher |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | Song of the N.R.A. (National Recovery Administration), 1934  
Lyrics by William I. Sirovich  
Holograph lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/15 | There Are Just Two I's in Dixie (Two Blue Eyes that Mean the World to Me), 1919  
Holograph lead sheet  
*Laid in*: Photocopied sheet music covers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/16 | Wake Up Little Girl (You're Just Dreaming Pretty Dreams), 1923  
By Lou Herscher and Joe Burke  
Holograph lead sheet  
*Laid in*: Photocopied clippings |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/17 | When Jimmie Rodgers Said Good-bye, 1933  
Lyrics by Dwight Butcher  
Holograph lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/18 | Years Ago, 1933  
By Lou Herscher, Barry Richards, and Jimmie Rodgers  
Ozalid of manuscript lead sheet |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/19 | You're Free to Go, 1955  
By Don Robertson and Lou Herscher  
Holograph lead sheet  
*Laid in*: Photocopied sheet music cover |
| BOX 1 | **Miscellany, 1936 and undated**
This series consists of a description of a photograph of Stephen Foster’s daughter, an article and clippings about Jimmie Rodgers, and a photograph from the 25th anniversary celebration of Irving Berlin’s "Alexander’s Ragtime Band." Arranged alphabetically by subject. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/20 | Foster, Marion, undated  
Description of a 1929 photograph of Stephen Foster's daughter Marion at an ASCAP dinner |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/21 | "Jimmie Rodgers", undated  
Article and photocopied clippings |