

# Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016570571>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu022027>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Shantel Lambert and Rachel McNellis, 2022 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography

**Inclusive Dates:** 1300-1985

**Bulk Dates:** 1350-1550

**Call No.:** ML31.B675

**Creator:** Bowles, Edmund A. (Edmund Addison)

**Extent:** approximately 2,700 items

**Extent:** 22 containers

**Extent:** 11 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, Latin, and Arabic

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016570571>

**Summary:** Edmund Bowles (born 1925) is a musicologist specializing in the history of the timpani and other musical instruments. This collection consists of photostats and photographic prints of musical iconography dating from 1300 through 1985, the bulk of which was created during the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries. It is especially rich in representations of percussion instruments, particularly the timpani, and includes a considerable amount of sacred imagery.

## Acquisition Information

Purchase, Edmund A. Bowles, 1998

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Shantel Lambert processed the Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography in 2022. Lambert and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2022.

## Other Repositories

The reproduced images in this collection are drawn from iconography housed at dozens of libraries, museums, and cultural institutions in Europe and the United States, including the National Gallery of Art, Cleveland Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Pierpont Music Library, The British Library, British Museum, Bodleian Library, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée de Cluny Archives, Bibliothèque Royale of Brussels, Gallerie degli Uffizi, Museu Nacional d'Art, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, and the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, among others.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography 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 Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography is 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 number], Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Edmund Addison Bowles was born on March 24, 1925, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is a musicologist who specializes in the history of musical instruments, especially the timpani, as well as late-medieval musical iconography, historical performance practices, and the technological advancements of instrument building. In addition to numerous journal articles and encyclopedia entries, Bowles has published several books, including *Timpani: A History in Pictures and Documents* (Pendragon Press, 2002). He also edited the volume *Computers in Humanistic Research: Readings and Perspectives* (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1967). Between 1951 and 1955, he taught in the Humanities Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Bowles has also performed baroque timpani with early music ensembles. He studied the instrument with Lawrence White of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Hermann Ommen of the Hessian State Orchestra, as well as at the Berkshire Music Festival in Tanglewood. Bowles was the Vice President of the American Musical Instrument Society from 1984 to 1988. He also pursued a career at Bell Telephone Laboratories and worked at the IBM Corporation for 29 years.

## Bibliography

Bowles, Edmund. *The Timpani: A History in Pictures and Documents*. New York: Pendragon Press, 2002.

## Scope and Content Note

The Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography consists mostly of photostats and photographic prints of early music [iconography](#) that Bowles collected during his career as a musicologist. The materials, dating from about 1300 to 1985, include representations of musical instruments and performance practices in sacred and courtly settings, with a significant amount dedicated to the history of the timpani. The collection features examples of musical iconography from diverse media, but the majority exist in manuscripts dating from the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries from Western Europe.

## Organization of the Edmund A. Bowles Collection of Musical Iconography

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Iconography, 1300-1985 \(bulk circa 1350-circa 1550\)](#)

## 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

Bowles, Edmund A. (Edmund Addison), 1925-

### Subjects

Music--15th century--History and criticism.

Music--500-1400--History and criticism.

Musical instruments in art.

Musical instruments--History.

Timpani--History.

**Titles**

*Edmund A. Bowles collection, 1955-1990*

**Form/Genre**

Iconography.

Photographic prints.

Reproductions (Derivative copies)

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-22

**Series**  
**Iconography, 1300-1985 (bulk circa 1350-circa 1550)**

This series consists of photostats and photographic prints of musical iconography dating from about 1300 to 1985, with the bulk from the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries. These materials depict medieval musical instruments and performance practices, with an emphasis on sacred imagery, as well as performances at festivals and ceremonies during the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. It is rich in imagery of percussion instruments and documents the use and construction of the timpani through the twentieth century. While the vast majority of the iconography is from illuminated medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, other depicted media include stained glass, tapestries, ivory combs and mirror cases, paintings, woodcuts, cathedral tympana, triptychs, and statuary. They were created almost exclusively in Western Europe, but a few scenes from medieval Arabic manuscripts are also notable. Most images are in grayscale and contain source citations. The headings below are Bowles's titles from his original binders.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-22</b>	<b>Iconography, 1300-1985 (bulk circa 1350-circa 1550)</b> This series consists of photostats and photographic prints of musical iconography dating from about 1300 to 1985, with the bulk from the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries. These materials depict medieval musical instruments and performance practices, with an emphasis on sacred imagery, as well as performances at festivals and ceremonies during the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. It is rich in imagery of percussion instruments and documents the use and construction of the timpani through the twentieth century. While the vast majority of the iconography is from illuminated medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, other depicted media include stained glass, tapestries, ivory combs and mirror cases, paintings, woodcuts, cathedral tympana, triptychs, and statuary. They were created almost exclusively in Western Europe, but a few scenes from medieval Arabic manuscripts are also notable. Most images are in grayscale and contain source citations. The headings below are Bowles's titles from his original binders. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1-3</b>	Angel - musicians
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4-6</b>	Aristocratic music-making
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1-4</b>	Banquets
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</b>	Banquets with minstrel gallery
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/6 to 3/1</b>	Bow instruments
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/2-4</b>	Coronations
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/5-6</b>	Dancing nobility indoors
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/1-2</b>	Dancing nobility outdoors
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/3-5</b>	Dancing other
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/6</b>	Eastern instrumental practices
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/1-2</b>	Ensemble music
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/3-4</b>	Ensembles bas
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/5-6</b>	Ensembles haut
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/1-3</b>	Feudal milieu
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/4-5</b>	Harp
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/6 to 7/3</b>	Heavenly Jerusalem symbolism
<b>BOX-FOLDER 7/4-5</b>	Hunting scenes
<b>BOX-FOLDER 7/6-7</b>	Lute guitar
<b>BOX-FOLDER 8/1-5</b>	Miscellaneous religious
<b>BOX-FOLDER 8/6 to 9/2</b>	Musical ensembles in festival books no. 1
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/3-6</b>	Musical ensembles in festival books no. 2
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/1-2</b>	Musical ensembles in festival books no. 3
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/3-4</b>	Naval scenes
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/5 to 11/2</b>	Organs keyboard
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/3-5</b>	Percussion bells
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/6 to 12/5</b>	Processions
<b>BOX-FOLDER 12/6-7</b>	Psalterly dulcimer
<b>BOX-FOLDER 13/1-2</b>	Recorder shawm bagpipe

## Iconography, 1300-1985 (bulk circa 1350-circa 1550)

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 13/3-5	Religious services
BOX-FOLDER 13/6-8	Requiem masses office of the dead
BOX-FOLDER 14/1-3	Singing
BOX-FOLDER 14/4-7	Theater
BOX-FOLDER 15/1-4	Timpani, 1300-1600
BOX-FOLDER 15/5-6	Timpani, 1600-1650
BOX-FOLDER 16/1-4	Timpani, 1650-1700
BOX-FOLDER 16/5 to 17/2	Timpani, 1700-1730
BOX-FOLDER 17/3-5	Timpani, 1700-1750
BOX-FOLDER 17/6 to 18/1	Timpani, 1750-1800
BOX-FOLDER 18/2-5	Timpani, 1800-1900
BOX-FOLDER 18/6 to 19/2	Timpani, 1900-1985
BOX-FOLDER 19/3-5	Tourney jousting
BOX-FOLDER 19/6 to 20/2	Trumpet sackbut
BOX-FOLDER 20/3-4	Urban music environment
BOX-FOLDER 20/5 to 21/1	Unfiled iconographical material
BOX-FOLDER 21/2-4	Virgin and child
BOX-FOLDER 21/5 to 22/1	Warfare field combat
BOX-FOLDER 22/2-3	Warfare siege assault
BOX-FOLDER 22/4-5	Wedding
BOX-FOLDER 22/6-7	Welcoming ceremonies