

Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Anita M. Weber, November 2023

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin

Inclusive Dates: 1946-1978

Bulk Dates: 1953-1978

Call No.: ML31.R631

Creator: Parylak, Robert

Extent: approximately 70 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and French

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014571121>

Summary: The Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin documents the life and career of French coloratura soprano Mado Robin (née Madeliene Marie Robin, 1918-1960) through clippings, correspondence, photographs, programs, and publicity materials collected by Robert Parylak, president of the Mado Robin Committee of New York.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Robert Parylak, 1972, 1985

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Anita M. Weber processed the Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin and created the finding aid in 2023.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin 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 Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin 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], Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Mado Robin

French coloratura soprano Mado Robin (née Madeleine Marie Robin) was born in 1918 to a wealthy family in Yzeures-sur-Creuse, Touraine, France. Except when traveling for concerts, she lived her entire life in her hometown. Robin had an extraordinarily high register which she used to acclaim throughout her career beginning with her 1945 debut as Gilda in Rossini's *Rigoletto*. Over the next 15 years, Robin continued to sing in France and French-speaking countries as well as in the Soviet Union and the United States, performing in *The Barber of Seville*, *Lakmé*, *Lucia di Lammermore*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and *Rigoletto*. Robin died in 1960 of leukemia at age 41.

Robert Parylak

Several years after Mado Robin's death, Robert Parylak, an office assistant at Texaco in Westchester, New York, became fascinated by Robin after hearing a recording of her singing. He set out to create a biographical collection of material associated with and about her. In this pursuit Parylak corresponded with Robin's manager, Robert Deniau, and one of her co-stars, French tenor Alain Vanzo, among others, collecting historical material and reminiscences along the way.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin spans the period 1946 to 1978 with the bulk of the material dated between 1953 and 1978. It consists of biographical materials collected by Parylak during the fifteen year period from 1963 to 1978. He placed the bulk of these items into eight scrapbooks, which were not arranged in an obvious order (e.g., chronological, topical, format, etc.). There is overlap in subject matter and duplication of items from volume to volume. There is also a set of items that were never placed into a scrapbook.

Much of the material is in French, with translations of articles and other lengthy documents provided by Parylak. Materials include personal photographs of Mado Robin from her childhood and marriage along with publicity portraits and other images related to her performing career, scattered programs, reviews, biographical sketches, and publicity material about Robin's recordings. There are also postcards from and brochures about Yzeures-sur-Creuse.

Among the loose items are discographies, both published and created by Parylak; several programs; printed sheet music; Robin's last signed contract before her death; and an extensive folder of publicity portraits and correspondence to Parylak from French tenor Alain Vanzo.

Organization of the Robert Parylak Collection on Mado Robin

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Scrapbooks, 1953-1977](#)
- [Loose Scrapbook Material, 1946, 1957-1978](#)

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

Deniau, Robert.
Parylak, Robert.
Robin, Mado.
Robin, Mado.
Vanzo, Alain.

Subjects

Sopranos (Singers)--France--Biography.

Sopranos (Singers)--France--Correspondence.

Titles

Robert Parylak collection of Mado Robin materials

Form/Genre

Albums (Books)

Art music.

Biographies.

Business correspondence.

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Concert programs.

Discographies.

Music criticism and reviews.

Opera programs.

Photographs.

Promotional materials.

Vocal scores.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-2

Series

Scrapbooks, 1953-1977

This series consists of biographical materials about Mado Robin that Robert Parylak collected in eight scrapbooks. Much of the material is in French with some translations provided by Parylak. Materials include photographs of Robin, programs, reviews, biographical sketches, postcards, brochures, and publicity material about her recordings.

Arranged numerically by scrapbook number.

BOX 2-4

Loose Scrapbook Material, 1946, 1957-1978

This series contains biographical materials about Mado Robin collected by Robert Parylak that were not included in the eight scrapbooks he assembled. Materials include discographies, programs, printed sheet music, a contract, publicity materials, and correspondence to Parylak from French tenor Alain Vanzo.

Arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Scrapbooks, 1953-1977 This series consists of biographical materials about Mado Robin that Robert Parylak collected in eight scrapbooks. Much of the material is in French with some translations provided by Parylak. Materials include photographs of Robin, programs, reviews, biographical sketches, postcards, brochures, and publicity material about her recordings. Arranged numerically by scrapbook number.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1 to 2/1	Books 1-4, 1959-1972 Brochures, clippings, correspondence, maps, music, photographs, postcards, and programs <i>Note:</i> Scrapbook 2 includes a piano-vocal score for "Cette etoile ne Puet s'eteindre" (Hommage a Mado Robin) by Alain Vanzo, with lyrics by Alexis Federici, and a vocal score for "Petite etoile de Noel" by Raymond Legrand, with lyrics by J. Daniel Norman and Guy Diamant
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Book 5, 1956-1973 Brochures, clippings, correspondence, photographs, postcards, and programs
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Book 6, 1963-1965 Correspondence, photographs, and publicity material
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Book 7, 1953-1957, 1977 Clippings, correspondence, and photographs
BOX-FOLDER 2/5-6	Book 8, 1966 and undated Photographs and printed material <i>Includes:</i> The April 4, 1966, issue of <i>Opera</i> devoted to Robin
BOX 2-4	Loose Scrapbook Material, 1946, 1957-1978 This series contains biographical materials about Mado Robin collected by Robert Parylak that were not included in the eight scrapbooks he assembled. Materials include discographies, programs, printed sheet music, a contract, publicity materials, and correspondence to Parylak from French tenor Alain Vanzo. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	L'adieu d'Olivier Merlin à Mado Robin, undated Article
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	Ave Maria, undated By Alain Vanzo; lyrics by Henri Jacqueton Printed piano-vocal score
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Chanson Bohème, 1946 By L. Gallini; lyrics by S. Margall Printed vocal score
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Contract. Mado Robin and Theatre Lyriques Nationaux, 1960 June 28
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Discographies, 1970, 1979, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	Kreisler, Nancy. "Opera Con Amore," Texaco Westchester, 1978 June 2 <i>Includes:</i> Photograph of Robert Parylak playing piano
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Lafaille, Paul. Talk on Mado Robin, 1970 December

Loose Scrapbook Material, 1946, 1957-1978

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Opera singers, 1971, 1973 Black and white photographs <i>Includes:</i> Geneviève Pontié and Joan Sena-Grande; each photograph inscribed by the singer to Parylak Programs
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	April in Paris Ball, 1957 <i>Includes:</i> Discussion of Mado Robin's role in the concert
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	Opera-Comique Salle Fevart, Théâtres Lyrics Nationaux, 1959
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	Mado Robin Gala, 1965, 1967
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	Mado Robin Gala - Posters, 1967
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	Robin, Mado, undated Black and white photographs
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Vanzo, Alain, 1962, 1969-1976 Black and white photographs and correspondence