

Edward Cogan Correspondence, 1935-1941



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018571955>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu023021>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Maya Lerman, 2023 November

Collection Summary

Title: Edward Cogan Correspondence

Inclusive Dates: 1935-1941

Bulk Dates: 1935-1936

Call No.: ML31.C635

Creator: Cogan, Edward J.

Extent: approximately 121 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/2018571955>

Summary: The Edward Cogan Correspondence documents aspects of Cogan's career as leader of the Hill Billy Boys, a young, New Jersey-based mountain music band that performed on *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour* and did tours for Major Bowes from 1935 to 1936. Correspondence is primarily between Edward Cogan and his family, friends, and associates.

Acquisition Information

Purchase, Carmen D. Valentino, 2022.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Maya Lerman processed the Edward Cogan Correspondence and created the finding aid in 2023.

Related Material

The [Amateur Hour Collection](#) (Box 2, Folder 6) contains an application letter written by Edward Cogan for his Hill Billy Boys band to perform on *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour*. Cogan lists band members and credentials in the application.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Edward Cogan Correspondence 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 Edward Cogan Correspondence 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], Edward Cogan Correspondence, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Edward J. Cogan was born in 1918 in Red Bank, New Jersey. At age fourteen he began playing with and leading a mountain music band, the Hill Billy Boys, who performed in the Red Bank area and on local radio stations. The group was chosen to perform on *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour* in 1935 and later traveled on tours for Major Bowes. Cogan enlisted in the military in 1940, then attended Villanova University. He married Anne Little in 1945 and lived in Glens Falls, New York, until his death in 2001.

Bibliography

"Obituary Index, 1800s-current," s.v. "Edward Joseph Cogan" (1918-2001), Ancestry.com.

Valentino, Carmen D. Information provided by donor, May 2002.

World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 [database on-line], digital image s.v. "Edward Joseph Cogan," Ancestry.com.

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Cogan Correspondence spans the years 1935 to 1941, the bulk of which dates from 1935 to 1936. The collection documents Cogan's time as leader of the Hill Billy Boys, a mountain music band comprised of young men in high school who won an appearance on *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour* and toured in one of Bowes' units. Cogan's letters with his parents, other family members, friends, and fellow musicians primarily cover the period when Cogan traveled across the United States with the Hill Billy Boys for Major Bowes. The collection also includes a small amount of publicity material for *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour* and for other performances by Cogan and the Hill Billy Boys.

Organization of the Edward Cogan Correspondence

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1935-1941](#)
- [Publicity Materials, circa 1935 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

Bowes, Edward, Major, 1874-1946.

Cogan, Edward J. (Edward Joseph), 1918-2001.

Cogan, Edward J. (Edward Joseph), 1918-2001--Correspondence.

Cogan, Marian, 1917-2004.

Cogan, William Francis, 1889-1973.

Cogan, William, 1915-2002.

Cross, Sarah Elizabeth, 1895-1970.

Organizations

Hill Billy Boys (Country music group)

Subjects

Country music--History and criticism.

Country musicians--United States--Correspondence.

Radio programs--United States.

Titles

Correspondence and other materials relating to the Hill Billy Boys and the Major Bowes Amateur Hour

Original amateur hour (Radio program)--Sources.

Form/Genre

Advertisements.

Articles.

Newsletters.

Personal correspondence.

Programs (Publications)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Correspondence, 1935-1941

Correspondence to and from Edward Cogan, much of it with William F. Cogan and Sarah Elizabeth Cross, Edward Cogan's parents.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX 1

Publicity Materials, circa 1935 and undated

Articles, broadsheets, advertisements, programs and newsletters for *Major Bowes' Amateur Hour* and for the Hill Billy Boys's performances.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1935-1941 Correspondence to and from Edward Cogan, much of it with William F. Cogan and Sarah Elizabeth Cross, Edward Cogan's parents. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Cogan, Bill, 1936-1941
BOX-FOLDER 1/2-6	Cogan, William F. and Sarah Elizabeth Cross, 1935-1936
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Cogan, William F., Sarah Elizabeth Cross, Marion Cogan, and Bill Cogan, 1935-1936
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Other family members, 1936
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Friends and associates, 1935-1936
BOX-FOLDER 1/10-11	Miscellaneous, 1935-1936
BOX 1	Publicity Materials, circa 1935 and undated Articles, broadsheets, advertisements, programs and newsletters for <i>Major Bowes' Amateur Hour</i> and for the Hill Billy Boys's performances.
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Ephemera and publicity, circa 1935 and undated