

*Guides to Special Collections
in the Music Division of the Library of Congress*

**BURL IVES
COLLECTION**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu2005.wp.0056>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON 1993

Table of Contents

Introduction [iii](#)

Biographical Sketch [iv](#)

Scope and Content Note [v](#)

Container List [1](#)

 BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS and ARTICLES [1](#)

 SUBJECT FILE [2](#)

 PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS [9](#)

 SCRAPBOOKS [9](#)

Introduction

This collection of materials was given to the Library of Congress by Burl Ives on December 21, 1965. The bulk of the materials concerns Ives' career in radio and television. A considerable number of sound recordings and kinescopes of television appearances, necessary is housed in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Other materials relating to Burl Ives are housed in the Archive of Folk Culture.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 15
Approximate number of items: 1,600

Biographical Sketch

Carl Sandburg once called Burl Ives "America's Great Ballad Singer." From the 1940s to the 1960s, his diverse talents and spirited performances made him one of America's best-loved entertainers. The traditional repertoire of American folk tunes represented in his performances was considerably different from the popular music of the day. His presence on the musical not only scene served to sustain an awareness of neglected American folk songs, but would contribute to the resurgence of interest in folk music that occurred in the early 1960s.

Burl Icle Ivanhoe Ives was born on June 14, 1909 in Hunt City Township, Jasper County, Illinois. He was encouraged in his musical interests by his family, especially by his grandmother. Throughout his youth he sang at church functions and performed in community productions.

After studying at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College (1927-29), Ives travelled throughout the United States for almost two years, finally settling in New York City, where he studied at Juilliard and began singing professionally. Minor Broadway roles drew the attention of Rodgers and Hart, who wrote a role for Ives in *The Boys From Syracuse* (1939). During World War II, Ives played a leading role in Irving Berlin's *This is the Army* (1942) and acted in minor film roles, while developing his folk singing persona, "The Wayfaring Stranger," in radio and concert appearances.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Ives appeared regularly on television and radio and toured abroad promoting American folk music. Throughout this time, he continued to pursue his career in theater, receiving acclaim for his performance as Big Daddy in the film version of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and winning an Oscar for his performance in the film, *The Big Country*. Ives also published a number of books, including an autobiography *The Wayfaring Stranger*.

Scope and Content Note

This collection of materials was given to the Library of Congress by Burl Ives on December 21, 1965. The bulk of the materials concerns Ives' career in radio and television. A considerable number of sound recordings and kinescopes of television appearances, necessary is housed in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Other materials relating to Burl Ives are housed in the Archive of Folk Culture.

The collection is divided into four series: biographical materials, a large subject file, photograph albums, and scrapbooks. The original order as determined by Burl Ives and his wife, Helen Ives, who served as his business manager, is preserved in the organization of the collection. Descriptions as written on the original folders are retained in the finding aid.

Autobiographical and biographical articles and press releases constitute the first series in the collection. Most of these materials, both published and unpublished, date from the late 1940s through the mid-1960s. Published articles in this series are filed alphabetically by name of publication.

The subject file was maintained by the Ives and has been kept in its original order. This file contains materials relating to his radio and television appearances, foreign tours and the *Historical America in Song* project, a series of recordings of American folk songs selected and performed by Ives and originally released in 1950 by the Encyclopaedia Britannica Film Corporation for use in schools. A one-page history of the project, which was a source of great pride to Ives, along with related correspondence, and original mailing pieces is included in the collection.

Other materials relating to Ives's radio and television appearances are filed chronologically by program air date. Included among these materials are records of production (scripts, rehearsal schedules, etc.), business arrangements (contracts, correspondence, etc.) and other related materials (fan mail, press clippings) for each program. Of particular interest is an almost complete set of scripts for Ives's Philco Radio Show (1946-48) and a complete set for his 1952 *Burl Ives Sings* series. Information relating to foreign radio appearances is also represented.

Photographs, press clippings, business correspondence and related materials outline Ives's tours of the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii during 1952 and 1953. The materials retain their original order, sorted by tour, and then roughly chronologically within each tour. Information relating to Ives's charity activities and benefit performances are filed alphabetically by name of charity, and then filed chronologically by date.

Nineteen photograph albums containing hundreds of photograph, for the most part unbound, include both professional and personal images of Ives, his childhood, and teen years. The eleven scrapbooks contain mostly press clippings. Two of them relate to the England, Ireland and Scotland tours; the others to television appearances.

Robert Saladini, Music Specialist,
Greg Pierce, Junior Fellow June, 1993

Container List

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS and ARTICLES

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
1	<p>Unpublished autobiographical articles and press releases</p> <p>Autobiographical articles released to various newspapers Publicity releases over the years approved by Mr. Ives and used by feature writers Biographical release, 1951 News release: 1953 Biography: 1960 Article after publication on November 8th of <i>Burl Ives' Tales of America</i> and filming of <i>East of Eden</i> "Christmas in July" "Folk Songs and the History of America" Folk song article - "What is a Folk Song and Why it is Important" "Wayfaring Continued" Letters from Burl regarding folk music and hillbilly music, 1955</p> <p>Unpublished autobiographical articles, filed alphabetically by intended publication</p> <p><i>Boston Traveler</i> <i>Grolier Encyclopaedia</i> <i>House and Garden</i> - "What's in a Song?" <i>New York Sun</i> <i>Parent's Magazine</i> <i>Variety</i> <i>Variety</i> - 1957</p> <p>Published autobiographical and biographical articles, filed alphabetically by publication</p> <p><i>Better Homes and Gardens</i> <i>Camera Magazine</i> <i>Coronet</i> <i>The Fort Lauderdale News</i> <i>Friends</i> <i>Good Housekeeping</i>, 1965 <i>Grit</i> <i>The Herald American</i> <i>Holiday Magazine</i>, March, 1963 <i>Holiday Magazine</i>, June, 1965 <i>Inspire</i> - Swiss magazine, 1949 <i>International House Quarterly</i>, American folk articles, 1951 <i>International Musician</i> <i>Look Magazine</i>, February 27, 1951 <i>Look Magazine</i>, March, 1961 <i>Music Business</i> <i>The Music Journal</i> <i>The National Enquirer</i>, 1962 <i>The New York Daily News</i> <i>New York Herald Tribune</i>, May, 1955 <i>The New York Post</i> <i>The New York Times Book Review</i>, November 14, 1954 <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> [advertisement] <i>New York World Telegram & Sun</i>, Interview <i>Publishers' Weekly</i> <i>Reader's Round Table</i> <i>Seventeen Magazine</i> <i>Song Hits Magazine</i> <i>Theatre Arts</i></p>

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS

Box/Folder

Contents

Miscellaneous published articles, unidentified publications

Burl Ives' "Personals"
"Cap'n Burl's Page"
Mementos from Burl Ives
Newspaper article, March 12, 1953
Photographs

Unpublished biographical articles

Article on Burl from "Song in America, Our Musical Heritage"
Burl Ives' Hymns, MacKinley Kantor
The Burl Ives' Show, radio review
Junior Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C., December 2, 1952
McCall's, byline
This Week Magazine, October, 1948
Miscellaneous articles

Press releases

Information release - all newspapers, regarding personal history
Women's Page Editor
Press release: statement on wayfaring
Picture captions
Press release, 1953, issued after second visit to Ireland and England
Music Page Editor
"Ballad Farm" recipe
Basis of interviews after English and Australian Tours

SUBJECT FILE

Materials relating to the *Historical America in Song/America's Musical Heritage Project*

History of show
Historical America in Song mailing piece to schools
America's Musical Heritage: History of project with *Encyclopaedia Britannica*
America's Musical Heritage: Correspondence between Armed Forces Radio and
Encyclopaedia Britannica
Historical America in Song award
Achievement Award for *Encyclopaedia Britannica* [includes photograph]
America's Musical Heritage: Reviews
America's Musical Heritage

2

Philco Radio Show: scripts, sorted by show number

Show #1 --
Show #25 --
Show #36 --
Show #45 --
Show #54 --
Show #64 --
Show #75 --

Philco Radio Show: publicity releases

3

Burl Ives Sings radio show

Burl Ives Sings: Scripts, all shows
Burl Ives Sings: Northwestern University
Burl Ives Transcription Shows [12th show missing]

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Burl Ives Transcription Shows [old original set], as done in studio <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Cue sheets for radio stations, open-end cue sheets Announcement: Burl Ives radio programs <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Cost of making 65 shows Goodman Productions - <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : First draft and comments Goodman Productions - <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Contract, first draft & comments Goodman Productions - <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Contract, subsequent events & comments Goodman Productions - <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Final & signed contract Goodman Productions - <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence re: contracts <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Selling flyer, radio <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> - Contracts: Syndication contracts with radio stations <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Royalty statements, all years <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1950 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1951 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1952 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1953 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1954 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1955 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1956 <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Correspondence 1958 Law Suit, Final deposition release: Draft Law Suit, Initial correspondence Law Suit, complaint, summons and affidavit Law Suit, final deposition correspondence Law Suit Release
4	Guest appearances on radio shows, filed in chronological order by production date NBC Radio, Christmas Program, "Music Through the Night" radio spots Burl Ives, <i>America For Sale</i> : Script Radio Show, October, 1940: <i>Back Where I Came From</i> Radio Show, January 20, 1948: <i>Jack Smith Show</i> Radio Show, December, 1948: <i>Bing Crosby Show</i> Radio Show, February 24, 1950: <i>Tex & Jinx Show</i> Radio Show, March, 1950: <i>Quick as a Flash</i> Radio Show, June, 1951: <i>Bing Crosby Show</i> - Press Item Radio Show, June, 1951: <i>Bing Crosby Show</i> [contract] Radio Show, 1951: <i>Songs for Sale</i> Radio Show, June 1, 1951: <i>Songs for Sale</i> Radio Show, November 20, 1955: <i>Woolworth Hour</i> Radio Show, September 16, 1956: <i>Woolworth Hour</i> Radio Show, March, 1957: <i>Woolworth Hour</i> - voucher Material relating to <i>The World of Folk Music</i>: Radio show for Social Security Arrangements for Social Security show 100th Program - Social Security Special presentation tape to precede airing Special promotion spots Correspondence Scripts Guest list approved Publicity flyers Material relating to Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio programs <i>Historical America in Song</i> <i>The Wayfaring Stranger</i> : A reading of Ives's book CBC Radio, Edith Fowke's <i>Folk Song Time</i> , list of material used CBC Radio, Edith Fowke's <i>Folk Song Time</i> , script for show "The Story of Burl Ives" Letter from Edith Fowke Materials relating to foreign radio programs

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	London radio scripts, 1952 Radio program, March 22, 1952 London radio scripts, 1954 <i>Historical America in Song</i> : New Zealand radio New Zealand correspondence <i>Burl Ives Sings</i> : Radio Show, correspondence with Bristol-Myers, Australia
5	Materials relating to television appearances, filed in chronological order by production date <i>Mohawk Showroom</i> : Payment voucher, May, 1950 National Council of Churches: <i>A Family Christmas</i> , December 25, 1950 Preliminary correspondence Script: First draft, notes, changes Script as performed Correspondence Bill for kinescope of show <i>Toast of the Town</i> (Sullivan), March 22, 1953 Fan Mail Bill for kinescope of show Contract National Council of Churches of Christ: <i>Frontiers of Faith</i> , December 20, 1953, Script of Program <i>TV Ding Dong School</i> : Payment voucher, September, 1954 <i>CBS Morning Show</i> (Jack Parr), December, 1954 Preliminary correspondence Copy of signed contract Correspondence Vouchers National Council of Churches: <i>Frontiers of Faith</i> , December 12, 1954 Copy of contract Correspondence <i>Stork Club</i> : Payment voucher, February, 1955 <i>CBS Morning Show</i> (Jack Parr), April 1st plus 12 other shows [1955] Copy or signed contract Correspondence <i>CBS Morning Show</i> (Jack Parr), April - November, 1955, income vouchers <i>Toast of the Town</i> (Sullivan), May 22, 1955 Signed contract and correspondence Income vouchers <i>Toast of the Town</i> , "Anniversary Surprise," June 26, 1955 Preliminary correspondence Script-copy Photograph <i>Jack Parr Afternoon Show</i> , July 8, 1955 Correspondence <i>What's My Line?</i> , August, 1955 <i>The Jack Parr Show</i> , August 19 - November 4, 1955 Contract and correspondence

SUBJECT FILE

Box/Folder

Contents

Photograph: Jim Moran, Parr and Ives

Music '55, August 23, 1955

Correspondence
Copy of contract

The Jack Parr Show, November -- December, 1955 and January, 1956

Longines-Whittnauer Thanksgiving Festival, November 24, 1955

Correspondence
Payment voucher

Let's Take a Trip, March 24, 1957

Copy of contract
Vouchers
Correspondence

The Chevrolet Show (Dinah Shore), October 5, 1958

Income voucher
Script
Fan Mail
Copy of contract

Perry Como Show, November 8, 1958

Confirmation correspondence
Correspondence
Contract
Income voucher
Fan Mail

The Chevrolet Show (Dinah Shore), December 21, 1958

Preliminary Correspondence
Correspondence re: contract
Script
Income voucher

Texaco Special - *Holiday U.S.A.*, June 3, 1959

Announcement
Publicity
Advertising
Press interviews, etc.
Rating
Reaction to show
"Star" Burl Ives
Memo after first meeting
Staging layouts and production ideas
Production staff, Bill Colleran
Production meeting
"Final" script
Re-written script, Ives's spots
Final script
Suggestions and changes before air-time
Script, as performed
Rehearsal schedules
Rehearsal cue cards
Cost schedules
Income vouchers
Contract, Music director
Contract, Dancers
Contract, Chorus singers
Contract, Buster Davis, vocal arranging and direction
Contract, First draft with revisions
Writer contract, Andy Russell

6

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Final contract Duplicate contracts, memos, etc. Insurance, Workman's compensation Agreement to deliver elements of show Presentation of repeat of show
	<i>Red Skelton Chevrolet Special, October 9, 1959</i> Preliminary correspondence Premise, Western Union telegram Contract, Burl Ives Contract, Wayfarer Enterprises Script, Draft Script, Draft-revised Script, Draft-revision Script, Revision Script, Final Burl Ives segment Script, Final complete Telegram, producer Schedule, Rehearsal/Taping Schedule, Rehearsal/Taping final New Ives spot, "Cool Square Dance" "Cool Square Dance", script "I Wish I Wuz", script Income voucher and correspondence
7	<i>The Bell Telephone Hour, October 23, 1959</i> Premise First draft Rehearsal schedule Schedule Script revisions Script, as performed Songs Correspondence Contracts and agreements Income vouchers Kinescope correspondence
	<i>The Bell Telephone Hour, March 3, 1961</i> Premise Script Burl Ives's revised script Rehearsal schedule Staff Telegrams Income vouchers
	<i>The Bell Telephone Hour, October 6, 1964</i> First draft, Burl Ives, September 29, 1964 Final draft, Burl Ives, October 2, 1964 Burl Ives, songs Songs Burl Ives, revised song Lead-in revisions, Notes Revised lead-in song Rehearsal schedule Correspondence Contract Fan letters Fan letters, requests for poems Loan receipt, kinescope
	<i>The Hollywood Palace, December 12, 1964</i>

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
8	<p>First draft, Ives's corrections Ives's work copies of songs Final script Rehearsal and meeting schedule Tickets and programs Public relations photograph: Ernie Anderson Correspondence re: kinescope of show Fan mail, re-run, August, 1965 Contracts and agreements Re-run contract</p> <p><i>The Bell Telephone Hour</i>, March 16, 1965 First script First and second drafts Revised script Revisions Mark Twain, ideas, revisions Script, as played Rehearsal schedule Rehearsal schedule Set drawings Song ideas Words to songs Extra copy - finale Helen [Ives's] complaints Publicity, Marvin Drager Press information Photographs Photograph, Buster Davis on right Correspondence and agreement as to format of show Contracts and agreements</p>
9	<p>Materials relating to 1952 and 1953 tours of England, Ireland, and Scotland, filed in chronological order</p> <p>Burl Ives arriving at London airport [photograph] Concert, 1952: <i>Everybody's</i> [press clipping] London, 1952: <i>Lilliput Magazine</i> [press clipping] England: BBC Radio, 1952 [photograph] English pub, 1952 [photograph] London: 1952 [press clippings] London: Scottish girls choir [BBC] [photograph] Arrival in London, 1952 [press clipping] Signing records, 1952 [press clipping] Royal Festival Hall: First concert [photograph] Royal Festival Hall: Backstage [photograph] Isows in London [photograph] Liverpool [photograph] London concerts, 1952: Record advertisement in program Concerts, 1952: Beard Party [press clippings] Concerts, 1952: Complete itinerary and critical comments Concerts, 1952: Magazine article [<i>Picture Post</i>] Concerts, 1952: Magazine article [<i>Everybody's ...</i>] Concerts, 1952: Souvenir programs and itinerary Concerts, 1952: Burl Ives reception London, 1952: Press release, Good Friday Concert, 1952: U.S.I.S. Bulletin London, 1952: Press releases London, 1952: Columbia records tie-in flyer London, 1952: Festival concert announcement London, 1952: Financial breakdown Coronation series: Announcements, 1953 Concerts, 1952: Profit and loss statements per theatre</p>

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Concerts, 1952: Itinerary Concerts, 1952: Itinerary, hotels Concert, 1953: British press, New York Concert, 1952: Publicity press excerpts Concert, 1952: "Teaser notice" Concert, 1952: Booking requests Concert, 1952: Press bulletins Northumberland Pipes [photograph] Glasgow: Chris Hanley [photographs] Edinburgh [press clipping] Edinburgh with ancient folk singer [press clipping] Glasgow [girls choir]: Press releases Scotland: Newcastle on Tyne [photograph] Ireland [photographs] Ireland correspondence Belfast [photographs] Concert, 1953: Financial breakdown Correspondence: BBC, 1953 Concert, 1953: Correspondence with concert management London, 1952: Press releases Coronation festival: Poster for recording Concert, 1953: Advance flyer, "Teaser" Concerts, 1953: Contracts with theatres Concerts, 1953: Hippodrome, Midland program Concerts, 1953: Glasgow publicity, correspondence with <i>Daily Record</i> Concerts, 1953: Scotland correspondence re: visit Learning bagpipes, Newcastle on Tyne [photograph] Coronation Festival, 1953: Program flyer Coronation Festival, 1953: Press flyer Coronation Festival, 1953: Advance notice Coronation Festival Series, 1953: Royal Festival Hall program, June 7 Coronation Festival Series, 1953: Royal Festival Hall program, June 14 Concerts, 1953: Correspondence with booking management agency Concerts, 1953: Variety tour itinerary Concerts, 1953: Correspondence re: publicity 1953: Cafe du Paris Concerts, 1953: Correspondence re: Ireland Ireland [photographs] Concerts, 1953: Aberdeen Hall - Dublin Dublin press Ireland: Winners of beauty contest at fair, County Cork [photograph] Ancient Parchment [photograph] Ireland, 1953 [photograph] Concert, 1959: Impromptu concert [press clippings]
10	Materials relating to 1952 tour of Australia and New Zealand, filed in chronological order Airline tickets and transportation Australia: Home for spastic children [photograph] Sydney Australia program Australia: <i>Variety</i> article Article on Australia for American newspaper Australian tour: Itinerary in Adelaide Article by Burl Ives on Australian folksongs Australian album presentation to ambassador Return to Australia Australian taxes Australian album after tour <i>Nine Australian Folk Songs</i> [album cover] New Zealand tax returns

Materials relating to 1952 tour of Hawaii, filed in chronological order

SUBJECT FILE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Concerts: Honolulu Honolulu: Petty cash and receipts Honolulu: Press clipping
	Materials relating to public appearances for charities, foundations, benefits, etc., filed in chronological order
	Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation NBC Radio - Christmas seal sale: 1953 - script March of Dimes - 1953 Save the Children Federation: Correspondence and scripts for two spots Friends of Music - Sponsor Heart fund Multiple Sclerosis Society Mental Health Association Freedoms Foundation: Letter awards - 1965, Interview

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

11	His Childhood and Teens Candid Photographs, All Activities Personal Moments A Man and His Guitar, 1 of 2 A Man and His Guitar, 2 of 2 The Man and His Boats, 1 of 2 The Man and His Boats, 2 of 2 Portraits Without Beard Man of Many Hats Gives a Party
12	Some Information About Burl Ives Burl Ives Burl Ives, The Wayfaring Stranger in Various Guises Philco Radio Show Philco Radio Show Guest Pictures Character Studies Stills: Film and Theatre Character Portrayals: Film and Theatre Burl Ives and Famous People <i>O.K. Crackerby</i> Farleigh Dickinson College

SCRAPBOOKS

13	Concerts, 1953: England, Ireland, Scotland [small] Concerts, 1953: England, Ireland, Scotland [large]
14	1945: National Press December 21, 1958: <i>The Dinah Shore Chevrolet Show</i> June 3, 1959: <i>Holiday U.S.A.</i> , 1 of 2 June 3, 1959: <i>Holiday U.S.A.</i> , 2 of 2 October 9, 1959: <i>The Red Skelton Chevrolet Special</i>
15	October 23, 1959: <i>The Bell Telephone Hour</i> October 6, 1964: <i>The Bell Telephone Hour</i> December 12, 1964: <i>Hollywood Palace</i> March 16, 1965: <i>The Bell Telephone Hour</i> Four loose photographs
16	Burl Ives, the Wayfaring Stranger