

John Philip Sousa:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Sousa, John Philip, 1854-1932
Title:	John Philip Sousa Collection
Dates:	ca. 1880-1969 (bulk 1910-1930)
Extent:	6 document boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 flat file drawer, 3 oversize objects (3.0 linear feet)
Abstract:	The John Philip Sousa Collection, ca. 1880-1969 (bulk 1910-1930), contains numerous photographs of Sousa, his bands, and other incarnations of the U.S. Marine Band, as well as bound volumes of Sousa band correspondence (1911-1931) and a band uniform worn by Sousa.
Call Number:	Performing Arts Collection PA-00157
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gift, 1971
Processed by:	Erin Lawrimore, 2002; Ancelyn Krivak, 2009 Note: This brief description is an accession record. The collection is not fully processed or cataloged; no biographical sketch, descriptions of series, or indexes are available.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

Composer and bandmaster John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was appointed director of the U.S. Marine Band on October 1, 1880. After twelve years with the Marine Band, Sousa retired to lead his own civilian concert band in 1892, which he conducted until his death in 1932.

Sousa, known as the "March King," composed over 120 marches as well as numerous operettas, suites, waltzes, instrumental solo pieces, and vocal works. While he first received acclaim in military band circles with his 1886 march "The Gladiator," he is perhaps best known for his 1896 march "The Stars and Stripes Forever," which was designated as the national march of the United States on December 10, 1987.

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The collection was compiled by Joe E. Ward, a University of Texas graduate who also compiled the Ward Circus Collection and the Fred Waring Collection. It is arranged in the order found in the detailed typescript catalog of the Joe E. Ward Collection. The materials were divided into categories based on the format of the materials and, to some extent, the subject or purpose of the materials. This inventory acts as a key: it provides only an outline of the categories and items in the collection along with their box locations. Thus this inventory must be used in conjunction with the typescript catalog, available in the Ransom Center Reading Room, in order to identify and request specific items from the collection. Even though large items were separated to oversize storage, references to these items appear in their proper categories with a note indicating their oversize locations.

Related Material

Photographs, concert programs, and other Sousa-related materials are located in the Musicians Collection. Extensive Sousa archives are on deposit at the Library of Congress, the U.S. Marine Band, and the University of Illinois.

Personal Pictures

A-1p.1-13

Box 1

A.1p.10 removed to flat files

A.1p.13 removed to flat files

Company Pictures

A-5p.1-32

Box 1

A.5p.23 removed to flat files

A.5p.26-29 removed to flat files

Stage Pictures of Company

B-4p.1-23

Box 1

B.4p.19 removed to flat files

Production Pictures without Performers

B-5p.1-6

Box 1

Newspaper Articles and Clippings

C.1-5

Box 1

Magazine Articles and Clippings

D.1-8

Box 1

D.9-20

Box 2

Souvenir Programs

E-2m.1-11 **Box 2**

Correspondence

F.1 **Box 2**

F.2-3 **Box 3**

F.4 **Box 4**

F.5-42 **Box 5**

F.43-44 **Box 6**

Sheet Music

G.1-20 **Box 6**

G.20 removed to flat files

Books, Pamphlets, and Manuscripts

J.1-3 **Box 6**

Advertisements

L.1-2 **Box 6**

Legal: Contracts, Business Arrangements, and Documents

O.1-101 **Box 6**

Miscellaneous

P.1-43

Box 6

P.2 removed to box 7

P.27 removed to 7C: Costume Storage

P.42-43 removed to 7.202 F