

# Burl Ives:

## An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

---

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Ives, Burl, 1909-1995
<b>Title:</b>	Burl Ives Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1944-1963
<b>Extent:</b>	20 document boxes, 10 oversize boxes (osb), 4 galley files (gf), 2 framed items (17.92 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Burl Ives Papers consist of manuscript and typescript drafts, proofs, correspondence, legal and financial documents, publicity, contracts, scripts, and scrapbooks of press clippings that document Ives' published and recorded works as well as his concerts and personal appearances.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Performing Arts Collection PA-00047
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
<b>Use Policies:</b>	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
<b>Restrictions on Use:</b>	Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

---

### Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin. Burl Ives Papers (Performing Arts Collection PA-00047).
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Gift and purchases, 1963-1966
<b>Processed by:</b>	Valerie Burns, 2002; Helen Adair, 2006; Helen Baer, 2012; Daniela Lozano, 2017
<b>Repository:</b>	Harry Ransom Center, <a href="https://www.utexas.edu/hrc/">The University of Texas at Austin</a> .

---

## Biographical Sketch

Folk singer, actor, and author Burl Icle Ivanhoe Ives was born on June 14, 1909 in Hunt, Illinois. He attended Eastern Illinois State Teachers College for three years but left school to hitchhike around the United States. He wrote about his hitchhiking adventures in the autobiographical *The Wayfaring Stranger* (1948).

In 1945, Ives performed his first folk concert at Town Hall in New York City. Some of his best-known renditions of folk ballads and songs include "Big Rock Candy Mountain," "Frosty the Snowman," and "I Know an Old Lady (Who Swallowed a Fly)." He made his first film appearance in *Smoky* in 1946. Future notable roles include Big Daddy in the Broadway play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955) which he reprised in the 1958 screen version; and a feuding landowner in *The Big Country* (1958) for which he was awarded an Academy Award for best supporting actor.

Ives recorded more than 100 albums and appeared in 13 Broadway productions and numerous television shows. He died on 14 April 1995 at the age of 85.

## Sources:

The editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Burl Ives." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Burl-Ives> (accessed 26 October 2017).

Barnes, Bart. "Singer, Actor Burl Ives Dies." *The Washington Post*, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1995/04/15/singer-actor-burl-ives-dies/617ec2f8-3515-4762-885d-d46b9981de1b/?utm\\_term=.4dae612d05ba](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1995/04/15/singer-actor-burl-ives-dies/617ec2f8-3515-4762-885d-d46b9981de1b/?utm_term=.4dae612d05ba) (accessed 26 October 2017).

## Scope and Contents

The Burl Ives Papers document Ives' published and recorded works as well as his concerts and personal appearances. The collection is arranged in the following four series: I. Works, 1946-1963, undated; II. Concerts and Personal Appearances, 1944-1954; III. Personal and Career Related, 1947-1959, undated; and IV. Scrapbooks of Press Clippings, 1944-1962.

Series I. Works includes manuscript and typescript drafts, proofs, correspondence, legal and financial documents, publicity, and other related documents for book and recording projects. Works represented include *The Wayfaring Stranger* (1948), *Historical America in Songs* (1950), *The Burl Ives Song Book* (1953), *Tales of America* (1954), *Song in America: Our Musical Heritage* (1962), *The Wayfaring Stranger's Notebook* (1962), and *The Burl Ives Sing-Along Book* (1963). The works are in alphabetical order by title. The original folder labels and arrangement were retained. A few folders were empty and are indicated as such in the container list.

Series II. Concerts and Personal Appearances is made up of correspondence, contracts, itineraries, programs, publicity, schedules, and financial and legal documents pertaining to performances by Ives. United States venues are predominantly represented, although tours to Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand, and Scotland are included. There are two groups of files – group I consists of Ives' files for performances in the United States; group II files originated from Ives' concert representative's office and includes performances in the U.S. and abroad. Both groups of files are arranged in chronological order.

Series III. Personal and Career Related consists of financial files, legal files, itineraries, programs, and radio scripts that were separated into format categories according to past Ransom Center Theater Arts Department processing procedures. Other files in this series retained their original labels and were arranged during processing for this finding aid to better reflect the creator's original order. These include clippings, lists and an invoice, and the text of a guest of honor speech. Also included in the series are two framed portraits of Ives – one by Jan Hoowij from 1961 and an undated one by John Falter.

Series IV. Scrapbooks of Press Clippings is made up of scrapbooks containing press clippings related to concerts, radio, and several publications.

## Related Material

The Library of Congress has a collection of materials received from Ives in 1965 primarily concerning his career in radio and television.

## Separated Material

Published works were transferred to the Ransom Center's Library. Commercial audio recordings were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recordings Collection.

**Series I. Works, 1946-1963, undated**

## Burl Ives Presents America's Musical Heritage (The Burl Ives Sing-Along Book, 1963)

Announcements, flyers, etc., 1963	<b>Container 1.1</b>
Drafts for contents of album, undated	<b>Container 1.2</b>
Draft of contents as presented to Grolier, 1962	<b>Container 1.3</b>
Grolier contract negotiations, 1962	<b>Container 1.4</b>
Contract, first draft, 1962	<b>Container 1.5</b>
1st agreement as final, later changed, 1962	<b>Container 1.6</b>
Original lists, exhibit A, 1962	<b>Container 1.7</b>
Final contract agreement, undated	<b>Container 1.8</b>
Contract final with amendment, 1962-1963	<b>Container 1.9</b>
Selections with their timing, undated	<b>Container 1.10</b>
New lead-ins as recorded by Burl in Los Angeles, 1962	<b>Container 1.11</b>
Test mailing, 1962-1963	<b>Container 1.12</b>
Advertising copy, proof, 1963	<b>Container 1.13</b>
Publicity, Franklin Watts correspondence, 1963	<b>Container 1.14</b>
Requests to purchase (referred to Grolier), 1962-1963	<b>Container 1.15</b>
Introduction for book, undated	<b>Container 1.16</b>
Production, 1962-1963	<b>Container 1.17</b>
Copyright analysis of content and permission, 1962	<b>Container 1.18</b>
Final draft of book with words to songs, undated	<b>Container 1.19</b>
1st draft, lead-ins to book, undated	<b>Container 1.20</b>
Final proof	<b>Container 2.1</b>

## The Burl Ives Song Book (1953)

Ballantine Books [contract], 1953	<b>Container 3.1</b>
Notes and information for songs, undated	<b>Container 3.2</b>
First draft, 1953	<b>Container 3.3</b>
Final (cut-down draft), undated	<b>Container 3.4</b>
Albert Hague, arranger, 1953	<b>Container 3.5</b>
Galleys from Ballantine Books, 1953	<b>Container 3.6</b>
Peoples Book Club, 1953	<b>Container 3.7</b>
Editions [empty folder]	<b>Container 3.8</b>
Promotion, 1953-1954	<b>Container 3.9</b>
Permissions for use, 1954-1962	<b>Container 3.10</b>
Recovery of rights from Ballantine Books, 1957-1958	<b>Container 3.11</b>
Cancellation of contract with Ballantine Books, 1961	<b>Container 3.12</b>
Purchase of plates (hard cover book), 1959-1961	<b>Container 3.13</b>
Historical America in Songs (1950, recordings)	
Announcements, etc., 1950	<b>Container 3.14</b>
1st approach from company re: film (16mm), rejected, 1949	<b>Container 3.15</b>
Initial correspondence re: project, Feb.-May, 1950	<b>Container 3.16</b>
Release from Columbia Records, 1955	<b>Container 3.17</b>
Correspondence re: contents of albums, May-Jun., 1950	<b>Container 3.18</b>
Contract 1950, 1950-1959	<b>Container 3.19</b>
First draft, lead-ins to songs, undated	<b>Container 3.20</b>
Lead-ins, undated	<b>Container 3.21</b>
Recording schedule and sessions record, 1950	<b>Container 3.22</b>

Union contracts, 1950	<b>Container 3.23</b>
Text and notes for recording, 1950-1951	<b>Container 3.24</b>
Songs: words, undated	<b>Container 4.1</b>
Copy for inside cover, 1950	<b>Container 4.2</b>
Promotion, publicity, etc., 1950-1955	<b>Container 4.3</b>
Correspondence, 1952	<b>Container 4.4</b>
Correspondence, 1953	<b>Container 4.5</b>
Use abroad, 1952-1953	<b>Container 4.6</b>
Re: Library of Congress, 1952-1953	<b>Container 4.7</b>
Press releases, undated	<b>Container 4.8</b>
Sale to foreign alumni of International House, 1951	<b>Container 4.9</b>
U. S. government use, 1951	<b>Container 4.10</b>
American Folklore Society, 1950	<b>Container 4.11</b>
Permissions and uses (U.S.A.), 1950-1957	<b>Container 4.12</b>
Termination of contract, 1959-1960	<b>Container 4.13</b>
Recording and location of originals (RCA, Encyclopedia Brit., etc.), 1959-1961	<b>Container 4.14</b>
Retail negotiations, abortive	
Decca, Encyclopaedia Britannica Records agreements, 1952-1962	<b>Container 4.15</b>
Golden Records, 1961	<b>Container 4.16</b>
Golden Book, suggested copy, undated	<b>Container 4.17</b>
Golden Records, contract, 1961	<b>Container 4.18</b>
United Artists, negotiations, 1959	<b>Container 4.19</b>
Correspondence re: Encyclopaedia Britannica Records release, 1951-1962	<b>Container 4.20</b>

## Song in America: Our Musical Heritage (1962)

First conception, 1953	<b>Container 4.21</b>
Correspondence with Encyclopedia Britannica, 1950-1953	<b>Container 4.22</b>
First attempt at a book, undated	<b>Container 5.1</b>
First draft, 1953	<b>Container 5.2</b>
Selling presentation to publishers, undated	<b>Container 5.3</b>
Acquisition of agent (Maurice Crain), 1953	<b>Container 5.4</b>
Dell Publications, paperbound edition for Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1948	<b>Container 5.5</b>
Duell, Sloan & Pearce correspondence, 1953	<b>Container 5.6</b>
D, S & P correspondence, negotiation, and resolution of new project, 1958-1960	<b>Container 5.7</b>
Contract (with trust to which Ballantine plates given as gift), 1960	<b>Container 5.8</b>
Correspondence re: content, 1961	<b>Container 5.9</b>
Final content, 1961	<b>Container 5.10</b>
Introduction, first draft, 1961	<b>Container 5.11</b>
Text, new draft, undated	<b>Container 5.12</b>
Text and final content, 1961	<b>Container 5.13</b>
Master copy text and words to songs, 1961	<b>Container 5.14</b>
Arranger, Albert Hauge, editor Ralph Satz, 1961	<b>Container 6.1-2</b>
Production, 1961	<b>Container 6.3</b>
Copyright permissions, 1961	<b>Container 6.4</b>
Acknowledgements, 1961	<b>Container 6.5</b>
Correspondence re: galleys, 1961	<b>Container 6.6</b>

Corrected galleys [empty folder]	<b>Container 6.7</b>
Promotion, publicity, and sales, 1958-1962	<b>Container 6.8</b>
Publicity, 1962-1963	<b>Container 6.9</b>
European edition, 1960	<b>Container 6.10</b>
Correspondence re: paperbound editions, 1962-1963	<b>Container 6.11</b>
Objections from our office re: editing and production, 1962-1963	<b>Container 6.12</b>
<b>Tales of America (1954)</b>	
Project outline as presented to Donald Friede of World Publishing, returned, undated	<b>Container 6.13</b>
Final, approved table of contents, undated	<b>Container 6.14</b>
Prefaces, all drafts, epilogues, undated	<b>Container 6.15</b>
Original script, four stories (others lost), undated	<b>Container 6.16</b>
First typed draft, undated	<b>Container 6.17-18</b>
Uncorrected galley, 1954	<b>Container gf 1</b>
Galley corrections, 1954	<b>Container 7.1</b>
Final galley with corrections, 1954	<b>Container gf 2</b>
First press release, 1954	<b>Container 7.2</b>
Permission for use, 1957-1959	<b>Container 7.3</b>
Use of by United States Information Agency, 1962	<b>Container 7.4</b>
Publicity correspondence, World Publishing Co., 1953-1958	<b>Container 7.5</b>
First printing, first edition [empty folder]	<b>Container 7.6</b>
Korean printing [empty folder]	<b>Container 7.7</b>
<b>The Wayfaring Stranger (1948)</b>	
Plans for a book, 1946	<b>Container 7.8</b>

First draft dictated to Katie Donovan, Summer, 1946 at Escondido, California, 1946	<b>Container</b> 7.9
Chapters written in longhand, 1947 concert tour, 1947	<b>Container</b> 7.10
Completed first draft typed by Katie Donovan, 1947	<b>Container</b> 7.11-13
Final MS with corrections, undated	<b>Container</b> 8.1-2
English edition [folder scrap only]	<b>Container</b> 8.3
Correspondence, T. V. Boardman, 1951-1960	<b>Container</b> 8.4
Publishing contract, T. V. Boardman, 1952	<b>Container</b> 8.5
Correspondence re: European edition, 1951-1952	<b>Container</b> 8.6
Uncorrected galleys, undated	<b>Container</b> gf 3
Corrected galleys, undated	<b>Container</b> gf 4
Book of press clippings, announcements, etc., 1949-1952	<b>Container</b> 8.7
Dictated revisions, concert tour, 1948	<b>Container</b> 8.8
Whittlesey House questionnaire, undated	<b>Container</b> 8.9
How book was written [empty folder]	<b>Container</b> 8.10
Revised drafts, 1948	<b>Container</b> 8.11
American edition of book [empty folder]	<b>Container</b> 8.12
Sidney Sanders, Literary Agent, 1947-1948	<b>Container</b> 8.13
Publishing contract Whittlesey House (McGraw-Hill), 1948-1950	<b>Container</b> 8.14
Promotion copies ordered, 1948-1955	<b>Container</b> 8.15
Promotion radio, press interviews, 1948-1953	<b>Container</b> 8.16
List of persons to receive publication announcements, 1948	<b>Container</b> 8.17
Permissions for reprints, 1948-1961	<b>Container</b> 8.18



Whittlesey House correspondence re: acceptance, corrections, etc., 1948-1950	<b>Container</b> 9.1
<b>The Wayfaring Stranger's Notebook (1962)</b>	
First draft, presentation to Donald Friede, World Publishing, undated	<b>Container</b> 9.2
Contract release from Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1961	<b>Container</b> 9.3
Drafts, table of contents, 1962	<b>Container</b> 9.4
Original manuscript as presented by Bertha Klausner to Bobbs Merrill, accepted by Monroe Stearns, undated	<b>Container</b> 9.5
Correspondence with first editor, Monroe Stearns, 1957-1961	<b>Container</b> 9.6
Correspondence with second editor, William Raney, Bobbs Merrill, 1961-1963	<b>Container</b> 9.7
Working version, Jan., Feb., Mar., 1962	<b>Container</b> 9.8-9
Dr. Sam-isms, first draft for inclusion in Notebook: 1. Dictated, some corrected on typewriter; 2. Handwritten, 1962	<b>Container</b> 10.1
Table of contents, prefatory, 1962	<b>Container</b> 10.2
Drafts of preface [empty folder]	<b>Container</b> 10.3
Art work submitted by Bobbs Merrill, 1961-1962	<b>Container</b> 10.4
Burl's copy, complete as sent to Bobbs Merrill, 1962	<b>Container</b> 10.5-6
Contract with Bobbs Merrill, 1961	<b>Container</b> 10.7
Final manuscript as corrected by Bobbs Merrill, 1962	<b>Container</b> 10.8
Q's re: Dr. Sam, 1963	<b>Container</b> 10.9
Final product [empty folder]	<b>Container</b> 10.10
Promotion and publicity, 1962-1963	<b>Container</b> 10.11
Re: foreign publication, 1963	<b>Container</b> 11.1
Syndication, reprints, 1963	<b>Container</b> 11.2



**Series II. Concerts and Personal Appearances, 1944-1954**

## Group I. United States (see separate typed list of folders)

1944	<b>Container 11.3</b>
1945	<b>Container 11.4</b>
1947	<b>Container 11.5-6</b>
1948	<b>Container 11.7-8</b>
1949	<b>Container 11.9-10, 12.1-2</b>
1950	
Concerts	<b>Container 12.3-6</b>
Diaries of activities	<b>Container 13.1-3</b>
Travel receipts and bills	<b>Container 13.4-5</b>
1951	
Concerts	<b>Container 14.1-4</b>
Travel receipts	<b>Container 14.5-6</b>
1952	
Concerts	<b>Container 14.7, 15.1-3</b>
Travel receipts	<b>Container 15.4</b>
1953	
Concerts	<b>Container 15.5-7</b>
Travel receipts	<b>Container 16.1</b>
1954	
Concerts	<b>Container 16.2-5</b>
Travel receipts	<b>Container 16.6</b>
Critical reviews USA, 1948-1950	<b>Container 16.7</b>

Picture – Burl Ives singing at concert, undated **Container 16.8**

Group II. United States and foreign (no folder listing, concert representative's files)

1945-1946 **Container 17.1**

1947 **Container 17.2**

1948 **Container 17.3-5**

1949 **Container 17.6-7, 18.1-5**

1950 **Container 18.6, 19.1-2**

1952, England, Scotland, and Ireland **Container 19.3-4**

1952, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii **Container 19.5-7**

**Series III. Personal and Career Related, 1947-1959, undated**

## Materials classified for cataloging

Books -- Wayfaring Stranger (folder JWS12), excerpt, list of people to receive, undated	<b>Container</b> 20.1
Financial files -- invoices, expenses, statements (folders O1, O3, O4, O5, O6, O6a), 1947-1950	<b>Container</b> 20.2
Itineraries, lists, programs, radio scripts (folders D62, D71, D74, D75), 1947-1956	<b>Container</b> 20.3
Legal files -- contracts, bills of sale (folders LC1, LC71), 1946-1959	<b>Container</b> 20.4

## Other materials

Clippings, 1955, undated	<b>Container</b> 20.5
Encyclopedia Britannica, lists and invoice, 1950	<b>Container</b> 20.6
"Guest of Honor" speech, undated	<b>Container</b> 20.7
Portrait of Ives (27 x 40 inches) by John Falter, undated	<b>Container</b> framed item 1
Portrait of Ives (46 x 42 1/2 inches) by Jan Hoowij, 1961	<b>Container</b> framed item 2
Sing Out America, first and second drafts of contents, 1950	<b>Container</b> 20.8

**Series IV. Scrapbooks of Press Clippings, 1944-1962**

Burl Ives Song Book	<b>Container</b> osb 21
Concerts, 1948-1949	<b>Container</b> osb 22
Concerts, 1948-1954, USA	<b>Container</b> osb 23
Concerts, 1952, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii	<b>Container</b> osb 24
Concerts, 1952, London, Scotland (2)	<b>Container</b> osb 25
Radio, 1946	<b>Container</b> osb 26
Radio, 1947	<b>Container</b> osb 27
Radio, 1947-1948	<b>Container</b> osb 28
Sing Out Sweet Land, 1944-1945 (2)	<b>Container</b> osb 29
Tales of America	<b>Container</b> osb 30
Wayfaring Stranger, 1948	<b>Container</b> osb 21
Wayfaring Stranger, English edition, 1952	
Wayfaring Stranger's Notebook	<b>Container</b> osb 30