

Burl Ives:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ives, Burl, 1909-1995
Title:	Burl Ives Papers
Dates:	1944-1963
Extent:	20 document boxes, 10 oversize boxes (osb), 4 galley files (gf), 2 framed items (17.92 linear feet)
Abstract:	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.
Call Number:	Performing Arts Collection PA-00047
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days' notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: reference@hrc.utexas.edu
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin. Burl Ives Papers (Performing Arts Collection PA-00047).
Acquisition:	Gift and purchases, 1963-1966
Processed by:	Valerie Burns, 2002; Helen Adair, 2006; Helen Baer, 2012; Daniela Lozano, 2017
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

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

The Burl Ives Song Book (1953)

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

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

Song in America: Our Musical Heritage (1962)

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

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

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

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

Series II. Concerts and Personal Appearances, 1944-1954

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

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

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	Container 20.1
Financial files -- invoices, expenses, statements (folders O1, O3, O4, O5, O6, O6a), 1947-1950	Container 20.2
Itineraries, lists, programs, radio scripts (folders D62, D71, D74, D75), 1947-1956	Container 20.3
Legal files -- contracts, bills of sale (folders LC1, LC71), 1946-1959	Container 20.4

Other materials

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

Series IV. Scrapbooks of Press Clippings, 1944-1962

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

Barcode Index

- 1--059188000097573
- 2--059188000097584
- 3--059188000097595
- 4--059188000097609
- 5--059188000097610
- 6--059188000097620
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- 20--059188000097766