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Guide to the Urban Schnurr papers

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Guide to the Urban Schnurr papers, 1886-1973

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Finding aid prepared by Lisa Pasquinelli

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Schnurr, Urban, 1906-1972
Title	Urban Schnurr papers
Date [inclusive]	1886-1973
Extent	31.2 Linear feet (38 boxes, 30 scrapbooks, and 50 books)
Language	English
Abstract	Posters, playbills, photographs, scrapbooks, programs, and other memorabilia of the theater and performing arts collected by Urban Schnurr (1906-1972). The collection is international in scope and covers the early to mid-20th century. Includes Schnurr's personal papers.

Preferred Citation

[Item title.] Urban Schnurr papers, 1886-1973. University Archives and Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

Biography of Urban Schnurr

Urban Schnurr was born in 1906. He graduated from the University of Dayton Preparatory School in 1925. Schnurr was avidly interested in music and opera, and he amassed a large collection of books and memorabilia pertaining to those interests. Schnurr was active in bringing performances to Dayton, and it is believed, based on Schnurr's notes, that he may have seen more than 65 different operas in his lifetime, several of them more than once. For a time, Schnurr worked with the Charles McLean bookstore, which may have facilitated his collecting so many rare books. He died in May 1972.

Scope and Contents

This collection highlights music and theater performances within the U.S. and abroad during the mid-20th century through programs and playbills, newspaper clippings, books, and photographs. Materials originating in Dayton and Cincinnati form a large part of the collection, although the geographic range is extensive, with some materials from Europe, South America, and Asia. One series is dedicated to the personal papers of Urban Schnurr, including his correspondence, military papers, photographs, and movie reviews. Particularly unique is Schnurr's collection of celebrity autographs. The collection fills 38 boxes in addition to 30 scrapbooks and 50 books.

Arrangement

The Urban Schnurr collection is arranged into five series and six subseries.

- Series 1: Programs and handbills
 - Subseries 1: Dayton
 - Subseries 2: Cincinnati
 - Subseries 3: Chicago
 - Subseries 4: New York
 - Subseries 5: Other U.S. cities
 - Subseries 6: Outside the U.S.A.
- Series 2: Personal papers
- Series 3: Photographs and other materials
- Series 4: Books

Series 5: Scrapbooks

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives and Special Collections, 2006

Access to Materials

This collection is open and available to the public for use in the University Archives and Special Collections reading room. All materials are non-circulating.

Copyright Notice

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Acquisition Information

Urban Schnurr bequeathed this collection of opera materials to the Dayton Opera Association. In March 1975, the D.O.A. donated it to the University of Dayton Archives. The bulk of Urban Schnurr's book collection (nearly 1,000 books) was donated to the University of Dayton Library upon his death in May 1972.

Search Terms

Personal Name(s)

- Schnurr, Urban, 1906-1972

Subject(s)

- Opera
- Performing arts
- Playbills
- Theater programs
- Theatrical paraphernalia

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Programs and handbills, 1903-1973 (26 boxes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains handbills, programs, yearbooks, announcements, and circulars that Mr. Schnurr collected from performances he attended in Dayton, Cincinnati, Chicago, New York, and elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad.

Arrangement

Arranged according to the geographic origin of the materials. There are six subseries.

- Subseries 1: Dayton
- Subseries 2: Cincinnati
- Subseries 3: Chicago
- Subseries 4: New York
- Subseries 5: Other U.S. cities
- Subseries 6: Outside the U.S.A.

Subseries 1: Dayton, 1911-1973

Box

1	Programs, 1919-1922
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Scope and Contents

One bound volume of the Brownell Stork Weekly (1919 season) and two bound volumes of the Mabel Brownell Weekly (1921 and 1922 seasons).

2		Victory Theatre, December 1919-June 1927
	Folder	
3	1	Victory Theatre, July 1927-July 1930
3	2	Victory Theatre, 1924-1967
3	3	Wright Players; Kenley Players; Lyric Theatre; Dayton Theatre Guild, June 1926-July 1971
4	1	Dayton Civic Theatre; Dayton Playhouse Group, 1938-1942
4	2	Dayton Art Institute, 1931-1968
4	3	NCR Schoolhouse, 1923-1941
4	4	Dayton Churches; Dayton Opera; Dayton Ballet, 1923-1968

4	5	O'Brien School; Marjorie Squires; Women's Music Club; Y.M.C.A.; miscellaneous theatres, 1921-1958
4	6	Dayton Civic Orchestra; Dayton Symphony Association, 3 January 1924-15 March 1931
5		Dayton Symphony Association, 1915-1931
	Folder	
6	1	Dayton Civic Music League, 1914-1923
6	2	Dayton Civic Music League, 1924-circa 1972
6	3	Dayton Music Club; Dayton Civic Music Association; Chamber Orchestra Society, 7 November 1928-20 March 1962
6	4	Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, 1934-1967
7	1	Memorial Hall, 1915-1932
7	2	Memorial Hall, 1933-1938
7	3	Memorial Hall, 1939-1956
7	4	Memorial Hall, 1957-1961
7	5	Memorial Hall, 1962-1972
8	1	Circulars, 1932-1936
8	2	Circulars, 1932-1941
8	3	Circulars, 1928-1958
8	4	Miscellaneous, 1912-1970
8	5	Miscellaneous, 1911-1973

Subseries 2: Cincinnati, 1913-1972

Box

9	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra yearbooks, 1915-1920 (4 yearbooks)
10	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra yearbooks, 1921-1926 (3 yearbooks)

Scope and Contents

Yearbooks for the years 1921-1922, 1922-1923, and 1925-1926.

11	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra yearbooks, 1927-1928, 1958-1959 (2 yearbooks)
12	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra programs, 1928-1940
13	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra programs, 1946-1972
13	Cincinnati Music Hall, 1913-1969
14	Cincinnati May Festival programs, 1929-1967
	Folder
15	1 Cincinnati May Festival programs, 1968-1970
15	2 Cincinnati May Festival brochures, 1931-1971
15	3 Cox Theatre; Erlanger Opera House; Emory Auditorium, 1927-1949

15	4	Shubert Theatre, 1927-1966
15	5	Taft Auditorium; Taft Theatre, 1929-1942
15	6	Playhouse in the Park; Edgecliff; Theatre Guild; University of Cincinnati; miscellaneous, 1918-1972
16		Cincinnati Summer Opera, 1930-1969

Subseries 3: Chicago, 1930-1972

Box	Folder	
17	1	Chicago Lyric Opera announcements, 1957-1972
17	2	Chicago Lyric Opera News, Vol. 3-9, June 1958-September 1964
17	3	Chicago Lyric Opera News, Vol. 10-15, February 1965-September 1971
17	4	Chicago Lyric Opera programs, 1958-1971
18	1	Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 1954-1967
18	2	Chicago Opera programs, 1930-1938
18	3	Blackstone Theatre; Studebaker Theatre; Ravinia, 1934, 1961-1971
18	4	Goodman Theatre; Auditorium, 1963-1972
18	5	Miscellaneous programs, 1930-1970

Subseries 4: New York City, 1903-1971

Box	Folder	
19		Metropolitan Opera, 1903, 1926-1971
20		Playbill, 1932-1951
21	1	Play programs, 1919-1964
21	2	Radio City; Carnegie Hall, 1903-1960
21	3	American Ballet Theatre; other ballet companies, 1938-1966
22	1	Miscellaneous, 1910-1960
22	2	Miscellaneous, 1904-1964

Subseries 5: Other U.S. cities, 1925-1972

Box	Folder	
23	1	Milwaukee, WI, 1964-1972
23	2	Dallas, TX, 1959-1968
23	3	San Francisco, CA: Symphony; Light Opera; miscellaneous, 1953-1971
23	4	San Francisco Opera, 1953-1971
24	1	Cleveland, OH, 1930-1942
24	2	Cleveland, OH, 1925-1972
24	3	Springfield, OH, 1928-1941, 1965
24	4	Yellow Springs, OH: Antioch College, 1936-1971

24	5	Columbus, OH, 1930-1957
24	6	Detroit, MI; Ann Arbor, MI; St. Louis, MO, 1931-1965
24	7	Boston, MA; Los Angeles, CA; miscellaneous, 1927-1967

Subseries 6: Outside the U.S.A, 1932-1972

Box	Folder	
25	1	France, 1944-1948
25	2	Belgium; Luxembourg; Spain; Switzerland; Italy, circa 1940s
25	3	England, 1932-1972
25	4	Germany, 1936-1964
26	1	Opera de Marseilles, 20 September 1946-26 November 1946
26	2	Czechoslovakia; Austria; Denmark, circa 1940s
26	3	Argentina; Far East, circa 1930s-1940s

Series 2: Personal papers of Urban Schnurr, 1886-1971 (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the personal papers of Urban Schnurr, including personal and business correspondence, military papers, a list of performances seen, and movie reviews written by Mr. Schnurr.

Box	Folder	
27	1	Photographs, 1886-1968
27	2	Bookworms Club, 1932-1938
27	3	Business correspondence, bills, and other materials, 1932-20 June 1967
27	4	Performances seen, 1934-1948
27	5	Postcards, mass cards, invitations, thank you letters, 1904-1971
27	6	Military papers, 25 July 1942-28 January 1955
28	1	Family history, 1886-1948
28	2	Personal correspondence, circa 1920-1949
28	3	Personal correspondence, 1950-1972
28	4	Christmas cards, circa 1940s-1970s
29	1	Movie reviews by U. Schnurr, 27 August 1935-1 November 1937
29	2	Movie reviews by U. Schnurr, 16 March 1935-12 June 1937
29	3	Movie reviews by U. Schnurr, 20 May 1935-8 July 1935
29	4	Castings of plays seen by U. Schnurr from 1921-1935, circa 1930s
29	5	Castings and reviews of plays seen by U. Schnurr, undated

Series 3: Photographs and other materials, 1879-1970s (9 boxes)

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Urban Schnurr's collection of more than 500 photographs, including autographed photos. An alphabetized list of all identified photographs is included for reference. Schnurr wrote to famous musicians, actors, actresses, and other celebrities in hopes of receiving autographed photos from every celebrity he had met or seen perform. Autographs of such people as Jean Harlow, John Philip Sousa, and Helen Keller can be found in this series. Other materials include Victory Record catalogs, maps and guidebooks, pictures and postcards, and ballet programs.

Box	Folder	
30	1	Photographs, A-B, undated
30	2	Photographs, C-E, undated
30	3	Photographs, F-I, undated
30	4	Photographs, J-L, undated
30	5	Photographs, M, undated
31	1	Photographs, N-R, undated
31	2	Photographs, S, undated
31	3	Photographs, T-Z, undated
31	4	Group photographs, undated
31	5	American Opera Co.; Chicago Opera Paris; Opera House; Salzburg Opera; Motion pictures, undated
32		Victory Record catalogs, 1912-1934
33		Victory Record catalogs, 1936-1954
	Folder	
34	1	Maps and guidebooks, undated
34	2-3	Pictures and postcards, undated
34	4	Miscellaneous and unknown photographs, undated
35		Ballet programs, 1924-1971
36		Ballet programs, 1935-1959
37		Oversized and encapsulated programs, 1879-1960
38		Oversized photographs and miscellaneous programs, 1904-1970s

Series 4: Books, 1890-1972 3.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents

This series contains 50 books, most of which focus on music or recording.

- A Catalog of Music for the AMPICO*. New York: The Ampico Corporation, 1925
- Barnes, Harold. *Claudia Muzio*. Princeton: Princeton Press, 1947
- Barnes, Harold. *Mary Garden on Records*. San Angelo, Texas: The Holcombe-Blanton Printery, 1947
- Complete List of Columbia Records*. New York: Columbia Graphophone Company, 1919
- Complete List of Columbia Records*. New York: Columbia Graphophone Company, 1921
- Columbia Records Complete Catalog*. New York: Columbia Graphophone Company, 1922
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1923
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1924
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1925
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1927
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1928
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Phonograph Company, 1929
- Columbia Records Complete Catalogue*. New York: Columbia Recording Corporation, 1940
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Recording Corporation, 1942 (2 copies)
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Recording Corporation, 1946
- Columbia Record Catalog*. New York: Columbia Recording Corporation, 1945
- Alphabetical Catalogue of Columbia Records*. New York: Columbia Records, 1947-1948
- Coda. 5th Anniversary Columbia Record*. New York: Columbia Records, 1953
- Columbia Records*, circa 1917
- Garbett, A. S. , (Arthur Selwyn), b. 1883. *Gallery of Musical Celebrities*. Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1909
- Gramophone Shop. *The Gramophone Shop Encyclopedia of Recorded Music*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1942
- Halline, Allan G., (Allan Gates). *American Plays*. New York: American Book Co., 1935
- Hurst, P. G. , (P. Geoffrey). *The Golden Age Recorded*. Henfield, Sussex: P.G. Hurst, 1946
- Key, Pierre V. R. , (Pierre Van Rensselaer), 1872-1945. *Pierre Key's Musical Who's Who*. New York: Pierre Key, Inc., 1931
- Key, Pierre V. R. , (Pierre Van Rensselaer), 1872-1945. *Pierre Key's Music Yearbook*. New York: Pierre Key Publishing Corporation, 1935
- L and M Record Supplement*. No. 163. Haverford, Pennsylvania: Lambert and Mycroft, 1939
- L and M Record Supplement*. No. 164. Haverford, Pennsylvania: Lambert and Mycroft, 1958
- Landone, Brown. *Prophecies of Melchi-Zedek*. New York: The Book of Gold, 1940

- Lebow, Bernard. *American Record Index*. Vol. 1, No. 1. New York: The Elaine Music Shop, 1950
- Lebow, Bernard. *American Record Index*. Vol. 1, No. 2. New York: The Elaine Music Shop, 1950
- Leonard, William. *Chicago Stagebill Yearbook*. Chicago: Chicago Stagebill, 1947
- London Records Supplement to March 1954 Catalogue*. New York: London Records, 1955
- Recorded British Music*. New York: London Records, 1953
- Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association. *Ohio Year Book - Ohio in the Entertainment World*. Cleveland: The World Publishing Company, 1962
- Moses, Julian Morton. *Collectors' Guide to American Recordings, 1895-1925*. New York: American Record Collectors Exchange, 1949
- Moses, Julian Morton. *Price Guide to Collectors' Records*. New York: American Record Collectors Exchange, 1952
- Pierre Key's Music Yearbook*. New York: Pierre Key, Inc., 1925-1926
- Pierre Key's Music Yearbook*. New York: Pierre Key, Inc., 1926-1927
- Pierre Key's International Music Yearbook, 1928*. New York: Pierre Key, Inc., 1928
- Metropolitan Opera. (New York, N.Y.). *Metropolitan Opera Association Annual Report, 1970-1971*
- Reader's Digest, 50th Anniversary Issue*. Pleasantville, New York: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., February 1972
- Review of Reviews. *The Story that Transformed the World*. London: Mowbray House, 1890
- Saerchinger, Cesar, 1889-1971. *International Who's Who in Music*. New York: Current Literature Publishing Company, 1918
- Seattle and Puget Sound* [Brochure]. Seattle: C.P. Johnston Co., circa 1960s
- Portraits of Musical Celebrities*. New York: Steinway and Sons, 1915
- Tupper, Turner. *The Angel World of Classical Music*. Los Angeles: Angel, 1965
- United States of America. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *Cabrillo National Monument*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962
- A Musical Galaxy*. Camden, New Jersey: Victor Talking Machine Company, 1927
- Waldrop, Gideon, 1919-2000. *Anderson's Review of Recorded Music*. Vol. 18, No. 1. New York: Gainsburg-Shack, Inc., 1955
- Winter, William. *Tyrone Power*. New York: Moffat, Yard and Company, 1913

Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1892-1946 (30 items)

Scope and Contents

Thirty scrapbooks of playbills, newspaper clippings, and pictures pertaining to the theater.

Scrapbook, 1919-1923

Scrapbook, 1919-1925

Scrapbook, 1924-1925

Scrapbook, 1925-1926

Scrapbook, 1926-1929

Scrapbook, 1927-1928

Scrapbook, 1930-1931

Scrapbook, 1930-1934

Scrapbook, 1932-1933

Scrapbook, 1936-1937

Scrapbook, 1938-1939

Scrapbook, 1942-1944

Scrapbook, 1945-1946

Playbills scrapbook, No. 1, 1859-1902

Playbills scrapbook, No. 2, 1902-1911

Playbills scrapbook, No. 3, 1911-1915

Playbills scrapbook, No. 4, 1916-1919

Playbills scrapbook, No. 5, 1919-1923

Playbills scrapbook, No. 6, 1923-1930

Theatrical scrapbook, No. 1, 1892-1901

Theatrical scrapbook, No. 2, 1902-1904

Theatrical scrapbook, No. 3, 1906-1911

Scrapbook of playbills, 1911-1930

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and playbills, 1917-1925

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and playbills, 1925-1928

Scrapbooks of magazine and newspaper pictures, undated (2 scrapbooks)

Scrapbooks of playbills and pictures, undated (3 scrapbooks)