

Art Rosenbaum Georgia Folklore Collection

AFC 2000/003

Prepared by Katie Lyn Peebles



American Folklife Center, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Encoded by Judy Ng, December 2005;
Revised by Nora Yeh

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af005003>

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Collection Summary

Collection Number: AFC 2000/003

Title: Art Rosenbaum Georgia Folklore Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1955-1983

Bulk Dates: 1976-1983

Repository: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.home>

Extent (original): 236 audiocassette tapes; 1 box of manuscripts and electronic media

Creator: Rosenbaum, Art

Creator: Georgia Folklore Society

Language: English

Abstract: Copies of audio tape recordings made by Art Rosenbaum in north and coastal Georgia and South Carolina principally in the 1970s and early 1980s. These field recordings encompass many genres of acoustic folk music, including gospel, shout, blues, ballads, and some interviews with the performers, recorded in homes, churches, and festivals.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bruce, W. Guy, performer.

Finster, Howard, 1916-, performer.

Heaney, Joe, 1919-1984, performer.

Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984, performer.

Pattman, Neal, performer.

Rosenbaum, Art, collector, performer.

Rosenbaum, Art--Ethnomusicological collections.

Tanner, Gordon, 1916-, performer.

Organizations

Georgia Folklore Society, collector.

McIntosh County Shouters (Musical group) performer.

Moving Star Hall Singers, performer.

Sea Island Singers, performer.

Subjects

African American gospel singers.

African Americans--Georgia--Music.

African Americans--Georgia--Religion.

African Americans--Sea Islands--Music.

African Americans--South Carolina--Music.

Ballads, English--Georgia.

Banjo music--Georgia.

Banjoists--Georgia--Interviews.

Bluegrass music--1971-1980.

Bluegrass music--1981-1990.

Blues (Music)--Georgia.

Children's songs, English--Georgia.

Easter music--Georgia.

Easter service.

Fiddle tunes--Georgia.

Field recordings--Georgia.
Folk festivals--Georgia.
Folk music--Georgia.
Folk songs, English--Georgia.
Folk songs, Irish.
Gospel music--Georgia.
Gospel music--South Carolina.
Hymns, English--Georgia.
Old-time music--Georgia.
Sermons--Georgia.
Shape note singing--Georgia.
Spirituals (Songs)--Georgia.
String band music--Georgia.
Tales--Georgia.
Work songs--Georgia.

Places

Georgia--Music.
Georgia--Religious life and customs.
Georgia--Social life and customs.
Sea Islands--Music.
Sea Islands--Social life and customs.

Titles

Georgia folklore collection, 1955-1983

Form/Genre

Field recordings.
Interviews.
Lectures.
Manuscripts.
Poems.
Prayers.
Sermons.
Sound recordings.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Sound recordings in this collection are arranged by the original Georgia Folklore Collection (GFC) number.

Access

Listening and viewing access to the collection is unrestricted. Listening copies of the recordings are available at the Folklife Reading Room. Restrictions may apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Folklife Reading Room for specific information about this collection. See <http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/folkrec.html>

Acquisition

Art Rosenbaum donated 325 reels of field recordings to the University of Georgia Libraries in 1987. The Media Archives of the University of Georgia Libraries restored the original reel-to-reel tapes and donated a reference set of audiocassettes to the American Folklife Center in January 2000. David Taylor coordinated the donation from the University of Georgia Libraries Media Archives. Katie Lyn Peebles accessioned, arranged, and processed this collection.

Preferred Citation

Art Rosenbaum Georgia Folklore Collection (AFC 2000/003), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Related Materials

Georgia Folklore Collection is located in the Walter J. Brown Media Archives, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Original recordings. An inventory to the Georgia Folklore Collection is available at: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/media/collections/georgiafolklore/inventory.html>

The Archive of Folk Culture also holds several other Art Rosenbaum collections, including the Art Rosenbaum Duplication Project (AFC 1975/026) <http://lccn.loc.gov/2008700397> of 27 audio tapes recorded between 1958 and 1971 in Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, New York City, Maine, New Hampshire, and Scotland. Some of these tapes were duplicated from original masters at the Archives of Traditional Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where they are numbered 1697-1741. These master tapes were recorded in central and southern Indiana. The Art Rosenbaum Collection of Fiddle Music from Iowa (AFC 1977/011) <http://lccn.loc.gov/2006700240> includes three audio tapes of fiddle tunes, string band music, and blues from 1970-1972.

Scope and Content

Art Rosenbaum collected these field recordings in north and coastal Georgia between 1976 and 1983. They include many genres of instrumental and vocal folk music and, in addition, oral history interviews with some performers. These recordings were made in homes, churches, and at festivals with the intent of: 1) preserving through duplication the content of deteriorating tapes of local performing traditions; 2) making these recordings accessible to a wider public; and 3) ensuring the continuity of the musical traditions of these performers' ancestors.

Although Rosenbaum made the majority of these recordings in the late 1970s and early 1980s, one tape (GFC 43) is dated from approximately 1955 and was duplicated from a recording by Oscar and Fred Huff. Another tape (GFC 171) was recorded with Joe Heaney in September 1966. Most of the recordings were made in summer and fall, but notably 4 tapes (GFC 319-322) record an Easter church service in Oglethorpe County. An extensive sequence of tapes (GFC 295-315) was recorded in the Georgia Sea Islands. Several lectures by visionary artist Rev. Howard Finster are included.

The Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia Libraries holds the original masters, where they were deposited in 1987 by Art Rosenbaum, and the 3-1/4 inch preservation masters. A few tapes were not duplicated onto audiocassettes because of their extremely poor condition even after restoration. The Inventory (Folder 2) appended to this guide provides further details.

In addition to complete sets of recordings at the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklife Center and the University of Georgia Media Archives (Athens, GA 30602), different selections of reference copies from the collection are also held at locations around Georgia. In regions that are represented in the field recordings, the University of Georgia Libraries deposited relevant copies of field tapes at the regional public libraries. The names and addresses of these libraries are included in Folder 3.

The Georgia Folklore Collection consists primarily of the field recordings made by Art Rosenbaum and was created when he donated these tapes to the University of Georgia Libraries Media Archives in 1987. However, the Georgia Folklore Collection is currently an open collection and also contains associated collections of sound and video recordings from around Georgia, including those made by the Georgia Folklore Society.

Biographical History

The field collector, Art Rosenbaum, is a professor of art at the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia. He was born in 1938 and received his degrees from Columbia University (A.B. 1960, MFA 1961). He also studied at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie in Paris on a Fulbright grant in 1964-65, and has exhibited his drawings and paintings extensively. He has recorded folk musicians throughout the United States, particularly in Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, and New York. Some of his visual art portrays the performers and musical performances represented in his musical collections.

Rosenbaum has published *Shout Because You're Free: The African American Ring Shout Tradition in Coastal Georgia* (F 292 .M15 R67 1998; Margo Newmark Rosenbaum, photographs; Johann S. Buis, music transcriptions and historical essay). This book draws in part from the field recordings of the Georgia Folklore Collection, and also includes subsequent field research. Four recordings that include music from these field recordings are: *Folk Vision and Voices: Traditional Music and Song in Northern Georgia* (1983, Folkways FE 34161-34162), *Down Yonder: Old-Time String Band Music from Georgia* (1982, Folkways FS 31089), *McIntosh County Shouters: Slave Shout Songs from the Coast of Georgia* (1984, Folkways FE 4344), and *Georgia Folk: A Sampler of Traditional Sounds* (1990, Global Village SC 03).

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Series I: Manuscripts</u>
BOX 2-15	<u>Series II: Sound Recordings</u>
BOX 1	<u>Series III: Electronic Media</u>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Series I: Manuscripts
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	Finding aid, inventory and correspondence. Hard copy and disc copy.
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	Inventory. Includes descriptions and the column headings Call Number, Artist, Group/ Event/ Title, Date, Recording Location, and Songs.
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	List of Public Libraries. Includes the names, addresses, phone numbers, directors, and service area of the public libraries receiving copies of the field recordings. Also includes the number of audiocassettes donated, the original number of reel-to-reel tapes duplicated on the audiocassettes, and the locations at which the original masters were recorded.
BOX 2-15	Series II: Sound Recordings Sound recordings originally housed in Boxes 2 to 15 are stored in a separate location.
BOX 2	GFC 1-23
BOX 3	GFC 24-53
BOX 4	GFC 54-79
BOX 5	GFC 80-107
BOX 6	GFC 108-128
BOX 7	GFC 129-149
BOX 8	GFC 150-172
BOX 9	GFC 173-192 Note: Tape 193 was not transferred to audiocassette copy.
BOX 10	GFC 194-214 Note: Tape 215 was not transferred to audiocassette copy.
BOX 11	GFC 216-237
BOX 12	GFC 238-263
BOX 13	GFC 264-288 Note: Tape 289 was not transferred to audiocassette copy.
BOX 14	GFC 290-307
BOX 15	GFC 308-325
BOX 1	Series III: Electronic Media
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	Finding aid, inventory and correspondence. 1 3/5-inch computer diskette. Contains the Finding aid and Inventory files.