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**Jean Redpath Archive, 1906-2015**  
**Collection: Mss. 2017: 4**

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Jean Redpath Archive, 1906-2015

**Collection Number:** Mss. 2017: 4

**Creator:** Jean Redpath

**Extent:** 8 boxes

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Gift, 2017

**Processed by:** Raef Mills, Adam Crosby

**Access Restrictions:** Open to research

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## Scope and Contents Note

Jean Redpath (1937-2014) was considered by many to be the preeminent interpreter and performer of Scottish folk music. Born to musical parents in Edinburgh in 1937, Redpath was exposed to traditional Scottish music from an early age. While attending the University of Edinburgh, she met Hamish Henderson, whose recordings of traditional Scots music helped provide inspiration for Redpath to pursue a musical career.

She arrived in San Francisco in 1961 and quickly earned a reputation as a knowledgeable and moving performer. Making her way to Greenwich Village, she gained the respect of Ramblin' Jack Elliott and Bob Dylan. Around this time a glowing New York Times review of one of her performances helped to launch her career. During her lifetime she recorded dozens of albums featuring Scottish

folksongs and ballads. She received particular acclaim for her recordings of songs collected and written by Robert Burns. These recordings were undertaken in a decades-long project with composer Serge Hovey which lasted until his death in 1989.

Outside the studio, Redpath was renowned for her ability to engage and entertain live audiences, spending much of her time performing across the United States and Europe. In particular, she made several appearances on *A Prairie Home Companion* and was a frequent performer at various Robert Burns societies and celebrations. She also served as artist in residence at both Wesleyan and Stirling University.

Throughout her career she received recognition for her talents in numerous ways and was awarded several honorary doctorates, as well as being appointed both a Kentucky Colonel and, in 1987, Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

The collection contains material of both personal and professional interest spanning her lifetime but predominantly from the 1980s onward. Personal items include photographs and letters from friends and family, a brief series of journal entries, and vacation itineraries and mementos. Redpath's interests outside of music are further highlighted by her collection of recipes, humorous cartoons and records of psychic readings she had done for her.

Material related to her professional career occupies the larger portion of this collection. Recording and performance contracts, financial records, fan mail, and performance notes can be found. Several collections of Scottish folk song lyrics, indexed by Redpath, are also included, along with listings of her recorded material. One series is dedicated to her later work with Serge Hovey, an undertaking especially dear to her. Of particular interest is the Manuscript series, as it contains several versions of an unpublished manuscript of traditional Scottish folksongs (*Scottish Songs: A Personal Collection*) selected by Redpath. The manuscripts contain her reflections and notes on these particular songs and why they were chosen, as well as photographs she selected to accompany them.

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## Contents

## Box

Series I: Biographical	1
Series II: Performances	1-4
Series III: Sheet Music and Lyrics	4-5
Series IV: Recordings	5
Series V: Manuscript Material	5

Series VI: Correspondence	5-6
Series VII: Financial and Legal Materials	6-7
Series VIII: Audio Visual Material	7
Series IX: Clippings	7
Series X: Serge Hovey Related Material	7
Series XI: Oversized	8

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## **Container List**

### **Series I: Biographical**

#### **Box 1**

“Autobiography for My Grandchildren” by Jos. D. Isaacson (photocopy with edits),  
no date

Biographical Information, 1984-1996, no date

Bumper sticker: “Take an autoharp player home to dinner,” no date

“Cartoons”, 1993, no date

Children’s material, January 19, 1962 - December 1975, no date

“The European Medieval Ballad,” 1978

"Folklore Productions" 50 year anniversary booklet, 2007

Genealogy, 1906-1980,

Green card renewal and related research

“Humor file”, 1992-2000, no date

Journal entries, including transcript of psychic tape, 1987-1999

Kentucky Colonel Certificate (copy), 1987

Largo Kirk pamphlet, February 1985

*Legends of the Pentland Firth*, 1977

Map of Burgh of Carnoustie, no date

Obits and condolence letters, 2014-2015

Photographs, no date

Postcards unused, (no date)  
Psychic readings, 1991-1997  
Recipes, 1982-2001, no date  
Scotland-themed bumper stickers, no date  
Shick Centers Certificate of Achievement, August 29, 1975  
“Till All the Seas Run Dry” program, April 1981  
Travel itineraries, 1997-2005  
Travel mementos, 1992, no date  
Typescript by John Cairney: "And then he made the lassies o!", 1988  
University of St. Andrews honorary degree ceremony, 1990

## **Series II: Performances**

Arts Council of Tamworth 1987-1988 season, no date  
*Ballad Folk* BBC TV series notes, 1978  
*Ballad Folk* BBC TV series scripts and song lists, March 6, 1977 - March 28, 1977,  
no date  
*Ballad Folk*: Notes on the Series, no date  
The Burns Federation World Conference, 1984  
Burns' Night, January 25, 1976  
Chicago Christmas stage script, December 10, 1999  
*Conference on Aging* script with additional music, no date  
Dunkeld and Birnam Arts Festival Society, 1977-1987  
Edinburgh Festival, August 17-26, 1984  
“An Evening of Scottish Folk Song,” November 11, 1982  
“An Evening with Jean Redpath,” May 17, 1985  
The Expressive Arts in the Primary School, September 3-7, 1984  
Fourteenth annual St. Andrew's Celebration and Tartan Ball, November 21, 1987  
“Frae My Ain Countrie,” 1973 - January 1974

Fresh-Picked Entertainment!, 1987 - 1988  
House Concerts!, October 30, 1970 - October 31, 1970  
Jean Redpath Sings, April 21, 1984 - July 16, 1984  
Lord Byron Documentary, 1992, no date  
News clippings announcing performances, April 24, 1981 - November 6, 1987, no date  
A Night of Scottish Folk Songs, April 25, 1988  
Norwood Village Green Concert Series, May 29, 1988 - August 4, 1988  
Notes from performances with Abby Newton, 1987-1996  
Performance announcements, no date  
Performance and lecture flyers, playbills, programs, 1965-1993  
Performance and lecture flyers, playbills, programs, 1994-2010  
Performance and lecture flyers, playbills, programs, no date  
Performance notes and related material, 1993-1998, no date  
Photocopies of performance announcements, February 6, 1973 - May 13, 1988, no date  
*Prairie Home Companion* materials 1987-2004, no date  
Presentation of New Colors to the Atholl Highlanders, May 27, 1979  
Research on Scotland, 1984-2003, no date  
Robert Burns celebrations material, 1983-1987  
Robert Burns celebrations material (incl. photos), 1988-1989  
Robert Burns celebrations 1995-2009, no date  
Scottish Local History, September 12, 1981

## **Box 2**

Scrapbook of performances, January 12, 1976 - November 8, 1977, no date  
Scrapbook of performances, January 25, 1976 - November 26, 1976, no date  
Scrapbook of performances, September 8, 1976 - November 1978, no date  
Scrapbook of performances, January 19, 1977 - May 20, 1977, no date

Scrapbook of performances, September 23, 1977 - August 30, 1978, no date

Scrapbook of performances, May 26, 1978 - July 30, 1979, no date

Scrapbook of performances, January 2, 1979 - August 30, 1980, no date

Scrapbook of performances, December 2, 1982 - April 14, 1986, no date

### **Box 3**

Scrapbook of performances, February 11, 1980 - June 27, 1981

Scrapbook of performances, December 31, 1980 - September 31, 1982, no date

Scrapbook of performances, June 24, 1981 - March 1982, no date

Scrapbook of performances, October 5, 1981 - June 15, 1983, no date

Scrapbook of performances, February 28, 1985 - November 8, 1988, no date

### **Box 4**

“The Songs of Robert Burns” order form, no date

South Bay Center for the Arts, March 18, 1988

Tickets and invitations, April 2, 1981 - April 10, 1981

Tour date calendar 1987

Tour date calendar 1988

Tour date calendar 1989

Tour date calendar 1990

Tour date calendar 1991

Tour date calendar 1992

Tour date calendar 1993

Tour date calendar 1994

Tour date calendar 1995

Tour date calendar 1996

Tour date calendar 1997

Tour date calendar 1996-1997

Tour date calendar 1998

Tour date calendar 1999

Tour date calendar 2000

Tour date calendar 2001

Tour date calendar 2002

Tour date calendar 2003

Tour date calendar 2004

Tour date calendar 2006

Tour schedules, 1976 - Fall 1986, no date

University of New Haven World Music Concert Series, 1984

“Welcome to the Arts at Sweet Briar College 1987-88 Season,” no date

WFAE Concert, April 17, 1984

“White Rose Day” concerts, June 10, 1981 - June 10, 1988, no date

Woodland Concert Series, June 7, 1987

23rd Annual Nina Mae Kellogg Lecture, May 20, 1987

The 1987-88 Artist Series at Tallahassee Community College, April 15, 1988

### **Series III: Sheet Music and Lyrics**

*Australian Folk Songs Songster*, 1964

*Bluebells my Cockle Shells*, 1961

*The Ceilidh Song-Book*, no date

"Celtic Society" tunebook, no date

“Chansons Historiques et Militaires,” no date

“Dream Angus: A Scottish Lullaby” pictures by Suzanne Klein, 1984

Indexed alphabetical lyric list with additional unindexed lyrics included in original packet, no date

"Irish Folk Club" tunebook with notes by Redpath, 1980

Lyrics by various authors, no date

Lyrics by Willie Scott with negatives of portraits of Willie Scott, 1962 - May 1973, no date



Lyrics, loose, typed and photocopied, 1975, no date

*Music of Midlothian*, 1989

"The Music of Scotland" teacher packet, 1985

Notebook of lyrics written down by Jean Redpath, no date

*The Obscure Voice*, 1994

"On the Occasion of a Burns Anniversary Gathering" with dedicatory by author, 1914

*The Scottish Country Dance Book*, 1975

*Songs and Ballads from TMSA Festivals and Ceilidhs*, 1978

Songs by Malvina Reynolds, 1959 - 1962

Songs by various composers, no date

*Songs from Ireland's History*, no date

*Songs of the Isles*, 1991

*16 Sacred Canons*, 1963

### **Subseries A: Binders**

Binders 1-3 are a set. Binder 4 was collected separately and has some overlap with the songs in 1-3.

Lyric binder 1 of 3 diskette files (micro floppy disk), no date

Lyric binder 1 of 3 index and notes, no date

### **Box 5**

Lyric binder 1 of 3 lyrics A-B, no date

Lyric binder 1 of 3 lyrics C-E, no date

Lyric binder 1 of 3 lyrics F-G no date

Lyric binder 2 of 3 index, no date

Lyric binder 2 of 3 lyrics H-J, no date

Lyric binder 2 of 3 lyrics K-M, no date

Lyric binder 2 of 3 lyrics Mc-O, no date

Lyric binder 3 of 3 index, no date

Lyric binder 3 of 3 lyrics P-R, no date  
Lyric binder 3 of 3 lyrics S-T, no date  
Lyric binder 3 of 3 lyrics U-Z, no date  
Lyric binder 4 index by song title no date  
Lyric binder 4 index by genre or author no date  
Lyric binder 4 p.1-70 no date  
Lyric binder 4 p.71-140 no date  
Lyric binder 4 p.141-209 no date

## **Series IV: Recordings**

Album advertising mailers, 1995-1997, no date  
Album liner notes, 1973-1999 (original and copy), no date  
Albums list, chronological, 1962-2005  
Recorded Burns tracks alphabetized by title, no date  
Recorded tracks alphabetized by album, 2 lists, no date  
Recorded tracks alphabetized by first line, no date  
Recorded tracks alphabetized by title, no date  
Recorded tracks partial lists, no date

## **Series V: Manuscript**

In the early years of the twenty-first century, Redpath worked on a book that would collect Scottish folk songs which she considered to be of particular import. The book, never published, was to contain pictures of the Scottish countryside and notes by Redpath herself. The documents in this series are the research and draft of this unpublished work.

Correspondence re: unpublished book, 2000-2004, no date  
Notes to accompany lyrics (rough draft), no date  
Photos to be used, no date

Proof copy of unpublished book (photocopy), no date

Research material, no date

## **Series VI: Correspondence**

Fan Mail 1984-2010, no date

Personal Correspondence, 1961-2014

Personal Correspondence, no date

### **Box 6**

Professional Correspondence, 1975-2010, no date

Songs sent to Redpath (collected and original), 1985-2003, no date

To and from E.S. Dall re: family tree, 1981-1987, no date

## **Series VII: Financial and Legal Materials**

Contracts, November 6, 1975 - June 17, 1981, no date

Copyright forms, copies, and related research, 1999-2002

Divorce papers re: Jean Redpath and Rob Johnson, 1969, 2004

Expense Records 1986

Expense Records 1987

Expense Records 1988

Expense Records 1989

Expense Records 1990

Expense Records 1991

Expense Records 1992

Expense Records 1994

Expense Records 1995

Materials related to compilation album, 2004-2005

Mechanical license requests, 1999

Performance contracts, 1987-1991

Performance contracts, 1992-2006

Recording Contracts, 1961-1997

Recording Contracts (unsigned), no date

Rounder Records royalty statements, 1996-2003

Rounder Records royalty statements, 2004-2010

### **Box 7**

Royalty statements (other than Rounder), 1986-2000

STEORRA financial ledger (copy), 1991-1992

STEORRA invoices, 1985-2005

## **Series VII: Audio Visual Materials**

Betty Cormack cassettes (3) sent by sally, April 14, 2003 - April 28, 2003

CD of scanned slides (Photoshop 2.0), May 2003

CD's 1-4 (some duplicate) with visual files, printed contents, no date

Photo of Jean Redpath at Scottish American Bicentennial Celebration, 1976

Portrait of Robert J. Lurtsema signed with dedicatory, no date

Portraits of unknown subject, no date

Portraits of Jean Redpath, 1981, no date

Print of drawing of Burns' Cottage with dedicatory, January 1977

## **Series IX: Clippings**

Clippings, 1965-1991

Clippings, 1992-1998

Clippings, no date

Clippings re: JR's family

Magazine articles, 1993-1994

Obits and memoriams other than Redpath, 2000-2010, no date

## **Series X: Serge Hovey Related Material**

Jean Redpath and Serge Hovey collaborated for more than 20 years on a project to record all of Robert Burns's songs. During this time they developed great respect for one another; so much so in fact, that after Hovey's death Redpath would not allow anyone else to arrange the music for future albums in the series, opting to sing them a cappella instead. These items are all related to Redpath's work with Hovey and were kept together by Redpath.

Hovey obits, 1989, no date

Information re: Timothy Neat, no date

Interview transcript (discusses Hovey p.13-14, 19), October 31, 1986

Partial list of Hovey compositions, 1948-1990

Performance notes, set list, August 23, 1987

Serge Hovey biography, no date

### **Subseries A: Robert Burns**

"Burns Songs: Book 1" (music and lyrics), no date

Esther Hovey correspondence re: Burns recordings, 1987-1990, no date

Letter regarding recording of "Songs of Burns" (photocopy), February 7, 1984

Material re: Burns recording 7, 1989, no date

Material re: Burns recording 8, 1994, no date

News clippings (photocopies), December 31, 1983

Notes (handwritten) re: Burns, no date

Notes and instrumentation for Burns recordings 1-6, 1987

O Guid Ale Comes' sheet music, arr. by Hovey, no date

Posters advertising performance of "Songs of Burns," no date

Sheet music for Burns 7 with minimal annotations, no date

### **Box 8**

## **Series XI: Oversized**

Prints of poster "Jean Redpath Sings: 50 years", no date

Proof copy of unpublished book "Scottish Songs: A Personal Collection", 2003