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

Preferred Citation: [Item], Jean Redpath Archive, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries

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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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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
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
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, 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
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