



**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,
MURFREESBORO, TN**

L.C. NAFF PAPERS

87-003

Creator:

Naff, Lula Clay (1875-1960)
Ritscher, Paul

Type of Material:

Manuscript Textual Materials, Correspondence

Physical Description:

0.2 linear feet of manuscript materials
6 letters
51 handbills, programs and souvenir books

Languages:

English

Dates:

1922 - 1956

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

This collection consists of correspondence, handbills and programs of performances at the Ryman Auditorium from 1922 through 1956.

Repository:

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,
(615) 898-2449.

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), L. C. Naff Papers 87-003, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was purchased from Paul Ritscher in July 1987. It is unclear how Mr. Ritscher acquired the items but may have related to his time working at Hatch Show Print, which has always been close association with the Ryman Auditorium.

Subject/Index Terms:

Ryman Auditorium
L.C. Naff (1875-1960)
Lula C. Naff

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Mrs. Lula C. Naff, beginning in 1904, served as bookkeeper and secretary for Delong Rice Lyceum Bureau, the company booking entertainment for the Ryman Auditorium at the time. When that company dissolved in 1913, Naff was allowed to rent the Ryman Auditorium from the board of directors to host her own events. From that moment further she would consistently book the biggest names in entertainment of the time. She officially became general manager of the Ryman Auditorium in 1920. Naff was the hesitant manager that allowed the radio and stage program, the Grand Ole Opry, to be hosted at the Ryman Auditorium in 1943. Naff retired from the Ryman Auditorium in 1955 and died in 1960.

Paul Ritscher while in Lincoln, NE, he worked through his 3-year apprenticeship with the Graphic Arts International Union in two years. Moving to Nashville, TN, he first worked as a typesetter, then managed Hatch Show Print. After putting Hatch back on its feet, Paul started Ritz Sho-Card Company, which closed in 2005 after 20 years of letterpress work in various locations. He taught book-arts classes at Cowell Press UC Santa Cruz until 2007, and currently prints on hand presses at his private press, the Devil's Tail Press.

Scope and Content:

Programs from and handbills advertising a variety of individuals, groups and events at the Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee, 1922-1956 including the Fisk Jubilee Singers, John Philp Sousa, John McCormack and others. Also five letters to/from Mrs. L.C. Naff, manager of the Ryman Auditorium, and six photographs of the Ryman Auditorium or acts appearing there.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

Box # Folder # Description

Box 1

Folder 1 Letters

Small notepad 'From the Desk of Mrs. Lula Naff

October 24, 1927 letter to Ms. Frank about conflicting events with Young Women's Hebrew Association.

April 1929 letter to Fannie personal thank you.

April 14, 1927 letter to TN Governor Gordon Browning inviting him to Tallulah Bankhead
July 25, 1937 letter from Giuseppe Creatore to Naff about potential show and stage set up.
Blank Naff Ryman letter head page
Blank Harry Draper [assistant manager of Ryman] letterhead

Folder 2 Programs and handbills

1922 May 8 Galli-Curci handbill
1924 Oct 18 John Philip Sousa handbill
1926 Dec 2 A Night of Mirth and Melody program
1926 Dec 18 March of Venice Program
1926 Jan 25 John McCormack handbill
1926 March 8 Gali-Curci program
1926 Nov 10 John Philip Sousa program
1926 Oct 14 Will Rogers and DeReszke Singers
1926 Oct 22 Tipica Orchestra of Mexico program
1926 Oct 26 Mary Lewis program
1928 Feb 6 Paderewski program
1928 Feb 24 John McCormack handbill
1928 Jan 2 Creatore program/souvenir book
1928 Nov 28 Romeo & Juliet program
1929 March 6 The English Singers program
1931 Jan 6 Strange Interlude program
1934 April 12 Candida program
1934 Dec 26 San Carlo Opera Company handbill
1935 March 13 As Thousands Cheer handbill
1935 Oct 22 Ethel Barrymore handbill
1936 Dec 2 George White's Stage Scandals handbill
1941 Jan 21 Philadelphia Story handbill
1942 Dec 7 Zasu Pitts handbill
1943 May 23 Ink Spots, Lucky Milliner, Sister Rosetta Tharpe handbill
1945 Jan 19 Abies Irish Rose handbill
1947 Feb 11 State of the Union handbill
1947 Jan 7 Fisk Jubilee Singers handbill
1948 May 5 Sigmund Romberg handbill
1948 May 5 Sigmund Romberg program
1948 May 5 Sigmund Romberg souvenir book
1949 Bob Hope handbill
1949 Lucky Millinders Mighty Modern Minstrels handbill/window ad
1950 Dec 1 Roy Rogers handbill
1950 Dec 8 Margaret Truman program
1950 Jan 10 Honor Bound [Sam Davis] program
1950 Jan 17 Private Lives handbill
1950 Nov 17 Harpo Marx handbill
1950 Nov 17 Harpo Marx program

1950 Nov 17 Harpo Marx souvenir book
1951 Biggest Show of 51 Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington souvenir book
1951 Feb 1 Mae West program
1951 The First Piano Quartet handbill
1952 March 12 Spike Lee handbill
1954 Nov 3 Madame Butterfly ticket order
1954 Nov 17 Nashville Police Minstrels program
1956 Nov 13 Victor Borge window card [fold out stand]
undated Feb 22 Spike Jones handbill
undated Jan 13 Paderwwski handbill
undated July 27 The Pop Rhythm n blues show ticket Sarah Vaughan
photo on back
undated May 21 Spike Jones handbill
undated Pavlova souvenir book

Arrangement:

Original arrangement is unknown, the collection came to the Center in two folders. It appears the original processing archivist organized the collection by type and themes that appeared naturally in the collection. The items have been organized chronologically for ease of access.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

The photographs that were once part of this collection have been cataloged separately for access by original processing archivist. Items can be searched in the Center's archival database with the following ID numbers: GEN-PR-00152, GEN-PR-00153, GEN-PR-00154, GEN-PR-00155, GEN-PR-00157 ov.

Location:

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

Related Materials:

The Center for Popular Music holds various other materials relating to the Ryman Auditorium including video, photographs, posters and other programs that can be found by searching the archival database.

EBG 1987

Reprocessed Updated by Olivia M. Beaudry, CA, October 2023