

University of Victoria Special Collections

Hofmann, Charles, 1914-

SC058

Title

Charles Hofmann fonds

Dates

1922-1974

Extent

35 cm of textual records
ca. 400 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Charles Hofmann was born in Tampa, Florida and moved to Canada in 1972, where he has lived in Victoria and Toronto. He was a noted writer of piano scores for many silent films including D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*. The Canadian Encyclopedia states that in Toronto Hoffman "called himself an 'instant composer,' since he never played the piano with a score in front of him. He would sit down in front of the screen and improvise the musical commentary. In the 1960s Lapp and in the 1970s Hoffmann began practicing their art once more with the showing of silent films in film-clubs, festivals, and schools." As a musicologist, he has lectured and published widely on art history, music history, ethnomusicology, cinema history and literature since 1934. Among his many activities, he was Musical Director of the Film Department of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. In Ottawa on the National Film Board production of *Dreamland*. While living in Victoria in the late 1970s, Hofmann hosted regular lectures and screenings of early films. Hofmann wrote many books about American Indian music and Eskimo songs and ceremonies, and also studied the customs of native peoples of Africa, Australia and China.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of subject files of lecture notes and essays by Hofmann, and articles on ethnic and music studies; correspondence to Hofmann from Andre Renaud regarding Indian music and from R. Tully regarding Mexican Indians; catalogues, magazine articles, supply lists and publicity material; scrapbooks containing clippings, copies of Hofmann's lecture and radio programmes, photographs and essays; photographs of aboriginal people in Africa, Alaska, the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and New Guinea; and stills from National Film Board of Canada productions.

Finding Aids

Inventory available.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

HOFMANN, CHARLES

INVENTORY

Prepared by Anne Maclean

University of Victoria Special Collections

September 1991

INTRODUCTION

The records of musicologist Charles Hofmann were acquired by U. Vic. Special Collections from the Maltwood Museum at various times during the 1980's, and have been consolidated under the accession number 89-17. In addition to holograph notes, tss. of essays and articles, scrapbooks and photographs, Hofmann's records included 23 musical instruments from around the world, 10 ceremonial, musical and theatrical objects such as puppet dolls, masques and wood carvings, approximately 100 long-playing recordings of ethnic music and related material, and approximately 75 books. The musical instruments and theatrical objects were given back to the Maltwood Museum, the long-playing records were transferred to the Music and Audio Library, and the books have been catalogued in the McPherson Library stacks. However, lists of these materials are available in Special Collections for consultation by researchers.

The archival records housed in Special Collections will be of particular interest to those studying music, anthropology and ethnic folklore. Further accruals and unlikely but this inventory will be updated as necessary.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Hofmann was born in Tampa, Florida, on 21 June 1914. He moved to Canada in June 1972 and has lived in Victoria and Toronto. As a musicologist he has lectured and published widely on art history, music history, ethnic studies, cinema history and literature since 1934. He worked with the U.S. Dept. of State, Library of Congress, and the American Museum of Natural History. He wrote, narrated and produced many radio broadcasts in the United States on folk tales, opera, symphonies, books and music, religious music, and many other subjects. In Canada, he was a regular guest on CBC Radio's *As It Happens*, *Theme and Variations*, and *Ideas* between 1972 and 1976.

Hofmann was Musical Director of the Film Dept., Museum of Modern Art in New York City, creating musical scores for all the silent films screened at the Museum from 1967 to 1971; these were compiled in the long-playing recording, *Sounds for Silences*

(Sounds Good, Inc.). He also created the musical score and piano accompaniment for *Dreamland*, a documentary history of Canadian film produced by the National Film Board of Canada, televised on the CBC in 1974. In Victoria, beginning in August 1979, Hofmann held a weekly series of film programs (performing the introduction and piano accompaniment) at the McPherson Playhouse, hosted weekly screenings of early films at U. Vic. Cinecenta, and gave numerous lectures at the Newcombe Theatre.

Among Hofmann's many published books is *Sounds for Silents* (Toronto: Gage Publishing Ltd., 1970), about music for silent film, with an introduction by Lillian Gish, who praised Hofmann's work with and understanding of early silent movies. Hofmann also wrote about American Indian music and Eskimo songs and ceremonies, among many other subjects. His long-playing recordings also include *The Music of Mali*, *The Music of Chad*, and *Songs of American Indians*, including the Seminole Indians of Florida.

Hofmann has also written over twenty study guides for his lecture series on opera, Mozart, Handel, cinema history, the German cinema, the Soviet cinema, Charlie Chaplin, native peoples, and the Orient.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

- I SUBJECT FILES, 1922-1974**
Accession 89-17, Box 1; Box 2, Files 1-15
10 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series consists of holograph lecture notes and ts. essays by Hofmann, and copies of articles from magazines and scholarly journals on ethnic and music studies of Africa, Australia, Ballads, Blacks, China, Eskimo Peoples, India, Indians, and Japan. Includes articles by Margaret Mead and Hodding Carter.

- II CORRESPONDENCE, 1966, 1974**
89-17, Box 2, Files 16-17.
.5 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Series consists of tls. to Hofmann from Andre Renaud, Indian and Northern Education Program, University of Saskatchewan, 25 January 1974, re. Indian music,
and note to Hofmann from R. Tully, 22 February 1966, on colour postcard of Mexican Indians.

- III CATALOGUES, ARTICLES, LISTS, PUBLICITY MATERIAL, 1963-1974**
89-17, Box 2, Files 18-25.
2 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

Series consists of offprint from the *National Geographic* about the American Museum of Natural History, New York, 1963; summer schedule, July 1973, for the CBC radio show, *Our Native Land*; film list from the Glenbow-Alberta Institute Museum, Calgary, 1973-1974; film lists from the Library of Congress, 1967; catalogue of LP records from the International Library of African Music, Transvaal, ca. 1964; exhibition catalogue from the IBM Gallery, New York, 1964; publicity photographs and press releases for *The White Dawn*, film about the Canadian north produced by Paramount Pictures, 1974.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

- IV SCRAPBOOKS, 1909-1947**
89-17, Boxes 3-4.
4 scrapbooks
26 cm. x 21 cm. each.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series consists of clippings, copies of Hofmann's lecture and radio programmes, photographs and essays re. American Folk Music, Chinese Music, Latin American Music and Primitive Music of Africa.

- V PHOTOGRAPHS, 1964-1965, n.d.**
89-17, Box 5.
5 linear cm.
170 photographs : b & w : 25 cm. x 21 cm. or smaller.
4 postcards : colour : 3.5 cm. x 5.5 cm.
3 photographs : colour : 3.5 cm. x 5 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series consists of photographs of peoples of Africa (pygmies and bushmen), Eskimos of Alaska, Indians of the United States and Canada, Haiti, Hawaii, New Zealand Maoris, National Film Board of Canada stills, and peoples of New Guinea.

Accession 89-17

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

Box 1

Africa

- 1.1 African Music (1), 1934-1966. Reading lists, copies of articles, correspondence, art catalogues, holograph notes.
- 1.2 African Music (2), 1955-1963. Tss. and holograph notes; photocopies of articles, drawings.
- 1.3 African Musical Instruments. Drawings from "Tribal Crafts of Uganda" by Margaret Trowell and K.P. Wachsmann, 1953. Photocopies, 29 leaves.
- 1.4 African Musical Instruments. Drawings (cont'd.) from "Tribal Crafts of Uganda", by Trowell and Wachsmann, 1953. Photocopies, 26 leaves.
- 1.5 "African Negro Music", by Erich von Hornstobel, 1928. Photocopy, 31 leaves.
- 1.6 Bushman Folklore. *The Mantis and His Friends: Bushman Folklore*, by Dr. W.H.I. Bleek and Dr. Lucy C. Lloyd, ed. by D.F. Bleek. Cape Town, 1924. Photocopy, 68 p.
- 1.7 Bushmen - Music. Selected papers, 1936-1962. Photocopies of articles in bound notebook, ca. 75 pages; holograph notes by Hofmann, 2 leaves.
- 1.8 Brasher, Ellen Marie. "Report on an African Mbira of the Southern Rhodesian Njari Tribe". Essay, 9 December 1964. Ts. with original b & w photographs and illustrations, 20 leaves.
- 1.9 Turnbull, Colin M. "The Lesson of the Pygmies", in *Scientific American*, January 1963, p. 28-65, plus magazine cover.
- 1.10 Turnbull, Colin M. "Music, Men and Gods", with photographs by Lee Boltin. From unidentified magazine, n.d., p. 47-54.

Australia

- 1.11 Australian Aboriginal Music. Music of the World lecture series, presented by Hofmann, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, July - September 1973. Lecture hand-outs, 3 leaves; notebook with hol. notes, 4 leaves used.
- 1.12 Australian Aboriginal Music. Selected papers, 1927-1964. Photocopies in bound notebook, ca. 50 p.
- 1.13 Mead, Margaret. *Maoris and Their Arts*. Guide Leaflet No. 71. New York City: The American Museum of Natural History, 1945, 31 p.
- 1.14 New Guinea culture, religion. Articles and pamphlet, 1964-1972.

Accession 89-17

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

Box 1

Ballads

1.15 Traditional Ballads. Copies of articles by Thelma G. James, Reed Smith, Bertrand H. Bronson; reviews. 1930-1960.

Blacks

1.16 American Blacks. Article by Hodding Carter, "The Old South had Something Worth Saving", New York Times Magazine, 4 December 1966, 49-52 and 170-180; clipping from unidentified newspaper, n.d., re. the first World Festival of Negro Arts, 1-24 April [no year given].

Box 2

China

2.1 Chinese Music. Study Guide by Hofmann, "Music in Primitive and Oriental Cultures", 3 leaves; copies of articles on Chinese music and theatre by other authors, examples of Chinese sheet music. 1935-1974.

Eskimo Peoples

2.2 Eskimo Songs. Lectures by Hofmann, n.d. Lecture hand-outs, reading list, 3 leaves total.

India

2.3 Music of North India. Notes, lists of films and books. n.d.

Indians

2.4 "American Indians Sing" lecture series by Hofmann Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester New York, 1971. Holograph notes, lecture outline, drawings.

Accession 89-17

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILES

Box 2

Indians cont'd.

- 2.5 Anthology of Indian Music of North, Middle and South America. Library of Congress press releases, drawings, postcard. n.d.
- 2.6 Canadian Indians. Native Canadian Centre of Toronto pamphlet, ts. of "The Loon's Necklace", photocopies of articles. 1922-ca. 1963.
- 2.7 Ghost Dance Religion. Holograph notes, reading list, photocopy of article by Frances Densmore, 1950.
- 2.8 Spier, Leslie. *The Prophet Dance of the Northwest and its Derivatives: The Source of the Ghost Dance*. General Series in Anthropology No. 1. Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Co., 1935, 74 p.
- 2.9 Tschopik, Jr., Harry. *Indians of the Montana* [South America]. American Museum of Natural History, 1957, 24 p.
- 2.10 "The Lively Legends of the Indians", *Life Magazine*, 2 November 1959, 13 p.
- 2.11 "Love Medicine" by John C. Ewers, photocopied article from unidentified journal, n.d., 2 leaves.
- 2.12 *Musical Instruments of the Indians of the Americas*. Text by Hofmann, drawings by Edward G. Cornwell Jr. Page proofs, drawings, correspondence. 1972.
- 2.13 Peyote Indian Ceremony. Holograph notes, drawings, copies of articles. 1935-1960.
- 2.14 "Healing Songs of the American Indians", lecture series by Hofmann, *Exploring Music with Charles Hofmann*. Lecture outline, ts., 2 leaves, n.d.

Japan

- 2.15 "Facts about Japan", Japan Information Service, Consulate General of Japan, New York, November 1964, October 1965.

Accession 89-17

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 2

2.16 Tls. to Hofmann from Andre Renaud, Indian and Northern Education Program, University of Saskatchewan, 25 January 1974, re. Indian music.

2.17 Postcard to Hofmann from R. Tully, 22 February 1966. Colour postcard of Mexican Indians.

SERIES III: CATALOGUES, ARTICLES, LISTS, PUBLICITY MATERIAL

2.18 "Behind New York's Window on Nature: The American Museum of Natural History," by James A. Oliver, *National Geographic*, offprint, February 1963, 220-259.

2.19 CBC Radio, *Our Native Land*. Summer schedule, July 1973.

2.20 Glenbow-Alberta Institute Museum. Film list, 1973-1974, 6 p., with check-marks by Hofmann.

2.21 IBM Gallery, New York City. Catalogue of exhibit of Casadesus Collection of Old Musical Instruments, 13 January - 7 February 1964.

2.22 International Library of African Music, Transvaal. Catalogues of LP records, ca. 1964.

2.23 Library of Congress Music Division, Folk Song Archives. Reading list, 12 July 1967, 5 leaves; ts. lecture notes by Hofmann, n.d., 1 leaf.

2.24 Library-type materials - suppliers' list, n.d., 1 leaf.

2.25 Paramount Pictures, *The White Dawn*, directed by Philip Kaufman, starring Warren Oates, Timothy Bottoms and Lou Gossett. [about life in northern Canada]. Production handbook, press releases, b & w photographs and cast and crew. 1974.

Accession 89-17

SERIES IV: SCRAPBOOKS

Box 3

3.1 American Folk Music, 1927-1947. 28 p. Clippings re. American folk songs and singers including Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Tom Glazer.

3.2 Chinese Music, 1910, 1930-1946. 60 p. Copies of Hofmann's lecture and radio programmes, clippings, photos.

Box 4

4.1 Latin American Music, 1931-1943. 100 p. Copies of Hofmann's notes and lecture programmes; clippings. Includes Mexican folk music and voodoo songs of Haiti.

4.2 Primitive Music, Africa, 1909, 1912, 1932-1946. 56 p. Copies of Hofmann's lecture programmes and essays, clippings, copies of other essays.

SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 5

5.1 Africa - Pygmies, bushmen. 32 b & w photos; 4 colour postcards. 1964.

5.2 Eskimos (Alaska). 3 colour photos, n.d.

5.3 Indians - U.S. and Canada (1). 31 b & w photos; 3 colour photos. 1965.

5.4 Indians - U.S. and Canada (2). 23 b & w photos.

5.5 Haiti. 1 b & w photo of voodoo drummer.

5.6 Hawaii. 2 b & w photos.

5.7 Maori (New Zealand). 6 b & w photos.

5.8 National Film Board of Canada. 39 b & w stills from the following NFB productions: *Circle of the Sun*; *Cesar at son canot d'ecouce*; *Haida Carves*; *Le Monda Va Nous Prendre pour des Sauvages*; *Standing Buffalo*.

5.9 National Film Board of Canada. 30 b & w stills from *The Living Stone*; *Kenojuak*; *Aki Name*; *Esquimaux*.

5.10 New Guinea. 6 b & w photos.

INDEX - NAMES AND SUBJECTS

Africa 3-5
Africa - Bushmen 9
Africa - Music 4, 9
Africa - Pygmies 9
African Black Music 5
African Music 5
African Musical Instruments 5
American Museum of Natural History 8
Australia 3, 5
Australian Aboriginal Music 5
Ballads - Traditional 6
Blacks - United States 6
Bleek, D.F. 5
Bleek, W.H.I 5
Boltin, Lee 5
Bottoms, Timothy 8
Brasher, Ellen Marie 5
Bushman Folklore 5
Bushmen - Music 5
Carter, Hodding 3, 6
CBC Radio 2, 3, 8
China - Music 4, 6, 9
Cornwell, Jr., Edward G. 7
Eskimo Peoples 3, 6
Eskimos - Alaska 4, 9
Ewers, John C. 7
Folk Music - Mexico 9
Folk Music - North America 4
Folk Music - United States 9
Gish, Lillian 2
Glazer, Tom 9
Glenbow-Alberta Institute Museum 3, 8
Gossett, Lou 8
Guthrie, Woody 9
Haiti 4
Haiti - Voodoo Songs 9
Hawaii 4, 9
Hornstobel, Erich von 5
IBM Gallery (New York City) 3, 8
India 3
India - Music 6
Indians 3, 6
Indians - Canada 4, 7, 9
Indians - Central America - Music 7
Indians - Ghost Dances 7
Indians - Healing Songs 7
Indians - Mexico 3, 8
Indians - Music 8
Indians - Musical Instruments 7
Indians - North America - Music 7
Indians - Peyote Ceremonies 7
Indians - South America - Music 7

Indians - United States 4, 6, 9
 International Library of African Music
 (Transvaal) 3, 8
 Japan 3, 7
 Kaufman, Philip 8
 Latin America - Music 4, 9
Life Magazine 7
 Lloyd, Lucy C. 5
 Maori Peoples 4, 5, 9
 Mead, Margaret 3, 5
 Museum of Modern Art (New York City) 2
 National Film Board of Canada 2, 4, 9
National Geographic Magazine 3, 8
 Native Canadian Centre of Toronto 7
 New Guinea 4, 5, 9
 Oates, Warren 8
 Oliver, James A. 8
 Paramount Pictures 3, 8
 Renaud, Andre 3, 8
 Royal Ontario Museum 5
 Seeger, Pete 9
 Silent Films 2
 Trowell, Margaret 5
 Tschopik, Jr., Harry 7
 Tully, R. 3, 8
 Turnbull, Colin M 5
 United States. Library of Congress 3, 7
 United States. Library of Congress Music
 Division. Folk Song Archives 8
 Wachsmann, K.P. 5
White Dawn, The 3, 8
 World Festival of Negro Arts 6