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ROBERT WINSLOW GORDON AND AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC



Robert Winslow Gordon (1888-1961), a native of Maine, attended Harvard College and taught in the department of English at the University of California at Berkeley. His monthly column in *Adventure Magazine*, "Old Songs that Men Sing," attracted attention from readers across the United States, and he received thousands of letters containing songs and queries. In 1928 Gordon became the first archivist of the Archive of American Folk Song (now the Archive of Folk Culture) in the Library of Congress. He was a pioneer in using mechanical means to document folk musicians, and his cylinders and discs in the Library of Congress form part of his legacy. The collection of Gordon manuscripts contained here, primarily from 1922 to 1932, offers researchers online access to the daily workings of an important twentieth-century American folklorist.

Date Range: 1909-1932

Content: 17,246 images

Source Library: Library of Congress

Detailed Description:

A sample of the manuscripts in this archive, organized by folders held at the Library of Congress, include:

- Guy B. Johnson Collection of Negro Folk Songs, 1927
- Arthur P. Hudson Correspondence, 1927-1931
- Howard W. Odum Collection of Folk Songs, 1929
- Henry Mellinger Collection (Tennessee), 1928-1929
- J. H. Hanford Collection. North Carolina, 1930
- Phillips Barry Correspondence, 1929-1931
- Albert Frankenstein Correspondence, 1931

- Betty Bush Winger Collection of Folk Songs, 1929-1931
- Unnumbered Correspondence, 1927-1932
- Heart Songs Dear in the American People and by Them Contributed in the Search for Treasured Songs Initiated by the National Magazine, 1909
- Frothingham "Old Song" Correspondence Alphabetical (A - T)
- Frothingham's Adventure Correspondence: Inquiries (Alphabetical I-Z)
- Adventure & New York Times Business Materials, 1923-1926
- Among many other documents