

Announcement:

Thomas Kines Collection at Carleton

Instruments, books, manuscripts, and recordings collected by Thomas Kines (1922-1994) are now housed at the School for Studies in Art and Culture: Music at Carleton University. This material is available for research on site only.

The collection of musical instruments comes from many countries. Amassed during Kines's trips to various parts of the world as national director of CARE, Canada, the 21 instruments include a side-blown flute, raspa, South American panpipes, a Renaissance lute, three bowed- and fretted-lutes (from Africa, China and Central Europe), a balalaika, a lirica and bow, a Mexican citara, a Persian chang, a shamisen, a Celtic harp, a bandura, and an Algonquian drum and beater.

The 124 music books in the collection are housed in Music at Carleton. Among these are compilations of folk songs from Ireland and Great Britain and from North and South America, including such intriguing titles as "Sixty-two Southland Spirituals," and "Folk Songs and Stories of South America." Carleton is especially pleased to have even more manuscripts of Robert Fleming to place in its Fleming Room. Printed music and manuscripts by other Canadian composers are also part of the collection.

The 49 commercial cassettes include "Folktracks" (English folksong), Ottawa Valley musician Gail Gavan, and Indonesian angklung. There is also a complete set of Alan Lomax's "Cantometrics" cassettes. The 88 personal cassettes preserve private recording sessions as well as interviews with musicians from around the world.

There are 162 reel-to-reel tapes (in the process of being dubbed onto cassette), mainly from Kines's two CBC radio series, "The Song Pedlar" (1959-1970) and "Folk Fair" (1977-79), which he researched and hosted. Jamaican and African musics are included along with Canadian folk singers Lennox Gavan and O.J. Abbott. Interspersed throughout the tapes are interviews with, for example, Helen Creighton and Edith Fowke.

Some 300 more books, including rare 18th- and early 19th-century publications, were donated to Carleton University's main library. The majority of these are available through inter-library loan.

Thanks go to the family of Thomas Kines for making this unique and valuable collection available to scholars, performers and folk music enthusiasts. It's one way of keeping Thomas Kines's memory alive and transmitting to another audience his enthusiasm for the "music of the folk."

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