
Guide to the Roger Imhof Vaudeville, variety, circus, and silent screen star scrapbooks, 1883-1952

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Collection number: M0611

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Stanford University Libraries
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Roger Imhof Vaudeville, variety, circus, and silent screen star scrapbooks,

Date (inclusive): 1883-1952

Collection number: Special Collections M0611

Creator: Imhof, Roger, 1875-1958, collector.

Extent: 7 linear ft. (48 v.)

Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.

Language: English.

Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

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Provenance

Gift of Samuel Stark, 1964. Stark met Imhof sometime in the '40s.

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Biographical Note

Frederick Roger Imhoff was born in Roca Island, Illinois, 15 April, 1875. Although very little biographical information on Imhof exists in either the Sam Stark Index or the Imhof Scrapbook Collection, it seems Imhof must have had connections in theater even in his childhood. Scrapbooks of vaudeville and burlesque show programs he collected date back to the late 1880s, and by 1897 (if not before), Imhof was himself on stage, teamed with Charles Osborne in a comedy contortion and burlesque acrobatics act. It was around this time that Imhof dropped the second f from his last name (he apparently always preferred Roger).

The 1902-03 season was his first paired with Hugh Conn, a partnership that lasted well into the '20s and possibly even '30s. By the 1910s the duo had become a trio with the addition of Marcelle Coreene, who married Imhof around 1913 (it is

unclear to me whether Marcelle Coreene and Corinne Imhof are actually the same person; both names appear in playbills of the Imhof and Conn acts).

It seems Imhof, while not completely dropping out of vaudeville, was able to get involved with the infant American film industry in Hollywood very early. Though Stark mentions on his Imhof index card that Imhof was a film actor, Imhof's real career in Hollywood seems to have been as a presenter, promoter, or agent. According to a few comments and articles sprinkled among his scrapbooks, Imhof was acquainted with such silent film celebrities as Gloria Swanson, Rudolph Valentino, and Max Sennett and his group.

Imhof actually stayed in Hollywood for the next three decades, and his scrapbooks show that he was part of the American motion picture scene throughout the '30s, '40s, and '50s. Friends and clients of his included the likes of Susan Hayward, Rita Hayworth, Janet Leigh, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Roy Rogers, Gregory Peck, and hundreds of others.

It is unclear just how Imhof and Sam Stark met, but it must have been sometime in the '40s, for that's when Stark seems to have started receiving old scrapbooks from Imhof. Roger Imhof died on his birthday in 1958 in Hollywood, California.

Included in the Sam Stark Theater Collection are 50 or more of Imhof's scrapbooks, pictorially documenting American entertainment from vaudeville to Hollywood's Golden Age.

Scope and Content

A pictorial documentation of American entertainment from vaudeville through Hollywood's golden age. Includes songs and lyrics by Roger Imhof.

Access Terms

Conn, Hugh L.

Coreene, Marcelle.

Circus--United States.

Lyric writing (Popular music)

Mimes.

Motion pictures--History.

Mumming.

Musicals--Writing and publishing.

Theater.

Toy theaters.

Vaudeville--United States.

Hollywood (Calif.)--History.

Lyricists. Icsh

Stark, Samuel.

Box 1, Volume 1	1883vaudeville, theatre programs
Box 1, Volume 2	1889-90vaudeville season programs
Box 1, Volume 3	1890vaudeville season programs
Box 1, Volume 4	1903-04season programs, Conn and Imhof shows
Box 1, Volume 5	1900-1930vaudeville, theatre, burlesque programs
Box 1, Volume 6	embroidered signatures scrapbook, 1880-1950
Box 2, Volume 7	A Few I Knew As I Older Grew - index of names; 50 years of the Varieties (1943)
Box 2, Volume 8	Pictorial Vaudeville and Variety: Sequel to A Few I Knew As I Older Grew (1930)
Box 2, Volume 9	Roger Imhof's Artists - black and white pics of vaudevillians
Box 2, Volume 10	Some of Vaudeville's Big Shots and Moving Picture Pioneers
Box 2, Volume 11	Roger Imhof's Way Back When Old Timers
Box 2, Volume 12	Troupers
Box 2, Volume 13	Roger Imhof's Memories
Box 2, Volume 14	Pictures of Theatre Folks in the Magazines - Vol. 4 - Short Histories and Pictures (issues of <i>The New Movie Album</i>, <i>Hollywood Who's Who</i>, <i>Modern Screen</i>, <i>Movie Story Magazine</i>, <i>Stage Pictorial</i>, <i>Movie Life</i>)
Box 2, Volume 15	Flashbacks - Showfolks - Vol. 5 - Picture People
Box 3, Volume 16	Jocosites Bound and Gagged (mostly pics of silent screen stars, 1920s-30s)
Box 3, Volume 17	Variety Folk (1930s-40s)

Box 3, Volume 18	Mimes and Mimics Big and Little (1940s)
Box 3, Volume 19	Co-Workers - Stage and Screen (1940s)
Box 3, Volume 20	Entertainers (1940s)
Box 3, Volume 21	Boys and Girls of the Pictures, Big and Little ('48)
Box 3, Volume 22	Male and Female Mummies ('49)
Box 3, Volume 23	I Knew Them All (1940s-50s)
Box 3, Volume 24	Pals and Players (1950)
Box 3, Volume 25	Players ('52)
	Scrapbooks containing miscellaneous songs, musicals by Imhof, humorous pieces, etc.
Box 4, Volume 26	Signatures 1935
Box 4, Volume 27	Biography (short bios of various celebrities)
Box 4, Volume 28	Circus Articles
Box 4, Volume 29	Records (truly miscellaneous)
Box 4, Volume 30	Flashbacks - Letterheads & Articles (and old numbers of <i>Variety</i>)
Box 4, Volume 31	Roger Imhof's Collection of Old Time Songs
Box 4, Volume 32	Thoughts by Roger Imhof
Box 4, Volume 33	Songs and Poems by Roger Imhof
Box 5, Volume 34	Original Lyrics - Topical Sentimental Descriptive
Box 5, Volume 35	On the Fire - More Songs and Lyrics by Roger Imhof
Box 5, Volume 36	Songs and Lyrics by Roger Imhof
Box 5, Volume 37	Bonmots, What-Nots, and Forget-Me-Nots - An Accumulation of Humor (Vol. 8)
Box 5, Volume 38	BWF Humor, Vol. 3
Box 5, Volume 39	Facts We Should Know
Box 5, Volume 40	Trivia
Box 5, Volume 41	Index to Pictorial Vaudeville Vols 1-3 (but those volumes aren't marked; some song lyrics, too)
	Old theatrical trade papers, bound as books
Box 6, Volume 42	The Show World, December 21, 1907
Box 6, Volume 43	Variety, December 26, 1919
	Old Numbers of Theatrical Trade Papers (various ones, dated 1911-1919, 1922, '25, '26, '34
Box 6, Volume 44	more of same, dated 1922-37
Box 6, Volume 45	more of same, dated Dec. 1914, Dec. 1915, Dec. 1924, August 1936
	reproduction of a 1911 issue
Box 6, Volume 46	more of same, dated 1912, '13, '15, '21, '27, '35, '36
Box 7, Volume 47	Pictorial Shakespeare (big flat folio)
Box 7, Volume 48	Roger Imhof's Collection of Old Timers (more old trade magazines)
