

MARGARET COBB PAPERS

Accession no. 2005/2/24

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Accn. no.: 2005/2/24
Shelf location: A3A 1,2
Extent: 0.25 linear feet

Biographical Sketch

Ida Clara Bostelmann Cobb (1894–1979) was a piano teacher and composer. Her father, John C. Bostelmann (1857–1935), was a German-born lawyer, violinist, and violin maker. He immigrated to the US as a child in 1863, settling with his family in New Jersey. In 1880, he married Adeline Monroe Glover (1858–1943). Ida, the seventh of their eight children (only six of whom lived to adulthood), was born on May 23, 1894, in Corning, NY.

Ida studied music at the Corning Conservatory of Music, a school founded by her father in 1898. She continued her training at the Institute of Musical Art (now Juilliard School), graduating in 1916. Her teachers included Betsy Culp, Goetschius, Horatio Parker, and Rubin Goldmark. Unfortunately, an injury prevented her from achieving her dream of becoming a concert pianist, but after discovering her love of teaching children, her ambitions turned to composition. In 1931, she married fellow composer and musician Thomas Scribner Cobb (1907–1951); the couple settled in New York City. Ida was an avid composer particularly of piano compositions and children's music, including beginning piano solos; she published hundreds of works during her lifetime, including 87 children's compositions, 2 short operas, about 30 songs, a handful of instrumental pieces, and numerous works for solo piano.

Ida Bostelmann Cobb died July 1, 1979, in New York, New York, survived by her two children (Joan Cobb Hopkins and Edward Scribner Cobb, III) and four grandchildren (Christopher and Pamela Hopkins; Theodore and Joshua Cobb).

Provenance

These papers were the gift of Margaret G. Cobb, received in February 24, 2005.

Margaret G. Cobb (*née* Margaret Hoffman Gallatin) (*b.* September 16, 1907, East Hampton, New York; *d.* March 24, 2010, New York, New York) was a lifelong Francophile and Debussy scholar. She enjoyed a long, 35-year career as an editor at McGraw Hill, during which time she contributed to the Larousse French/English dictionary as an editorial consultant. In 1972, she left editing to become head of the newly founded Centre de Documentation Claude Debussy, then in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, the composer's birthplace. Before her retirement in 1976, she established the center's core collections, gathering an extensive body of primary source material.

In her scholarly work on Debussy, Ms. Cobb combined her editorial expertise and familiarity with primary source material. She authored *Discographie de l'oeuvre de Claude Debussy* (Geneve: Minkoff, 1975) and edited *The Poetic Debussy: A Collection of His Song Texts and Selected Letters* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1982). In collaboration with William Ashbrook, she co-edited and translated *A Portrait of Claude Debussy* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990), the English translation of Marcel Dietschy's biography of Debussy. She also produced an annotated collection of correspondence between Debussy and Désiré Emile Inghelbrecht for the University of Rochester Press (*Debussy's Letters to Inghelbrecht: The Story of a Musical Friendship*, translations by Richard Miller [Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2005]). In 2002, she was awarded the title of Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government's Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication.

Margaret Cobb died on March 24, 2010, having been predeceased by her spouse Clement Biddle Penrose Cobb (1900–1955).

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of research material, namely genealogical documents, related to Ida Bostelmann (Cobb) and 59 items of sheet music composed by Ida Bostelmann, including both published imprints and reproductions of published music. Vocal music and instrumental music, the latter primarily for solo piano, are represented in the collection.

Restrictions and Use

Use of these papers is restricted to research purposes. In regards to any reproduction of any of the contents, the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions do apply. The written permission of the Depositor must be obtained for citation and for photocopying.

Associations

Additional compositions by Ida Bostelmann are held in the US Sheet Music Collection (2 items, both of which are also contained in the present collection; see Sub-group I, Series 5A) and the archive of the Birch Tree Group, Ltd. (1 unique item). Moreover, her *Two Songs for 'Cello and Piano* (New York: Mercury, [c1965]) is available in Sibley's circulating collection.

Numerous contemporaneous vocal and instrumental compositions are contained within RTWSC's popular sheet music collections. Of particular relevance is Sub-group I, Series 5 (music published after 1890) of the aforementioned US Sheet Music Collection. The Hazel Munger Burke Collection, James W. Phillips Collection, Betty K. Ryan Collection, and Charlotte Stafford Collection also contain published vocal and instrumental music from the early twentieth century, thus overlapping with Ida Bostelmann's output. The archives of the Birch Tree Group, Ltd., contain several imprints of beginning piano music and piano methods.

Margaret G. Cobb also donated a small collection of papers containing photocopies of correspondence (1958-1965, 1970, 1971) between French musicologist Marcel Dietschy (1915-1981) and English musicologist Edward Lockspeiser (1905-1973). This collection was received by the library in 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The Margaret Cobb Papers have been divided into two series, which are further divided into the sub-series outlined below.

Series 1: Genealogical information

This series is comprised of various genealogical documents pertaining to Ida Bostelmann's ancestry. The materials include correspondence from genealogists regarding Bostelmann ancestors in Germany (presumably related to John C. Bostelmann); a memoir written by Ida Bostelmann's mother, Addie Monroe Glover; and a biographical sketch of John C. Bostelmann, written by William Cummings.

Series 2: Sheet Music

This series consists of sheet music, both published imprints and reproductions, composed by Ida Bostelmann. The music is arranged into three sub-series according to genre. Within each sub-series, the individual items are arranged alphabetically by title.

Sub-Series A: Voice and piano

Sub-Series B: Instrumental and piano

Sub-Series C: Piano solo

STORIES TOLD IN MUSIC

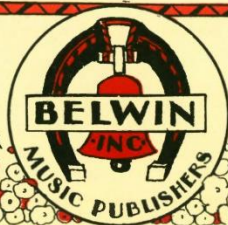
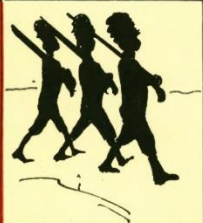
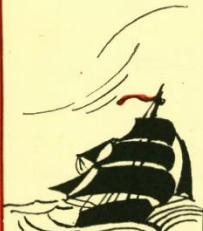
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- 69—*Dolly, Good-Night*
- 70—*An April Morning* (Learning the Trill)
- 71—*Russian Soldiers* (A Little March for the Piano)
- 72—*In the Woods* (A Study in Three Rhythms)
- 73—*A Song of the Old Wind-Mill*
- 74—*Two Gypsies Singing*
- 75—*The Murmuring Brook*
- 76—*A Cackling Hen* (A Forearm Staccato Study)
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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

E.M.D.

Front cover of "An April Morning," for solo piano (New York: Belwin, 1928). From Margaret Cobb Collection, Box 1, Folder 8.

INVENTORY

Series 1: Genealogical Information

Box 1

- Folder 1 Reproduction of photographs. One page containing 6 photos including some of Corning, NY and John C. Bostelmann, city judge of Corning, founder of the Corning Conservatory of Music and father of Ida Bostelmann Cobb.
- Folder 2 Genealogical research
- Letter (unofficial translation).
From: Johann Krizsantis, Lower Saxony Central State Archives
To: Eaton & Noble
July 1, 1999.
2 article extracts enclosed:
Gennerich, Hans H. "Carl Bostelmann" *Niedersachsen* (Vol 15. 1909-1910): 191f
"Bostelmann, Karl." *Allgemeines Lexikon der bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart* . (Vol. 3, 1992): 408.
- Letter.
From: Jens Th. Kaufmann, genealogist.
To: Sharon Eaton.
November 11, 1999.
Includes 2 enclosures:
List of Bostelmann ancestors compiled by Kaufmann from microfilm records of the City of Hannover (housed in the Lutheran Church Archive, Hannover).
Photocopy of printed church records from *Garrisons-Kirchenbuch* Hannover. 1816-1867: 56.
- Folder 3 Glover, Addie Monroe. "Looking backward to happy memories." Typescript; 15 pages.
- Folder 4 Cummings, William. "The most unforgettable character I've met." Biographical sketch of John C. Bostelmann. Typescript; 10 pages. Note in ink on cover page from Rick Eaton.

Series 2: Sheet Music

Box 1 [cont.]

- Folder 5 Inventory List. Includes title of piece, quantity and whether it is an original or a reproduction. Typescript; 2 pages.

Sub-Series A: Voice and piano

Box 1 [cont.]

- Folder 6 Bostelman, Ida. Daddy's gone to sea today. Harold Flammer, Inc., 1928. Reproduction.
- Every blossom a new dawn. Lyric by Dorothy Makepeace Vail. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1925. Reproduction.
- The harp. Lyric by Lillian Middleton. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1928. Reproduction.
- I hear thee sweetly singing, nightingale. To Mrs. Edwin Poe. Lyric by Carl John Bostelman. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1928. Reproduction.
- Ireland. To Mr. Francis Rogers. Lyric by Truman E. Fassett. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1923. Reproduction.
- Jet lullaby. Lyric by Maureen Fleming. Boston: The Boston Music Co., 1961. Reproduction.
- Lazy river croon. Lyric by Alfred M. Lorham. Harold Flammer, Inc., 1925. Reproduction.
- Little girl in blue. To Pamela Scribner Hopkins. Ida Bostelmann, 1923; renewed by Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1962. Reproduction.
- Love goes as the wind blows. To Edmund Burke. Lyric by Aline Kilmer. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1925. Reproduction.
- Miss Mary, won't you come into my garden? Lyric by Dorothy Vail. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1925. Reproduction.
- My onlyest. Lyric by Maureen Schirmer. Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1962. Reproduction.
- Russian love song. To Mrs. Elihu Root, Jr. Lyric by Carl John Bostelmann. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1929. Reproduction.
- Sally Roses. Lyric by J.S. Fassett, Jr. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1921. Reproduction.
- Sans toi. To Louis Bostelman. Ida Bostelmann, 1954; Boston Music Co., 1965. Reproduction.

A Spanish love song. To Truman E. Fassett. Lyric by Eunice Burr Stebbins. Schroeder & Gunther, Inc., 1924. Reproduction.

A spiritual (help me do the work of the lord). Lyric by Joan Scribner Cobb. Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1963. Reproduction.

The sweet eyes of you. Lyric by Doris E. Ryde. Schroeder & Gunther, Inc., 1925. Reproduction.

When Nancy Greenall was very young. Lyric by Franklin P. Adams. G. Schirmer, Inc., 1927. Reproduction.

Sub-series B: Instrumental and piano

Box 1 [cont.]

Folder 7 An old fashioned love song. For violin and piano. To Mary Lackland. Ida Bostelmann, 1923, assigned G. Schirmer, 1924. Reproduction.

Sub-Series C: Solo piano

Box 1 [cont.]

Folder 8 An April morning. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928.

At the concert. New York: Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1961.

A boat song. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1934.

The busy bee. New York: Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1960.

A cackling hen. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

The clock strikes four. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

The county fair. New York: Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1960. Two copies.

Danse Rustique. New York: Harold Flammer Inc., 1928.

The fife and drum corps. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

The five c's go traveling (teaching the registers). New York: Belwin Inc., 1928.

Flying a Kite. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1963. Two copies.

A hunting song. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

Jumping rope. Evanston, IL: Summy-Birchard Publishing Co., 1961.

In the woods. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

An Irish jig. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

A little minuet. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1966. Two copies.

The little orchestra. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1962. Two copies.

The lonely bird. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1966. Two copies.

A long journey. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

A minuet. For piano. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928.

The murmuring brook. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

Music in the trees. New York: Schroeder & Gunther, Inc., 1924 and 1928.

My first pony ride. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

Petite Valse. To Linda Terry. Harold Flammer, Inc., 1928. Reproduction.

Playing the 'cello. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

Playing the harp. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1934. Two copies.

A Russian dance. For Eleanor Fassett. Schroeder & Gunther, Inc., 1924, 1928. Reproduction.

The sad clown at the circus. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1964.

Six concert pieces for piano. Reproduction.
N.B. Title page includes brief biography of Ida Bostelmann. 1 page.
 Intermezzo. Edwin Kalmus, Inc., 1929.
 Prelude and dream music. G. Schirmer Inc., 1929. Joan Cobb Hopkins, 1998.
 An Arcadian idyll. Belwin Inc., 1928. Joan Cobb Hopkins, 1998.
 Tango Edwin Kalmus, Inc., 1930.
 Bayou Blues. Edwin Kalmus, Inc., 1929.
 Viennese Waltz No. 3. Edwin Kalmus, Inc., 1929.

The song of the fisherman. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

A song of the old wind-mill. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

Space ships. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1965. Two copies.

A spring morning in the woods. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1962. Two copies.

The Swiss clock. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1965.

The town band. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1963.

Toys. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

A toy ship at sea. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928. Two copies.

The travels of Mr. Thumb. New York: Edward B. Marks Music Corp., 1961.

Two gypsies singing. New York: Belwin Inc., 1928.

Two squirrels in the park. Boston: Boston Music Co., 1963. Two copies.