

VITTORIO ARIMONDI COLLECTION
San Francisco Performing Arts Library

EXTENT:

1 regular-sized box
1 over-sized scrapbook

PROVENANCE:

The collection was purchased by S.F.PALM in April, 1978

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PROCESSED BY:

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BIOGRAPHY

Vittorio Arimondi, the famed Italian operatic bass, was born in Saluzzo, Turin, Italy in 1883. He sang in most of the great cities of Europe, including five years with the Imperial Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the late 1800's, London for five seasons from, 1900-1905, and several seasons in Berlin.

In 1910 he became a member of the Chicago Opera Company and remained with them until 1918. After his retirement, he and his wife, Aurelia, also an opera singer, taught singing at the Chicago Musical College.

He was a contemporary of Enrico Caruso and performed in several operas with him. Some of the roles he was well-known for include Mephisto in "Faust" and Marcel in "The Hugonots". (HUGUENOTS)

He kept a scrapbook of his successes beginning with his appearances during the 1898-99 season of the Grand Opera in Russia. Reviews of scores of his performances are represented in several languages, including Italian, Russian, German, English, Romanian and French. The scrapbook also has many photographs, mostly from newspaper and magazine articles, of Arimondi and other well-known opera singers.

In addition to his talent as a singer, Arimondi was an accomplished watercolorist. Many pages of his scrapbook are illuminated by his wonderful paintings. He often portrayed scenes from operas in which he was appearing and also painted the landscapes of the countries he was touring.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

This was the personal collection of Vittorio and Aurelia Arimondi, and serves as a record of Arimondi's career for several decades. It includes personal correspondences, invitations, announcements and photographs. There is also an oversized scrapbook, kept by Arimondi, with press releases, magazine articles and excellent watercolors done by Arimondi. His scrapbook gives a chronological listing of virtually all his public performances. The watercolors in the scrapbook are usually related to the opera in which he was appearing.

The collection contains more than 250 items, including an original drawing of Arimondi by his celebrated contemporary, Enrico Caruso, a manuscript penned and autographed by Toscanini, and several signed photographs of well-known opera singers. The collection also contains several letters and cards written to Arimondi and his wife, Aurelia, by many of the most famous singers and musicians at the turn of the century.

VITTORIO ARIMONDI COLLECTION
San Francisco Performing Arts Library

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

- Series I. Correspondence
2 folders
personal letters, postcards and Christmas cards
- Series II. Photos and portraits of Arimondi
1 folder
- Series III. Photos of other performers
1 folder
- Series IV. Programs
1 folder
- Series V. Miscellaneous announcements and invitations
1 folder
- Series VI. Musical manuscript
1 folder
- Series VII. Collection acquisition information
1 folder
- Series VIII. World War II newspapers
1 folder
- Series ^{VII}IX. Scrapbook
1 over-sized book

CONTAINER LISTING

Box I:

Series/Folder I. Personal correspondence

Includes:

- Battistini, Mattia; letters, 1905, 1915; in Italian
- Bevignani, Enrico; theater admission, 1901; biography in English
- Blech, Leo; 1919 biography in English
- Bojanowski, Jerzy; calling card
- Bolognesi, Count and Countess; calling cards
- Bonci, Alessandro; Christmas card; English
- Campanini, Cleofanti; Tetrizzini, Eva;
Christmas card, 1923; postcards, 1905, 1920's;
telegram asking Arimondi to join Milan Opera
House, 1909; Italian, biography in English
- Cimini, Pietro; Christmas card; English
- Clausen, Alma; Christmas card; English
- Daddi, Francesco; photo postcard, 1918;
Italian
- de Cisneros, Eleanora; New Years card;
English.
- Devries, Rene; calling card; English
- Dippel, Andrea; calling card, biography;
English
- Ganz, Rudolph and Mary; postcard, 1935;
biography, both English

- Gravina, Cesare; Christmas card; English
- Grunfeld, Alfred; note, 1902; biography in English
- Johnston, Ruth; Christmas card; English
- McCormick, Harold Fowler; McCormick, Murial Hubbard; letters, wedding announcement, 1913, 1928, 1931; English
- Mancinnelli; letter, 1905, postcard, 1906; Italian
- Mutatore, Lucien; letters, 1922,1923; two obituaries; French, English
- Neumann, Angelo; letters, 1902; Italian, German, English
- Novelli, Ernesto; letter, 1902; Italian
- Oukrainsky, Serge; callin cards; French
- Pavley, Andreas; Christmas card; English
- Polacco, Giorgio and Edith; Christmas card
- Ricordi, Guilio; letter, 1884; Italian
- Rimini, Giacocmo; Raisa, Rosa; cards, invitations; Italian and English
- Salina, Agostino; letter, 1899; Italian
- Salvi, Margherita; Christmas card, 1929; English
- Schipa, Tito and Elena; cards; English
- Stengal, Guillarmie; letter, cards, 1898, 1917; French
- Stracciari, Ricardo; Christmas cards; English

-Toscanini, Arturo; letters, 1897, 1902, 1905, 1906; Time article, 1954; English

-Walter, Bruno; Christmas card; English

-Witherspoon, Herbert; Easter card; biography;
English

Series/Folder II. Photos and Portraits of Arimondi (7)

Series/Folder III. Photos of Other Performers
includes;

- Battistini, Matteo
- Campanini, Pleofont
- Caruso
- Crimi, Guilio
- Cimini, Pietro
- Dalmores, Charles
- Guerrini, Virginia
- Leading cast, Chicago Opera Company
- Minghetti, Angelo
- Pareto, Graziella
- Pareto, Graziella
- Raisa, Rosa
- Raisa Rosa
- Rimini, Giacomo
- Ruffo, Titta

Series/Folder IV. Programs

includes; Chicago Opera Company performances
in San Francisco, 1921, 1922, 1924; Kaiser
Opera House, 1904

Series/Folder V. Miscellaneous

includes; unidentified postcards; announcements

Series/Folder VI. Manuscript; penned and autographed by Arturo
Toscanini, 1903

Series VII. Scrapbook; page-by-page inventory;

1. Press clippings, Teatro Conservatorio, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1898-1899; signed photos of Battistini, four others; watercolor illustration

2. Press clippings; Italian, French, German, Russian, Romanian(?)

3. Press clippings; Italian, Russian

4. Blank

5. Press clippings; Teatro Conservatorio, Teatro Maria, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1899-1900; Italian, Russian, Romanian; illuminated in watercolors

6. Press clipping; Russian

7. Press clippings; Russian

8. Press clippings; Russian

9. Press clippings; French, German, Romanian

10. Press clippings; Italian, German, Romanian

11. Press clippings, photograph; German; watercolor illumination

12. Press clippings, photos; Marcella Sambrich
Giuseppina Giacomina, Arimondi, Luigi Tavecchia,
Mauricio Bensando, Francesco Bravi, Alessandro

13. Press clippings; Italian, German
14. Full-page watercolor; scene from opera
15. Press clippings, photos; Arimondi, Prinzessin, Adeigunde von Bayern; Italian, German
16. Press clippings; German
17. One-third page watercolor; horse carriage in snow; press clippings; German, Italian
18. Press clippings; Italian, French, German, Russian
19. Press clippings; Russian
20. Press clippings; Russian, German, Italian
21. Press clippings; Italian, Russian
22. Blank
23. Press clippings; German
24. Press clippings; German
25. Press clippings; German
26. Blank
27. Press clippings, photos; Frau Oberburgermeister, Kirshner, Arimondi, Kappelmeist, Bevignani, Francesca Prevosti, group photo of Arimondi at the Berlin Press Club; German
28. Press clippings; German, Italian
29. Press clippings; German
30. Blank

31. Press clippings; German
32. Blank
33. One-quarter page watercolor, "Praga Estate 1901"; press clippings; German
34. Press clippings; German
35. Press clippings; German
36. Blank
37. Press clippings; German, Italian
38. Press clippings; German
39. Press clippings; German
40. Photos; Heinrich Knote, Ernst Kraus, Theodor Bertran, Arimondi, Raoul Pugno, Leopold Godowsky, Ferruccio Busoni, Ignaz Paderevski, Louis Lustner, Felix Mottle, Arthur Nikisch, Felix Weingarten, Edouard Colonne
41. Programs, press clippings; German, Italian
42. Press clippings; German
43. Press clippings; German
44. Program, press clipping; German
45. Press clippings; German
46. Program, Frankfurter Opera Haus; German
47. Press clippings; German, Italian
48. Press clippings; German, Italian

49. Press clippings; German, Italian
50. Blank
51. Caricature; press clippings; German, Italian
52. Press clippings; German, Russian
53. Press clippings; German, Russian
54. Blank
55. Press clippings; German
56. Press clippings; German, Italian
57. Photos; Arimondi, Emilio de Macchi, Mario Sanmarco, Aurelia Arimondi, German Opera Co.
58. Photos; Arimondi, Angelo Neumann, press clippings; German, Italian
59. Press clippings; German
60. Press clipping; German
61. Photos; Arimondi, Aurelia Arimondi, Mario Sanmarco, Maria de Macchi, Francesco Signorini, Johanna Busca; clippings; German
62. Press clippings; German, Italian
63. Press clippings; German
64. Press clippings; German
65. Press clippings; Italian
66. Press clippings; German, Russian
67. Press clippings; Italian
68. Blank

69. Photos; Arimondi, Arturo Toscanini;
programs; Gran Compagna Lirica Italiana
70. Press clippings; Italian
71. Press clippings; Italian
72. Press clippings; Italian
73. Press clippings; Italian
74. Photos; Gionnina Wayd, Eleonora Cisneros,
Jose Pacini, A. Rubenstein, Arimondi, Vincenzo
Lombardi, Eugenio Giraldoni, Orazio Consentino
75. Press clippings; Italian
76. Press clippings; Italian
77. Press clippings; Italian
78. Press clippings; Italian
79. Press clippings; Italian
80. Press clippings; Italian
81. Press clippings; Italian
82. Press clippings; Italian
83. Program and clippings; illuminated page
84. Full-color program; "Rigoletto" 1904
85. Press clippings; Italian
86. Press clippings; German
87. Photos; Georg Reimers, Le Bargy, Regina Pinkert, Arturo
Vigna, Enrico Caruso, Arimondi, Lotte Mendelsky,

Victor Klopfer, Paula Conrad-Schlenther;
clippings; German

88. Photos; Katharina Fleischer-Edel, Fritz Feinhals, Marie Brandis, Hedwig Rompler-Bleibtreu, Josef Kainz, Blanche Marchesi, Leo Slezak, Anna V. Mildenburg, Leopold Demuth

89. Press clippings; German

90. Blank

91. Press clippings; German

92. Press clippings; German, Italian

93. Press clippings; German, Italian

94. Blank

95. Photos; Alice Neilsen, Eleonora de Cisneros Margot Kaftal, Giuseppe Anselmi, Caruso, Mario Sanmarco, Henry Russell, Sra. Ferraris, Sr. Cambanini, Pasquale Amato, Sr. Vignas, Eva Tetrizzini, Arimondi, Aline May, Sra. Giachetti, Sra. Buoninsegna

96. Press clippings; English

97. Photos; Campanini, Dani, Manfredi, Ferraris, Arimondi, Giachetti

98. Press clippings; English

99. Programs, clippings; English

100. Full-page watercolor; "Mephistopheles"
1904-1905

101. One-third page watercolor; dark, moody
landscape; press clippings; Italian

102. Press clippings; Italian
103. Press clippings; Italian
104. Press clippings; Italian
105. Press clippings; Italian
106. press clippings; Italian
107. Press clippings; Italian
108. Press clippings; Italian; photo of
Arimondi as Mephisophele
109. Press clippings; Italian
110. Press clippings; Italian
111. Press clippings; Italian
112. Press clippings; Italian
113. Press clippings; Italian
114. press clippings, review; Italian
115. Press clippings; Italian
116. Article, Arimondi; Italian
117. Photos; Arimondi, group from "Barber of Seville"; clippings; Italian, English; Illuminated heading, "Londra, 1905"
118. Photo; Arimondi, "The Gentleman's Journal", 1905; English
119. Article; Arimondi, "The Gentleman's Journal", 1905; English

120. Press clippings; English
121. Press clippings; Italian
122. Press clippings; Italian
123. Press clippings; Italian
124. Blank
125. Press clippings; Italian
126. Press clippings; Italian, French
127. Press clippings; Italian
128. Press clippings; Italian
129. Press clippings; Italian
130. Press clippings; Italian; caricature
131. Press clippings; Italian; watercolor sketch, costume from "Oro del Reno"
132. Press clippings; Italian
133. Press clippings; Italian; watercolor sketch, costume from "Oro del Reno"
134. Photos; Jeanne Korolewicz, Nicola Zerola, Alice Zeppilli, Arimondi; clippings, English
135. Article, Arimondi, "The World's Greatest Italian Basso", English; program, Kimball Concert Hall
136. Photos; Arimondi as: Mephistopheles, Marcel Nero, Phillipe; clippings; German, English
137. Concert program, Arimondi

138. Photos; as Nero in "Quo Vadis"; as a young
man

139. Certificate or diploma, 1892

Remainder of scrapbook is blank.