

THE IRWIN SILBER COLLECTION

3 Manuscript Boxes

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Accession Number 412

By: DE

The Irwin Silber Collection was established in 1970 when Mr. Silber placed his files of labor, political, and social commentary songs in the Archives.

The collection consists of published and unpublished songs that comprised a part of the People's Songs Library under the auspices of People's Songs Inc., and later Sing Out! Inc.

People's Songs Inc. was formed in New York City on December 31, 1945, by songwriters, singers, union representatives, and interested workers. An organizing committee, with Pete Seeger as chairman, was formed to establish office operations and begin the task of collecting, writing, and editing songs and songbooks, principally for labor unions. People's Songs Inc. also printed songs for amateurs and professional artists, issued a mimeographed bulletin to its members, and started an archives of folk, labor, farmer, political, and peace songs and exchanged songs with groups in South America, Canada, Australia, and Europe. People's Songs branches were formed across the country and in October 1947, the organization's first convention was held in Chicago.

Among those associated with People's Songs Inc. were Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, Woodie Guthrie, Josh White, Bess Lomax, Burl Ives, and other notable folk artists.

The original folder headings and arrangement of songs in the folders were retained as received from Mr. Silber.

Folder Inventory

Box 1.

People's Songs Inc.
Textile Workers Songs
Labor and Industrial Songs - 3 folders
Strike Songs - 3 folders
Miner Songs - 2 folders

Box 2.

Songs of Aunt Molly Jackson, Sarah Ogan, Florence Reece, Jim Garland
Eight Hour and Early Labor Songs
Early Labor and Socialist Songs - 2 folders
Union Songs
Jim Dombrowski: "The Story of the Coal Creek Rebellion"
JFK Assassination Songs and Poems
Miscellaneous Published Songs and Songbooks

Box 3.

Xerox copies of the contents of boxes 1 and 2