

**David Dunaway Collection of Interviews
with Pete Seeger and Contemporaries**

AFC 2000/019

Prepared by Valda Morris-Slack



American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af006001>

Collection Summary

Collection Number: AFC 2000/019

Title: David Dunaway Collection of Interviews with Pete Seeger and Contemporaries

Inclusive Dates: 1976-1983

Repository: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Extent (original): 2 linear feet; 4 boxes, 975 items; 945 manuscript pages, 30 audiocassettes

Creator: Dunaway, David King, 1948 -

Language: English

Abstract: Contains sound-recorded interviews conducted by David Dunaway with folk music performer Pete Seeger from 1976 to 1983. The accompanying manuscript materials include approximate transcriptions of the interviews.

Scope and Content

David Dunaway Collection of Interviews with Pete Seeger and Contemporaries is a multi-format collection with eight hundred pages of transcripts and thirty sound recordings of ten interviews that document Pete Seeger's life. This collection comprises one segment of approximately sixty-five interviews David Dunaway conducted beginning in 1976 as he sought to capture the essence of the folk music movements from the 1930s to the 1960s. Dunaway was an assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley in 1976 when he began the interviews with a number of prominent figures, ranging from Moses Asch to Judy Collins. The information he assembled has been used extensively by folk musicians and researchers. Dunaway's main objective, however, was to utilize the interviews as source material for his folk music program "Sing Out!," a National Endowment for the Arts funded radio series called *Pie in the Sky*, and most importantly, his biography of Pete Seeger, *How Can I Keep From Singing* (McGraw Hill, 1984).

In February of 2000, the collection arrived at the Library of Congress. In the interviews, Pete Seeger discusses, among other things, his "innocent" beginnings, his social affiliations, his musical career, and his family. Each transcript has a full table of contents identifying the topics covered and serving as a cross reference to the sound recordings. Both the transcripts and the tapes are identified by the date of the interview and the name of the interviewee and are arranged in chronological order.

Biographical History

David Dunaway was born on October 3, 1948, in New York City, New York. He is the son of Phillip and Lillian Dunaway, who were both scholars of the arts. His father was a writer and his mother a teacher.

In 1971, David Dunaway worked as a radio producer at a radio station, KPFA, while attending graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. He and Susan Kernes hosted a weekly radio program that was called *Sing Out!*. In this medium, Dunaway produced many programs about folk music and its history every Thursday afternoon. He aired segments on Pete Seeger, rare recordings of Bob Dylan, world folk music, and many other topics. Dunaway's early experiences at KPFA provided him the basis for later successes as a prize-winning radio producer specializing in historical and literary documentaries. He has won many awards including The Berkeley Folklore Prize, University of California, 1976; The Deems Taylor Award, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 1982; The National Association of Broadcasters', The American Legion Auxiliary and the Associated Press; and most recently an Annual Unity Award in Media, 2002.

Influenced by his keen interest in the arts, Dunaway also wrote for the *New York Times*, *Mother Jones*, and *Country Music*. During this period Dunaway began to establish himself as an oral historian, interviewing various folk musicians from across the United States and researching the mid-20th-century folk song revivals. In 2001, Dunaway produced a three-part documentary series titled *Across the Tracks: A Route 66 Story*.

David Dunaway received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, Dunaway is a professor at the University of Mexico, but his work as an oral historian has offered him the opportunity to lecture at universities in over a dozen countries. Dunaway is also the author of five volumes of history and biography, which include *Aldous Huxley Recollected: An Oral History*. Rev. ed. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1999; *How Can I Keep From Singing: Pete Seeger*. New York, NY.: Da Capa Press, 1990, 1981; *Huxley in Hollywood*. 1st Anchor Books ed. New York: Anchor Books, 1991; *Oral history: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. David K. Dunaway, Willa K. Baum, editors. 2nd ed. Walnut Creek:

AltaMira Press, 1996; and *Writing the Southwest*. David King Dunaway and Sara L. Spurgeon, editors. Rev. ed. Albuquerque: University of Mexico Press, 2003.

Biography Resource Center: Dunaway, David King. 2003-03-27. <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC>

California Thinkers: David Dunaway. 2003-03-27. <http://geography.berkeley.edu/ProjectsResources/CaliforniaThinkers/profiles/dunaway.html>

Dunaway, David King. 2003-03-27. <http://www.booklocker.com/books/286.html>

Writing in the Southwest: David K. Dunaway. 2003-03-27. <http://www.unm.edu/~wrtgsw/dunaway.html>

Subjects

Banjo

Blacklisting of authors

Blacklisting of entertainers

Clearwater (Sloop)

Folk music

Labor unions--Songs and music

McCarthy Era

New Deal, 1933-1939

Newport Folk Festival

Political ballads and songs

Protest songs

Radicalism--Songs and music

Working classes--Songs and music

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series. The Manuscript Series consists of the accession log, administrative correspondence, and interview transcripts. The Sound Recording Series consists of the interview cassettes. Both the transcripts and the sound recordings are arranged in chronological order.

Access

Prior to the collection's arrival at the Library, Pete Seeger requested that his materials be sealed for a number of years. The transcripts and tapes became unrestricted in 1996 and access to the collection is currently unrestricted. Consult reference staff in the Folklife Reading Room about reference copies of material and additional reference tools that may be available onsite only. Duplication of the collection materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions. Please refer to the AFC web site for information on ordering copies of unpublished recordings (<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/recording.html>).

Acquisition

The American Folklife Center purchased the collection from David Dunaway in February 2000, after nine years of negotiation. Joseph C. Hickerson, and later David Taylor, represented the Center as Head of Acquisitions. Prior to 2000, Dunaway maintained sole possession of the recordings at his residence. These recordings and others in his collection were made available to scholarly researchers and folk musicians. Dunaway himself used the Pete Seeger recordings to write his 1981 biography of Seeger, *How Can I Keep from Singing: Pete Seeger* (McGraw Hill, 1981). In the early 1990s, fearing that his collection materials were deteriorating, Dunaway began to contact likely archives about purchasing the collection. As part of the acquisitions negotiations for the Center, Dunaway was responsible for transcribing the Pete Seeger interviews, which were transcribed by his students at the University of California at Berkeley and his colleague, the oral historian W. K. Baum.

Alex Sheriff initially processed the collection in the summer of 2002. He rehousing the manuscript materials, then arranged them in chronological order, and made reference copies of the sound recordings. In December 2002, Rosemary Graham and

Valda Morris-Slack began preliminary work on the collection guide. The guide was completed by Valda Morris-Slack in December 2003.

Preferred Citation

David Dunaway Collection of Interviews with Pete Seeger and Contemporaries, Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Related Materials

AFC 1996/076: Bill Moyers' Journal / Pete Seeger Videotape Collection. The collection contains an interview with Pete Seeger by Bill Moyers on the "Bill Moyers' Journal" TV program, 5/20/94. Other related collections with Pete Seeger can be accessed at the Folklife Reading Room, and the Performing Arts Reading Room. They include sound recordings and interviews with the Seeger family.

Collection Concordance by Format

Quantity	Physical Extent (original)	Location	Item Numbers
Manuscript Materials			
17	Folders	AFC	Box 1-2
Sound Recordings			
30	audiocassettes	AFC	Box 3-4
	11 60-minute and 6 90-minute audiocassettes	AFC	Box 3
	4 60-minute and 9 90-minute audiocassettes	AFC	Box 4

Description of Series

Container

Series

[Series I: Manuscripts](#)

[Series II: Sound Recordings](#)

Collection Inventory

Container

Contents

Series I: Manuscripts

BOX 1

- FOLDER 1** Collection Guide (10 pages)
Hard copy and disc of the collection guide.
- FOLDER 2** Accession Log (4 pages)
Hard copy of the accession log that gives a detailed description of the collection as it was being prepared for processing.
- FOLDER 3** Administrative Correspondence (57 pages)
History of the collection.
- FOLDER 4** Administrative Correspondence (continuation of folder 3) (45 pages)
History of the collection.
- FOLDER 5** Transcript Interview, 1976-04-15 (33 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR01-SR02.
- FOLDER 6** Transcript Interview, 1976-07-19 (20 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger. No Sound Recording.
- FOLDER 7** Transcript Interview, 1976-10-06 (100 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR03-SR05.
- FOLDER 8** Transcript Interview, 1977-01-22 (9 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recording SR06.
- FOLDER 9** Transcript Interview, 1977-03-06 (90 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR07-SR11.
- FOLDER 10** Transcript Interview, 1977-03-09 (75 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR12-SR14.
- FOLDER 11** Transcript Interview, 1977-03-10 (57 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR15-SR18.
- FOLDER 12** Transcript Interview, 1977-10-09 (30 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recording SR19.
- FOLDER 13** Transcript Interview, 1977-12-14 (60 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR20-SR21.
- FOLDER 14** Transcript Interview, 1977-12-15 (85 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recordings SR22-SR25.

BOX 2

- FOLDER 15** Transcript Interview, 1978-08-08 (100 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recording SR26.
- FOLDER 16** Transcript Interview Notes, 1979-07-15 (1 page)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger. No sound recording was found for transcript.
- FOLDER 17** Transcript Interview, 1983-06-27 (34 pages)
Transcript of David Dunaway interviewing Pete Seeger for sound recording SR29.

Series II: Sound Recordings

BOX 3

Series II: Sound Recordings

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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ITEM SR01	1976-04-15 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR02	1976-04-15 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR03	1976-10-06 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR04	1976-10-06 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR05	1976-10-06 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR06	1977-01-12 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR07	1977-03-06 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR08	1977-03-06 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR09	1977-03-06 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR10	1977-03-06 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR11	1977-03-06 (60 minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR12	1977-03-09 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR13	1977-03-09 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR14	1977-03-09 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR15	1977-03-10 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR16	1977-03-10 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR17	1977-03-10 (60-minute audiocassette)
	BOX 4
ITEM SR18	1977-03-10 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR19	1977-10-09 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR20	1977-12-14 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR21	1977-12-14 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR22	1977-12-15 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR23	1977-12-15 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR24	1977-12-15 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR25	1977-12-15 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR26	1978-08-08 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR27	1978-08-08 (90-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR28	1978-08-08 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR29	1983-06-27 (60-minute audiocassette)
ITEM SR30	1983-06-27 (90-minute audiocassette)

Appendix I: Organizations and Groups

Almanac Singers
Archive of American Folk Song
American Federation of Labor
American Labor Party
American League Against War and Fascism
Americans for Loyalist Spain
Avon Old Farms School
Communist Party Club
Composers' Collective
Harvard Student Union
Harvard University
Hootenany (TV show)
Industrial Workers of the World
Ku Klux Klan (1915-)
Labor Arts Group
Peoples Artists, Inc.
People's Songs (Organization)
Pierre DeGeyter Club
Rainbow Room
Sing Out! [magazine]
Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings
Spring Hill
United States. Congress. House. Special Committee on Un-American Activities (1938-44)
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation
Weavers (Musical group)

Appendix II: Personal names

Asch, Moses, 1905-1986
Baez, Joan, 1941-
Botkin, Benjamin Albert, 1901-1975
Boyden, David Dodge, 1910-1986
Browder, Earl, 1891-1973
Carmichael, Stokely, 1941-1998
Cassetta, Mario
Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990
Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965
Cunningham, Sis, 1909-
DeLacy, Hugh, 1910-1986
Dyer-Bennet, Richard, 1913-1991
Dylan, Bob, 1941-
Eisler, Hanns, 1898-1962 [also known as Hans Eisler]
Endicott, Paul [also known as Paul Newman]
Fast, Howard, 1914-
Friesen, Gordon, 1909-1996
Geer, Will
Guthrie, Arlo, 1947-
Gilbert, Ronnie, 1926-
Guthrie, Woody, 1912-1967
Hall, Gus, 1910-2000
Haufrecht, Herbert, 1909-
Hawes, Bess Lomax, 1921-

Hays, Lee, 1914-1981
Jackson, Aunt Molly
Kameron, Pete
Lampell, Millard, 1919-
Leadbelly, 1885-1949 [also known as Ledbetter, Hudie]
Leventhal, Harold, 1919-
Lomax, Alan, 1915-2002
MacLeish, Ken, 1940-1997
Matusow, Harvey, 1926- [also known as Matt, Harvey]
North, Dan, 1941-
Oberwager, Jerry
Parks, Gordon, 1912-, photographer
Priest, Verne
Reynolds, Malvina, 1900-1978
Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976
Robinson, Earl, 1910-
Schwartz, Tony
Seeger, Charles, 1886-1979
Seeger, Carl Ludwig, 1763?-1848
Seeger, Mike, 1933-
Seeger, Peggy, 1935-
Seeger, Pete, 1919- [also known as Pete Bowers]
Seeger, Ruth Crawford, 1901-1953
Seeger, Toshi
Silber, Irwin, 1925-
Walter, Jerry, arranger