



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Rubaiyat Collection.

1959–1969

Collection SWWC-160

Descriptive Summary

Creator:

Title: Guide to the Rubaiyat Collection.

Dates: 1959–1969

Abstract: The Rubaiyat Collection documents the popular Dallas coffeehouse and is arranged into four series: Rubaiyat Coffeehouse; Ron Shipman (owner and performer); Audio Recordings; and Artifacts.

Identification: SWWC-160

Extent: 5 Linear Feet, 9 boxes

Language: English

Repository: The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical / Historical

Ron Shipman opened the Rubaiyat in Dallas 1959. The folk music coffee house catered to a mostly college-aged audience and was a Texas connection to the burgeoning folk boom of the 1960s in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, even presenting blues legend Mance Lipscomb. In the mid-1960s, The Rubaiyat served as an incubator for dozens of fledgling singer-songwriters including Guy Clark, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Michael Martin Murphy, Townes Van Zandt, and a very young Jerry Jeff Walker.

The Rubaiyat occupied two locations in Dallas. The first, opened in 1959, was located at 3133 McKinney Avenue. In 1965, it relocated down the street to 3233 McKinney. Both locations were owned by Ron Shipman whose father worked with him. Ron was a regular performer at both locations, as well as at Half Moon Alley and other spots in the Dallas area.

Scope and Contents

The Rubaiyat Collection is arranged into four series: Rubaiyat Coffeehouse; Ron Shipman; Audio Recordings; and Artifacts that document the activities of the popular coffeehouse in Dallas and its founder, Ron Shipman.

The Rubaiyat series includes scrapbook material compiled by Shipman that include photographs, flyers, and newspaper clippings. The items have been removed from the scrapbook binders but remain in original order, divided into sections about the first and second locations of the coffeehouse, and also a Rubaiyat Coffee Parlor. Other material relating to The Rubaiyat are legal documents; research notes about its history; coffee house management information; and some stand-alone folders relating to a handful of artists: Ray Wylie Hubbard, Mance Lipscomb, Michael Martin Murphy, and Stan Wilson.

Ron Shipman series includes a short journal he kept while in the Navy, research notes about Shipman, photographs, and publicity material. The series also houses copious notes, lyrics, and sheet music collected by Shipman. Of note is a green binder of his collected songs found in box 5.

Audio Recordings series consists of 46 open reel 7" tapes of recordings made at The Rubaiyat and Half Moon, as well as recordings Shipman made of albums by other musicians. There are several recordings of Shipman himself, as well as Stan Wilson and Mike (Michael Martin) Murphy.

The final series contains two artifacts: an embossing stamp machine for The Rubaiyat, and an oil painting by Andrés E. Szucs.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift, 2024.

Preferred Citation

Rubaiyat Collection, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Coffeehouses
- Music -- Texas -- Dallas

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: The Rubaiyat

Scrapbook created by Ron Shipman, 1959–1967

Box	Folder	
1	1	Photographs, 1959–1965
1	2	Performer photographs: Vickie Lewis, Johnny Vandiver, Jo Wright, Derek Kirkby, Eddie O'Neill, Michael Owens, Art Linkletter, Mike Martin Murphy, The Boomer Boys, Travis Lewis, Josh White, Jerry Jeff Walker
1	3	"Yella News," flyers, 1964
1	4	Newspaper clippings, 1959–1962
1	5	Photographs, 1965, undated
1	6	Performer photographs: Barry Hope, Randy Tallman, Charanbar Trio, Baxter Taylor, The Claybrooks, Al Fike, Mamie Eisenhower
1	7	Flyers, 1966, undated
1	8	Newspaper clippings, 1965
1	9	Rubaiyat Highland Park Coffee Parlor photographs, 1959
1	10	Moon Alley photographs, logos, 1967
1	11	Performer promotional photographs: Judy Collins, Peter, Paul and Mary, The Claybrooks, Al Fike, Bob Bean, The Brothers Four, Sheb Wooley
1	12	Additional Rubaiyat flyers
1	13	Advertising production, business cards
1	14	Club newspaper ads, 1961–1963, undated
1	15	Newspaper clippings, 1959–1966
5	1	Newspaper clippings (oversized)

Coffee House Materials, 1958, undated

2	1	Coffee house management services brochures
2	2	Coffee house formulas
2	3	Rubaiyat menu, 1958

Rubaiyat legal documents, 1959–1969

2	4	Articles of incorporation, 1959
2	5	Licenses for ASCAP, Texas Store, Moon Alley
2	6	Leases, 1965–1969
2	7	Dissolution, 1963

Rubaiyat History Notes

2	8	Ron Shipman history notes
2	9	Ron Shipman's performers lists
2	10	Notes from a binder, "Rubaiyat"
2	11	"Scattershooting" history and comments re: Rubaiyat

Individual Performers, 1965–1982

2	12	Ray Wylie Hubbard – two checks made out to "Ray Hubbard", 1968
2	13	Eddie O'Neill – letter, clippings, 1976
2	14	Mance Lipscomb – clippings, photographs, 1965
2	15	Michael Martin Murphy – newspaper article, 1982
2	16	Stan Wilson, 1967

Series II: Ron Shipman

3	1	Journal from Navy service, 1965
3	2	Travis Mayo interview with Shipman, 1958
3	3	Research notes about Shipman
3	4	Photographs of Ron Shipman
3	5	Photographs of Shipman at The Rubaiyat, 1960s
3	6	Calypso party photographs, 1960
3	7	Flyers and promotional material including "Bill Award Winner" Shipman on the cover of Dallas entertainment magazine, Around Town, 1963
3	8	Song lists
3	9	Blues songs
3	10	Comedy songs and folk humor
3	11	Cowboy songs
3	12	Folk songs (General)
3	13	Island songs and Calypso
3	14-15	Traditional folk songs
4	1	Loose lyrics and chords
4	2	Loose sheet music
4		Various published song books
5	2	Binder, "Ron's Collected Songs"

Series III: Audio Recordings [Label information from exterior boxes]

6	001	Live Rubaiyat 1964-65/ Listened and Marked '04, 1964-1965
6	002	Old Rubaiyat: Charlie Case / Mike Piel / Wind Jammers, undated
6	003	Night at Rubaiyat September 1963 / Theo Bikel, Bob Gibson, Travis of Bud and T / ABC Hoot, September 1963
6	004	Claybrooks

6	005	Claybrooks / Keep the Wind from Thee and A List
6	006	Foghat Live, Maghany IV, Bad Co., B Sky
6	007	Billie Holiday
6	008	Instrumentals
6	009	Live Rubaiyat / Joe Jonas / Vicky Lewis
6	010	Virginia King / You've Never Had a Lover
6	011	All Lead Belly Songs
6	012	Let Me Down Easy / Master
6	013	Mike Murphy
7	014	Kerry Marcus, Sheila Lovell, Mike Murphy
7	015	Only 2 songs with Mike Murphy
7	016	Amelia Rodregus [sic]
7	017	Bessie Smith / Full Tape
7	018	Strange Affairs / Master Tape
7	019	Sunda 101 Master, August 1961
7	020	Trio Demo / Show Charts
7	021	Andre Toussaint / Teddy Derby-Russell, June 22, 1967
7	022	John Vandiver / Gary Shipman / and Ron
7	023	Johnny Vandiver
7	024	Stan Wilson Live at Rubaiyat
7	025	Stan Wilson Live Perf. Rubaiyat
7	026	"Live" Stan Wilson / Rubaiyat
8	027	Stan Wilson Live at Rubaiyat
8	028	Stan [Wilson]
8	029	Leisure Time with Stan Wilson taped from his album
8	030	O'Coops Stan Wilson tape
8	031	Neil Young / Pink Floyd / Bad Company
8	032	Illegible. [Radio Country]
8	033	Ron Mike and Jerry / 1968 Tape at Andre's, 1968
8	034	Ron Studio / Piano Notes
8	035	Ron at Rubaiyat / Full tape, July 1960
8	036	Ron and George Gagliadi, July 1967
8	037	Ron Shipman / Moon Alley, October 1969
8	038	Ron Shipman Live Moon Valley or Rubaiyat with George Gagliadi
8	039	Ron and Joe VanRipen / Andre House
9	040	You've Never Had Lover / Ron Shipman
9	041	Ron and Mike Murphy
9	042	Ron Shipman / Rubaiyat
9	043	Phil York Master / Ron Ship
9	044	Ron on Fannie Brown about 153 in center
9	045	Ron and Rusty Practice

9 046 Ron Shipman at Rubaiyat with George Gagliandi

Series IV: Artifacts

9 047 Rubaiyat embossing stamp

Frame 1 Oil painting of 2 people at seaside cliffs. Artist: André E. Szúcs