



The New York Public Library  
Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound

Guide to the

**William Robyn oral history interviews [sound recording] / by Tim Brooks**

1977

\*L (Special) 94-04

## Summary

**Creator:** Brooks, Tim

**Title:** William Robyn oral history interviews [sound recording] / by Tim Brooks

**Date:** 1977

**Size:** 6 sound cassettes, analog mono; 6 sound cassettes, analog mono

**Source:** Gift, Brooks, Tim, 19930826

**Abstract:** Interviews recorded for an article published in the ARSC Journal. Robyn discusses his early life in Latvia and arrival in America, as well as his career, recordings, and acquaintances between 1919-1931. He also discusses his birthname, (Rubin) and use of many pseudonyms, including Wolf Scarpioff, John Spear, Edward Hamilton, and Mario Rubinoff, among others while he was performing in vaudeville and recording. He recorded first for Emerson, but then for Columbia, Pathe, Okeh, Brunswick, and Victor. Topics discussed include Cameo Records, Eugene Ormandy, "Roxy" (Samuel Rothafel) and the Roxy Theater, and various other music halls. Also discusses recording processes and studios, radio, his records, and "Roxy's Gang" of which he was a member.

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**Preferred citation:** William Robyn oral history interviews [sound recording] / by Tim Brooks, Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library

## Scope and Content Note

Interviews recorded for an article published in the ARSC Journal. Robyn discusses his early life in Latvia and arrival in America, as well as his career, recordings, and acquaintances between 1919-1931. He also discusses his birthname, (Rubin) and use of many pseudonyms, including Wolf Scarpioff, John Spear, Edward Hamilton, and Mario Rubinoff, among others while he was performing in vaudeville and recording. He recorded first for Emerson, but then for Columbia, Pathe, Okeh, Brunswick, and Victor. Topics discussed include Cameo Records, Eugene Ormandy, "Roxy" (Samuel Rothafel) and the Roxy Theater, and various other music halls. Also discusses recording processes and studios, radio, his

records, and "Roxy's Gang" of which he was a member.

## **Key Terms**

### **Titles**

Gift of Tim Brooks

### **Subjects**

Radio programs, Musical -- United States -- History

Sound -- Recording and reproducing -- History

Sound recordings -- History

Vaudeville -- United States

### **Names**

Brooks, Tim

Ormandy, Eugene, 1899-1985

Rice, Gladys (Soprano)

Robyn, William, 1894-1996

Rothafel, Samuel Lionel, 1881-1936

Stanbury, Douglas

Cameo Records (Firm)

Roxy Theatre (New York, N.Y.)