



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.

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)

Rice, Gladys (Soprano)

Robyn, William, 1894-1996

Robyn, William, 1894-1996

Rothafel, Samuel Lionel, 1881-1936

Stanbury, Douglas

Stanbury, Douglas

Cameo Records (Firm)

Roxy Theatre (New York, N.Y.)