

**GWINN, BILL**  
**MANUSCRIPT MUSIC**

**01-017**

**Physical Description:**

.3 l.f. manuscript sheet music, lyrics, correspondence, personal papers

**Dates:**

May 4, 1949 – December 24, 1979

**Provenance:**

Purchased by the Center from Elder's Bookstore January 12, 1994. The collection was in the possession of the author/composer through 1979.

**Agency History/biographical sketch:**

William Robert Gwinn was born in 1915. He was a professional writer, publishing two books, numerous magazine stories, and material for comedians and radio publicity. In the 1950s he began working seriously at songwriting. Gwinn lived in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Los Angeles, California, Weehawken, New Jersey, and Nashville, Tennessee.

**Scope and content:**

This collection of music and song lyrics, composed and written by Bill Gwinn, consists of 32 different titles, the majority of them showing a progression from original inception to completed copy, all in the composer's hand. A separate lyric text accompanies each composition. Gwinn labeled many of the songs according to his personal categories (i.e. "country-style low-downer"). His range of styles varies including country, jazz, pop, and "romance." A small portion of the collection contains poems and other writings, song lists, newspaper clippings, and correspondence to or from music publishers. Correspondence to the Register of Copyrights along with completed Certificate of Registration forms for six songs are also included. The collection is organized chronologically by date of song title. Correspondence, song lists, and other items are filed within the folders to maintain W. R. Gwinn's original order of contents. This collection shows one man's technique for the evolution and progression of song composition and his efforts at publishing and marketing his works.

**Location:**

Manuscripts are filed by accession number in the Manuscripts collection.

**Related Materials:**

One complete published sheet music item ("How High the Moon") was accessioned with this collection is located among the Sheet Music collection searchable by accession number.

**Folder/box list:**

**Manuscript sheet music and song lyrics**

*Effort has been made to keep all items filed in original order by W.R. Gwinn.*

<b>Box#</b>	<b>Folder#</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1	"I'm Gonna Be Long Gone," May 4, 1949 (6 items) Correspondence, October 17, 1951
1	2	"South Wind," May 4, 1949 (9 items)
1	3	"High Falutin' Mama," April 1951; [Old Starts and Fragments] Miscellaneous music and lyrics, July 1951- February 1953 (16 items)
1	4	"Baffled," n.d. "Do I Wonder?" October 1951 (5 items)
1	5	Correspondence, February 28, 1952 Song Lyrics, "Have I Wasted My Life On You?" (5 items)
1	6	Correspondence, October 18, 1952 Copyright Certificates, November 24, 1952-February 4, 1953 (8 items)
1	7	"Reno Blues," December 1952 Receipts; Agreement, December 6, 1952 (15 items)
1	8	"Beware, You City Slickers!" 1952 "What's the Good of Bein' Good?" 1952 (11 items)
1	9	"Big Game Hunter," n.d. "The Independent Kind," 1953 (18 items)
1	10	"Get Along You Home-Bound Train" "(Get Along You) Choo-Choo Train," ©1965 (8 items)
1	11	"Don't Get Friendly With Satan!" May 30, 1968 (8 items)
1	12	"Don't Hang Around," July 4, 1968 (8 items)
1	13	"You Hogtied My Future," February 2, 1970; "Go Runnin' Wild, Baby," (on reverse); "Hifalutin' Hotshot," n.d., (3 items)
1	14	"Shy Mountain Flower," May 7, 1970 (6 items)
1	15	Note, December 18, 1970 Sheet music, various copies (12 items)
1	16	Miscellaneous papers, poems, valentines, n.d. Newspaper articles, n.d. and April 5, 1976 (5 items)
1	17	"Ain't It a Shame?" December 24, 1979 (3 items)
1	18	Song Lyrics, "Before the Sun Goes Down," n.d. (6 items)
1	19	"Hogtied," n.d. (3 items)
1	20	"Keep Tryin'," n.d. (5 items)
1	21	"That Wild Free One," n.d. (9 items)
1	22	Manuscript sheet music and lyrics, various, n.d.; song lists, n.d.; sheet music fragments, printed, n.d. (20 items)

**List of Song Titles**

1. "I'm Gonna Be Long Gone," May 4, 1949
2. "South Wind," May 4, 1949
3. "High Falutin' Mama," April 1951
4. "Do I Wonder?" October 1951
5. "Get Along You Home-Bound Train" 1951
6. "Reno Blues," December 1952
7. "Beware, You City Slickers!" 1952
8. "What's the Good of Bein' Good?" 1952
9. "The Independent Kind" 1953
10. "(Get Along You) Choo-Choo Train" ©1965
11. "Don't Get Friendly With Satan!" May 30, 1968
12. "Don't Hang Around" July 4, 1968
13. "You Hogtied My Future" February 2, 1970 with "Go Runnin' Wild, Baby,"(on reverse)
14. "Shy Mountain Flower" May 7, 1970
15. "Ain't It a Shame?" December 24, 1979
16. "Baffled," n.d.
17. "Before the Sun Goes Down," lyrics only, n.d.
18. "Big Game Hunter," n.d.
19. "Big White Hat" lyrics only, n.d.
20. "Go Runnin' Wild!" n.d.
21. "Gone In the Dawn" lyrics only, n.d.
22. "Hifalutin' Hotshot" n.d.,
23. "Hogtied," n.d.
24. "Keep Tryin'," n.d.
25. "Rock-'N-Roll" lyrics only, n.d.
26. "That Wild Free One," n.d.

Partial compositions under "Old Starts and Fragments:"

- "Before the Sun Goes Down" July 1951
- "Choo-Choo Train 1951
- "Willie Flagg" n.d.
- "Have I Wasted My Life?" October 1951
- "Have I Wasted My Life On You?"
- "Reno Blues," Jerry Mulligan February 1953
- "Go Away and Stay Away!" n.d.