



**CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORO, TN**

**WALTER G. SAMUELS COLLECTION**

**13-015**

**Creator:**

Samuels, Walter Gerald (February 2, 1903 - June 3, 1994)  
Samuels, Ruth (March 8, 1097- September 14, 2004)

**Type of Material:**

Manuscript Materials, Musical Scores, Photographs, Artifacts

**Physical Description:**

10 linear feet of manuscript materials housed in 18 boxes, 4 oversized boxes house artifacts and large photos.

**Dates:**

1917-2000

**Abstract:**

A collection covering the life of Swing and Western Swing music composer Walter G. Samuels. It is primarily made up of records, sheet music, photographs, personal and business correspondence, and one WWII Japanese military letter and photo album. Also includes information on the life of Roy Lauren and family, the son of Ruth who passed away in adulthood.

**Restrictions:**

Property rights reside with Middle Tennessee State University. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs as stipulated by United States copyright law. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the Center for Popular Music.

**Provenance and Acquisition Information:**

This collection was donated to the Center for Popular Music by Chris Lauren and Scott Lauren, the grandsons of Walter G. Samuels, on August 23, 2013.

**Preferred Citation:**

Walter G. Samuels Collection, 13-015, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University.

**Arrangement:**

Original order of the materials has been maintained where possible. The processor devised the basic organizational scheme for the collection, reorganizing the materials within component groups where necessary.

**Subjects/Index Terms:**

Samuels, Walter G., 1903-1994

Whitcup, Leonard, 1903-1979

Powell, Teddy

Newman, Charles, 1901-1978

Swing (Music)

Western Swing (Music)

**Biographical Sketch:**

Walter Gerald Samuels, known professionally as Walter G. Samuels, was born in New York City on February 2, 1903, to Isaac Robert Samuels and Celia Jacob Samuels. Walter went to school in Manhattan, attended De Witt Clinton High School and graduated from the New York University Law School.

Samuels studied classical piano with Eugene Bernstein and studied harmony and theory with Rubin Goldmark (Juilliard). Samuels became a composer, lyricist, and music publisher. He wrote popular songs in the Swing, Western Swing, and Big Band genres throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Later in his career, Samuels worked on movie and television soundtracks, as well as in advertising jingles. He worked with Teddy Powell and Leonard Whitcup on many of his compositions.

Samuels was an active member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), the American Federation of Musicians, and the Songwriters Guild. A few of his most famous songs include "Take Me Back to My Boots and Saddle," "Alice in Movieland," "True," "I Couldn't Believe My Eyes," "It Isn't a Dream Anymore," and "Clearance Sale." Of the many artists who performed his works, the most notable include Bing Crosby, Tommy Dorsey, Gene Autry, Billie Holiday, Paul Whiteman, and Roy Rogers.

Walter G. Samuels lived for well over 35 years in the Westwood area of California with his wife, Ruth Louise Altshul and stepson Roy Henry Lauren. He died June 3, 1994.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains, in various volumes, the following relating to the musical career of Walter G. Samuels: sheet music, manuscripts, business records, contracts, personal correspondence, business correspondence, photographs, commercial sound recordings, non-commercial recordings, and artifacts. The bulk of the collection relates to Samuels' compositions, music publishing, and entertainment work. However, a small portion of the collection is dedicated to Samuels' World War II entertainment work in the South Pacific and Philippines. One linear foot of material consists of Samuels and Lauren family correspondence and photographs, including information related to Roy Lauren's life and career before his passing.

**Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):****Box # Folder # Description****Box 1: Biographical Materials**

- Folder 1: Articles and Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 2: Biographical Materials and Personal Documents
- Folder 3: Biographical Songs
- Folder 4: Family Correspondence
- Folder 5: Professional Recognitions
- Folder 6: Walter's Work on Toothpaste

**Box 2: Photos of Samuels and Family**

- Folder 1: Identified Photos
- Folder 2: Unidentified Photos
- Folder 3: Family Photos
- Folder 4: Photos of Walter

**Box 3: Contracts and Legal Documents**

- Folder 1: Tax Records (**RESTRICTED**)
- Folder 2: Failed Copyright Renewals
- Folder 3: Successful Copyright Renewals
- Folder 4: Tax Information related to ASCAP
- Folder 5: Copyright Contracts and Legal Documents
- Folder 6: Complete list of Renewals and Owned Copyrights
- Folder 7: Royalty Statements (1985-1999)
- Folder 8: Criscott Music Materials
  - \*Subfolder-Catalogue
- Folder 9: Post-Death Documents
  - \*Subfolder-ASCAP Info
  - \*Subfolder-Post-Death Correspondence

**Box 4: Legal documents**

Contains Royalty paperwork from 1970s-1990s

**Box 5: Productions (1)**

- Folder 1: 'Sabra' (Presentation Script)
- Folder 2: 'Invitation to Trouble'
- Folder 3: 'The Mistress Maggie'
- Folder 4: 'It's an Old Kansas Custom'
- Folder 5: 'Cartunes' Production Materials
- Folder 6: 'Cartunes' Contracts
- Folder 7: 'Stop, Look, Listen'
- Folder 8: 'An Italian Dream'
- Folder 9: 'The Merry Dancers'

**Box 6: Productions (2)**

- Folder 1: misc. songs
- Folder 2: misc. songs continued
- Folder 3: Comedy/Novelty Songs
- Folder 4: Young Men's Club shows
- Folder 5: South Pacific Songs

+ Bound copy of 'Jericho'

**Box 7: Productions (3)**

- Folder 1: 'Two Senioritas from Chicago'
- Folder 2: 'Pigskinanigans'
- Folder 3: 'The Oldsmobile 88'
- Folder 4: 'Furlough Express'
- Folder 5: 'News Record/Tape of the Week'
- Folder 6: 'This Calls for a Celebration'
- Folder 7: 'The Gladiator'
- Folder 8: 'Redhead from Manhattan/Rio'
- Folder 9: 'Cowboy, Canteen'
- Folder 10: 'Too Soon'
- Folder 11: Carol Burnett Show
- Folder 12: Jack Lalane Show
- Folder 13: Misc. Scripts

**Box 8: Productions (4)**

- Folder 1: 'Hellzapoppin,' Conductors' Score
  - Folder 2: 'Hellzapoppin,' Piano Score
  - Folder 3: 'Hellzapoppin,' Bass Score
  - Folder 4: 'Hellzapoppin,' Drum Score
  - Folder 5: 'Hellzapoppin,' Trombone Score
  - Folder 6: 'Hellzapoppin,' Trumpet I Score
  - Folder 7: 'Alice in Movieland,' Conductors' Book
  - Folder 8: 'Alice in Movieland,' Score
- + 'Alice in Movieland' Bound Copy

**Box 9: Productions (5)**

- Folder 1: 'Hellzapoppin,' Trumpet II Score
- Folder 2: 'Hellzapoppin,' Trumpet III Score
- Folder 3: 'Hellzapoppin,' Baritone Sax Score
- Folder 4: 'Hellzapoppin,' Tenor Sax Score
- Folder 5: 'Hellzapoppin,' Alto Sax Score

**Box 10: Compositions (1)**

- Folder 1: 'Keep Talkin Baby,'
- Folder 2: 'Some Days it Doesn't Pay to Open the Store,'
- Folder 3: 'She is Theee One,'
- Folder 4: 'Walt's Waltz,'
- Folder 5: 'The Pineapple Train,'
- Folder 6: 'Native Girl,'
- Folder 7: 'I Shall Pass This Way But Once,'
- Folder 8: 'It's a Do-it-yourself World,'
- Folder 9: 'What Does the Pitcher Say to the Catcher?'
- Folder 10: Roly, Poly, Olie
- Folder 11: 'Mister President,'
- Folder 12: 'Little Bird in a Penthouse,'
- Folder 13: 'Hymn of the Astronaut,'
- Folder 14: 'A Man of Few Words,'

Folder 15: 'The Jog'  
Folder 16: 'Never Stop Lookin,'  
Folder 17: 'Liebchen'  
Folder 18: 'Liberty Lane'  
Folder 19: 'Memory Bridge'  
Folder 20: 'Kingston Boy'  
Folder 21: 'Jake Likes Cake,'  
Folder 22: 'Lady With the Laughing Eyes'  
Folder 23: 'Sadness of Another Time'  
Folder 24: 'Salud y Pesetas'  
Folder 25: 'Minstrel Man'  
Folder 26: 'You've Got It, I Want It'  
Folder 27: 'You've Got the Comma Where the Period Should Be'  
Folder 28: 'novelette'  
Folder 29: 'Now'  
Folder 30: 'Little Johnny Bookend'  
Folder 31: 'Nobody's Talkin' But Ev'rybody Knows'

**Box 11: Compositions (2)**

Folders 1-13 contain assorted musical work

**Box 12: Compositions (3)**

Folder 1: 'American Rhapsody,'  
Folder 2: 'Ah, the Pleasure of it All'  
Folder 3: 'April Afterglow'  
Folder 4: 'Are You a Taker or a Giver'  
Folder 5: 'As Love Goes, So Goes the World'  
Folder 6: 'Baby's Got the New Look'  
Folder 7: 'Back Room in Chicago'  
Folder 8: 'Ballet De Roulette'  
Folder 9: 'Bedelia's Brother'  
Folder 10: 'The Big Chief'  
Folder 11: 'A Big Fat Hit'  
Folder 12: 'Bon Voyage'  
Folder 13: 'The Bouillabaisse Man'  
Folder 14: 'Boy, Boy-Girl, Girl'  
Folder 15: 'The Bracelet'  
Folder 16: 'A Brief Romp on the Pampas'  
Folder 17: 'Bubbles'  
Folder 18: 'By Order of the Interceptor Command'  
Folder 19: 'Cartagena'  
Folder 20: 'Cast an Eye on my Castanets'  
Folder 21: 'Cave In'  
Folder 22: 'Chicken Cacciatori'  
Folder 23: 'Cin-cin-nat-l'  
Folder 24: 'The City of the Angels'  
Folder 25: 'The City of Hope'  
Folder 26: 'The City Lives'

Folder 27: 'Clearance Sale'  
Folder 28: 'Cooperman the Tailor'  
Folder 29: 'The Cowpoke Polka'  
Folder 30: 'Curly the Caterpillar'

**Box 13: Compositions (4)**

Folders 1-11 Contain Assorted Comps.

**Box 14: Compositions (5)**

**Box 15: Compositions (6)**

Folders 1-17 Contain Assorted Comps.

**Box 16: Musical Scores (Assorted)**

**Box 17: Commercial Sheet Music (Assorted)**

**Box 18: Personal Items (Family Materials)**

Folder 1: Roy Lauren (post-Death materials)  
Folder 2: Roy Lauren (Career)  
Folder 3: Roy Lauren and Family Assorted Documents  
+Baby Book  
Folder 4: Roy Lauren and Family Photos  
Folder 5: Family Documents  
Folder 6: Assorted Articles (Unrelated to Samuels Career)

**OVERSIZED**

**Box 1: 'Walter' Orange Scrapbook Materials**

**Box 2: Photo Albums (Sleeved Photos)**

**Box 3: The Philippines**

**Box 4: Japanese Letter**

**Box 5: Oversized Photos**

**ARTIFACTS**

Box Containing 2 Pieces of Art; Top Hat (In hat box) and Cane; American Flag

**Location**

The Walter G. Samuels Collection is housed with other manuscript collections by accession number in the CPM Archival Storage Area.

**Notes:**

Most Photos and Sound Recordings included in this collection are available digitally within our collections. Sound Recordings are housed with other recordings in the archive and have been separated from the rest of the collection.

Additionally, some materials in this collection were created by Roy Lauren, and are noted as such in Box 18. Where possible, collection items have been arranged in their original order.

**Related Materials:**

The Center for Popular Music has other materials related to Walter G. Samuels' music, Swing and Western Swing genres, and Big Band Music. Swing and Western Swing genres can be found in the sheet music, rare books, performance, and manuscript

collections. Information concerning Swing, Jazz, Western Swing, and Big band music can be found in our secondary sources in the reading room. All collection categories are searchable by accession number or title in the CPM database. Sources in the reading room are catalogued in MTSU's public access catalog.

Processed by Grace V. Holland, April 2026.

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