Creator: Avery, Murray "Ray" Bertrand (September 28, 1920- November 17, 2002)


Physical Description: 14 linear feet including 3 scrapbook volumes, and photographs
Approximately 2,106 pieces of sheet music
17 manuscript audio discs
Over 175 commercial audio 78 rpms, 45 rpms, and cassette tapes
30 reading room books


Restrictions: All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff can assist with copyright questions for this material.

Provenance and Acquisition Information: This collection was received from Ray Avery, Los Angles, California, by the Center for Popular Music by mail in June 1987. Much of the material in Series I-VI and VII had been collected or created by Avery over several years. Some of the Paul Whiteman, Ferde Grofé, and Johnny Mercer manuscripts in Series VII appears to have been in the possession of the performer named at one time.

When received from Ray Avery this collection included books about black history, especially black music and musicians, and sound recordings by black and/or jazz musicians. These materials have been transferred to the book and sound recording collections (ask archivist for lists). All other books and song folios, photographs and vertical file materials not appropriate to the series with which they were filed have also been transferred to format collections in the CPM for ease of access.
As received, this collection also included approximately 2,106 pieces of sheet music, which have been maintained as a separate unit within the sheet music collection. A substantial portion of this material consists of series of plantation (black stereotype) songs, rags, and jazz blues titles. Also included are series of early lithographs; E.T. Paul covers; patriotic songs; songs from World War I, World War II and other wars; and songs about automobiles and flying machines and small sets with artifact value, with dance names in the title, from motion pictures and topical (e.g. sinking of the Titanic) songs. Sheet music filed with manuscripts has been filed at the end of the Avery sheet music collection.

Subject/Index Terms:
Jazz Music
Ferde Grofé
Duke Ellington
Johnny Mercer
Paul Whiteman
Big Band Music
New Orleans

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:
Ray Avery completed high school at Big Bear Lake, California, in 1936 and enrolled at the University of California at Los Angles in 1938. He left UCLA before graduation to serve with the Army Air Force in the China/Burma/India theater.

While a student at UCLA he began collecting jazz music, an interest which led him to open a rare record store, Record Roundup, specializing in jazz in 1947 in Los Angles. By 1968 he and his family moved to Glendale, CA and opened a store, Rare Records. Avery sold the store in 1992. Avery had become a major figure in the world of California jazz collectors and promoters and had participated in jazz festivals throughout the world. While owning and running the stores and through his second hobby, photography, Avery became friendly with many of the west coast jazz musicians, including Johnny Mercer. Avery’s photography has been used on album covers, books and exhibits.

Avery died on November 17, 2002, at age 82 from a heart attack.

Scope and Content:
This collection of manuscripts, printed ephemeral materials, sound recordings, monographs and sheet music assembled by Ray Avery reflects his lifelong interest in and career involvement with jazz music and his interest in black history which developed from his musical interests.

Included in the manuscript portion of the collection are concert announcements, programs and posters; newspaper and magazine clippings; newsletters from jazz and black history organizations; discographies, some compiled by Avery; record company advertisements and posters; press releases from performers, promoters and venues; and other
miscellaneous materials organized by Avery in three series: black history subject files; a "jazz scrapbook", and subject files. The last series also contains information on other aspects of American entertainment, particularly in the Los Angeles, California, area. There is considerable overlap in coverage and materials among these three series.

Additional information on jazz may be found in the collection of flyers, broadsides, programs, and other mementos which document several trips Avery made to New Orleans, Louisiana, for jazz festivals and related events. These materials are filed together in a separate series which also includes ca. 900 black and white and color prints and color slides.

Avery also collected concert programs, business papers, clippings, photographs, correspondence, manuscript sheet music, manuscript sound recordings and other documents from four performers influential in the development of American popular music, especially jazz: Paul Whiteman, Ferdinand Grofé, Johnny Mercer and Duke Ellington. Included in this series are manuscript sound discs recorded by Ferdinand Grofé, Bing Crosby and others and diaries, 1860-1888, kept by two of Grofé's grandfathers. The sound discs have been transferred to digital audio tape (DAT) and described by the Center audio specialist. Logs of these tapes can be found by asking Audio Curator along with a log of tapes copied from similar materials held by Trinity College, Hartford CT.

Two scrapbooks filed at the end of the collection include personal mementos created and/or collected by Avery and materials from jazz festivals around the world which he attended and a brief 16 mm color film of a commercial for his Los Angles record store.

**Series Description:**

**Series I: Black History Subject Files**
ca. 1950-1986
1 l.f. (Boxes 1-2)

Concert announcements, newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters, and miscellaneous announcements about black performers and entertainers; political and social leaders; cultural events; museums; and research collections. Also, black history postage stamps and a few scattered photographs and artifacts. Arranged alphabetically by person/subject.

Note: Related and/or overlapping material on black jazz performers and organizations is filed in Series II: "Jazz Scrapbook" and Series III, New Orleans. Sheet music by black composers and/or performers removed from this series has been filed at the end of the Ray Avery sheet music collection.
Series II: "Jazz Scrapbook"
ca. 1940-1980s
.5 l.f. (Box 3)

(This material was labeled "Jazz Scrapbook" by Ray Avery but was in fact an accordion folder of loose clippings and other material which have been filed in folders.)

Newspaper and magazine clippings; Avery's typescripts of biographical/discographical material, some copied from elsewhere; concert and club announcements; discographies; record advertisements; posters; press releases; and scattered periodicals and similar materials related to jazz music. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Note: Related material on some black jazz performers is found in Series I, Black History Subject Files, Series III, New Orleans and Series IV, Subject Files. Related material on white jazz performers is found in Series III, Subject Files.

Series III. New Orleans
1940-1982.
1 l.f. (Boxes 4-5)

The Averys appear to have made three trips to New Orleans: one in the 1940s, one in the mid-1970s and one in the early 1980s. The material in this series was generated by these trips and is focused primarily, although not exclusively, on jazz. The material includes flyers, broadsides, programs, tickets, and other mementos, arranged loosely by trip by Avery; 4x5 and 8x10 black and white photographs from the Averys 1940s trip; and color slides and photographs from the two later trips. The material is arranged as listed.

The early (black and white) photographs include tourist attractions, performers and New Orleans architecture and street life. Most of the 8x10 black and white photographs are duplicates of the 4x5 photographs. Later (color) photographs and slides include pictures of the New Orleans Heritage Festival, tourist attractions, performers, and New Orleans street life and architecture. Some slides are duplicates of the color photographs. Note: Series VIII Personal Mementos [scrapbooks] also include many postcards and other items related to New Orleans.

Series IV. Subject Files
ca. 1940-1986.
4 l.f. (Boxes 6-13)

Clippings, concert announcements, correspondence, scattered issues of periodicals and other miscellaneous materials related to American entertainment, primarily in the Los Angeles, California, area. Arranged alphabetically by performer/ venue/subject.

Note: Avery at times filed multiple copies of items in different locations within the series (i.e. a festival flyer may appear under "New Orleans", "Jazz" and "Legends of Dixieland");
these duplicates have been left in place. Multiple duplicates filed in a single location have been weeded. Related but non-duplicate material may also be filed in all three locations.

Series V. Record Covers
Undated.
1.25 l.f. (Boxes 14-16)

Covers from multi-disc sets, primarily 78s, and albums by/about black music and musicians and/or related to jazz and jazz events (e.g. festivals). Some but not all appear to have been removed from discs collected by Avery which are listed in Appendix II. The covers are arranged first alphabetically by label name, then by issue number, except that covers for which no company was apparent were filed first.

Series VI. Record Company Promotional Materials
1970-ca. 1985
.5 l.f. (Box 17)

Promotional postcards sent to dealers, 1970-ca. 1985, by record companies. Typically, these announcements have artwork on one side and critical praise on the other. Announcements for radio programs give the dates, stations and cities airing the programs. Country, pop, jazz and other artists are represented. Also scattered ticket stubs, primarily for the Monterey Jazz Festival. Arranged alphabetically by performer.

Series VII. Performer Files
1860-1888. 1920-1972
3.00 l.f. 20 manuscript sound recordings. (Boxes 18-23; 26)

This series consists of materials by and about four performers Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, Paul Whiteman and Ferde Grofé. Material in this series appears to have been in the possession of the performer named at one time.

Note: In this series duplicates within files/subseries were removed; those which appeared in more than one sub-series were not. Sheet music by Whiteman, Mercer and Ellington has been removed and filed at the end of the Ray Avery sheet music collection.

A note about photographs located in the Performer Files Series VII: Photographs of Duke Ellington, Ferde Grofé, Johnny Mercer, and Paul Whiteman were transferred from these manuscript boxes to a box labeled Ray Avery Photographs (Box 23) for preservation and access.

Duke Ellington
1920-1970.
.25 l.f. (Box 18)

Clippings, sheet music, programs and announcements from concerts and other appearances including "Ellington '86", Duke Ellington Jazz Society publications and
miscellaneous materials, arranged as listed. Note: Material about Ellington is also located in Series I, Black History Subject Files and Series III, Jazz Scrapbook.

Johnny Mercer  
.25 l.f. (Box 18)  
Sheet music; clippings (mostly related to movie "Second Chorus"); business and personal correspondence to, from, and about Mercer, 1953-1981; Christmas cards send by Mercer; manuscript sheet music; and an undated list of Mercer's published songs, arranged as listed.

Paul Whiteman  
1920-ca. 1935  
.25 l.f. (Box 18;22)  
Concert programs, sheet music of Paul Whiteman and/or his band including Ferde Grofé, arranged as listed.

Ferdinand Grofé  
1.00 l.f. 17 manuscript sound recordings. (Boxes 19-22)  
Radio scripts, manuscript and annotated printed music, clippings, biographical releases, programs and announcements documenting the performing and composing career of Ferdinand Grofé. Scattered personal correspondence and business and legal records. Diaries and daybooks, 1860-1888, kept by Grofé's grandfather Bernard Bierlich, who was concert master of the Los Angeles symphony, and another grandfather, who was a chemist in Germany. Scrapbook of clippings, programs, and scattered correspondence tracing Grofé's career, 1924-1929. [Similar volumes are held by the Library of Congress.] The sub-series is arranged by source/type of material as listed.

15 sound discs, ca. 1940's. Home recordings in a variety of sizes, speeds and media including Grofé's "Death Valley Suite" performed by the Wayne State University Band and an interview with Grofé by WDET; several popular songs performed by Grofé's granddaughter Francis; "Prisoner of Love" performed by Bing Crosby(?); and a number of piano, vocal and orchestral renditions of popular songs and of compositions by Grofé performed by unidentified musicians. The log made by the audio curator (Ask Archivist for Appendix IV) when these discs were transferred to digital audio tape (DAT) in April 1989 lists the contents of each disc in detail.

Appendix IV also includes a log of audio tape copies of similar sound discs held by Trinity College, Hartford CT, some of which duplicate the Center's discs and some of which do not.

Two glass discs recorded by NBC which are labelled "Ferdinand Grofé's March for Americans 14 May 1944" and "Ferdinand Grofé's 'Sob Sister'" which were not playable and therefore were not transferred to tape.
All discs are filed with other manuscript sound recordings. Digital audio tape copies (TCD-0082 A/B) of Center discs and of discs held by Trinity College (TCA-0082C/E) are filed with other archival sound recordings. Reference use audio cassette copies of Center discs (TCA-0082 A&B) are filed with audio cassette tapes. (Ask archivist or audio curator)

Series VIII. Personal Mementos
Undated.
.5 l.f. (2 volumes) (Box 24)
Clippings, ticket stubs, postcards, business cards, membership cards, and assorted mementos created and/or collected by Avery and arranged by him in two scrapbooks. Much of this material documents Avery’s own career and personal life. Some materials are from jazz festivals around the world. Some materials are duplicated in other series (i.e., II, Jazz Scrapbook, III, New Orleans and IV, Subject Files.) [NOTE: Photocopies now available for research, ask archivist for access]

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

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<th>Series</th>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
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<td>Box 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
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<td>Subject Files X-Z</td>
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<td>Subject Files Miscellaneous Photographs</td>
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II. Jazz Scrapbook
Box 3
Folder 1  Subject Files A
Folder 2  Subject Files B
Folder 3  Subject Files C
Folder 4  Subject Files D
Folder 5  Subject Files E
Folder 6  Subject Files F
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Folder 14 Subject Files O-P
Folder 15 Subject Files Q-R
Folder 16 Subject Files S
Folder 17 Subject Files T
Folder 18 Subject Files U-V
Folder 19 Subject Files W
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III. New Orleans
Box 4
Envelope 1  Tickets
Envelope 2  Programs
Envelope 3  Broadsides advertisements
Folder 4  Postcards
Envelope 5  Misc. business cards, photo clippings
Folder 6  Memorabilia
Folder 7  Memorabilia
Folder 8  Memorabilia

Box 5
Folder 1  Small Black & White Photos
Folder 2  8x10 Black & White Photos
Folder 3  8x10 Black & White Photos
Folder 4  Color Slides
Folder 5  Color Slides
Folder 6  Color Slides
Folder 7  Color Photos
Folder 8  Color Photos
IV. Subject Files

Box 6
Folder 1  Subject Files A
Folder 2  Subject Files AFRS
Folder 3  Subject Files B
Folder 4  Subject Files Beatles
Folder 5  Subject Files Big Band
Folder 6  Subject Files Billboard Magazine
Folder 7  Subject Files Black Oak Arkansas
Folder 8  Subject Files Blue Parrot
Folder 9  Subject Files BMI
Folder 10  Subject Files Book & Discographies
Folder 11  Subject Files Buck, George
Folder 12  Subject Files C
Folder 13  Subject Files Calendars
Folder 14  Subject Files Carmelo's
Folder 15  Subject Files Clark, Buddy
Folder 16  Subject Files Concord Jazz
Folder 17  Subject Files Copyright Records

Box 7
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Folder 8  Subject Files Garber, Jan
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Folder 11  Subject Files Goodman, Benny
Folder 12  Subject Files Gramophone
Folder 13  Subject Files Graver, Joanne

Box 8
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Folder 3  Subject Files Hyatt
Folder 4  Subject Files I
Folder 5  Subject Files Institute For Jazz Studies
Folder 6  Subject Files Int. Assoc. of Jazz Record Collectors
Folder 7  Subject Files J
Folder 8  Subject Files Jax
Folder 9  Subject Files Jazz Clubs
Folder 10  Subject Files Jazz Forum
Folder 11  Subject Files Jazz Heritage Foundation
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Folder 2  Subject Files Jones, Spike
Folder 3  Subject Files K
Folder 4  Subject Files Kenton, Stan
Folder 5  Subject Files L
Folder 6  Subject Files Las Vegas Jazz Club
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Folder 9  Subject Files M

**Box 10**
Folder 1  Subject Files McCabe's Concerts
Folder 2  Subject Files Melody Maker ["Collector's Corner"]
Folder 3  Subject Files Miller, Glen
Folder 4  Subject Files Mills Bros.
Folder 5  Subject Files Monterey Jazz Festival
Folder 6  Subject Files Monterey Jazz Festival 1986
Folder 7  Subject Files Music Publications
Folder 8  Subject Files N
Folder 9  Subject Files NARAS

**Box 11**
Folder 1  Subject Files Nichols, Ray
Folder 2  Subject Files O
Folder 3  Subject Files OJAI
Folder 4  Subject Files P
Folder 5  Subject Files Playboy
Folder 6  Subject Files Playboy Festival
Folder 7  Subject Files Preservation Hall
Folder 8  Subject Files Presley, Elvis
Folder 9  Subject Files Q
Folder 10  Subject Files R
Folder 11  Subject Files Radio
Folder 12  Subject Files Rag Times
Folder 13  Subject Files Ragtime
Folder 14  Subject Files Rare Records [Avery's Store]
Folder 15  Subject Files Rawls, Lou

**Box 12**
Folder 1  Subject Files Record Catalogues
Folder 2  Subject Files The Record Changer
Folder 3  Subject Files Record Museum
Folder 4  Subject Files Rose, Boris
Folder 5  Subject Files S
Folder 6  Subject Files Seating Charts
Folder 7  Subject Files Session
Folder 8  Subject Files Sheet Music
Folder 9  Subject Files Show Composers
Folder 10  Subject Files Society For Early Recorded Music
Folder 11  Subject Files So. Bay New Orleans Jazz Club
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Box 13
Folder 1  Subject Files T
Folder 2  Subject Files Time-Life Jazz
Folder 3  Subject Files Times Jazz Club
Folder 4  Subject Files Toshiko/ Tabackin
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Folder 7  Subject Files UCLA Concerts
Folder 8  Subject Files Vallee, Rudy
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Folder 10  Subject Files Winding, Kai
Folder 11  Subject Files World Jazz Assoc
Folder 12  Subject Files WW II Song Titles
Folder 13  Subject Files X-Z

V. Record Covers
Box 14
Unknown – Clef record covers

Box 15
Columbia – Decca record covers

Box 16
Disc – Vox record covers

VI. Record Company Promotional Materials
Box 17
Envelope 1  Promotional Materials A
Envelope 2  Promotional Materials B
Envelope 3  Promotional Materials C
Envelope 4  Promotional Materials D
Envelope 5  Promotional Materials E-F
Envelope 6  Promotional Materials G
Envelope 7  Promotional Materials H
Envelope 8  Promotional Materials I-J
Envelope 9  Promotional Materials K
Envelope 10  Promotional Materials L
Envelope 11  Promotional Materials M
VII. Performers: Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, Paul Whiteman

Box 18
Folder 1 Duke Ellington Clippings
Folder 2 Duke Ellington Sheet Music [photocopies of covers, originals in AVERY sheet music collection]
Folder 3 Duke Ellington Programs/ Announcements
Folder 4 Duke Ellington Jazz Society
Folder 5 Ellington ’86
Folder 6 Duke Ellington Miscellaneous
Folder 7 Johnny Mercer Clippings
Folder 8 Johnny Mercer Sheet Music [photocopies of covers, originals in AVERY sheet music collection]
Folder 9 Johnny Mercer Correspondence Personal
Folder 10 Johnny Mercer Christmas Cards
Folder 11 Johnny Mercer Manuscript/typescript music
Folder 12 Johnny Mercer Song list and songbook
Folder 13 Paul Whiteman Sheet Music [photocopies of covers, originals in AVERY sheet music collection]
Folder 14 Paul Whiteman Programs/ Announcements

VII. Performers: Ferde Grofé

Box 19
Folder 1 Ferde Grofé Programs
Folder 2 Ferde Grofé Programs
Folder 3 Ferde Grofé Announcements
Folder 4 Bierlich Misc.
Folder 5 Atlas - Elsa Johanna Beirlich [Mother]
Folder 6 Grofé personal correspondence 1846-1941
Folder 7 Grofé personal correspondence 1942-1955, undated
Folder 8 Ferde Grofé Business/ Legal Records

Box 20
Folder 1 Ferde Grofé Radio Scripts
Folder 2 Ferde Grofé Manuscripts & Annotated Music
Folder 3 Ferde Grofé commercial sheet music/ songbooks
Folder 4 Ferde Grofé Clippings
Folder 5 Ferde Grofé Biography
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Box 22
Ferde Grofé and Paul Whiteman Scrapbook

Box 23  Photographs
Folder 1  Ellington, Duke -- Broadcasts & Film
Folder 2  Ellington, Duke -- Candid Shots
Folder 3  Ellington, Duke -- Orchestra
Folder 4  Ellington, Duke -- Publicity & Promotion
Folder 5  Ellington, Duke -- Sacred Concerts
Folder 6  Grofé, Ferde -- Autographed Portraits
Folder 7  Grofé, Ferde -- Candid
Folder 8  Grofé, Ferde -- Family Photographs
Folder 9  Grofé, Ferde -- Honors, Awards
Folder 10 Grofé, Ferde -- Musicians
Folder 11 Grofé, Ferde -- Photographic Proofs [negative]
Folder 12 Grofé, Ferde -- Publicity Photos
Folder 13 Grofé, Ferde -- Publicity Photos
Folder 14 Grofé, Ferde -- Published Publicity Photos
Folder 15 Mercer, Johnny -- Candid and Publicity
Folder 16 Whiteman, Paul -- Publicity, ca. 1920-1960
Folder 17 Whiteman, Paul -- Publicity, ca. 1922 [negative]
Folder 18 Whiteman, Paul -- Publicity, ca. 1922 [negative]

Oversize photographs remain in the oversize Avery box and map drawer.

VIII. Personal Mementos [Ask Archivist for reference copies of scrapbooks.]

Box 24
Scrapbook (Postcards I)
Scrapbook (Postcards II)
Sheet Music Inventory

Ray Avery Oversize Boxes

Box 25
Folder 1  I: Black History Posters, advertisements
Folder 2  II: Jazz Scrapbook Posters, newspapers
Folder 3  IV: Subject Files “The Star Spangled Banner” newspaper sheet music
Folder 4  IV: Subject Files Souvenir books, serials, clippings, 4 large b/w Billboard photos

Box 26
Folder 1  Johnny Mercer oversize manuscript music
Folder 2  Paul Whiteman 15 b/w oversize photographs
Folder 3  Grofé 8 b/w oversize photographs
Folder 4  Grofé 16 b/w oversize photographs
Folder 5  Grofé Sheet music, newspaper clippings, posters
Folder 6  Ellington 78rpm record cover, advertisements, brochure, original illustration
Folder 7  Ellington flattened Down Beat advertisement
Folder 8  One photo of Charlie Strickfaden; illustration of Louis Armstrong with others (2)

Materials Cataloged Separately:
Approximately 2,106 pieces of sheet music; Over 175 commercial audio 78 rpms, 45 rpms, and cassette tapes; Approximately 30 reading room books. For full lists of materials cataloged separately, contact the archivist for lists by format. Ray Avery Sheet Music Collection can be searched in archival catalog by collection accession number or AVERY item numbers.

Location:
All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number. Audio materials are located in special collections audio storage area. Oversized posters located in map drawers.

Related Materials:
Manuscript collections held by Center with related materials and topics include Robert E. “Mike” Doty Collection (96-49); Ward Allen Collection (98-052); Bruce D. Davidson Papers (90-038).

Avery’s photography collection remains with his estate, CPM archivist can supply last known contacts for the Ray Avery Photography Collection.

Special collection sheet music, performance documents, trade catalogs, photographs, sound recordings, rare books, and reading room materials related to the subjects of Jazz, big band, New Orleans music and other topics relating to this collection are also held by the Center and searchable through the CPM website database or MTSU Walker Library catalog.