

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board

Historical Records Grant 2016

Interim Report

August 26, 2016

The Ted Lewis Museum - Ted Lewis Record Collection Preservation and Digitization

Curator Joseph Rubin and 2 volunteers have worked tirelessly over the summer to sort, catalog and rehouse the museum's extensive recording collection. During this process, more important records, reel to reel tapes and cassette were discovered in various locations at the museum. Total cataloged number of records (including reel to reel tapes, and record albums) is 389. This does not include the 183 duplicate 78 RPM, 45 RPM, and LPs donated to the museum over the years which were cataloged separately. Approximately 155 staff and volunteer hours have been spent on the sorting, cataloging and organization process.

The newly discovered important reel to reel tapes and non-commercial records were added to the digitization cue, bringing the total number of sides up to 296.

All the archival record sleeves and boxes have been ordered and used in the re-housing process, total cost to date \$903.60.

The records were cataloged in 5 series: Ted Lewis Record Collection (which includes both commercial and non-commercial recordings, all owned by Ted Lewis), Ted Lewis Records (the museum's collection of Ted's commercial recordings), Non-Ted Lewis Records (records owned by Ted, but not of himself), 16" transcription discs (Ted's 1947 transcribed radio show), and Reel to Reel Tapes (interviews and airchecks owned by Ted). Each series has its own catalog designation and each recording is cataloged with recording company, matrix number, date (if known), title, performer, description, and condition. Labels with this information were printed and affixed to each record sleeve for easy identification and access. The sleeves were then placed in boxes organized by series and catalog number.

In sorting through the collection which included many fragile glass-based transcription discs, we were very lucky to find only two discs that were damaged beyond repair. Due to the fast work in cataloging, the project is moving ahead of schedule and the discs have been picked up by Audio Conservator Bryan Wright and transported back to his studio in Pittsburgh. He will digitize the 296 sides by November and transport the boxes back to the museum for storage. The project is on track to be completed by December 31st.

Thank you for your kind support,

Joseph Rubin
Curator
Ted Lewis Museum