

Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection

Author: Karen Fishman



Motion Picture, Broadcasting and
Recorded Sound Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

Encoded by Marsha Maguire, 2008

Finding aid prepared using DACS
(*Describing Archives: A Content
Standard*)

Finding aid URL: [http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/
eadmbrs.rs005001](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/eadmbrs.rs005001)

Latest revision: 2008

Collection Summary

Title: Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1937-1972

Bulk Dates: 1948-1955

Creator: Greenough, H. V. (H. Vose)

Extent: .5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language: Collection materials are in English

Repository: Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Personal papers of H. Vose Greenough Jr., founder and owner of Technichord Records, a small recording company in Brookline, Massachusetts, as well as materials from Technichord Records.

Location: RPA 00326-00327 (boxes 1-2)

Key Subjects and Formats

The following headings represent names, topics, places, and formats of major significance in the collection.

Names

Greenough, H. V. (H. Vose)--Archives

Biggs, E. Power (Edward Power), 1906-1977

Technichord Records--Archives

Harvard Glee Club

Juilliard School of Music

Berkshire Music Center

H.V. Greenough Collection (Library of Congress)

Topics

Sound recording executives and producers--Massachusetts--Archives

Sound engineers--Massachusetts--Archives

Sound recording industry--Massachusetts

Sound--Recording and reproducing

Forms of Material

Contracts

Financial records

Invoices

Letters (Correspondence)

Notebooks

Pamphlets

Programs

Administrative Information

Acquisition of the Papers

Bequest, 1976.

Additions

No further additions to the papers are expected.

Processing Information

The papers were processed by Karen Fishman in 2005.

Restrictions on Use of the Papers

Restrictions may exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the papers. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Restrictions on Access to the Papers

The Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress.

Biography of H. Vose Greenough Jr.

H. Vose Greenough Jr. (1912-1976) was the founder and owner of Technichord Records, a small recording company in Brookline, Massachusetts. He grew up in Massachusetts, attended the Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, and graduated in 1935 from Harvard University with a BS degree. During World War II, he was a lieutenant commander in the Navy and was stationed for a time at the David Taylor Model Basin in Maryland, specializing in mine warfare. In 1950 he moved to Vienna, Austria, working for the Haydn Society as chief recording engineer. After three years, he returned to the United States to teach acoustics at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. He later returned to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to work as a consultant.

Greenough died in 1976 at the age of 64, leaving his father, Henry V. Greenough, a sister, Mrs. Barbara Bradley, and a brother, Peter Greenough.

Scope and Content of the Papers

The Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection is a small part of a larger gift of more than 700 acetate records and tapes Greenough recorded and left to the Library of Congress upon his death. The Greenough Collection includes materials from Technichord Records, a recording company he founded located in Brookline, Massachusetts, as well as his personal papers.

Though modest in size, Technichord Records was known for recording performers and music that other companies might not recognize and for the quality of the performers and their music. For example, Technichord was the first to record E. Power Biggs, the noted American organist and broadcaster, who did much to popularize the concert organ and organ music to the American public. Other recordings include harpsichordist Claude Jean Chiasson, tenor Hughes Cuenod, soprano Isabel French, and the Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society performing with harpsichordist Putnam Aldrich.

Greenough recorded radio broadcasts and local concerts as well, and his record and tape collection holds some unique recordings. These include the 1937 NBC Symphony Orchestra premier broadcast; the 1940 NBC special broadcast of the draft lottery, marking the official opening of the national lottery for military service with remarks by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; the 1940 opening ceremonies of the Berkshire Music Center (Tanglewood); the very first recording of Peter Schickele's Concerto for Horn and Hardart performed at a Juilliard School concert; a recording of the 1939 Lili Boulanger Memorial Concert which includes Psalm 119, a piece thought to be lost;

and two 1969 radio broadcasts from station WHRB (Harvard Radio Broadcasting) reporting on student demonstrations at Harvard University, including the student occupation of University Hall and subsequent police confrontations.

The Papers from the H. Vose Greenough Jr. Collection date from 1937 to 1972, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1948 to 1955. The collection contains correspondence, business and financial records, music programs, pamphlets, recording notes, and one photograph.

Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are arranged in 4 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1957
- Series 2: Financial Records, 1939-1955, 1972
- Series 3: Technichord Records Recording Activities, 1937-1969
- Series 4: Miscellaneous, 1951, 1958, undated

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series 1. Correspondence, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1957

Series 1 consists of 1948 correspondence by Greenough with the law firm, Goodwin, Rosenbaum, Meacham and Bailen; personal correspondence in 1950 while he was living in Austria; and correspondence relating to job hunting efforts in 1953 and 1957.

Series 2. Financial Records, 1939-1955, 1972

Series 2 contains financial records, including the business records of Technichord. These include contracts, billing records, invoices, and other items. Musicians contracted with Technichord Records included harpsichordist Claude Jean Chiasson, tenor Hughes Cuenod, soprano Isabel French, organist Ernest White, violist George Humphrey, composer and cellist Jacobus C. Langendoen, and harpsichordist Putnam Aldrich. Also in this series are Greenough's personal financial records including tax returns, a property appraisal, and trust fund accounts.

Series 3. Technichord Records, 1937-1969

Series 3 contains the recording activities of Technichord Records. This includes a notebook kept by Greenough of acetate discs recorded for Dr. Harold Spivacke of the Library of Congress. Dating from 1937, this notebook contains meticulous notations of speeds, styli, pre-amplifier settings, main amplifier settings, and degrees of equalization used by Greenough to make his recordings. This series also contains worksheets of performance recordings. The programs Greenough kept of the performances he recorded are one of the highlights in this series. Spanning the years from 1938 to 1969, these programs are from the Harvard Glee Club, including one with Nadia Boulanger as guest conductor, organ recitals of E. Power Biggs at Harvard University, a 1949 dinner honoring Serge Koussevitzky, Berkshire Music Center programs, and The Juilliard School of Music programs.

Series 4. Miscellaneous, 1951, 1958, undated

Series 4 contains miscellaneous items such as a 1958 catalogue from Cambridge Records, a menu from the Green Mountain Inn at Stowe, Vermont, invoices of purchases, and a copy of a technical talk written for *American Record Guide* in 1951.

Detailed Description of the Papers

Container

Contents

Series 1. Correspondence, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1957

3 folders

RPA 00326 (box 1)

Series 1 consists of 1948 correspondence by Greenough with the law firm, Goodwin, Rosenbaum, Meacham and Bailen; personal correspondence in 1950 while he was living in Austria; and correspondence relating to job hunting efforts in 1953 and 1957.

BOX 1 June-October, 1948

FOLDER 1

BOX 1 June-May, 1950

FOLDER 2

BOX 1 1953, 1957

FOLDER 3

Series 2. Financial Records, 1939-1955, 1972

7 folders

RPA 00326 (box 1)

Series 2 contains financial records, including the business records of Technichord. These include contracts, billing records, invoices, and other items. Musicians contracted with Technichord Records included harpsichordist Claude Jean Chiasson, tenor Hughes Cuenod, soprano Isabel French, organist Ernest White, violist George Humphrey, composer and cellist Jacobus C. Langendoen, and harpsichordist Putnam Aldrich. Also in this series are Greenough's personal financial records including tax returns, a property appraisal, and trust fund accounts.

BOX 1 Technichord Records: Balance sheet, 1948

FOLDER 4

BOX 1 Technichord Records: Contracts, 1939-1947

FOLDER 5

BOX 1 Technichord Records: Invoices, 1951-1953

FOLDER 6

BOX 1 Technichord Records: Miscellaneous

FOLDER 7

BOX 1 Personal, 1951-1953

FOLDER 8

BOX 1 Personal: Federal tax returns, 1953-1955

FOLDER 9

BOX 1 Personal: Property appraisal, 1972

FOLDER 10

Series 3. Technichord Records, 1937-1969

8 folders

RPA 00326 (box 1); RPA 00327 (box 2)

Series 3. Technichord Records, 1937-1969

Container

Contents

Series 3 contains the recording activities of Technichord Records. This includes a notebook kept by Greenough of acetate discs recorded for Dr. Harold Spivacke of the Library of Congress. Dating from 1937, this notebook contains meticulous notations of speeds, styli, pre-amplifier settings, main amplifier settings, and degrees of equalization used by Greenough to make his recordings. This series also contains worksheets of performance recordings. The programs Greenough kept of the performances he recorded are one of the highlights in this series. Spanning the years from 1938 to 1969, these programs are from the Harvard Glee Club, including one with Nadia Boulanger as guest conductor, organ recitals of E. Power Biggs at Harvard University, a 1949 dinner honoring Serge Koussevitzky, Berkshire Music Center programs, and The Juilliard School of Music programs.

BOX 1	Recording notes, 1937-1949
FOLDER 11	
BOX 1	Recording worksheets, 1937-1964, undated
FOLDER 12	
BOX 1	Recording worksheets, Music Guild, 1962
FOLDER 13	
BOX 1	Programs, 1938-1939
FOLDER 14	
BOX 1	Programs, 1940-1949
FOLDER 15	
BOX 2	Programs, 1950-1959
FOLDER 1	
BOX 2	Programs, 1960-1969, undated
FOLDER 2	
BOX 2	Pamphlets and price list
FOLDER 3	

Series 4. Miscellaneous, 1951, 1958, undated

2 folders

RPA 00327 (box 2)

Series 4 contains miscellaneous items such as a 1958 catalogue from Cambridge Records, a menu from the Green Mountain Inn at Stowe, Vermont, invoices of purchases, and a copy of a technical talk written for *American Record Guide* in 1951.

BOX 2	Miscellaneous
FOLDER 4	
BOX 2	Unidentified photograph, 1977
FOLDER 5	