

# Guide to the William L. Vallée Collection of Rudy Vallée Materials

MSS 147



compiled by Emily DiLeo

July 2018

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New Haven, CT 06520

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<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Photographs, bulk 1920–1945 .....	5
Glass plate negatives, circa 1925 .....	5
Memorabilia .....	6
Fan Club newsletters and sheet music .....	6
Scripts .....	7
Audiovisual material .....	8
Videotapes .....	8
Sound recordings .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Gilmore Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
musicsspecialcollections@yale.edu  
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 147

**CREATOR:** Vallée, Rudy, 1901-1986

**TITLE:** The William L. Vallée Collection of Rudy Vallée Materials

**DATES:** 1905-1986

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 9 linear feet (16 containers)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Collection contains photographs, clippings, programs, radio and TV scripts, memorabilia, and some audiovisual material.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0147>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0147>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

## **Biographical / Historical**

Rudy Vallée (1901-1986, born Hubert Prior Vallée) was a popular saxophonist, singer and bandleader in the first half of the 20th century. First of the genre of singers known as "crooners", Vallée attended Yale University, graduating in 1929. He named himself "Rudy" after the influential saxophonist Rudy Wiedoeft, and after graduation he formed the band, "Rudy Vallée and the Connecticut Yankees".

Vallée went on to become a mass media pop star. He hosted several popular radio shows, and acted in films and Broadway musicals.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The Collection contains photographs, clippings, programs, radio and TV scripts, memorabilia, and some audiovisual material.

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## **Arrangement**

The collection is organized into four series: I. Photographs, II. Memorabilia, III. Scripts, and IV. Audiovisual material.

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## Collection Contents

### Photographs, bulk 1920–1945

Photographs include head shots, publicity photos, band photos and group photos.

Nine rolled photographs are unavailable for viewing without conservation treatment. The photos feature groups assembled for "Welcome Home Rudy" celebrations in Maine, as well as groups of female musicians at a school in Detroit, Michigan.

Photographs are arranged roughly by year and size. Some are contained in albums and scrapbooks.

b. 1-5, 5a

b. 6	Glass plate negatives negatives from Westbrook, Maine  Glass plate negatives	circa 1925
b. 6a	Yale Class of 1926 group photo	

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**Memorabilia**

b. 7	Fan Club newsletters and sheet music Contains newsletters from the Rudy Vallee Rooters and The Valle Crusaders.	
b. 8	Rudy Vallée jigsaw puzzle	
b. 9	Magazines, clippings and publicity	
b. 10, 6a	Magazines, clippings and publicity	
b. 11	Financial records, correspondence, stationary and guest register	
b. 12	"Rudy Vallée Lodge" guestbook	
b. 12	Letter "V" from Valley High, Deep River, CT	
b. 13	National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences award "In appreciation Rudy Vallee 'The Grammy Awards Show'"	1975
b. 14	Wooden caricature of Rudy Vallée	
b. 5a	High school diploma Diploma requires conservation treatment and is unavailable for viewing.	

## **Scripts**

Radio, television and movie scripts.

b. 8

## **Audiovisual material**

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b. 15	Videotapes <i>4 Videocassettes</i>
b. 16	Sound recordings <i>14 Phonograph Records : various formats, including aluminum and transcription discs</i>

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Crooning

Popular music -- United States -- 1921-1930

Popular music -- United States -- 1931-1940

### **Acquired From**

Vallée, William L., donor