Guide to the The University of Alabama Glee Club Post Card and Newspaper Clipping
MSS.3877

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July 09, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>The University of Alabama Glee Club Post Card and Newspaper Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1921-1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.05 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The collection contains one picture postcard depicting The University of Alabama Glee Club during its seventeenth season as well as a picture of the group (year unknown) clipped from a newspaper.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preferred Citation note

The University of Alabama Glee Club Post Card and Newspaper Clipping, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

A glee club is a musical group or choir group, historically of male voices but also of female or mixed voices, which traditionally specializes in the singing of short songs — glee — by trios or quartets. In the late 19th Century it was very popular in most schools and was made a tradition to have in American High Schools from then on. The first named Glee Club was founded in Harrow School, in London, England, in 1787. Glee clubs were very popular in the UK from then until the mid-1850s but by that time, they were gradually being superseded by choral societies. By the mid-20th century, proper glee clubs were no longer common. However, the term remains in use, primarily for choirs found in North American colleges and universities, despite the fact that most American glee clubs are choruses in the traditional sense and no longer perform glee. Glee in this context does not refer to the mood of the music or of its singers, but to a specific form of English part song popular between 1650 and 1900, the glee.

The University of Alabama Glee Club was probably founded in the latter years of the 19th century, first under the leadership of Miss Annie Searcy (Mrs. Simpson Keller) and John Peter Ludebuehl. Then Tom Garner was tasked with getting together a "novel program" for Alumni Day in 1905. The event was a success - so much so that President John Abercrombie suggested Garner "take up the work regularly" in the 1906 academic year.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains one picture postcard depicting The University of Alabama Glee Club during its seventeenth season. The thirty-one male members of the club are seated, wearing tuxedos. Seven of the men hold guitars, mandolins, and banjos. The collection also has a picture clipped from a newspaper showing the young men standing on the steps of a building. The caption states that the "white haired gentleman in the center is Tom Garner, who has guided the destinies of the glee club for a third of a century."

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama August 2011
**Revision Description**

July 2013

**Conditions Governing Access note**
None

**Conditions Governing Use note**
None

**Provenance**
Gift of Ronald and Elizabeth Howard

**Processed by**
Erin Schmidt, 2011; updated by Martha Bace, 2013

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**Controlled Access Headings**

**Corporate Name(s)**

- University of Alabama. Department of Music.

**Subject(s)**

- Glee clubs
- Music and Performing Arts
- Popular Culture
- University of Alabama
## Collection Inventory

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