Trapp Family
Photograph Collection, 1944-1967
FB-87

Introduction

This is an "artificial" collection composed of two sets of images of the Trapp Family Singers of Stowe, Vermont, for the period 1944 through about 1967. The largest group is a set of photographs and real photo postcards commissioned by the family for promotional purposes; the second are duplicates of snapshots taken by Addie Dragunas of Brooklyn, New York, a participant in the Trapp Family Music Camp in 1944-45. The postcards were purchased by the Vermont Historical Society from an antiquarian book dealer in March 2006 (ms. acc. no. 2006.15); the snapshots were scanned by the Society in August 2007 from originals owned by Joann S. Wood and Justine M. Ross, daughters of Addie Dragunas (ms. acc. no. 2007.6). The collection is housed in one flip-top archival box and consumes .5 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Notes

In 1939 the family of Baron Georg von Trapp (1880-1947) left Nazi-occupied Austria and emigrated to the United States. Von Trapp's second wife, Maria (1905-1987), told the family story in *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* (1949). The fictionalized story of their escape is told in the Broadway musical *The Sound of Music* (1959) and subsequent motion picture (1965).

The von Trapp family first settled in Pennsylvania. In 1942 they purchased a 600-acre tract of land on a hillside in Stowe, Vermont, where the topography reminded them of their homeland. In 1944 the family rented an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp near their Stowe home and established a music camp there. Over one thousand people of all ages and from all walks of life made their way to Stowe to learn *a cappella* singing and recorder playing. The camp was discontinued after the summer season in 1956, when the family began to develop new avenues for their creativity, religious activities, and hospitality. The Trapp Family Singers disbanded in 1957. The family eventually built a lodge and ski center in Stowe which has become a popular tourist attraction.

The Bicknell Manufacturing Company was founded as the Bicknell Picture Company by John Carleton Bicknell and his brother, Edward, in Portland, Maine, in about 1902. The brothers split and the company eventually passed on to J. Carleton's son, John Alfred Bicknell, between 1943 and 1950. Somewhere around 1956 Alfred moved the company to 99 Tolman Street, Westbrook, Maine, where he operated the company on a limited basis. Alfred died in February 2005; remnants of the company archives were sold at auction in Pennsylvania in November 2005.

Adeline Viola Dragunas (1918-1964) attended the Trapp Family Music Camp in the summers of 1944 and 1945. She had married Anthony Samalionis in 1941 and during

the years he was stationed in the Pacific during WWII, she traveled from Brooklyn, New York, to the music camp in Vermont. She was a member of the Robert Shaw Collegiate Choral, based in New York City, sang in several church choirs and performed as a soloist under the professional name Adeline Salis.

Scope and Content

The first series in this collection contains a collection of photographs and real photo postcards created by the Bicknell Manufacturing Company of Portland and Westbrook, Maine, and American Views, Inc., of New York, New York, probably during the period 1953 through 1967. Twenty-seven of these photographs and postcards are in an album containing a five-digit number and caption information for each photograph. These images include posed portraits of the family, informal photographs of the music camp staff and campers, and photographs of the family's buildings.

The collection includes five folders of 42 postcards taken about the same time as the images in the album. Some of the family portraits are dated January 1960; one of the views of the main building is dated January 1953. Most have order numbers on the back. Those that do not have a piece of paper glued to the back have brief postcard captions on the back.

Also in the collection are 14 sheet negatives that were used to create some of the images in this collection. Accompanying them are very informal notes about dates and quantities of orders recorded on the sleeves which housed the negatives. The sleeves have been photocopied for long-term preservation. Some of these sleeves contain dates that may indicate the date the image was taken or, at the least, the first date the image was used on a postcard. The sleeves indicate that at least one of the images was being ordered as late as 1980, although the image itself dates from a much earlier period.

The second series is a set of 24 digital copies of photographs taken when Addie Dragunas of Brooklyn, New York, attended the Trapp Family Music Camp in the summers of 1944 and 1945. Twenty of the photographs are snapshots of Addie, Father Franz Wasner (1905-1992) who was the Trapp Family's musical advisor, and groups of campers. Four of the images are postcards, three that include messages from Addie to her family (the fourth postcard was purchased by the donors in 2007 and added to the collection before donation to the VHS). All of the images are in TIF format and are stored on a CD-ROM; seven of the photographs have been printed on photographic paper.

Inventory

I. Bicknell Mfg. Co. Archive

FB-87:01	Album of numbered real photo postcards, 1953
2	Postcards, family portraits (10)
3	_____, individual family members and Father Wasner, (8)
4	_____, music camp and other groups, (7)

5 _____, buildings, chapels (8)
6 _____, _____, other buildings (9)
7 _____, duplicates with order information on the back
8 Negatives and order information
9 Correspondence with Bicknell Mfg. Co.
10 Article, color postcard, empty envelope, fragments

II. Addie Dragunas Photographs

11 Thumbnails, photo identification information, and CD-ROM (copy of Zip-62)
12 Copy prints of selected photographs (7)

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trappfamily.doc
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