

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Library
Archives and Special Collections**

**Paul Clayton (1931-1967)
Papers, 1937-1967**

**Manuscript Collection-MC 4
Guide and collection inventory**

3.3 linear feet (8 manuscript boxes and 15 vinyl recordings)

Biographical note:

Paul Clayton was born Paul Worthington in New Bedford in 1931. While a student at New Bedford High School, at the age of fifteen, he began his first folk-radio series on channel WNBH in New Bedford. He attended the University of Virginia where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors, in English Literature. He continued with his graduate studies at the University of Virginia, studying folklore under professor, folklorist, and archivist Arthur Kyle Davis, Jr.

Clayton became proficient at singing, guitar, lute, and dulcimer. He traveled and performed extensively throughout Western Europe and the eastern seaboard of the United States. It was during these travels that Clayton collected hundreds of traditional folk songs, incorporating aspects of them into his own work as a folk artist. Some of the British ballads collected by Clayton can be traced back to the 12th and 13th centuries. Much of Clayton's written work has been published in journals and magazines concerning folk and traditional music; including *Southern Folklore*.

Clayton performed for the BBC, the Library of Congress Archive, and the Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection in countries such as France, Italy, Germany, England, and the United States. He has also performed numerous times on radio and television. He made regular radio appearances in New Bedford and in Virginia. Besides his traveling, extensive research, scholarly publications, and performances, Clayton recorded numerous albums. He achieved much fame due to these recordings, for in 1954 he became known as "America's most recorded young folk singer." In 195-, he took the stage name of Paul Clayton, Clayton being his father's first name. His last album was recorded in 1964, three years before his death in 1967.

Source: biographical publications and various newspaper articles from the New Bedford daily newspaper, *The Standard Times*.

Scope and content:

The papers include photographs, newspaper articles, graduation programs, and articles written by Clayton as a student at the University of Virginia, as well as Clayton's collection also contains a vast compilation of lyrics to folk songs which had resulted from Clayton's extensive traveling and collecting of traditional works throughout Western Europe and the United States' eastern seaboard. Additionally, Bob Dylan song sheets, numerous reel recordings, and the commercial recordings, on vinyl disk, of Clayton himself can all be found in the Paul Clayton collection.

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Acquisition: gift of Mrs. Adah Worthington in memory of her son, October 1969.

Access: unrestricted

Copyright: retained by the estate of Paul Clayton; any re-recording for commercial reasons is strictly prohibited (see control file). Recordings by other artists are copyright of the artist or the recording studio.

Citation: *Paul Clayton Papers, Archives and Special Collections, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Library, North Dartmouth, MA*

Processing note: The collection was foldered, boxed and organized shortly after it was received, however there was no finding aid or inventory prepared at that time. Julie Fernandes '99 reviewed the collection, rearranged it slightly and prepared the finding aid, June 1997.

Box # Folder # Folder title

Personal materials:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | photographs, 1937, c. 1946, c. 1950, 1962 |
| | 2 | graduation programs, 1949, 1953, 1957 |
| | 3 | University of Virginia magazine, 1956 |
| | 4 | newspaper clippings, 1953-1967 |
| | 5 | music reviews and biographical excerpts, 1958-1969 |
| | 6 | "More Traditional Ballads of Virginia" by Arthur Kyle Davis, Jr., ed., 1960 |
| | 7 | "The Newport Folk Festival Songbook" by Jean Ritchie, c 1964 |
| | 8 | The original guide to the collection (by archivist Helen Koss), 1983 |

Folk lyrics collected by Clayton:

- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| 2 | 9 | Sheet music, 1954 |
| | 10-12 | Lyrics transcribed from vinyl disk, c 1955-1965 |
| | 13 | Lyric drafts and re-writes, c. 1955-1965 |
| | 14-17 | Lyrics to folk songs recorded by Clayton commercially |
| 3 | 18 | Background information to folk songs, 1892, 1940 |
| | 19 | Releases for traditional Virginian ballads, 1961-62 |
| | 20 | Australian song lyrics, 1955-1965 |
| | 21 | The Etta Baker Family (lyrics collected from) |
| | 22 | Bawdy song lyrics, n.d. |
| | 23 | BBC text, 1937-1950 |
| | 24 | Blues and jazz song lyrics, c. 1955-1965 |
| | 25 | Broadside ballads, 1907 |
| | 26 | Farmers and sailors - "un-American" songs (index included), c. 1955-1965 |
| | 27 | International lyrics with translations, c 1955-1965 |
| | 28 | "Merry Muses of Caledonia" by Bobby Burns and Paul Clayton, c 1963 |
| | 29 | New England (lyrics collected in), 1955 |
| 4 | 30 | Political ballads, c. 1955-1965 |
| | 31 | Presnell, Monroe (lyrics collected from), c. 1956 |
| | 32 | Robin Hood ballads, 1932, 1942 |
| | 33 | Tyneside and Scottish Lowland lyrics, c. 1955-1965 |
| | 34 | Virginia, Kentucky, and N. Carolina (lyrics collected in), c. 1955-1965 |
| | 35 | Whaling songs and related material, 1825-1848, 1959 |
| | 36 | Lyrics (MSS copied), 1954 |
| | 37-38 | Lyrics (various), 1955-56 |
| | 39 | Lyrics (duplicates), c. 1955-1965 |
| 5 | 40-41 | Collection of lyrics to folk songs by Emory L. Hamilton, c. 1939-42 |
| | 42-43 | Collection of lyrics to folk songs by Raymond H. Sloan, c. 1937 |
| | 44-45 | Collection of lyrics to folk songs by various artists, c. 1948 |
| 8 | 46-50 | Bob Dylan songsheets |

Reel recordings of the music of Paul Clayton and other artists

Box # Reel# Title of reel

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6 | 1 | Goldstein Archives: Reverend Gary Davis, Decormiers, Artus Moser's daughters, Ewan MacColl, George Yokim, Paul Clayton |
| | 2 | Goldstein Archive: Virgil Sturgill, Pink Anderson, Paul Clayton |
| | 3 | Goldstein Archive: Patrick Galvin, Margaret Barry, L. Lloyd, John Greenway |

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Reel#</u>	<u>Title of reel</u>	
6	4	Goldstein Archive: John Greenway, Paul Clayton, Gina Glaser	
	5	Goldstein Archive: Paul Clayton	
	6	British Archive: traditional singers and recordings, Tony Wales	
	7	Lord Buckley	
	8	Chase Archive	
	9	Chase Archive: Mrs. Cal Hicks	
	10	MacAllister, 1957	
	11	MacAllister, 1957	
	12	MacAllister, 1958	
	13	MacAllister, 1959	
	7	14	WPA: Anne Corbin Ball
		15	WPA: Mrs. Polly Johnson
		16	WPA: Houston Bald Knot String Band, "Peg" Hatcher
17		WPA: H.L. Maxey Ferrus	
18		WPA: Mrs. W.L. Martin	
19		WPA: Hymns, Mrs. W.L. Martin	
20		WPA: Mrs. W.L. Martin	
21		WPA: Aunt Molly Jackson	
22		WPA: Play Party Songs, Mrs. Esco Kilgore	
23		WPA: Horton Barker and Sailor Dad Hunt	
24		WPA (performers unknown)	
25		Bob Dylan (town hall concert, part 1, 4-12-63)	
26		Bob Dylan (town hall concert, part 2, 4-12-63)	
27,28		Bob Dylan: Columbia Records, unissued recordings	

Commercial audio recordings on vinyl disk:

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Recording #</u>	<u>Title</u>
9	1	American Folk Tales and Songs, 1956
	2	Bloody Ballads, 1956
	3	British Broadside Ballads in Popular Tradition, 1957
	4	Dulcimer Songs and Solos, 1962
	5	Everybody Sing, n.d.
	6	Folk Songs for Little Cowboys, [196-?]
	7	Homemade Songs and Ballads, n.d.
	8	Instrumental Music of the Southern Appalachians, 1956
	9	Our Singing Heritage, n.d.
	10	Paul Clayton, Folk Singer!, n.d.
	11	Timberrr!, 1957
	12	Tradition Folk Sampler, n.d.
	13	Unholy Matrimony, [1959?]
	14	Wanted for Murder, 1956
	15	Whaling and Sailing Songs from the Days of Moby Dick, [c.1956]