



From Nasal Spray to Grammy Awards: The Leonard Bernstein Collection at Indiana University



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How do non-archivists handle an archival collection? The Leonard Bernstein Collection was donated to the Indiana University Cook Music Library in 2009. It encompasses a wide array of his personal materials: books, sound recordings, artwork, clothing, furniture, awards, and even nasal spray, amounting to nearly 2,000 items. A collection such as this is of great interest to Bernstein scholars. However, the music library is not set up to handle archival materials, and the potential drain on budget and staff time to properly do so resulted in a lack of concrete progress for several years. In the last two years, great strides have been made in meeting some of the challenges in preservation, storage, discovery, and access. Thanks to a system of collaboration between staff, student workers, and volunteers, a full inventory is complete, and an EAD-based finding aid will soon be published online. The materials are now available to leave the library on loan for a worldwide Grammy Museum exhibition celebrating the centennial of Bernstein's birth. More importantly, they will be discoverable and accessible to Bernstein scholars who wish to use them in the future.

