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**Michael Cummings Collection of P.S. Gilmore Materials
1850-2004**

M135/2004-1

Last updated: August 2008

COLLECTION OVERVIEW:

AUTHOR: Gilmore, P.S. (Patrick Sarsfield), 1829-1892

SOURCE: Received from Michael Cummings

COLLECTION #: M135/2004-1

ACCESSION DATE: September 2004

QUANTITY: 5 linear feet (11 boxes)

LOCATION: Irish Music Center Stacks

PROCESSED BY: Sarah K. Nytroe

LANGUAGE(S): English

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS: Collection is open for research. The wax cylinder is not accessible, and access to the remaining audio and video recordings requires advance notice.

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ABSTRACT: The Michael Cummings Collection of P.S. Gilmore Materials documents the music career of Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, American band conductor and composer, and the activities of the Patrick S. Gilmore Society. Artificially created by Cummings, the collection particularly highlights the National Peace Jubilee of 1869 and the World's Peace Jubilee of 1872, with programs, lithographs, tickets, medals and bookmarks. The collection also includes correspondence, photographs, and newspaper and magazine articles.

PREFERRED CITATION: Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Michael Cummings Collection of P.S. Gilmore Materials, M135/2004-1, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

PROCESSING NOTE: Additional published materials received from Michael Cummings can be accessed through the Quest Catalog; the Local Collection name is [Cummings \(Michael Cummings Collection of P.S. Gilmore\)](#).

RELATED MATERIALS: For additional materials on Patrick S. Gilmore see the Patrick Gilmore Collection at the University of Maryland. To access the finding aid see: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/PAL/SCPA/ABA/Gilmore/>.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore

Patrick Sarsfield (P.S.) Gilmore, who became known as the "Father of the American Concert Band," was born in County Galway, Ireland, on December 25, 1829. Most sources give the town of Ballygar as Gilmore's birthplace.

His musical career began when he started playing the flute as a teenager. With no positions available for flutists in the Athlone-based Irish Regiment band, Gilmore switched to the cornet. Gilmore accompanied the Irish Regiment when it was sent to Canada in 1848. Shortly thereafter he moved to Boston, where he worked with a local music publisher and dealer. In the 1850s Gilmore opened his own music store, earned a reputation as a cornetist, and conducted several bands in and around Boston.

When the Civil War broke out, the Boston band that he organized in 1859 enlisted with the Union Army via the Twenty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers. Although the band's tenure with the army lasted less than a year, it performed musical and medical duties at several battles including Bull Run and Antietam. For the duration of the war, Gilmore was in charge of reorganizing the Massachusetts military bands and managing the music for the inauguration of the Louisiana governor in 1864.

Gilmore's popularity and prestige were particularly enhanced by his organization and staging of two music festivals: the National Peace Jubilee of 1869 to raise money for the widows and orphans of Civil War soldiers, and the World's Peace Jubilee of 1872 in honor of the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Both events were held in Boston, Massachusetts, and both jubilees were large-scale festivals (the first lasting five days and the second lasting eighteen days) that included vocal and instrumental music. For each occasion special coliseums were constructed to house the large band, choir, and audiences; both the first coliseum (the "grand") and the second coliseum (the "great") could hold tens of thousands of people.

After the conclusion of the second jubilee, Gilmore turned his attention back to conducting bands, where he integrated more and more woodwinds (based upon European models) into what had traditionally been brass bands. Gilmore began leading the New York Twenty-seventh Regiment Band in 1873. He led this band for almost twenty years during which it performed nearly once a day.

In addition to conducting bands, organizing, and managing music programs, Gilmore also authored several pieces of music and poems, including "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Gilmore died unexpectedly in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 24, 1892.

Source:

Jere T. Humphreys. "Strike Up the Band! The Legacy of Patrick S. Gilmore." *Music Educators Journal* 74, no. 2 (October 1987): 22-26.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Michael Cummings Collection of P.S. Gilmore Materials documents the life and music career of Irish-American Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore and highlights the activities of the Patrick S. Gilmore Society, founded by Michael Cummings in Boston in 1969. The collection was artificially created by Michael Cummings and includes correspondence, concert programs, photographs, lithographs, audio and video recordings, and newspaper and magazine articles. Much of the material documents the National Peace Jubilee of 1869 and the World's Peace Jubilee of 1872, both held in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, the correspondence and newspaper articles from the nineteenth century are copies of original documents.

The collection is arranged in seven series.

SERIES LISTING:

I. Patrick S. Gilmore Biographical Information

II. Music and Concert Programs

III. Sheet Music and Poems

IV. Graphic Materials

V. The Patrick S. Gilmore Society

VI. Artifacts

VII. Audio and Video Recordings

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Series I: Patrick S. Gilmore Biographical Information, 1858-1892

This series contains material documenting the life of P.S. Gilmore; all items are photocopies. There are a few pieces of correspondence from Gilmore, along with his marriage and death certificates.

Series II: Music and Concert Programs, 1855-1878

This series is comprised of material documenting Gilmore's music career. There are several programs for music concerts including those for the National Peace Jubilee of 1869 and the World's Peace Jubilee of 1872. The series is arranged chronologically.

Series III: Sheet Music and Poems, 1850-1863

This series contains sheet music covers and sheet music written by Gilmore and his contemporaries, including Frances C. Thomas and Louis Antoine Jullien. While some of the pieces of sheet music are original, most are photocopies. The series also contains photocopies of poems and song lyrics penned by Gilmore. The series is arranged chronologically.

Series IV: Graphic Materials, 1852-1972

This series contains visual documentation, particularly photographs and lithographs, of the music career of P.S. Gilmore and the activities of the Patrick S. Gilmore Society. There are photographs of Gilmore, his family and band, sketches and lithographs of the coliseums used for the peace jubilees, and photographs of Ballygar, Ireland. Most of the photographs are undated. There are also posters advertising concerts produced by the Patrick S. Gilmore Society. This series is arranged according to format.

Series V: The Patrick S. Gilmore Society, 1968-2004

This series includes material detailing the history and activities of the Patrick S. Gilmore Society. Material in this series includes correspondence from and to Michael Cummings regarding P.S. Gilmore's life and music career. It also contains material collected by the Gilmore Society including newspaper and magazine articles, a roster of the Gilmore band, a map with the location of the peace jubilee coliseums, and an untitled typescript about Gilmore by John Nicholson. Finally, this series includes several programs for concerts organized by the Patrick S. Gilmore Society. The series is arranged according to format.

Series VI: Artifacts, 1859-2000

The artifacts series includes material pertaining directly to Gilmore and the Gilmore Society. Items relating to Gilmore include his baton, a cornet (undated), a piece of wood from the coliseum used for the National Peace Jubilee of 1869, and medals and a medallion commemorating the peace jubilees. In addition, the series contains ticket stubs and bookmarks for the two peace jubilee concerts and other concerts. Items pertaining to the Gilmore Society include awards given to Michael Cummings in recognition for his scholarship on Gilmore and a hat for the Patrick S. Gilmore Society All State Community Band. The series is arranged according to format.

Series VII: Audio and Video Recordings, 1910-1994

This series contains audio and video recordings. The recordings chronicle Gilmore's band music and his life and music career. The majority of the material in this series is several lectures, given primarily by Michael Cummings. There is also one wax cylinder recording in a container that is hand-labeled "Any Rags"; this item is extremely fragile and is currently inaccessible to researchers. Permission to access the audio and video tapes in this series requires advance notice. The series is arranged chronologically.

INVENTORY AND CONTAINER LIST:

Box Folder Title, Date

Series I: Patrick S. Gilmore Biographical Material, 1858-1892

- 1 1 Outgoing Correspondence from P.S. Gilmore (photocopies), 1864-1879
- 1 2 Record of Marriage (photocopy), 1858
- 1 3 Record of Death (photocopy), 1892

Series II: Music and Concert Programs, 1855-1878

- 1 5 The People's Promenade Concert Program (photocopy), 1855
- 1 6 Grand Concert Program, 1869 May 10
- 1 7 National Peace Jubilee Grand Testimonial to P.S. Gilmore Program, 1869 June 29

- 8 17 National Peace Jubilee Official Program, 1869 June

- 1 8 Boston Music Hall Grand Concert Programs, 1871 February

- 9 13 World's Peace Jubilee Third Day Program, 1872 June 19

- 1 9 World's Peace Jubilee and International Music Festival Official Program, 1872 June 26
- 1 10 World's Peace Jubilee and International Music Festival Afternoon Program, 1872 June 27
- 1 11 World's Peace Jubilee Program, 1872 June
- 1 12 World's Peace Jubilee Appendix to Music, 1872
- 1 13 Grand Festival Concert at the Tabernacle Program, 1877 June 27
- 1 14 Representative Military Band of the U.S. Grand Concert in Dublin Flyer (photocopy), 1878 May 16

Series III: Sheet Music and Poems, 1850-1863

- 9 1 Silver Lake Quickstep by Miss Frances C. Thomas, 1850
- 9 2 Jenny Lind Sketch from Sheet Music, 1850
- 9 3 Gilmore's Band Music Arranged for the Piano (photocopy), 1855
- 9 4 Norwich Cadets Polka by Gilmore, 1857
- 9 5 Covers of Sheet Music by Gilmore (photocopies), 1850-1863
- 9 6 The Celebrated Polkas by Julien (Louis Antoine Jullien), undated
- 9 7 National Anthem Scores (photocopies), undated
- 9 8 Sheet Music Covers (photocopies), undated
- 9 9 Gilmore Sheet Music Covers (photograph), undated

- 1 4 Poems and Song Lyrics by Gilmore (photocopies), undated

Series IV: Graphic Materials, 1852-1972

- 2 3 P.S. Gilmore in Band Uniform and Dress Suits (photograph), undated
- 2 4 P.S. Gilmore in Band Uniform and Dress Suits (photograph), undated

- 2 5 Ellen Gilmore, P.S. Gilmore, and Minnie Gilmore -- Family (photograph), undated
- 2 6 Minnie Gilmore (photograph), undated
- 2 7 Birthplace of P.S. Gilmore (photograph), undated
- 2 8 P.S. Gilmore Manufactured Cornet (photograph), undated
- 2 9 P.S. Gilmore and His Band (photograph), undated
- 2 10 Interior of Boston's Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 2 11 Sketches of Interior of Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 2 12 Sketch of Exterior of Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 2 13 Anvil Chorus Group at the Boston Peace Jubilee (photograph), 1869
- 2 14 Gilmore Memorabilia (photograph), undated
- 2 15 Gilmore's Cornet and a Gilmore Bust (photograph), undated
- 2 16 Sketch of the Grand Ball at the Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 2 17 Lower Main Street in Ballygar (photograph), undated
- 2 18 Exterior Construction of the Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 2 19 Dedication of the Gilmore House in Ballygar (photograph), 1969
- 2 20 Dedication of the Gilmore House in Ballygar (photograph), 1969
- 2 21 Unidentified Man Sitting in Carriage (photograph), undated
- 2 22 Unidentified Men in Boston (photograph), undated
- 2 23 M. Arbuckle (photograph), undated
- 2 24 Bandmaster Keating's House in Ireland (photograph), undated
- 2 25 Curtis Larkin Holding Gilmore's Last Baton (photograph), 1972 May 1
- 2 26 Unidentified Men at the Grave of John Gilmore [possibly P.S. Gilmore's older brother] (photograph), undated
- 8 1 World's Peace Jubilee Great Coliseum (photograph of lithograph), 1872 June-July
- 8 2 World's Peace Jubilee Great Coliseum (photograph of lithograph), 1872 June-July
- 8 11 P.S. Gilmore in Uniform (photograph), undated
- 8 13 P.S. Gilmore in Uniform (photograph), undated
- 9 10 Oversized Photographs, undated
P.S. Gilmore in New York City (photograph), undated
P.S. Gilmore's Cornet and Bust Statue (photograph), undated
Grand Coliseum (photograph), undated
- 12 -- Oversized Photographs, undated
P.S. Gilmore Band (photograph), circa 1884
World's Peace Jubilee Coliseum (photograph of lithograph), 1872
- 9 11 "Camp Seaver" (article) and "Encampment of the Fifth Regiment of Artillery on Boston Common" (sketch), 1852 August 28
- 9 12 Grand Coliseum, *Harper's Weekly* (sketch), 1869 June 19

- 9 14 Miscellaneous Material, 1869 and undated
Exterior View of National Peace Jubilee Grand Coliseum (lithograph fragment),
1869
"Boston: Four Centuries: A Pictorial History of the City" (page), undated
Roxbury Horse Guards (image), undated
- 8 3 Walnut Street Theatre (broadside), 1853 September 13
- 8 4 National Peace Jubilee Grand Coliseum (lithograph), 1869 June
- 8 5 National Peace Jubilee Grand Coliseum (lithograph), 1869 June
- 8 6 "Let Us Have Peace," *Harper's Weekly* (illustration), 1869 June 19
- 8 7 Interior View of Grand Coliseum, *Harper's Weekly* (illustration), 1869 June 19
- 8 8 National Peace Jubilee Grand Coliseum (lithograph), 1869 June
- 8 9 National Peace Jubilee Grand Coliseum (lithograph), 1869 June
- 8 10 World's Peace Jubilee Great Coliseum (lithograph), 1872 June-July
- 8 12 "P.S. Gilmore Concert Centurn [sic]..." (placard), undated
- 8 14 Coliseum at World's Peace Jubilee (lithograph), 1872 June-July
- 8 15 Coliseum at World's Peace Jubilee (lithograph), 1872 June-July
- 8 16 The Illustrious Sons of Ireland (lithograph), undated
- 8 18 Miscellaneous Large Posters, undated

Series V: The Patrick S. Gilmore Society, 1968-2004

- 1 17 Michael Cummings' Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence about Gilmore, 1968-
1971 March
- 1 18 Michael Cummings' Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence about Gilmore, 1971
April-1997
- 1 19 Michael Cummings' Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence about Gilmore,
undated
- 1 20 P.S. Gilmore's Band Roster, 1892
- 1 21 Copley Square with Locations of Jubilee Coliseums (sketch), undated
- 1 22 Biographical Information about Gilmore, undated
- 1 23 Primary Source Research Material on Gilmore, undated
- 1 24 Untitled Manuscript about Gilmore and the Peace Jubilee by John Nicholson (Part
I), March 1971
- 1 25 Untitled Manuscript about Gilmore and the Peace Jubilee by John Nicholson (Part
II), March 1971
- 1 26 Chapter 1: "Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore" by John Nicholson, typescript, undated
- 1 27 Research Material on cornetist Jules Levy (1838-1903), undated
- 1 28 Gonzaga University Concert Band for the Washington Music Educators Association
Convention Program, 1966 February 22
- 1 29 Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore Memorial Exercises in Copley Square Program, 1972
June 18
- 1 30 Irish Night at the Pops [unknown location] Program, 1982 May 23
- 1 31 Gilmore's Twenty-Second Regiment Band of New York at Manhattan Beach
Exhibit, 1982

- 1 32 "Oom Pah Pah: The Great American Band" Exhibit Program (Traveling Exhibit), 1982-1983
- 1 33 Milton Historical Society Newsletter, 1991 March
- 1 34 P.S. Gilmore Band Jubilee at Boston City Hall Plaza Program, 1992 June 13
- 1 35 P.S. Gilmore Band Jubilee [unknown location] Program, 1993 June 13
- 1 36 P.S. Gilmore Week Resolution, 1992 September 20
- 1 37 Gilmore Society Board of Directors and Officers, 2002
- 1 38 P.S. Gilmore Tombstone Image (photocopy), undated
- 1 39 Gilmore Society Letterhead, undated
- 1 40 Miscellaneous Material, undated
- 1 41 Articles, 1902-1970 April

- 2 1 Articles, 1970 November-2004
- 2 2 Articles, undated

- 9 15 Citation from the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Michael Cummings, 1972 June 18

Series VI: Artifacts, 1859-2000

- 1 15 Gilmore Concert and Peace Jubilee Tickets, 1859-1872
- 1 16 Gilmore Concert and Peace Jubilee Bookmarks, 1869

- 3 -- P.S. Gilmore's Baton [stored in wooden box], undated

- 4 -- National and World's Peace Jubilee Medals, 1869-1872

- 5 -- Father John's Medicine for Coughs and Colds, undated

- 6 -- Plaque in recognition of Michael Cummings, 1992 September 20

- 7 -- Gilmore Paraphernalia, 1869-2000
 Portion of 1869 Coliseum, 1869
 National Peace Jubilee Wood Medallion, 1869
 P.S. Gilmore Society All State Community Band Hat, 1996
 Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award to Michael Cummings, 2000

- 10 -- Cornet, "Perfected Wonder, patented June 15 1886." Made by C.G. Conn, Elkhart, Indiana, serial number M96015 (undated).

Series VII: Audio and Video Recordings, 1910-1994

- 11 -- Gilmore's "Any Rags" (audio recording: wax cylinder recording), ca. 1910
- 11 -- Masonic Temple Lecture on Gilmore and Peace Jubilee by Major Paul Muniers (audio recording: sound tape reel), 1968
- 11 -- Milton Historical Society Lecture by Michael Cummings (audio recording: sound cassette), 1977 March 16
- 11 -- Irish Radio in Ballygar (audio recording: sound cassette), 1979

- 11 -- Eire Society Lecture on P.S. Gilmore (1980 December 7) and Interview of T.J. Flatley for Irish Television (audio recording: sound cassette), 1985
- 11 -- Adams Academy Lecture on Gilmore (audio recording: sound cassette), 1983 March 20
- 11 -- Milton Historical Society Lecture (audio recording: sound cassette), 1991 March 17
- 11 -- Gilmore Day at Boston City Hall Plaza (video recording: videocassette), 1992 September 20
- 11 -- P.S. Gilmore Society Massachusetts All State Community Band Concert at the Hatch Shell (audio recording: sound cassette), 1994 August 27
- 11 -- Gilmore Lecture Practice (audio recording: sound cassette), undated