

## WALTER C. SCOTT, JR. COLLECTION

(Summary)



Tommy Dorsey (1946) (Library of Congress)

The Glenn Miller Archive (GMA) of the American Music Research Center is honored to announce the donation of the Walter C. Scott, Jr. Collection, the most significant and internationally renowned library of recordings and documentation of the late bandleader Thomas Francis ("Tommy") Dorsey, Jr. (1905-1956).

Walter Compton Scott, Jr. (January 17, 1933 - July 23, 2012) was a native and lifetime resident of Raleigh, North Carolina. He spent a lifetime living, breathing and solely collecting anything and everything connected with Tommy Dorsey. Walter openly and generously shared his wealth of knowledge and assisted anyone interested in Tommy Dorsey. He was a talented audio engineer who worked diligently to gather, restore and preserve the recordings and radio broadcasts of Tommy Dorsey in a professional manner. The recordings, photographs and documents contained in the Walter Scott Collection are precisely organized. In addition to representing the vast sweep of Tommy Dorsey's recorded and broadcast history, the collection contains the largest known set of Dorsey photographs and documents.

The addition of the Walter C. Scott, Jr. Collection allows the GMA to continue Walter's memory as the leading Tommy Dorsey resource in the world in conjunction with the other rich GMA collections containing Dorsey recordings, photographs and documents, including the Edward Burke Collection. Walter and Ed Burke of Fort Lauderdale, Florida were incidentally close friends and colleagues. The GMA acquired the Edward Burke Collection in 2010.

The preservation, restoration and communication of Tommy Dorsey's legacy are important and natural responsibilities for the GMA and make perfect sense.

Thomas Francis Dorsey, Jr. was one of the most successful and prolific bandleaders in the United States from 1934 to 1956. Known as the *Sentimental Gentleman of Swing* for his famous trombone talent and accurately labeled the *Starmaker*, he promoted the careers of many musicians, singers and arrangers, including among dozens of artists most famously Frank Sinatra. Dorsey's recorded legacy is immense, including his RCA Victor recording history and many commercial and sustaining radio broadcasts for every national network and the Armed Forces Radio Service. Dorsey was a colorful and prominent public figure who also appeared on various radio and television series as a guest star. Reunited with his brother James Francis "Jimmy" Dorsey in the 1950s, Dorsey introduced Elvis Presley to the nation on the CBS television series Stage Show produced by Jackie Gleason.

When the Dorsey Brothers started their own band in 1934, a key member of their organization was Glenn Miller. Dorsey and Miller would remain friends and rivals. When Miller was laid up with sinus trouble in 1940, Dorsey led Miller's band at the Paramount Theatre in New York. Although in 1939, Dorsey was reportedly angry because he had assisted in starting Miller's own band, Miller paid back what he thought was a loan which Dorsey thought was an investment. Dorsey then invested in another band, which attempted to copy Miller's style. Miller and Dorsey were numbers 1 and 2 in popularity polls from 1940 to 1942 when Miller entered the armed forces. They were the most prominent big band leaders of all time. It is wholly appropriate to preserve their legacies together.

The GMA has presented 46 Tommy Dorsey broadcasts in the weekly *Star Spangled Radio Hour Series* appearing in cooperation with our colleague KEZW radio in Denver. Dorsey's broadcasting legacy includes the NBC *Raleigh-Kool, Fame and Fortune, All Time Hit Parade, Tommy Dorsey and Company, Dorsey Drive*, Mutual and Blue Network Coca-Cola *Spotlight Bands* commercial programs; sustaining ABC (Blue Network), CBS, Mutual and NBC (Red and Blue Network) broadcasts and numerous Armed Forces Radio Service programs emanating from many venues across the nation. The addition of the Walter C. Scott, Jr. Collection will further enable the GMA to present the rich array of Tommy Dorsey broadcasts to our worldwide audience.

The GMA will integrate the Walter C. Scott, Jr. Collection into our library and prepare the contents for eventual access by scholars and researchers.

Walter Compton Scott, Jr. was the son of Walter Compton Scott, Sr. and Inez Thomas. Daughter Kimberly Dale Scott Winnette and close personal friend Deanna Bonilla survive Walter, who was a friend of Tommy Dorsey's family, including daughter Patricia (Pat) Dorsey Hooker and the late Thomas Francis Dorsey III of Boulder and AMRC Advisory Board Member.