



Guide to the Kim Sisters Scrapbooks and Clippings

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Kim, Sook-ja, 1941-
Creator:	Kim Sisters (Musical group)
Title:	Kim Sisters Scrapbooks and Clippings
ID:	MS-00633
Date [bulk]:	1959-1966
Date [inclusive]:	1959-1966, 1983
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Kim Sisters material date from 1959 to 1966 and 1983. It consists of two scrapbooks and one folder of photocopied materials containing newspaper clippings about the appearances of the Kim Sisters musical group throughout the United States as well as Italy, Germany, and Spain. It also includes two record album sleeves.

Preferred Citation

Kim Sisters Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1959-1983. MS-00633. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

The Kim Sisters came to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1959 and began performing regularly on the Las Vegas Strip. Comprised of two sisters, Sook-ja and Ai-ja, and one cousin, Min-ja, the Kim Sisters quickly became a sensation in the United States. They performed on the *Ed Sullivan Show* numerous times and throughout the United States and Europe.

The trio formed in South Korea in 1954 and performed for American soldiers in Seoul. Sook-ja and Ai-ja's mother, Yi Nan Young, was a famous singer in Korea and their father was a symphony orchestra conductor. The Kim Sisters listened to American pop hits on records and memorized the songs. They also learned to play numerous instruments because Young believed it would make

them stand out from other sister acts. In 1959 an American manager brought the Kim Sisters to Las Vegas.

After their first contract as part of the China Doll Revue at the Thunderbird Hotel/Casino ended, the Kim Sisters started performing at the Stardust Hotel/Casino. They travelled throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Europe. The Kim Sisters made regular appearances on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. In 1963 three of their brothers came to the United States and performed as the Kim Brothers. By the late 1960s, all three Kim Sisters were married and the group stopped performing for some years as the sisters raised families. Min-ja Kim left the group in 1970 after some tension, and Sook-ja and Ai-ja performed with their brothers.

Ai-ja Kim died in 1987. Sook-ja Kim retired from performing in 1989 and as of 2016 works as a real estate agent in Las Vegas, Nevada. Min-ja Kim moved to Hungary with her husband, Tommy Vig, in 2006.

Sources:

Kim, Sook-ja. Interview, 1996 April 06. OH-01020. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tezar, David. "From Seoul to Las Vegas: story of the Kim Sisters." *Korea Times*, September 21, 2011. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/special/2011/09/178_95166.html accessed April 21, 2016.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Kim Sisters material date from 1959 to 1966 and 1983. It consists of two scrapbooks and one folder of photocopied materials containing newspaper clippings about the Kim Sisters' appearances throughout the United States as well as Italy, Germany, and Spain. It also includes two record album sleeves, some black and white publicity photographs, correspondence to the sisters, and one newspaper article from 1983.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Sook-ja Kim.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

Kim Sisters Photograph Collection. PH-00299. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kim, Sook-ja. Interview, 1996 April 06. OH-01020. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Musical groups -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- Women musicians

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook: contains newspaper clippings about appearances throughout United States, in Puerto Rico, Italy, Germany, and Spain; also includes notes about appearances on Ed Sullivan Show, 1965	oversized box 01
Scrapbook: contains black and white photos, newspaper clippings about appearances throughout the United States, in Puerto Rico and Italy; two record album sleeves, 1965-1966, 1983	oversized box 01
Newspaper clippings: photocopied newspaper clippings about appearances throughout the United States, 1959-1964	oversized box 01