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# Music and Innovation: The Art of Homer Ledford Exhibit (FA 691)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
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*Descriptive Inventory*

**FA 691      MUSIC and Innovation: Homer Ledford Exhibit**

2 boxes. 21 folders. 239 items. 1985-2012.  
Originals, photocopies, photographs, CDs, digital videocassette tapes, and DVDs.

SC2012.179.92

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Homer Ledford was born on 26 September 1927 in the farming community of Ivyton, Tennessee. He made his first instruments, a banjo and a fiddle, at age twelve. In 1946, Ledford attended John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina where he was first introduced to the dulcimer. In 1949, Ledford entered Berea College to study industrial art where he met his wife, Colista Spradlin. He moved to Winchester, Kentucky in 1955 and began teaching industrial arts in the Clark County schools. He continued making instruments part time until 1963 when he gave up teaching to become a full time luthier. Ledford has made many types of instruments, but is best known for his dulcimers. As of 2007, Ledford has completed 6,014 dulcimers, 476 banjos, 27 mandolins, 26 guitars, 18 ukuleles, 13 dulcitaras, 3 dulcibros, 4 violins, 1 bowed dulcimer, and 1 autoharp. This number of instruments makes Ledford one of the most prolific luthiers in the southeastern United States. Ledford passed away on 11 December 2006.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection features information and documentation of the “Music and Innovation: The Art of Homer Ledford” exhibit at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky which was exhibited from 14 August through 31 December 2007. The exhibit was held to celebrate the life and work of one of the region’s most prolific and influential luthiers and musicians of the twentieth century. The exhibit showcased many of Ledford’s instruments as well as photographs and a timeline of major events from his life.

Included in the collection are items related to the “Made to be Played” exhibit about Kentucky luthiers in which Ledford was featured.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>MUSIC and Innovation</b>	<b>1985-2012</b>	<b>193 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Exhibit planning	2007	17 items
Folder 3	Exhibit planning continued	2007	35 items
Folder 4	List of exhibit objects	2007	2 items
Folder 5	Brochures, booklets, and newspapers from the Winchester Museum in Clark County, KY	1985-2002	18 items
Folder 6	Exhibit artist information and graphics list	2007	6 items
Folder 7	“Made to be Played” exhibit correspondence	2007	6 items
Folder 8	Exhibit layout and overview	2007	3 items
Folder 9	Luthiers directory, brochures, and Luthier newspaper articles	2007-2008	17 items
Folder 10	Exhibit loan agreements	2009-2011	12 items
Folder 11	“Made to be Played” exhibit posters	2009	3 items
Folder 12	“Made to be Played” exhibit information	2009	27 items
Folder 13	“Made to be Played” logging forms	2009	30 items
Folder 14	Maysville, Kentucky concert on CD and digital videocassette tape	2012	3 items
Folder 15	“Made to be Played” “Banjo Masters,” “Fiddle Masters,” and other video on CDs	2009	6 items
Folder 16	“Made to be Played” video on CDs	2009	7 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>MUSIC and Innovation</b>	<b>2007-2009</b>	<b>46 items</b>
Folder 1	DVDs used to create the “Homer Ledford” DVD	2009	8 items

Folder 2	“Made to be Played” exhibit stage recordings on DVD	2009	12 items
Folder 3	“Made to be Played” exhibit stage recordings on DVD	2009	14 items
Folder 4	“Made to be Played” exhibit stage recordings on DVD	2009	10 items
Folder 5	Guest books from Ledford exhibit	2007	2 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

FA 691 MUSIC and Innovation: Homer Ledford Exhibit 1985-2012

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2 boxes. 21 folders. 239 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs, CDs, digital videocassette tapes, and DVDs.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Dulcimers – Relating to  
 Frankfort – Relating to  
 Ledford, Homer, 1927-2006 – Relating to  
 Luthiers  
 “Made to Be Played” (exhibit) – Relating to  
 “Music and Innovation: The Art of Homer Ledford” (exhibit) – Relating to  
 Musical instruments

Young/Jeffrey 09/22/2014