Biographical Sketch
Thomas Fensch is an author of over thirty books, mostly investigative accounts on famous authors or organizations. At the time that he gave his collection to Vanderbilt Joint Libraries in 1972, he had already written three books. He is originally from Mansfield, Ohio, where he received his high school diploma from Mansfield High in 1961. Fensch taught journalism classes at Mansfield-OSU and published multiple books before receiving his doctorate degree in journalism from Syracuse University in 1977. He currently is the Chair of the department of Mass Communications at Virginia Union University.

Scope & Contents Note
The collection contains numerous document formats all pertaining to Country and Western music. The contents date from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, with only a few exceptions. The boxes are organized by series. The first box is an alphabetical list of subject headings, mostly names of Country and Western musicians, songwriters, and business people. The headings also include popular places associated with country music and ephemera. The documents are various photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and anonymously written one to five page pamphlets. The second box contains the series Country Song Roundup. The monthly publication is organized chronologically, beginning in 1968 with issues until 1971, released song lyrics from the latest Country and Western songwriters and featured short articles about famous country personalities. The third box is a miscellaneous box of publications. It includes magazines, pamphlets, and biographical-style periodical issues. The fourth and fifth boxes are an alphabetical-by-artist series of song books. Unlike the magazine issues, these songs are accompanied by the written music. The sixth box is a chronological series of Song Hits Magazine periodicals from 1970 and 1971. The publication is similar to Country Song Roundup although its title indicates that it did not only release songs from the Country and Western genre. The seventh box holds only two documents, published by Country Music Who’s Who, a publication that gives news and updates on country music personalities. One is a smaller pamphlet ranging from 1948 to 1969, while the other is a large 1970 edition text. The eighth box holds a series of loose sheet music, organized by the last name of the song’s writer. The date range is varied, with a few pieces dating from the 1950’s and most from the mid-1960’s.

Provenance Statement
The collection was donated on November 30, 1971 by Thomas Fensch to the Vanderbilt University Special Collections.

Container List
Box 1
1. Acuff, Roy
2. Anderson, Bill
3. Atkins, Chet
4. The Band
5. Barron, Arthur and Evelyn
6. Cash, Johnny
7. Clement, Jack
9. Country Music Association (CMA)
10. Davis, Skeeter
11. Drake, Pete
12. Faron Young & the Deputies
13. Flatt, Lester & Scruggs, Earl
14. Haggard, Merle
15. Hee Haw
16. Husky, Ferlin
17. Kristofferson, Kris
18. Lewis, Jerry Lee
19. Moore, Connie
20. Nashville
21. Owens, Buck
22. Pearl, Minnie
23. Photographs
24. Photographs
25. Photographs
26. Pierce, Webb
27. Reeves, Jim
28. Reeves, Ray
29. Riley, Jeannie C.
30. Walker, Bill
31. Webb, Jim
32. Worth, Marion
33. WSM Radio
34. Ephemera - Country Music Birthday Calendar 1970

Box 2
1. Publications - Country Song Roundup - Loose

Box 3
1. Publications - Miscellaneous - *A Boy Named Cash*
4. Publications - Miscellaneous - *Classified Directory for Country Music*
5. Publications - Miscellaneous - *Crawdaddy*
6. Publications - Miscellaneous - *Hank Williams*
7. Publications - Miscellaneous - *In the World of Country Music*
8. Publications - Miscellaneous - *Johnny Cash*
9. Publications - Miscellaneous - *Pulse Defines the Modern Country Music Audience*

Box 4
1. Publications - Miscellaneous - *WSM Grand Ole Opry*
2. Publications - Song Books - *The Best of Charley Pride Song Album*
3. Publications - Song Books - *The Best of Charley Pride Song Album*
4. Publications - Song Books - *The Best of Loretta Lynn*
6. Publications - Song Books - *Country Special*
7. Publications - Song Books - *Everybody’s Country*
9. Publications - Song Books - *Hee Haw*
10. Publications - Song Books - *Songs for the Seventies*

Box 5
1. Publications - Song Books - *Songs of Johnny Cash*
2. Publications - Song Books - *Tony Joe White*
3. Publications - Song Books - *The Town and Country Songs of Bobby Russell*
4. Publications - Song Books - *The Very Best of Country Music*

Box 6

Box 7

Box 8
1. Sheet Music - A-C
2. Sheet Music - D-G
3. Sheet Music - H
4. Sheet Music - I
5. Sheet Music - J-K
6. Sheet Music - M
7. Sheet Music - N-Sk
8. Sheet Music - Sj-V
9. Sheet Music - W-Z

Box 9 - Oversize
1. Campbell, Glen
2. Cash, Johnny
3. Country Music
4. Crawdaddy
5. Grand Ole Opry
6. Haggard, Merle
7. Kristofferson, Kris
8. Pride, Charlie
9. York, Willie

Box 10 - Oversize
1. Ephemera
2. Johnny Cash