

Guide to the

William P. Gottlieb Photographs

1938-1948 JPB 19-04

Summary

Creator: Gottlieb, William P.

Title: William P. Gottlieb Photographs

Date: 1938-1948

Size: 1.67 linear feet (8 boxes)

Abstract: William P. Gottlieb was a writer and photographer known for documenting jazz musicians, particularly for Down Beat magazine. The collection consists of black and white photographs taken by Gottlieb of jazz, classical, and pop musicians between 1938 and 1948.

Preferred citation: William P. Gottlieb Photographs, JPB 19-04. Music Division, The New York Public

Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

William P. Gottlieb was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1917 and died in 2006 in Great Neck, New York. He was a photographer and journalist who became known particularly for his portraits and reviews of jazz musicians. Beginning in the late 1930s, he covered jazz for *The Washington Post*. Between 1943 and 1945, he served in the Army Air Corp as a photo officer. After the war, he took up residence in New York, where he worked for *Down Beat* magazine as a staff writer and photographer. In 1948, he retired from photography. He subsequently started a filmstrip company and also wrote several children's books. In 1994, several of his jazz photographs were featured as United States postage stamps.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of approximately 500 black and white photographs taken by William Gottlieb of jazz, classical, and pop musicians between the years 1938 and 1948. The majority of the photographs were taken during performances and rehearsals inside New York City night clubs, including the Aquarium, the Spotlite Club, the Pied Piper, the Onyx Club, Eddie Condon's, and the Famous Door.

Several photographs were taken at the National Press Club and the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., at the Decca Records Studio, and at the offices of *Down Beat* magazine.

Arrangement: Collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American jazz musicians -- New York (State) -- New York Jazz musicians -- Portraits Jazz musicians -- United States Women jazz musicians

Names

Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993 Gottlieb, William P. Holiday, Billie, 1915-1959 Kenton, Stan Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998 Williams, Mary Lou, 1910-1981

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