

**ANDY RAZAF
PAPERS**

**The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center For Research
in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Blvd
New York, New York 10037**

PREFACE

This inventory is one of several prepared as part of the archival preservation program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research division of The New York Public Library.

The Schomburg Centers's archival preservation program involves the organization and preservation of primary source material held by the Center and of significance to the study of the Black experience. It, furthermore, included the preparation of detailed inventories of these records, making the information contained therein accessible as well as available to scholars.

The necessary staff and supplies for this program were made available through a combination of Library, National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and State of New York grant funds.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE.....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii
BIOGRAPHY.....	1
SCOPE AND CONTENT.....	2
PROVENANCE.....	3
CONTAINER LIST.....	4
SONG LIST.....	5
SEPARATION RECORD.....	12

RAZAF, ANDY (1895-1973). PAPERS, 1918-1963, 1973.
3 boxes

Biography

Andy Razaf was born Andreamentania Paul Razafinkeriefo on December 16, 1895 in Washington D.C., months after his mother had fled Madagascar because the government there had been overthrown. His father Henri Razafkeriefo, a member of the nobility, was killed after the French captured the island, exiled his aunt, the Queen and abolished the nobility.

When Razaf was sixteen, he quit public school to support his mother and seriously write songs. His first published song was "Baltimo" which was used in the show, "the Passing of 1913." Razaf kept the abbreviated form of his name after a song publisher shortened it because it would never be pronounced correctly or remembered by the public.

In 1923, Razaf met Thomas "Fats" Waller after hearing him play in a contest at the Roosevelt Theater in Harlem. From that moment on the two had a very profitable and congenial partnership. Over the next twenty years the song writing team of Razaf and Waller produced floor shows, Broadway musicals and many memorable hits, including "Ain't Misbehavin," "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Black and Blue." In 1930 Razaf collaborated with Eubie Blake to write the score for Lew Leslie's "Blackbirds of 1930," a musical show. That same year proved to be the lyricist's most prolific, producing such hits as "S'posin'" and "My Handy Man." Razaf also collaborated with J.C. Johnson and the stride pianist James P. Johnson.

Although Razaf never attended college, he was self-taught and highly educated. Numerous hours spent in the public library at 135th Street motivated him to write a poem entitled "Reflections in a Public Library." In 1941 he married the head librarian Jean Blackwell, Chief (1948-1980) of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, formerly the 135th Street Branch Library. His love of the Schomburg Center prompted a library official to offer him a scholarship which Razaf declined for lack of time. Razaf was married three times, but had no children.

After his marriage to Jean Blackwell the couple moved to Englewood. In 1947 he decided to run for City Council. Although he lost, it marked the first political effort by a black person in that city.

Razaf moved to California in 1948. He was stricken by paralysis brought on by tertiary syphilis that confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Despite his physical handicap, he continued to write poems, lyrics and letters; his stationery depicts him in his wheelchair with the words, "From the Wheelchair of Andy Razaf." Although he experienced daily agonizing pain, Razaf still found time to appear every Thursday

on radio and write a column, "Time Out for Thinking," for a Los Angeles weekly.

After the war, Razaf was honored by the United States Department of the Treasury for special songs written for its War Bond Drive. He continued to receive citation from numerous organizations. His poem, "A Mixed-Up World," appeared in the Appendix of the Congressional Record in 1959 at the request of his former Congressman, Frank C. Osmer, Jr., of New Jersey. The Los Angeles Library Commission honored him after he donated his book and map collection to their Vernon Branch in 1963. In 1972 he returned to live in New York and was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

On February 3, 1973 Andy Razaf, one of Tin Pan Alley's greatest songwriters and author of over 1000 tunes, died at the age of seventy-seven in North Hollywood, California.

Scope and Content

The Andy Razaf Papers, 1918-1963, 1973, consist of correspondence, poetry, citations, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed material and bound volumes of printed sheet music. Although some personal material is also included, the collection largely documents Razaf's prolific career as songwriter, lyricist and poet.

The collection has been organized into three series: Correspondence, Poetry, Printed Material and Collected Songs.

CORRESPONDENCE consists of one folder of loose correspondence, 1958-1963, 1973, as well as letters mounted on laminated scrapbook pages, 1943-1963. Incoming correspondence largely concerns the performance or publication of Razaf's work. During World War II, two of his songs were written especially for the War Bond Drive. The majority of the outgoing correspondence is personal in nature, and is addressed to Jean Blackwell Hutson, Chief of the Schomburg Center. The loose correspondence is arranged chronologically. The laminated letters are in a general chronological sequence; however, in most cases there is more than one item on a page, often with varying dates.

Razaf's **POETRY** can be found in one loose folder, 1950-1962, n.d., as well as in folders titled, Poems for a Mixed-up World, 1959 and The Negro Has to Laugh and Other Poems, 1918-1962. Poems for a Mixed-Up World is a bound volume of typescript poetry with an introduction by Langston Hughes and an autobiographical preface by Razaf. The manuscript was never published. The Negro Has to Laugh and Other Poems consists of a bound volume of mounted and laminated clippings and typescripts of Razaf's poetry. A 1962

letter from Razaf to Hutson, presenting this volume to the Schomburg Center, is mounted on the first page.

PRINTED MATERIAL, 1918-1962, is comprised mostly of citations and clippings, located in one folder, 1960, n.d., the laminated scrapbook pages, 1929, 1944-1962, and The Negro Has to Laugh and Other Poems, 1918-1962. Some of the clippings contain Razaf's poetry, others pertain to performances of his work and other aspects of his career. The citations illustrate the honors awarded Razaf by various organizations, including his election to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1929.

The collection also contains six bound volumes of **COLLECTED SONGS**, covering the years, [1913?]-1943. The songs are arranged somewhat chronologically, with some duplication. An itemized list of the songs in the volumes, including title, author, composer and date, follows the Container List. In addition, an ASCAP listing, the "Record of the Works of Razaf, Andy," 1923-1960, can be found in Box 1, following the laminated scrapbook pages. The two song listings are not identical, and the copyright date on the sheet music in the volumes does not always correspond to the date listed in the "Record."

Provenance

Presented by Andy Razaf between 1958-1962.
SCM78-35

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1		CORRESPONDENCE Scrapbook (includes Correspondence, Printed Material, Song List 1929, 1943-1963)
2	1	Correspondence, 1958-1963, 1973
		POETRY
	2	Poems, 1940-1962, n.d.
	3	<u>Poems for a Mixed-Up World - Typescript</u> and Introduction, 1959
	4	Printed Material, 1960, n.d.
	5	<u>The Negro has to Laugh and other Poems,</u> 1918-1962
		COLLECTED SONGS*
	6	Volume 1
	7	Volume 2
3	1	Volume 3
	2	Volume 4
	3	Volume 5
	4	Volume 6

* (see attached list)

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
1	1929	S'Posin'	Andy Razaf	Paul Denniker
	1929	Ain't Misbehavin	"	Thomas Waller, Harry Brooks
	1928	Dusky Stevedore	"	J.C. Johnson
	1928	Louisiana	"	"
	1928	When	Andy Razaf, Bob Schafer	"
	1929	Perhaps	Andy Razaf	Paul Denniker
	1927	My Special Friend is Back in Town	"	J.C. Johnson
	1928	My Handy Man	"	"
	1928	Guess Who's in Town	"	"
	1926	Nobody But My Baby	" &	Clarence Williams
	1929	The World's Greatest Sweetheart is You	"	Paul Denniker
	1926	Li'l Brown Baby	"	Maceo Pinkard
	1926	Natiesha (Bright Eyes)	"	Paul Denniker
	1926	At Sundown	"	"
	1926	Why Did I Go Wrong	"	Maceo Pinkard
	1923	My Waltz Devine	"	Hughie Woolford
	1929	India	"	Leon Rosebrook
	1929	Won'tcha	"	Paul Denniker
	1926	How Could I Be So Blue	"	Dan Wilson
	1926	She Belongs to Me	"	Paul Denniker, Howard Johnson
	1929	(What Did I Do To Be So) Black and Blue	"	Thomas Waller, Harry Brooks
	1929	Sweet Savannah Sue	"	"
	1929	Dixie Cinderella	"	"
	1929	Say it With Your Feet	"	"
	1929	That Rhythm Man	"	"
	1929	Can't We Get Together	"	"
	1929	Off Time	"	"
	1928	How Jazz Was Born	"	Thomas Waller
	1928	Willow Tree	" &	Thomas Waller
	1928	Got Myself Another Jockey Now	"	"
	1928	Take Your Tomorrow (And Give Me Today)	"	J.C. Johnson
	1928	Ole Jim Crow	"	"
	1927	Got Everything (Don't Want Anything But You)	"	Jack Palmer
	1929	Why Am I Alone (With No One To Love?)	"	Spencer Williams, T. Waller
	1928	Futuristic	" &	J.C. Johnson
	1928	Sweet Emmalina	"	Jack Palmer
	1927	Every Time I Pick A Sweetie	"	Phil Worde, Allie Moore
	1928	A Beautiful Girl	" &	J.C. Johnson
	1928	Georgia Gut	"	Spencer Williams

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
1	1926	Hands off, That's My Gal	Andy Razaf &	Paul Denniker
	1926	Tomboy Sue	"	"
	1923	He Wasn't Born in Araby	" &	Edgar Dowell
	1924	A Bobbed-Haired Bandit Stole My Heart Away	" &	"
	1924	If You Haven't Got The Things It Takes to Hold Your Man	" &	Harold Dellon
	1923	No One Can Toddle Like My Cousin Sue	" &	Edgar Dowell
	1924	You've Got to B'Natural Honey	"	"
	1923	Daddy Treat Your Baby Right	"	Harold Dellon
	1925	I've Lost My Head Over You	"	W. Asher, M. Deas
	1927	Oh Malinda	" &	Jimmy Johnson
	1924	Please Tell Me Why	"	Ed Adams, Thomas Waller
	1919	The 15th Infantry	"	Andy Razaf
[1913?]		Baltimo	"	"
2	1929	My Fate is In Your Hands	"	Thomas Waller
	1930	Memories of You	"	Eubie Blake
	1930	You're Lucky To Me	"	"
	1930	Green Pastures	"	"
	1930	My Handy Man Ain't Handy No More	"	"
	1930	Roll Jordan	"	"
	1930	Baby Mine	"	"
	1930	That Lindy Hop	"	"
	1930	On Revival Day	"	"
	1929	Honeysuckle Rose	"	Thomas Waller
	1931	Concentratin'	"	"
	1930	When You Press Your Lips To Mine	"	Julian Woodworth
	1931	Mary Jane	"	J. Russel Robinson
	1931	You Are Mine 'Til The End of The Waltz	"	Frank Weldon
	1929	Zonky	"	Thomas Waller
	1930	Blue Turning Grey Over You	"	"
	1929	The Language of Love	" &	Paul Denniker
	1931	Dip Your Brush in the Sunshine	"	J.C. Johnson
	1930	Gone	"	Harry Link
	1931	Treat Me Like a Baby	"	Jack Palmer
	1931	When I Can't Be With You	" &	Jimmy (J.C.) Johnson

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
2	1930	Funny Little You	"	J. Russel Robinson
	1930	The Verdict Is-Life (With You)	Andy Razaf	Len Joy
	1930	Prisoner of Love	"	Thomas Waller
	1930	Imagine	William Osborne,	Andy Razaf, Paul Denniker
	1930	My Pathway of Love	Andy Razaf	Frank Weldon, Anthony Trini
	1930	Two Strangers	" &	Lee Morse
	1930	Back Where We Started	"	Paul Denniker
	1930	Wonder	"	Spencer Williams, Cliff Burwell
	1929	Welcome	"	Paul Denniker
	1930	A Glutton For Love	"	Alexander Hill
	1929	That Was Yesterday	"	Paul Denniker
	1929	Hawaiian Love-bird	"	"
	1930	My Only One	"	Chick Smith, Alexander Hill
	1930	The Way I Feel Today	"	Donald Redman, Howard Quicksell
	1930	Right From The Heart	"	Dave Bernie
	1930	Just Sociable	" &	Harry Brooks
	19	It's You	" &	Thomas Waller
	19	Whatcha Got On Tonite	" &	"
	1930	Can it Be True	" &	S. Williams
	1930	My Man O' War	" &	"
	1929	Kitchen Man	"	Alex Belledna
	1930	A Porters Love Song	" &	Jimmy Johnson
3	1932	If It Ain't Love	"	Donald Redman, Thomas Waller
	1932	Keepin out of Mischief Now	"	Thomas Waller
	1932	Lonesome Me	"	Thomas Waller, Con Conrad
	1932	Strange As It Seems	"	Thomas Waller
	1932	When Gabriel Blows His Horn	"	"
	1932	Love, I'm Calling	"	J.C. Johnson
	1932	Reefer Man	"	J. Russel, J.C. Johnson
	1932	Buddie	"	Thomas Waller
	1932	Ain'tcha Got Music	"	James P. Johnson
	1932	I Was So Weak, Love Was So Strong	"	"
	1932	Yours All Yours	"	"
	1932	My Headache	"	"
	1932	Stop That Dog	"	"
	1932	I Think You're Swell	"	Jimmy Johnson
	1932	Gotta Be Gonna Be Mine	"	Thomas Waller

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
3	1932	Honey Do	"	J.C. Johnson
	1932	Oh You Sweet Thing	"	Thomas Waller
	1932	Mother's Little Man	"	George Raymond
	1926	Wompum Pompum	" &	Paul Denniker
	1932	Children, Walk With Me	" &	Alexander Hill
	1933	He's A Son of The South	Andy Razaf & Joe Davis	Reginald Foresythe
4	1936	Christopher Columbus	Andy Razaf	Leon Berry
	1936	Stompin' At The Savoy	"	Benny Goodman, Chick Webb & Edgar Sampson
	1934	Never Slept a Wink Last Night	"	Nat Simon
	1935	What Harlem is To Me	Russell Wooding,	Andy Razaf, Paul Denniker
	1936	Big Chief De Sota	Andy Razaf	Fernando Arbelo
	1935	Lovely Liza Lee	" &	Paul Denniker
	1934	How Can You Face Me?	"	Thomas Waller
	1933	Deep Forest	"	Reginald Foresythe & Earl Hines
	1936	Rhythm Lullaby	" &	Paul Denniker
	1933	Tall Timber	"	Thomas Waller
	1935	Machinery	"	Paul Denniker
	1935	Please Take My Heart	"	"
	1935	The Only Time You're Out of Luck	" &	"
	1935	That Rhythm Parade	Andy Razaf	Paul Denniker, Russell Wooding
	1935	That Night, The Wind and Me	"	Louis A. Ruben
	1935	Disappointed in Love	" &	Paul Denniker
	1934	Soul Mate	"	Geo. B. Connell, Paul Denniker
	1933	The Shim Sham Shimmy Dance	"	Clarence Williams
	1935	Never Let The Blues Go To Your Feet	" &	Paul Denniker
	1934	Beautiful Land of My Dreams	"	"
	1935	I'll Tell the World That's News	Ted White,	Irving Mills, Andy Razaf
	1935	If	Andy Razaf	Paul Denniker
	1934	Georgia May	"	"
	1934	Unsophisticated Sue	Nat Simon,	Harold Raymond, Andy Razaf
	1936	The Meetin's Called to Order	Andy Razaf	Ada Rubin
	1935	My Joe Louis of Love	" &	Paul Denniker
	1932	Glory	" &	Joe Davis
	1936	Stay	"	Elisabeth Handy

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
4	1936	LowTide (Down in My Heart)	Andy Razaf	Harry Brooks
	1936	Wait and See	"	Thomas Waller
	1936	Stealin' Apples	"	"
	1933	Be Ready	"	Reginald Forysthe, Ted Weems
	1935	Vesuvius	Wm. C. Handy, Andy Razaf	William C. Handy
5	1938	Patty Cake, Patty Cake	Andy Razaf,	J.C. Johnson, Thomas Waller
	1939	In the Mood	"	Joe Garland
	1938	Peach Tree Street	Andy Razaf,	Margaret Bonds, Joe Davis
	1938	The Spider and the Fly	Thomas Waller,	Andy Razaf, J.C. Johnson
	1939	Dream Caravan	Andy Razaf	Powell Edwards
	1939	It's You Who Taught it To Me	Andy Razaf,	Joe Davis, John Harley
	1939	Homebound	"	"
	1939	Say Yes	Andy Razaf,	J.C. Johnson, Thomas Waller
	1938	I Had to Do it	"	Thomas Waller
	1939	After I've Spent My Best Years on You	"	& Joe Davis
	1940	Mighty Fine	"	Thomas Waller
	1939	Blue Algerian Skies	Andy Razaf, & Joe Davis	Leon Van Gelder, Bill Long and Jerry Sears
	1937	San Anton'	Andy Razaf &	Paul Denniker
	1938	We, The People	Andy Razaf,	Paul Denniker, Joe Davis
	1937	I Can't Break the Habit of You	Andy Razaf,	Charlie Beal, Bob Causer
	1937	Cryin' Mood	Andy Razaf &	Chick Webb
	1939	Lucille	Andy Razaf & Joe Davis	Henri Woode
	1939	Simple Simon	Andy Razaf & Joe Davis	Jerry Sears
	1939	Choo Choo	Andy Razaf	Eugene Seebic, Thomas Waller
	1937	Teasin' Tessie Brown	Andy Razaf,	Jimmy Lunceford, Lucky Roberts
	1939	You Out-Smarted Yourself	Andy Razaf, & Joe Davis	Jerry Sears
	1938	On Rainy Days	Andy Razaf &	Thomas Waller
	1939	Georgia	"	Margaret Bonds, Joe Davis
	1939	All Aboard For Georgia	"	& Joe Davis

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
5	1937	The Short Trail Became A Long Trail	Thomas Waller &	Andy Razaf
	1936	In Rockabye Baby Land	Andy Razaf &	Paul Denniker
	1938	The Wedding of the Chocolate Soldier	"	"
	1936	A Prayer for Mother and Dad	"	"
	1936	Who's Afraid of the Bogey Man?	"	"
	1936	Funnies on Parade	"	"
	1937	Anyday the Sun Don't Shine	Thomas Waller &	Andy Razaf
	1937	Call the Plumber In	"	"
	1937	Lonesome One	Andy Razaf	Thomas Waller, Clarence Williams
	1937	The Jitterbug Tree	" &	J.C. Johnson revised by Thomas Waller
	1942	Massachusetts	"	Lucky Roberts
	1939	In the Mood	"	Joe Garland
	1942	Knock Me a Kiss	Mike Jackson	Mike Jackson
		(Special Lyrics by Andy Razaf)		
	1942	I'm Gonna Move to the Outskirts of town	Wm. Weldon	William Weldon
		(Special Lyrics by Andy Razaf)		
	1940	A Lover's Lullaby	Frankie Carle,	Andy Razaf, Larry Wagner
	1942	Rainbow Land	Andy Razaf	Lucky Roberts
	1938	Yancy Special	"	Meade (Lux) Lewis
	1941	We Are Americans Too	"	Eubie Blake, Chas. L. Cooke
	1942	We'll March to Hell and Back Again	"	Lucky Roberts
6	1942	A Yankee Doodle Tan	"	J.C. Johnson
	1942	I'll Be Back	"	Joe Davis
	1941	I'll Be a Good Soldier Too	"	J. Russel Robinson
	1943	How Can I Forget We're Not Together	Al Mority &	Andy Razaf
	1942	Three Cheers for Our President	Andy Razaf	Joe Davis
	1942	12th Street Rag	"	Euday L. Bowman
	1942	Mound Bayou	"	Leonard Feather
	1940	Devil Can't Hurt Me	" &	Spencer Williams
	1940	Georgia Gal	" &	Joe Davis
	1940	You Broke it Up When You Said "Georgia"	" &	Paul Denniker
	1940	Git Away!	"	"
	1940	On Repentin'Day	" &	Joe Davis
	1940	Mighty Fine	"	Thomas Waller

VOL.	YEAR	TITLE	LYRICIST	COMPOSER
6	1940	The Joint is Jumpin	Andy Razaf,	Thomas Waller, J.C. Johnson
	1940	Georgia Trail	" &	Joe Davis
	1940	Inconvenience	"	"
	1940	Make Believe Danceland	Andy Razaf,	Paul Denniker, Joe Davis
	N.D.	You Let Me Down	"	Willie (The Lion) Smith
	1940	Little Pops (Is Tops to Me)	"	Henri Woode, Louis Armstrong
	1940	Stayin' At Home	"	Thomas "Fats" Waller
	1940	Blue Rendezvous	"	Erskine Butterfield
	1940	Blue Dream	"	"
	1942	Keeping Out of Trouble	"	"
	1940	Sweet Land of Liberty	" &	Joe Davis

SEPARATION RECORD

The following items were removed from:

Name of Collection/Papers Andy Razaf Papers

Accession Number SCM78-35

Donor: Andy Razaf

Gift X Purchase _____

Date received: 1958-1962

Date transferred: 1958-1962

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

Schomburg Library:

Books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, government publications

Schomburg Photographs and Print Division:

20 Photographs

Other:

Sheet Music Collection: 3 pieces; "Le Petit Mousse Noir" (French) by P.

Cheret, "Thats What I Like About the South," words and music by Andy Razaf

(1944) "My Handy Man," words and music by Andy Razaf (1928)

Accessioned by: S.M. Howard/S.D. Sharlin

Date: 12/28/78