



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Minto Cato collection

1936-1979

Sc MG 91

Summary

Creator: Cato, Minto, 1900-1979

Title: Minto Cato collection

Date: 1936-1979

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Minta Sheftell, April 1980.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Minto Cato, an opera singer and actress, was born in 1900 and died in 1979. A member of the National Negro Opera Company, she also appeared in productions of *Gentlemen Unafraid* (1938) and *Showboat* (1938-1942) at the St. Louis Municipal Theater ("The Muny"), and on Broadway in *Blackbirds* (1930) and *John Henry* (1940). On film, Cato acted in *The Girl from Chicago* (1932) and *The End of the River* (1947). This collection contains correspondence, certificates, and news clippings pertaining to the life and career of Minto Cato.

Preferred citation: [Item], Minto Cato collection, Sc MG 91, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Surveyed by Janice Quinter, April 1987.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: plaque and poster.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Minto Cato, an opera singer and actress, was born in 1900 and died in 1979. A member of the National

Negro Opera Company, she also appeared in productions of *Gentlemen Unafraid* (1938) and *Showboat* (1938-1942) at the St. Louis Municipal Theater ("The Muny"), and on Broadway in *Blackbirds* (1930) and *John Henry* (1940). On film, Cato acted in *The Girl from Chicago* (1932) and *The End of the River* (1947).

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains correspondence, certificates, and news clippings pertaining to the life and career of Minto Cato.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actresses
African American women singers
African Americans in the performing arts
Women in opera

Names

Cato, Minto, 1900-1979
National Negro Opera Company (U.S.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Handwritten biographies and memorial program
- b. 1 f. 2 Honors 1955-1972
Includes Distinguished Achievement Award from National Negro Opera Company Foundation (1955) and Manhattan-Bronx Friends of the Symphony of the New World citation (1972).
- b. 1 f. 3 Programs and printed matter
Includes *Philharmonic Hall*, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 1971-1972, and two copies of the 1972 Annual Convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians program, one with Cato's signature and the other marked "Boatner" (probably Edward Boatner's copy).
- b. 1 f. 4 Clippings 1936-1979
Includes *New York Amsterdam News*, Arts and Entertainment section, vol. 67, #47, November 20, 1976.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1937-1978
- b. 1 f. 6 "Freedom Suite: Rise and Shine" by Edward Boatner
Inscribed and signed by Boatner.