



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

Guide to the

**William H. Butler papers**

1917-1982

Sc MG 225

## Summary

**Creator:** Butler, William H. (William Henson), 1903-1981

**Title:** William H. Butler papers

**Date:** 1917-1982

**Size:** .10 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Lenzler, Bill, 19850125

**Abstract:** "Billy" Butler was a musical arranger, conductor, violinist and travel editor of the "Pittsburgh Courier." A graduate of Chicago Musical College, Butler worked with J. Rosamond Johnson, Eubie Blake and other prominent African-American musicians of the period. He also conducted several musical revues including Lew Leslie's "Blackbirds of 1939," "Rhapsody in Black" and Sissle and Blake's "Shuffle Along." In 1947 Butler started "Travelguide," a directory of public accommodations in the United States which catered to people of African descent. The list was later expanded to include foreign countries. Butler was also co-owner of King Travel Organization, Inc., a New York City agency which specifically catered to travelers of African descent. Papers include correspondence and printed material relating to Butler's musical career, articles by Butler on African-American music and musicians, a scrapbook containing reviews of the Lew Leslie musicals in which he appeared, orchestral parts for "Blackbirds of 1939" and "Rhapsody in Black," holograph scores by Butler, a folder of lyrics and a playscript by Butler entitled "Let's Forget Papa."

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** William H. Butler papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

African American businesspeople  
African American entertainers  
African American musicians  
African Americans -- Music  
Musicals -- United States  
Revues -- United States  
Travel agents

#### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Musical scores  
Scrapbooks  
Scripts

#### **Names**

Butler, William H. (William Henson), 1903-1981  
Blake, Eubie, 1887-1983  
Johnson, J. C., 1896-1981  
Wilson, Edith, 1896-1981