

Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections, 1831-1993

15.7 lin. ft. (46 boxes)

Introduction

The Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections, 1818-1993, consist of two hundred eighty small collections of one to three folders, as well as separate collections of sheet music, play scripts, programs and playbills, and broadsides. These miscellaneous collections form the bulk of the paper-based, non-photographic materials acquired by theater historian Helen Armstead-Johnson¹ in her quest to bring to light the history of African Americans in the performing arts.

Armstead-Johnson spent the bulk of the 1970s and '80s documenting black performers' participation and accomplishments, principally in the theater. She traveled extensively during the 1970s, here and abroad, seeking information and materials about performers and productions in the United States, Europe and Australia. The materials in this collection as well as the other manuscripts and photograph collections and artifacts she collected reflect those efforts. The collection also contains some information about African Americans whose accomplishments were achieved in the literary and art worlds.

Many of the performers and productions included in the miscellaneous collection will be familiar to students of black theater and performing arts, but there is also information on less known personalities and productions.

Scope and Content

The Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections (HAJMTC) contain information dating from the mid- 19th century to the late 20th century documenting early dramatic actors, minstrel shows, vaudeville, musical revues, 1920s and '30s Broadway productions, the protest dramas of the 1940s and '50s, plays that came out of the Black Arts Movement of the late '60s and '70s, and theatrical productions of the 1980s and '90s. In addition to actors, playwrights, singers, musicians, and dancers (classical and popular), and the productions they appeared in, there are collections for poets, and visual and plastic artists. There are eighteen collections documenting performers of the 19th century; twenty-nine collections covering the period 1900-1919; thirty-seven collections document the 1940s-1950s; and eleven collections for the 1980s and 1990s. The bulk of the collections cover the two most productive periods for black theater: ninety-two collections for the 1920s through the 1930s, and ninety collections representative of the Black Arts Movement. The HAJMTC also includes information on white personalities if they were involved in some way with black performers, productions or events.

¹ For more information on Armstead-Johnson's activities as a theater historian see also the Armstead-Johnson Foundation for Theater Research Records and Helen Armstead-Johnson Papers.

Types of materials in the collections include printed matter (reviews and feature articles, programs, flyers and broadsides, sheet music, newsletters), letters, including correspondence generated by Armstead-Johnson with donors and individuals documented in the collections, lyrics and music scores, resumes and other biographical information, scripts, sketches, academic papers, and speeches. In many cases the file consists of clippings only. Often the material documenting a performer or performance is not contemporaneous to the era in which the individual lived and worked, but comes from a source produced decades later. In several collections there is a notation for “Helen Armstead-Johnson Notes.” These notes are the product of Armstead-Johnson’s research on the personality or production in question. Additional research notes can be found in the Armstead-Johnson Foundation for Theater Research Records and the Helen Armstead-Johnson Papers.

Programs, sheet music and scripts were transferred from individual collections and placed in the HAJMTC Program, Sheet Music and Play Script collections, respectively, with the following exceptions: pre-1940 programs associated with the performer or production for whom the file is named; manuscript music composed by the performer for whom there was a collection; skits and incomplete scripts. Transferred programs are identified by a photocopy of the cover in the original collection file. Alphabetical lists for the programs, scripts and sheet music are included in the finding aid. These collections complement the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division’s Sheet Music, Programs and Playbills, Broadsides, Play Scripts collections, but were not interfiled with those collections in order to maintain the integrity of the Helen Armstead-Johnson collection.

Photographs were transferred to the Center’s Photographs and Prints Division; this information is noted only when the transfer was done by the manuscripts processors. The bulk of the photographs, however, were not physically associated with these collections and were accessioned directly by the Schomburg Center’s Photographs and Prints Division at the time of acquisition.

Note on Arrangement

The folders in this collection were kept intact as found and are arranged alphabetically. In those cases where loose items had not been interfiled by Armstead-Johnson, the processors added the material, or if a folder did not already exist, it was created. The finding aid includes brief biographical or historical sketches, and a listing or description of the contents of each collection. A notation of related or complementary collections is found in a “see also” note following the description of the collection.

Legend:

HAJ – Helen Armstead-Johnson

* – Transferred

TLS – Typed Letter Signed

ALS – Autographed Letter Signed

OS – Oversized

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections

A

Abyssinia

Musical. *Abyssinia* was written by J. A. Shipp and Alex Rogers, music by Will Marion Cook and Bert Williams, who along with George W. Walker were featured performers in the production in 1906. *Abyssinia* also toured the country, including Boston and Chicago. The file contains reviews, clippings, and HAJ notes.

1906, 1911, n.d.

See also the Bert Williams and George Walker, Alex Rogers, Will Marion Cook and the Jesse Shipp collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Address List

The file list contains a list of addresses for some notable African Americans of the 1920s and 1930s such as Bill Robinson, Alain Locke, Abbie Mitchell, Harold Jackman, and H.T. Burleigh.

n.d.

Adkins, Paul Spencer

Opera singer. Born in Monogahela, Pennsylvania, Adkins holds a bachelor's degree in music education from West Virginia. He also attended the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia College for the Performing Arts. Spencer was an Affiliate Artist with the Opera Company of Philadelphia. The file contains a biographical sketch from Affiliate Artists, Inc.

n.d.

African American Theatre Papers and Speeches

Small collection of papers and speeches by playwrights, actors and historians. The file contains: Mercer Cook's "From 'Clorindy' to 'The Red Moon' and Beyond," Owen Dodson's "Mene, Mene Teckle Upfarsin' (You Have Been Weighed in the Balance and Found Wanting);" Winona L. Fletcher's "From Walk Together, Chillun to Run, Little Chillun: an Examination of 'Uncle Sam's Role as 'Black Angel' in the 1930s;" Abram Hill's "The 1940s and the Negro American Theatre," Frederick O'Neal's "Black America on Stage – A Symposium;" Robert C. Toll's "Putting on the Mask: Black Minstrels in the Nineteenth Century," and "The Lafayette Players," author unknown.

Also contains letter from Toll to HAJ, Nov. 2, 1978.

1978

See also Owen Dodson Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections, the Literary and Scholarly Manuscripts and Owen Dodson collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, for additional papers on black theatre.

Afro-American Studio

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

The Afro-American Studio (New York, NY) appeared to have two main components, the Afro-American Studio Theatre and the Afro-American Studio for Acting and Speech. The acting and speech component offered programs and classes for professionals, intermediates and beginners in acting technique, scene study, speech, vocal workshop, creative dynamics, audition, advanced technique, body conditioning, and make-up. The theater component featured opportunities for performers to work with the 127th Street Repertory Ensemble, First Black Lyric Theater and the Experimental Production Unit. Some artists affiliated with the company include Ernie McClintock, Richard Gant, Glenda Dickerson, Ron Walker, Thom Foster and Walter Turnbull. This file contains flyers and a clipping.
n.d.

Ain't Misbehaving

Musical. 1978 Tony Award-winning Broadway show. Conceived and directed by Richard Maltby, Jr. Original cast members included Nell Carter and Andre DeShields. The file contains Route Magazine with an article on *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and clippings. 1978, n.d.

See also the Andre DeSheilds Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Aldridge, Ira Frederick (1807-1867)

Actor. Considered America's first great black actor and tragedian, Aldridge began his career at the African Grove Theatre in New York City in 1821 and the amateur corps at Brown's Theatre, also in New York City. Aldridge left the United States for London and performed there. He toured Europe where he became a celebrated Shakespearean actor. The file contains copies of letters written by Aldridge to (Mr.?) MacNamara, Apr. 1, 1847; Aldridge to (Nelson) Lee, n.d.; a letter from Amanda Ira Aldridge (Aldridge's daughter) to Mrs. Browning, Oct. 31, 1927; a postcard, copies of letter, clippings (some in Dutch, some translated), four playbills (OS), and HAJ notes. 1847-1983, n.d.

See also the Ira Aldridge and Amanda Aldridge collections in the Miscellaneous American Letters and Papers Collection, Ira Aldridge Society Records, Owen Mortimer Collection, and the BroadSides Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Alice

Musical. *Alice* was adapted from the Lewis Carroll classic Alice in Wonderland by Vinnette Carroll, who also directed the play. The cast included Debbie Allen, Alice Ghostly, Paula Kelly, Jane White and Hampton Camp. Talley Beatty choreographed the play. The file contains clippings and invitation to the after-party in Philadelphia, Pa. 1978

Alice, Mary (1941-)

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Actress in theatre, television and film. Alice has appeared in many Broadway and Off-Broadway plays, television and films including *No Place to Be Somebody*, the television series *A Different World*, and the film *To Sleep With Anger*. The file contains Alice's resume, a flyer and clippings.

1976

Allen, Jonelle

Actress in theatre and film. Allen has appeared in several Broadway and Off-Broadway shows such as *The Gentlemen of Verona* and *House of Leather*. The file contains reviews of the plays *House of Leather* (1970); *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1971); *Someone's Comin' Hungry* (1969), and a cast sheet for *Bury the Dead* (1971).

1969-1971, 1973

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Dance company. Founded by Alvin Ailey (1931-1989) in 1958, the company has established itself as one of the premiere dance companies of the world, launching the careers of Judith Jamison, Ulysses Dove, Donna Wood, and others. The file contains obituaries of Ailey and dancer Joyce Trisler, a historical sketch, schedule booklet and clippings.

1976-1989

See also the Alvin Ailey Dance Company in the Programs and Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

American Negro Theatre (ANT)

Theater company. Co-founded by Frederick O'Neal and Abram Hill in 1940, ANT was established to provide black actors, playwrights, directors and other theatre-related professionals with opportunities to work in productions that illustrated the diversity of black life. The file contains a form letter from Abram Hill to patrons, Oct 21, 1944; and letters from HAJ to musician Austin Briggs-Hall, Aug 17, 1976, Oct 3, 1983; card from Briggs-Hall to HAJ, Jul 5, 1983.

1944, 1976, 1983.

See also the American Negro Theatre Records and Scrapbook, the American Negro Theatre Alumni Collection, the Programs and Playbills Collection, and the Frederick O'Neal Scrapbooks in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Amos 'n' Andy

Television show. Originally a long-running radio program, Amos 'n' Andy was brought to television in 1951. Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll, the two white actors who created and starred in the radio version, produced the series. Ernestine Wade and Amanda Randolph were brought over from the radio cast. Amos 'n' Andy centered on the activities of George "Kingfish" Stevens (played by Tim Moore), a conniving character and his friend Andy Brown (played by Spencer Williams.) Supporting characters included Amos, Kingfish's wife, Sapphire and her mother, Mama, Madame Queen, and Lightnin'. Amos (played by Alvin Childress) was a minor character who drove a cab and

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

narrated some of the episodes. Civil rights groups such as the NAACP protested against the racial stereotypes, but the series ran for two years and was widely rerun on local stations in the 1960s. In 1963, CBS Films sold the program to two African countries, Kenya and West Nigeria. Soon after, Kenya denounced the program and banned it from broadcast in the country. In 1966, CBS withdrew the series from sale. The file contains a CBS press release for the show.

1951

See also the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Anderson, Garland (c.1889 - c.1942)

Playwright and lecturer. Anderson was “discovered” by vaudevillian Al Jolson, and subsequently became world famous for his spiritual lectures, and was the first black member of the P.E.N. Club. Born in Wichita, Kansas, the son of a freed slave, Anderson had no formal training in the theatre (he had four years of schooling). He was inspired to write *Appearances* after seeing a play called *The Fool* by Channing Pollocks. Jolson became interested in Anderson, and sent the young writer to New York to have his play produced on Broadway, which eventually traveled to London, Brussels and Paris. Anderson's philosophy “you can do anything you want to if you believe you can do it,” was the basis for his plays and lectures and he was also credited with starting "Tea Talks," a forum where personalities met and talked about issues at the Mayflower Hotel in London, and opening the first milk bar in London in 1934. The file contains clippings. 1930, 1935, 1937, 1938, n.d.

Anderson, Gordon.

Entertainment photographer. Gordon is most noted for his work at the Apollo Theatre from the late 1940s to the 1980s. He also took photographs at the Palace, the Renaissance Ballroom, the Capitol and Paramount Theaters, and the Royal Theatre of celebrities, politicians and civic leaders. The file contains a flyer, letter from Anderson to HAJ, Mar. 2, 1984 and clippings.

1984

See also the Gordon Anderson Photograph Collection in the Photographs and Prints Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Anderson, Hallie Lee (1885–1927)

Orchestra leader. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Anderson studied piano and violin in the early 1900s at the German Conservatory of Music and graduated with a Doctorate of Music degree. Anderson played first violin with the New York Philharmonic, and was a member of the Local 802, AFM. In 1914, Anderson organized an all-female orchestra. In 1919, she conducted a Land Band at the Lafayette Theatre in Harlem, and conducted orchestras at Howard Theatre in Washington, DC. At one time, she directed an orchestra of 100 pieces, which was integrated by both sex and race. In the 1920s, she was a director of theatre orchestras in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This file contains a letter from B. Richardson to HAJ re Anderson, and a photocopy of a photograph of Anderson and her orchestra in New York City, n.d.

n.d.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Anderson, Marian (1897?, 1902?-1993)

Opera singer. Anderson was a world renowned opera singer and the first African-American singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera. She made her debut in 1955 as Ulrica in Verdi's *A Masked Ball*. Anderson was acclaimed for her vocal and interpretive powers. She was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Carter. The file contains an obituary, biographical booklet, a letter from Anderson to Mrs. Whaley, Mar 23, 1955; and clippings.

1955, 1977, 1993, n.d.

Angelou, Maya (1928-)

Author, actress, and director. Born Marguerite Annie Johnson, Maya Angelou is the author of several volumes of poetry and autobiographical works including Phenomenal Woman, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, and Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now. Her acting and directorial credits include *Porgy and Bess*, *The Blacks*, and the films Poetic Justice and Down in the Delta. The file contains a letter from Angelou to HAJ, Jun 6, 1973, press release, flyer and clippings.

1973, n.d.

Anna Lucasta

Written by Philip Yordan, *Anna Lucasta* was originally written about a Polish-American family. After several white companies rejected it, the American Negro Theatre (ANT) revised it extensively and made it suitable for a black cast. Directed by Harry Wagstaff Gribble, the play was produced in 1944 and was a tremendous success. After just five weeks, ANT sought and received funding to move the play to Broadway. The play ran at the Mansfield Theatre for two years, spawning a movie and tours in the United States and London for several seasons with different casts. The Broadway cast included Hilda Simms, Canada Lee, Georgia Burke, Frederick O'Neal, Alice and Alvin Childress, Earle Hyman, and John Proctor. The file contains a postcard featuring the cast members of *Anna Lucasta*.

n.d.

See also the American Negro Theatre Records and Scrapbook, Hilda Simms Papers, Negro Actors Guild Records, Kenn Freeman Papers, the Programs and Playbills Collection, and the Frederick O'Neal Scrapbooks in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Archer, Osceola (c.1879-)

Actress and director. Although Archer acted in such Broadway productions as *Between Two Worlds*, *The Guide*, and the *Cat Screams*, she was primarily known as a director and teacher at the American Negro Theatre, and resident director at the Putnam County Playhouse. She was also one of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a public service sorority. The file contains resume, invitation to Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., tribute to Archer, program for *The Octoroon*, note to HAJ, Apr. 14, 1975; letter from HAJ to Archer, Feb. 6, 1975; HAJ notes.

1975, n.d.

See also the American Negro Theatre Records and Scrapbook, the American Negro Theatre Alumni Collection, the Programs and Playbills Collection, and the Frederick O'Neal Scrapbooks in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Attaway, Ruth (1910-1987)

Actress and director. Attaway was the first director of the New York Players Guild in New York in 1945. She also designed and made costume jewelry. The file contains clippings, outline of Attaway's career (by Attaway), letter from Darryl Croxton to Frances Gaines of the Actors Fund of America, a newsletter Manhattan Press Plaza (contains article written by Attaway) and Attaway's employment record. 1957-1987.

AUDELCO (Audience Development Committee)

Advocacy organization. A voluntary, not-for-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in the arts in black communities. The file contains clippings, the organization's newsletter (Vol. I, Nos. IV, V; Vol. II, No. III), calendars, brochures, invitations, flyers, script for the "Sixth Annual Theatre Awards," a copy of Black Theatre Awards Nominees, an award broadside (OS) and letters to HAJ from AUDELCO. 1974-1980

See also additional AUDELCO newsletters in the General Research and Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

B

Bailey, Pearl (1918-1990)

Actress and singer. Bailey began her singing career at age 15, winning first prize at an amateur contest in Philadelphia, and made her first major appearance in New York in 1941 at the Village Vanguard. Early in her career she sang with the Count Basie Band and toured with the Cab Calloway Orchestra. Bailey developed into a stage, screen and television star. Her most acclaimed stage performance was in the title role of the all-black Broadway production of *Hello, Dolly!*, for which she won a special Tony Award in 1968. Among her most popular movie roles were Maria in *Porgy & Bess* and Frankie, a roadhouse girl in *Carmen Jones*. Her best known songs include "Tired" and "Toot Toot Tootsie, Goodbye." She also released several albums throughout her career including Naughty, But Nice. The file contains flyer for *Hello, Dolly!*, clippings, and "It Takes a Real Good Man," lyrics written by Waring Cuney for Bailey, n.d. 1973, 1975, 1980.

Baker, Josephine (1906-1975)

Performer and civil rights activist. Born and raised in poverty in the black community of St. Louis, Missouri, Baker was the first black woman to achieve international stardom. Baker left home at age 13 to tour on the southern vaudeville circuit. By age 15, she had joined the company of *Shuffle Along*, the musical comedy by Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake, in the 1920s. Her comic antics delighted audiences and critics, and she was transferred to the first cast touring company in Boston. After traveling to Paris, Baker became a sensation, and joined the cast of *La Revue Nègre* in Paris. During World War

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

II, Baker worked as a military intelligence officer for the French, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of the Resistance. After the war, she used her celebrity as a platform for civil rights activities in the U.S. On a 1951 American tour she insisted on a nondiscrimination clause in her contracts, effectively integrating nightclubs across the country. Through a much-publicized incident at New York's Stork Club, she focused attention on discrimination against blacks in restaurants and nightclubs. When Baker, who continued to perform all her life, died at age 69, France gave her a state funeral as a war hero. The file contains flyers, copy of letter from Baker to an unidentified person, 1928; biographical information, n.d.; articles, Carnegie Hall Magazine, 1972-1973 (contains information about Baker's revue); a brochure (in German) re: Baker, clippings, and HAJ notes from "Blacks on Stage" exhibition, n.d. 1928, 1951-1991, n.d.

See also the Programs and Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Barboza, Anthony (1944-)

Photographer. Noted for his innovative commercial work in advertising, fashion and editorial photography, Barboza was also one of the founders and officers of the International Black Photographers (IBP). The file contains exhibition invitations (studio postcards), greeting cards to HAJ; model's printed portfolio (Ming) and an ad featuring Ming, a list of materials reproduced by Barboza for HAJ, biographical information and resume.

1965, 1974, n.d

See also the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Photograph Collection in the Photographs and Print Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Barnes, Mae (1907-)

Dancer, singer, and comic actress. Born in Harlem, Barnes began her career with Holmes and Levere, a vaudeville act. Later she toured with the Flotilla Orchestra, and appeared in Miller and Lyle's musicals *Rang Tang*, and *Runnin' Wild*, and toured the club circuit. The file contains several promotions including a hand card from Billy's Nightclub, n.d., flyer from The Playboy Library, n.d., handbill from the Finsbury Park Empire, Mar. 19, (?), clippings, and HAJ notes. n.d.

See also the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Big Time, Buck White

Play. Written by Joseph Dolan Tuotti, *Big Time, Buck White* featured actor Dick Williams, who rewrote, and directed the play. The file contains clippings from the Off-Broadway production, and HAJ notes.

1968-1969

Black Broadway

Musical. Produced in 1980, *Black Broadway* featured show business veterans John W. Bubbles, Adelaide Hall, Bobby Short, Elizabeth Welch, Edith Wilson, Charles “Cookie” Cook, and Leslie “Bubba” Gaines, with Nell Carter, Gregory Hines, Mercedes Ellington, Carla Earle, Teri Griffith, and Wyetta Turner. The file contains reviews.
1980

See also the Adelaide Hall Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Black America

Operetta. Produced by Nate Salsbury in 1895. The file contains a photocopy of the sheet music for “The Cabin Where I Was Born,” n.d., clippings and HAJ notes.
1895, 1977, n.d.

Black Culture Weekly

Publication that featured scheduled theatre and music programs, benefits, advertisements, short stories, poetry, articles, and conferences. The file contains the mission statement, subscription letter, seminar booklet, and a letter from Gil Sherman (publisher) to Doc (HAJ?).
1967, 1969

Black Patti (1868-1933)

Singer. Matilda Sissieretta Joyner Jones, also known as “Black Patti,” was the leader of Black Patti's Troubadours, an organization comprised of fifty artists. The file contains copies of 1902-1903 programs, photocopied clippings and HAJ notes.
1902-1903, 1979

Black, Shirley

Painter. The file contains Black’s resume, a letter from HAJ to Black, Aug. 25, 1972, greeting cards, and a clipping.
1972, 1974, n.d.

Black Theatre Alliance

Black Theatre Alliance (BTA) was a consortium of several black theatres in New York formed in 1970 or 1971, in order to develop and sustain thriving black audiences and cooperation among theatres and resources. The file contains flyers, monthly bulletins, a letter to HAJ from Duane L. Jones re BTA, form letters, copy of program for *The Lion is a Soul Brother* by Joseph Walker; copy of program for *In Tribute to Black Theatre* (A New Work in Progress) by Roger Furman, and clippings.
1974, 1976, 1977

See also the Black Theatre Alliance Files in the Frank Silvera Writers’ Workshop Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. See also additional Black Theatre Alliance newsletters in the General Research and Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Black Theatre Festival U.S.A.

The Black Theatre Festival was presented at Lincoln Center on May 1-June 3, 1979, by the Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art, and featured works produced by the Urban Arts Corps, the Karama Theatre Company, Billie Holiday Theatre of Brooklyn, the Kuumba Theatre of Chicago, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. The file contains a broadside.

1979

Blake, Eubie (James Hubert) (1883-1983)

Composer. Born in Baltimore, Blake's first professional gig was playing piano in a brothel at the age of 17. In 1915, Blake formed a vaudeville act with songwriter Noble Sissle and toured as the "Dixie Duo." In the '20s, the team collaborated with Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyles on the successful musical *Shuffle Along*, which was produced on Broadway in 1921. Notable Blake shows include *Blackbirds*, *Chocolate Dandies*, and *Eubie*. Blake also wrote "I'm Just Wild About Harry," which became President Harry S. Truman's presidential campaign song in 1941. Folders contain: printed biographical material, letters from Blake to Tom Cochran, HAJ (1945-1983, n.d.); letters from Stanley Adams to Blake, 1967; HAJ correspondence with Marion Blake, 1975, 1981; a letter from Carl (?) to HAJ, re: Blake, 1971; flyers, a newsletter *The Rag Time*, Vol. 4, No. 6; interviews with Blake; a copy of the song "Sweethearts Are We," by Sissle and Blake, 1950; "A Native Son," a score by Andy Razaf and Blake; Blake funeral program; a copy of the lyrics of "Spirituals," by Reddie and Blake; invitations and clippings (1960s-1980s); and HAJ notes.

1941-1983

See also the Noble Sissle Collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection and the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Blake , Eubie and Noble Sissle

Vaudeville duo and songwriting team. The file contains a letter from Harry S. Truman to Robert Kimball re: Blake and Sissle memorabilia, 1967, blank Christmas card from Sissle, invitation to York College regarding Eubie Blake, HAJ notes and clippings.

1926-1973

Branch, William (1927-)

Playright and actor. Author of *A Medal for Willie*, (1951) among other plays, Branch taught or lectured at a variety colleges and universities including Harvard University, Columbia University, UCLA, Spelman College and the University of Ghana. The file contains biographical sketch, articles, and a press release for the documentary *Still a Brother: Inside the Middle Class*, and printed material.

1969-1970, n.d.

Briggs-Hall, Austin

Actor, musician, singer, and director. Briggs-Hall was one of the founders of the American Negro Theatre (ANT), and later the director of the organization in 1948. He was also a member of the Rose McClendon Players and the Richard Huey Players.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Briggs-Hall trained with New Theatre School, and other groups. He appeared in such ANT productions as *On Striver's Row*, and *Henri Christophe*, as "Toussaint L'Ouverture." This file contains transcribed note re Briggs-Hall by HAJ, 1972, and a business card.

1972, n.d.

See also the American Negro Theatre Records and Scrapbook, the American Negro Theatre Alumni Collection, the Programs and Playbills Collection, and the Frederick O'Neal Scrapbooks in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Brooks, Shelton (1886-)

Songwriter and comedian. Brooks wrote songs that were performed by vaudevillians Bert Williams and Al Jolson. Songs by Brooks include "Some of These Days" and "Easy Rider" which was featured in the Mae West film *She Done Him Wrong*. The file contains two letters from Earle Howard to HAJ re: Brooks, and clippings.

1973-1974

Brown, Russell

Professional clown and actor, Brown was known as "Russell the Clown." The file contains his resume, HAJ letter to Rick Stevenson re: Brown, 1978, an advertisement, a clipping and HAJ notes.

1977-1978.

Brown, Sterling (Allen) (1901-1989)

Poet, teacher, and writer. Born in Washington, DC, Brown graduated from Williams College (BA), in 1925, then Harvard (MA), 1930, and was based in Washington, D.C. He taught at Howard University, and is known as a poet and critic of black literature. Brown's books, *The Negro in American Fiction* and *Negro Poetry and Drama*, both published in 1937, are considered classics, the first in-depth studies of representations of blacks in American literature. He was an influential teacher and encouraged many African-American writers. The file contains a copy of Brown's poem "Odyssey of Big Boy," and copies of poems by Countee Cullen and Claude McKay.

n.d.

Brown, Zara Cully and Marla Gibbs

Brown, 1886-1978, who used the stage name Zara Cully, appeared on the television show *The Jeffersons* as George Jefferson's mother, along with Gibbs, whose character, Florence, was the maid. The file contains Brown's obituary, and clippings on both Brown and Gibbs.

1978

Browne, Roscoe Lee (1925-)

Award-winning actor, director and writer. Born in Woodbury, New Jersey, Browne became one of the most recognizable actors in television and film in the 1960s and 1970s. Browne attended Lincoln University, and taught literature and French there. He was a member of several theatre companies over the years including Long Wharf Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse and American Conservatory Theatre. His film credits include

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Superfly, Black Like Me, Jumpin' Jack Flash, and narrator of the Oscar-winning film Babe. Browne has won numerous awards, among them an Obie Award for best actor (with Frank Langella and Lester Rawlins) in 1965 for *Benito Cereno* and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, for best actor in 1970 for *The Dream on Monkey Mountain*. He also earned an Emmy Award (with others), for outstanding performance by an actor in a supporting role in a comedy or drama series, 1975, for Barney Miller, and an Emmy Award, for outstanding guest performer in a comedy series, 1986, for The Cosby Show. Browne was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1977. The file contains clippings.
1979, n.d.

Browning, Ivan Harold (1891-1978)

Singer, actor, and columnist. Born in Texas, Browning became a member of Exposition Four, a singing quartet in 1915, which toured the vaudeville circuit. He was the first leading man in Sissle and Blake's *Shuffle Along*, as well as the lead in *Chocolate Dandies*, 1924. Browning was part of the singing duo "Browning and (Henry) Starr," and toured with the Harmony Kings until 1933. He also acted in films including Young at Heart. The file contains letters from Sir Walton, copies of two letters from W. C. Handy, copy of letter from Marion Anderson, letter from Zaidee Jackson, letters from Ralph and Ruth Bunche, a handwritten letter from Eubie Blake (ALS), n.d, copy of letter from Eubie Blake, card from Walter W. King, and correspondence with HAJ, 1944-1975. It also includes a list of songs performed by Browning and Starr, a contract for Browning and Bob Williams, 1934, an article by Browning "On James Reese Europe," draft of program "Down Memory Lane of Negro Musical Shows and Revues," n.d., flyers, HAJ notes, and clippings.
1934, 1944-1975, n.d.

Bubbles, John [John W. Sublett] (1902-1986) (2 files)

Dancer. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Bubbles is known as the Father of Soul Tap. He is credited with inventing rhythm tap dancing and portrayed the original Sportin' Life character in George Gershwin's opera *Porgy*. Early in his teens, Bubbles formed a partnership and vaudeville act with Ford Lee "Buck" Washington known as Buck and Bubbles; they were the first black performers engaged by Radio Music City Hall. Bubbles also appeared in several films including Cabin in the Sky. The files contain an obituary, correspondence between Bubbles and HAJ, 1973-1979, postcard from Eddie Rector to "Slim," Jul 27, 1943, flyers, an article featuring Louis Armstrong written by Bubbles, Palmer House magazine featuring Bubbles, 1964, two pieces of manuscript music, "Tip a Tap Along," n.d., and "Good Bye Jonah," 1937, HAJ notes and clippings.
1937-1986

See also the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Bubbling Brown Sugar

Musical. *Bubbling Brown Sugar* ran for 776 performances at the Off-Broadway ANTA Theatre. The file contains a clipping about the show and a memo from "JCE" to HAJ, Aug 9, 1976.
1976

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

See also the Joseph Attles Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Bullard, (Eugene) E. J.

The file contains four letters from Bullard to Mare and Elliot, Jan. 22
n.d.

Bullins, Ed (1935-)

Playwright. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bullins is a prolific playwright whose plays have been produced Off-Broadway. He was a member and playwright-in-residence at the American Place Theatre in 1973, and has lectured at Fordam University, Columbia University, University of Massachusetts, and Dartmouth College, among others. Bullins has won Obie Awards for his plays *In New England Winter*, *The Fabulous Miss Marie*, and *The Taking of Miss Janie*, among other awards. The file contains play broadsides (OS), and clippings.

1968, 1969, n.d.

See also the Play Scripts Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collection, Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop Records and the Negro Ensemble Company Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Burgoyne, Ollie (Olga) (1878 ? 1885?-1973)

Dancer. Born in Chicago, Burgoyne toured Europe at the age of six, specializing in Brazilian and Spanish dances. She appeared in the show *Follow Me* in 1923, and performed with the Negro Art Theatre. In 1930, she moved to Russia and opened a lingerie shop. The file contains clippings, and HAJ notes.

1932, 1968, 1975

Burrows, Vinnie (1928-)

Actress, teacher, director, and writer. Burrows appeared in various Broadway and off-Broadway shows, including *The Green Pastures*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and three one-woman shows, *Walk Together Children*, *Dark Fire*, and *Rose McClendon*. The file contains *Walk Together Children* promotional letters and clippings.

1973, 1975-1977

Byrd, Sam (1908-1955)

Caucasian actor, author, and theatrical producer. Born in North Carolina, Byrd was a respected actor before venturing into producing. In the mid-1930s, he bought, produced and starred in *White Man*, a drama about miscegenation and passing written by Samson Ralphelson. The play featured veteran actor Leigh Whipper in a small role and a song by composer Cecil Mack called "My Cup." The files contain *White Man* production materials, sheet music for the play "My Cup," flyers, correspondence, press releases, advertisements, and clippings.

1936-1937

C

Calloway, Blanche (1904-)

Band leader, radio personality, actress, and business woman. Blanche Calloway was the sister of jazz legend Cab Calloway. Ms Calloway led her own band called “Blanche Calloway's Joy Boys,” in 1931. In Miami, she worked as a disc jockey for WFEC, and was the executive director of WMBM, both black radio stations. Her acting credits include the starring role in a production of James Baldwin’s *The Amen Corner* in Miami. She was also the owner of Afram House, a black beauty company, also in Miami. The file contains clippings on Calloway related to *The Amen Corner* and as secretary and treasurer of the Club Caverns.

1971, n.d.

Callenders's Minstrels

Callender's Minstrels was an all-black troupe consisting of vocalists, a banjo band, Jubilee singers, twenty dancers and a man with his performing rooster. Members from the Haverly's Coloured Minstrels and Callender's Coloured Minstrels, both well-known and famous groups in their own right, combined to form the Callender’s Minstrels. The file contains a copy of a playbill, clippings and HAJ notes.

1883, n.d.

See also the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Carlisle, John

Music critic and author. Carlisle was a music critic for the Westbury Times of Long Island. His writings have been featured in Jet and Ebony Magazine. Carlisle also wrote a book of poetry called Life, Love and Feelings.” The file contains two short stories by Carlisle, The Pole Climber and Tiffany.

n.d.

Cato, Minto (1900-1979)

Opera singer, pianist and teacher. Born in Arkansas, Cato studied at the Washington Conservatory of Music in Washington, D.C. She began singing professionally in the 1920s and appeared with her husband Joe Sheftal and his Southland Revue in Europe, Canada and Mexico. Cato also appeared in *Blackbirds* in 1930 and sang with the Salmaggi Opera and the National Negro Opera. The file contains clippings and copies of programs.

1930-1944

See also the Minto Cato Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Ceremonies in Dark Old Men

Play. *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* was written by Lonnie Elder, III, and directed by Edmund Cambridge for the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC) in 1968. The play starred Douglas Turner Ward, Rosalind Cash, Arthur French, William Jay, David Downing,

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Samuel Blue, Jr., and Judyann Jonsson. The collection contains clippings, HAJ notes and a 1968/1969 NEC season brochure.

1969

See also the Negro Ensemble Company Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Cheatham, “Doc” Adolphus Anthony

Musician. Adolphus Anthony “Doc” Cheatham was born in 1905 in Nashville Tennessee, and acquired his nickname because of the many relatives he had in the medical profession. He played trumpet with a number of bands throughout his career including Cab Calloway, Benny Carter, Benny Goodman, Herbie Mann, in addition to leading his own band. He recorded with Ma Rainey, Count Basie, Billie Holiday and Juanita Hall and many other artists. This file contains an album booklet.

c. 1973

Chiculelo, Lalanda

Dancer and musician. Called “Queen of Jungle Rhythm,” Chicuelo and her South American Rhythm act has performed in the United States and Hawaii and Buenos Aires. The file contains a certificate from Lalanda Chicuelo Studios, and a piece of promotional stationery.

n.d.

Childress, Alice (1920-1995)

Author, playwright, actress and director. Childress won an Obie award for her play *Trouble in Mind*, in 1956. She was a member of the American Negro Theatre, along with her former husband Alvin Childress. She also authored *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*, which became a film of the same name in 1978. The file contains reviews.

1978.

See also the Alice Childress Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Chocolate Dandies

Musical comedy. *Chocolate Dandies* was written by Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake and opened on Broadway in 1924. The play featured Josephine Baker and Ivan Harold Browning, among others. The file contains a program and HAJ notes.

1924

See also the Josephine Baker, Eubie Blake, Ivan Harold Browning, and Noble Sissle collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Cisco, Goldie

Dancer. Cisco was an original chorus girl in Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake's hit musical *Shuffle Along*, in 1921. The file contains letters from Cisco to HAJ, 1973-1974, n.d., greeting cards and HAJ notes.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

1973-1974, n.d.

Clark, William

Playwright. The file contains the play script *To Wear a Mask: Early African American Musical Theatre*, and a letter from Clark to HAJ, Aug 10, 1990.
1990

Clay, Sonny

Theatre personality. Clay created “Sonny Clay’s Colored Idea,” which featured 41 musicians, dancers, singers and others in the troupe. The group made an appearance in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia in 1928, and made national headlines when some musicians in the band were accused of improper behavior and were thrown out of the country. The file contains an article, a clipping and HAJ notes.
n.d.

Cole, Andrew W.

Writer. This file contains an article “John Henry Turpin—The Man, A Real Life Super Hero,” written by Cole. Turpin was credited with inventing underwater welding.
1987

Cole and Johnson

Bob Cole (1868-1911) and J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) started as a vaudeville team in the early 1900s. Cole was a noted playwright and Johnson was a musician and composer who co-wrote “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” the Negro national anthem, with his brother, James Weldon Johnson. Cole and Johnson composed several songs together including *Big Indian Chief*, *Under the Bamboo Tree*, *Bleeding Moon*, and *Oh, Didn’t He Ramble*. Many of the songs they composed together were featured in Bert Williams and George Walker productions. The file contains clippings, copies of sheet music covers and HAJ notes.
1909, 1981

See also the J. Rosamond Johnson Collection and in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections, Opal Cooper Collection and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Coles, Charles L. (1911-1992)

Dancer. Charles “Honi” Coles was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was also the home of fellow tap dancers, the Nicholas Brothers. As a youngster, Coles studied with famed dancers Bill “Bojangles” Robinson and John W. Bubbles. He toured with the Miller Brothers, Lucky Seven Trio, and performed with numerous big bands including Cab Calloway, Count Basie, and Fats Waller. Coles’ and his longtime tap partner, Cholly Atkins, appeared in the Broadway show *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, in 1949. He went on to gain solo success, and earned a Tony award for Best Actor in the musical *My One and Only*, in 1983. He also appeared in the touring companies of *Bubbling Brown Sugar* and *My One and Only*. Films he appeared include *Dirty Dancing* and *The Cotton Club*. The file contains an obituary, a funeral program and clippings.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

1992

Collective Black Artists, Inc.

Collective Black Artists, Inc., was an organization that offered music and educational programs to the public. The file contains flyers.

1976, n.d.

Coloured Troubadours and the Jubilee Singers

The file contains a copy of a playbill for these performers.

c. 1883, n.d.

Comedians/Comic Sketches

The file contains HAJ notes, comedian Allen Drew's business card and a sketch titled "Was I Drunk?"

n.d.

Comin' Uptown

Broadway musical comedy based on the Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol. The cast featured Gregory Hines, Tiger Haynes, Larry Marshall, Robert Jackson, Sandra McClain, among others. The file contains reviews and a ticket stub.

1979

Concept East Theatre

Concept East Theatre, located in Detroit, produced plays by noted playwrights including Amiri Baraka and Don Evans. The file contains press releases, a newsletter, a letter from Concept East Theatre to HAJ and HAJ notes.

1971, 1973

Cook, Mercer (1903-1987)

Educator, diplomat and author. Born in Washington, D.C., Cook was the son of composer Will Marion Cook and actress/singer Abbie Mitchell. He was an American ambassador to the African nations, Niger and Senegal, in the mid-1960s. In accepting the diplomatic posts he interrupted his work at Howard University, where he had taught Romance languages since 1945. He resumed his career there in 1966, then retired in 1970. In addition to his duties as a professor and diplomat, Cook was director of Africa's Congress for Cultural Freedom in the early 1960s and was an alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1963. Cook wrote such works as Five French Negro Authors and The Haitian Novel, and he collaborated with Stephen Henderson on writing The Militant Black Writer in Africa and the United States. In addition, Cook produced English translations and collections of works by West Indian and African writers, including Leopold Senghor. He also wrote songs. The files contain biographical information, correspondence with HAJ, Will Marion Cook's obituary, letters and articles, and a speech by Cook "From 'Clorindy' to 'Red Moon' and Beyond."

1944, 1975, 1978

Cook, Will Marion (1869-1944)

Composer and violinist. Trained as a violinist, Cook co-wrote (along with poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar) the musical sketch comedy *Clorindy: The Origin of the Cakewalk*

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

(1898), which introduced actress-singer Abbie Mitchell, who became Cook's wife. Cook was composer-in-chief for several musical comedies for the vaudeville team of Williams & Walker, including (but not limited to) *Jes Lak White Folks* (1899), *The Casino Girl* (1900), *The Policy Player* (1900), *In Dahomey* (1902) and *In Abyssinia* (1906). With over 1,100 performances in the United States and England between 1902 and 1905, *In Dahomey* became a landmark of the American musical theater. He also organized the New York (later renamed American) Syncopated Theatre. The file contains “Will Marion Cook,” a biographical essay written by Bill Reed and HAJ notes.
n.d.

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for the Research in Black Culture.

Croxton, Darryl

Actor, producer and poet. Baltimore native Croxton is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He made his acting debut in the play 1969 in *Indians*, opposite Stacy Keach. A Shakespearean actor, Croxton has made numerous appearances on Broadway and Off-Broadway in *King Lear* (opposite Frank Silvera and Mary Alice), *Othello* and *The Tempest*, and has acted in plays written by Ed Bullins, Larry Neal and Owen Dodson. He has written and directed himself in two one-man shows, and has recorded four albums of poetry and drama for Scholastic Magazine and Harcourt-Brace. The file contains biographical sketches, flyers, resume, postcards, correspondence with actor Gordon Heath and HAJ, memorial information for Gordon Heath, and clippings.
1969-1991

See also the Gordon Heath Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Curtis, Gertude (1880-1973)

Pianist, choir director and dentist. Before her marriage to composer Cecil Mack in 1909, Curtis was an accomplished pianist and was the first black woman to practice dentistry in New York City. Curtis traveled to Europe with Mack and his Blackbirds Choir in Lew Leslie's *Blackbirds of 1930*, which starred Ethel Waters and Flournoy Miller. When the choir returned to the U.S., she replaced Mack as the choir director. After Mack's death, she married dancer Ulysses “Slow Kid” Thompson in 1948. The file contains her obituary, a letter from Bellevue Allied Hospitals to Curtis, a letter from Curtis to Bessie (Miller?) 1965, a copy of a letter from Curtis to Detroit Public Library, 1972, and clippings.
1910, 1965, 1972, 1974, 1979

See also the Cecil Mack and Ulysses S.Thompson collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

D

D.C. Black Repertory Company

Theatrical company. In 1970, Robert Hooks, actor and one of three founders of the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC), founded the D.C. Black Repertory Company (DCBRC), the capitol's first black repertory theatre. Hooks established the company with a \$30,000 grant from the Meyer Foundation. Like the NEC, the DCBRC combined productions with theatrical training and youth workshop programs designed primarily to stimulate and foster the participation of blacks in all phases of the theatrical profession. The file contains a company profile, a program, a broadside for *The Blacks* (OS) and flyer for *Owen's Song*.

n.d.

Dafora, Asadata (1891-1965)

Dancer and choreographer. Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Dafora's father, John Owana Horton, was the treasurer of Freetown, and his mother was a highborn member of the Temini tribe. Dafora was best known for his two works, *Kykunkor - Ticket of (Witch Woman) an African Drama* and *Zunguru: An African Dance Drama*. The file contains a biographical sketch, clippings, subscription card (Negro Dance Company), and HAJ notes.

1934, 1935, n.d.

See also the Asadata Dafora Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Davis, Ruby (c.1917-)

Actress, writer, and pianist. Born in Florida, Davis studied piano at the New York School of Music, and entered show business shortly after she graduated high school. She was an assistant director with the National Negro Opera Company Foundation, a member of the Negro Actors Guild of America, Inc., and actor Leigh Whipper's personal secretary. The file contains a biographical sketch, a letter from Davis to HAJ (Jun 11, 1975), copy of letter from the Schomburg Center to Ruby S. Davis and a clipping.

1975

See also the Ruby Sheppard Davis Scrapbook in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Davis, Jr., Sammy (1925-1990)

Entertainer. Born in Harlem, Davis began his career as a toddler in vaudeville and grew up performing with his father and uncle in the Will Mastin Trio. He went on to stardom in Las Vegas nightclubs, motion pictures, television and Broadway. He made scores of hit recordings, among them his signature songs, "Candy Man," "Mr. Bojangles," "What Kind of Fool Am I" and "I've Gotta Be Me." Active in the Civil Rights Movement, Davis was also a humanitarian, contributing generously to black colleges and other causes. His many honors include the NAACP Spingarn Medal, The American Black Achievement Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award, a Kennedy Center Honor, and induction to the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. His numerous academic awards include honorary degrees from Atlanta University, Wilberforce University and South

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Carolina State College. He wrote three autobiographies: Yes I Can: The Story of Sammy Davis, Jr., Hollywood in a Suitcase and Why Me? The file contains clippings. 1974, 1979, 1980, 1978

Dawson, Elida Webb (1895-1975)

Dancer and choreographer. Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Dawson began her show business career as a chorus girl trained by vaudeville star Ada Overton Walker. Dawson was the first black choreographer on Broadway, doing choreography for the Zeigfield Follies and the musical *Show Boat*. She is credited with introducing The Charleston with Josephine Baker in the hit show *Runnin' Wild* in 1923. She appeared in Stormy Weather with Ethel Waters, and in World On A String, with Cab Calloway, where she discovered singer Lena Horne. She also had a dance studio at Kelly Stables in New York City and did choreography for the Cotton Club, Apollo Theatre and the Lafayette Theatre. Dawson was married to dancer Garfield Dawson. The file contains an obituary and HAJ notes.

1973, 1975, n.d.

Dee, Ruby (1923-) & **Davis, Ossie** (1917-)

Husband and wife team, thespians, writers and producers. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Ruby Dee's acting career has spanned more than 50 years and has included theater, radio, television, and movies. Born in Cogdell, Georgia, Ossie Davis is known to recent audiences as Ponder Blue on television's Evening Shade and as the mayor in filmmaker Spike Lee's film Do the Right Thing. He made his Broadway debut in 1946, and wrote and starred in *Purlie Victorious*, the 1961 play that was eventually revived as the smash Broadway musical *Purlie*. Davis also directed the film Cotton Comes to Harlem in 1970. The couple is active in the struggle for civil and human rights, and were friends as well as supporters of Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Dee and Davis also maintained membership in organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Congress of Racial Equality. The couple has raised three children. The file contains a press release, clippings, and a flyer.

1973, 1978, n.d.

See also the Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

DeShields, Andre

Dancer. DeShields is most noted for his performances in major Broadway productions such as the original production and star tour of *The Wiz*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Stardust*, and the *L'Histoire du Soldat*. Off-Broadway credits include *Angel Levine*, *Dancing in Moonlight*, *Ascension Day*, *The Sovereign State of Boogedy Boogedy*, and *Just So*. His film and television credits include Prison, and Extreme Measures, I Dream of Jeannie - 15 Years Later, Ain't Misbehavin' (Emmy Award), Law and Order, and Another World. The file contains clippings.

1978

See also the *Ain't Misbehavin'* Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Dodson, Owen (1914-1983)

Playwright, actor, and poet. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dodson was a major figure among black dramatists and poets. A drama professor at Howard University for most of his career, Dodson's plays include *Divine Comedy*, *New World A-Coming: An Original Pageant of Hope*, *The Shining Town*, *The Third Fourth of July* (with Countee Cullen), and *Bayou Legend*. The file contains a biographical sketch, flyers, press releases, journals, HAJ notes, and clippings.

1946, 1963, 1975-1977, 1982-1984, n.d.

See also the Owen Dodson Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Donald Byrd/ The Group

Dance troupe. Born in New London, North Carolina, Byrd attended Yale University and Tufts University, and studied with Mia Slavenska, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Cambridge School of Ballet, Harvard Summer Dance Center, and the London School of Contemporary Dance. Byrd, a critically-acclaimed choreographer, formed Donald Byrd/The Group in 1978, in New York. The file contains a company profile booklet, business card, and clippings.

1988-1991

Duke Ellington Society

Named for Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, the society's purpose is to promote the appreciation of the music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. The file contains brochure, flyers, press releases, and clippings.

1977-1978, n.d.

Dunham, Katherine (1910-)

Choreographer and dancer. Born in Joliet, Illinois, Dunham received her Ph.D. at Northwestern University in anthropology, and is considered a pioneer in the field of dance. She formed the Katherine Dunham School of Cultural Arts in 1943, and was the producer and director of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company in 1945. Dunham is identified as a dance pioneer due to her development of the Dunham technique which combines Caribbean dance styles with jazz, ballet and modern dance techniques. She appeared in many films and plays, and choreographed dances for such films as *Stormy Weather*, and *Cabin in the Sky*. The file contains a McNeil/Lehrer Report transcript of an interview with Dunham; Armstead-Johnson's drafts of a review of Katherine Dunham: A Biography; a list of theatrical books; a copy of an excerpt from Bernard Child's diary about Dunham; flyers; an article by Richard A. Long "Katherine Dunham and American Musical Theatre;" a article featuring L'AG' YA' (OS); clippings and HAJ notes.

1953, 1978-1979, n.d.

See also the Programs and Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

E

Easton, Hosea (1854-1899)

Musician. Hosea Easton was a musician born in Hartford, Connecticut. The file contains a copy of Easton's birth, marriage, and death certificates, photocopies of clippings and picture of Easton, cemetery map, correspondence between HAJ and City of Hartford re: Easton.

1983, n.d.

Ellington, Duke (1899-1974)

Musician and jazz band leader. Accomplished pianist and bandleader, Ellington and his band, the Kentucky Club Orchestra, were featured performers at the Cotton Club in the 1930s. He later appeared in movies, and around the world with various orchestras. He is famous for songs such as "Take the A Train," "Mood Indigo," "I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good," "Solitude," and "It Don't Mean a Thing, If It Ain't Got That Swing," among others. The file contains Ellington's obituary, brochures, flyers, a letter from the Black American Heritage Foundation, and Jet Magazine featuring an article on Ellington's biography by his son Mercer and clippings.

1973-1974, 1978

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Ethiopian Serenaders

Minstrel group. The Ethiopian Serenaders included M.G. Stanford, G.W. White, F. Howard, S. A. Wells, W. Parker, J. H. Bryant, Germon, Stanwood, Harrington, Pell, and Pelham, in addition to a brass band. The group performed in the mid-19th century, and their show consisted of live music, singing and skits. The group toured New York, Philadelphia and Boston. The file contains photocopies of posters and programs, and HAJ notes.

n.d.

Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts, Inc.

Founded by Elma Lewis in 1950, the school offered classes in art, drama, music, dance, costuming and technical theater. Though the school started out in a Roxbury apartment, in 1950, it moved to the National Center for Afro-American Artists, which was also founded by Lewis 1968. In 1969 she staged the first local production of Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, which continues to be a favorite. The file contains a Lewis fact sheet (Lewis' biography and history of school), position papers re: black studies, and copies of clippings.

1970-1971

Eubie

Musical. A Broadway revue featuring the music of ragtime composer Eubie Blake, directed by Julianne Boyd, choreographed by Dana Manno, and starred Gregory and Maurice Hines, Alaina Reed, and Lynn Godfrey. The file contains clippings.

1975, 1978

See also the Eubie Blake Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Eyre, Laurence (1881-?)

Playwright and actor. Born in Chester, Pennsylvania, Eyre made his first appearance on the stage in *The Jilt* at Castle Square Theatre in Boston, in 1907. He was a member of the New Theatre in New York, and wrote *An Angel Without Wings*, *The Things That Count*, and *Sazus Matazus*. The file contains a letter from Eyre to Rev. Paul Boller, Jun 14, 1914, biographical information, letter from Peter Coulson to HAJ re: Eyre, Nov 29, 1981.

1914, 1981, n.d.

F

Ferry, Williams James (1872-1945)

Caucasian circus clown-contortionist. Born in Philadelphia, Ferry was known as "The Frog Man." At age 15, he joined the Peggy O'Brien's Fly-By-Night Circus. In 1901, Ferry appeared with Dix's Gaiety Company at the Alhambra Theatre, in Dunedin, Australia. Throughout the 1920s, Ferry made a number of appearances in Australia. The file contains copies of birth and death certificates, a poster card, obituary, clippings, letters in reference to Ferry from Gary LeGallet to HAJ Ferry, Dec 17, 1984, and HAJ to LeGallet, Jan 4, 1985, and cemetery map.

1941, 1984-1985

Fire!! A Quarterly Devoted to Younger Negro Artists

Magazine. The first and only issue of Fire!!, was edited by Wallace Thurman and contains the writings and works of Harlem Renaissance writers and artists Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Arna Bontemps, Richard Bruce, Gwendolyn Bennett, Countee Cullen and Aaron Douglas. The file contains a facsimile edition.

1982

See also the Langston Hughes Collection, the Zora Neale Hurston Collection, the Gwendolyn Bennett Papers, Aaron Douglas Letters, the Countee Cullen Collection, and the Sister Mary Margaret/Countee Cullen Research Material Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Fisk Jubilee Singers

Concert choral group. Established 1866 by the American Missionary Association, Fisk University opened its doors to aid in the education of over four million slaves. George L. White, a choral director, trained the Fisk students to sing black folksongs as well as a traditional European repertory. In 1867, the students began give concerts locally in nearby towns. Encouraged by their success, they went on an extensive tour in the fall of 1871. In December of the same year, White christened the group the "Jubilee Singers," after a then popular black-folk saying about "the year of the jubilee." The file contains

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

photocopies of a newspaper article and a biographical sketch for Robert Williams, former member of Fisk Jubilee Singers.

n.d.

Four Saints in Three Acts

Opera. Book by Gertrude Stein, music composed by Virgil Thompson; the associate conductor was Eva Jessye. *Four Saints in Three Acts* starring Edward Matthews, Abner Dorsey, Altonell Hines and Beatrice Robinson Wayne, opened in Hartford, Connecticut and made its way to Broadway. The file contains clippings from various newspapers about the play and Stein.

1934

See also the Virgil Thompson Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Foxx, Redd (1922-1991)

Comedian and actor. Born John Elroy Sanford in St. Louis, Missouri, Fox worked the club circuits in New York, Las Vegas and Los Angeles for many years before getting his own primetime television show Sanford and Son, which originally aired 1972-1977. He also recorded numerous albums of comedy including On the Loose, Funky Tales From a Dirty Old Junkman and Pryor Goes Foxx Hunting, with Richard Pryor. The file contains clippings.

1974, 1978, 1980, n.d.

France, Rachel

Writer. The file contains a copy of Women's Voices in the Theatre: An Anthology of Plays, by France.

n.d.

Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop

The Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop was co-founded by Garland Lee Thompson in October 1973 to provide support, guidance and developmental assistance to black playwrights. Named for the late Hollywood actor/director, it was initially established to meet the needs of Third World Playwrights. While acting as a laboratory for playwrights, the Workshop gradually expanded its program to include directors and technicians as well. Hundreds of works have been presented by the Workshop and several of them such as Richard Wesley's *The Last Street Play*, later renamed *The Mighty Gents* and Charles Fuller's *The Brownsville Raid*, (author of *A Soldier's Play*) went on to achieve commercial success. The file contains press releases, flyers, performers' profiles and biographical sketches, lists and schedule of readings, and a biography of Frank Silvera.

1977, n.d.

See also the Frank Silvera Writer Workshop Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Franklin, Joe

Radio show personality. The file contains a transcript of an interview with Franklin done by HAJ and her notes.

1970

Freeman, Harry Lawrence (1869-1954)

Composer. Freeman studied music as a child in Cleveland, Ohio, and at age 19, he became an assistant organist. In the early 1900s, he composed musical comedies for The Pekin Theatre Company in Chicago, and the Cole and Johnson Brothers Company in New York. He also composed 14 operas, one ballet *Zulu King* (1934), a symphonic poem called *The Slave*, cantatas and songs. The file contains a flyer for *Vendetta: An Original Opera in 3 acts*, by Freeman, Jun 24, 1937.

1937

Fuller, James

Actor. The file contains an Actors Equity Agreement between Fuller and Robert F. Cutler for the play *Petrified Forest*, Jul 26, 1938.

1938

G

Garland, Will

Singer. The file contains copies of the Manchester Programme featuring Will Garland and other singers and dancers.

1928

Gassman, Josephine

Vaudeville act. Gassman aka Phina (Caucasian) was the leader of the group called Josephine and the Pickaninnies. The file contains reviews and photocopies of photographs of Josephine and the Pickaninnies.

1912, n.d.

Gee, Lottie (1885-1973)

Actress and singer. Gee is considered the first black ingenue to be featured in a Broadway musical. She sang "I'm Just Wild About Harry," opposite Ivan Harold Browning, in *Shuffle Along* in 1921. The file contains an obituary, funeral program, and notes.

1973, n.d.

See also Edith Spencer Scrapbook Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Gilpin, Charles (1878-1930)

Actor and singer. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Charles S. Gilpin was one of the first black dramatic actors to appear on Broadway. Beginning as a singer and comic actor, Gilpin seized opportunities to play in black stock companies and developed his acting abilities. He played the title role in Eugene O'Neill's play *The Emperor Jones* and became the first black actor to star on Broadway. Not only was the role a personal

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

triumph for Gilpin, but it also opened the door for other blacks in the professional theater. Gilpin was also a founding member of the Lafayette Players, a stock company in Harlem. The file contains a biographical sketch and HAJ notes.
n.d.

See also the Lafayette Players, Abbie Mitchell and Clarence Muse collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Giovanni, Nikki (1943-)

Poet, writer and teacher. Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Giovanni is one of the best-known African-American poets to have reached prominence during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Her poetry books include Re: Creation, Spin a Soft Black Song, and Those Who Ride the Night Winds. Her nonfiction works include Racism 101 and the anthology Grand Mothers: Poems, Reminiscences, and Short Stories about the Keepers of Our Traditions. A frequent lecturer and reader, Giovanni has taught at Rutgers University, Ohio State University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The file contains photocopies of her poems.
n.d.

Gordone, Charles (1925?-1985?)

Playwright. Gordone, a Cleveland native who grew up in Elkhart, Indiana, won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his play, *No Place to Be Somebody*, the first Pulitzer awarded to an African-American playwright. He also appeared in two films Streetfight, in 1975, and Angel Heart, in 1987, and was a Distinguished Lecturer at Texas A&M University. The file contains clippings.
1970, n.d.

The Great White Hope

Play. Written by Howard Sackler, this Pulitzer Prize-winning play tells the story of the first black heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson. The Broadway play starred James Earl Jones and Jane Alexander. The file contains clippings.
1969, n.d.

See also the James Earl Jones Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Greaves, William (1926-)

Filmmaker and writer. Greaves has produced over 200 documentary films in his career, and directed and co-produced a celebration of Paul Robeson's 90th birthday at the Shubert Theater in New York. He was executive producer of the Richard Pryor film Bustin Loose, and he wrote, produced, and directed the following documentaries, The Marijuana Affair, Ali, the Fighter, Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One, and Ida B Wells: A Passion for Justice which aired on PBS. He has also conducted workshops for film directors and screen actors throughout the world. The file contains biographical sketch and clippings.
1972, 1978, 1981, n.d.

See also the William Greaves Collection in the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Green, Silas

Actor. The file contains flyers, photocopies of broadsides and HAJ notes.
1946, n.d.

The Green Pastures

Play. *Green Pastures* was written by Marc Connelly, and featured Richard B. Harrison, Wesley Hill, Daniel Haynes, Salem Tutt Whitney, Robert McFerrin, George Royston, Alonzo Bosan, Alma Hubbard, William McDaniel, Sam Davis, Tina Marshall, John Bouie, and Courtenaye Olden. The file contains a play script and clippings.
1931, 1940, 1957, n.d.

See also the Richard B. Harrison Collection and the Alma Lilly Hubbard Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Gunn, Moses (1929-1993)

Actor. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Gunn played a variety of roles on stage, films, and television, in a career that spanned more than 30 years. He was perhaps best known as a Shakespearean actor, taking part in many productions of the New York Shakespeare Festival. Despite his status as a leading player on the stage, however, Gunn most often played supporting roles in the movies and on television, limited by the few parts available to black men. He was also a member of the Negro Ensemble Company. The file contains reviews.
1969

See also the Negro Ensemble Company Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

H

Hall, Adelaide (1901-1993)

Singer and actress. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Hall began her professional stage career in the early 1920s, and her career spanned more than a half century. Hall was one of the multi-talented black performers in the early black shows of the 1920s including *Chocolate Kiddies Revue* and *Blackbirds*. She appeared in musical revues, movies, and entertainment acts in Europe, on Broadway, and in black theaters across the United States. The file contains a card from Hall to Ulysses "Kid" Thompson, 1979, a magazine article featuring Hall, and clippings.
1970, 1979, 1983

See also file on Hall in the Negro Actors Guild Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Hall, Juanita (1901-1968)

Singer, actress and choral director. Juanita Long Hall was born in Keyport, New Jersey, and was best-known for her role as Bloody Mary in the 1949 Broadway stage production of *South Pacific*; she also appeared in the movie version in 1958. Hall spent more than forty years in the performing arts. Her choral music activities brought her in contact with other black music pioneers, such as Hall Johnson, Eva Jessye, and William C. Handy. Juanita Hall's choral organizations were known for their high musical quality and discipline and many of her choir members went on to perform in Broadway stage productions. She also had a private voice studio. The file contains clippings and a program.

1966, n.d.

Handy, W(illiam) C(hristopher) (1873-1958)

Composer and publisher. Born in Florence, Alabama, the son of a minister, Handy learned to play the coronet and the organ as a child, and was known as the "Father of the Blues." Conventionally musically-trained, Handy incorporated folk rhythms into the blues. The file contains a funeral program, copies of flyers and programs, an advertisement for Handy's autobiography, postcards, an article on Katherine Handy Lewis (daughter), cards, flyers, a letter from Handy to Bernard Parker, 1943, four letters from Flournoy Miller, 1950, and 1953, and copies of clippings.

1928, 1943, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1972, 1976

See also W.C. Handy collection and Katherine Handy Lewis Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hard Times

Musical comedy. Book written by Alex Rogers and Eddie Hunter, music by C. Luckeyth "Lucky" Roberts and lyrics by Alex Rogers. The file contains a play script and HAJ notes.

n.d

See also the Eddie Hunter file in the Negro Actors Guild Records and the Eddie Hunter Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Harlem...One More Time

Band. Featured some of the original musicians who played at the Apollo Theatre, The Savoy, Harlem Opera House and Cotton Club, among others. Harlem...One More Time had its debut concert in Pluckerman, New Jersey in 1977. The file contains press releases and clippings.

1977

Harper, Emerson "Geechie"

Musician. Harper was a member of Leroy Smith's dance orchestra in Detroit, Michigan, which toured the United States between 1910 and 1930. The file contains an essay by Harper describing his experiences with the band.

n.d.

Haverly's Colored Minstrels

Performance group. Created in 1881 by J.H. Haverly, this all-black troupe of men and women performed in the United States and England during the late 19th century. The file contains copies of playbills and HAJ notes.

n.d.

See also the poster of Haverly's Colored Minstrels in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collections in the Art and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hayden, Palmer (1890-1973)

Painter. Born Peyton Cole Hedgemen in Wide Water, Virginia, Hayden was best known for his paintings of rural and urban black folk. The circumstances under which his name was changed are unclear, but it is known that he was a U. S. soldier in World War I and a laborer for many years before becoming a full-time painter. Mostly self-taught, he was well into adulthood before receiving any academic art training. At one time Hayden studied to be a commercial artist but realized that his desire to be a fine artist was stronger, and consequently pursued formal training. The file contains unsigned comments on Palmer's work, and a letter from Palmer to Mrs. Barkentin, 1944, clippings, and HAJ notes.

1933, 1944

See also Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for works by Palmer Hayden.

Hayes, Roland (1887-1976)

Singer. Born in Georgia to a widowed slave-born mother, Hayes studied music, voice production and song interpretation. He worked as an iron foundry helper in Chattanooga, a waiter in Louisville, and an office boy in Boston, where he also appeared at Symphony Hall. He was a member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers in 1911, and formed the Hayes Trio that included baritone William Richardson and pianist William Lawrence in 1912. Hayes also sang duets with H. T. Burleigh for one of Booker T. Washington's lecture tours. He was the first black singer to perform before racially-mixed audiences in the south and at Constitution Hall. The file contains record advertisements, and clippings.

1937, 1943-1945, 1952

See also the Roland Hayes correspondence file in the Lawrence Brown Papers and the Programs and Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Heath, Gordon (1918-1991)

Actor. Heath garnered praise for his performance in the Broadway play *Deep Are the Roots*. He left the United States for Paris in 1948, and played *Othello* in London, on stage and the BBC. In 1970, he starred in *Oedipus* in the United States. His autobiography Deep Are the Roots: Memoirs of a Black Expatriate, was published in 1992, by University of Massachusetts Press. The file contains an obituary of Heath, flyers for the play *Kohlhass*, by Heinrich von Kliest, an obituary for Arnaud d'Usseau, author of *Deep Are the Roots*, materials from his memorial service by actor Darryl

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Croxton, as well as copies of letters from William Greaves, Elia Kazan, Loften Mitchell, and a poem by Croxton dedicated to Heath called "No Endgame," and clippings.

1945, 1977, 1990-1991

See also the Darryl Croxton Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Heaven Bound

Musical. Written by a Sunday school teacher at Big Bethel African Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia in 1930, *Heaven Bound* has since been performed annually at the church. The file contains clippings, and HAJ notes.

1963, 1987-1988

Height, Amy

Singer. Height performed with minstrels. She appeared at the annual Prince's Pantomime, and was known for her rendition of a song called "My Tiger Lily" with Mr. Angelo and chorus. The file contains a photocopy of a clipping featuring Height.
n.d.

Hightower, Gail

Bassoonist. Hightower has performed with the Symphony of the New World, the Urban Philharmonic, the Great Neck Symphony, the Dance Theatre of Harlem Orchestra and the National Afro-American Philharmonic. In 1978, she founded the Universal Symphony, a multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic chamber orchestra comprised of 60% minority musicians. The file contains flyers, press releases, and copies of clippings re: Universal Symphony.

1978-1979, n.d.

Hinton, Milton

Bassist. Hinton played with one of jazz legend Benny Goodman's combos, in addition to being featured in Cab Calloway's Orchestra in 1938. In 1945, Hinton was leading the Milton Hinton Orchestra featuring Tyree Glenn. He also played bass on Helen Merrill's albums Don't Explain, Born To Be Blue, You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To, 'S Wonderful, and has worked with Cannonball Adderley. Hinton is also known for his photographs of jazz musicians. The file contains clippings, telephone messages to HAJ, and a calendar of famous jazz musicians.

1973-1974

Hogan, Ernest

Actor, songwriter and musician. Born in Kentucky, and called the Father of Ragtime, Hogan was credited with writing the first coon song, "Pas-Ma-La" and others including "All Coons Look Alike to Me" and in collaboration with Joe Jordan wrote the music for the minstrel show *Rufus Rastus*. The file contains photocopies of clippings and HAJ notes.

1903

See also the *Rufus Rastus* Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

"Hollywood and the Negro"

Magazine. The Pilot: The Pictorial News Magazine focused an entire issue on blacks in Hollywood. Features historical information on black actors and films featuring blacks, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at black press agents and producers working at film studios. The file contains the May-June 1966 issue.
1966

Holt, Nora (1884-1974)

Entertainer, singer and music critic. Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Holt was the first black person to obtain a Master's degree in music from the Chicago Music College. She performed in nightclubs in Chicago, on the Riviera and in Paris where she was called the "Blonde Martinique." She traveled widely and gave concerts in Japan, France, and China. Holt's career as a music critic began in 1917 at The Chicago Defender, and she later went to work for The Amsterdam News. In 1919, Holt founded the National Association of Negro Musicians. The file contains an obituary, funeral program, copy of letter from Holt to Charles James, Jul 21, 1963, documentation of Charles James' career, article, letter from "C" to HAJ re: Holt, and HAJ notes.
1963, 1974, n.d.

See also the George Glover collection and the National Association of Negro Musicians in the Program and Playbills collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Horne, Lena (1917-)

Actress and singer. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Horne began her career as a dancer at the Cotton Club in 1933. She starred in the films Stormy Weather and Cabin in the Sky, recorded numerous albums, and had a one-woman stage show Lena: The Lady and Her Music. The file contains concert souvenir journals Lena: The Lady and Her Music, and Tony (Bennett) and Lena, a pocket booklet featuring Horne, a letter from James Hatch to HAJ, Jan 31, 1986, and clippings.
1955, 1974, 1981-1982, 1986-1987

See also the Lena Horne and Horne Family collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Howard Theater

Information about productions including *Shuffle Along*, *Sappho*, *Madame X*, *How Come*, and *Woman Against Woman*. The file contains a Howard Theater Foundation broadside (OS), and HAJ notes.
1910, 1920-1921, 1923, n.d.

Howell, Bert

Singer and comedian. Howell was a member of the comedy duo Harris and Howell, who appeared in the film Buck Privates, and Congo Maisie, and the 1936 Broadway production of *Shuffle Along*. Howell was also a member of the comedy duos Howell and Bowser, and Easton and Howell. The file contains photocopies of clippings, playbills, reviews, routines and a telegram.

1933, 1936-1937

See also the Sidney Easton Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hughes, Langston (1901-1967)

Writer, lyricist and poet. Born in Joplin, Missouri, Hughes published his first book of poetry The Weary Blues in 1926. A major figure in the Harlem Renaissance, he wrote two autobiographies, several plays, short stories and songs. The file contains the play scripts *Debutante's Ball*, *Madam Seymour's Séance*, *Troubles of a Genius*, *I'm Pickin' My Last Row of Cotton*; poem booklet Freedom's Plow; a copy of the poem "The Backlash Blues;" a letter from (?) to Hughes Feb 7, 1941; a Hughes letter re: Negro Book Society; n.d., copy of letter from Hughes to Melvin and Marilyn (?) May 15, 1957; a playbill for *Tambourines to Glory* (OS); and two copies of "Message to the President: American Negro National Defense Song."

1940-1941, 1957, 1966, 1973, 1981, 1987, n.d.

See also the Langston Hughes collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hughes, Ravella

Singer. A native of Huntington, West Virginia, Hughes began her singing career at the age of five. She attended Howard University and Northwestern University. Hughes was musical director for Sissle and Blakes' *Shuffle Along* (1921) and Miller and Lyles' *Runnin' Wild* (1923). She has appeared on television, conducted swing concerts at colleges and toured Europe in U.S. Air Force shows after World War II. The file contains a copy of Hughes' Master degree, clippings, and HAJ notes.

1942, 1975, n.d.

See also the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hunter, Alberta (1895-1984)

Singer. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Alberta Hunter's long life and marvelously varied career reads like a chronicle of twentieth-century blues and jazz—from Memphis to Chicago to New York—and then to London, Paris, and Copenhagen. She sang with and composed for Louis Armstrong, Ethel Waters, Fats Waller, Bessie Smith, Josephine Baker, and Paul Robeson, and crossed paths with presidents, prime ministers and princes around the world. In the 1920s and early 1930s, Hunter and Bessie Smith found

themselves recording some of the same songs, “Taint Nobody's Business If I Do,” and “Aggravatin' Papa,” among them. The file contains clippings.
1978

See also the Alberta Hunter Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hunter, Eddie (1888-)

Comedian and playwright. Hunter wrote *Going to the Races* for the Lafayette Theatre, one of the first shows to use the stage and the screen simultaneously. His other shows included *Good Gracious*, *The Eddie Hunter Company*, *Darktown Scandals*, and *Struttin' Hannah From Savannah*, and a Broadway show called *How Come*. The file contains the play script *That Gets It*, Lyric Week performance broadside Dayton, Ohio (OS), clippings and HAJ notes.
n.d.

See also the Eddie Hunter file in the Negro Actors Guild Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Hyman, Earle (1929-)

Theater and television actor. Born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Hyman has appeared in many plays including *Anna Lucasta*, *Mister Johnson*, *Othello*, *The Lady from Dubuque*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, and is recently recognized for his role as Russell Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*. The file contains reviews of *Othello* from a Norwegian newspaper.
1966, 1978-1979, n.d.

I

In Dahomey

Musical comedy. Music by Will Marion Cook, book by J. A. Shipp, with lyrics by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, *In Dahomey* was a full-length musical created and performed almost entirely by African Americans. From 1902 to 1905, the musical enjoyed over 1100 performances and made the vaudeville team of Bert Williams and George Walker household names. *In Dahomey* was the most successful and longest-running Williams and Walker show. It also paved the way for more black Broadway shows, and promoted Cook as a spokesman for new styles of African-American music. The file contains photocopies of clippings.
1904-1905, 1908, n.d.

See also the Bert Williams, the Williams Jokebook, Bert Williams and George Walker, the Will Marion Cook and the Jesse Shipp collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Inner City Cultural Center

Located in Washington, DC, the Inner City Cultural Center (ICCC) encompassed several components--Inner City Repertory Theatre Dance Company, Inner City Institute for the Performing Arts and the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. Since its inception in 1967, teaching personnel have included Beah Richards, Louis Gossett, Jr., and Fayard Nicholas of the Nicholas Brothers. Famed choreographer Donald McKayle led the dance company in 1971, and the Center also featured performances by the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Eleo Pomare Dance Company. The file contains an organizational profile, Spring class schedule, press releases, activities calendar, clippings, mailing and reviews for *One is a Crowd*.

1973

J

Jarboro, Caterina (1903-1986) (Catherine Yarborough)

Opera singer. Born in Wilmington, North Carolina, Jarboro became the first black woman to sing a principal role with an all-white opera company, the Hippodrome Theater in New York. She performed "Aida" with the Chicago Opera Company at the Hippodrome in New York City. *The New York Times* music editor reported "The young soprano brought a vivid dramatic sense that kept her impersonation vital without overacting, and an Italian diction remarkably pure and distinct." Jarboro's fame, however, was short-lived. Once the American opera establishment realized that she was not Italian but black, her career with the white establishment ended. She went on to work with the National Negro Opera Company and as a concert singer. Jarboro appeared in such plays as *Shuffle Along*, and venues such as Town Hall and Carnegie Hall. The file contains reviews, photocopies of clippings.

1975, n.d.

See also the Caterina Jarboro Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

"Jazz Dancing"

Article. "Jazz Dancing--A New Color in the American Rainbow," was written by W. Adolphe Roberts, about the contributions of black jazz dance to the field of dance. The file contains a copy of the article.

1929

Jazz Musicians

The file contains clippings, press releases for jazz events, flyers, obituaries of such individuals and groups as the Billy Taylor Trio, Ahmad Jamal, National Jazz Ensemble, Oscar Brown, Jr. and Blossom Dearie, Ray Nance, T. Bone and Walker.

1974-1976, 1978-1979

Jazz Sunday

Play. *Jazz Sunday* was conceived and written by Elias P. Wrubel and J. Rosamond Johnson in 1930. The file contains the play script.

1930

See also the J. Rosamond Johnson Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Jessye, Eva (1895-1993)

Choral director. Jessye was best known as a choral conductor and leader of the Eva Jessye Choir, a leading choral group that toured widely in the U.S. Later in her career she served as artist-in-residence at Pittsburg State University in Kansas in 1978. The file contains resume, book of selected poems, correspondence, letters from Jessye to HAJ, Little Balkans Review featuring Jessye, and photocopies of clippings.

1973-1981

See also the Eva Jessye Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

John Henry

Play. Produced by Sam Byrd in 1939, *John Henry* starred Paul Robeson, and featured music by Roark Bradford and Jacques. The file contains a contract, an article "Sam Byrd: His Search for John Henry," a biographical sketch of Bradford, letters to Byrd, press releases, reviews, and HAJ notes.

1939, n.d.

See also the Sam Byrd Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Paul Robeson Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Johnson and Dean

Husband and wife dance team. Charles Johnson (1870- ?) and Dora Dean (1872-1949) traveled the world as a dancing and singing team. Johnson is credited with being the first man to wear a full suit in vaudeville in 1896, and the duo was the first black vaudeville act on Broadway in 1897. In addition, they were first black dance team of its kind to appear at Carnegie Hall in 1937. Cole and Johnson wrote a song about Dora called "Dora Dean, Prettiest Girl I've Ever Seen." The file contains letters from HAJ to Reginald T. Buckner, Sep 1, 1975, Buckner from HAJ re: Johnson and Dean Aug 28, 1975, a letter regarding Johnson & Dean to Belafonte Enterprises, Inc., photocopies of clippings, and HAJ notes.

1947, 1978, 1983

Johnson, Frank

Composer and trumpeter. Johnson led a band in Philadelphia in or around 1846. The band toured the United States and England, where he played before Queen Victoria who gave Johnson a silver bugle. The file contains a copy of a picture of Johnson.

c.1846

Johnson, Hall (1888-1970)

Choral director and composer. Most noted for his work as a choral director for the play *Green Pastures* in 1930, Hall and his choir, the Hall Johnson Choir appeared in the film of the same name, in 1936. His folk play *Run, Little Chillun*, for which he wrote the

book and score played in New York in 1933 for 126 performances. He also composed a number of art songs, spiritual arrangements, an operetta and a cantata. The file contains play scripts, Hall notes, press releases, various letters, copy of letter from Hall Johnson to Rockefeller Foundation (Jan 9, 1946), Johnson to Newbold Morris, President, City Hall, NY (Jul 26, 1945), flyers, insurance form for Robert Rockmore, producer of *Run, Little Chillun*, and clippings.

1933, 1938, 1941, 1945-1946, 1977, n.d.

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Johnson, J. Rosamond (1873-1954)

Composer. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Johnson composed many widely popular songs, as well as some more ambitious works. With his vaudeville partner Bob Cole, he made an important contribution to the pre-World War I flowering of the black musical theater. A trained musician, he was an excellent pianist and singer and had a long and successful performing career on the stage. He made a significant contribution to the preservation of the black musical heritage by his work with spirituals, much of it done with his brother, James Weldon Johnson. The song-writing trio of Bob Cole and the Johnson brothers did much to do away with black stereotypes in the musical theater and to increase the opportunities for black musicians in the field of popular music. The file contains scores, “She Couldn’t Say No” sheet music, a photocopy of “I Was A Heroine” song and clippings.

1938, 1941-1942, n.d.

See also the Cole and Johnson collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections, Opal Cooper Papers and Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Johnson, James Weldon (1871-1938)

Composer. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Johnson was the first black to be admitted to the Florida bar and one of the first black persons to hold a consular post in Venezuela. He was also the first black executive secretary of the NAACP. Johnson was the author of several books including Black Manhattan, and with his brother wrote the black national anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” The file contains a letter from Johnson to Sam Byrd, 1936; a letter from Byrd to Johnson, 1936; Crisis Magazine featuring Johnson, 1971; biographical booklet; flyers; two letters from HAJ to Mr. James Weldon Johnson (Grace Nail), 1975; three letters and a note from (Mrs.) Ollie Jewel Okala to HAJ, 1972; a letter from Max Morath to HAJ, 1975; a letter from Ellen Moers to Mrs. Johnson, 1972; a postcard for *Godsong*, n.d.; an obituary card for Grace Nail Johnson and copies of clippings.

1930, 1933, 1936, 1958, 1971-1972, 1975, 1978, n.d.

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Johnson, Louis

Director. Johnson directed *Poetic Suite on Sojourner Truth*, which was written and performed by Glory Van Scott at St. Mark's Playhouse. The file contains flyers, and HAJ notes.

1971-1972

Jones, James Earl (1931-)

Stage, film and television actor. Born in Arkabutla, Mississippi, Jones is an award-winning actor whose credits include the plays *Les Blancs*, *The Great White Hope*, *Othello* and *Fences*, the films The Great White Hope, The Cay, Dr. Strangelove and Star Wars, and the television shows East Side/West Side, Roots: The Next Generation, and Gabriel's Fire. He has also performed voice talent for numerous feature films, documentaries, and commercials. The file includes correspondence between Jones and HAJ, Feb 24, and Mar 18, 1978, and clippings.

1978

See also *The Great White Hope* Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the James Earl Jones Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Jones, Ralph "Shrimp" and Edith

Band leader and dancer. "Shrimp" was the leader of the Blackbirds band, and his wife Edith performed in the revue show. The file contains a resolution (New Amsterdam Musical Association, Inc.), printed material, correspondence, scores, clippings and HAJ notes.

1958, 1965, 1969

K

Kapo (1911-1989)

Visual Artist. Born Mallica Reynolds in Bynloss, Saint Catherine parish, Jamaica, Kapo, as he called himself, was a self-taught artist. He was an award-winning artist who painted and sculpted in wood and stone; his works have been exhibited in London, New York, Amsterdam and Washington, D.C. The file contains an invitation to an exhibition, Feb 17, 1975(?), and parts of a program.

1975, n.d.

Kemp, Emme

Pianist and singer. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Kemp received her music education at Northwestern University, the Chicago Conservatory, and Southwest Conservatory. She has reportedly written hundreds of songs including "Travelin' Band," and "Western Trio," and has recorded for RCA. The file contains flyers, postcards, press releases, copies of clippings and HAJ notes.

1968, 1970, 1972-1973, n.d.

Kirkeby, Wallace T. (Ed) (1891-1978)

Manager. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kirkeby was a theatrical agent and producer for 50 years and was Thomas “Fats” Waller’s manager. The file contains letters from (Don?) to Kirkeby, copy of Jazz Journal, Jan 1952 and clippings.
1951-1952, n.d.

See also the Fats Waller Scrapbooks in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Photograph Collection in the Photographs and Prints Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

L

La Mama Experimental Theatre Company (E.T.C.)/La Café Mama Repertory Theatre

Founded in 1962 by producer Ellen Stewart, La Café is a non-profit organization that functions as a private club. Stewart also founded the La Mama Experimental Theatre Club, an Off-off Broadway Theatre that has presented plays by noted playwrights such as Amiri Baraka and Ed Bullins. La Mama E.T.C., had branches in Japan, Colombia, England, Canada, the Soviet Union, Lebanon, Israel, and Australia. The file contains flyers, a play broadside (OS), a postcard and clippings.
1969-1970

The Lafayette Players

Theatre group. Formed in 1917 in Harlem, the Lafayette Players was a repertory company comprised of original members from the Anita Bush Stock Company. It is considered the very first professional black dramatic company in the 20th century. Founding member Charles Gilpin, along with co-founders Clarence Muse and Abbie Mitchell, and members Dooley Wilson and Andrew Bishop, initially performed dramas written by whites that were proven successful on the stage. The file contains The Lafayette Players, a dissertation by Sister Mary Francesca Thompson, published in 1972.
1972

LaBrew, Arthur (1930-)

Pianist, teacher, and musicologist. Born in Detroit, Michigan, LaBrew received his Bachelor of Music at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and his Master of Music at the Manhattan School of Music in 1955. LaBrew taught at the United Metropolitan Detroit, and Army Band Training Unit, and served as an executive board member of the National Association of Negro Musicians. He wrote and published a biography of Elizabeth T. Greenfield (the Black Swan), and was curator of the E. Azalia Hackley Collection at the Detroit Free Library. The file contains a resume, copy of LaBrew’s “New York During the 19th Century,” 1972, copy of letter from HAJ to LaBrew and a letter from LaBrew to HAJ, Feb 8, 1972.
1972, 1975

Layton and Johnstone

Vaudeville team. Duo who sang (Johnston) and played the piano (Layton). The file contains copies of program clippings.
1925, 1927, 1929-1932

Lee, Canada (1907-1952)

Actor. Born in New York City, Lee was a concert violinist, jockey, and prize fighter, but is known mostly as a stage, radio and screen actor whose credits include the plays *Native Son*, *Othello* and *The Tempest*, and the films Lifeboat, and Cry, the Beloved Country.

The file contains a souvenir program for *The Tempest* and clippings.

1943

See also the Canada Lee Papers, Canada Lee Research Material Collection, and the Canada Lee Foundation Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Lee, Spike (1957-)

Filmmaker and writer. Since 1986, Lee has produced and directed several films She's Gotta Have It, School Daze, Do The Right Thing, Malcolm X, Crooklyn, Girl 6, among others. He has also written several books including Spike Lee's Gotta Have It: Inside Guerilla Filmmaking, Uplift the Race, and Best Seat in the House. Lee has starred in commercials for Nike, and has directed videos for Anita Baker, Miles Davis, and Branford Marsalis. The file contains reviews of the film Do The Right Thing.

1989

Lost In the Stars

Musical. *Lost in the Stars*, based on Alan Patton's novel Cry, the Beloved Country, was directed by Gene Frankel, with music by Kurt Weill and lyrics written by Maxwell Anderson. It was produced on Broadway in 1972, and cast members included Brock Peters, Leonard Jackson, Rosetta LeNoire, Margaret Cowie and Jack Gwillen. The file contains clippings, an excerpt from the play, and HAJ notes.

1972

Lowe, James

Lawyer. The file contains a letter from Basic S. Ausell(o?) to Lowe, n.d., postcard from Lowe to U.S. Thompson, Jul 22, 1952.

1952, n.d.

Lowe, James B. (1880-1963)

Actor. Lowe was the first black actor publicized by a white studio, when he appeared as Uncle Tom in Universal Studio's 1927 version of Uncle Tom's Cabin. This file contains three letters written to Lowe.

1926-1927

LuBrun, Bobby Lee

Caucasian comedian. Considered a highly-regarded entertainer in Australia, LeBrun was a member of the LeBrun Brothers and the Continental Four. The file contains letters, 1983-1985, and a clipping for Hussey's American Minstrels and clippings.

1885, 1973, 1983-1985

Lyles, Aubrey (1882-1932)

Playwright, comedian and producer. Lyles met his vaudeville partner, Flournoy Miller (hence Miller and Lyles) in Jackson, Tennessee, where he was born. At Fisk University,

the duo joined the Pekin Stock Company in Chicago as writers and comedians. They wrote the book for and appeared in the highly successful *Shuffle Along* (1921) and in the unsuccessful musical *Keep Shufflin'*. The duo separated, then regrouped again in 1930. *Sugar Hill* was their last show together. The file contains HAJ notes and a letter from (Aubrey) Lyles to his son, Jul 31, 1920.
1920, n.d.

See also the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

M

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

Play. Written by August Wilson and directed by Lloyd Richards, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* fictionalizes a day in the life of blues singer Rainey. The play opened on Broadway in 1984, and the original cast included Charles Dutton, Theresa Merritt, Robert Judd, Leonard Jackson, and Joe Seneca. The file contains reviews.
1984

McAddo, Orpheus M. (1858-)

Singer and actor. Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, McAddo graduated from Hampton University and performed with the original Georgia Minstrels and the original Alabama Cakewalkers. In 1888, he joined the Virginia Jubilee Singers, which toured in South Africa, Australia and Europe. After the tour, he returned to Australia and established a resident stock company in Sidney. In 1891, he married singer Mattie Allen in South Africa.
1886-1912, 1987

The file contains clippings re McAddo, letters, a Weissman Travel Reports—South Africa guide, and receipts from the Hampton University Archives.

Mack, Cecil (Richard C. McPherson) (1883-1944)

Composer, author, and publisher. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Mack was noted for his work with the musical *Swing It* (he wrote the libretto). He also wrote a number of popular songs, including the world renown “The Charleston,” for the hit musical *Runnin' Wild*. Among his other activities, he directed choirs that appeared in the popular musicals *Blackbirds*, *Bomballa*, and *Rhapsody in Black*. He was married to Dr. Gertrude Curtis, the first black female dentist in New York. The file contains an obituary, sheet music “Just Over the Mountain,” by Andy Razaf and Johnny Finke, n.d., various drafts of *Blues Episode*, a musical skit, song “Take Me As I Am,” and copies of clippings.
1911, 1937, n.d.

See also the Gertrude Curtis Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

McKinney, Nina Mae (1912-1967)

Actress. Born in Lancaster, South Carolina, McKinney appeared in Lew Leslie's *Blackbirds*, in amateur shows at the Lafayette Theatre, and films such as Hallelujah!, Pinky, and Together Again. The file contains a biographical sketch, a letter from Melvin Woolfolk (McKinney's widower and manager) to HAJ, 1976, press releases, flyers, and HAJ notes.

1941, 1976, n.d.

See also the Melvin Woolfolk Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

McIntyre and Heath

Caucasian minstrel team McIntyre and Heath performed during the late 19th or early 20th century. The file contains flyers and HAJ notes.

n.d.

McMillan, Lewis K.

Magician. At age nine, McMillan toured the chain of Carolina Theaters in South Carolina with his ventriloquist act, performing between Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen films. He went on to become a magician, musician (drummer), radio announcer, and writer. The file contains a profile, resume and proposals McMillan wrote for a book, a lecture series, television show, and a radio show.

n.d.

Madison Square Garden Cake Walks

The file contains HAJ notes about the National Ethiopian Amusement Company Grand Cake Walk & Jubilee at Madison Square Garden in 1895, and notes on the origin of the cake walk.

1973, n.d.

Major, Gerri (1894-1984)

Journalist. Born Geraldyn Hodges, in Chicago, Illinois, Major worked as an editor for several publications, including the Courier, Interstate Tattler, and the Amsterdam News from 1924 to 1953. From 1934 to 1946, she worked as an administrative assistant for the Bureau of Public Health Education and Information in New York City. With Doris E. Saunders, Major wrote Gerri Major's Black Society in 1976, an analysis of America's black upper class. She also wrote the column "Gerri Major's Society World" for Jet and contributed to periodicals such as Black World, Ebony, and Black Stars. The file contains two letters re celebration for Major's 85th birthday and a clipping.

1979

See also the Geraldyn Hodges Major Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Mapp, Jim

Actor, producer and director. Mapp organized and directed the Playward Bus Theater Company (PBTC) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a semi-professional black repertory

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

company in either 1958 or 1965. Productions included *The Death of Bessie Smith*, *African Heaven*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Othello*, *Dark of the Moon*, and *God's Trombones*. A second company was created in New York with the purpose of creating black audiences by busing them from other cities to see Off-Broadway productions. Hilda Simms and Diana Sands acted as hostesses for these tours. PBTC also had a childrens theatre. The file includes press releases, flyers, schedule book, ticket stubs, correspondence, a copy of actor Robert McCord's resume, clippings, copies of letters, and HAJ notes.

1959, 1961-1962, 1968, 1970-1973, 1975

Matheus, John F. (1887-1983)

Writer and teacher. Born in Keyser, West Virginia, Matheus graduated Western Reserve University in Ohio and Columbia University in New York, with degrees in Romance Languages. Matheus published many short stories and poems in various publications such as *The Crisis*, and in *Caroling Dusk: An Anthology of Negro Poetry*. He also collaborated with Clarence Cameron White on two operas: *Ouanga: A Drama*, and *Tambour*. The file contains Matheus' curriculum vitae, copies of poetry, and notes on Haitian drama, letter from Owen Dodson to HAJ re Matheus' play *Tambour*, Feb 20, 1973, and HAJ notes.

1929, 1960, 1973, 1975, n.d.

Me and Bessie

Play (B). *Me and Bessie* was produced by Leona Apostoleris, and opened on Broadway, starring Linda Hopkins as Bessie Smith. The file contains clippings, tickets, copy of letter to Howard Aylee from HAJ re use of HAJ's collection materials for an exhibition accompanying the show, Sep 19, 1975, agreements between HAJ and Leona Apostoleris, letter from Sandy Manley to HAJ, Sep 29, 1975, and a letter from HAJ to Apostoleris, Oct 1, 1975.

1975

Miller, Bessie Oliver (1888-1974)

Broadway chorus girl in the early 1900's. Miller appeared in *Charity Girl* and *Scandals* (c.1925), which also featured Marion Davies and Mabel Normand. Miller was the wife of showman/songwriter Flournoy E. Miller and the mother of Olivette Miller, noted jazz harpist. The file contains correspondence between Miller and H.D. Ballenger, letter to HAJ, a typescript article "Life in these United States" 1pp, drafts of book manuscripts *They Have Always Helped*, 4 pp. and *Forbidden Kin*, 116 pp. and *The Gent' Man Friend*, 6 pp. by Miller.

1941-1974

See also the Olivette Miller Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Miller, Clifford L.

Clergyman. Educated at Fisk University and author of *The Haunting Voice* (1924) a book of poetry. The file contains draft of novel written by Miller entitled, *Dusky Doughboys*, 190 pp.

n.d.

Miller, Irvin (1884-1967) and Quintard Miller

Playwrights, comedians, and producers. Irvin and Quintard are the brothers of Flournoy Miller. The Miller brothers got their start with the Pekin Stock Company in Chicago. Irvin toured with the John Rucker Company and later performed with Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyles in *Who's Stealin' ?* (1918). Quintard wrote and produced shows such as *Broadway Gossips* (1920) and *Darktown Scandals* (1921) and *Some Baby* (1921). Irvin also wrote the book for the play *Liza* (1922) and Quintard performed in the production. The file includes a letter to Irvin Miller from Frank Schiffman (Apollo Theater), clippings for Irvin's plays *Liza* and *Put and Take* (1922) and programs for *Liza*. 1921-1923, 1927

See also the and Maceo Pinkard Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Collection and the Flournoy Miller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Miller, Olivette

Jazz harpist, dancer, actress, and writer. Olivette is the daughter of entertainers Flournoy and Bessie Miller. The file contains clippings, a guide, handwritten note and printed material promoting Miller's concerts. 1957

See also the Bessie Miller Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Flournoy Miller in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Minstrels

Three file folders containing clippings, letters, programs, playbills (OS), advertisements and HAJ notes on Minstrel shows. 1818, 1876, 1899, 1926, 1941-1942, 1983-1984

See also Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Mitchell, Abbie (1884-1960)

Actress and concert soprano. In 1898, Mitchell began touring with Black Patti's Troubadours and remained with the troupe for several years. She was a member of the Williams & Walker Company and performed in *In Dahomey* (1903) and *Bandanna Land* (1908). She was also the director and founder of the Abbie Mitchell Players and co-founded The Lafayette Players (1914). After completing vocal study in Paris in 1931, Mitchell resumed her concert operatic career and appeared as Santuzza in the Aeolian Opera Association production of *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The file includes photocopies of letters from Mitchell to Elise (last name not noted) and a photocopy of the program for *The Eternal Magdalene*, a performance she staged for the Ira Aldridge Guild. The program for *Abbie Mitchell, Soprano* has been transferred to the HAJ Program Collection. 1933-1945

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

See also the Lafayette Players, Charles Gilpin and Clarence Muse collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Mother Courage and Her Children

Play. *Mother Courage and Her Children* was written by Bertolt Brecht adapted by playwright Ntozake Shange. The file includes a clipping relating to the Shange adaptation.

1980

See also the Ntozake Shange Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Muller, Peter

Actor/Entertainer. The file contains notes by HAJ related to minstrels and a flyer promoting an event featuring Muller.

n.d.

Munk, Erika

American writer. Munk has served as the managing editor of the Tulane Drama Review since 1963. The file includes memorandum and notes on black popular theater.

1974

Muse, Clarence (1889- 1979)

Actor, playwright and songwriter. Muse also held an LL.B. from Dickinson College. He formed the Clarence Muse Company and was a co-founder of the Lafayette Players (1916). The file contains a letter from Muse to Irving Mills, a play script for *Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn* * and a book cover for Muse's book Behind the Cabin Door. A program for “Uptown Chamber of Commerce Eighteenth Annual Banquet” at which Muse was being honored has been transferred to HAJ Program Collection.

c. 1938, 1956

See also the Lafayette Players, Charles Gilpin and Abbie Mitchell collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

My Friend From Kentucky

Musical. A musical comedy produced in 1913, written by J. Leubrie Hill and produced by the Lafayette Production Company. Hill not only authored the play but also wrote the lyrics, book, and music and was the lead character in the play. The play also featured such performers as Johnnie Peters, Billy Moore, Will Thomas, Edna Morton, Adele Johnson and Alice Ramsey. The file contains a review of the play.

c. 1913

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

See also the Lafayette Players Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

N

National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. (NANM)

Musicians Organization. NANM is a professional organization (organized in 1919 in Chicago, Illinois) established for the purpose of “race unity and advancement...[for] raising the musical standards of the teaching professional of [the] race ... [for] better instruction in music and a systematic means of improving the musical taste of the public.” The file includes NANM conference schedules, list of music publishers and clippings.

1972

See also the George Glover Collection, Programs and Playbills Collection and Miscellaneous American Letters and Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

National Negro Opera Company Foundation

Opera Company. The National Negro Opera Company was founded in 1941 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to provide an outlet for aspiring opera singers and to inspire young artists to study opera. The National Negro Opera Foundation was the financial entity that supported the company. The file contains two tickets for an opera fundraiser, programs (OS) and clippings featuring the companys performance of *La Traviata*. 1941, 1943-1944, 1949-1952, 1957, 1960-1961, n.d.

See also the Programs and Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Negro Actors Guild (NAG)

Actors Association. The Negro Actors Guild was formed in 1936 and began operation in 1937 in New York City. The organization was founded as a welfare and benevolent organization for black performers and was dissolved in the early 1980's. The file includes newsletters, memorial service programs and correspondence between HAJ and NAG.

1967-1981

See also Negro Actors Guild Records and the Programs and the Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Negro Ensemble Company

Theater Company. NEC was founded in 1967 through the efforts of Douglas Turner Ward (playwright), Robert Hooks (actor), and Gerald Krone (producer) with the mission to "provide a forum for the continuous fully professional theatrical exploration of themes relevant to Black Life in America..." The file contains clippings and magazine articles

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

featuring NEC actress Judy Dearing and playwright Gus Edwards, play abstracts for Joseph A. Walker's play *Ododo*, cast lists (e.g. *Soldiers Play*), audition lists and printed material.

1968-1970, 1982, 1986, n.d.

See also the Negro Ensemble Company Records and the Programs and the Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division; Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

New Lafayette Theater

Theater. Harlem, New York based theater founded by Robert Macbeth in 1967. The theater was named in honor of the original Lafayette Theater, which was founded in 1912 and featured works by or of interest to black Harlemites. The aim of the New Lafayette Theater was, "To present drama by blacks about blacks for blacks in a Harlem theater that had no dependency on and owed no allegiance to Broadway or white audiences." The file includes clippings, portions of the play script and program for *Who's Got His Own* by Ron Milner and HAJ notes on *Who's Got His Own*.

1969

Norman, Jessye

American operatic and concert singer. Two of Norman's most notable performances are her portrayals of the title role in *Aida* in productions in Berlin and La Scala in Milan, and the role of Cassandra in *Berlioz' Les Troyens* (Covent Garden, 1972). She made her United States debut at the Hollywood Bowl in 1972. The file contains clippings and a newsletter.

1974-1993

Norton & Margot

Ballroom dance team. Harold Norton and Margot Webb performed in the United States and Europe. They also founded a dance school in Harlem, New York City. The file includes a biographical sketch of Norton and Margot, a letter from Margot Webb to HAJ (1975), clippings and printed material.

1937-1939, 1975

O

Obituaries

The file includes obituaries (clippings and funeral/memorial programs) of outstanding black personalities (theatrical and non-theatrical) such as Adelaide Hall, Hilda Simms, the Delany Sisters and Talley Beatty.

1975-1995

The Official Theatrical World of Colored Artists "National Directory and Guide"

The directory includes a national listing of addresses, advertisements, articles and artistic venues. Various artists are noted in this publication such as Leigh Whipper, Leroy Tibbs and His Orchestra, Ethel Waters, U.S. Thompson, Whitney & Tutt and Edith Spencer.

1928

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

P

Parker, Bernard H.

The file includes clippings that feature black composers and musicians (e.g., James R. Europe, Nathaniel Dett, and Charles McCade) and a postcard from Ralph Dunbar to Parker.

1940, 1942, 1968, 1973

Parker, Dolores

Vocalist. Parker performed with the female trio "Three Rhythm Debs." She later performed with Duke Ellington's Band as a solo vocalist. While pursuing a soloist career, she was managed by Heavyweight Champion Joe Lewis. The file contains a letter from Parker to HAJ (n.d.), clippings, a press release and HAJ notes.

1947-1956, n.d.

Perkins, Eddie

Musician and bandleader. Perkins was the leader of the band, known as Eddie Perkins and his Montrealers. The file includes notes from interview with Perkins' widow Cutie Perkins, done by HAJ, (n.d.), list of donations from Cutie to HAJ (e.g. photographs), a TLS letter from HAJ to Eddie Perkins (1975), and TLS form letter from Perkins (1975) and HAJ notes.

1975, n.d.

Philadelphia Black Culture Museum

Museum. The file contains clippings pertaining to the development of the Philadelphia Black Culture Museum, later named the African American Museum in Philadelphia. The museum was established in 1976 and features exhibitions that interpret the experiences and contributions of African Americans in political life, religious and family life, the Civil Rights Movement, the world of entertainment, fine arts, sports, medicine and architecture.

1974-1975

Pinkard, Maceo (1897-1962)

Songwriter. Pinkard obtained his music education at Bluefield State Institute (now College) in West Virginia. In 1914 he founded a theatrical agency in Omaha, Nebraska, and published his first song, "When He Sang that Baritone" in 1915. In 1922, Pinkard settled in New York City and founded Pinkard Publications, a sheet music publishing house. In 1922, he composed the music for the musical *Liza* (1922). Pinkard's better known songs were "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Don't Cry, Little Girl" and "Mammy o' Mine." The file contains a composition list of Pinkard's works.

n.d.

See also the Irvin and Quintard Miller and the Sheet Music collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Play Script Collection

The Play Script Collection consists of over fifty scripts by such playwrights as William Branch, Ed Bullins, Rachel France and Clarence Muse. Among the play scripts are *The Third Fourth of July*, *King Heroin*, *Swing It* and *The Minstrel Man*. The collection includes scripts transferred from individual collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections. An asterisk within the individual collection descriptions identifies transferred plays. A separate list arranged alphabetically by playwright forms part of this finding aid.

See also the Play Scripts and Screenplay Collections, the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop Play Script and the Negro Ensemble Company Play Script Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Pomare, Eleo

Dancer/choreographer. Pomare began his career as a student of Louis Horst, Curtis James, and José Limón. Later, he founded three dance companies. The first company was founded in 1958 in the United States. The second was founded in Amsterdam and the third company was the reformation of the first company following his return to the United States. The file includes a letter, clippings, articles, and other printed material (e.g. promotional material), and Dance Mobile broadsides (OS).
1968-1983

See also the Programs and the Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Porgy & Bess

Musical. *Porgy & Bess* is a play based on Dubose Heyward's book *Porgy*, which opened in 1927. The music was composed by George Gershwin, and the libretto by Dubose Heyward and Ira Gershwin. The file contains reviews of the musical by the European press, clippings and HAJ notes.
1952-1956

See also *Porgy and Bess* Collection and the Programs and the Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division; the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Press Releases

The file includes press releases for plays, among which are *Emily T* and *Transcendental Blue*.
n.d.

Price, Naomi

Singer and comedian. The file includes notebook with song lyrics, clippings and magazine advertisements for her performances.
1969

Program Collection

The collection contains programs from a variety of productions ranging from minstrel shows, vaudeville, musicals and community theatre to Broadway plays. The programs date from 1900 to 1993. The bulk of the programs fall within the 1930s-1940s and the 1960s-1970s, periods of increased theatrical productions by African Americans. The collection includes programs transferred from individual collections within the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections (Programs pre-dating 1940 are identified by title within the collection description). A separate list arranged alphabetically by title of the play or production forms part of this finding aid. See also the Program and Playbill Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Pryor, Richard

Comedian and actor. Primarily a stand-up comedian Pryor also appeared and starred in several movies including Lady Sings the Blues, Jo Jo Dancer: Your Life in Calling, The Wiz, Bustin' Loose and Harlem Nights. Credited with influence succeeding generations of comedians, Pryor has been honored with Grammy and Emmy awards. The file contains clippings.

1977-1980

Purlie

Musical. Broadway musical written and produced by Ossie Davis. The file contains clippings and a ticket to *Purlie*, starring Cleavon Little (1939-1992), at the Anta Theater. 1971

See also the Programs and the Playbills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Q

Questionnaire - Actors

The file contains questionnaires that include personal and professional questions such as: Where were you born; What or who was your inspiration; What is your professional experience?, and What was your last stage appearance?. The following artists completed the questionnaires Joseph Attles, Minto Cato, Ruby Elzy, Robert Harvey, Myra Johnson, J. DeWitt Spencer and Musa Williams.

n.d.

R

Razaf, Andy(1895-1973)

Lyricist. Razaf collaborated with musicians James “Eubie” Blake, Thomas “Fats” Waller, and J.C. Johnson among others. He and Waller created the Broadway revue *Keep Shufflin'*. He also co-authored *Hot Chocolates* (1929) with James P. Johnson and Henry Creamer. The file contains clippings, an obituary, a memorial program and letterhead. n.d.

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections; Andy Razaf Papers and the Sheet Music collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

“Red”(Willie Johnson)

The file contains HAJ notes on “Red”.

n.d.

René, Leon (1902-1982)

Songwriter and record producer. In the mid-1920's, he organized an orchestra and began to write lyrics in collaboration with his brother Otis René. Leon René is well known for songs such as, “When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano” and “When It's Sleepy Time Down South” (written with Clarence Muse). The file includes clippings and lyrics. 1982

See also Clarence Muse Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Resumés and Biographical Information

The file contains resumés and biographical information for actors (e.g. David Downing and Yvonne Warden), musicians (e.g. Dionne Warwick), and playwrights (e.g. Kimako Baraka) among others.

n.d.

Riis, Thomas Laurence

Singer, professor, and cellist. Professor of music history with a concentration in black American theater. Riis is a cellist as well as a player of other stringed instruments, conductor and singer. In 1987, Riis served as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Studies in American Music at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. The file consists of Thomas' dissertation entitled, Black Musical Theater in New York, 1890-1915.

1981

See also micropublication of Black Musical Theater in New York, 1890-1915 (Sc Micro R-7055) in the General Research and Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Robeson, Paul (1898-1976)

Singer, actor, all-American athlete and a civil and human rights activist. Robeson was well known for his theatrical performances in *Emperor Jones* (1924), *Othello* (1930), *John Henry* (1940), and his political activism. The file contains a biographical sketch, clippings, magazine articles (OS), funeral program, flyer announcing Robeson's 80th birthday celebration, HAJ notes, a letter from the Robeson Archives to HAJ, printed material, a play script for *John Henry* * and exhibit labels.

1926-1989

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

See also Paul Robeson Collection and the Lawrence Brown Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Robinson, Bill “Bojangles” (1878-1974)

Dancer and actor. In 1890, while in New York City, Luther Robinson, a.k.a. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson performed in a string of Broadway musicals that won him critical praise for his tap dancing skills. He is remembered for his famous dance on a staircase, a routine he later performed with Shirley Temple in *The Little Colonel* in 1935. The file includes a membership card (American Federation of Radio Artists), a letter from Edward Mapp to HAJ, agreements, portion of program for *The Mikado* (featuring Robinson), funeral program for Fannie Robinson (Robinson's first wife), a program for *Herself, Mrs. Partick Crowley** (program featured an upcoming performance by Robinson) and a souvenir journal featuring performances by Robinson (listed by date), and clippings.

1926, 1939, 1945-1946, 1949, 1969, 1979, 1980, 1982

See also Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Robinson, Freddie & Flo

Comedy team. Freddie & Flo began performing just before World War II. They played in all the leading R.K.O theaters in the United States as well as the Apollo Theater. Freddie Robinson later joined Larry Steel's "Smart Affairs Show" which performed internationally (e.g., Japan, Greenland, Turkey). Flo starred in shows in London, Buenos Aires, South Africa and Rio Janeiro. The file contains a biographical sketch of Freddie Robinson, funeral memorial cards and HAJ notes.
n.d.

See also Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Rogers, Alex (1876-1930)

Lyricist and entertainer. Rogers began his career at eighteen touring with a minstrel troupe. After leaving the troupe Rogers joined the Williams & Walker Company. He performed in *In Dahomey* (1903) and wrote the lyrics and music for the play. The file contains a clipping, "[Alex] C. Rogers Songwriter and [Pl]aywright Dies."
ca. 1930

See also Bert Williams & George Walker Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and Bert Williams Joke Books and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Rufus Rastus

Minstrel Show. Ernest Hogan and Joe Jordan wrote the music for *Rufus Rastus*, with lyrics by Lester A. Walton and Frank Williams. Hogan played the main character, Rufus Rastus. The clippings in this file reflect journalist's descriptions of *Rufus Rastus* as a

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

"hodge podge of music and laughter" and "a conglomeration of everything from Grand Opera to Ragtime." The file includes photocopies of clippings pertaining to *Rufus Rastus* and Ernest Hogan.
1905-1908

See also Ernest Hogan Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Lester Walton Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

S

Sam Hague's (c.1828-1901) Minstrels

Minstrel performer and producer. Hague was from Sheffield, England. He began his theatrical career at the age of 6 as a clog dancer and later performed with a touring variety show. While touring in Macon, Georgia, during the Civil War, Hague was introduced to a performance by slaves which later inspired him to found a touring minstrel company known as the Georgia Minstrel Troupe. In 1866, Hague took his twenty-seven-member troupe to England. The troupe was successful, but lost several of its performers to physical ailments and the desire to return to the United States. White minstrel performers replaced these performers creating a mixed company. The few black performers that remained with the troupe included Aaron Banks, Abe Cox and Japanese Tommy. After touring England, Hague developed a British minstrel company known as the British Operatic Minstrels. In 1881 the British troupe which toured the United States was primarily made up of white minstrels. The file contains photocopies of programs (OS), photocopies of "Minstrel Memories" (which is a publication that cited information on Hague) and HAJ notes.
1878, 1899

See also the Minstrel Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division and the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Saunders, Gertrude

Singer. Saunders was a popular singer in the 1920's, who was also recognized for her comedic talent. She performed in many shows such as *Liza* (1922), *Dinah* (1923) and *Cotton Land* (1924). The file includes letters from Saunders to Rita Lee (1946), to A.W. Marshall (1934) and to George Brown (n.d.); agreements, contracts and HAJ notes.
1934, 1943-1946

See also the Irvin Miller and Quintard Miller collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Research Center. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world. The

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Center's collections first won international acclaim in 1926 when the personal collection of the distinguished Puerto Rican-born black scholar and bibliophile, Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, was added to the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints of the 135th Street Branch of The New York Public Library. Schomburg served as curator from 1932 until his death in 1938. Renamed in his honor in 1940, the collection grew steadily through the years. In 1972 it was designated as one of The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library and became the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The file contains a newsletter, a letter from HAJ to Ruth Ann Stewart (Assistant Chief of the Schomburg Center), clippings, an invitation, donation acknowledgement, a press release, fact sheet and printed materials.

1973, 1976, 1978, n.d.

Scott & Whaley

Comedy act. While performing at Hammerstein's theaters in New York, Scott & Whaley were offered the opportunity to perform internationally. The duo went on to perform in places such as France, Germany and Egypt. The file includes clippings and photocopy of an article that appeared in the "Manchester Programme."

1924-1932

Scott, Glory Vann

Dancer, actress and playwright. Scott danced with Katherine Dunham Company, American Ballet Theater and Agnes De Mille Heritage Dance Theater. She also performed in Off-Broadway shows, television, and authored the musical *Miss Truth* (a play based on the life of Sojourner Truth). The file contains clippings, advertisements and printed material.

1970, 1975, 1983

See also the Katherine Dunham Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Senghor, Léopold Sédar

African poet, philosopher, and president of Senegal. Senghor was one of the originators of "Negritude," a "black is beautiful" doctrine begun in Paris during the 1930s. Educated in France, Senghor established himself in French literary and political circles. The year 1945 marked not only Senghor's entry into political life but also the publication of his first collection of poems, Chants d'ombre. In 1948 he published another volume of poetry, Hosties noires, and edited an anthology of New Negro and Malagasy poetry. Later poetic offerings were Chants pour Naëtt (1949), Éthiopiennes (1956), and Nocturnes (1961). Senghor was the first elected president of independent Senegal in 1961 and maintained that position for the following twenty years. The file includes a booklet containing biographical information, a program for a colloquium honoring him, address by Senghor delivered to the University of Vermont, a press release relating to Senghor's induction into the Black Academy of Arts and Letters and guest list to the dinner the organization gave in his honor.

1971, n.d.

Shange, Ntozake

Playwright, actress, poet and teacher. Shange is well known for her play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*. The file contains clippings about Shange's play *Spell #7*.

1979

See also the *Mother Courage and Her Children* Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Shepp, Archie (Vernon)

Saxophonist, playwright and teacher. Shepp, who grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received his Bachelor of Arts from Goddard College in Vermont in 1959. He was a member of the Cecil Taylor quartet (1960-1962) and co-leader of a quartet with Bill Dixon (1962-1963). During the following years he led his own bands which featured musicians Roswell Rudd, Bobby Hutcherson and Grachan Moncur, Herman Wright and Clifford Jarvis. In 1967, Shepp wrote a play entitled *Junebug Graduates Tonight!* which had a brief run. From 1969-1974 he taught at SUNY, Buffalo in the black studies department and in 1974, transferred to the University of Massachusetts where in 1978 Shepp was named an associate professor. Shepp is also noted for several recordings including "Four for Trane" (1964), "Attica Blues" (1972), "I Know About the Life" (1981) and "African Moods" (1984). The file includes letters from Shepp to HAJ.

1978-1979

Shipp, Jesse (1863-1934)

Actor, playwright and minstrel show producer. Shipp originally from Cincinnati, Ohio relocated to New York City at age nineteen. Once in New York he joined his first minstrel show, the Sam P. Jacks Minstrel Show, performing with them from 1879-1881 and 1900. He later gained fame as the producer for the Williams & Walker Company. Shipp produced such hits as *In Dahomey*, *Abyssinia*, *Bandanna Land* and *Sons of Ham*. As an actor he was noted for his portrayal of Abraham in Marc Connelly's *The Green Pastures*. The file contains three obituary clippings from the New York Tribune, Times and Sun, and HAJ notes.

1934

See also the Bert Williams and George Walker Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Sidney, Jay

Actor. Sidney was born in Virginia and educated at the City College of New York. He appeared in Federal Theater productions of the 1930s, performed in theater productions of *Dance with Your Gods* (1934) and *The Green Pastures* (1934), and has also appeared in television and film productions which included, *The Joe Louis Story* (1953) and *A Gathering of Old Men* (1987). Sidney also campaigned for congressional hearings that protested negative images of blacks in advertising and television. The file contains information about his career, speeches by him at the National Academy of Television

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Arts and Sciences and the National Freedom Day Dinner, a statement he made before the New York City Commission on Human Rights, a flyer for The Black Forum, (Sidney served as chairman) clippings and HAJ notes.

1967-1968

Sissle, Noble (1889-1975)

Musician and bandleader. Early in his career, Sissle toured as a singer with the Thomas Male Quartet and Hann's Jubilee Singers (1911-1913). In 1915, Sissle teamed with Eubie Blake and began performing and composing. Together they wrote and composed the music for *Shuffle Along* (1921); Sissle also performed in the production. The file contains clippings, letter from Sissle to Jack Hylton (1961), funeral program, production report for *Shuffle Along*, record catalogue (1917), musical scores, and notes by HAJ.

1917, 1940, 1948-1952, 1961, 1975, n.d.

See also the Eubie Blake and the Flournoy Miller collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Sheet Music Collection

The Helen Armstead-Johnson Sheet Music Collection contains published sheet music only. The titles are arranged alphabetically by composer, and are described in a separate container list.

See also the Sheet Music Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Smalls, Edwin (1882-1974)

Night club owner. Smalls was the owner and operator of Smalls' Paradise nightclub in Harlem, New York. Before opening the club, he owned and operated a billiard parlor. In 1919 he transformed the parlor into a restaurant/night club and named it Smalls' Cafeteria. Five years later he renamed it Smalls' Paradise. The file includes Smalls' funeral program and clipping entitled "Harlem Portraits: Ed Smalls, Dean of Night Club Operators, Likened to Horatio Alger Character."

1974

See also the Program and Playbills Collection and the Menu Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Smart Set

Musical comedy. Performed in the early 1900's (c. 1905), *Smart Set* featured several actors and actresses such as James Lightfoot, Ella Anderson and S.H. Dudley. The file includes HAJ notes.

n.d.

Smith, Ada (1894-1984)

Singer and entertainer. Better known as "Bricktop," Smith's full name was Ada Beatrice Queen Victoria Louise Virginia Smith. She was best known for her nightclubs in Paris

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

and Rome, and also performed in theater, film and television. In 1973, she appeared at Carnegie Hall with Josephine Baker, and in 1974 she appeared in the film “*Honeybaby*.” The file contains obituary clippings.

1984

See also Ada "Bricktop" Smith Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Smith, Harrison

Publisher. Smith established a music publishing firm in his own name in 1925. The file contains a letter from Smith to HAJ, printed material, clippings and HAJ notes.

1969-1975

Smith, Jimmie R.

Actor. Smith was an early black actor who appeared in a film produced by the Lincoln Motion Picture Co., "*Trooper of Troop K*" (1916). The file contains correspondence between Smith and HAJ (1973-1974), printed material (e.g., invitations, Los Angeles city map with location notations), clippings and HAJ notes.

1928, 1971-1974

See also the Lincoln Motion Picture Co. broadside in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Smith, Mamie (1883-1946)

Blues singer. Smith began her career in vaudeville. In 1913, Smith settled in New York and established herself as a cabaret singer. She recorded many popular songs including "Crazy Blues" and "It's Right Here for You." The file includes advertisements and a clipping promoting a musical revue featuring Smith.

n.d.

Smith Moore, Udine(1904- 1989)

Composer, pianist, choir director and educator. Moore was educated at Fisk University, Julliard School of Music, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music and Columbia University Teachers Colleges. In 1927, she was appointed to the faculty of Virginia State College and taught there until her retirement in 1972. Moore co-founded the Black Music Center at Virginia State University and co-directed it from 1969-1972. The file contains two programs for events at which Moore was honored, and a form letter from Moore referring to the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, "The Black Man in American Music" at Virginia State University.

1972

Smith, Rollin (c.1900-1985)

Singer and pianist. Smith, a native of Akron, Ohio, played with Louis Armstrong and the Inkspots while in Europe, as well as performing for European royalty, including the King and Queen of Greece. Smith performed in the original productions of *Showboat* and *Blackbirds*. From 1976 until his death, he entertained at senior citizens centers and

nursing homes for the Department of Cultural Affairs. The file consists of flyers promoting Smith's performances.
n.d.

Sophisticated Ladies

Musical. This Broadway revue is based on the musical compositions of Duke Ellington and the Big Band era. The production starred Gregory Hines, Judith Jamison and Phyllis Hyman. The file includes clippings and magazine articles.
1981

See also the Duke Ellington Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

South, Eddie (1904-1962)

Jazz violinist. South began studying the violin at an early age and later attended the Chicago College of Music. Among his teachers were Charles Elgar and Darnell Howard. South began his professional career at the age of sixteen performing with Elgar. In 1928, he formed his own group, The Alabamians, which toured Europe in 1930. During 1931-1937, he performed heavily in the United States. In 1937, South returned to Europe to accept a one year residency in Paris. He had a radio show in the 1940s and in the 1950s appeared regularly on television programs. The "Distinguished Violin of Eddie South and Django and His American Friends," is one of South's best-known works. The file includes ALS and TLS letters to Bernie Parker from South and an article.
1934-1937, 1939-1941, 1944, 1953, 1958-1959

The Spillers

Musical group. Organized in 1906 in Chicago by William N. and Isabele T. Spiller, the group performed as a vaudeville act and played Ragtime music internationally. The file includes articles, a contract and HAJ notes.
1912

See also William N. and Isabele T. Spiller Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Swarz, Lue

Teacher, actress/impressionist. Swarz was from St. Louis Missouri and staged one-woman performances on university campuses in the New York area and in Washington, D.C. Her repertoire consisted of humorous and dramatic dialogues, from impressions of members of the Actor's Association in Harlem to characterizations of Sojourner Truth. Swarz introduced her signature piece "I Want a Man Like That" during a New York holiday show. She also made her own costumes. In 1945-1946, she appeared in motion picture films Big Timers and Tall, Tan and Terrific. She as a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (which often hosted Swarz's one-woman shows), and served as their second national vice president. The file contains newspaper and magazine articles.
1937, 1946

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Swing It

Musical comedy. *Swing It* was a Work's Progress Administration Negro Unity production that opened at the Adelphia Theater in New York (c. 1937). The play tells the story of the struggle between two steamboat captains for supremacy of the Mississippi River. The file contains clippings about the production at the Adelphia Theater.
1937

T

Tadlock, Robert

Visual artist. Tadlock, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City. In 1959, after graduation, he worked within the advertising, editorial, theatrical design, and fine art fields. Tadlock had his first exhibit in New York, 1963. The file contains invitations to exhibitions of Tadlock's work, exhibition programs, price list of exhibited works and a letter to Tadlock.
1963, 1965-1966, n.d.

See also the Helen Armstead-Johnson Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Thompson, Slim

Actor. Thompson was popular in the 1930s and 1940s. He performed in various theatrical productions including *Anna Lucasta* (c.1945), *Messin' Around* (c.1935) and *Green Pastures* (c.1934). Before his acting career Thompson was a featherweight prizefighter. The file includes a postcard from George DeLespine to Thompson (1945), souvenir journal and post card for *Anna Lucasta*, weekly event magazines listing Thompson's performances in *Anna Lucasta* (Philadelphia and Chicago) and list of Thompson's career achievements.
1945-1947

See also the Hilda Simms Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Thompson, Ulysses S. (1888-1990)

Dancer/entertainer. Thompson's second wife was the internationally renowned entertainer Florence Mills. Mills and Thompson appeared in the 1922 version of *Shuffle Along*; and toured 35 countries together in 1924. The collection consists of two files. The first file contains a biographical sketch, correspondence between Thompson and Bobby LeBrun (1973, 1983) and between Thompson and HAJ, a TLS letter from the 369th Infantry expressing condolences at the time of Mills' death (1927), a letter to Thompson from Eubie Blake (1976), printed material, HAJ notes. A program for Jewish Relief Charity Cocktail Dance has been transferred to the HAJ program collection. The second file includes lyrics by Henry Creamer and Thompson and contracts.
1927-1990, 1998

See also Florence Mills Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division and the Helen Armstead-Johnson Collection in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Thomson, Virgil (1896-1989)

American composer, conductor and music critic. Thomson composed the music for *Four Saints in Three Acts*, which was performed at the Metropolitan Opera Theater. The performance documented in the collection was directed and choreographed by Alvin Ailey (1973). The file contains a partial play script, clippings, a review and a note to HAJ from Thomson, and HAJ notes (1971).

1934, 1969-1971

See also the *Four Saints in Three Acts* Collection and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and Alvin Ailey Program Collection in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Timbuktu

Musical. *Timbuktu*, an adaptation of *Kismet*, was a Broadway musical directed and choreographed by Geoffrey Holder starring Eartha Kitt and Melba Moore. The file contains clippings featuring and reviewing the production.

1978

Traylor, Eleanor W.

Educator. Traylor presently serves as the chairperson of the Department of English at Howard University, located in Washington, D.C. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Spelman College, her Master of Arts from Atlanta University and earned her Ph.D. from Catholic University. Traylor is the founder of Educators for the Advancement of American Literature in Public Schools. She is a member of the Larry Neal Cultural Series and served as the project director (1984); the College Language Association and Program in Black American Culture, and a scriptwriter. In 1987, Traylor received the Midwest African-American Theater Alliance Award and the Hazel Joan Bryant Recognition Award. In 1989, she received the Larry Neal-Georgia Douglas Johnson Award for literature and community service. The file contains a manuscript by Traylor entitled "Ritual as Form for a Black American Theater", 20 pp.

n.d.

Treemonisha

Opera. *Treemonisha* was the second opera composed by Scott Joplin (the first was *A Guest of Honor*). The file includes a copy of a preface to a republication of *Treemonisha* (1972) that was performed at Morehouse College, clippings, flyer ("An Evening with Scott Joplin") and a workshop schedule on Afro-American music which featured a lecture on Joplin.

1971-1972

Troy, Henry

Entertainer, songwriter and tenor. Troy performed the title role in *Rufus Rastus*. He also appeared in early performances of *In Dahomey*. The file includes photocopies of clippings, contracts, lyrics, agreements and programs.

1905-1943

See also the *Rufus Rastus* Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

U

Uncle Tom's Cabin Companies

Theatrical companies. Many early theatrical companies performed under the name "Uncle Tom's Cabin" reflecting the popularity of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin, which helped to promote the increasingly unpopular sentiment toward American slavery. The file contains advertisements for Uncle Tom's Cabin, letter to James Smith from James V. Bryson (referencing motion picture production of Uncle Tom's Cabin), a production broadside (OS), and HAJ notes.

1927, n.d.

Urban Arts Corps

Theater company. Founded by Vinnette Carroll in 1967 as a collaborative pilot project of the Ghetto Arts Program and the New York Council of the Arts. The Corps was designed to assist and train minorities in all theatrical disciplines. The file contains a biographical sketch of Vinnette Carroll, press releases (announcing 1978 season), a letter from HAJ to Carroll (1979), telegram, clippings, printed material and HAJ notes.

1978-1979

See also Urban Arts Corps Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

V

VanDerZee, James (1886-1983)

Photographer. VanDerZee is best known for his portraits of people and events during the Harlem Renaissance as well as other aspects of the people and places of Harlem, New York. He opened his first studio in 1916 and began photographing middle and upper-class families, school classes, brides, and individuals from Harlem. In 1969, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition "Harlem On My Mind," (1969) introduced his work to contemporary audiences. The file includes letters from VanDerZee to HAJ (1975), calendar, exhibit poster, advertisement (OS) and clippings.

1971, 1974-1975

See also the James VanDerZee Photograph Collection in the Photograph and Prints Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

Van Pebbles, Mario

Actor, writer, and film director. Van Pebbles is the son of actor/director Melvin Van Pebbles. His first film appearance was in Melvin Van Pebbles film Sweet Sweetback's Badasssss Song (1971). His other films include The Cotton Club (1984), Exterminator II (1984), Rappin' (1985), and New Jack City (1991). Van Pebbles has also directed films that include Posse (1993) and Panther (1995) and appeared in and directed episodes of television programs such as L.A Law and Malcolm Takes a Shot. The file contains clippings and magazine articles.

1993, n.d.

Vereen , Ben

Singer and actor. A versatile performer who has appeared in several Broadway musicals including *Pippin'* (leading role in 1972) *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hair* and *Sweet Charity*. He is best known for his portrayal of Chicken George in the television mini-series Roots. The file includes clippings and a magazine article about Vereen and his television appearances.

1978

Vodery, Will (1885-1951)

Arranger, composer and musical director. Vodery was the musical director of the Jolly John Larkin Show (c.1900-1910). He also composed scores for Broadway musicals *The Time*, *The Place*, *The Girl* in 1907 and *Blackbirds* in 1933. The file contains newsletters and a magazine article featuring Vodrey.

n.d.

See also Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle collections in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

W

W.S. Cleveland's Colossal Colored Carnival Minstrel

Traveling Minstrel Show. The file contains a playbill.

n.d.

Ward, Richard (1915-1979)

Actor. Ward appeared in film, Public Enemy #1, the television series, The Jeffersons and in the theatrical production, *When the Sun Goes Down*. The file contains a biographical sketch and a memorial program.

1979

The Washingtons

Husband and wife entertainment team. Dan and Minnie Washington were a show business couple whose act consisted of singing, dancing and cakewalking. The file includes photocopies of an enlarged letter from the Washingtons to a Mr. Norcross.

n.d.

Waters, Ethel (1896-1975)

Actress and singer. Waters performed in theater, film, radio and television. During the 1920s and 30s, Waters was one of the most popular African-American performers in the country. The file contains clippings, a press release and printed material about Waters' performances and an obituary.

1970, 1974-1977, n.d.

See also the Negro Actors Guild Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Whipper, Leigh (1877-1975)

Actor. Whipper was one of America's best known character actors. A vaudeville artist, comedian and lyric writer, he was also a founding member of the Negro Actors Guild (NAG) and the first black member of the Actors' Equity Association. The collection consists of three folders. The first file contains biographical information, correspondence, clippings and HAJ notes. The second file contains skits, lyrics and poems (poet unknown). The third file includes printed materials (e.g., invitations, table chart, prayer cards), petition, citation, article, booklets, newsletters and meeting information for the Negro Actors Guild.

1951-1975

See also the Leigh Whipper Papers and the Negro Actors Guild Records in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Leigh Whipper Papers at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

See also Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Williams, Beatrice "Happy"

Chorus girl. Williams was popular in the 1920s and 1930s and was an original chorus girl in the 1921 production of *Shuffle Along*. She also served as a hostess at Harlem's famed Smalls' Paradise nightclub. The file contains clippings (which includes a clipping featuring Joe "Smokey" Williams, Happy's husband), souvenir booklet, letters to HAJ from Williams, letter from HAJ re: a sports editor referencing "Smokey," and HAJ notes.

1921-1923, 1972-1973

See also the Edwin Smalls Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Williams, Bert (1874-1922)

Vaudevillian performer. Shows Egbert Austin Williams was noted for include *In Dahomey*, *In Abyssinia*, and *Darktown Jubilee*. The file contains clippings about Williams and photocopies of sheet music including "The Medicine Man," "I'd Rather Have Nothin' All of the Time Than Somethin' for A Little While," "Good Morning Carrie," "I'm a Jonah Man," "The Fortune Telling Man" and "He's a Cousin of Mine."

1899-1908, 1922

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

See also Bert Williams Joke Books and the Sheet Music Collection for additional Williams related titles in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Williams, Bert (1874-1922) and Walker, George W. (1873-1911)

Vaudeville duo. Egbert Austin Williams and George W. Walker were comedic actors who formed a team and worked from 1895 to 1909 in vaudeville as the “Two Real Coons.” They are credited with introducing the cakewalk dance in 1896. Shows they were associated with include *A Lucky Coon* (1899), *The Sons of Ham* (1900) and *In Dahomey* (1902), *Abyssinia* (1908), *Bandana Land* (1909). The file contains clippings, photocopy of an *In Dahomey* program and an article by Williams entitled, “The Real Coon on the American Stage” and a letter from HAJ to Maxwell Geismar regarding Williams (1975).

1905-1913, 1943, 1973, 1975, n.d.

See also Alex Rogers Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections and the Bert Williams Joke Books in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Williams, Fess (1894-1975)

Composer, arranger and band director. Stanley Rudolph Williams better known as “Fess,” formed his first band in Winchester, KY in 1914. In 1926 his band played at the opening of Harlem’s famous Savoy Ballroom. The collection consists of two folders. The first file contains biographical information, manuscript musical scores, funeral programs, correspondence between Williams and Charles Buchanan, manager of the Savoy Ballroom (1928), a letter from Williams to Earl W. and Walter Pichon, a contract, address book, Elks Lodge financial log, church contribution record, printed material (e.g., calling card, flyer promoting performances), clippings and HAJ notes. The second file contains certificates.

1917-1934, 1964-1975, n.d.

See also Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Arts and Artifacts Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

The Wiz

Musical. *The Wiz* was a successful Broadway musical and film, adapted from Frank Baum’s classic *The Wizard of Oz* and performed by black actors and singers. The file contains clippings, and production notes for the motion picture.

1978

See also *The Wiz* Collection in the Manuscript Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Wooding, Sam (1895-1985)

Jazz pianist. Wooding was the first musician to introduce jazz and swing to European audiences during the 1920s. From 1953 to c.1968, Wooding became the accompanist and manger for singer Rae Harrison, whom he later married. The file includes letter, a press

* Transferred to HAJ Play Scripts or Program Collection; TLS -- typed letter signed; ALS -- autographed letter signed, HAJ -- Helen Armstead Johnson; OS -- oversized

release, articles, performance flyers, letter from Wooding to HAJ (TLS) (1973), and clippings.
1972-1973

See also the Sam Wooding Collection in the Manuscript Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Woolfolk, Melvin

In 1936, Woolfolk was a waiter at the Cotton Club and Connie's Inn and was married to, and managed, actress Nina Mae McKinney. The file contains a poem by him, Christmas card, his resume and clippings.
1972

See also Nina Mae McKinney Collection in the Helen Armstead-Johnson Miscellaneous Theater Collections in the Manuscript Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Y

Yes Sir, Mr. Bones

Play. The file includes conference papers discussing, “Minstrels and the Showboat Tradition” in *Yes Sir, Mr. Bones*, a partial play script and blocking instructions (possibly for *Yes Sir, Mr. Bones*), letter to Elizabeth R. Woodman from HAJ with reference to Woodman’s research on minstrels, and review of the film *Yes Sir, Mr. Bones*, and letter to Adrian Weiss from HAJ regarding the return of the film to Weiss Global Enterprise (distributors of *Yes Sir, Mr. Bones*).
1977-1978, n.d.

Miscellaneous Clippings

The file contains single clippings noting various performing artists as well as prominent African-American personalities.
1970,1973-1975, 1977-1980, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1993, n.d.

Miscellaneous Manuscripts

File contains documents that were not identifiable with any collection. Included are a list of film companies (which includes owned and operated African American companies); form letters, speech /remarks by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP (from a luncheon held under the auspices of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, Oct. 25, 1957); holograph song lyrics for “I Ain’t Paying No Bills;” poem entitled “Mother” by WAG (?); and a membership roster for the League of New York Theaters and Producers, Inc., Oct. 1978.
1928, 1952, 1957, 1975, 1978, n.d.

Miscellaneous Manuscripts Music

The file contains holograph sheet music by unidentified composers for the “The Old River Blues,” “Texas Rose” and “No-Si-Bon.”
1954, n.d.

Miscellaneous Printed Material

File is comprised of entertainment and black history related documents that were not identifiable with any collection. The file includes advertisements, artists promotional material, newsletters, postcards, booklets, book covers, business card, paper doll book (featuring Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker and Bill Robinson), exhibit and conference brochures and programs.

1926, 1933, 1971, 1973-1974, 1976, 1982, 1984, 1990-1991, 1994, n.d.

Miscellaneous Oversized Broadsides

Art and Theater-A Festival of International Cinema from New Yorker Films, n.d.

Patti Austin/Stanley Turrentine, Avery Fisher Hall (Lincoln Hall), October 1, n.y.
Black Musical Theater Sponsored by The Peabody/Morgan Black Music Symposium
The Peabody Conservatory of Music, John Hopkins University, February 16-18, 1984

Club Harlem Featuring Joe Tex, Philippe Wynne, the Manhattans, Jerry Butler, B.B. King, Al Green, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1978

The Copasetics Annual Bus Ride to Peg Leg Bates Country Club, May 31, 1976

Dance Theatre of Harlem/Merce Cunningham and Dance Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music, January 5-16, n.y.

Dancecraft “Keep On Straight in ‘78”, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 29, 1978

Dancecraft “Keep On Keepin’ Time ‘79”, Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 28, 1979

Dean and Johnson, c. 1943

Forest Hills Music Festival- featuring African American Performers/Groups, 1968

Billie Holiday Theatre featuring Loretta Abbott and Al Perryman in Dance Concert, February 2-4, ny.

4th Annual Jazz Festival Featuring Dexter Gordon, Nashville Jazz Machine and Maynard Ferguson Orchestra, Vanderbilt University, April 13-15, n.y.

Great Piccadilly Circus Night Club and Street of Cairo Featuring Higgins & Pendarvis (Dancing Team); Zack & Jimmie (Comedy Artists), n.d.

Hague’s Minstrels, 1878

Heavenly Jazz Concerts featuring Joe Williams, Al Grey and Clark Terry, n.d.

“Jazz is Alive and Well in the U.S.A.” Jazz Spotlite News Public Service Announcement, n.d.

Eartha Kitt “Bread and Beans and Things,” Aquarius Theater, Hollywood, California, July 16, 1974

Kwanzaa Celebration Studio Museum of Harlem, 1974-1975

Lazarus: A Music Drama of the Early 12th and Late 20th Century, Master of Fleury, and Eric Salzman La Mama E.T.C., New York, April-May, 1975

Lincoln Motion Picture Company featuring four films Realization of a Negro's Ambition (1916), Trooper of Troop K (1917), Law of Nature (1918), Pictorials (1919)

Leontyne Price, 1971

New York Folk Festival, August 13-14, n.y.

New York Niggers, n.d.

Oscar Brand and Sons and George Kleinsinger's “Tubby the Tuba Meets the Dixieland Jazz Band” featuring Major Holley, Oliver Jackson, Jimmy Maxwell, George Masso, Johnny Mince and Dick Westwood, n.d.

Shakespeare Theater of Varieties, 1936

Stadt-Theater-St. Gallen-Performance of "Raisin," n.d.

Sun Ra Arkestra, n.d.

Sarah Vaughan, n.d.

William Brown, Tenor, Carnegie Hall, May 22, n.y.

Miscellaneous Oversized Newsletters

Newsletter - Stadt-Theater-"Sound of Soul" and "Raisin," 1979

Newsletter - Stadt-Theater-"Raisin," 1979

Miscellaneous Oversized Blueprints

Stage Blocking/Prop Set Up-"Raisin" at George Street Playhouse, New Brunswick, 1982