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**GEORGE WASHINGTON GLOVER/HANDY, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER  
COLLECTION**

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

## PREFACE

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

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

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

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**GLOVER, GEORGE WASHINGTON (1888-1993). WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER HANDY COLLECTION, 1942-1957.(1 flat box)**

**Biography**

George Washington Glover was born July 29, 1888 in Greenville, South Carolina. His parents were John Wesley Brooks Glover, a preacher and railroad worker, and Sarah Hamilton Glover.

Like many young men, Glover left the South and went to New York City in 1907 to expand his horizons and to seek a better life. In New York his enterprises included promoting musical concerts and the "cakewalk," a dance craze of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Glover's love and appreciation of music and promoting ventures led eventually to what would become a long association with the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM).

Glover assisted in the founding of the NANM in 1919, an organization dedicated to promoting the careers of Black musicians and singers, and to fostering public appreciation and education. He served for eighteen years as chairman of NANM's Department of National Exhibits and Archives. Additionally, he is a charter member of the Thomas Music Study Club which was organized by Blanche K. Thomas, a composer and pianist. The Thomas Music Study Club has been affiliated with the NANM since 1946.

Although Glover did not have an opportunity to receive a college education he has pursued a life long interest in Black history. He was a founding member of the Manhattan Branch of the Association for the Study of Negro (now Afro-American) Life and History and has worked unceasingly to publicize and promote the accomplishments of Black Americans. This concern has led him to work with several organizations whose goals included the improvement of Black life through cultural pursuits, among them the David I. Martin Music School, the Negro Actors Guild, the Harlem branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Schomburg Collection Endowment Fund. Glover is also a Life member 33rd and Last Degree of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Free Masonry and member of the Federation of Masons of the World, Inc. As a result of his contributions to the Black community Glover has received many awards in music, Black history and Masonry.

George Glover was married to Martha Isabella Seabrook on May 7, 1949. The Glovers have no children.

## **Scope and Content**

The George Washington Glover/William Christopher Handy Collection (1942-1957) is a compilation of materials focusing on the music industry and spotlighting the work and contributions of W.C. Handy. The papers consist of correspondence, issues of the Handy Music Company publication, "The Handy News," printed material and newspaper clippings. Each file is arranged in chronological order. The collection was originally mounted in five scrapbooks in no discernable order. It has been taken apart for organization and preservation purposes.

The **CORRESPONDENCE, 1943-1956, n.d.**, is all incoming. The letters are to George Glover and his wife, and are primarily from W. C. Handy, many written under the auspices of the Handy Music Company. There are two letters generally addressed "Dear Friend" from the Concert Committee of the J.U.G.G.'s (a music organization that sponsored artists in concert) and from the National Association of Negro Musicians. There are also two letters written by Noble Sissle and Carl Van Vechten on behalf of the W. C. Handy Foundation for the Blind, soliciting support.

There are several issues of the "**THE HANDY NEWS, 1951-1957**," included with the Glover Collection. "The Handy News" is composed of articles about the world of music, its artists and patrons.

The **PRINTED MATERIAL, 1945-1954, n.d.**, consists of a variety of items, including programs, sheet music, press releases and two stage scenery plans. A program for the Lighthouse Music School is in Braille, a transcription of which was provided by the Library for the Blind, The New York Public Library.

The **NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1942-1956, n.d.**, are an assortment of articles reflecting the last years of W. C. Handy's life. Included are several reprints of articles and an advertisement for the Handy Brothers Music Company.

## **Provenance**

Gift of George Glover.  
SCM77-69

**D.Carter/S. Davis**  
July 1980

**Container List**

**Box   Folder**

1	1	CORRESPONDENCE, 1943-1956
	2	THE HANDY NEWS, 1951-1957
	3	PRINTED MATERIAL, 1945-1954, n.d.
	4	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1942-1956, n.d.

## SEPARATION RECORD

The following items were removed from the George Glover Papers, accession number SCM77-69, and have been sent to the division or section indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

**Schomburg Library:** (Books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, government publications)

Nine magazines on various topics.

One folder of clippings on civil rights and Blacks in music and theatre.

### **Photographs and Prints Division**

One photograph of W.C. Handy and wife (Irma), 1954, Mar 4.

### Other:

Letter from Horatio S. Hill to Blanche Thomas, 1949, Dec 7; two programs for recitals by Thomas' Musical Arts Club, 1949, June 26 and 1950, June 4;

"We Women Are Marching On" (music suitable for women's organizations and women's services) by Blanche Thomas transferred to Blanche K. Thomas Papers, SCM79-4.