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HELEN ARMSTEAD-JOHNSON THEATER COLLECTION
William H. Glenn and Walter Jenkins Scrapbook

Bulk Dates: 1922 -1962

Extent: Shelving Unit:
Linear feet: 1 1/2 linear inches

Source and Date: Helen Armstead-Johnson, December 1996.

Processor's Name: Paula Williams

Date Finding Aid Completed: September 2000

Processed: Processed as part of the Blacks on Stage: African-American Theater Arts Collection Project. Funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the City and State of New York.

Abstract: Glenn and Jenkins were a popular comedy team who performed on the vaudeville circuit during the 1920s and 1930s. Scrapbook contains reviews and advertisements of their appearances across the United States.

Provenance: The Glenn and Jenkins scrapbook was acquired by Ulysess S. Thompson. It was subsequently donated by Helen Armstead-Johnson, along with other theater-related collections to the Schomburg Center.

Access: Unrestricted access

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Other Source of Description: RLIN #: NYPW.....

Citation: The William H. Glenn and Walter Jenkins Scrapbook of the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection, Sc MG 599, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Index Terms

Names: William H. Glenn
Walter Jenkins

Subject: Afro-Americans in the performing arts, Afro-American Wit and humor, Wit and humor--William H. Glenn, Wit and humor--Walter Jenkins

Preface

This inventory was prepared as part of an archival preservation project to arrange, describe, and catalog resources essential for the study of African-American theater history. The necessary staff and supplies for the *Blacks on Stage: African-American Theater Arts Collections Project* were made available through a combination of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the City and State of New York.

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**WILLIAM H. GLENN AND WALTER JENKINS.
SCRAPBOOK 1922 -1962 (1922-1949).
1 1/2 linear ins.**

Biographical Note

Glenn and Jenkins were a popular comedy team who performed on the vaudeville circuit during the 1920s and 1930s. Both were from South Carolina and met in 1916 when each was touring the circuit. They subsequently decided to team up and toured the United States, Canada, and London. Glenn and Jenkins were best known for their black face routines, "Working for the Railway" and "The Broom Dance" which included the playing of the harmonica and guitar and stepping with a broom. During World War II they also performed for USO camps, and benefits as well as at the Cotton Club. Earlier in their career, during the 1920s and 1930s, the partners suffered from racial epithets from theatre owners.

Scope and Content Note

The William H. Glenn and Walter Jenkins Scrapbook dates from 1922 to 1949 and 1962 and forms part of the Helen Armstead-Johnson Theater Collection. Most of the items are pasted into the scrapbook and adequately document the performances and tours of the pair. The scrapbook's contents include reviews and advertisements for their comedy routines, "Working For the Railway" and "The Broom Dance" from the following newspapers: New York Post, Boston Travelor, K-C Times, Vaudeville News and Star, Variety, London Coliseum, and Big Time Vaudeville. The scrapbook also contains notes, flyers, photographs, telegrams, greeting cards, and carbons of their pay stubs. Letters from their manager, Thomas J. Fitzpatrick, an agent at the Rialto Vaudeville Representative Inc., are also pasted into the album. There is no discernible arrangement to the scrapbook except that early dates are usually on the recto page while later dates are on the verso page. There are photographs of Glenn and Jenkins in the Photographs and Prints Division.

Provenance

Acquired by Ulysses S. Thompson who gave it to Helen Armstead-Johnson. The scrapbook was subsequently donated by Helen Armstead-Johnson, along with other theater-related collections to the Schomburg Center.
SCM96-38

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Volume</u>	
1	1	Letters, 1922-1931, 1961 Telegrams, 1923 -1929 Newspaper clippings, 1919-1927, 1964, n.d. Program, 1962 Photographs, 1938, n.d. Pay Stubs, 1928-1930
	Folder	Greeting cards, certificate of membership