



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

Guide to the

Louis Sharp scrapbook

1926-1949

Sc MG 534

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Sharp, Louis, 1901-1976

Title: Louis Sharp scrapbook

Date: 1926-1949

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift, Bobby Sharp, April 1980

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: Louis R. Sharp, African-American singer and actor graduated from the University of Kansas, where he sang with the University quartet. Moving to California in 1926, he studied voice with Theodore Ricardo, and settled in Harlem in the 1930s. A tenor, Sharp performed in concerts and recitals, singing in six languages. In 1931 Hall Johnson hired Sharp as a choral member of The Green Pastures in which he also played Cain. He had a major role as Toussaint L'Ouverture in the 1938 Federal Theatre Project's production of Haiti opposite Canada Lee's Christophe. Sharp was also in the original Broadway cast of such productions as Conjur Man Dies, Mamba's Daughters, Cabin in the Sky, South Pacific, St. Louis Woman, Finian's Rainbow, and Set My People Free. The Louis Sharp scrapbooks are comprised of two volumes. The first (1926-1946) contains news clippings and programs regarding Sharp's career, initially as a tenor performing in concerts, later as a singer and actor in Finian's Rainbow and in Broadway's St. Louis Woman, and Haiti, among other productions. There are several congratulatory letters and telegrams, including from Cab Calloway. The second scrapbook (1942-1947) consists of news clippings about African-American sports figures such as boxer Joe Louis and baseball player Jackie Robinson.

Preferred citation: [Item], Louis Sharp scrapbook, Sc MG 534, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Louis R. Sharp, African-American singer and actor graduated from the University of Kansas, where he

sang with the University quartet. Moving to California in 1926, he studied voice with Theodore Ricardo, and settled in Harlem in the 1930s. A tenor, Sharp performed in concerts and recitals, singing in six languages. In 1931 Hall Johnson hired Sharp as a choral member of *The Green Pastures* in which he also played Cain. He had a major role as Toussaint L'Ouverture in the 1938 Federal Theatre Project's production of *Haiti* opposite Canada Lee's Christophe. Sharp was also in the original Broadway cast of such productions as *Conjur Man Dies*, *Mamba's Daughters*, *Cabin in the Sky*, *South Pacific*, *St. Louis Woman*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and *Set My People Free*.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American athletes
African American entertainers
African American singers
African Americans in the performing arts
Black author
Tenors (Singers) -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Names

Calloway, Cab, 1907-1994
Sharp, Louis, 1901-1976

Container List

- b. 1 Volume 1 1926-1946
- v. 1
- b. 1 Volume 2 1942-1947
- v. 2