



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

Guide to the

Ida Roley collection

1923-1963

Sc MG 723

Summary

Creator: Roley, Ida

Title: Ida Roley collection

Date: 1923-1963

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Eloise Trotman-Gray and Valgene Trotman Cropper, 2001.

Abstract: Ida Roley was a coloratura soprano and actress whose performances include a role in the 1923 edition of Jimmie Cooper's Revue, a burlesque show comprised of approximately seventy cast members, both African American and white. The white owner, producer and actor Jimmie Cooper, combined dancing, singing, jazz, comedy, and blackface in his company. The revue formed part of the circuit of the Columbia Amusement Company and performed in New York, Boston, London, and Montreal. Roley also performed in *Shuffle Along* (1922) and the play *The Conjur Man Dies*. She was the lead singer in the choir of Lew Leslie's road company of *Blackbirds* (1929) in Paris, later performing as a soloist and doing song recitals. She also wrote a few short stories. The Ida Roley collection consists of a scrapbook documenting the career of this entertainer, writings by her, and other material. The scrapbook contains news clippings and programs of Roley's performances in Jimmie Cooper's Revue, Lew Leslie's *Blackbirds*, *Shuffle Along*, and *Plantation Days* (1923), in addition to programs of her solo recitals. The scrapbook, which dates from 1923 to 1933 (bulk dates), also contains snapshots of Roley and other performers, news clippings about other singers, and productions in which she did not appear. In addition, the collection contains handwritten manuscripts for two stories Roley wrote in 1937, "Silver Dollars" and "The Unfaithful Wife." There are also two letters from W.C. Handy (1950) regarding his 77th birthday celebration.

Preferred citation: [Item], Ida Roley collection, Sc MG 723, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Janice Quinter, December 2003.

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American singers
African American theater
African American women entertainers
African Americans in the performing arts
Musical groups -- United States
Revue -- United States
Women in the performing arts
Women singers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Names

Roley, Ida