



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

Guide to the

Mildred Stock research collection

1858-1979 [bulk 1940-1979]

Sc MG 177

Summary

Creator: Stock, Mildred

Title: Mildred Stock research collection

Date: 1858-1979 [bulk 1940-1979]

Size: 7.42 linear feet (15 boxes)

Source: Gift of Andrew Stock, November 1980.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Mildred Stock was a writer and researcher, best known for the work, *Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian*, which she co-authored with Herbert Marshall. The Mildred Stock research collection consists of research files concerning Stock's studies of African American and European stage actors, slavery, and other subjects.

Preferred citation: [Item], Mildred Stock research collection, Sc MG 177, 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, October 1993.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: artwork.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Mildred Stock (1902-ca.1980) was a writer and researcher, best known for the work, *Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian*, which she co-authored with Herbert Marshall. Stock was born in New York City in

1902. *Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian* (Macmillan, 1958) was a major work on the nineteenth century African American Shakespearean actor. She also conducted research on other performers and figures in African American history, as well as on slavery, particularly fugitive slaves. Stock died in around 1980.

Scope and Content Note

The Mildred Stock research Collection consists of research files concerning Stock's studies of African American and European stage actors, slavery, and other subjects. The bulk of the collection is comprised of research files and correspondence relating to the book she co-authored with Herbert Marshall, *Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian*. Included is correspondence, manuscript drafts, notes and clippings pertaining to her research on Aldridge, Thomas Greene Bethune, a.k.a. "Blind Tom," Toussaint Louverture, Paul Cuffe, and fugitive slaves (including Henry "Box" Brown, William and Ellen Craft, Venture Smith, and others). Additional topics of her research were the nineteenth century Irish actor Tyrone Power, and Victoria Woodhull, the nineteenth century women's rights advocate. Musical scores composed by Blind Tom can be found in the collection. Stock also prepared draft manuscripts for baby books aimed at African American, Asian Indian, and general audiences. Some personal papers are also included.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: I. Personal and II. Research projects.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American composers
African Americans -- Music
Baby books
Fugitive slaves -- United States
Slavery -- United States

Names

Aldridge, Ira Frederick, -1867
Blind Tom, 1849-1908
Brown, Henry Box, 1815 or 1816-
Craft, Ellen
Craft, William
Marshall, Herbert, 1906-1991
Power, Tyrone, 1797-1841
Stock, Mildred
Toussaint Louverture, 1743-1803
Woodhull, Victoria C. (Victoria Claflin), 1838-1927

Container List

Personal 1951-1975

- b. 1 f. 1 Travel documents 1956-1968
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 3 Drori, Assa 1951-1967
- b. 1 f. 4 Anderson family
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1952-1975

Research projects 1858-1979

Arranged into 8 subseries: (1) Aldridge, Ira; (2) Correspondence; (3) Blind Tom; (4) Toussaint Louverture; (5) Slavery; (6) Power, Tyrone; (7) Woodhull, Victoria; and (8) Other.

Aldridge, Ira 1858-1958

This subseries consists of articles; notes; index cards; drafts of the manuscript for *Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian*; script of "The Padlock" (a play in which Aldridge performed); correspondence with her co-author, Herbert Marshall, and with the English and American publishers; and book reviews.

- b. 1 f. 6 Drafts of Convent Garden and St. Petersburg chapters
 - b. 1 f. 7 Notes from original manuscripts not in book
 - b. 1 f. 8 Draft of "The Art of Ira Aldridge"
 - b. 1 f. 9 Draft of "The Roles of Ira Aldridge"
 - b. 1 f. 10 "Aldridge Book for Teenagers or for Documentary TV or Radio Program" draft and notes
 - b. 1 f. 11-12 Draft and notes
 - b. 1 f. 13-14 Articles
 - b. 1 f. 15 African Free School
 - b. 1 f. 16-17 "The Padlock" script
 - b. 13 News clippings 1858
- Ira Aldridge: The Negro Tragedian* 1958
- b. 2 f. 1 Book proof 1958
 - b. 2 f. 2-4 Book reviews

Correspondence 1955-1970

- b. 2 f. 5 Poitier, Sidney 1958
- b. 2 f. 6 Weir, John 1967-1970
- b. 2 f. 7 Mitchell, Loften
- b. 2 f. 8 Marshall, Herbert 1955-1957
- b. 2 f. 9 1955-1967
- b. 2 f. 10 1957-1958
- b. 2 f. 11 1958
- b. 2 f. 12 1967-1969
- b. 2 f. 13 1967-1970
- b. 2 f. 14 1959-1975
- b. 2 f. 15 Macmillan Company 1958-1961
Rockliff Publishing Corporation

Research projects (cont.)
Correspondence (cont.)
Rockliff Publishing Corporation (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 16 1957
- b. 2 f. 17 1958 January-June
- b. 2 f. 18 1958 July-December
- b. 2 f. 19 1959-1968
- b. 2 f. 20 George Litto Agency 1969-1970
- b. 2 f. 21 Davis, Ossie. "Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge Sir" 1963

Blind Tom (Bethune, Thomas Greene) 1941-1972

Stock also conducted research into the life of Thomas Greene Bethune, a.k.a Blind Tom, a plantation slave who from childhood, exhibited a musical genius. He copied almost all of the music that he heard on the piano, and he composed his own pieces. He toured the United States and Europe, accompanied by his owners and guardians, from approximately 1857-1880s.

The collection contains Stock's drafts and scripts, research notes, correspondence, typescripts of articles, and musical scores composed by Blind Tom.

- b. 3 f. 1-3 Stock, Mildred. "Blind Tom: Genius of Chattahoochee" draft
- b. 3 f. 4-5 Stock, Mildred. "Blind Tom", draft of script
 - b. 3 f. 6 Stock, Mildred. "The Story of Blind Tom" draft
- b. 3 f. 7-9 "Blind Tom" playscripts
- b. 3 f. 10 Cole, Aaron. "Blind Tom" film scenario
- b. 3 f. 11-13 Research correspondence 1953-1961
- b. 4 f. 1-2 Typescript of articles
- b. 4 f. 3-4 Research notes
 - b. 13 Musical score
Box 13 replaces box 4, folder 5.
- b. 4 f. 6 News clippings 1941
- b. 4 f. 7 Legal agreement and correspondence with John Fernbach 1971-1972

Toussaint Louverture

- b. 5 f. 1-2 Notes
- b. 5 f. 3-5 Napoleon
 - b. 5 f. 6 Notes and index cards
 - b. 6

Slavery

- b. 7 f. 1 Brown, John
- b. 7 f. 2 Cuffee, Paul
- b. 7 f. 3 Greenfield, Elizabeth Taylor ("The Black Swan")
- b. 7 f. 4 Loguen, Jermain Wesley
- b. 7 f. 5-6 Robert, James
 - Fugitive slaves
- b. 7 f. 7 Brown, Henry Box
- b. 7 f. 8 Clark, Lewis
- b. 7 f. 9 Coffin, Levi (president of the Underground Railroad)
- b. 7 f. 10 Craft, William and Ellen
- b. 7 f. 11 Garnet, Henry Highland

Research projects (cont.)

Slavery (cont.)

Fugitive slaves (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 12 Olin, John
- b. 7 f. 13 Smith, Ventura
- b. 8 f. 1-2 Fugitive slaves
- b. 8 f. 3 Brown, William Wells
- b. 8 f. 4 Lewis, J. Vance. "Story of an Ex-Slave"
- b. 8 f. 5 Fugitive slaves
- b. 8 f. 6 Fugitive narratives of Solomon Northrup and Lunsford Lane
- b. 8 f. 7 Vassa, Gustavus
- b. 8 f. 8 Background material on songs
- b. 8 f. 9 "Black My Fair Lady"
- b. 8 f. 10-11 Slavery
- b. 8 f. 12 Notes by subject
- b. 8 f. 13 Notes on index cards
- b. 8 f. 14 Clippings on African Americans 1960s-1970s
- b. 9 Notes on index cards
- Power, Tyrone 1967-1973
- b. 10 f. 1-2 Research
- b. 10 f. 3 Diary transcript
- b. 10 f. 4 Notes on diary
- b. 10 f. 5 Chronological list of appearances
- Correspondence
- b. 10 f. 6 Forsyth, James 1967-1968
- b. 10 f. 7-8 Guthrie, Tyrone 1968-1970
- b. 10 f. 9 Wade, James 1970-1973
Also includes notes and articles.
- b. 10 f. 10 Research articles
- b. 10 f. 11-14 Notes on index cards
- b. 11 f. 1-7 Genealogical and other research notes
- b. 13 Broadsides
- b. 12 Index cards
- b. 14 f. 1-4 Woodhull, Victoria

Includes research notes.

Other 1940-1973

Stock wrote three baby books, including *Naming the Baby*, which listed boys' and girls' names.

This subseries includes drafts and mechanicals for two baby books which record the first five years of an infant's life, written for African American and Indian audiences. Additionally, there are notes for theatrical projects, a draft of a Jewish-oriented story, and an untitled story.

Baby books

- b. 15 f. 1 African American baby book draft
- b. 15 f. 2 Indian baby book

Research projects (cont.)

Other (cont.)

Baby books (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 3 *Naming the Baby* 1940
 Includes published book and draft.
- b. 15 f. 4 Jewish stories and notes
 Theater
- b. 15 f. 5 Dylan Company 1972-1973
- b. 15 f. 6 British theatrical characters
- b. 15 f. 7 Oates, Titus (English history)
- b. 15 f. 8 Jewett, Helen (story of her life)
- b. 15 f. 9 Untitled story
- b. 15 f. 10 Miscellaneous research notes