

NEGRO ACTORS GUILD
RECORDS

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

PREFACE

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

Negro Actors Guild. Records, ca. 1900-1982
40 boxes, 20.8 lin. ft.

Historical Note

The Negro Actors Guild (NAG) was formed in 1936 and began operation in 1937 in New York City as a welfare and benevolent organization for black performers. It was established with the assistance of the Theatre Authority¹, which encouraged black performers to form the Guild in order to become eligible for funds it dispersed. Among the founding members of NAG were Fredi Washington, W. C. Handy, Paul Robeson and Ethel Waters. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was named honorary president. Noble Sissle was the first elected president, 1937-1957; followed by Leigh Whipper, 1957-1960; Frederick O'Neal, 1960-1964; Charles "Honi" Coles, 1964-ca. 1980; and James Randolph, 1980-1981. The last current available membership list of the Guild (1983) lists 878 members, a staff of one, and Harold Leonard as executive secretary.

The Guild was composed of six committees: finance, administrative, membership, entertainment, sick, and welfare. An executive board provided oversight for the activities of the committees. The finance committee's duties were to oversee all office procedures; the membership committee sponsored drives, and promoted goodwill among the members and was responsible for raising funds (yearly membership dues were only \$5); and the entertainment committee organized and sponsored a wide variety of benefits and programs whose proceeds were used primarily to assist needy entertainers. Benefit performances included midnight shows, luncheons, moonlight boat rides, and a Gala Night of Super Stars - Tribute to Cab Calloway which was a prelude to the proposed annual Black International Arts Festival. A principal source of income was the revenue generated from advertisements published in the annual journals. NAG also sponsored annual memorial services to honor deceased members. Two other core committees were the sick committee which oversaw visitations of the sick in homes and hospitals, and the distribution of food baskets, and gifts at Christmas time; and the welfare committee which carried out the primary aim and purpose of the Guild: to give financial aid to entertainers. The welfare fund spent thousands of dollars annually on entertainers (a recipient of NAG financial support did not have to be a member or black, although the vast majority were).

¹The Theatre Authority is a non-profit organization administering and regulating the free appearances of performers for its member organizations; performances are presented to benefit a variety of health and other groups. The Theatre Authority receives a small percentage of box office receipts from benefits, and some of the monies are returned to the member guilds to be used by their welfare programs.

Typical services included payment toward the cost of burials, rent, food, and utility bills, in addition to providing assistance with medical bills, and providing carfare and warm coats, and sending flowers.

NAG also published a quarterly journal, "The Negro Actor" from 1938-1940, which was superceded by a monthly newsletter. A significant function was performed by the actor Kenn Freeman, who served as the Guild's historian. He responded to inquiries from the public regarding the history of black entertainment and compiled an archive on the subject consisting of scripts, programs and playbills, and newsclippings and magazine articles, in addition to photographs, cassette and phonograph recordings, musical scores, orchestrations and other documents.

NAG's operating funds came from donations, stipends from the Theatre Authority, membership dues, and proceeds from the various functions the Guild sponsored (e.g., benefit performances, sales of souvenir journals), however funds were limited until the 1970s when NAG received monies bequeathed to it by the Carl and Fania Van Vechten estates. According to one source, the Guild received two sums of monies from the Van Vechten estates. A portion of it became available in 1976, the 40th anniversary year of the Guild; it is not clear when the second portion of the money was received. Members were told about the gift at a membership meeting, where the Secretary, composer Valdo Freeman, informed them that the Guild would receive approximately \$75,000 from the Van Vechten estate and that more funds would be forthcoming at a later date. With this infusion of money in late 1976, the treasury held approximately \$107,000 in its combined welfare, entertainment and general accounts, the largest sum in its history. Nonetheless, within a few years the organization would become embroiled in factional infighting and legal battles which would lead to its dissolution in 1982.

Contention from within had occurred at various times in the history of the Guild resulting in three administrative secretaries leaving the Guild under controversial circumstances.

In 1949 Mabel Roane Subblett, wife of Bubbles Subblett of the famous Buck and Bubbles singing-dancing-comedy team, was indicted and found guilty of grand larceny and forgery involving thousands of dollars of NAG funds; Aileen Avery became involved in friction with Kenn Freeman and apparently hired a lawyer to protect herself from the Guild. The last incident involved Ernestine Allen, who was accused of mishandling large sums of Guild funds. It was the charges against Ms. Allen that led to the factional infighting and resulting court case instituted by one of the factions, which eventually led to the demise of the Guild.

Scope and Content

The Negro Actors Guild Records document the functions and activities of this professional organization. The collection encompasses the constitution and by-laws, reports of meetings and minutes of the executive board; general office files reflecting the significant issues in the early operation of NAG; membership records; and financial records including receipt books for paid membership dues, cancelled checks indicating purpose of welfare fund expenditures in addition to audits, statements and monthly reports. Entertainment committee records include programs, flyers and planning documents for the numerous benefits and programs sponsored by this committee; welfare fund records include reports and printed matter. Of special interest are the historical collections including typescripts, performers' historical file, programs and playbills and newsclippings pertaining to various aspects of the performing arts.

The Negro Actors Guild Records are divided into six series and ten subseries. The titles, dates and box numbers are as follows:

Title	Dates	Box Numbers
Administrative		
Executive Board	1936-1981	1-6
General Office Files	1936-1981	7-12
Membership	1938-1981	13-20
Financial	1938-1982	
21-24		
Committees		
Entertainment	1938-1980	25
Welfare	1950-1980	26
Printed Material		
Newsletters, Newsclippings and Journals	1937-1982	27-28
Certificates, Broadsides and Plaques	1937-1980	29
Historical Collections		
Typescripts	1937-1973	30-32
Performer's Historical File	1920s-1979	33-35
Programs and Playbills	1905-1981	36-37
Entertainment	1945-1970s	38-40

The **ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS series** contains the **Executive Board** subseries, 1936-1981 (2.4 lin. ft.) including incorporation papers, the constitution and by-laws, documents pertaining to the dissolution of NAG, lists of the executive board members with their duties, original notes taken during meetings (1974-1979),

and correspondence of the nominating committee giving notice for selection of officers for the executive board. A significant component of this series are the minutes of the executive board meetings (1936-1980) which also encompass committee meetings for the finance, welfare, sick, administrative, and entertainment committees. There are also audiotapes of minutes of executive board meetings, 1975-1981 (see Separation Record for details). Information regarding the financial troubles undergone by NAG may be gleaned by perusing these files. This subseries is arranged by type of material, then chronologically.

The subseries **Administrative - General Office Files, 1938-1981 (2.5 lin. ft.)** includes a body of correspondence files and financial records pertaining to the Theatre Authority and its relationship as the parent organization of NAG, typed drafts of the monthly newsletter (1968-1978), and legal papers dealing with the estates of Carl and Fania Van Vechten, as well as a visitors register (1977, 1980). Correspondence files are primarily those of the administrative secretaries and deal with the death and burial of members, membership dues, attendance at NAG sponsored benefits, financial contributions made to the Guild, fund raising campaigns, and publications of commemorative journals, among other issues. Correspondence in the late 1970's reflects the factional divisions of NAG and the positions administrators took to strengthen their causes. This subseries also includes the correspondence of NAG historian Kenn Freeman about various research topics, as well as inquiries from the public. This subseries is arranged alphabetically, and then chronologically.

The **MEMBERSHIP series, 1938-1981 (4.5 lin. ft.)** consists of membership cards with name, address and noting amount of dues paid each year; cards for deceased members were separated from living members by NAG administrative staff. Forms completed during two membership drives, one in 1973 and the other in 1979-1981 document the necessity to broaden support, especially during turbulent times. Other records consist of minutes and programs of annual meetings of the full membership, correspondence regarding the payment of annual dues and relating noteworthy news in the members' lives; and membership reports listing members annual renewal dates (1975-1980). A special questionnaire seeking information from members for the purpose of aiding the Guild office in providing assistance during sickness, death and other emergencies. Responses to questions regarding place and date of birth, name given at birth, and name of nearest relative, etc. for hundreds of members shed some personal information on these entertainers (1964-1975). The arrangement of the membership files follows an alphabetical scheme.

The series **FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1938-1982 (2.5 lin. ft.)** consists of monthly cash receipts and disbursements for the general account and the welfare fund, receipt books for paid membership dues, Internal Revenue Service tax returns, audits, statements

and monthly reports. Specifically for 1975 (during the time period of alleged improprieties that occurred when Ernestine Allen served as administrative secretary), the series includes lists of all expenditures. Of particular note are the unpaid bills submitted to NAG during 1979-1981 when routine business matters were ignored due to internal conflicts. While check stubs for the general account have not been saved by the Schomburg Center for the 1960's-early 1970's when routine bills were paid in a timely fashion, check stubs have been retained for the period 1974-1979 to enable researchers to investigate the possible causes or manifestations of NAG's financial difficulties during that period.

Additional financial records include the check stub book for the promotion account (1970-1977) as well as receipt books for membership dues paid (1970-1980). The unique financial records in this series are the cancelled checks for the welfare fund listing name of recipient, the reason assistance was given and the amount (usually under \$50), covering the period 1966-1978. Petty cash vouchers for the welfare fund (1966-1967) and receipts for assistance given (1980) represent these two periods. All welfare fund records are restricted. The arrangement of this series is chronological within type of financial record.

The **COMMITTEES** series is divided into two subseries: the first **Entertainment, 1938-1980 (1 lin. ft.)** reflects the scope of programs and benefits sponsored by NAG in order to raise funds. The themes and types of programs changed over the years ranging from annual balls, revues, testimonial dinners, moonlight cruises, dances and Christmas parties. The fortieth anniversary (1977) dinner dance was a major event as was the 1980 Gala Night of Super Stars/Tribute to Cab Calloway. The files consist of programs and flyers for these events, souvenir journals, contracts, correspondence pertaining to the planning of the event, tickets and ticket orders. There are also programs for the annual Easter Sunday memorial services; those honored were not necessarily Guild members (1938-1978). The arrangement of this subseries is chronological within type of material.

The subseries **Welfare Committee, 1950-1980 (.4 lin. ft.)** consists of applications completed by the individuals requesting financial support with the person's name, address, age, occupation, amount of rent paid, whether employed, reason for aid, amount requested, if aid had ever been received from NAG and when and how much. NAG's acceptance or rejection of the request is indicated, but reasons are not provided (1950-1974). A more streamlined application process was instituted in 1974 and used until 1981, providing less personal information. Letters from individuals also contain requests for financial assistance. Information on funeral expenses paid by NAG, cancelled checks (1977 only), welfare reports (1942-1946 and 1975) and one folder of information concerning the sick committee, which made either home or hospital visits to sick members (1867-1975) are also included.

These records follow an alphabetical arrangement, then chronological.

The series **PRINTED MATERIAL** includes the subseries **Newsletters, Newsclippings and Journals**, 1939-1982 (.8 lin. ft.) and encompasses *The Negro Actor*, the official organ of the Negro Actors Guild (1939) which was supplanted in 1940 with monthly newsletters and continued until 1978. The newsletters covered, such topics as lists of new and sick members, financial statements, information about special professional performances of members, as well as benefits and programs sponsored by NAG. There are two different issues for December 1975, a result of the factional infighting that occurred within the Guild. Newsclippings (1937-1982) in the New York press concern NAG events such as the fundraising activities it sponsored, in addition to the thefts, infighting, financial turmoil, and finally the dissolution of the Guild. The subseries also includes souvenir programs and journals that commemorate certain anniversaries. The subseries **Certificates, Broadsides and Plaques** encompasses certificates such as the certificate of incorporation, mayor's proclamation, and some certificates issued members, living and deceased. Posters advertise major events, and bronze plaques were either issued by or to the Negro Actors Guild. This subseries covers the years 1937-1980 and is .2 lin. ft. in quantity. The arrangement of this series is chronological within type of published material.

The **HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS SERIES (4.2 lin. ft.)** was gathered by NAG historian Kenn Freeman in the 1970's as a resource for information about black entertainment in the fields of acting, music, dance, theater, film and television, principally in the United States, but in England as well. The **Typescripts** subseries, 1937-1973 (many undated) (1.2 lin. ft.) contains scripts for plays, scenes, skits, and poetry, either intended for the stage or film. Some of the authors are Hughes Allison, Townsend Brewster, Alice Childress, Eddie Curtis (includes original music and lyrics), Ruby Davis (one poem), Kenn Freeman, Mercedes Gilbert, Lonnie Hicks, Eddie Hunter and Leigh Whipper. There are also some unidentified writers as well as unidentified fragments. Since most of the typescripts are for plays, only a different form of genre is indicated on the container list. The typescripts are arranged alphabetically by author.

Of interest is the **Performer's Historical File**, 1920's-1979 (1 lin. ft.) which encompasses programs, letters, telegrams, contracts, articles, newsclippings, announcements, music, news releases, souvenir journals (some published by NAG), and photocopies of photographic scrapbooks (originals housed in Photographs and Prints Division). The extensive file for Kenn Freeman includes newsclippings, programs and related material about his performances in *Anna Lucasta* in New York and in London, his involvement as a dancer in *Calyпсо Carnival* as well as costume designs, many with an African based theme, for

unidentified performances. Other performers represented in this subseries include Marian Anderson, Anita Bush, Minto Cato, Duke Ellington, Ida Forsythe, Bee Freeman, W. C. Handy, Sammy Hayward, Eva Jessye, Nettie Perry, Andy Razaf, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Ernest "Baby" Seals, Emmett "Babe" Wallace, Ethel Waters and Leigh Whipper. This file follows an alphabetical arrangement.

The subseries **Programs and Playbills**, 1905-1981 (.4 lin. ft.) consists of playbills and programs for recitals, musicals, dance performances, plays, and art exhibitions, primarily held in New York City, although a few events occurred in London. A list of programs and playbills prepared by Kenn Freeman serves as a guide to this subseries. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

The extensive subseries **Entertainment**, ca. 1945-1970's (1.8 lin. ft.) consists of newsclippings and magazine articles pertaining to all phases of blacks in the performing arts industry. Categories include comedians, dance, movies, music, radio, sports, television, theater and visual arts. Dance is subdivided into various forms such as African, ballet, cakewalk and tap; the large category of music is divided into numerous genres such as popular, blues, calypso and gospel. When extensive, all the forms of entertainment have been divided into articles, reviews and features. Three New York City cultural organizations are also included in this subseries. This subseries is arranged alphabetically by genre of type of entertainment.

Note:

Additional manuscript material relating to the careers of Kenn and Bee Freeman can be found in the Kenn and Bee Freeman Papers in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center.

Provenance

Gift of Charles L. Coles and Ernestine Allen, July 1986.
SCM86-25

Processed by Janice Quinter with the assistance of Octavia Inman.
September 1999

Container List

Box Folder

1		ADMINISTRATION
		Executive Board
	1	Certificate of Incorporation, 1936
	2	Constitution and By-laws, 1957-1975
	3	Constitution and By-laws Revised, 1957,
		ca. 1977
	4	Dissolution of Negro Actors Guild -
		Legal Action, 1978-1981
	5	Constitution Committee
	6	Agenda, 1980-1981
		Correspondence
	7	1947-1951
	8	1975-1981
	9	List of Members, 1961-1980
	10	Addresses
		Meeting - Original Notes
	11	1974-1975
	12	1975
	13-14	1976
2	1	1977
	2	1978-1979
		Nominating Committee
	3	1954
	4	1970-1975
	5	1976
	6	1977-1981
	7	1980-1981
	8	Nomination of Interim Members, 1979
	9	Nominating Committee - Advisory Board,
		1980
	10	Administrative Secretary - Allen,
		Ernestine (Annisteen) Reports,
		1975-1978
	11	Advisory Board, 1979-1980
		Minutes of Meetings
3	1	1936-1937
	2	1938
	3	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1938
	4	Minutes of Meetings, 1939
	5	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1939
	6	Minutes of Meetings, 1940
	7	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1940
	8	Minutes of Meetings, 1941
	9	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1941
3	10	Minutes of Meetings, 1942
	11	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1942
	12	Minutes of Meetings, 1943
	13	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1943

	14	Minutes of Meetings, 1944
	15	Committee Meeting - Minutes, 1944
		Minutes of Meetings
	16	1945
	17	1946
	18	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1946
	19	Minutes of Meetings, 1947
	20	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1947
	21	Minutes of Meetings, 1948
		Committee Meetings - Minutes
	22	1948
	23	1949
	24	Minutes of Meetings, 1949
	25	Minutes of Meetings - Joint Sick and Welfare Committee, 1949
4	1	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1949
		Minutes of Meetings
	2	1950
	3	1951
	4-5	1952
	6	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1952
	7	Minutes of Meetings, 1953
	8	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1953
		Minutes of Meetings
	9	1954
	10	1955
	11	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1955
	12	Minutes of Meetings, 1956
	13	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1956
	14	Minutes of Meetings, 1957
5	1	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1957
		Minutes of Meetings
	2	1958
	3	1959
	4	1960
	5	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1960
	6	Minutes of Meetings, 1961
	7	Executive Committee - Minutes of Meetings, 1961
5	8	Minutes of Meetings, 1962
	9	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1962
	10	Minutes of Meetings, 1963
	11	Committee Meetings - Minutes, 1963
		Minutes of Meetings
	12	1964
	13	1965
	14	1967
	15	1969
6		Minutes of Meetings
	1	1973

2 1974
3 1975
4 1976
5 1977
6 1978
7 1979
8 1980

7

GENERAL OFFICE FILES

1 Administrative Secretary - Avery, Aileen,
1974-1981
2 Black Theater - Instruction Sheets
3 Contributions, 1976-1978
Correspondence
4 1939-1949
5 1950-1958
6 1960-1963
7 1964-1969
8 1970
9 1971
10 1972-1973
11 1974
12 1975
13-14 1976

8

1-3 1977
4 1978
5 1979
6 Incoming Mail Log, 1979
7-8 1980
9 Incoming Mail Log, 1980
10 Freeman, Kenn, 1961-1980
11 Inquiries, 1978-1981
12 1981

8

13 Donations, 1981
14 Noted Persons (Pearl Bailey,
Eubie Blake, Langston Hughes),
1965-1973
15 Crime Insurance, 1980-1981
16 Death Notices
17 Department of Labor - Unemployment
Insurance, 1980
18 Eviction Notice, 1979
19 Forms - Original
20 Friends of NAG, 1979

9

1 Fundraising, 1981
2 History of NAG
3 Leases, 1980-1981
4 Legal, 1975-1977
Newsletter Drafts
5 1968
6 1974

	7	1975
	8	1976
	9	1977
	10	1978
	11	n.d.
		Newsletter Mailing List
	12	1974-1978
	13	1976-1978
	14	News Release, 1979
	15	Office Address and Telephone List, n.d.
	16	Office Day Sheets, 1978
	17	Scrolls of Appreciation
10		
	1	Theatre Authority - Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws
		Theatre Authority
	2	1938-1952
	3	1953
	4	1954-1957
	5	1965-1971
	6	1972-1976
	7	Financial Statements, 1973-1974
	8	1977-1978
	9	1979
	10	1980
	11	1981
	12	Minutes and Telephone Schedule, 1973-1974
		Balance Sheets - Operating Fund,
10	13	1976-1979
	14	1979-1981
11	1	Van Vechten Estate, 1973-1975
	2	Visitors Register, 1977, 1980
		Coordinating Council of Negro Performers
	3	1951
	4	1952
	5	Youth Alliance - Minutes of Meetings, 1944
*12		Office Address and Telephone File
*13		MEMBERSHIP
	1	Acceptance, 1938
	2	Activities, 1975-1981
	3	Annual Meeting - Correspondence, 1975-1981
	4	Minutes, 1962,1977
	5	Programs, 1941-1980
	6	Brochures
	7	Membership Committee, 1977

	Correspondence
8	1951-1977
9	1978
10	1979-1981
11	Legal Action, 1978-1979
12	Death Notices, 1949
13	Membership Drive
14	Lists of Members
15	Mailing Labels, ca. 1979-1980
16-18	Mailing Labels
19	New Members, 1979-1981
	Special Questionnaires
20	A-D, 1964-1975
21	E-J, 1964-1973
22	K-P, 1964-1975
23	R-W, 1964-1974
24	Rejections, 1981
25	Reports, 1975-1980
26	Voting Proxies, 1980

***Boxes stored offsite**

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
*14		Membership Cards A-D
*15		D-J
*16		K-R
*17		R-Z
*18		Deceased Members
*19		Membership Applications, 1960-1975
*20		Membership Application, 1980
21		FINANCIAL
	1	1938-1939
	2	1953-1957
	3	General Account and Suggested Finance Plan, 1958
	4	1960-1965
	5	Statements and Interim Audit Report, 1965-1968
	6	Annual Financial Statements, 1969
	7	Statements and Audit Summary, 1969 Statements
	8	1970
	9	1971
	10	1970-1976
	11	1977
	12	Bank Memoranda and Correspondence, 1975-1977
	13	Audit, 1978
	14	1978-1979
	15	Unpaid Bills, 1979-1980
	16	1980
	17	1981-1982 Check Stubs General Account
	18	1974-1976
22	1	General Account 1977-1979
	2	Promotional Account 1976-1977

***Boxes stored offsite**

		Benefits and Programs
*25	7	Annual Memorial Services, 1938-1978
	8	Annual Benefits Midnight Show, 1961
	9	Playboy Luncheons, 1972-1979
	10	40th Birthday Celebration, Dec. 11, 1977
		Annual Moonlight Boat Rides
	11	1964-1979
	12	1980
	13	Contracts, 1968-1977
	14	Sunday Afternoon Luncheon - Charles Gallery, 1974
	15	Luncheon - Hawaii Kai, Feb. 3, 1980
	16	Tribute to Nicholas Brothers, April 8, 1980
	17	"Gala Night of Super Stars" - Tribute to Cab Calloway - Black International Arts Festival, Sept. 28, 1980
	18	"A Gala Night of Super Stars" - Ticket Orders, Sept. 28, 1980
	19	"A Bus Ride of Your Life," Oct. 11, 1980
	20	"An Evening with Count Basie," Dec. 1980
		General Information
	21	1951-1969
	22	1973-1979
	23	Ticket Samples, 1959-1974

RESTRICTED

*26		Welfare Committee
	1	Applications, 1974-1981
		Correspondence
	2	1959
	3	1964-1976
	4	1977-1981
		Financial Records
	5	Flower Deliveries, 1975-1976
	6	Cancelled Checks, 1977
	7	Funeral Expenses Paid, 1958-1977
	8	Guidelines - Issuance of Funds, 1957-1976
	9	Index Cards
		Welfare Questionnaires
	10	1950-1952
	11	1953
	12-13	1955
	14	1956
	15	1957-1959
	16	1950s

***Boxes stored offsite**

*26	17	1960-1974
		Recipients
	18	Slaughter, Gladys 1977-1978
	19	Stewart, Marion
		Reports
	20	1941-1942
	21	1975, 1980
	22	Sick Committee, 1967-1975
	23	Testimonials, 1957
27		PRINTED MATERIAL
		Newsletters, Newsclippings and Journals
		Newsletters
	1	1939-1941
	2	1942-1943
	3	1944-1945
	4	1946-1949
	5	1950-1955
	6	1956-1959
	7	1960-1963
	8	1964-1969
	9	1970-1973
	10	1974-1978
28		Newsclippings
	1	1937-1940s
	2	Theft of Funds - Mabel Roane, Executive Secretary, 1949
	3	1950s-1960s
	4	1970s
	5	1980-1982
		Souvenir Journal
	6	1938
	7	1961-1962
	8	1964-1977
	9	Sheet Music - "The N.A.G. March and Theme Song" - Lyrics by Andy Razaf, Music by Charles L. Cooke, 1953
	10	Membership Information
29		Certificates, Broadsides and Plaques
30		HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS
		Typescripts
		Anonymous
	1	"Dark-Town-Scandals"
	2	"Maid Made"
*Boxes stored offsite		
30	3	"The Number Players"
	4	"The S.S. Joyland"
	5	"That Get's It"

6 "Wants to Get Married"
7 Poetry
8 Allison, Hughes - "Panyared"
9 Bartee, Richard - "Christmas is for
Children" - Poem
Brewster, Townsend
10 "The Botany Lesson" - Translated from
the Portuguese of Joaquim Maria
Machado de Assis
11 "The Brown Overcoat" - Translated
from the French of Victor Sejour
12 "Please Don't Cry and Say No"
13 Childress, Alice - "The Wedding Band"
14 Couttie, Earle - "Because I Am Black"
15 Curtis, Eddie - "This is the Day"
16 Davis, Ruby - "The Forte" - Poem, 1973

31 Freeman, Kenn
1 "Blessed are the Fruits" - A Dramatic
Treatment of the George Buchner
Novel, "Wozzeck," 1962
2 "'Tis Cricket: An Intimate Revue" -
Lyric Script
3 Gilbert, Mercedes - "In Greener
Fields," October 17, 1943
4 Gray, Alfred R., Jr. - "The Precedent"
5 Greene, Arline - "My Name is Man" -
Poem, 1961
6 Gregory, Yvonne - "Christmas Lullaby
for a New Born" - Poem
Hicks, Lonnie
7 "Steal-Away: A Southland Story
Dealing with the Origin of Negro
Spirituals," 1937
8 "The Teachings of Elduh Tit-Bak: His
Sermons on...", 1937
9 Hills, Leslie Pickney - Untitled Poem
Hunter, Eddie
10 "Alimony," 1949
11 with Earl Sweeting - "Domestic
Frivolity"
12 with Tim Brymn and Chris Smith -
"Four-Eleven-Forty-Four"

31 13 with Bud Harris and Earl Sweeting -
"Here 'Tis," 1943
14 "She's in Bad Shape" - Poem, 1949

32 1 Marshall, Huey - "Soul Sacrifice"
2 McQueen, Butterfly - "Students
or Victims" - Essay
3 Maugham, W. Somerset - "The Perfect
Gentleman," 1955

New Lafayette Players

4 "In Abraham's Bosom," 16 pp.
5 "Pyramus and Thisbe" - as Arranged
from Shakespeare's 'Midsummer's
Night's Dream,' 8 pp.
6 "Old Man Pete," 23 pp.
7 Peterkin, Julia - "Boy Chillun,"
12 pp.
8 "Release," 24 pp.
9 Phillips - "The Hour Glass" - Scenes,
1966
10 Reilly, J. Terrence - "Black," 1972
11 Richardson, Willis - "Near Calvary,"
5 pp.
12 Shakespeare, William - "Twelfth
Night" - Fredi Washington's Prompt
Book - Annotated, June 3, 1938
13 Stuart, Nuba-Harold - "Hunter,"
1974
Whipper, Leigh
14 "Too Late the Accolades" [Original
and five copies], 5 pp.
15 "On the Life of Frederick Douglass" -
from *Life and Times of Frederick
Douglass*, 13 pp.
16 Williams, William Carlos -
"Many Loves," 1942
17-23 Unidentified Fragments

Performer's Historial File

33 1 Anderson, Marian, 1938-1939
2 Baker, Josephine, n.d.
3 Blake, Eubie, n.d.
4 Bush, Anita, 1916
5 Cato, Minto, 1936-1979
6 Coleman, Ralf M., 1975
7 Davis, Evelyn, 1950-1971
8 Dunham, Katherine, n.d.
9 Ellington, Duke, 1938-1974

33 10-13 Forsyne, Ida, 1950's
14 Freeman, Bee, 1922-1975
15-17 Freeman, Kenn, 1936-1979

34 1-2 Freeman, Kenn
"Anna Lucasta,"
1947-1954, 1947-1977
3-5 "Calypso Carnival,"
1950's
6 Costume Designs, n.d.
7 Gaillard, Anne, 1936-1945
8 Gilbert, Mercedes, 1946
9 Girvin, Virginia, 1966-1975

	10	Hall, Adelaide, n.d.
	11	Handy, W.C., n.d.
	12	Hayward, Sammy, 1975-1977
	13	Hunter, Eddie, 1923-1980
	14	Ira Aldridge Society, n.d.
	15	Jessye, Eva, 1972-1979
	16	Justa, Helen, n.d.
	17	Mills, Florence, n.d.
	18	Mitchell, Abbie, n.d.
	19	McLawler, Sarah, 1976
	20	McNeil, Claudia, n.d.
	21	O'Neal, Frederick, n.d.
	22	Perry, Nettie, 1920s, 1930s, 1950s
	23	Peters, Brock, 1959
	24	Razaf, Andy, 1954-1961
	25	Robeson, Paul, 1954-1976
35	1-3	Robinson, "Bojangles" Bill, 1940-1950
	4	Seals, "Baby" Ernest, n.d.
	5	Scott, Eloise B., 1943-1969
	6	Tucker, Lorenzo, n.d.
	7-8	Vigal, Allen - Scrapbook, n.d.
	9	Wallace, "Babe" Emmett, 1953
	10	Waters, Ethel, 1937-1977
	11	Whipper, Leigh, n.d.
		Other Entertainers
	12	Biographical Information, 1923-1932
	13	Resumes
	14	Autographs
	15	Miscellaneous
36		Programs and Playbills
	1	Lists of Performers' Historical Files and Programs and Playbills
	2	1900-1919
	3	1920s
	4	1930s
	5-6	1940s
	7-8	1950s
	9-11	1960s
	12	1970s
37	1-5	1970s
	6	1980s
	7-9	n.d.
38		Entertainment
	1	Comedians
		Dance
	2	African
	3	Ballet
	4	Cakewalk
	5	Choreographer

	6	Feature Articles - Performers
	7	General
	8	Jazz
	9	Tap
		Movies
	10	General Articles
	11	Feature Articles - Performers
	12	Reviews
		Music
	13	General Articles
	14	Blues
	15	Cabaret
	16	Calypso
	17	Columns
	18	Composer
	19	Concert
	20	Contracts
	21	Feature Articles - Performers
39	1	Folk
	2	Gospel
	3	Jazz
	4	Miscellaneous
	5	Opera
	6	Popular
	7	Reggae
	8	Rhythm and Blues
39	9	Vaudeville
	10	Radio
	11	Sports
	12	Television
		Theater
	13	"Anna Lucasta"
	14-16	General Articles
	17-18	Features
40	1-2	General Information
	3	Minstrel
	4	Obituaries
	5-7	Reviews
	8	Visual Arts
	9	General Information
	10	Columns
	11	The Cotton Club
	12	Harlem Cultural Council
	13	West Indian American Entertainers

MANUSCRIPTS, ARCHIVES AND RARE BOOKS DIVISION

SEPARATION RECORD

The following items were removed from:

Name of Collection/Papers Negro Actors Guild Records

Accession Number SCM86-25, Sc MG 259

Donor: Charles L. Coles

Gift X Purchase _____

Date received: September 16, 1986

Date transferred: March 29, 1999

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

Schomburg Art and Artifacts Division:

One plaster of Paris cast of Leigh Whipper

Schomburg Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division:

27 audiotapes - Negro Actors Guild Executive Board Meetings:

(2) September 9, 1977; (1) October 1, 1977; (1) December 3, 1977;

(1) June 4, 1977; (1) May 6, 1978, Vote on Notice and Secret Ballot;

(1) February 22, 1975; (1) February 14, 1975, Helena Justa;

(1) January 25, 1975; (1) March 7, 1981; (2) September 6, 1980;

(1) February 7, 1981; (2) May 20, 1978 Progress Report C.P.A./Missing

Tickets-Membership File/1975 Missing Ledger; (1) May 6, 1978,

McNatt-Attorney; (1) April 15, 1978, Charles Honi Coles-

Letters/Remarks by Kenneth Rodney; (1) September 7, 1978; (1) April 8, 1978 Letters of Grievances/Listing Changes; (2) June 3, 1978; (2) February 4, n.d.; (1) Dolly Walls Report, n.d.; (1) February 8, n.d.; Entertainment; (1) May 10, n.d.; (1) August 1, 1977

Schomburg Photographs and Print Division:

Two folders of photographs of entertainers, primarily members

Accessioned by: Janice Quinter

Date: March 29, 1999