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ANDERSON, Marion

MSRC Staff

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MARIAN ANDERSON - D.A.R. CONTROVERSY COLLECTION  
Collection 1-1 to 1-3

Prepared & Revised by:  
Karen L. Jefferson  
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The Marian Anderson - D.A.R. Controversy Collection is compiled of materials generated from the events occurring from the refusal of the Daughters of the American Revolution to allow Miss Marian Anderson, contralto, to perform in concert at Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C. In response to this discriminatory act, the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee was organized. The Committee, along with the Howard University School of Music, national public support, and the aid of the public leaders throughout the United States, challenged the discriminatory actions of the D.C. Board of Education and the D.A.R. These actions culminated in an open-air Marian Anderson Concert held on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1939 at the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 75,000 people. On January 6, 1943, four years after this historic event, the Marian Anderson Mural Commemorating the Concert on April 19, 1939 was presented at the Department of Interior Auditorium.

Comprised primarily of the records of the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee, the collection totals 1 linear feet spanning the period 1939-1943. These records include petitions, resolutions, press releases, minutes, reports, speeches, and correspondence. Noteworthy are letters of support from Eleanor Roosevelt, Leopold Stokowski, Katherine Hepburn, and Mary McLeod Bethune. Complementing these documents are five rolls of microfilm, of clippings from newspapers throughout the United States, recording the events of this controversy.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 1-1  
the
- Correspondence**  
Primarily correspondence of the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee, and the Howard University Concert Series Committee; includes correspondence to public officials from supporters for Marian Anderson.
- Series B**  
Box 1-2  
the
- Marian Anderson Citizen Committee Records**  
Reports, petitions, resolutions, press releases, and other records documenting activities of the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee.
- Series C**  
Box 1-2  
to
- Marian Anderson Mural**  
Speeches, programs (autographed), photographs, and other materials related to the presentations on January 6, 1943, of the Marian Anderson Mural Commemorating the Easter Sunday Concert of April 19, 1939 at the Lincoln Memorial.
- Series D**  
Box 1-3  
Marian
- Microfilm of Newsclippings**  
News clippings from January - April 1939 documenting events of the Anderson - D.A.R. Controversy.

Container List

**Series A Correspondence**  
Marian Anderson Citizens Committee

Box	Folder
1-1	1 A-Z
	2 Blair, Bertha
	3 Davis, John P
	4 Houston, Charles H. A-C
	5 Houston, Charles D-G
	6 Houston, Charles H. H-K
	7 Houston, Charles H. L
	8 Houston, Charles H. M-Q
	9 Houston, Charles H. R
	10 Houston, Charles H. S-V
	11 Houston, Charles H. W-Z
	12 Houston, William L.
	13 Lovell, John Jr. A-0
	14 Lovell, John Jr. P-Z
	15 McGuire, Virginia
	16 Ottey, Norma I.
	17 Scott, (Mr.)
	18 Form Letters
	19 Others A-Z
	20 Others Ballou, Frank
	21 Others Board of Education
	22 Others Chapman, Oscar
	23 Others Doyle, Henry Gratton (Mrs.)
	24 Others O'Day, Caroline
	25 Others Roberts, Henry (Mrs.)
	H.U. Concert Series Committee
	26 Childers, Lulu
	27 Cohen, Charles C
	28 Johnston, V.D.
	29 Unsigned; form letters

## Container List

<b>Series B</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
		Marian Anderson Citizens Committee Records
Box	Folder	
Box 1-2	30	List of committee members and the supporting organizations
	31	Materials for delegation to D.A.R.
	32	Financial papers
	33	Minutes, reports
	34	Press releases
	35	Drafts of statements, press releases, correspondence
	36	Notes
	37	Lists
	38	Statement on the application for the use of the Central High School Auditorium for a Recital by Miss Marian Anderson, by Frank W. Ballou
	39	D.A.R. - Reports and Constitution
	40	Resolutions
	41	Petitions to the D.C. Board of Education - February 18, 1939
	42	Petitions to the D.C. Board of Education - February 25, 1939
	43	Petitions to the U.S. Congress
	44	Expressions through the Press
	45	Broadsides
	46	Marian Anderson Programs
	47	Marian Anderson Concert at Lincoln Memorial - April 19, 1939
<b>Series C</b>	<b>Marian Anderson Mural</b>	
	48	Presentation of the Marian Anderson Mural - January 6, 1943
	49	Remarks made at the Presentation of the Marian Anderson
Mural		
<b>Series D</b>	<b>Microfilm of News clippings</b>	
1-3	Roll a	January 17 -March 1, 1939
	b	March 2 - March 18, 1939
	c	March 19 - April 11, 1939
	d	April 11 - April 21, 1939
	e	February 2 -April 23, 1939 and unsorted materials