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Guide to Resources on Blacks in the Arts

Beloved Adenuga

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GUIDE TO RESOURCES ON BLACKS IN THE ARTS

Prepared By
Beloved Adenuga

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INTRODUCTION

This resource guide comprises manuscript division collections and digital objects related to Blacks in the Arts. The resources of the manuscript division are collections that were donated to Howard University and they provide relevant information about the personal and professional lives of distinguished Black artists, musicians, writers, journalists, architects, and educators. While many of the collections focus on the activities and influence of respective professionals within their fields of specialty, a few collections focus on family relationships, history, and genealogy.

The digital objects are diverse in their contents. Among others, the digital objects consist of political and art histories, art events reports, biographies, cultural histories, political and educational addresses.

Since early in its formative years, Howard University has collected materials related to people of African descent. Established in 1973 as a separate administrative unit, the Moorland- Spingarn Research Center continues to maintain that tradition of service. Moorland is recognized as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of Black people in the diaspora. As one of the University's major research facilities, the center collects, preserves, organizes, and makes available for research a wide range of resources chronicling the Black experience.

The Center is named for Dr. Jesse E. Moorland and Arthur B. Spingarn, two benefactors whose collections provided the foundation for later development. Following the re-organizing of the collections as the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in 1973, separate Library and Manuscript Divisions were established, followed by the creation of the Howard University Museum in 1979 and the Howard University Archives in 1980.

While the Library Division expands the Center's extensive collection of books, newspapers, journals, and printed materials, the other units are an integral part of the Center's program to redefine approaches to documentation and research into the complexities of Black history and culture. MSRC's combined resources emphasize the identification, acquisition, preservation, research, and exhibition of both primary and secondary material which transforms the existing special collections into one of the world's premier research facilities.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION COLLECTION

Baraka, Amiri

87.5 cubic feet

Amiri Baraka, previously known as LeRoi Jones and Imamu Amear Baraka, was a writer of poetry, drama, fiction, essays, and music criticism. The Amiri Baraka papers span 1951-1988 and contain biographical information, writings by Baraka (including an original manuscript of *The Autobiography of Leroi Jones* and poems), journals, articles, clippings, books, memorabilia, and research files.

Brown, Helen

5 cubic feet

The Helen Brown Papers consist of teaching materials, lecture notes, and sheet music. Also included are reports concerning the Home Economics curriculum in D.C. Public Schools, and conference and workshop materials. Of particular interest are family papers, including correspondence and writings of her father, Sterling N. Brown, and her brother, Sterling A. Brown.

Brown, Jr., Oscar

16.25 cubic feet

The Oscar Brown Jr. papers document his life and work. Files include correspondence (both personal and professional), writings by Brown as well as writings about Brown, photographs, contracts, business and finance files, scrapbooks, clippings, poems, and recordings, including reel-to-reel tapes.

BURGE, LOUISE R.

8 linear feet

The papers of R. Louise Burge (1908-1986), contralto vocalist and teacher, reflect her personal life, performing career, and her role as an educator, specifically at Howard University.

CARRINGTON, C. Glenn

36 linear feet

The C. Glenn Carrington Papers include substantial material by and about W. E. B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, and James Mitchell. The papers also include materials documenting the activities and achievements of Afro-Americans in art, dance, literature, music, and the stage, as well as information about African and Caribbean culture, various black organizations, and black history.

Cook, Will Mercer

8 linear ft.

The papers of Will Mercer Cook are related to Cook and his parents, composer Will Marion Cook, and singer and actress Abbie Mitchell. The papers document Mercer's dual careers as a scholar of the French language and Francophone literature and as a diplomat to Niger, Senegal, Gambia, and the United Nations. Papers concerning Will Marion include correspondence, business papers, writings, and sheet music. Among the papers of Mitchell's are correspondence, programs, and a recording of Mitchell singing.

Davis, Arthur P.

10 cubic feet

The Arthur P. Davis papers span from 1849-1994, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1940 to 1990. The collection includes biographical files, which include CVs, photographs, articles and clippings, cards, family papers, and other items. The bulk of the collection is made up of manuscripts, publications, and other writings which include drafts, galleys, manuscripts, and correspondence relating to Davis' books *The Negro Caravan*, *Cavalcade: Negro American Writers from 1760 to the Present*, and *Isaac Watts: His Life And Works*, as well as drafts and clippings of his newspaper column, "With a Grain of Salt."

DODSON, Owen Vincent

5 linear feet

Owen Dodson's collection consists of manuscripts and reviews of Dodson's plays and novels, music scores, and programs from his publications and productions, as well as correspondence, play scripts, and poetry.

GREGORY, THOMAS MONTGOMERY

8 linear feet

The Thomas Montgomery Gregory Collection is a cumulative collection from the libraries of Thomas M. Gregory, his father, James Monroe Gregory, and his brother, Eugene Monroe Gregory. The personal papers of Thomas M. Gregory are also included. The collection consists of books, pamphlets, narratives, periodicals, manuscripts, documents, posters, photographs, scrapbooks, and clippings. The subject areas of these materials cover the spectrum of Black history. Documents related to the Black arts include his time with the Howard University Players.

JONES, LOIS MAILOU

80 linear feet

This collection includes 18 series: personal papers, family papers, correspondence, financial records, Howard University/teaching materials, writings by LMJ, writings about LMJ, writings by others, Pierre-Noel studios/illustrations, subject files, catalogs/brochures, books, clipping files, photographs, artifacts, audiovisual materials, oversize materials, and scrapbooks. These various series contain materials documenting the life of LMJ as artist and the history and evolution of art.

LOCKE, ALAIN

116 linear feet

The papers of Alain Locke (1885-1954), teacher, philosopher, author, and critic, consist of correspondence and writings, reflecting his involvement in a wide range of cultural, literary, educational, and civic activities. A sizable amount of family papers, financial documents, organizational materials, and photographs are also included. The collection contains numerous documents related to the arts including published and unpublished manuscripts from Locke and some of the most well-known artists of the Harlem Renaissance.

McGinty, Doris

31.0 Cubic feet

The Doris McGinty papers span McGinty's education and career as a music librarian and the Library of Congress and as a professor in the Department of Music at Howard University. Her files contain

correspondence, writings, photographs, programs, ephemera, and sheet music. The bulk of her collection is made up of research files on African American music, particularly on musicians such as Duke Ellington and Paul Robeson. Among the research, files are files on D.C. institutions including Howard University and the Howard Theater. The collection also contains many news clippings from the Indianapolis Freeman and the Washington Tribune.

NICKERSON, CAMILLE

10 linear feet

The papers of Camille Lucie Nickerson, musician, composer, and administrator, reflect her personal life, performing and composing career, as well as her role as an educator at Howard University.

Patience, Charles Edgar

1 linear foot

The primary subject of this collection is artist Charles Edgar Patience, his growth, and eventual international recognition as a prolific anthracite coal sculptor. This collection consists of family and sculptural photographs, personal documents, newspaper clippings, and artifacts.

Pittsburgh Courier

13 linear feet

The manuscript portion of the Papers of the Pittsburgh Courier Washington Bureau documents the relationship between the Washington branch and the main office of the Courier in Pittsburgh. Correspondence forms the bulk of this portion and documents the inter-departmental relationships of the Washington Bureau. The remainder of the manuscript portion of the collection includes material documenting the roles of the advertising, circulation, and financial and legal departments of the Washington Bureau. The collection contains documents and images related to various musicians, actors, and other artists.

ROBESON, PAUL AND ESLANDA

6 linear feet

The Paul and Eslanda Robeson collection consists primarily of printed material on the life and career of Paul Robeson [1898-1976], world-renowned actor, singer, scholar, and political activist. There is a small amount of material related to Eslanda Goode Robeson, chemist, anthropologist, writer, and activist.

TURNER, Geneva Townes

3 linear feet

The papers of Geneva Townes Turner primarily detail the successful collaborative efforts of three elementary school educators and the Associated Publishers of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in publishing and distributing two children's books between 1941 and 1969. Of interest are numerous typed and handwritten drafts, galley sheets, financial records, reviews, and correspondence among the writers and the Associated Publishers. The collection also contains scrapbooks, Howard University yearbooks, photographs, plaques and award certificates, diplomas, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Zeta Phi Beta sorority memorabilia, and television and radio scripts by the author.

WHITE, CLARENCE CAMERON

19 linear feet

The papers of Clarence Cameron primarily consist of correspondence, writings, programs, and photographs documenting his life as a performing artist and composer. The collection also reflects the lives of White's family members, including a noteworthy amount of material related to his second wife Pura Belpré White.

DIGITAL OBJECTS RELATED TO BLACKS IN THE ARTS

[A Conversation With a Literary Critic](#)

Author: E. Ethelbert Miller

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: edit from a taped conversation with Stephen E. Henderson, co-author of “The Militant Black Writer” and editor of an anthology, “Understanding the New Black Poetry, ” among other published works.

[A Museum is Born to Preserve A Heritage](#)

Author: Lorraine A. Williams

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: This article provides details regarding the establishment of Howard University’s museum as well as the significance of its establishment.

[Black Women in the Visual Arts: A Comparative Study](#)

Author: Lois Jones Pierre-Noel

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: This article provides the professional biographies of Black women artists who made significant contributions from the mid-1800s to the 20th century.

[Black Writers Challenge: Coming Together at Howard](#)

Author: Genevieve Ekaete

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: This article details the experience and the discussions at the three-day historic First National Conference of Afro-American Writers which convened at Howard University.

[Essay: The Concept of Play In Congolese/Western Cultures](#)

Author: Alexandre Mboukou

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: This essay presents a comparative view of "play" in both the Western and Congolese cultures to show how a universally experienced abstraction such as "play" acquires different cultural trappings in different social settings.

[FESTAC 77: More Than Song and Dance](#)

Author: Adulkadir N. Said

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: This article details the success of the Second World Black African Festival of Arts and Culture as well as the significance of the festival to Blacks all over the world.

[Fisk Revisited: The View from Jubilee’s Tower](#)

Author: L. Howard Bennett

Publication: [New Directions](#)

Description: an excerpt from a commencement address at Fisk University.

Four Problems in the History of Negro Art

Author: James A. Porter

Publication: [*Department of Art Faculty Publications*](#)

Description: An address was delivered in Columbus, Ohio, on November 1, 1941, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the association for the Study of Negro Life and History. This address presents four of the basic problems involved in a systematic approach to the history and criticism of American Negro Art.

From a Decade of Triumph to the Next Stage The Second Writers Conference

Author: Hoyt W. Fuller

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: Article considering the theme of Howard University's Second National Conference of Afro-American Writers, "Beyond Survival: Two Centuries of Black Literature 1776-1976."

Gallery: Phyllis Cunningham: Rhythms of Vision

Author: Editorial Staff

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article provides a brief description of Phyllis Cunningham's painting. It also provides information about the artist and her inspiration for the painting.

Growth of African Contemporary Art: The Howard Connection

Author: Kwaku Ofori-Ansah

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article is about the significant contributions that Howard University made to promote the study and practice of African contemporary art.

Insight: The Intellectual Journey of Lu Hsiin

Author: Carolyn T. Brown

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article contains a brief biography of Lu Hsun and it details the author's involvement with Lu Hsun and Chinese literature.

Monuments to the Future: The Art of Ed Love

Author: Robert Farris Thompson

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article praises Ed love and his works of art.

Notes on Cinema

Author: Francoise Pfaff

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article focuses on Senegalese cinema.

Poetry and Religion: A Relation Reconsidered

Author: Nathan A. Scott

Publication: [*School of Divinity Faculty Publications*](#)

Description: This is an article about the quickening of interest in art and particularly in literature within the Protestant theological community.

Race Relations The Crossover Phenomenon

Author: Russell L. Adams

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article discusses the increasing voluntary acceptance of Blacks in areas of mass entertainment and it highlights that the crossover phenomenon is less pronounced in non-leisure areas.

ROOTS: Reviving Traditional Remedies

Author: Genevieve Ekaete

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: Article about the formation, operation, and activities of ROOTS (Rebirth Of Old Time Substances), a student organization at Howard University.

Samuel Joseph Brown: The Artist

Author: J. Clay Smith Jr.

Publication: [*Selected Speeches*](#)

Description: This article highlights Samuel J. Brown -- an art relic of Philadelphia, and a treasure unique to America.

Skylight of Pride

Author: Harriet Jackson Scarupa

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article provides details about a new mosaic of colored light called "The Victory Skylight," designed by Akili Ron Anderson for John Wesley A.M.E Zion Church. This article also contains information on the artist and the technique he used to fabricate the skylight.

Sterling Brown A Tribute

Author: Michael R. Winston

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: A tribute read at the funeral services for Professor Sterling A. Brown (1901-1989), at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, January 19, 1989.

The African Presence In Caribbean Folklore

Author: Leota S. Lawrence

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article examines Caribbean folk and culture to show the retention of African culture.

The Negro Artist and Racial Bias

Author: James A. Porter

Publication: [*Department of Art Faculty Publications*](#)

Description: This article attempts to dispose of the question about what may constitute a distinctive contribution by the American Negro artist to American culture.

The Precarious Implications of DNA profiling

Author: J. Clay Smith Jr.

Publication: [*Selected Speeches*](#)

Description: This paper was presented at a conference on "Culture, Values, and Bioethics," April 2, 1993, organized by the Howard University College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy, and the Honors Program. This paper provides information about DNA, and scientific techniques. It also highlights the positive and negative implications of DNA profiling.

Therapy ... Through Music

Author: Harriet Jackson Scarupa

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article explains music therapy. It also provides a historical perspective and some practical experiences of music therapy.

The Resurrection Of Alexander Pushkin

Author: John Oliver Killens

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article explains why most literate Americans know so little about Alexander Pushkin and how Alexander Pushkin happened to find himself in imperial Russia at the beginning of the 19th century.

The Role of Woman in African Literature

Author: Grace Akinyi Ogot

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: A commentary adapted from a lecture delivered by the author at Howard University during her visit to the United States as a Kenyan delegate to the 30th session of the U.N General Assembly.

The Soul Handshake

Author: Joan Curt Elliot

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: This article discusses how different hand gestures originated within the Black community and what they symbolize.

The Writer's Role In Shaping Society

Author: Dennis V. Brutus

Publication: [*New Directions*](#)

Description: excerpt from remarks given at Howard University on March 24 at the investiture of the Stylus Literary Society.

Versatile Interests of the Early Negro Artist: A Neglected Chapter on American Art History

Author: James A. Porter

Publication: [*Department of Art Faculty Publications*](#)

Description: This article attempts to indicate the possibilities of research into the historical art of the American Negro through a recital of the subjects or the repertory which constitute the materials for a new chapter in American art history.