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### Patience, Charles Edgar

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Charles Edgar Patience  
Collection 213-1 to 213-2

Prepared by:  
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November 2006

Scope Note

Charles Edgar Patience (1906-1972) was born in the small coal-mining borough of West Pittston, Pennsylvania. As one of six brothers, C. Edgar Patience would later continue the family legacy as a skilled craftsman of anthracite coal, becoming a sculptor. His father Harry Patience, the son of an ex-slave, had worked as a young man at a Pennsylvania coal mine as a means of survival. As an outlet for relaxation after a long and challenging day\_s labor working as a Abreaker boy@, he had carved and crafted figures and images from dirty and dusty coal. This gentleman, an unlikely entrepreneur, would later sell his precious creations as souvenirs. Harry Patience=s innovation not only served to subsidize his family=s income, but his unassuming past time would lead to his son=s critically acclaimed accomplishment as a sculptor half a century later.

The primary subject of this collection is artist Charles Edgar Patience, his growth and eventual international recognition as a prolific anthracite coal sculptor. Donated in 2005 by his daughter, Mrs. Juanita Patience Moss, this one linear foot, collection consists of family and sculptural photographs, personal documents, newspaper clippings, and artifacts.

The photos are the heart of the collection, including visual records of Charles Edgar Patience's last exhibit following his death, as well as fraternal Masonic portraits.

## Biographical Data

### Charles Edgar Patience

1906 August 27

He was born in West Pittston, Pennsylvania to parents- Harry B. Patience and Elsie Miller Patience. C. Edgar was one of six brothers.

1924

Graduated West Pittston, High School.

Trained in art of coal carving from his father, Harry Patience and pursued this profession throughout his adult life.

Harry Patience, his father, worked in the Anthracite coal mines as a breaker boy (sorted rock and slate from coal). This tedious task was most often assigned to young boys, unskilled immigrants or Blacks. However, Harry turned this menial labor into a skill, passing it on to his six sons. Edgar continued the work as his life long occupation.

1948

Charles Edgar Patience married Alice Patterson. His two previous marriages had produced Juanita Moss (Edward), Harry B., and Etta Brown (Arthur).

Late 1950s

During this period Edgar Patience's work began to receive critical and financial acclaim. His sculptures were presented to Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and presented as gifts (by Wilkes-Barre Congressman, Daniel Flood) to all presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Richard M. Nixon. Major corporations commissioned his works and he became the subject of articles in Ebony and Weekly Reader.

Included in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*, this exhibit chronicles the life and art of C. Edgar Patience, revealing what he gave to the community as an artist and as a person.

During his active community and fraternal services, he served as President of Showcase Theater of Wilkes-Barre and on the board of directors.

He held the position of Master of Golden Rule Lodge #15 Free and Accepted Masons; served as District Deputy of the 9<sup>th</sup> Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A.M. of Pennsylvania for 10 years and he served as Worthy Patron of Mizpah Chapter #11 Order of Eastern Star and District Lecturer of the O.E.S.

District of Deborah Grand  
Chapter.

1972 June 7

Charles Edgar Patience died  
in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.  
He is buried in the Oak Lawn  
Cemetery, Hanover Township.

At the time of his death  
Charles Edgar Patience  
had nine grandchildren  
and a number of  
nieces and nephews.

Source: From papers of the Charles Edgar Patience Collection,  
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), Howard University.

Charles Edgar Patience Collection  
Series Description

Series A            Personal Papers

These papers include some of Charles Edgar Patience=s business correspondence; an exhibit catalog; a catalog of the works of Harry Patience (father); newspaper clippings and magazine articles. Also included are some Patience Family materials.

Series B            Photographs

A major portion of these images presents a visual history of Charles Edgar Patience\_s sculptures. Additionally, there are portraits of Charles Edgar Patience, his wife, children, grandchildren and others.

Series C            Artifacts

Artifacts include several pieces of coal crafted jewelry.

CONTAINER LIST



**Box****Folder****A Personal Documents**

- 213-1
1. Correspondence
  2. Business Cards
  3. Price List (prior to 1972)
  4. Bank Book (1933-1939)
  5. Exhibit Catalog
  6. Everhart Museum (Loan)
  7. Draft Plans for St. Peter\_s Lutheran Church  
Anthracite Coal Altar
  8. Obituary
  9. Newspaper Clippings
  10. Magazine Articles
  11. Little Theatre
  12. South Branch YMCA Pamphlet
  13. Masonic
  14. Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley  
Booster Club 1956
  15. Alice P. Patience\_s Correspondence
  16. Alice P. Patience\_s Publications
  17. Alice P. Patience\_s Newspaper Clippings
  18. Crowder Patience
  19. Harry Brazier Patience
  20. Catalog of sculptures of Harry Patience
  21. *Anthracite Coal Art by Charles Edgar Patience,*  
and Photography CD 2006, published by Juanita  
Patience Moss

213-2

**B Photographs**

1. Charles Edgar Patience, portraits and snapshots
2. Charles Edgar Patience=s Shop
3. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Art Exhibit  
Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton, Pa.
4. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Art
5. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Art
6. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Anthracite Busts
7. Charles Edgar Patience\_s (Altars)
8. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Smithsonian Monolith
9. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Last Exhibit and Sales

**Box****Folder**

213-2

**B Photographs**

10. Alice Patterson Patience

11. Betty Patience Claiborne\_s Collection (C. Edgar Patience=s niece)

**C Artifacts**

12. Charles Edgar Patience\_s Coal Crafted Jewelry