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ANDY RAZAF PAPERS

Collection 85-1 to 85-13

Prepared & Revised by:
Wilda D. Logan
June 1980

Scope Note

wrote
of
Mood."

Andy Razaf was a well known poet and lyricist whom more than 1,000 songs during his career. During the height of his musical career, Razaf collaborated with great talents as Louis Armstrong, W. C. Handy, Eubie Blake and Thomas (Fats) Waller. Among his many credits are a half-dozen Broadway shows, including "Keep Shufflin," "Hot Chocolate, " and "Blackbirds of 1930." Razaf is especially known for writing several songs of the 1930's and the 1940's "Honeysuckle Rose Stumping at the Savoy," "Ain't Misbehavin," and "In the Mood."

(folder 4).

correspondence,
bound

The Andy Razaf Papers was donated to the Center by Mr. Razaf in July 1962. The papers span 1 linear foot and cover the period 1913 to 1962. The papers include programs, certificates and plaques. There are also two volumes of songs, a scrapbook, clippings, photographs and a poem composed by his mother. The majority of awards and certificates received by Razaf are framed and wrapped.

Biographical Data

1895 Born in Washington, D.C., the son of a
Malagasy noble who was killed in the French
invasion and Jennie Waller Razaf, daughter of John
L. Waller, U.S. Consul to the Court of Ranavolana
in Madagascar.
Washington, D.C. Educated in the public schools of
study He left school at 16 years of age to
song writing,
1913 First published song. "Baltimo" was used in
the show, "The Passing of 1913."
Savoy," During his active career he wrote more than
1,000 songs including, "Stompin" at the
"Honeysuckle Rose," and "Ain't Misbehavin."
1929 Elected to the American Society of Composers
and authors.
1972 Inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.
1973 Died in North Hollywood, California. He had
been confined to a wheel chair after suffering
a stroke for the last 20 years of his life.

Series Description

Series A	Correspondence
Box 85-1	General correspondence from different
people	and organizations thanking Razaf for
contri-	buting his time and talent to
specific events.	
Series B	Clippings
Box 85-1	Clippings from various newspapers and
magazines	on musical performances and
productions,	some biographical information is
noted.	
Series C	Photographs
Box 85-1	A 8"x 10" print of the Songwriters' meeting
held	at the Treasury in Washington, D.C.
to promote	national patriotism during the war
plus a	snapshot of Will Marion Cook and
William N.	Spiller dated around taken behind the
	Spiller School.
Series D	Printed Material
Box 85-1	Includes a printed poem entitled "Lowtide
at	Yuletide," by Razaf and a poem
composed by	his mother.
Series F	Programs
Box 85-1	Include printed programs from specific
events.	

	Series F	Speech
People	Box 85-1	A speech by Razaf entitled "Hollywood and of Color."
	Series G	Wrapped Materials
	Box 85-1	Framed certificates, citations, awards bound volumes of Razaf's songs, scrapbook dated 1913-1962, and framed letters.

Container List

		A	Correspondence	
Box 85-1	Folder	1	General correspondence	
			Bishop to Lewy	
		2	General correspondence -	
Osmer			to Townsend	
		3	General correspondence -	
first			name only	
		B	Clippings	
		4	Newspaper clippings	
1927-1962				
		C	Photograph	
		5	Photograph - Songwriter's	
Meeting			at the Treasury,	
Washington, D.C.		6	Photograph - snap shot	
		D	Printed Material	
		7	Printed material	
		E	Programs	
		8	Programs	
		F	Speech	
		9	Speech by Razaf	
		G	Wrapped Materials	
	Item 85-2		Selected songs by Andy	
Razaf, v.1.				
	Item 85-3		Selected songs by Andy	
Razaf, v.2.				
	Item 85-4		Scrapbook, 1913-1961	
	Item 85-5		Phonorecord - Season's	

Greeting from Andy

Razaf

Item 85-6
the
for patriotic
behalf of the
to Andy

Citation, 1944, Oct. 31, from
U.S. Treasury Dept.
cooperation in
War Finance Program
Razaf

G Wrapped Materials (cont'd)

Item 85-7 Club, Andy	Citation, 1953, Feb. 8-15, from Our Authors Study L.A, branch, NAACP, to Razaf
Item 85-8 Razaf the cause Independence	Award, 1958, May 23, to Andy for his devotion to of Peace from People's Church of Christ
Item 85-9 Fred War Activities Picture	Letter, 1945, Jan. 4, from NY Tracy, NY to the Committee, Motion Industry, NY
Item 85-10 Sec. of Washington, D.C.	Letter, 1954, Oct. 14, from Ezra Taft Benson, Agriculture, to Andy Razaf
Item 85-11 American Society Publishers	Certificate of membership, 1959 June 27, to the of Composers and
Item 85-12 music "Honeysuckle Rose" Horne in MGM Andy Razaf	Mounted and laminated sheet cover for featured by Lena "Thousands Check." an Picture Lyrics by
Item 85-13	Mounted and laminated sheet

Saving My

Hot

Andy

music cover of "Ain't
Misbehavin" (I'm

Love for You) Comie's

Chocolate lyrics by

Razaf.
