Carl Van Vechten was an author, fine arts critic, photographer, bibliophile, and philanthropist. The Carl Van Vechten Collection, measuring 2 1/2 linear feet, was donated by Mr. Van Vechten in 1946. This collection spans from the 1920s to the
mid 1950s, with most items from the 1940s.

The collection consists primarily of catalogs, programs, announcements, and invitations which serve to document Afro-American participation in the arts: visual art, photography, dance, drama, literature, and music.

Noted visual artists documented in the collection include Richard Barth & Romare Bearden, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence and Hale Woodruff. Among the dancers are Josephine Baker, Janet Collins, Katherine Dunham, and Moncion Francisco. The drama series includes numerous programs of Afro-American production companies such as the Washington Repertory Players, American Negro Theatre, Rose McClendon Players, Krigwa Players, Gilpin Players, Karamu House, Howard University Players, and Dillard University Players Guild. Music, the largest series in the collection, features artists from opera and classical music to spirituals, jazz and blues. There is a small amount of material in Collection about writers, of which Langston Hughes predominates. Also there is a small number of programs and flyers from testimonial dinners, awards ceremonies, anniversary benefits, and dedication programs.

------------------------------------------------------------------

In addition to this collection of programs, Carl Van Vechten donated to Moorland-Spingarn "The Rose McClendon Memorial Collection of Photographs of Celebrated Negroes". This collection of photographs by Carl Van Vechten is indexed and available for
research in the MSRC Prints and Photographs Department.

Biographical Data

Carl Van Vechten

1880 June 17  Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
1899-1903  Attended the University of Chicago, majoring in English.
1903-1905  Worked for Chicago American newspaper.
1906  Worked as assistant music critic for the New York Times newspaper.
1907  Married Anna Elizabeth Snyder; took first trip to Europe.
1910  Contributed music biographies to Century Dictionary.
1912  Divorced Anna Elizabeth Snyder Van Vechten.
1913  Worked as drama critic for the New
York Press newspaper.

1914 Married actress Fania Marinoff; took second trip to Europe.

1914-1932 Worked as independent writer and novelist.

1932 Began serious work in photography.

1935 Mounted first photographic show.

1941 Founded Carl Van Vechten Collection of books and manuscripts in New York Public Library and also the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters at Yale University Library.

1942-1945 Served in the American Theatre Wing during World War II.

1944 Founded George Gershwin Memorial Collection of Music and Musical Literature at Fisk University Library.

1946 Founded Rose McClendon Memorial Collection of Photographs of Celebrated Negroes at Howard University Library. (Currently housed in the Prints and Photographs Department Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

1947 Founded Anna Marble Pollock Memorial Library of Books about Cats at Yale University Library.

1949 Founded Florine Stettheimer Memorial Collection of Books about the Fine Arts at Fisk University Library.

1954 The Jerome Bowers Peterson Collection of Photographs by Carl Van Vechten of Celebrated Negroes presented by Dorothy Peterson to the University of New Mexico.

1955 Honored on his seventy-fifth birthday.
by exhibitions at Yale University and at New York Public Library.

Received honorary Ph.D. from Fisk University.

Fragments from an unwritten autobiography published by Yale.


1960 Honored on his eightieth birthday by exhibitions at Coe College (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) and at University of Pittsburgh.

Honored as a chief benefactor by New York Library

1961 Became a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

*1964 Died in New York City.

*1966 June 17 Ashes scattered in Shakespeare Garden, Central Park.

Sources: Carl Van Vechten by Edward Lueders
*Carl Van Vechten and the Irreverent Years by Brice Kellner

Series Description

Series A Art

Box 142-1 This series includes programs, announcements, invitations, catalogs, and articles related to photographs, sculpture, and painting exhibits highlighting Afro-American artists. Among the artists represented are
Richmond Barthe, Romare Bearden, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence and Horace Pippin. Items are filed by artist, gallery, or exhibit title.

Series B  Dance

Box 142-1  This series includes programs, announcements and invitations related to dance performances of Afro-American individuals and groups. Some of the artists represented are Janet Collins, Francisco Moncion, Katherine Dunham, and Asadata Dafora’s African Dancers. Items are filed by performer, group or production title.

Series C  Drama

Box 142-2  This series includes playbills, announcements, and invitation related to the Afro-American in drama. There are souvenir programs from "Carmen Jones" and "Porgy and Bess", and synopses of the screenplays "Home of the Brave" and "The Well". These items include integrated and all Afro-American productions filed by performer, company, or production title.

Series D  Motion Picture

Box 142-2  This series contains only one item; an announcement for the motion picture "We've Come A Long, Long Way", a 1944 documentary film on the progress of the Afro-American race.

Series E  Music

Box 142-3 to 142-4  This series includes programs, announcements, and invitations related to Afro-American performances of the different styles of music: classical, jazz, folk/blues, spirituals, and popular. Some of the artists represented are Carol Brice, Louis Armstrong, Billy Holiday, Dorothy Maynor, and Murial Rahn. Items are filed by performer, group or pro-
Series F    Opera

Box 142-5    This series contains one announcement and five programs related to Afro-American performances of opera. One of the programs, a 1944 benefit concert for the National Negro Opera Co. at Carnegie Hall, contains notes on performers.

Series G    Writers

Box 142-5    This series contains invitations, programs, announcements, and writings related to eight writers. Among the writers are Langston Hughes, Sterling Brown, and Countee Cullen. There is also a poem for Carl Van Vechten by George S. Schuyler entitled A Farewell To Carlo.

Series H    Events

Box 142-5    This series contains announcements and programs related to benefits, anniversaries, and tributes in which Afro-Americans appeared or were honored. One of the items in the seating list for a dinner given Feb. 23, 1948, honoring W.E.B. DuBois' 80th birthday. Items are filed by the title of the event.

Series I    Sketches

Box 142-5    This series contains three unidentified, unsigned pencil sketches.

Container List

A    Art

Box     Folder

142-1  1     Afro-Arts Bazaar
        2     Archer, Edmund
The Art of the American Negro
(1851-1940)

Barnett Aden Gallery
Barthe', Richmond
Bearden, Romare
Brall, Ruth
Brooks, Howard
Brown, Samuel J.
Clark, Claude
Countee Cullen Memorial Collection
Haitian
Hayden, Palmer
Hyppolite, Hector
Howard University
Jones, Lois Mailou
Lawrence, Jacob
Malebranche Andree
The Negro's Contribution to American Culture
The Philadelphia Society for Negro Records and Research
Pippin, Horace
Portinari, Candido
Priebe
Rivers, Haywood
Scurlock, Robert S.
Sebree, Charles
South Side Community Art Center (Chicago)
Three Negro Artists
Van Vechten, Carl
Wilson, Ellis
Woodruff, Hale

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### B Dance

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<td>Beatty, Talley</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Belle Rosette &amp; Group</td>
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<td>Bruce, Mary</td>
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<td>Coleman, Leo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coles &amp; Atkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Collins, Janet</td>
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<td>Dafora, Asadata</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Destine, Jean Leon</td>
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</table>
Dunham, Katherine
"An Evening In The Tropics"
Freeman, Mabel Jones
Hampton Institute Creative Dance Group
Kitchell, Iva
Marchant, Claude
Maudelle
Moncion, Francisco
Murray, Eddie
Primus, Pearl
St. Denis, Ruth

142-2 C Drama

1 The American Negro Theatre
2 American Negro Repertory Players
3 The (Atlanta) University Players
4 Bailey, Pearl
5 "The Bourbons Got The Blues"
6 Burke, Georgia
7 "Call Me Mister"
8 "Carmen Jones"
9 "Caukey"
10 "Claudia"
11 "Danger Corner"
12 Dillard University Players Guild
13 Frederick Douglass Players of Solidarity Lodge 691
14 "Freedom's Birthplace"
15 "The Fruits of Freedom"
16 "Garden of Time"
17 "The Glass Menagerie"
18 Gilbert, Mercedes
19 "Hansel and Gretel"

Box Folder

142-2 20 "Four Episodes in the Life of Harriet Tubman"
21 George, Zelma
22 The Gilpin Players of the Karama House
23 Hampton Institute Summer School
24 Harlem Experimental Theatre
25 "Heroines in Bronze"
142-2 63  "We've Come A Long, Long Way"

142-3 1  Anderson, Gareth
2  Anderson, Marian
3  The Apollo Theatre
4  Armstrong, Louis
Banks, Violet
Berksteiner, Constance
Brown, Edith
Brice, Carol
Burke, Florine
Carnan, Matthew
Childress, Gladys E.
Chinn, Genevieve
Cole, Nat "King"
Cole, Joseph
Conaway, Wm. Alex.
Crawford, May
Cosme, Eusebia
D'Albert, Marc
Davis, Arthur
Davis, Ellabelle
Davis, Meta
de Paur's Infantry Chorus
Dixon, Dean
Dunbar, Rudolph
Duncan, Todd
Ellington, Duke
Evanti, Lillian
An Evening of Negro Music and Literature
Francis, Beatrice
Franzel, Carlotta
Griffin, Oscar
Hogan, Helen
Handy, W.C.
Hampton, Lionel
Hawthorne, Louise
Hayes, Roland
Hayman, Coreania
Heywood, Eddie
Holiday, Billy

-- E Music --

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<td>41 Homer Smith's Melodaires</td>
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<td>42 Hopkins, Olyve P.</td>
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<td>43 Howard University Choir</td>
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<td>44 The Imma Sumack Trio</td>
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<td>45 James, Joseph</td>
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<td>46 Jarboro, Caterina</td>
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<td>47 Jessye, Eva</td>
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48 Jock's Music Room
49 Johnson, "Bunk"
50 Johnson, Hall
51 Johnson, James P.
52 Jordan, Lois

142-4
1 Kaufman, Louis
2 Kay, Ulysses
3 Ledbetter, Huddie "Lead Belly"
4 Lee, Alyme Dumas
5 Lee, Everett
6 Lewis, Nana
7 The Library of Congress - A Festival of Music
8 Lipscomb, Joseph
9 Lockett, Joseph
10 Love, Hortense
11 Lovelace, Henrietta
12 McFarlan, Ruth
13 McFerrin, Robert
14 McGhee, Novella
15 Mais, Monica
16 Matthews, Inez and Edwards
17 Maynor, Dorothy
18 Miles, Clara
19 Millinder, Lucky
20 The Negro Publication Society of America
21 Norvo, Red
22 Osbourne, Ada
23 Pankey, Aubrey
24 People's Songs, Inc.
25 Percival, Pearl
26 Philadelphia Conservatory of Music
27 Phillips, Myrtle Gauntlett

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E Music (cont'd)

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<td>28</td>
<td>Pobers, Tatina</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Rahn, Muriel</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Reckling, Frances Kraft</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Robeson, Paul</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Rowland, Jeannie</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>&quot;A Salute To Thomas (Fats) Walter&quot;</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Savage, Roena</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Saxon, Luther</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Schuyler, Philippa Duke</td>
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<td>Scott, Hazel</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Sheppard, Carmen</td>
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<td>Smith, Bessie</td>
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<td>Smith, Muriel</td>
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<td>Smith, Paul A.</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Song Festival and Quartet Contest</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Snow, Valaida</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>The Southenaires</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>Stern, Arthur</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Still, William Grant</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Stone, Theodore Charles</td>
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<td>Swanson, Howard</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Taylor, Jeannette</td>
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<td>Taylor, Johnnie (52nd St.)</td>
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<td>Thigpen, Helen</td>
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<td>Thomas, A. Jack</td>
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<td>Towles, Lois</td>
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<td>Tyler, Edward Lee</td>
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<td>Van Renssellear, Maybelle</td>
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<td>Veasy, William</td>
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<td>Voorhees, Bettye</td>
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<td>Walker, George</td>
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<td>Waters, Ethel</td>
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<td>Watson, Naomi</td>
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<td>Watts, Leontyne C.</td>
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<td>Wesley, Charlotte</td>
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<td>White, Clarence Cameron</td>
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<td>White, Josh</td>
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<td>White, Portia</td>
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<td>Williams, Camilla</td>
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<td>Winters, Lawrence</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>Wise, Ethyl</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>&quot;World's Fair of Music&quot;</td>
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F Opera

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142-5</td>
<td>1 &quot;Aida&quot;</td>
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<td>2 &quot;Four Saints In Three Acts&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 &quot;The Medium&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 The National Negro Opera Company</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 Opera Night ... Ornstein School of Music</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 &quot;Troubled Island&quot;</td>
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</table>
G Writers

7 Brown, Sterling
8 Cullen, Countee
9 Hughes, Langston
10 Johnson, James Weldon
11 Locke, Alain
12 Petry, Ann
13 Robeson, Eslanda Cardoza Goode
14 Schuyler, George S.

H Events

15 American Birobidja Committee - Benefit Program
16 The Associated Blind, Inc. - Tenth Anniversary
17 Bunche, Ralph J. - Dinner Tribute
18 DuBois, W.E.B. - 80th Birthday Tribute
19 Keeping Fit for the American Way of Life (Washington D.C. Public Schools)
20 Georgetown Day School Annual Christmas Party
21 Haiti Week of New York
22 I Am An American Day
23 National Council of Negro Women - 1944 Honor Roll
24 The National Urban League - "Salute to Freedom"
25 Page, J.E. (Miss)
26 Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Indianapolis 20th Annual Dinner
27 Southwest Harlem Neighborhood Council, Inc.
28 Joel E. Spingarn High School Dedication

________________________________________________________________________

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H Events (cont'd)

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<td>29 Spotlight on Spain Dinner</td>
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<td>30 Town Hall Spanish Recital</td>
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<td>31 Major James E. Walker Memorial Field Dedication</td>
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<td>32 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Memorial Concert</td>
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</table>
I Sketches

33 Unidentified Sketches

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