BURGE, LOUISE R.

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R. Louise Burge Papers
Collection 165-1 to 165-23

Prepared by
Robin Van Fleet
September 1993

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION
Scope Note

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. These papers date from circa 1930, when Ms. Burge was attending Howard University and performing, until shortly before her death. They were donated to Moorland-Spingarn by Mr. and Mrs. Shephard Burge, Ms. Burge's brother and sister-in-law, in 1986. There are approximately eight linear feet of materials.

Programs and publicity concerning Ms. Burge's performances are included in these papers, as well as programs of other performers. Ms. Burge's role as an alumna and faculty member at Howard University is well represented, as well as her relationship with family members, documented by correspondence, news clippings and obituaries. These papers also reflect Ms. Burge's friendship with Camille Nickerson, also a performer and faculty member at Howard University. Included are Nickerson correspondence, photographs and programs. Ms. Burge donated Ms. Nickerson's papers to Moorland-Spingarn in 1983.

Ms. Burge was very active in the National Association of Negro Musicians, National Association of Teachers of Singing and Sigma Alpha Iota, a music fraternity.
Biographical Sketch

Rosa Louise Burge

1908 July 9    Born in Kayspring, Georgia to Sheperd and Allouise Burge.

n.d.    Attended Knoxville College Academy, Knoxville, Tennessee.

1930-1933    Attended Howard University. Received a Mus. B in voice.

1934    Received a B.A. from Howard University.

n.d.    Entered Competitive Fellowship at Juilliard Graduate School, New York City.

n.d.    Head of music department at Agricultural & Mechanical Normal School - Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

1940    Performed in William Still's production of "And They Lynched Him From A Tree".

1942-1976    Taught voice and served as the assistant director of the university choir at Howard University.

1945    Received an M.A. from Teachers College of Columbia University, New York City.

1976-?    Taught voice at Trinity College, Washington, D.C.

1981-1984    Served on the National Board of National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) and as Treasurer.

1985    Named outstanding musician by NANM.

1986 July 9    Died of cardiac arrest at Georgetown University Hospital.

Sources:    *In Loving Memory of R. Louise Burge July 9, 1908 - July 9, 1986.* Funeral program.

## Series Description

### Series A  
**Personal Papers and Family Papers**  
Box 165-1 to 165-2  
Biographical information including Ms. Burge's role at Howard University as an alumna and a professor of voice. Materials relating to her education at Juilliard and Columbia University Teachers College are also included. Family papers include secondary materials, such as news clipping and funeral information. For family correspondence, see “Correspondence.”

### Series B  
**Correspondence**  
Box 165-2 to 165-3  
Family correspondence is included, as well as correspondence with friends and fellow educators and performers.

### Series C  
**Subject Files**  
Box 165-4 to 165-5  
Biographical information on various performers, friends and colleagues, as well as topics relating to music.

### Series D  
**Organizations**  
Box 165-5 to 165-7  
Includes organizations in which Ms. Burge had an affiliation or interest, mainly relating to music.

### Series E  
**Howard University – Teaching Materials**  
Box 165-7 to 165-8  
Class outlines and notes, as well as registers of students and syllabi for courses taught by Ms. Burge.

### Series F  
**National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM)**  
Box 165-8 to 165-9  
Materials documenting the operation of the NANM, including Ms. Burge's role in the organization, dating from ca. 1950's to 1980's.

### Series G  
**Camille Nickerson**  
Box 165-9 to 165-11  
Items concerning Ms. Nickerson's personal life and career as a performer.

### Series H  
**Performances**  
Box 165-11 to 165-16  
Programs and news clippings of performances by Ms. Burge and other performers. Church programs are also included with this series.

### Series I  
**Writings**  
Box 165-16  
Notes on music and language.

### Series J  
**Printed Materials**  
Box 165-16 to 165-17  
Books and brochures relating to music, as well as the role of African-Americans in culture and music.
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<td><strong>Photographs</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 165-17 to 165-18&lt;br&gt;Consist of images of Ms. Burge, including formal and informal photographs of her performances; photographs of Ms. Nickerson, including portraits and photos of her performances; and photos of fellow performers and Howard University students.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Series L</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sheet Music</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 165-19 to 165-22&lt;br&gt;Mainly published compositions written by African-American composers, and/or containing African-American themes.</td>
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<td><strong>Series M</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oversize</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 165-23&lt;br&gt;Photographs of Camille Nickerson, an advertisement for NANM, and a framed photograph of the Howard University School of Music Faculty and children.</td>
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| 4 | Burge, Eucretia |
| 5 | Burge, Legand |
| 6 | Burge, Mary Foster |
| 7 | Burge, Mary V. |
| 8 | Burge, Samuel Alvin |
| 9 | Burge, Shepherd H. |
| 10 | Burge, Warren |
| 11 | Address Book |
| 12 | American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - membership card |
| 13 | Biographical Materials |
| 14 | Calendar - 1977 |
| 15 | Catholic University - Burge's transcripts |
| 16 | Certificate - National Associations of Teachers of Singing 1963 |
| 17 | Class Notes - Indiana University |
| 18 | Columbia University Teachers College - Master of Arts transcripts |
| 19 | Eastman School of Music |
| 20 | Financial |
| 21 | Guest Book |
| 22 | Howard University - Century Club |
| 23 | Howard University - Class Reunion |
| 24 | Howard University - Department of Music |

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| 10 | Browning, Margaret |
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#### Series G: Camille Nickerson continued

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**Personal Papers**

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**Series H: Performances**

**Louise Burge**

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165-17 1 Liston, Marva C. SoloVocal Literature of Modern Black Songwriters, A Survey.

2 Matheson, William D. The Application of Elicitation Theory, A Theory of Learning, to the Teaching of Singing

3 Proud Heritage...The Negro in America [bibliography].

4 Schumann, Elisabeth. German Song [book jacket]


7 Waring, Fred. Tone Syllables.

8 Williams, Chancellor. The Destruction of Black Civilization.

#### Series K: Photographs

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165-18 1 Evanti, Lillian

2 Handy, William

3 Hayes, Roland

4 Howard University
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14 Hairston, Jester - *God's Gonna Buil' Up Zion's Wall*  
15 Hairston, Jester - *Hold On*  
16 Hairston, Jester - *You Better Mind* |
| 165-21 | 1 Handy, W.C. - *Saint Louis Blues*  
2 Handy, W.C. - *Saint Louis Blues March*  
3 Hanbach, Otto - *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*  
4 Hicks, L'Roy E. - *Ready*  
5 James, Willis Laurence - *Roun' de Glory Manger*  
6 Jesu Bambino  
7 Johnson, Hall - *Ain't Got Time to Die*  
8 *Dere's No Hidin' Place Down Dere*  
9 Johnson, Hall - *Give Me Jesus*  
10 Johnson, Hall - *I've been 'buked*  
11 Johnson, Hall - *Ride On, King Jesus*  
12 Johnson, Hall - *Way Over In Beulah Lan'*  
13 Joplin, Scott - *The Entertainer*  
14 Kaiser, Kurt - *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen; Down by the Riverside*  
15 Kerr, Thomas - *Dubois' Literary Responses*  
16 King, Betty J. - *Sinner Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass*  
17 King, Betty J. - *Stand The Storm*  
18 Krone, Max T. - *And He Never Said a Mumblin' Word*  
19 Lawrence, William - *Let Us Break Bread Together*  
20 Lecuona, Ernesto - *Danzas - Afro-Cubanas*  
21 *Let It Shine* [holograph]  
22 Massenet, J. - *Herodiade - Air de Salone*  
23 Merrifield, Norman L. - *Down by the Riverside*  
24 Merritt, Nettie Mae - *He's Got The Whole World In His Hands* |
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<td>Ridenour, Joe - Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child</td>
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