Scope Note

Andy Razaf was a well known poet and lyricist whom wrote 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," "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."

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 correspondence, programs, certificates and plaques. There are also two bound 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. Educated in the public schools of Washington, D.C.

He left school at 16 years of age to study song writing,

1913 First published song. "Baltimo" was used in the show, "The Passing of 1913."

During his active career he wrote more than 1,000 songs including, "Stompin" at the Savoy," "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 contributing his time and talent to specific events.

Series B  Clippings
Box  85-1  Clippings from various newspapers and magazines on musical performances and 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

Box 85-1  A speech by Razaf entitled "Hollywood and
People          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.

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Container List

A  Correspondence
Box 85-1   Folder  1  General correspondence
              Bishop to Lewy
2  General correspondence -
       to Townsend
3  General correspondence -
       first name only

B  Clippings
1927-1962
4  Newspaper clippings

C  Photograph
5  Photograph - Songwriter's
       Meeting
       at the Treasury,
       Washington, D.C.
6  Photograph - snapshot

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

for patriotic cooperation in behalf of the War Finance Program to Andy

Citation, 1944, Oct. 31, from the U.S. Treasury Dept.

Razaf
Item 85-7

Club,
Andy

Item 85-8

Razaf
the cause
Independence

Item 85-9

Fred
War Activities
Picture

Item 85-10

Sec. of
Washington, D.C.

Item 85-11

American Society
Publishers

Item 85-12

music
"Honeysuckle Rose"
Horne in
MGM
Andy Razaf

Item 85-13

Citation, 1953, Feb. 8-15, from Our Authors Study
L.A., branch, NAACP, to Razaf

Award, 1958, May 23, to Andy for his devotion to the cause of Peace from People's Independence Church of Christ

Letter, 1945, Jan. 4, from Fred NY Tracy, NY to the War Activities Committee, Motion Picture Industry, NY

Letter, 1954, Oct. 14, from Ezra Taft Benson, Sec. of Agriculture, to Andy Razaf

Certificate of membership, 1959 June 27, to the American Society of Composers and Publishers

Mounted and laminated sheet music cover for "Honeysuckle Rose" by Lena Horne in MGM "Thousands Check." an MGM Picture Lyrics by Andy Razaf

Mounted and laminated sheet
music cover of "Ain't Misbehavin" (I'm Saving My Love for You) Comie's Hot Chocolate lyrics by Andy Razaf.