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WHIPPER, Leigh

MSRC Staff

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LEIGH R. WHIPPER PAPERS
Collection 114-1 to 114-7

Prepared by Revised
Karen L. Jefferson
June 1980

Scope Note

The Leigh R. Whipper Papers span the period 1864-1965 totaling 3, linear feet. Mr. Whipper donated his papers to Howard University during 1952-53 fiscal year. The majority of the collection is related to Blacks in entertainment, including programs (some autographed), advertisements and announcements, newsclippings, periodicals, monographs, TV scripts, and songs. Leigh Whipper, along with Noble Sissle, founder the Negro Actors Guild in 1937. The papers include programs, news articles and periodicals about the Guild. There are materials related to the Screen Actors Guild, with which he was also a There are some personal papers of Leigh Whipper, including correspondence, writings by him, and photographs.

Also accompanying Leigh Whippers Papers are-, some legal documents belonging to his father William J. Whipper (1852-1906). Brigadier General William J. Whipper was a lawyer, circuit judge, and member of two constitutional conventions during the Reconstruction Era. The documents include land deeds, surveyors maps, legal papers related to various estates, and a discharge certificate of a slave, Ned Davis, from the U.S. military service in 1866.

Biographical Data

- 1887 Born in Charleston, South Carolina, son of Francis Rollins and William J. Whipper.
- 1895 Graduated from Howard University Law School.
- 1898 Appeared in a production of Uncle Tom's Cabin in which he sang "Old Black Joe."
- 1920 Became the first Black member of the Actors Equity Association.
- 1927 Portrayed the crabman of Catfish Row in the play Porgy by Dorothy and DuBose Heywood presented on Broadway.
- 1937 Co-founded the Negro Actors Guild, with Noble Sissle.
- 1942 Portrayed Emperor Haile Selassie in The Warner Brothers film Mission to Moscow released in 1943; Whipper was decorated by the Ethiopian Government for that portrayal.
- 1949 Received Howard University Alumni Award for achievement in the field of drama.
- 1974 Honored with a life membership to the Actors Equity Association.
- 1975 Died in Harlem Hospital, New York.

Series Description

- Series A Personal Papers**
Box 114-1 Newspaper clippings about Leigh Whipper, programs on which his name appears and writings by him.
- Series B Family Papers**
Box 114-1 Biographical data about various, members the Whipper Family including, news articles and programs on which their name appears.
- Series C William J. Whipper**
Box 114-1 Legal papers include land deeds , surveyors map, documents relating to various estates and the discharge paper of a slave from the U. S. military service 1866.
- Series D Correspondence**
Box 114-2 Includes greeting cards and invitations .
to Box 114-3
- Series E Organizational Affiliations**
Box 11-4 Includes programs and newsletters of the Negro Actors Guild; and minutes, contract proposals, agreements, and periodicals of the Screen Actors Guild; and information about various other organizations that Leigh Whippers was affiliated with.
- Series F Biographies of Others**
Box 114-4 Newsclippings, programs and memorabilia related Lo several Black entertainers, including clippings related Lo the of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.
- Series G Writings by Others**
Box 114-5 Poems, T.V. script, songs, plays, stories and monographs
- Series H Photographs**
Box 114-5 Individual and group photographs of Leigh Whipper and his associates.

Series Description

Series I Programs

Box 114-6 Programs on entertainers, plays, dances, ceremonious occasions, sports events,
to Box 114-7 and funerals occurring, primarily in New York City from 1930-1965, includes some
autographed programs.

Series J Printed Materials

Box 114-7 Advertisement and announcement brochures of primarily Black entertainers;
newspaper clippings related to Black Americans, primarily entertainers and
periodicals.

Container List

Series A

Personal Papers

Box

Folder

114-1

- 1 News articles about Leigh Whipper
- 2 Identification cards
- 3 These Are The by Leigh Whipper
- 4 A Homesick Rover by Leigh Whipper and Theopolis Lewis
- 5 Synopsis of Proposed Rhythm of America Youth Program by Leigh Whipper and Noble Sissle

Programs on which his name

- 6 No date
- 7 1950-5-9
- 8 1953-58
- 9 1960-65

Series B

Family Papers

- 10 Biographical data - Whipper Family
- 11 Programs on when Whipper Family members names appears

Series C

William J. Whipper

Land Deeds

- 12 1864 Jan. 13
- 13 1867 Feb. 25
- 14 1867 Feb. 27
- 15 1868 April 4
- 16 1869 Nov. 2
- 17 1870 June 4
- 18 1872 Aug. 15
- 19 1876 Jan. 12
- 20 1880 Aug. 31
- 21 1883 July 16
- 22 1866 October
- 23 1889 April 23
- 24 1891 Sept. 2
- 25 1892 Nov. 29
- 26 1892 Dec. 30
- 27 1893 Feb. 23
- 28 1893 March 18
- 29 1893 March 18
- 30 1893 March 25

Container List

Series C Box	William J. Whipper Folder
	Land Deeds
114-1	31 1893 July 6
	32 1894 May 4
	33 1894 July 20
	34 1895
	35 1895 March 13
	36 1895 March 13
	37 1895 March 28
	38 1895 August 15
	39 1895 Oct. 30
	40 1899 May 2
	41 1900 Jan. 17
	42 1903 Dec 24
	43 1906 May 18
	44 Undated
	45 Undated
	46 Notes on deeds
	47 Surveyors maps - 1888 April 5
	48 Surveyors maps - Undated
	49 Wright R. N. Bond contract 1894 Feb. 26
	50 Bond Eva re.: Last Will and Testament
	51 re- : Eva Bond - 1894 May 7
	52 Summons re. : Eva Bond
	53 Demurrer re. : Eva Bond - [Undated
	54 Johnson, William - 1888 Jan . 14
	55 Discharge of Ned Davis 1866 Oct. 10
	56 Sale of Phoebe and son to William J. Grayson – 1852 May 20
	57 Account of sales - William Rollins Estate - Undated
	58 Account of sales - William Rollins Estate - 1880
	59 William Rollins Estate – 1880 Oct. 20
	60 Testimony re: William Rollins Estate - 1881 June 27
	61 South Carolina vs. Arthur Ezekiel - n.d.

Container List

Series D Box	Correspondence Folder
114-2	62 A
	63 B
	64 C
	65 D
	66 E
	67 F
	68 G
	69 H
	70 I
	71 J
	72 K
	73 L
	74 M
	75 N
	76 O
	77 P
	78 R
	79 S
	80 T
	81 W
	82 Y
	83 One name only
	84 Telegrams
114-3	85 Greeting cards
	86 Greeting cards
	87 Christmas cards from the Whipper Family
	88 Funeral notices
	89 Invitations
	90 Invitations
	91 Invitations
	92 Invitations
	93 Invitations
	94 Postcards - blank

Container List

Series E Box

Organizational Affiliations Folder

- 114-4 95 Aware, Inc.
96 Florida A & M University Playmakers Guild
97 James Weldon Johnson Community Center
98 Mt. Morris Youth Theatre Workshop
- Negro Actors Guild
- 99 Press releases
100 Newsclippings
101 Programs
102 Programs - memorial service
103 Programs - annual meeting
104 Programs - membership meeting
105 Newsletters - 1950-53
- Screen Actors Guild
- 106 Minutes
107 Contract proposals - agreements
108 Screen Actor (periodical)
109 Newsletters - 1950-55
110 Theatre for Freedom
111 369th Veterans Assn. Constitution

Series F

Biographies of Others

- 112 Andrew Bishop and Cassio O. Norwood
113 Rae "Brown Sugar" Harrison
114 Maurice Hunter
115 Bill Robinson
116 Margaret Tynes

Series G 114-5

Writings by Others

- 117 And No One Asked by Morris Reich
118 The Beulah Show by Harry Clock and James Hill
119 Dedicated to the Negro Actors Guild of America, Inc., by E. C. Ross (poem)
120 Ethiopia by Mayme Richardson
121 Heavenly Christmas by Grace Outlaw
122 Its My Own Dear Business What I Do by Harrison Stewart
123 "Martin Kane, Private Eye" - T.V. script - May 31, 1951
124 "Mr. District Attorney" - T.V. script - June 9, 1952

Container List

Series G **Writings by Others** continued

Box	Folder
114-5	125 Negro Actors Guild Scoreboard
	126 No Way Out by Joseph L. Mankiewicz
	127 The Shrike - prompt book, for Carlisle
	128 Steal Away
	129 Uncle Tom's Castle

Series H **Photographs**

130	Leigh Whipper
131	Others

Series I **Programs**

114-6	132 Autographed
	133 No date
	134 No date
	135 1930-1949
	136 1995
	137 1951
	138 1952
	139 1953
	140 1954-55
114-7	141 1956
	142 1957
	143 1958-59
	144 1960-61
	145 1962
	146 1963
	147 1964

Series J **Printed Materials**

148	Advertisements and Announcements News clippings - General
150	Periodicals
151	The C. Y. Scope (newsletter)

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26 1892 Dec. 30
27 1893 Feb. 23
28 1893 March 18
29 1893 March 18
30 1893 March 25

- 6 -

C William J. Whipper (cont 'd)

Land Deeds

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		32 1894 May 4
		33 1894 July 20
		34 1895
		35 1895 March 13
		36 1895 March 13
		37 1895 March 28
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Estate - 1880
 - 59 William Rollins Estate - 1880
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 - 60 Testimony re: William Rollins
Estate - 1881 June 27
 - 61 South Carolina vs. Arthur
Ezekiel - n.d.

- 7 -

D Correspondence

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----|--|
| Box 114-4 | Folder | 62 | A |
| | | 63 | B |
| | | 64 | C |
| | | 65 | D |
| | | 66 | E |
| | | 67 | F |
| | | 68 | G |
| | | 69 | H |
| | | 70 | I |
| | | 71 | J |
| | | 72 | K |
| | | 73 | L |
| | | 74 | M |
| | | 75 | N |
| | | 76 | O |
| | | 77 | P |
| | | 78 | R |
| | | 79 | S |
| | | 80 | T |
| | | 81 | W |
| | | 82 | y |
| | | 83 | One name only |
| | | 84 | Telegrams |
| Box 114-3 | | 85 | Greeting cards |
| | | 86 | Greeting cards |
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Whipper Family |
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Negro Actors Guild

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		129	Uncle Tom's Castle

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	131	Others

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		133	No date
		134	No date
		135	1930-1949
		136	1995
		137	1951
		138	1952
		139	1953
		140	1954-55
	Box 114-7		141
		142	1957
		143	1958-59
		144	1960-61
		145	1962
		146	1963
		147	1964

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