



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Al Celley Collection of Duke Ellington Materials

NMAH.AC.1240

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Al Celley Collection of Duke Ellington Materials
Date:	1943-1989
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1240
Creator:	Celley, Al Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Extent:	2.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes, 1 oversize folder, 2 films)
Language:	Collection text is in English. Some materials in Arabic, Dutch, French, and German.
Summary:	A diverse collection of papers assembled by Duke Ellington's road manager, Al Celley. The collection includes correspondence, photographs of Ellington and his orchestra at various times and locations; concert ephemera; handwritten notes; business and financial documents, primarily receipts; and travel ephemera.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Purchased at auction by the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, May 2011.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Duke Ellington Collection (AC0301)

Duke Ellington Oral History Project (AC0368)

This project includes an interview with Al Celley, July 12, 1989.

Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, January 2014.

Preferred Citation

Al Celley Collection of Duke Ellington Materials, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Reference copies for audio discs and moving image do not exist. Use of these materials requires special arrangement with the Archives Center staff. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Albert "Al" Joseph Celley (1909-1994) was Duke Ellington's road manager from 1944 to 1964. Celley handled the band's business affairs, such as concert bookings, logistics, staging shows, and organizing tours. Celley also handled the weekly payroll, contracts, collecting money from promoters, paying road expenses, and sending weekly reports to Bill Mittler, an accountant.

Scope and Contents

The collection was assembled by Duke Ellington's road manager, Al Celley and includes correspondence, photographs of Ellington and his orchestra at various times and locations; concert ephemera; handwritten notes; business and financial documents, primarily receipts; and travel ephemera.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

Series 1: Personal Materials, 1943-1962

Subseries 1.1: Al Celley, 1943-1962

Subseries 1.2: Duke Ellington, 1948

Series 2: Correspondence, 1945-1963

Subseries 2.1: Chronological, 1945-1963

Subseries 2.2: Alphabetical, 1949-1961

Series 3: Subject Files, 1948-1963

Series 4: Financial Materials, 1944-1964

Subseries 4.1: Payroll/Salary Ledgers, 1944-1962

Subseries 4.2: Expense Notebooks, 1946, 1959

Subseries 4.3: Receipts and Bills, 1945-1964

Series 5: Photographs, 1947-1967

Series 6: Audio Visual Materials, 1945-1957

Subseries 6.1: Moving Image, 1957

Subseries 6.2: Audio Discs, 1945-1946

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- African Americans
- Big bands
- Jazz -- 20th century -- United States
- Jazz musicians
- Music
- Music trade
- Musicians

Types of Materials:

- 16mm motion picture film
- 78 rpm records
- Business records
- Contracts
- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Handbills
- Notes
- Orchestrations
- Passports
- Photographs
- Signatures (names)
- Tickets
- Writings

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Materials, 1943 - 1962

Scope and Contents: The personal materials are divided into two subseries: Al Celley and Duke Ellington. Celley's personal materials consist of a prescription, a pocket diary, an amateur radio license, a union card for the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers, and a business card for an optician in Toronto. Al Celley's pocket diary from 1943 contains notes about bills paid and other appointments. Duke Ellington's personal materials contain a receipt for medical services, 1957; a smallpox vaccination record, 1948; and some biographical information (name, birth date, address, and instrument played) about band members Matthew Gee, Andrew Wilcox Ford, Mitchell Wood, and Eddie Mullen.

Subseries 1.1: Al Celley, 1943 - 1962

Box 1, Folder 1	Prescription, 1958
Box 1, Folder 2	Diary, 1943
Box 1, Folder 2	Federal Communications Commission (FCC) amateur radio license, 1961
Box 1, Folder 2	Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers card, Union 18032, 1962

Subseries 1.2: Duke Ellington, 1957, 1948

Box 1, Folder 3

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1945 - 1963

Scope and Contents: This series is divided into two subseries: Subseries 2.1: Chronological, 1943-1963 and Subseries 2.2: Alphabetical, 1949-1961. The chronological correspondence is general in nature and consists of correspondence written to Duke Ellington and Al Celley primarily about matters pertaining to Ellington band performances (bookings and arrangements). Also included are letters and telegrams from other businesses in the music industry (agreements and contracts), hotels, musicians seeking employment with Ellington, and fans seeking photographs and autographs. The series is arranged chronologically.

The alphabetical correspondence includes letters, receipts, and contracts with organizations such as the American Federation of Musicians, Associated Booking Corporation, Charter Coach Corporation, Checkerway Charter Coach Company, Chicago Federation of Musicians, and Gary Suburban Lines. Many of the handwritten notes detail salary information for the band and provide the percentage of money (typically ten percent) due under the union guidelines. Also included are contracts executed between Duke Ellington, Inc. and other organizations and/or venues.

Subseries 2.1: Chronological, 1945 - 1963

Box 1, Folder 4 General, 1945 - 1959

Box 1, Folder 5 General, 1960 - 1963

Subseries 2.2: Alphabetical, 1949 - 1961

Box 1, Folder 6 American Federation of Musicians, 1952 - 1961

Box 1, Folder 7 Associated Booking Corporation (contracts), 1958

Box 1, Folder 8 Charter Coach Corporation (bus transportation), 1956 - 1957

Box 1, Folder 9 Checkerway Charter Coach Company (forms), undated

Box 1, Folder 10 Chicago Federation of Musicians (blank contracts), 1949

Box 1, Folder 11 Gary Suburban Lines (blank trip reports), undated

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Series 3: Subject Files, 1947 - 1989

Scope and Contents: The subject files consist of a variety of materials assembled by Celley as manager and used during the course of daily business. The ephemera consists of menus, hotel stickers, pocket maps, and a passenger list for the *R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth* (1948). The itineraries provide details about the band's international and domestic travels, and the instrument lists provide the musician's name, instrument played, and serial number.

Box 1, Folder 12	Business cards, undated
Map-folder 1	Calendar (wall), 1947
Box 1, Folder 13	Envelopes/letterhead, 1955 - 1962
Box 1, Folder 14	Ephemera, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Instrument lists for Duke Ellington Orchestra, 1957
Box 2, Folder 2	Itineraries, 1952 - 1953, 1960, 1963
Map-folder 1	Manifest Lists (for the band), 1952, undated
Box 2, Folder 3; Map-folder 1	Newspaper clippings, 1958 - 1989
Box 2, Folder 4	Telephone messages and numbers, 1961
Box 2, Folder 5	Miscellaneous printed materials, 1948 - 1961

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Series 4: Financial Materials, 1944 - 1964

Scope and Contents: The financial series is the largest series in the collection and is divided into three subseries: Subseries 4.1: Payroll/Salary, 1944-1962; Subseries 4.2: Expense Notebooks, 1946, 1959; and Subseries 4.3: Receipts and Bills, 1945-1964. The payroll information is arranged chronologically and provides detailed expenses not only for salaries, but for tips, taxis, gifts, and other entertaining. Loose materials associated with the payroll ledgers include union-related materials, envelopes, letterhead, and handwritten notes.

The expense notebooks are arranged chronologically and contain handwritten notes about expenses paid and advances provided to band members. Many of the expense notebooks contain loose materials, primarily consisting of "I Owe You" (IOU) slips for Duke Ellington, Inc.

The receipts and bills are arranged chronologically and consist of payroll deduction slips for band members, IOU slips, hotel and restaurant bills, and handwritten notes. Also included here are mileage and telephone log information.

Subseries 4.1: Payroll/Salary Ledgers (for the band), 1944 - 1962

Box 2, Folder 6	Payroll Ledger, 1944 - 1946
Box 2, Folder 7	Payroll Ledger, 1946 - 1948
Box 2, Folder 8	Payroll Ledger (loose materials), 1946 - 1948
Box 2, Folder 9	Payroll Ledger, 1949 - 1950
Box 2, Folder 10	Payroll Ledger (loose materials), 1949 - 1950
Box 2, Folder 11	Payroll Ledger, 1950
Box 2, Folder 12	Payroll Ledger, 1958
Box 3, Folder 1	Payroll Ledger, 1959
Box 1, Folder 2	Payroll Ledger, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Salary information (for the band), [1957?]
Box 3, Folder 4	Loans and exchanges (photocopied ledger sheets), 1962
Box 3, Folder 5	Withholding tax tables, 1946

Subseries 4.2: Expense Notebooks, 1946, 1959

Box 3, Folder 6	Notebook (and loose material), 1946
Box 3, Folder 7	Notebook (and loose material), 1959

Box 3, Folder 8	Notebook, undated
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Box 3, Folder 9	Expenses (loose), undated
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Subseries 4.3: Receipts and Bills, 1945 - 1964

Box 3, Folder 10	Receipts and bills, 1945
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Box 3, Folder 11	Receipts and bills, 1947
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Box 3, Folder 12	Receipts and bills, 1948
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Box 3, Folder 13	Receipts and bills, 1949 - 1949
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Box 3, Folder 14	Receipts and bills, 1950
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Box 3, Folder 15	Receipts and bills, 1951
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Box 3, Folder 16	Receipts and bills, 1952
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Box 3, Folder 17	Receipts and bills, 1953 - 1954
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Box 3, Folder 18	Receipts and bills, 1955
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Box 3, Folder 19	Receipts and bills, 1956
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Box 4, Folder 1	Receipts and bills (includes mileage and telephone logs), 1957
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Box 4, Folder 2	Receipts and bills, 1958
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Box 4, Folder 3	Receipts and bills, 1959
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Box 4, Folder 4	Receipts and bills (includes tickets, Germany trip), 1959
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Box 4, Folder 5	Receipts and bills, 1960
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Box 4, Folder 6-8	Receipts and bills, 1961
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Box 4, Folder 9	Receipts and bills, 1962
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Box 4, Folder 10	Receipts and bills, 1963
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Box 4, Folder 11	Receipts and bills (Germany and Netherlands), 1959 - 1964
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Box 4, Folder 12	Receipts and bills (miscellaneous), undated
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Box 4, Folder 13

Super Service Bus Company (mileage), 1961

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Series 5: Photographs, 1947 - 1967

Scope and Contents: The photographs contain black and white and color prints depicting Duke Ellington and his band members performing and traveling, portraits of Duke Ellington as well as portraits of other musicians/singers such as Louie Bellson, Dave Black, Kay Davis, Harry Carney, Johnny Hodges, Erroll Garner, and Al Hibbler. Other publicity photographs include entertainers [Brigitte Bardot?], Sid Caesar, Jimmy Dean, Alice Faye, Steve Gibson and the Redcaps, the Smith Sisters, and the Jordanettes. The photographs taken during Ellington's visit to Pakistan in 1963 were created by the United States Information Service (USIS).

Box 6 Portraits of Duke Ellington, undated

Box 6 Entertainers, Musicians and Singers, undated

Box 6 Pakistan and India Trip, 1963

Box 7 International Basketball Tournament, 1947

Box 7 Duke Ellington Orchestra at Hamilton Air Force Base, 1962

Box 7 Duke Ellington Orchestra at Air National Guard of Utah, [1967?]

Box 7 Miscellaneous (unidentified), undated

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Series 6: Audio Visual Materials, 1945 - 1957

Scope and Contents: The audio visual materials are divided into two subseries: Subseries 6.1: Moving Image, 1957 and Subseries 6.2: Audio Discs, 1945-1946. There are two 16 mm films from *The United States Steel Hour* (television) for Duke Ellington's *A Drum is a Woman*. The television play was written by Will Lorin and directed by Norman Felton. The play was broadcast on May 8, 1957.

Subseries 6.1: Moving Image, 1957 - 1957

Reel OF 1240.1	A Drum is a Woman (Part 1), 1957 May 8 1 Reel (16mm)
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Reel OF 1240.2	A Drum is a Woman (Part 2), 1957 May 8 1 Reel (16 mm)
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Subseries 6.2: Audio Discs, 1945 - 1946

Box 5, Item 1	"Body and Soul", undated 1 Disc (78 RPM)
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Box 5, Item 2	[Ellington/Murrow interview?], undated 1 Disc
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Box 5, Item 3	"Threesome", undated 1 Disc (78 RPM)
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Box 5, Item 4	Duke Ellington on the Piano, 1945 January 12 1 Disc
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Box 5, Item 5	"Hollywood Hang [Ten?]," Duke Ellington and Cat Anderson, undated 1 Disc
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Box 5, Item 6	"I Love to Make Love to You Doll", 1946 August 6 1 Disc (78 RPM)
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Box 5, Item 7	Ravel: Chanson's Madecasses, Jennie Tourel, undated 1 Disc (33 RPM)
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Box 5, Item 8	"Don't Matter At All" and "Lost Love", undated 1 Disc
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Box 5, Item 9	"I Saw a Boy" and "I'm So In Love With You", undated 1 Disc
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Box 5, Item 10	Jazz Concert, Volume 1 from Goodyear Jazz Concert, undated
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1 Disc

Box 2, Folder 13

A Drum is a Woman, telecast script, 1957-05-08

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