



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Robert Udkoff Collection of Duke Ellington Ephemera

NMAH.AC.0388

David Jellema

1993

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Robert Udkoff Collection of Duke Ellington Ephemera
Date:	1924-1990
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0388
Creator:	Udkoff, Robert, 1918- (businessman) (Collector)
Extent:	1.33 Cubic feet (4 boxes)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Robert Udkoff Collection of Duke Ellington Ephemera

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Robert Udkoff, 1991, January 29.

Processing Information

Processed by David Jellema and Scott Schwartz, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, 1993

Preferred Citation

Robert Udkoff Collection of Duke Ellington Ephemera, 1924-1990, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Businessman and Ellington enthusiast, Robert Udkoff was born in Chicago and first heard Duke Ellington perform at Chicago's Oriental Theater in 1928. In 1932 he established a cordial relationship with Ellington that lasted until Ellington's death in 1974.

Scope and Contents

Photographs, event programs, periodicals, cassette audio tapes, correspondence, TV program scripts and pamphlets documenting Duke Ellington's career as a musician, 1924-1974, and his legacy after his death.

Arrangement

Divided into five series.

Series 1; Photographs, 1964-1968

Series 2: Publications, 1944-1990

Series 3: Memorabilia, 1965-1981

Series 4: Correspondence and sketches, 1958-1990

Series 5; Cassette audio tapes, 1924-1933

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Jazz -- 20th century -- United States
- Jazz musicians -- United States
- Music -- 20th century
- Periodicals

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes -- 1920-1940
- Clippings
- Correspondence -- 1940-2000
- Photographs -- 1960-1970
- Programs
- Television scripts

Names:

- Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
- Ellington, Mercer Kennedy, 1919-1996 (musician)
- Swedish Music Academy

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs, 1964-1968

53 Photographs (black and white)

8 Photographs (color)

Box 1

Scope and Contents: Series I, Photographs, 1964-1968 (box 1) consists of fifty-three black and white, and eight color photographs of Duke Ellington, band members, and miscellaneous scenes.

Arrangement: The photographs are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1, Folder 1	Ellington, Duke -- Memorial, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Ellington, Duke -- Orchestra, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Ellington, Duke, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Ellington, Duke, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Ellington, Duke, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Ellington, Duke and Robert Udkoff, 1968 July
Box 1, Folder 7	Ellington, Mercer, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Monte, Contessa Fernanda Castro de, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified structure, 1964

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Series 2: Publications, 1944-1990

Box 1

Box 2

Scope and Contents: Series II, Publications, 1944-1990 (boxes 1-2) contains newspaper clippings, periodical articles, pamphlets, and a paperback book that documents Duke Ellington's music career.

Arrangement: The material is arranged by type of publication.

Box 1, Folder 10	Booklet: History of Jazz (written in Russian), undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Newsclippings, 1972 July 2 - 1974 May 30
Box 1, Folder 12	Newspaper: Billboard, 1973 February 10
Box 2, Folder 1	Book: Kings of Jazz: Duke Ellington, 1961
Box 2, Folder 2	Catalog and Supplement: Tempo Music, 1967
Box 2, Folder 3	Newsclippings, 1963-1984
Box 2, Folder 4	Periodical: Contemporary Keyboard, 1978
Box 2, Folder 5	Periodical: Downbeat, 1969 April 17
Box 2, Folder 6	Periodical: Downbeat, 1974 April 25
Box 2, Folder 7	Periodical: Jet, 1967 June 15
Box 2, Folder 8	Periodical: Jet, 1969 May 15
Box 2, Folder 9	Periodical: Key, 1967 November 9-16
Box 2, Folder 10	Periodical: Newsweek, 1974 June 3
Box 2, Folder 11	Periodical: New Yorker, 1944 July 7
Box 2, Folder 12	Periodical: New Yorker, 1944 July 8
Box 2, Folder 13	Periodical: Saturday Review, 1969 May 31

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Series 3: Memorabilia, 1965-1981

Box 1

Box 3

Scope and Contents: Series III, Memorabilia, 1965-1981 (boxes 1 and 3) contains concert programs, television scripts, and publicity materials that document some of Ellington's music performances and the publicity for these music activities including several of his sacred concert performances. In addition there are memorial programs that document music performances produced to honor the legacy of Ellington after his death, and miscellaneous materials documenting Ellington's election to the Swedish Music Academy.

Arrangement: The memorabilia is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1, Folder 13	Caricature -- Duke Ellington, 1965
Box 1, Folder 14	Program: Ellington Fellowship Concert, 197(?) October 6-8
Box 1, Folder 15	Program: Ellington Orchestra European Tour, 1958
Box 3, Folder 1	Memorabilia, 1989
Box 3, Folder 2	Memorial Fellowship Funds, 1975-1990
Box 3, Folder 3	Memorial Music Productions, 1974-1988
Box 3, Folder 4	Public Performances, 1965-1974
Box 3, Folder 5	Swedish Music Academy, 1971 March 1
Box 3, Folder 6	Television Programming, 1963-1973
Box 3, Folder 7	Unidentified Music List, undated

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Series 4: Correspondence and sketches, 1958-1990

Box 1

Box 3

Scope and Contents: Series IV, Correspondence and Sketches, 1958-1990 (boxes 1 and 3) consists of correspondence and Christmas cards sent between Duke Ellington and Robert Udkoff. In addition there are sketches of Robert Udkoff and Stanley Dance drawn by Duke Ellington.

Arrangement: The materials are arranged alphabetically by type of document.

Box 3, Folder 8 Christmas Cards, undated

Box 3, Folder 8

[\[Oversized Christmas greeting\]](#)

1 Item (Ink on paper.; 14 x 18.33 in.)

Artist: Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974

Donor: Udkoff, Robert, 1918- (businessman)

Language: In English and French.

Notes: AC0388-0000001 (AC Scan)

Oversized Christmas greeting, folded up. Possibly designed by Ellington. "Love you, love you, / love you madly / Bonne Noel et Joyeux / Annee." Includes image of Eiffel Tower, with "Duke Ellington" sign hanging on it.

Some yellowing. Delicate: tears at folds.

Topic: Christmas

Place: Paris (France)

Tour Eiffel (Paris, France)

Genre/Form: Christmas cards

Box 3, Folder 9

Correspondence and Invitations, 1958-1990

Box 3, Folder 10

Sketches, undated

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Series 5: Cassette audio tapes, 1924-1933

6 Sound cassettes

Box 4

Scope and Contents: Series V, Cassette Audiotapes, 1924-1933 (box 4) consists of 6 cassette audiotapes containing music from Columbia Records issue, Duke Ellington and His Famous Orchestra, 1924-1933.

Arrangement: The audiotapes are arranged sequentially by tape number. A listing of music titles appears after each tape number. Unidentified tapes have been placed at the end of the series.

Box 4, Tape 1

Tape I, 1924-1927

1 Sound cassette

Notes:

- It's gonna be a cold, cold winter, 1924
- Parlor social deluxe, 1924
- Choo choo, 1924
- Rainy nites, 1924
- Deacon jazz, 1924
- Oh
- , how I love my darling, 1924
- I'm gonna hang around my sugar, 1925
- Trombone blues, 1925
- Georgia grind, 1926
- Parlor social stomp, 1926
- Animal crackers, 1926
- Lil' Farina, 1926
- If you can't hold the man you love, 1926
- You've got those wanna go back again blues, 1926
- Lucky number blues, .1926
- I'm gonna put you right in jail, 1926
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1926
- Birmingham breakdown, 1926
- Immigration blues, 1926
- The creeper, 1926
- Jig walk, 1926
- If you can't hold the man you love, 1926
- New Orleans lowdown, 1926
- Song of the cotton field, 1926
- Birmingham breakdown, 1926
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1926
- Hop head, 1926
- Down in our alley, 1926
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1926
- Black and tan fantasy, 1926
- Soliloquy, 1927
- Washington wobble, 1927
- Black and tan fantasy, 1927
- Blues I love to sing, 1927
- Creole love song, 1927
- Washington wobble, 1927
- What can a poor fellow do?, 1927
- Chicago stomp down, 1927
- Black and tan fantasy, 1927

- Harlem river quiver, 1927
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1927
- Blue bubbles, 1927
- Red hot band, 1927
- Doin' the frog, 1927

Box 4, Tape 2

Tape II, 1928-1929

1 Sound cassette

Notes:

- Got everything but you, 1928
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1928
- Jubilee stomp, 1928
- Take it easy, 1928
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1928
- Jubilee stomp, 1928
- Take it easy, 1928
- Yellow dog blues, 1928
- Tishomingo blues, 1928
- Diga diga doo, 1928
- Doin' the new lowdown, 1928
- Move over, 1928
- Hotten tot, 1928
- Misty morning, 1928
- The mooche, 1928
- Hot and bothered, 1928
- Black beauty, 1928
- Swampy river, 1928
- Hot and bothered, 1928
- The mooche, 1928
- Louisiana, 1928
- Awful sad, 1928
- Santa Claus, bring my man back, 1928
- I done caught you blues, 1928
- No papa, no, 1928
- No papa, no, 1928
- The mooche, 1928
- I can't give you anything but love, 1928
- Bandanna babies, 1928
- Diga diga doo, 1928
- I must have that man, 1928
- Blues with a feeling, 1928
- Goin' to town, 1928
- Misty morning, 1928
- Saratoga swing, 1928
- Who said it's tight like that, 1928
- St. Louis blues, 1928
- Doin' the voom voom, 1929
- Tiger rag, 1929
- Flaming youth, 1929
- Saturday nite function, 1929
- High life, 1929
- Doin' the voom voom, 1929
- Japanese dream, 1929

- Harlemania, 1929
- Rent party blues, 1929
- Paducah, 1929
- Harlem flat blues, 1929
- The dicty glide, 1929
- Hot feet, 1929
- Sloppy Joe, 1929
- Stevedore stomp, 1929
- Nite at the Cotton Club, 1929
- Cotton Club stomp, 1929
- Misty morning, 1929
- Arabian lover, 1929

Box 4, Tape 3

Tape III, 1929-1930

1 Sound cassette

Notes:

- Saratoga swing, 1929
- Beggar's blues, 1929
- Black and blue, 1929
- Jungle jamboree, 1929
- Saturday nite function, 1929
- Doin' the voom voom, 1929
- Flaming youth, 1929
- Jolly wog, 1929
- Jazz convulsions, 1929
- Mississippi dry, 1929
- The Duke steps out, 1929
- Haunted nites, 1929
- Swanee shuffle, 1929
- Oklahoma stomp, 1929
- Breakfast dance, 1929
- Jazz lips, 1929
- March of the hoodlums, 1929
- Lazy Duke, 1929
- Syncopated shuffle, 1929
- Sweet mama, 1929
- Wall St. wail, 1929
- Cincinnati daddy, 1929
- Rent party blues, 1930
- Jungle blues, 1930
- St. James infirmary, 1930
- When your're smiling, 1930
- Admiration, 1930
- Maori, 1930
- East St. Louis Toodle-Oo, 1930
- Double check stomp, 1930
- My gal's good for nothing but love, 1930
- I was made to love you, 1930
- Cotton Club stomp, 1930
- Accordion Joe, 1930
- Double check stomp, 1930
- Sweet dreams of love, 1930
- Jungle nites in Harlem, 1930

- Sweet jazz o'mine, 1930
- Shout'em Aunt Tillie, 1930
- Ring dem bells, 1930
- Old man blues, 1930
- Three little words, 1930

Box 4, Tape 4

Tape IV, 1931-1933

1 Sound cassette

Notes:

- Creole rhapsody, 1931
- Is that religion?, 1931
- The river and me, 1931
- Keep a song in your soul, 1931
- Sam and Delilah, 1931
- Limehouse blues, 1931
- Echoes of the jungle, 1931
- It's glory, 1931
- The mystery song, 1931
- It don't mean a thing, 1932
- Lazy rhapsody, 1932
- Medley, 1932
- Baby, when you ain't here, 1932
- Blue tune, 1932
- Medley, 1932
- Dinah, 1932
- Bugle call rag, 1932
- Rose room, 1932
- Blue Harlem, 1932
- Sheik of Araby, 1932
- Blue ramble, 1932
- Clouds in my heart, 1932
- Ducky wucky, 1932
- Maori, 1932
- Lightnin', 1932
- Jazz cocktail, 1932
- Sing low, 1932
- Delta bound, 1932
- Baby, 1932
- I can't give you anything but love, 1932
- Diga diga doo, 1932
- Porgy, 1932
- I must have that man, 1933
- Blackbirds medley, 1933
- Merry-go-round, 1933
- Sophisticated lady, 1933
- Down a Carolina lane, 1933
- I've got the world on a string, 1933

Box 4, Tape 5

Tape V, undated

1 Sound cassette

Box 4, Tape 6

Tape VI, undated

1 Sound cassette

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