



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the George and Hart's Up
To Date Georgia Minstrels Scrapbook

NMAH.AC.0576

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2015

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	George and Hart's Georgia Up To Date Minstrels Scrapbook
Date:	circa 1876-1901
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0576
Creator:	George, J. Edward (manager) Up To Date Georgia Minstrels (performers) San Diego Historical Society Hart, G. E. (manager)
Extent:	0.1 Cubic feet (1 box, 1-map folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Scrapbook contains articles and ephemera relating to an African American troupe of thirty five minstrels who performed in the Pacific Northwestern United States.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The material was donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History by the San Diego Historical Society on March 11, 1997. The Society has no further information about the scrapbook which was outside the scope of its collecting policy.

Ownership and Custodial History

Donated by the San Diego Historical Society. The initial contact was between Sally West, San Diego Historical Society Assistant Archivist, and National Museum of American History Chief Archivist, John Fleckner.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Subject Categories: Theater, NMAH.AC0060

John B. Rogers Producing Company Collection, NMAH.AC0245

Hazen Collection of Band Photographs and Ephemera, NMAH.AC0253

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 3: African-American Music, NMAH.AC0300

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 11: Entertainment, NMAH.AC0300

Sam DeVincent Collection of Illustrated American Sheet Music, Series 4: Songwriters, NMAH.AC0300

Ernie Smith Jazz Film Collection, NMAH.AC0491

Donald J. Stubblebine Collection of Musical Theater and Motion Picture Music and Ephemera, NMAH.AC1211

Peter Marks Minstrelsy Collection, NMAH.AC1328

Hooker-Howe Company Papers, NMAH.AC1475

Henry "Buddy" Graf and George Cahill Vaudeville and Burlesque Collections, NMAH.AC1484

B. Thomas Smith Minstrel Show Posters, NMAH.AC1490

Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, Smithsonian Institution

Ralph Rinzler Papers and Audio Recordings, CFCH.RINZ

Smithsonian Folklife Festival records: 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, CFCH.SFF.2002

Monitor Records Business Records, CFCH.MONI

Moses and Frances Asch Collection, CFCH.ASCH

Processing Information

Collection processed by Ida Jones, archivist, May 1997; Deborra Richardson, archivist, May 1997; and Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2015.

Preferred Citation

George and Hart's Georgia Up To Date Minstrels Scrapbook, circa 1876-1901, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

George and Hart's Up To Date Georgia Minstrels were an African American troupe of thirty-five entertainers about whom this scrapbook was created. In 1901, these minstrels were described as "the only colored show running for thirty years." The troupe, which began circa 1866, was billed as "the most popular" troupe of performers from California to Montana to Washington to New Mexico to Colorado to Minnesota. They performed standard minstrel acts and included a contortionist, an acrobatic act, and a male impersonator. This form of theater entertainment was used by African American dramatic performers for consistent employment with reasonable wages. The Up To Date Georgia Minstrels were said to have been the "highest paid" performers in the area, making five to fifteen dollars a week. The troupe was managed by George Hart.

Scope and Contents

The scrapbook offers documentation of the troupe's activities dating from 1876-1909 in the Pacific Northwestern United States. It contains articles, ticket stubs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and programs. Also included are brief biographical sketches of Billy Williams, the contortionist, and Harry Gillam, the "Hebrew acrobat," and an article about the managers of the Up To Date minstrels, J. Edward George and G. E. Hart. In addition, there

are business cards from other minstrel performing groups including, Cissel and Mines and Oliver and Gilliam, with accompanying pictures. There are loose materials which were probably once part of the scrapbook, including programs and letterhead stationery. There are also photographs of the troupe taken in Missouri in 1900 standing outside a train car as they travelled from one location to another. The materials are arranged first by type and then in chronological order.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Acrobats -- 1900-1910
- African American entertainers -- 20th century
- Contortionists -- 1900-1910
- Minstrel shows -- 1900-1910
- Minstrels -- 1900-1910
- Revues -- 1900-1910
- Troubadours -- 1900-1910 -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements -- 1900-1910
- Scrapbooks -- 1880-1910

Names:

- Cissel and Mines, entertainers
- Cissel, Clarence (entertainer)
- Gilliam, Harry (entertainer)
- Gilliam, Bessie (entertainer)
- Mines, Augusta (entertainer)
- Oliver and Gilliam (entertainers)
- Oliver, Jack (entertainer)
- Williams, Billy (entertainer)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Advertisements, circa 1876
Box 1, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1898-1901 Notes: Select pages and collection items from the scrapbook were scanned and linked to the finding aid.
Box 1, Folder 3	Ephemera, 1890, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Gluck's Opera House, program, 1900-1901
Box 1, Folder 5	George and Hart and Gardner E. Hart, letterhead stationary, 1900-1901, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Luella Theatre, program, 1900-1901
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs, July 3, 1900
Box 1, Folder 8	Newspaper clippings, 1901, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	The Stage, Opera House, Hutchinson, Kansas, 1901
Box 1, Folder 10	Opera House, program, January 28, 1901
Box 1, Folder 11	Whitney Opera House, program, February 4, 1901
Map-folder 1	Grand Opening of the Maywood Opera House, Corning, California, 1900-10-08 1 Poster (24" x 36")