Guide to the William Claxton Photography

NMAH.AC.0695
Vanessa Broussard Simmons
2007
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: William Claxton Photographs
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0695
Date: 1955-1960.
Extent: 1 Cubic foot (28 items)
Creator: Claxton, William
Language: English
Summary: Photographs consist of 16 x 20 inch silver gelatin; selenium-toned archival photographic prints of jazz musicians performing and recording music throughout the United States.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Collection purchased on March 31, 1999.

Provenance
The six prints in series one were processed for Mr. Claxton by a professional laboratory in 1999. The National Museum of American History purchased the William Claxton Photographs on March 31, 1999. The photographs were previously exhibited in the National Museum of American History’s 1999 centennial celebration of Duke Ellington's birth. The prints in series two were Prints made for Mr. Claxton by a professional laboratory, 1999.

Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Duke Ellington Collection, 1928-1988 (AC0301)
Herman Leonard Photoprints, 1948-1993 (AC0445)
Frank Driggs Collection of Duke Ellington Photographic Reference Prints [copy prints], 1923-1972 (AC389)
Charismatic Productions Records of Dizzy Gillespie, 1940s-1993 (AC0979)

Processing Information
Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, 2007.
Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions. Contact staff for information.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 16 x 20-inch silver gelatin; selenium-toned archival photographic prints. It is divided into two series.


Series 2, Other Jazz Musicians and Singers, 1955-1970, consists of photographs of musicians and singers such as Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane, Chet Baker, Stan Kenton, Miles Davis, Dinah Washington, Cootie Williams, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie and Ray Charles. The performers are all photographed with their instruments. Photographs are arranged in chronological order.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series.


Series 2: Other Jazz Musicians and Singers, 1955-1970

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Jazz
- Music -- West coast -- 1950-1960
- Musicians -- 1950-1960 -- United States

Types of Materials:
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1950-2000
Names:

Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971
Baker, Chet
Baker, Halima
Charles, Ray, 1930-
Charles, Roosevelt
Coleman, Ornette
Coltrane, John, 1926-1967
Davis, Miles
Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Evans, Bill, 1929-1980
George Williams Brass Band.
Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993
Jones, Elvin
Kenton, Stan
Monk, Thelonious
Mulligan, Gerry
Parker, Charlie, 1920-1955
Rollins, Sonny
Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998
Stan Kenton Band.
Washington, Dinah, 1924-1963
Webster, Ben
Williams, Cootie
Williams, Joe, 1918-
### Container Listing

**Series 1: Duke Ellington, 1955 - 1960**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Duke Ellington and Jimmy Rushing; on stage, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1955.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Duke Ellington at piano, Monterey, California, 1958.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Duke Ellington at piano during a recording session, Hollywood, California, 1960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Duke Ellington and Johnny Hodges; recording session, Hollywood, California, 1960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Duke Ellington with his Orchestra; recording session, Hollywood, California, 1960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Duke Ellington examines early manuscript of Take The A-Train, recording session, Hollywood, California, 1960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 2: Other Performers, 1951 - 1970

Box 2, Folder 1  Charlie Parker; La Crescinita, California, 1951
Box 2, Folder 1  Sonny Rollins; recording session, Hollywood, California, 1955
Box 2, Folder 1  Frank Sinatra, Out of a Harp Caste, Hollywood, California, 1955 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1  John Coltrane, Monterey, California, 1955
Box 2, Folder 1  Halima and Chet Baker, Risdondo Beach, 1955
Box 2, Folder 2  Stan Kenton Band, Balboa Beach, California, 1957
Box 2, Folder 2  Miles Davis, Hollywood, California, 1957 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2  Dinah Washington, Hollywood, California, 1959
Box 2, Folder 2  Gerry Mulligan and Ben Webster Hollywood, California, 1959
Box 2, Folder 3  Roosevelt Charles, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, Louisiana, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3  Ornette Coleman, Hollywood, California, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3  Dizzy Gilliespie, New York, New York, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3  Elvin Jones, New York, New York, 1960
Box 2, Folder 4  Second Liners Dance with the George Williams Brass Band, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1960
Box 2, Folder 4  Street Musician, Time Square, New York, New York, 1960
Box 2, Folder 4  Cootie Williams, Harlem, New York, 1960
Box 2, Folder 4  Joe Williams, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1960
Box 2, Folder 5  Thelonious Monk, San Francisco, California, 1961 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 5  Ray Charles and Rayette, Hollywood, California, 1962
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Image Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Bill Evans, Hollywood, California, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Louis Armstrong, 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Louis Armstrong, 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>