



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros Papers

NMAH.AC.1430

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2017

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1430
Date:	1920-2016, undated
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (3 boxes, 2 oversize map folders)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials in Spanish.
Summary:	Collection documents the life and career of Cuban trumpet player Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros. Included in the collection are correspondence, photographs, music manuscripts, clippings, awards and programs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Museum by Alfred Armenteros, Jr. in 2017.

Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Archives Center, National Museum of American History Collections

Graciela Papers (NMAH.AC1425)

Chico O'Farrill Papers (NMAH.AC0892)

Paquito D'Rivera Papers (NMAH.AC0891)

Mongo Santamaria Papers (NMAH.AC.0893)

Leonard Gaskin Papers (NMAH.AC0900)

Division of Music, National Museum of American History

Accession Number: 2017.0214

Includes six passes, one parade ribbon, three awards, two framed records, and one trumpet made by Holton and engraved "A.A. Chocolate"

Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard- Simmons, archivist, 2017.

Preferred Citation

Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. 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

Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros was a trumpeter, composer, arranger, and producer known for his Afro-Cuban musical style. He was born on April 4, 1928, in Ranchuelo, in the Villa Clara province of central Cuba. In 1949, Armenteros moved to Havana to begin his musical career, which spanned almost seven decades. Armenteros worked with many New York-based Latin artists and bands including Mongo Santamaria, Graciela, Osvaldo "Chi Hua Hua" Martínez, Lou Pérez, Roberto Torres, Ismael Rivera, and Israel "Cachao" López. He died on January 6, 2016 in a nursing home in Mohegan Lake, New York at the age of eighty-seven.

Scope and Contents

Collection documents the life and musical career of Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros. The materials consist primarily of black-and-white and color photographs of Armenteros, his family and friends. There is correspondence including both incoming and outgoing letters, postcards, and greeting cards. Throughout his career Armenteros was recognized by the Latin American community and this is best reflected the awards and citations he received. Music manuscripts, performance agreements, and promotional materials for concerts can also be found among these materials. The collection is arranged into two series. Series one is Armenteros's personal papers. Series two contain performance materials. relating to Armenteros's performances.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Personal Papers, circa 1920-2016, undated

Series 2, Performance Materials, 1975-2016, undated

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1920-2016, undated

Consists primarily of photographic prints of Armenteros. Black-and-white and color prints document Armenteros performing with well-known Latin bands and artists. A few of the photographs are of Armenteros in social settings and on travel. There is not much information relating to his personal life other than the few photographs of Armenteros and his family, his obituary, and magazine articles. In addition, materials also include greeting cards, postcards, correspondence, obituaries of friends and some of his awards. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1	Photographs, 1920-1939
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs, 1940-1949
Box 2, Folder 1	Photograph (copies), 1949
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 7	Greeting cards and postcards, 1990-1998, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs, 1990-1999
Box 2, Folder 2	Photographs, 1990-1999
Box 1, Folder 9	Article, 1991
Box 1, Folder 10	Award, 1991
Box 1, Folder 11	Obituaries of friends, 1993-2001
Box 1, Folder 12	Council of City of New York citation, 1996
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 2000-2004
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs, 2000-2016

Box 1, Folder 15	International Salsa Museum charter, 2001
Box 2, Folder 3	Awards, 2001
Box 1, Folder 16	La Asociacion Amigos De La Musica Afroantillana award, 2007
Box 1, Folder 17	New York State Assembly Citation, 2014
Box 1, Folder 18	Obituary, 2016
Box 1, Folder 19	Photographs, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Articles, undated

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Series 2: Performance Materials, 1975-2016, undated

Consists primarily of music manuscripts and lyrics; record company agreements; posters, programs and flyers for concerts; and Library of Congress copyright application materials. Most of the materials relate to concert performances. In addition, there is some information relating to Armenteros's work with Andy Gracia on the film "The Lost City," an Infiniti television commercial, and Bill Crosby's daughter Evin's wedding. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 20	Music and lyrics for "Choco's Gujira," 1975
Box 1, Folder 29	Music and lyrics, 1975-2000
Box 1, Folder 38	Passport (copy) and touring information, 1979-1985, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Programs and flyers, 1980-1989
Box 2, Folder 5	Posters, 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 22	Machito Orchestra, 1984
Map-folder 1	Posters, 1988
Map-folder 2	Poster, 1988
Box 1, Folder 23	Programs and flyers for concerts, 1990-1999
Box 2, Folder 6	Posters, 1990-1999
Box 3, Folder 1	Posters, 1993
Box 1, Folder 24	Descarga Cachao, 1994
Box 1, Folder 25	Library of Congress, Copyright Registration Application, 1994
Box 1, Folder 26	Agreement between Armenteros and Caiman Records, Incorporated, 1997
Box 1, Folder 27	Armstrong Curriculum Project, 2000
Box 2, Folder 7	Posters, 2000-2010
Box 1, Folder 28	Programs and flyers for concerts, 2000-2016
Box 1, Folder 30	Chesky Records, Incorporated, publishing agreement, 2001

Box 1, Folder 31	Performance agreement for Evin Crosby wedding, 2002
Box 1, Folder 32	<i>Lost City</i> film materials, 2004
Box 1, Folder 33	Infiniti automobile television commercial script, 2007
Box 1, Folder 34	Badge, National Puerto Rican Day parade, undated
Box 1, Folder 35	Music manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 36	Music manuscripts and lyrics, undated
Box 1, Folder 37	Programs and flyers for concerts, undated

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