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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  Lost City 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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