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Program Records, 1976-2004, 2012

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., *osiaref@si.edu*
Title:	Program Records
Date:	1976-2004, 2012
Identifier:	Accession 17-064
Creator::	National Museum of American History. Division of Culture and the Arts
Extent:	1.5 cu. ft. (1 record storage box) (1 document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 17-064, National Museum of American History. Division of Culture and the Arts, Program Records

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of the records of Dwight Blocker Bowers, Curator, which document his activities in producing public programs for the National Museum of American History (NMAH). Earlier records date from when Bowers was public programs specialist, 1995-1997, and historian of theater and film, 1997-2012, in the Division of Cultural History; director of the Division of Museum Program, 1989-1995; research specialist in the Department of Public Programs, 1984-1989; and research assistant in the Division of Performing Arts, 1982-1983. A majority of the records pertain to the "Palm Court Cameos" series that initially presented informal concerts of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century salon and parlor music to correspond with the era of the furnishings and artifacts in the Palm Court at NMAH. The program, which eventually was renamed "American Song" and moved to the Museum's Carmichael Auditorium, expanded to include the works of major American musicians of twentieth-century popular song, full-scale concert reconstructions of musicals, and onstage conversations with noted songwriters. Also documented are the "Jazz in the Palm Court" series that featured regionally based jazz artists performing classic jazz repertoire; the "America on Film" series, in which motion pictures reflecting cultural and musical diversity in American society were shown; and various other programs. Bowers inherited some of the records in this accession, which he used in his research, from Sharyn Huriaux Reitz, a research contractor in the Division of Performing Arts. Materials include correspondence, brochures, scripts, press releases, clippings, drawings, and supporting documentation.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Jazz

Motion pictures
Museums -- Educational aspects
Museums -- Public relations
Music -- United States
Musical shows
Performances

Types of Materials:

Brochures
Clippings
Drawings
Manuscripts

Names:

America on Film (Program series)
American Song (Program series)
Bowers, Dwight Blocker
Jazz in the Palm Court (Program series)
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Department of Public Programs
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Museum Programs
Palm Court Cameos (Program series)
Reitz, Sharyn Huriaux
Smithsonian Institution. Division of Performing Arts

Container Listing

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