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Buckberry, Ray B., Jr., b. 1934 - Collector (MSS 685)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 685 BUCKBERRY, Ray B., Jr., b. 1934 – Collector

1 ½ boxes. 23 folders. 405 items. 1867-2018. Originals, photocopies, photo, and audio cassette tapes.

SC2020.6.1

See also: SC 1673 HOGAN, Ernest

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ray B. Buckberry, Jr., a Bowling Green, Kentucky attorney, amassed this collection while preparing an historical marker honoring Ernest Hogan. Information about the Hogan marker can be found in Small Collection 1673. Original sheet music accompanying this material is housed in the Kentucky Library Research Collections (KLRC).

Reuben Crowdus was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 17 April 1865. He left at an early age and began his career in show business as a plantation singer in minstrel shows. By age 24, Hogan was successfully performing on the west coast under the stage name Ernest Hogan. As minstrel led to vaudeville, Hogan began writing songs and was involved in writing/composing approximately 38 musical pieces over his career. One of his songs stated that the music was to be performed “with Negro rag accompaniment”; this is the first use of the word “rag” on a song sheet, and many therefore credit Hogan as writer of the first piece of ragtime music. As a performer, Hogan was in great demand and performed in venues around the world. Hogan died on 20 May 1909 and was interred in Bowling Green’s Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection documents the life and contributions of pioneer ragtime musician Ernest Hogan. Box 1, Folder 2 includes correspondence of Ray Buckberry with various individuals relating to his Hogan research. The chief correspondent is Doug Seroff, an expert on African American music tradition. Folders 3-5 contain news clippings relating to respectively: Hogan during his lifetime, Hogan after his death, and African American musicians (particularly Hogan) from the Indianapolis *Freeman*. Folder 6 includes similar material from magazines and journals. Folder 7 houses lists of music associated with Hogan compiled by Buckberry. Chronologies of Hogan’s life constructed by Buckberry can be found in Folder 8. Folders 9-12 contain

manuscript copies of articles and scripts prepared by Buckberry for publication and public presentation. Folder 13 includes a compact disc of a program about Hogan that aired on WKYU's "Old Scratchy Records" radio program (play date not provided); also includes the program's play list of Hogan music. Folder 14 contains genealogical information about the Crowdus family, and Folder 15 includes similar information about allied families. Folder 16 contains miscellaneous related to Hogan, including invitations, programs and brochures about programming related to Hogan. Folder 17 houses two cassette tapes: one includes musical performances of famed minstrel performer Bert Williams and the other includes a performance of "Mysterious Coon" by Alec Johnson.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Ernest Hogan	1867-2014	328 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical information	n.d.	8 items
Folder 2	Correspondence related to Ernest Hogan research	2000-2014	85 items
Folder 3	News clippings about Ernest Hogan – Contemporary	1896-1905	73 items
Folder 4	News clippings about Ernest Hogan – Post death	1929-2009	10 items
Folder 5	News Clippings from the Indianapolis Freeman about Ernest Hogan	1898-2003	67 items
Folder 6	Longer narrative material about Ernest Hogan	n.d.	6 items
Folder 7	List of music associated with Ernest Hogan	1896-2008	8 items
Folder 8	Chronologies of the life of Ernest Hogan	2002	2 items
Folder 9	"Reuben's Roots: Ernest Hogan's Early Life in Bowling Green, Kentucky" – Drafts for an article by the same title and review copies from two individuals	2003-2004	5 items
Folder 10	"Reuben Crowdus" – Script for a presentation about Ernest Hogan	2002	2 items
Folder 11	"Ernest Hogan: The Only Truly Colorful Character" – Script for a presentation	n.d.	1 item
Folder 12	"Reuben Crowdus" – Drafts for a short article about Ernest Hogan	n.d.	3 items

Folder 13	CD of a program related to Ernest Hogan done by Nolan Porterfield for WKYU Radio	n.d.	2 items
Folder 14	Genealogy material about Crowdus family	1867-2004	25 items
Folder 15	Genealogical material about allied families	1922-2002	23 items
Folder 16	Miscellaneous – Invitations, programs, brochures	2001-2009	5 items
Folder 17	Cassette tapes with musical performances by Bert Williams and Alec Johnson	1901-2002	3 items
BOX 2	Ernest Hogan	1899-2018	77 items
Folder 1	Guidelines for use of negative, offensive words related to race	2018	6 items
Folder 2	Information about African American performers other than Hogan	1908-2000	21 items
Folder 3	Information about black music	1899-2018	11 items
Folder 4	Information about cakewalks	1947-2018	16 items
Folder 5	Information about minstrels	1915-2018	17 items
Folder 6	Information about ragtime	1996-2018	6 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 685 BUCKBERRY, Ray B., Jr., b. 1934 – 1867-2018
Collector

Research material collected by Ray B. Buckberry, Jr. related to Ernest Hogan, an African American musician from Bowling Green, Kentucky, who is sometimes credited as one of the pioneers of ragtime music. He composed and wrote lyrics for numerous musical pieces for minstrel shows and published sheet music.

1 ½ boxes. 23 folders. 405 items. Originals, photocopies, photo, and audio cassette tapes.

SC2020.6.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African American musicians
 African Americans – Music
 Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra – Relating to B1,F16
 Cakewalk (dance) B2,F4
 Crowdus family B1,F14
 Historical markers – Relating to B1,F16
 Hogan, Ernest, 1865-1909 – Relating to
 Indianapolis *Freeman* – Relating to B1,F5
 Johnson, Alec – Musical performance B1,F17
 Minstrels B2,F5
 Porterfield, Nolan, b. 1936 – Relating to B1,F15
 Ragtime music B2,F6
 Seroff, Doug, b. 1947 – Correspondence
 Sheet music B1,F7
 Williams, Bert, 1874-1922 – Musical performance B1,F17
 Williams' Colored Singers – Relating to B2,F2

SEE or SEE ALSO

Crowdus, Rueben, 1865-1909

See:

Hogan, Ernest, 1865-1909

Orchestra Kentucky

See also:

Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra

Williams' Jubilee Singers

See:

Williams' Colored Singers

Williams' Original Dixie Jubilee Singers

See:

Williams' Colored Singers

Pierce/Jeffrey 02/05/2020