Josephine Baker papers, 1938-1968  

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu  

Descriptive Summary

Title: Josephine Baker papers, 1938-1968  
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 955  
Extent: 2 linear ft. (4 boxes), 16 oversized paper (OP), and 4 oversized bound volumes (OBV)  
Abstract: Papers of African American entertainer Josephine Baker, including correspondence, fan mail, press books, sheet music, newspaper clippings, and thirteen original hand-drawn posters.  
Language: Materials in English and French.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Josephine Baker papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Susan Potts McDonald, August 2013.
Collection Description

Biographical Note
Josephine Baker (1906-1975), African American performer, dancer, and silent film star. Born Freda Josephine McDonald in St. Louis, she performed in Paris, New York, Africa, and the Middle East, and was a crusader for racial equality.

Scope and Content Note
The Josephine Baker papers consist of approximately 1,200 letters, four press books, news clippings, sheet music, a collection of material related to Les Milandes (the home in the south of France that she established for children adopted from throughout the world), and 13 original posters drawn by hand for her and for her village of Milandes. There are approximately 80 letters with her second husband, Jo Bouillon, and correspondence with lawyers and friends concerning her separation from the orchestra leader. The collection also includes correspondence with a variety of personalities; an artist's file containing agreements with theatre and television directors; fan mail, including many letters from those seeking funds, and thirteen original hand-drawn posters. These materials were found in the home at Les Milandes that she was forced to abandon in 1967.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

### Correspondence, Business

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<td>1958 August-December</td>
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### Correspondence, Legal

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### Correspondence, Requests
3  
6  
1958-1959 February
3  
7  
1959 March-April
4  
1  
1959 May
4  
2  
1959 June 1-20
4  
3  
1959 June 22-July

Other
4  
4  
Cards: Calling and business
4  
5  
Cards: Les Milandes
4  
6  
Drawing of Josephine Baker, J.H. Rey
4  
7  
Miscellaneous, no dates
4  
8  
Photographs
OP1  
Poster, Benefit for war veterans, Palais D'Orsay, Paris, France, December 2, no year
OP2  
Poster, "Cuba," July 26, 1968
OP3  
Poster, "Day of Solidarity with Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde," August 3, 1968
OP4  
Poster, "Fete des Meres," [Mother's Day], June 1, 1958
OP8-16  
Poster designs, "Josephine Baker, Les Milandes: Capital du Monde de la Fraternite," by Ingar Kihlman (Copenhagen, Denmark), 1958 (9 items)
OP5-7  
Poster designs, "Josephine Baker, Les Milandes: Capital du Monde de la Fraternite," by Leif Kristensen (Copenhagen, Denmark), 1958 (3 items)
4  
9  
Printed, Beautes de Paris au Music Hall, circa 1931
4  
10  
Printed, General
4  
11  
4  
12  
Printed, La Chartreuse des Milandes letterhead
4  
13  
Printed, La Chartreuse des Milandes, menus
4  
14  
Printed, "Les Milandes," Easter 1959
4  
15  
Printed, Newspaper clippings, 1953-1965
4  
16  
Programs, no dates
4  
17  
Radio scripts, no dates
4  
18  
Ribbons (2)
4  
19  
Sheet music: "We're Gonna Hit the Hit Out of Hitler," 1939
4  
20  
Song lyrics, no dates
4  
21  
Writings, "Je N'ai Plus Qu'un Seul Amour," no date

Scrapbooks
OBV1  
Newspaper clippings, February-March 1939 [South America]
OBV2  
Newspaper clippings, May-August 1939 [South America]
OBV3  
Newspaper clippings, 1950-1951 [with a few from 1936-1937, 1943, and 1949 in back]
OBV4  Newspaper clippings, 1957-1959