

# **BELL, MALCOLM, 1913- Drums and Shadows photograph collection**

Emory University  
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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Bell, Malcolm, 1913-  
**Title:** Drums and Shadows photograph collection  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 761  
**Extent:** .25 linear feet (1 box) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)  
**Abstract:** Reprints of Malcolm and Muriel Bell's photographs of African Americans living on the coast of Georgia.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Special restrictions apply: Requests for duplication should be referred to the Library of Congress, owner of the original negatives. Call number: LOT 13351.

### **Source**

Gift of Malcolm and Muriel Bell, 1994.

### **Custodial History**

The Bells are the photographers. This exhibit, entitled "Drums and Shadows: Photographs of African-Americans from the Georgia Coastal Region," was mounted in the Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library 1 February-20 March 1994. Mr. and Mrs. Bell donated these photographs to the library. Director of the Schatten Gallery Valerie Watkins then transferred these items to Special Collections. These photographs were reproduced from original negatives of photographs taken by the Bells as part of Georgia's Writers' Project program of the Works Project Administration in the 1930s.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Drums and Shadows photograph collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Acquired by Barbara J. Mann as part of the Rose Library's holdings in African American culture and history and Georgia history.

**Processing**

Processed by Barbara J. Mann, 1994.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Malcolm Bell Jr., photographer, historian, and bank president, was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1913. His parents were Malcolm and Laura Palmer Bell. Bell's grandfather, Frank, was the publisher of the *Savannah Morning News* and his father was part of the administrative staff.

Bell attended the University of North Carolina, but was unable to graduate due to an auto accident. In 1939, at the age of twenty-six, Bell and his wife, Muriel Barrow Bell, became involved with the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project, a Works Progress Administration program, to interview and photograph coastal Georgia blacks who were of African descent. Under the leadership of Mary Granger, the Savannah Unit interviewed ca. one hundred thirty-four people in twenty locations. Malcolm and Muriel Bell served as the photographers. The results of this project were published in 1940 and entitled *Drums and Shadows: Survival Studies Among the Coastal Georgia Negroes* (Athens: University of Georgia Press). It was reprinted in 1986.

Bell served as president and chairman of the Savannah Bank and Trust Company. He also authored three books, *Savannah Ahoy* (Savannah: Pigeonhole Press, 1959), *Savannah* (Savannah: Historic Savannah Foundation, 1977), and *Major Butler's Legacy: Five Generations of a Slaveholding Family* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1987). Bell has also published articles in *The Georgia Review* and *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*. Sources used to compile this note include *GHS Footnotes* (Fall 1992), 6 December 1987 article from *Savannah News Press*, and *Drums and Shadows: Survival Studies Among the Georgia Coastal Negroes* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1940).

**Scope and Content Note**

The Drums and Shadows photograph collection consists of reprints of Malcolm and Muriel Bell's photographs of African Americans living on the coast of Georgia including Possum Point and Pin Point, Chatham County; Sapelo Island, McIntosh County; St. Mary's, Camden County; St. Simons Island, Glynn County; and Sunbury, Liberty County, Georgia. The photographs were used in an exhibit mounted by the Schatten Gallery, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, February 1 - March 20, 1994. They are arranged in the Checklist of the Exhibition order. The number designation after each photograph's title corresponds to this list. Commentary on the exhibit as a whole, along with commentary for each portion of the exhibit, were written by Muriel Barrow Bell.

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## Container List

**Exhibit text**

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Exhibit catalog
1	2	Comments on the exhibit by Muriel Barrow Bell

**Artifacts**

1	3	Comments
OP1	1	Carved Masks and Wooden Chains; Carved Wooden Figures (#1)
OP1	2	Carved Wooden Spoon; Carved Wooden Stick with Figure (#2)
OP1	3	Coil Basket and Carved Wooden Objects; Carved Stone Fig (#3)
OP1	4	Carved Sticks and Handmade Banjo; Carved Sticks (#4)
OP1	5	Carved Stick with a Man's Head (#5)
OP1	6	Carved Wooden Frog (#6)
OP1	7	Painted Wooden Figure (#7)
OP1	8	Goatskin-covered Log Drum made by James Collier (#8)
OP1	9	James Collier at Brownville (#9)
OP1	10	Julian Linder at Brownville (#10)
OP1	11	Tony Delegal at Ogeecheetown (#11)

**Pin Point**

1	4	Comments
OP1	12	Woman and Baby at Pin Point (#12)
OP1	13	Little Girl at Pin Point Printed from the Original Negative by Photographer Alice Boyle (#13)
OP1	14	Boy at Pin Point (#14)
OP1	15	Boy at Pin Point, Smiling (#15)
OP1	16	Lewis McIver, Fisherman at Pin Point (#16)

**Sunbury**

OP1	17	Wooden Gravemarkers at Sunbury (#17)
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**Possum Point**

1	5	Comments
OP1	18	Alec Anderson at Possum Point (#18)
OP1	19	Rachel Anderson at Possum Point (#19)
OP1	20	The Anderson's Granddaughter at Possum Point (#20)
OP1	21	Woodworker at Possum Point (#21)

**Sapelo**

1	6	Comments
OP1	22	Julius Bailey and Ox Cart at Sapelo (#22)
OP1	23	Julius Bailey Looking Over Ox Cart (#23)
OP1	24	Ox Cart in Distance (#24)
OP1	25	Katie Brown with Flint (#25)
OP1	26	Katie Brown (#26)
OP1	27	Katie Brown with Pestle and Mortar (#27)
OP1	28	Julia Governor, Called Juno, at Sapelo (#28)
OP1	29	Cuffy Wilson with His Granddaughter (#29)
OP1	30	Nero Jones at Sapelo (#30)
OP1	31	Little Boy with a Hoop at Sapelo (2 copies) (#31)
OP1	32	Little Girl at Sapelo (#32)
OP2	7	Shad Hall at Hog Hammock (#33)
OP2	8	John Bryan at Raccoon Bluff, Sapelo (#34)
OP1	33	Praise House at Sapelo (#35)

### **St. Simons Island**

1	7	Comments
OP1	34	Ryna Johnson, Her Daughter and Son-in-Law at Harrington, St. Simons Island (#36)
OP1	35	Ryna Johnson (#37)
OP1	36	Ben Sullivan at St. Simons Island (#38)

### **St. Mary's**

1	8	Comments
OP1	37	Henry Williams at St. Mary's (#39)
OP1	38	Henry Williams (#40)
OP1	39	House of Henry Williams at St. Mary's (#41)
OP1	40	Enoch and Artie Jones at St. Mary's (2 copies) (#42)
OP1	41	Artie Jones (#44)
OP1	42	Robert Lucas at St. Mary's (#44)
OP1	43	Jim Myers at Mush Bluff Island (#45)
OP1	44	Jim Myers (#46)
OP1	45	Jim Myers (#47)
OP1	46	Jim Myers (#48)

### **Additional photographs**

1	9	Comments
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