

# COLLIER, HOUSTON, 1907-1984.

## Houston Collier family papers, 1927-1990

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Collier, Houston, 1907-1984.  
**Title:** Houston Collier family papers, 1927-1990  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1416  
**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes), 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP)  
**Abstract:** Papers of the Houston Collier family of Memphis, Tennessee, including correspondence, photographs, financial records, academic and military records, and a diary.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

#### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### Source

Purchased from David McCord, Bookseller, 2017.

#### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Houston Collier family papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### Appraisal Note

Acquired by Curator of African American Collections Pellom McDaniels, III, as part of the Rose Library's holdings in African American history and culture.

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**Processing**

Arranged and described at the folder level by Sarah Quigley, October 2017. At the time of acquisition, the materials were in no particular order, and Sarah Quigley devised the current arrangement. Use of the term "correspondence" indicates the presence of letters back and forth between two individuals. Use of the term "letters" indicates the presence of letters from one individual to another with no responses from the recipient.

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

Houston Collier (1907-1984) was an African American postal clerk from Memphis, Tennessee. He had two daughters, Houstine and Harrine, with wife Harriet. The couple divorced, and Houston Collier retained custody of the children. Collier enlisted in the Army in 1942 and served in the European Theater of World War II. He was a First Sargent by the end of the war. He married Mary Elizabeth Walton, a teacher from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1946. The couple lived apart, he in Memphis and she in Indianapolis, during the early years of their relationship. Harrine Collier attended Knoxville College (Tennessee), where she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She also attended Atlanta University (Georgia). She married Charles Ingram, her college sweetheart, and had one son, Keith.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of the Houston Collier family from 1927-1990. The collection contains the papers of Houston Collier, his wife Mary Walton Collier, and his daughter Harrine Collier, including correspondence, photographs, financial records, academic and military records, and a diary. Collier family photographs include family portraits, school photos, snapshots, and photographs from the wedding of Mary Walton and Houston Collier. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Houston Collier and Mary Walton Collier. The correspondence primarily documents the years they lived apart and includes details about their work and family. There are also numerous letters from Houston to Mary during his deployment in World War II. Letters from others to Houston contain notes from various family members, as well as several letters from a woman named Elsie, with whom he was romantically involved while also in a relationship with Mary Walton Collier. Additional papers of Houston Collier consist of routine financial records, employment records, and military records. Papers of Mary Walton Collier contain an appointment book, a certificate, and academic degrees. The papers of Harrine Collier primarily contain letters from Charles Ingram documenting their rocky long-distance relationship. Her diary details the ups and downs of her relationship with Ingram, as well as her life at Knoxville College and a summer spent working in Rockport, Massachusetts. The collection also contains several of Harrine Collier's report cards and publications from her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in alphabetical order by family member.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Collier family photographs, circa 1940-1990 [1]
1	2	Collier family photographs, circa 1940-1990 [2]
OP2	-	Collier family photographs, National YWCA Blue Ridge Assembly, 1954
1	3	Collier, Harriet, letters to Houstine and Harrine Collier, circa 1948
1	4	Collier, Harrine, diary, 1958
1	5	Collier, Harrine, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., 1961-1990 [1]
1	6	Collier, Harrine, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., 1961-1990 [2]
1	7	Collier, Harrine, letter to Mary Walton Collier, 1967 [A single letter about Charles Ingram leaving the family.]
1	8	Collier, Harrine, letters from Charles Ingram, 1957
1	9	Collier, Harrine, letters from Charles Ingram, 1958 January-August
2	1	Collier, Harrine, letters from Charles Ingram, 1958 September-November
2	2	Collier, Harrine, letters from Charles Ingram, 1959-1960
2	3	Collier, Harrine, letters from Charles Ingram, 1961-1962
2	4	Collier, Harrine, letters from others, 1968-1970 [Includes a condolence letter following the death of Charles Ingram in 1970.]
2	5	Collier, Harrine, report cards, 1949-1957
2	6	Collier, Houston, bank book, circa 1945
2	7	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, undated
2	8	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1943
2	9	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1944
2	10	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1945
3	1	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1946 January-April
3	2	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1946 May-July
3	3	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1946 August-October
3	4	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1946 November-December
3	5	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1947 January-March
4	1	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1947 April-June
4	2	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1947 December
4	3	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1948
4	4	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1949
4	5	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1950-1951
4	6	Collier, Houston, correspondence with Mary Walton Collier, 1962-1963
4	7	Collier, Houston, financial records, circa 1945-1975 [1]

- 4 8 Collier, Houston, financial records, circa 1945-1975 [2]
- 4 9 Collier, Houston, identification cards, circa 1937-1942
- 5 1 Collier, Houston, insurance premium books, 1950-1977
- 5 2 Collier, Houston, legal records, 1950 [document requesting visitation between Harriet Collier and Houstine and Harrine Collier]
- 5 3 Collier, Houston, letters from Harrine and Houstine Collier, circa 1948-1950
- 5 4 Collier, Houston, letters from others, undated
- 5 5 Collier, Houston, letters from others, 1941-1945
- 5 6 Collier, Houston, letters from others, 1946-1949
- 5 7 Collier, Houston, letters from others, 1958-1981
- 5 8 Collier, Houston, military records, 1945
- 5 9 Collier, Houston, Post Office employment records, 1956-1972
- 5 10 Collier, Mary Walton, appointment book, 1946
- OP1 1 Collier, Mary Walton, Girl Scout Troop Certificate, Troop 35 (Indianapolis, Indiana), 1938
- OP1 3 Collier, Mary Walton, Indiana University, Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry, 1931
- 5 11 Collier, Mary Walton, letters from others, circa 1946-1947
- OP1 2 Collier, Mary Walton, Shortridge High School (Indianapolis, Indiana), diploma, 1927
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