

# **HARRIS, HELEN CURL.**

## **Helen Curl Harris papers, 1936-1980**

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

**Creator:** Harris, Helen Curl.  
**Title:** Helen Curl Harris papers, 1936-1980  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 977  
**Extent:** 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Papers of Helen Curl Harris, an African American hairdresser from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
**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**

Purchase, 2004.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Helen Curl Harris papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by Elizabeth Russey, August 23, 2006.

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### **Collection Description**

#### **Biographical Note**

Helen Curl Harris was an African American hairdresser and business owner from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Skidmore Vocation School and the Philadelphia Charm and

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Model School. Harris operated several businesses in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, including Curl's Beautyrama, Curl's Beauty Salon and Charm Service, and Curl's Moderne Beautyrama, and created her own line of make-up and hair products.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains papers of Helen Curl Harris from 1936-1980. The papers include certificates, financial material, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed material. The majority of the collection concerns Harris's Philadelphia-based wig salons and charm schools including a small number of receipts, correspondence, rubber stamps, and newspaper clippings containing advertising material for Harris's businesses. The collection also contains a number of signed and unsigned photographs of Ella Fitzgerald, who purchased wigs from Harris; printed material and a church fan related to African American social and civic organizations in Philadelphia; beauty catalogues and magazines concerning African American beauty culture; photographs of Harris's hairstyling, and two cigarette lighters from Skidmore Vocational School. The collection also includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs related to Harris's lawyer Judge Raymond Pace Alexander.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Certificates and licenses, 1953-1960
1	2	Correspondence, 1944-1966
1	3	Correspondence, undated
1	4	Financial records, 1938-1947
1	5	Marriage license, Helen Curl and Al Wesley Harris, 1947
1	6	Newspaper clippings, 1957-1968
1	7	Photographs, Alexander, Raymond and Sadie Marshall Alexander
1	8	Photographs, Curl's Beautyrama
1	9	Photograph, Dupree, Alberta
1	10	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl
1	11	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl and Ella Fitzgerald
1	12	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl and others
1	13	Photographs, headshots of hairstyles [1 of 2]
1	14	Photographs, headshots of hairstyles [2 of 2]
1	15	Photographs, Helen Curl product line, 1964[?]
2	1	Photographs, wigs [1 of 3]
2	2	Photographs, wigs [2 of 3]
2	3	Photographs, wigs [3 of 3]
2	4	Photographs, unidentified

### Printed material

2	5	Catalog, "An Album of Hair-Do's for Faces that Go Places," Harlem Hair Modes, New York, 1948
2	6	Church fan, Hankins Funeral Home, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2	7	Curl's Beauty Salon and Charm Service
2	8	Curl's Moderne Beautyrama
2	9	Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener
2	10	Invitation, The Association of Business and Professional Women of Philadelphia and Vicinity, January 13, 1956
2	11	Invitation, Downpour of Glamour in Fashion, East Germantown "I-B" Club, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1956
2	12	Invitation, Annual Ball, Pyramid Club of Philadelphia, April 13, 1956
2	13	Invitation, Glamour Logue, Vera Gunn's Models of Philadelphia, May 20, 1956
2	13	Invitation, La Grande Fete, The Citizens Venerating Committee, July 14-15, 1956
2	14	Invitation, 5th Annual Charity Jamboree, Los Hermanos, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1956

- 2 15 Invitation, May Elizabeth Alexander and Melvin Frank Brown's wedding, September 28, 1957
- 2 16 Invitation, Sixth Annual Fashion Classic Top Rung, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1960
- 2 17 Invitation, First Annual Dinner for Heritage House, Philadelphia Cotillion Society, May 27, 1960
- 2 18 Invitation, Ella Fitzgerald and Emily Miles Luncheon and Fashion Show, Merchantville, New Jersey, November 17, 1962
- 2 19 Invitation, Women's Campaign Fund Luncheon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1980
- 2 20 Invitation, Silver Anniversary Soiree, Traveleers Civic-Social Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1980
- 2 21 Invitation, Curl's Charm Matinee Service, undated
- 2 22 Invitation, Xquisite Xtravaganza New Year's Eve, United Civic Organizations, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, undated
- 2 23 Helen Curl Cosmetics
- 2 24 LaVerne's Moderne Beautyrama
- 2 25 Magazine, "Beauty Trade," New York, July 1958, January 1962, February 1962, March 1964, 1968, 1974
- 2 26 Magazine, "Fashion Show Case Magazine," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, undated
- 2 27 Magazine, "Flaire," April 1962
- 2 28 Magazine, "Gold Medal of Sheepshead Bay, Carnival of Beauty," undated
- 2 29 Magazine, "New Beauty and Glamour with Hair Creations," Humania Hair Goods and Specialty Company, New York, 1961
- 2 30 Magazine, "Valmour Hair Styles, Chicago, 1966
- 2 31 Newspaper, "The Beauty World," July 1956
- 2 32 Poster, Hair Strate Permanent
- 2 33 Poster, Nulox Corporation
- 3 1 Program, Amethyst Cross of Malta, Philadelphia Cotillion Society, December 30, 1955
- 3 2 Program, Emily Miles, Ewing Park Community Club, Trenton, New Jersey, March 4, 1956
- 3 3 Program, Fashion Extravaganza, Fai-Ho-Cha Club, Trenton, New Jersey, March 25, 1956
- 3 4 Program, Glamour League, Curl's Matinee Charm Service, May 20, 1956
- 3 5 Program, Miss Sepia Philadelphia Contest, November 29, 1956
- 3 6 Program, Mother's Day, Hamilton Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California, May 12, 1957
- 3 7 Program, 4th Annual Seashore Cabaret and Dance, Oldtimers 30 Year Club of Philadelphia, July 13, 1958

- 3 8 Program, Ebony's Symphony in Fashions, National Urban League Guild, New York, October 2, 1960
- 3 9 Program, Greater St. Matthew Independent Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1960
- 3 10 Program, Second Annual Banquet, Philadelphia Business League, March 15, 1961
- 3 11 Program, Show of Shows, Helen Curl and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1964
- 3 12 Program, Musical Fiesta Tea and Fashion Show, Zonta Social Club, Stephen Smith Home for the Aged, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 14, 1965
- 3 13 Program, Community Cooperation Dinner Honoring James Farmer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 10, 1969
- 3 14 Program, 25th Celebration, Greater St. Matthew Independent Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1975
- 3 15 Program, Volunteers in Aid of Sickle Cell Anemia, 13th Annual Luncheon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 31, 1971
- 3 16 Yearbook, Alamo Beauty School, Wichita, Kansas, 1945

**Ephemera**

- 3 17 Skidmore Vocational School cigarette lighters
- 3 18 Rubber stamps
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