KARAMU HOUSE.
Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1925-2007

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Karamu House.
Title: Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1925-2007
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1236
Extent: 8.25 linear feet (17 boxes), 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP), and 1 bound volume (BV)
Abstract: Collection of material related to the Karamu House, a neighborhood settlement that was nationally known for its dedication to interracial theater and the arts. The collection includes correspondence, programs, playscripts, reports, clippings, and interviews.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

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

Related Materials in Other Repositories
Russell and Rowena Jelliffe papers and the Karamu House records, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

Related Materials in This Repository
Additional Karamu Theatre playscripts may be found in the Billops-Hatch Archives at Emory University.

Source
Gift, 2002.

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Custodial History
Forms part of the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, unknown.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
The Karamu House (Cleveland, Ohio) is a neighborhood settlement that became nationally known for its dedication to interracial theater and the arts. It was founded in 1915 by two young white social workers, Rowena Jelliffe and Russell Jelliffe, with the support of the Second Presbyterian Church, but it soon was popularly known as the Playhouse Settlement. The Jelliffes began producing plays with interracial casts in 1917. In 1920, they sponsored the Dumas Dramatic Club, which was renamed the Gilpin Players, after the noted black actor Charles Gilpin in 1922. A theater was acquired adjacent to the settlement in 1927 and named "Karamu," Swahili for "a place of joyful meeting," a name adopted by the entire settlement in 1941.

Scope and Content Note
The collection contains material related to the Karamu House and Theatre from 1925-2007. This artificially created collection created by James V. Hatch and Camille Billops contains correspondence, programs, play scripts, reports, clippings, and interviews related to the Karamu House and the Karamu Theatre.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
# Container List

## Correspondence

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## History/Reports/Studies

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**Personal papers**

| 3 | 2 | Jelliffe, Rowena W. and Russell W., 1925-1992 |
| 3 | 3 | Spivey, Terrence, 1990-2006 |

**Interviews**

| 3 | 4 | Rowena, Jelliffe, April 25, 1961 [Interviewer Reuben Silver] |
| 3 | 5 | Rowena, Jelliffe and Russell Jelliffe, May 21, 1961 [Radio Station WABQ] |
| 3 | 6 | Rowena, Jelliffe, April 23, 1977 [Interviewer Gail Cohen] |
| 3 | 7 | Roger Furman, January 7-10, 1978 [Interviewer Carmen Bell] |
| 3 | 8 | Rowena, Jelliffe, December 30, 1982 [Interviewer Gail Cohen] |

**Printed material**

| 4 | 1 | Gilpin Players: Brochures, 1938-1940 |
| 4 | 2 | Gilpin Players: Clippings, 1930-1947 |
| 4 | 3 | Gilpin Players: Programs, 6th-19th Seasons, 1924?-1940 |
| 4 | 4 | Annual Report, 1983-1984 |
| OP1 | 1 | Blueprints, Karamu Theatre, no date |
| 4 | 5 | Book and Magazine Lists about Karamu House, 1925-1961 |
| 4 | 6 | Brochures: Activity Schedules, 1958-1996 |
| 4 | 7 | Brochures: General, undated-1986 |
| 4 | 8 | Brochures: Season Guides, circa 1958-2004 |
| OP2 | - | Certificate: Junior Women’s League Special Award (Cleveland, Ohio), November 21, 1964 |
| 4 | 9 | Clippings, 1941-1982 |
| 4 | 10 | Clippings, 2003-2006 |
| 4 | 11 | Fliers, 1974-2003 |
| 4 | 14 | Photograph, no date |
| 4 | 15 | Season Production Lists, 1955-1974 |
| 4 | 16 | Souvenir Book, Karamu House, 75th Anniversary, 1991 |

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15 11 Shaik, Haleemon V., *House of Eternal Darkness*
15 12 Shine, Theodis, *The Bats out of Hell*
15 13 Shokunbi, Mae Gleaton, *Dream Dust*
15 14 Sklar and Peters, *Stevedore*
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16 3  Stephens, Nan Bagby, *Karamu*
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16 8  Unidentified Karamu
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17 2  Worthington, Walter Coslou, *Pilgrimage*
17 3  Yamazaki, Masakazu, Zeami, 1964
17 4  Zalk, Mark, *Litany for the Man*, 1964

**Scrapbook**

BV1  Gilpin Players and Other Theatre Productions, 1928-1930