

**LARKIN, JOHN, 1882-1936.**  
**"Jolly" John Larkin scrapbook, circa 1914-1932**

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

**Creator:** Larkin, John, 1882-1936.  
**Title:** "Jolly" John Larkin scrapbook, circa 1914-1932  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 858  
**Extent:** 1 oversized bound volume (OBV)  
**Abstract:** Scrapbook relating to African American entertainer Jolly John Larkin including movie reviews, printed material, and other ephemera relating to Larkin's vaudeville performances including those with the Dandy Dixie Minstrels.  
**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, 2000.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], "Jolly" John Larkin scrapbook, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Paula E. Knight, June 14, 2001.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

"Jolly" John Larkin or Larkins (1882-1936) was the stage name for John Larkin Smith, a vaudeville performer and actor born in Norfolk, Virginia. Known in vaudeville as "The Rajah of Mirth" and "The Funniest Colored Comedian in the World," Larkin headed the Dandy Dixie Minstrels in the 1920s. Larkin successfully transitioned to the screen in 1931 starring in *Smart Money*, *Sporting Blood*, and *Alexander Hamilton*. As a movie actor, Larkin became known as the "highest paid Negro actor in Hollywood." His last role, before his death in 1936, was in MGM's *The Great Ziegfeld*.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of a scrapbook relating to Jolly John Larkin from ca. 1914-1932. The scrapbook includes movie reviews, programs, advertisements, newspaper clippings, and announcements, as well as broadsides and other ephemera relating to Larkin's vaudeville performances including those with the Dandy Dixie Minstrels and his motion picture career.

