



CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

AMELIA COLLINS COLLECTION

95-048

Creator:

Collins, Amelia (dates unknown)

Type of Material:

Photographs, printed materials, and scrapbook pages

Physical Description:

.2 linear foot of manuscript materials housed in 3 folders

Languages:

English

Dates:

1923-1954

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation: (Folder Number/Name), Amelia Collins Collection 95-048, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

The Center for Popular Music purchased this collection from R&A Petrilla in April, 1996.

Arrangement:

The processing archivist created an organization by format.

Subject/Index Terms:

Luckey Roberts
Norman Thomas
Big Band Music
Dance Orchestra Music
Vaudeville
Jazz
Ragtime
Blues
Albert dePina
The Playboys
Trocadero

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

With connections to Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York, Amelia Collins performed widely, even including in Hollywood in the late 1930s. Early 1920s finds Amelia Collins in Chicago before moving. In New York, she performed as “Millie” Collins in the same orbit as Luckey Roberts, with her scrapbook showing numerous entries from the late 1920’s performing with the Norman Thomas Quintet (or Quintette), including at the New York Palace, and appearing in the “The Vaudeville News” in the *New York Star*. After New York, items reflect her time in Hollywood performing in “Lamiel & the Playboys” and receiving mail as “Lamiel” at the Trocadero, from Chicago-based screenwriter Albert De Pina. The Playboys were a popular music and vocal act at the Trocadero, even doing radio broadcasts and swing concerts in Southern California. A piano recital, at the Steinway Concert Hall, by students of Amelia Collins in 1954 references her work as a music teacher back in New York City, with this collection coming from a book-dealer in New Jersey.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of photographs and personal memorabilia of singer Amelia “Millie” Collins as well as other musicians and singers with whom she may have been associated.

Collection Contents:

The collection contains three folders:

1. Photographs
From the original finding aid: “The photographs include black and white images of Amelia Collins and other musicians and singers she may have been associated with. Also included is a souvenir photograph from a Chicago dining and dancing club.”
Eleven (11) black and white prints:

- 5x7 of young woman posing in flapper dress read “To my Dear ‘Sister’ Millie from Idazelle, 10/3/26.”
- 8x10 of Amelia & The Playboys, 1938
- (3) prints of unidentified people
- 8x10 cropped print of unidentified woman
- 8x10 of Amelia Collins at the piano
- 5x7 print of Amelia Collins and unidentified woman at Daves’s Café in Chicago.
- (2) prints of young girl
- 8x10 print of Amelia Collins dressed in Southern belle costume from Blum’s Studio, in Philadelphia.

2. Scrapbook

From the original finding aid: “The memorabilia also includes a complete theatre program, five newspaper clippings reviewing performances, a performance advertisement, a stage performance contest review, a freight receipt, and the masthead from a vaudeville newspaper.”

- Luggage Receipt, February 1925
- Palace Theatre Program Magazine, May 14, 1928
- Newspaper Previews, May 12-15, 1928

3. Printed materials

From the original finding aid: “Personal memorabilia includes a concert program, an employment agency deposit receipt, a voucher, a business card, a personal letter, a piece of sheet music, and a private advertisement for music lessons.”

- Personal Letter, August 19, 1938, from Albert de Pina, Chicago, to Mademoiselle Lamiel, at The Trocadero in Hollywood, California.
- Business Card of “C. Luckeyeth Roberts (Luckey) and His Society Entertainers” in New York
- Voucher for “Chaun’s School of Dancing” 1928
- La Salle Employment Agency, Chicago, for \$5.00 dollars for Amelia Collins as Cook, 1923
- Program for “Piano Recital by Students of Amelia Collins” June 13th, 1954, Steinway Concert Hall, New York
- Sheet Music for “Copper Colored Gal” copyright 1936, with handwritten “Lamiel” under title
- Advertisement: “Music Lessons, Fun for the Children, Joy for the Adult” references guitar, organ, piano, harmony theory, sight-singing and sight-reading with Amelia Collins.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

All materials are cataloged together.

Location:

This collection is filed by accession number with other manuscript groups.

Related Materials:

The business card of “C. Luckeyeth Roberts” (also spelled “Luckyth” or “Luckeyth”) references her connection to famous composer of ragtime, blues, and jazz, the stride pianist Luckey Roberts. His work appears with sheet music in two edited volumes of piano music in Rare Books: SP-091414 and SP-091304. Luckey Roberts appears also in recordings in Commercial Sound Recordings: “Jimmie Lunceford. Vol. 5, “Jimmie's legacy” (1934-1937).” MCA 1320 MCA Records, and “Luckey Roberts - Ragtime King,” FS 304 Everest Records.

Finding aid written by Jon Sewell, June 2026, incorporating notes from the original unattributed finding aid.