Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/mbrsrs.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2019624251

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/eadmbrs.rs019009

Author: David Jackson
Finding aid encoded by David Jackson, 2019
Collection Summary
Title: Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection
Inclusive Dates: 1931-2006
Bulk Dates: 1956-1972
Creator: Weisbecker, Kurt, 1963-
Textual materials: 0.8 linear feet (3 boxes, approximately 350 items)
Language: Collection materials are in English
Location: Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2019624251
Summary: The Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection consists of correspondence, greeting cards, photographs, and other material highlighting the relationship between Pittsburgh-area jazz fans/collectors Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford, and notable jazz performers from the 1950's and 1960s.
Location: RPA 03100-03101 (boxes 1-2); RPB 00240 (oversize box 3)

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Abdoo, Glenda, 1923-1983.
Avakian, George.
Barnet, Charlie.
Caceres, Ernie.
Carlyle, Russ.
Crawford, Ken.
Davern, Kenny.
Duffy, William.
Letman, Johnny.
McRae, Carmen.
Millar, Jack.
Parenti, Tony, 1900-1972.
Powell, Rudy, 1907-1976.
Rushing, Jimmy.
Weisbecker, Kurt, 1963- collector.

Subjects
Collectors and collecting--United States.
Jazz musicians--United States.

Places
Pittsburgh (Pa.)

Titles
Kurt Weisbecker collection

Form/Genre
Christmas cards.
Correspondence.
Discographies.
New Year cards.
Photographs.
Publishers' catalogs.

Collection Acquisition

Acquired by gift of Kurt Weisbecker, April 2019.

Accruals

No further additions to the collection are expected.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by David Jackson in 2019.

Materials Cataloged Separately

Sound recordings from the Kurt Weisbecker collection have been incorporated into the general commercial disc collections of the Library of Congress Recorded Sound Section. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Record Catalogs

Record catalogs from the Kurt Weisbecker collection have been incorporated into the general Record Catalog file of the Library of Congress Recorded Sound Section. Among the catalogs are the following:

- Brunswick Records monthly releases:
  - 1936: March, November
  - 1937: January, April, [June], [October]
  - 1938: [February], [April], [July], August, September, November
- Columbia Records monthly releases:
  - 1928: June-July
  - 1930: supplementary catalogue
  - 1935: May, July
  - 1936: April, July
  - 1938: [February], [April], [July], August, September, November
- Columbia quick reference list
- The gift of lasting pleasure: Columbia LP records
- Edison Records monthly releases:
  - 1927: September-December
  - 1928: January-June, August, December
  - 1930: supplementary catalogue
  - 1935: May, July
  - 1936: April, July
  - 1938: [February], [April], [July], August, September, November
- The new Edison needle records
- Edison records: alphabetically arranged
- Melotone Records monthly releases:
  - 1936: April-May, August, November-December
  - 1937: January
  - 1938: [February]
• Perfect Records monthly releases:
  • 1934: February-December
  • 1935: January, April-June, August-December
  • 1936: January, April, June-December
  • 1937: February-June, August, October-December
  • 1938: January, March
• Vocalion Records monthly releases:
  • 1936: April, June, August, November
  • 1937: January, March, undated
  • 1938: March, May, August, November
  • 1939: March-May

For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Use Restrictions

Restrictions may exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the collection. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access Restrictions

The Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection is open for research. Advance notice is required; contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Glenda Abdoo (1923-1983) and Ken Crawford (1925-2006) were wife-and-husband jazz fans and record collectors. Glenda maintained personal friendships with many notable jazz performers from the 1930s, most notably Billie Holiday. From the 1950s, Glenda and Ken served as local hosts to jazz artists visiting the Pittsburgh area.

Kurt Weisbecker (born April 9, 1963) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a record collector and semi-professional jazz trumpeter. He's written over two dozen songs and recorded albums with performers including Joe Negri. He produced and composed liner notes for two Isham Jones compact discs.

Scope and Content Note

The Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection consists of correspondence, greeting cards, photographs, and other material highlighting the relationship between Pittsburgh-area jazz fans/collectors Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford, and notable jazz performers from the 1950's and 1960s.
Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 3 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1956-2006
- Series 2: Photographs, 1940s-1995
- Series 3: Miscellany, 1931-1977
Description of Series

Container       Series

**Series 1. Correspondence, 1956-2006**
Consists primarily of correspondence and greeting cards exchanged between Glenda Abdoo, Ken Crawford, and various jazz performers.
Arranged by date.

**Series 2. Photographs, 1940s-1995**
Consists primarily of photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo with various jazz performers.
Arranged by subject.

**Series 3. Miscellany, 1931-1977**
Includes Billie Holiday material originally kept with the Glenda Abdoo--Jack Millar correspondence.
Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<td><strong>Series 1. Correspondence, 1956-2006</strong></td>
<td>Consists primarily of correspondence and greeting cards exchanged between Glenda Abdoo, Ken Crawford, and various jazz performers. Arranged by date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOX-FOLDER 1/1**  
Glenda Abdoo correspondence, 1956-1972  
George Avakian, 1956-10-09  
Clark [Terry?], postmarked 1958-06-19  
Tony Parenti, 1958-11-02  
Johnny Letman, postmarked 1958-12-10  
Ken Davern, 1960-03-28  
Ernie Caceres, 1961-05-15  
Ernie Caceres, 1961-05-26  
Tony Parenti, circa 1962-04-02  
Announcement card for Tony Parenti's engagement at Eddie Condon's Club in New York City.  
John Bajo, 1965-06-24  
Rudy Powell, 1965-09-09  
Rudy Powell, 1965-09-13  
Rudy Powell, 1965-10-21  
Rudy Powell, 1965-11-30  
Benny Moten, 1965-12-11  
Ernie Caceres, postmarked 1966-12-31  
Ernie Caceres, postmarked 1968-01-09  
Carmen McRae, 1972-05-17  
Postcards, 1959-1965  
Correspondents include Pete Brown, Ken Davern, Johnny Letman, Rudy Powell.  

**BOX-FOLDER 1/2**  
Glenda Abdoo correspondence from James Rushing, 1957-1964  
James Rushing, 1957-04-29  
James Rushing, 1957-06-14  
James Rushing, 1957-08-24  
James Rushing, 1957-11-19  
James Rushing, 1958-02-11  
James Rushing, 1958-06-16  
James Rushing, 1958-09-23  
James Rushing, 1959-01-31  
James Rushing, 1959-06-04  
James Rushing, 1959-09-03  
James Rushing, Christmas 1959  
James Rushing, 1960-02-19  
James Rushing, 1960-05-01  
James Rushing, 1960-06-23  

Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection
Series 1. Correspondence, 1956-2006

Container Contents

James Rushing, 1960-11-14
James Rushing, 1961-01-16
James Rushing, 1961-08-04
James Rushing, 1962-05-17
James Rushing, 1962-10-26
James Rushing, 1963-03-19
James Rushing, 1963-04-17
James Rushing, 1963-06-21
James Rushing, 1964-06-14
James Rushing, 1964-12-07

BOX-FOLDER 1/3 Glenda Abdoo correspondence with Jack Millar regarding Billie Holiday, 1968
See also the Billie Holiday discography, and the "Lady Day Sang the Blues" article, both originally filed with this correspondence.
Jack Millar, 1968-06-08
Jack Millar, 1968-06-27
Jack Millar's want list of Billie Holiday records, postmarked 1968-06-30
Jack Millar, 1969-01-27

BOX-FOLDER 1/4 Correspondence from Pete Brown, 1959, 1962
Pete Brown, 1959-12-10
Letter sent courtesy of Mrs. Walter Page.
Pete Brown, 1962-06-29

BOX-FOLDER 1/5 Ken Crawford correspondence, 1965-1999
Correspondence sent to to Ken Crawford from various correspondents.
James Rushing, 1965-12-07
Charlie Barnet, 1977-04-25
Russ Carlyle, 1977-09-29
Letter from Walter Scott to Ken Crawford accompanying photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo, 1979-09-13
Eugene Miller, 1998-09-21
Bill Thompson, 1999-02-26

BOX-FOLDER 1/6 Letter from Ken Crawford's sister Dee Dee (Collette Matthews) to Kurt Weisbecker, 2006-06-02

BOX 2 Holiday greeting cards received by Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford
Correspondents include Buster Bailey, Blue Lu Barker, Count Basie, Harry Carney, Ken Davern, Wilbur De Paris, Vic Dickenson, Duke Ellington, Al Hall, Benny Moten, Tony Parenti, Rudy Powell, James Rushing, Zutty and Marge Singleton, and George Wettling.

Series 2. Photographs, 1940s-1995
Consists primarily of photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo with various jazz performers.
Arranged by subject.

BOX-FOLDER 1/7 Photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo, 1940s
3 photographic prints : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white
Ken Crawford in automobile driver's seat
Ken Crawford with sister Dee Dee's boyfriend and dog
Glenda Abdoo with her first husband and and unidentified man and woman

BOX-FOLDER 1/8 Photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo, 1960s-1995
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford, 1960s</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 3.5 x 5 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign for &quot;Digging the Sounds&quot; at the Record Club with Ken Crawford, circa 1965</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 3.5 x 5 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford's cat, A.T. (All That) Jazz, sitting next to speaker, 1960s</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 3.5 x 5 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. T. Jazz lying next to turntable, 1960s</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 3.5 x 5 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenda Abdoo with unidentified man, undated</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 5.25 x 7.25 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with Dick Rachelson and unidentified man, undated</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 4 x 6 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford at Howard's room, Toronto, 1995-04-29</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 4 x 6 inches; color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</td>
<td>Photo souvenirs from Bill Green's casino and terrace gardens, Pittsburgh, 1940s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 photographic prints: 5 x 7 inches; black and white</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with sister Dee Dee and 4 unidentified men and women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with sister Dee Dee's boyfriend and 2 unidentified women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with unidentified woman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</td>
<td>Photo souvenirs from Vogue Terrace, 1940s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 photographic prints: 5 x 7 inches; black and white</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with unidentified man and 2 unidentified women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford with unidentified woman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</td>
<td>Photographs of musicians, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Gray</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 8 x 10 inches; black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woody Herman</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 7 x 8 inches; black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pee Wee Hunt</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 8 x 10 inches; black and white</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marian McPartland</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 8 x 10 inches; black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Parenti</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 8 x 10 inches; black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artie Shaw</td>
<td>1 photographic print: 7 x 8.5 inches; black and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/12</td>
<td>Photographs of Duke Ellington with Ken Crawford and other persons, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 photographic prints: 8 x 10 inches; color</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</td>
<td>Photographs of bands, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 photographic prints: 5 x 7 inches; black and white</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benny Goodman [orchestra]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Piccadilly Players and Singers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/14</td>
<td>Photographs of Jack Teagarden Sextet and the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra performing together at the Bali Kea club, Brentwood, Pennsylvania, 1954-12-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 photographic prints: 8 x 10 inches; black and white</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;On Monday December 12 the Dorsey crew was heading to a Tuesday date for two concerts in Aliquippa, a suburb northwest of Pittsburgh. While passing through Brentwood...&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Borough, just south of Pittsburgh Tommy spotted a sign in front of the Bali Key Night Club promoting Jack Teagarden and his band. Stopping the bus, Tommy and the entire band poured into the club. Spotted by Jack, Tommy made some short remarks in which he pays the ultimate tribute to Teagarden: 'I've been copying him since 1928 and never came close.' As the Teagarden band concluded, Tommy ordered the band's music stands and instruments brought in and the Dorsey band made an appearance, which Tommy led but but he didn't play trombone in deference to Jack." Robert Stockdale. The Dorsey Brothers: That's It!, 300.

Musicians present at the event include Jack Teagarden (tb), Ray Bauduc (d), Tommy Turk (tb), Johnny Costa (p), Kass Malone (sb), Lee Castle (tp), Buddy Rich (d), Bob Carter (sb), Fred Greenleaf (tp), Harry Pierce, Harry Bosh, Tommy Dorsey (tb), Kenny Davern (cl), and Jimmy Dorsey (sax). The Teagarden band members are dressed in white. Also present in the photographs are Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoo.

See also article in Pittsburgh Press Roto Magazine.

BOX-FOLDER 1/15 Four unidentified children sitting on sofa, undated
1 photographic print : 2.75 x 3.75 inches ; black and white

Series 3. Miscellany, 1931-1977
Includes Billie Holiday material originally kept with the Glenda Abdoo--Jack Millar correspondence.

BOX-FOLDER 1/16 "Lady Day Sang the Blues" article by William Dufty
Copy and proofs for a reprint of William Dufty's article "Lady Day Sang the Blues," originally written on the day of Billie Holiday's death, July 17, 1959.

BOX-FOLDER 1/17 Billie Holiday discography, compiled circa 1968
Apparently compiled by Jack Millar for Brian Rust's Jazz Records discography, and sent to Glenda Abdoo in correspondence.

BOX-FOLDER 1/18 Index of Plaza/ARC recordings listed in Brian Rust's American Dance Band Discography, 1917-1942; compiled by John and Ross Wilby

BOX-FOLDER 1/19 Magazines and pamphlets
RCA Radiotron Radio Log, 1931
His Master's Voice, vol. III, no. 7, 1943-07
Music Views, 1956-03
Storyville 59, 1975-06--1976-07

BOX-FOLDER 3/1 Down Beat, vol. 4, no. 8, 1937-08

BOX-FOLDER 3/2 The Pittsburgh Press Roto Magazine, 1955-01-02
Contains article describing the Jack Teagarden--Tommy Dorsey jam session from December 12, 1954. See photographs.

BOX-FOLDER 3/3 "New life for U.S. jazz: young innovators share boom with old hands" photo essay by Eliot Elisofon, from Life magazine, 1955-01-17


BOX-FOLDER 1/20 Newspaper clippings
"Can the Saints improve upon perfection?" The Globe and Mail, Toronto, Ontario, 1965-09-08
"Whiteman, King of Jazz, dies at 76," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1967-12-30
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/21</td>
<td>Want ad for record catalogs placed by collector Tim Brooks, <em>Collectors News</em>, 1977-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ephemera, 1940, 1958, and undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>