

**Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker
collection**



**National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019**

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

Author: David Jackson

Finding aid encoded by David Jackson, 2019
Revised 2023-03

Collection Summary

Title: Glenda Abdoo and Ken Crawford papers fro the Kurt Weisbecker collectionm

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 Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, 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.

Brown, Pete, 1906-1963.

Caceres, Ernie.

Carlyle, Russ.

Crawford, Ken.

Davern, Kenny.

Dufty, William.

Holiday, Billie, 1915-1959.

Letman, Johnny.

McRae, Carmen.

Millar, Jack.

Moten, Benny, 1916-1977.

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 Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, 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 Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, 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 Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access Restrictions

The Glenda Abdoe 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 Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, 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 Abdoe and Ken Crawford papers from the Kurt Weisbecker collection, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Glenda Abdoe (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 Abdoe 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 Abdoe 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 Abdo, Ken Crawford, and various jazz performers.

Arranged by date.

Series 2. Photographs, 1940s-1995

Consists primarily of photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdo with various jazz performers.

Arranged by subject.

Series 3. Miscellany, 1931-1977

Includes Billie Holiday material originally kept with the Glenda Abdo--Jack Millar correspondence.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------------|--|
| | <p>Series 1. Correspondence, 1956-2006</p> <p>Consists primarily of correspondence and greeting cards exchanged between Glenda Abdo, Ken Crawford, and various jazz performers. Arranged by date.</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | <p>Glenda Abdo correspondence, 1956-1972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">George Avakian, 1956-10-09Clark [Terry?], postmarked 1958-06-19Tony Parenti, 1958-11-02Johnny Letman, postmarked 1958-12-10Ken Davern, 1960-03-28Ernie Caceres, 1961-05-15Ernie Caceres, 1961-05-26Tony Parenti, circa 1962-04-02Announcement card for Tony Parenti's engagement at Eddie Condon's Club in New York City.John Bajo, 1965-06-24Rudy Powell, 1965-09-09Rudy Powell, 1965-09-13Rudy Powell, 1965-10-21Rudy Powell, 1965-11-30Benny Moten, 1965-12-11Ernie Caceres, postmarked 1966-12-31Ernie Caceres, postmarked 1968-01-09Carmen McRae, 1972-05-17Postcards, 1959-1965 <p>Correspondents include Pete Brown, Ken Davern, Johnny Letman, Rudy Powell.</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | <p>Glenda Abdo correspondence from James Rushing, 1957-1964</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">James Rushing, 1957-04-29James Rushing, 1957-06-14James Rushing, 1957-08-24James Rushing, 1957-11-19James Rushing, 1958-02-11James Rushing, 1958-06-16James Rushing, 1958-09-23James Rushing, 1959-01-31James Rushing, 1959-06-04James Rushing, 1959-09-03James Rushing, Christmas 1959James Rushing, 1960-02-19James Rushing, 1960-05-01James Rushing, 1960-06-23 |

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 Abdoos 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 Abdoos , 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 Abdoos 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 Abdoos with various jazz performers. Arranged by subject. | |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | Photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoos, 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 Abdoos with her first husband and an unidentified man and woman |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | Photographs of Ken Crawford and Glenda Abdoos, 1960s-1995 |

Series 2. Photographs, 1940s-1995

Container

Contents

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| | Ken Crawford, 1960s |
| | 1 photographic print : 3.5 x 5 inches ; color |
| | Sign for "Digging the Sounds" at the Record Club with Ken Crawford, circa 1965 |
| | 1 photographic print : 3.5 x 5 inches ; color |
| | Ken Crawford's cat, A.T. (All That) Jazz, sitting next to speaker, 1960s |
| | 1 photographic print : 3.5 x 5 inches ; color |
| | A. T. Jazz lying next to turntable, 1960s |
| | 1 photographic print : 3.5 x 5 inches ; color |
| | Glenda Abdoos with unidentified man, undated |
| | 1 photographic print : 5.25 x 7.25 inches ; color |
| | Ken Crawford with Dick Rachelson and unidentified man, undated |
| | 1 photographic print : 4 x 6 inches ; color |
| | Ken Crawford at Howard's room, Toronto, 1995-04-29 |
| | 1 photographic print : 4 x 6 inches ; color |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | Photo souvenirs from Bill Green's casino and terrace gardens, Pittsburgh, 1940s |
| | 3 photographic prints : 5 x 7 inches ; black and white |
| | Ken Crawford with sister Dee Dee and 4 unidentified men and women |
| | Ken Crawford with sister Dee Dee's boyfriend and 2 unidentified women |
| | Ken Crawford with unidentified woman |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | Photo souvenirs from Vogue Terrace, 1940s |
| | 3 photographic prints : 5 x 7 inches ; black and white |
| | Ken Crawford with unidentified man and and 2 unidentified women |
| | Ken Crawford with unidentified woman |
| | Ken Crawford with unidentified woman |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | Photographs of musicians, undated |
| | Glen Gray |
| | 1 photographic print : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white |
| | Woody Herman |
| | 1 photographic print : 7 x 8 inches ; black and white |
| | Pee Wee Hunt |
| | 1 photographic print : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white |
| | Marian McPartland |
| | 1 photographic print : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white |
| | Tony Parenti |
| | 1 photographic print : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white |
| | Artie Shaw |
| | 1 photographic print : 7 x 8.5 inches ; black and white |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | Photographs of Duke Ellington with Ken Crawford and other persons, undated |
| | 3 photographic prints : 8 x 10 inches ; color |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/13 | Photographs of bands, undated |
| | 2 photographic prints : 5 x 7 inches ; black and white |
| | Benny Goodman [orchestra] |
| | Piccadilly Players and Singers |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | Photographs of Jack Teagarden Sextet and the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra performing together at the Bali Kea club, Brentwood, Pennsylvania, 1954-12-12 |
| | 10 photographic prints : 8 x 10 inches ; black and white |
| | "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 |

Series 2. Photographs, 1940s-1995

Container

Contents

Borough, just south of Pittsburgh Tommy spotted a sign in front of the Bali Key [sic] 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 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 Abdo.

[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 Abdo--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 Abdo 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
The Capitol News from Hollywood, vol. 5, no. 3, 1947-03
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 3/4

The Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh's Family Magazine, 1965-08-15

BOX-FOLDER 1/20

Newspaper clippings
"Billie Holiday dies here at 44; jazz singer had wide influence," *New York Times*, 1959-07-18
"3,000 at funeral of Billie Holiday," *New York Times*, 1959-07-22
"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
"Rocking at the cradle of New York jazz," *Los Angeles Times*, 1971-11-28

Series 3. Miscellany, 1931-1977

Container

Contents

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| BOX-FOLDER 1/21 | Want ad for record catalogs placed by collector Tim Brooks, <i>Collectors News</i> , 1977-07 Ephemera, 1940, 1958, and undated |
|------------------------|---|