

Sam Vinegar Collection

Finding aid prepared by Holly Stevens

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
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Summary Information

Repository	Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
Title	Sam Vinegar Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1940-1960
Date [inclusive]	1900-1980
Extent	8.5 Cubic feet 3 Archive Boxes; 5 Oversize Boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The Sam Vinegar Collection contains formal mounted images from Africa, an African postcard series, the Harold "Beans" Bowles collection of both signed and unsigned publicity photos of African American performers, miscellaneous certificates / letters /clippings, professional prints of schoolhouses, offices and construction sites, snapshots covering several decades, stereocards from India and Israel, and several scrapbooks.

Biography

Sam Vinegar was the owner of Classic Camera in the Detroit area. He dealt in used camera equipment and photographica. Over many years, Mr. Vinegar amassed items and collections from several local people, of which Thomas "Beans" Bowles was one. "Beans" Bowles was a Detroit jazz musician, Motown bandleader, and Motown Revue chaperone - Stevie Wonder sang at his funeral in 2001.

Scope and Contents note

The Sam Vinegar Collection contains formal mounted images from Africa, an African postcard series, the Harold "Beans" Bowles collection of both signed and unsigned publicity photos of African American performers, miscellaneous certificates / letters /clippings, professional prints of schoolhouses, offices and construction sites, snapshots covering several decades, stereocards from India and Israel, and several scrapbooks.

The Collection is organized in 8 main series of photographic materials, AFRICA, BEANS BOWLES COLLECTION, CERTIFICATES, LETTERS AND CLIPPINGS, PROFESSIONAL PRINTS, SCRAPBOOKS, SNAPSHOTS, PORTRAITS, and STEREOCARDS.

AFRICA contains both mounted photographs and postcards. The BEANS BOWLES COLLECTION series contains stock photographs of African American performers from the 1940s through the 1980s, many of them are signed to "Beans." They are arranged alphabetically.

The CERTIFICATES, LETTERS, and CLIPPINGS series contains three items, a letter from the city of Detroit, a certificate from Medium's Daily Readings and a clipping regarding Charles Pruitt. PROFESSIONAL PRINTS is further subdivided into Churches, Construction, Offices and Schools.

The SCRAPBOOK series contains eleven scrapbooks, four of which belong to B. D. Turpin, the rest of which are mid-century albums whose owners are unknown. The SNAPSHOT series is organized chronologically by decade and then by location, musicians, publicity photographs, and negatives. The PORTRAITS series is arranged much like the previous series, chronologically and then by type. Specifically, family portraits, funerary, group portraits, military and organizations.

The STEREOCARD series includes a box of stereocards from India and Israel.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Commodores.
- Contours.
- Four Tops.
- Marvelettes.
- Motown Record Corporation.

Geographic Name(s)

- Africa
- Detroit (Mich.)
- India

Personal Name(s)

- Bowles, Harold
- Bowles, Thomas "Beans", Dr.
- Gaye, Marvin, 1939-1984
- Knight, Gladys, 1944 -
- Reeves, Martha

Subject(s)

- African American dancers
- African American life
- Music, Black.
- Photograph Album

Collection Inventory

Africa - Images		
Africa - Mounted Photographs		Box 1
Africa - Postcards	Box 6	Folder 20-24
Beans Bowles Collection		
Autographed Photographs	Box 2	Folder 1
Bands, Identified	Box 2	Folder 2
Bands, Unidentified	Box 2	Folder 3
Barnes, E.M.	Box 2	Folder 4
Brisker, Bonnie	Box 2	Folder 5
Bowles, Harold	Box 2	Folder 6
Candid Photos	Box 2	Folder 7
Commodores	Box 2	Folder 8
Contours/Basic Elements	Box 2	Folder 9
Female Singers, Identified	Box	Folder

Female Singers, Unidentified

	2	10
Female Singers, Unidentified	Box	Folder
	2	11
Fields, Ernie Sr. and Jr.	Box	Folder
	2	12
The Four Tops	Box	Folder
	2	13
Gaye, Marvin	Box	Folder
	2	14
Girl Groups	Box	Folder
	2	15
King, Dr. Martin Luther, Jr.	Box	Folder
	2	16
Knight, Gladys and the Pips	Box	Folder
	2	17
Lark, Tobi	Box	Folder
	2	18
Male Singing Groups - Identified	Box	Folder
	2	19
Male Singers/Musicians - Identified	Box	Folder
	2	20
Male Singers/Musicians - Unidentified	Box	Folder
	2	21
Marvelettes	Box	Folder
	2	22
Models and Actresses	Box	Folder
	2	23
The Other Brothers Duo	Box	Folder
	2	24
Payne, Freda (autographed)	Box	Folder
	2	25
Promotional Collages	Box	Folder
	2	26

The Puzzles

The Puzzles	Box 2	Folder 27
Reeves, Martha	Box 2	Folder 28
Roberts, Pinkney	Box 2	Folder 29
Robinson, Smokey and the Miracles	Box 2	Folder 30
Sagoe, Sally	Box 2	Folder 31
The Supremes	Box 2	Folder 32
Tate, Margaret	Box 2	Folder 33
The Temptations	Box 2	Folder 34
Til, Sonny/The Orioles (autographed)	Box 2	Folder 35
Waller, Fats	Box 2	Folder 36
Ward, Singing Sammy	Box 2	Folder 37
Wells, Mary	Box 2	Folder 38
Wilson, Nancy	Box 2	Folder 39
Wonder, Stevie (autographed)	Box 2	Folder 40
Wonder, Stevie	Box 2	Folder 41
Certificates/Letters/Clippings		

Detroit Memorial Park Letter

Detroit Memorial Park Letter	Box 2	Folder 42
Medium's Daily Reading Certificate	Box 2	Folder 43
Pruitt, Charles - Clippings	Box 2	Folder 44
Professional Prints		
Churches	Box 3	Folder 1
Construction	Box 3	Folder 2
Offices	Box 3	Folder 3
School	Box 3	Folder 4-5
Scrapbooks		

	Box
B.D. Turpin, book 1, March 1952 - August 1952	4
B.D. Turpin, book 2, August 1952 - November 1952	4
B.D. Turpin, book 3, November 1952 - March 1953	4
B.D. Turpin, book 4, March 1953 - May 1953	4

Snapshots

Black paper scrapbook, missing cover	5
Large Maroon Scrapbook, mid-century	4
Large Off-White Scrapbook, mid-century	4

Loose Page

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials	2	45

Box

Small Brown Scrapbook	5
Yearbook, Southern University, The Cat, 1928	5
Young girl's scrapbook, mid-century	5

Snapshots

	Box	Folder
c. 1900 - 1920	6	1-2
c. 1920's	6	3

c. 1930's

c. 1930's	Box 6	Folder 4
c. 1940's	Box 6	Folder 5-7
c. 1950's Color	Box 6	Folder 8
c. 1949 - 1959 Black and White	Box 6	Folder 9
c. 1950's, Louise and Family	Box 6	Folder 10
c. 1960's, Louise and Family	Box 6	Folder 11
c. 1960's, Black and White	Box 6	Folder 12
c. 1960's, Single Family	Box 6	Folder 13
c. 1960's, Color	Box 6	Folder 14
Locations	Box 6	Folder 15
Musicians	Box 6	Folder 16
Portraits, c. 1920's - 1970's	Box 6	Folder 17
Publicity Photographs	Box 6	Folder 18
Negatives	Box 6	Folder 19
Portraits		
c. 1900's	Box 7	Folder 1

c. 1900 (large format)

c. 1900 (large format)	Box 7	Folder 19
c. 1920's - 1930's	Box 7	Folder 2
c. 1920's - 1930's (large format)	Box 7	Folder 20
Family photos - general	Box 7	Folder 1
Family photos - same couple	Box 7	Folder 2
Family photos - same family	Box 7	Folder 3
Family photos - weddings	Box 7	Folder 4
"Famous Southwest Jubilee Quartette"	Box 7	Folder 5
Funerary photo	Box 7	Folder 6
General - large format	Box 7	Folder 17
Group photos - churches	Box 7	Folder 7
Group photos - Class of 1953	Box 7	Folder 8
Hand Colored photos	Box 7	Folder 9
Informal	Box 7	Folder 3
Military	Box 7	Folder 18
Organizations - Local 410 - husband/wife organizers	Box 7	Folder 10

Organizations - banquets

Organizations - banquets	Box 7	Folder 11
Organizations - group photos, general	Box 7	Folder 12
Organizations - Masons	Box 7	Folder 13
Organizations - meetings, general	Box 7	Folder 14
Organizations - storage area background	Box 7	Folder 15
Organizations - UAW 270 Auxiliary	Box 7	Folder 16
Stereocards		
		Box
Box of stereocards from India and Israel		8