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2020

Guide to the Bo Diddley Track Program at American Society on Aging & the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conferences Collection

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Bo Diddley Track Program Collection for the American Society on Aging & the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conferences, 1993 to present

EXTENT

2 boxes + 4 oversize folders, 2.65 linear feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

The collection, consisting of sound and video recordings, meeting materials, photographs and posters for a program track at the two major gerontological societies annual conferences in the United States, honoring elderly blues musicians: the American Society on Aging and the Gerontological Society of America.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

The collection was processed by Suzanne Flandreau in 2010, with updates by Laurie Lee Moses in 2017, and Heidi Marshall in 2020.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1993 two gerontologists and blues lovers, Michael Marcus and John Migliaccio, decided that there should be sessions at meetings of the two major gerontological societies, the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), to recognize elderly blues musicians and to present them and their concerns. The Bo Diddley program track was named for the major musician who was the presenter at the second session, in San Francisco in 1994. A committee of blues fans among the gerontologists has attempted to keep the track going at one or both societies since 1993 by locating local musicians in the cities where each meeting was held and inviting them to talk at the session. Often the daytime session is followed by an evening concert in a blues club.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Materials from each year are varied and no materials exist for some years. Sometimes the sessions are recorded by the official recording company for the meeting; sometimes the recordings are made by attendees representing the organizers of the program track; sometimes no recordings were made. After 2003 some sessions have posters printed at the primary printer for blues concert posters, Hatch Show Print in Nashville.

Musicians presented at the sessions include Sunnyland Slim, Charles Walton, Bo Diddley, Miss Lavelle White, Mama Laura Mae Gross, Earl Gaines, Roscoe Shelton, Clifford Curry, Robert “H-Bomb” Ferguson, “Weepin’ Willie” Robinson, Wylie Trass, Eddie “Bluesmaster” Watson, Deacon Jones, David “Honeyboy” Edwards, Mary Lane, Tommy Brown, and Sandra Hall.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is in three series

- I. Meeting materials
- II. Media, audio-visual recordings
- III. Posters
- IV. CDs by featured performers

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donations by Suzanne Flandreau, 1993, and by John N. Migliaccio, 1994–2010. Additional donation from John N. Migliaccio and Michael Marcus in 2019. Additional donations are expected from upcoming programs.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Gerontology, Aging, American Society on Aging, The Gerontological Society of America, Music, Music-Blues, musical artists

ACCESS STATEMENT

Materials designated as restricted materials are housed in specially marked folders, otherwise the collection is open and available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

United States copyright laws apply to the materials in this collection.

PREFERRED CITATION

The Bo Diddley Track Program Collection for the American Society on Aging & the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conferences, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

The Bo Diddley Track Program Collection Container List

SERIES 1: PAPER MEETING MATERIALS

Box 1:

- 1993 Folder 1 Program materials
- Folder 2 "The Blues and Older Minority Musicians" presentation by Suzanne Flandreau, CBMR
- Folder 3 Photographs: presenters with Charles Walton and Sunnyland Slim
- 1994 Folder 4 Photographs of Bo Diddley at ASA, San Francisco, March 1994
- 1995 Folder 5 Program information page for ASA meeting in Atlanta featuring Miss Lavelle White.
- 1996 Folder 6 Clippings about ASA Bo Diddley Track Session with "Mama" Laura Mae Gross owner of Babe's and Rickey's in Los Angeles.
- Folder 7 Photographs of "after hours" session at Babe's and Rickey's.
- Undated Miscellaneous materials about Deacon Jones from a later Bo Diddley Track session. [2006]

SERIES 2 MEDIA, AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDINGS

Box 2

- 1994 Videotape (VHS) of Bo Diddley's presentation at ASA, March 1994, including an interview with Linda Feldman of the Los Angeles Times.
- 1995 Session tape: "The Blues as Reality for Older Minority Musicians: More than Just Music"
- Presentation with Miss Lavelle White, March 13, 1995.
- Cassette recorded by Nationwide Recording services.
- 1996 Session tape "The Blues and Older Minority Musicians IV: More Than Just Music," with "Mama" Laura Mae Gross. Cassette recorded by Nationwide Recording Services.

- 1997 Session tape: "The Blues and Older Minority Musicians: More Than Just Music" recorded by Nationwide Recording Services. 2 cassettes.[Nashville, 1997 with The Excello Legends: Earl Gaines, Roscoe Shelton and Clifford Curry.
- 1997 Videotaped presentation (VHS) by Robert "H-Bomb" Ferguson, Gerontological Society of America, November 1997.
- 2002 Videotaped interview and performance (VHS) by "Weepin' Willie" Robinson at ASA, Boston, Mass., 2002. Labeled "Interview and songs."
- 2004 ASA and Bay Area Blues Society All Stars presentation: Wylie Trass and Eddie "Bluesmaster" Watson. [San Francisco] Tape cassette.
- 2006 ASA and National Council on Aging presentation: "The Blues and Older Minority Musicians: More Than Just Music. Los Angeles, March 2006. Deacon Jones. Compact disc.
- 2007 ASA and National Council on Aging presentation: "The Blues and Older Minority Musicians: More Than Just Music." Chicago, March 2007. Mary Lane and Honeyboy Edwards. Compact disc.
- 2009 GSA presentation, Bo Diddley Track: Sandra Hall and Tommy Brown. DVD.

SERIES 3: POSTERS

Poster File

Folder 1:

Hatch Show Print poster for the ASA Bo Diddley Track, Excello Legends presentation and concert, Nashville, 1997.

Flyer for the ASA Bo Diddley Track with Teddy Watson and Wylie Trass, San Francisco, 2004.

Folder 2:

Hatch Show Print poster for the Chicago 2003. Bo Diddley Track presentation and concert with Mary Lane and Honeyboy Edwards.

Posters for the after-hours concert, Chicago 2003, for Liz Mandville Greeson and Honeyboy Edwards.

Folder 3:

Hatch Show Print poster for the 2009 GSA presentation "Gone with the Blues" featuring Tommy Brown and Sandra Hall.

Folder 4:

Miscellaneous posters for featured artists:

Deacon Jones—2 posters

Poster for Orlando Blues Fest 2005 signed by James Peterson.

SERIES 4: CDS BY FEATURED PERFORMERS

Box 2

Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars. The Music They Played on 7th Street. (Fifty Fifty Record Company)

Edwards, David "Honeyboy." The World don't Owe Me nothing. (Earwig CD4940)

Hall, Sandra. One Drop Will Do You. (ER9901)

Holiday, Juanita. To Joe with Love. (HBE 5174)

Mayfield, Sammy. I Can't Get Over You. (MPAC Records)

Bobbie Webb and the Smooth Blues Band. (Collector's Classic Gems, vol. 105).

Weepin' Willie. At Last, On Time. (APO 2009)

DVD: Deacon Jones on the Joe Soares Show, Sao Paulo, Brazil. [No date.]