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2023

Guide to the Reginald L. Davenport House Music Collection

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CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Reginald L. Davenport House Music Collection

EXTENT

.65 cubic feet, 1 box

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Reginald L Davenport came of age to the sound of hot mixing Chicago radio DJs during the 1980s and he carried his love of house music to the United Kingdom when he left home to serve in the armed forces abroad, DJ'ing around England when he wasn't on base. The collection contains flyers primarily from the United Kingdom of house music venues in which he DJ'ed, tapes of his mixes, and documents related to his work.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

The collection is organized to the folder level with descriptions of the material provided by Reginald "Reggie" Davenport during a visit to the CBMR on May 6, 2014, where he provided context to the materials.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Reginald L. Davenport is a professional DJ and self-proclaimed House Music ambassador. He first became acquainted with House music in his native Chicago as teenager, getting involved in the scene on the South Side in the early 1990s. After enlisting in the Air Force, Davenport was stationed in northern England mid-1990s, and then in Tallahassee, Florida and later, Salt Lake City, Utah. At each base, he spread the word about Chicago's House Music style, DJ'ing at events, competitions, and weekly dances at a variety of venues, collecting posters and flyers. When he was home, he recorded favorite House Music shows on Chicago radio broadcasts to take back to the base. Today Davenport DJs online and continues to DJ under the name DJ Purple, the Duke of House.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The collection contains three series and includes flyers and postcards promoting events in the UK, Florida, and western United States, with a small number of personal papers.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is divided into three series:

- Series 1: Flyers
- Series 2: Correspondence & Writings
- Series 3: House Music Audiocassettes

RELATED MATERIALS

CBMR

The Micah Salkind [Chicago House Music Oral History Project](#) includes an [interview](#) with Reggie Davenport:

Internet

DJ Purple (the duke of House): <https://www.mixcloud.com/reginald-l-davenport/>

ACQUISITION SOURCE

The collection was received from Reginald “Reggie” Davenport in 2014.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

House music, DJs, music broadcasting, Popular Music, Chicago, United Kingdom,

ACCESS STATEMENT

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 Reginald L. Davenport House Music Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

THE REGINALD L. DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSIC COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1

Textual descriptions below are from Reginald Davenport when he donated this material on May 6, 2014.

Series 1: Club Flyers

His United Kingdom work began in 1994 when he was stationed at RAF Alconbury. He was there for year, then the base closed, and he went to Mildenhall, northwest of Cambridge. Davenport was on the scene in Cambridge often in 1996.

Folder 1: The Goodly Wednesday / Grand Central at the Q Club

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Flyers (5)	Goodly Wednesdays, The. Repeated on Wednesdays.	1997–1998	Fez Club, The; Market Passage, Cambridge	3rd Day Promotions	Nick Bridges, Dan Smith, Mike Maher
Postcard (1)	Grand Central. Weekly (?) on Saturdays	1997–1998	Q Club, The; Station Road Corner, Cambridge	Mike Maher (?)	

Mike Maher was resident DJ, brought in guests from United States, including Terry Hunter (one of the Chosen Few). Hunter was one of the most well-travelled United States DJs in England.

“I can still remember it like it just happened—one of the best nights ever in the history of my clubbing days. Danced with sweat pouring into my eyes, but I didn’t care. Hurt my back dancing but kept on through the pain until it went away.” (Reginald Davenport)

Folder 2: Let There Be Sound / Heroes of House

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Postcards (4)	Let There Be Sound	1998	Rotating locations	SMF Production	DJ Frenchy
Postcards (2)	Heroes of House	1999	Milton Keynes	SMF Production	

During this time, Reginald Davenport attended the Southport weekender (annual), met DJ Hunter, saw Frankie Knuckles. Heard Derrick Carter on the radio, Steve Silk Curly (?) was in UK then, Byron Stringly made a guest appearance. Heard Robert Owens – knew of him as a vocalist with Fingers Inc., didn’t know he was also a DJ. 1999–2000 was a period where the music was changing, forming the “UK Garage” sub-genre. Incorporated acid, faster, beat structure and lyrics were different than earlier sub-genres.

Folder 3: Let There Be Sound / Heroes of House

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Postcard (1)	Soul Movement	1998/1999	The Great White Horse, Northgate St., Ipswich	Simon Finnegan	
Promotional (1)	Battle of the DJ’s	1998/1999		Phantom Grey Production	Optimus Prime, R&B/Hip-Hop, DJ Purple, House/Garage

Soul Movement in UK. Part of expansion movement. Simon Finnegan produced it. A feeling of euphoria, unforgettable DJ’ing night. Every record flowed perfectly.

“Battle of the DJs”: Alconbury (his first): was a contest, could play what you wanted. Davenport brought his House records. No reaction at all! Dead silence. In 1997 in Welling borough, played 12 records in 15 minutes, including Havana, Kenny G remix. K Pharoah was watching, Davenport came in 2nd place! The cassette release promotional piece by Phantom Grey Productions feature two artist, which are both Reginald Davenport in a virtual battle.

Folder 4: Connection Underground / Koalition / Galaxy Complex

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Flyers (2)	Connection Underground	1999			DJ Tocks
Flyer (1)	Koalition	2000			DJ Tocks
Flyer (1)	Galaxy Complex. Two shows only.	2000	Mildenhall AF Base; Mildenhall, UK	Ministry of Sound	Nick Bridges

Connection Underground and Koalition: “All were active duty, stationed together, played Garage, K. Pharoah – more commercial style.”

Galaxy Complex: “Nick Bridges with Ministry of Sound. RD struck up a friendship. Brought the music to the base—2 nights only, was originally planned to be only one! (Shows were 2 or 3 months apart.) Was a hard sell—folks at the base were listening to hip hop, R&B, Top 40.”

Folder 5: Chemistry of Sound/ Soul Thang/ Immigration / Transatlantic

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Flyer (1)	Chemistry of Sound	1998	Belle Hotel; Mildenhall, UK		DJ Gunn
Flyer (1)	Soul Thang	1999	Pestello's; Bury St. Edmunds		DJ Tocks
Postcards (2)	Immigration presents. Repeated on Friday nights.	1999-2000	Belle Hotel; Mildenhall, UK		DJ Gunn
Flyer (1)	Transatlantic	2000		K Pharoah	

Reginald Davenport “as DJ Purple emphasized the Chicago sound—Chicago was where new formulas were developed, using and mixing up the elements that were brought to Chicago from New York City - Chicago was where the sound changed.”

Folder 6: Paradise Launch Party

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Flyers (2)	Paradise Launch Party	2001	Paradise (UK); Romford (suburb of London)	Chrissy T	
	DJ Laboratory	2001	Paradise (UK); Romford (suburb of London)		

Reginald Davenport “fell in love with London but couldn’t stay at the European command bases” —it was his last year stationed in the UK.) Chrissy T (Bar Rumba regular DJ). Also held the “DJ Laboratory” that exposed new DJs in the hours before the regular opening time, from 9-11pm. RD participated as a DJ in that slot.

Folder 7: Deep Concentration

Back in the US – to Florida in 2001 until 2005. Tallahassee’s Beta Bar had a House scene, as did Pensacola.

<u>Items List</u>	<u>Music Series name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue(s); Locations</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Names</u>
Flyer (1)	Deep Concentration	2004	Tyndell AF base; Florida		DJ Come of Age

Florida, Tyndell Air Force base. “Deep Concentration.” – Reginald Davenport was a mentor to DJ Come of Age.

Folder 8: Street Level / 10 Years of House Music

Back in the US – to Florida in 2001 until 2005. Tallahassee’s Beta Bar had a House scene, as did Pensacola.

Postcard (1)	Street Level	2005	Pensacola, Florida		
Postcard (1)	10 Years of House Music. One night only.	2008	Pensacola, Florida	K-Pharoah	

“Street Level.” Danced to group “Tortured Soul” after Regigland’ own DJ set—they warmed up to his last track, played constantly with smooth transitions between tunes, like a live mix. “Unforgettable.”

10 Years of House Music - “K-Pharoah had stayed in UK until 2005, told RD about scene in Salt Lake City, Utah. Promoters would share costs by sending DJs from LA or Vegas to Salt Lake City. Bobby & Steve (British DJs) visited US. RD got a transfer to Brigham Young U in Fall 2005. Reginald Davenport and K-Pharoah reunited.”

“Salt Lake City scene.

The W Lounge became a hot spot, a microcosm of what RD liked in Chicago, i.e. spinoffs that keep your attention, with soulful melodies, plus disco, spooky house (Trax), beats, jazz and world music too.

Every 3rd Saturday. Night Light, Jesse Walker played “deep” stuff, not a lot of words. Also Julius (?) and Master Kev from NY.

2nd Saturday was Big City House. Dan Dixon (rough and tough hip hop), Josh Max (soulful, deep), Kinetic (female – she had a smooth flow). DJ Purple did guest slots on 3 of the nights.

1st Saturday – “Haus Addix.” K Pharoah (upfront, Euro style, faster), who mentored Danny Dance. After 2008, he ran it, and invited DJs

Series 2: Personal Papers

Folder 9: Presentation: How Can You Become a DJ? / Reginald Davenport (9 pages)

Folder 10: Correspondence

1990 letter to Lil Louis, response from his assistant.

1998 Columbia House/BMG catalog for mail order music subscription service. Record club: got 12 LPs for a penny, then had to buy a certain number of LPs over 3 years.

2000-2001 DJ Register correspondence - Top Jox

Undated. FaceBook thread printout with comments from Shawn Phillips, the Utah mixmaster.

Undated. Razz Enterprises, signed Pizaro (worked with HotMix5). Note & correspondence.

Gherkin correspondence. RD wrote to get distribution deals for them in Florida.

2002 letter to WKKC.

2008 online class – gospel house music link. Impact of music on life = topic in class on culture around the world

Folder 11: “Soul Revival” internet plan

2006. “Soul Revival” internet radio plan. Inspired by WKKC Bobby Q Bobby 1989, Sunday show from 3 to 6

Series 3: Audio Cassettes

Folder 12: Friday Night Audio - WKKC

Cassette 1: 1988, Reginald Davenport, Chip Veasley and Bob “Burnin” Barnes

Cassette 2: 1988, Walter “Get Down” Brown