

MG 454

"Porgy and Bess" Collection
ca. 1932-1964

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Source and Date:	Lynn Archer for the Estate of Walter Reimer 1996
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Abstract:	The "Peggy and Bess" Collection documents the 1954-1956 touring company of the opera "Porgy and Bess," by George Gershwin produced by Robert Breen and Blevins Davis, and directed by Breen. The stage manager was Walter Reimer. Cast members included Joseph Attles, Catherine Ayers, Georgia Burke, George A. Hill, Helen Thigpen, and Catherine Van Buren. Included are several letters (1953-1955) between one of the producers and the musical director relating to production problems and issues affecting the show; company roster providing vital statistics for cast, crew and musicians, 1954; and the itinerary for the international tour, 1952-1956. Additionally, there are programs for the U.S. (including for a 1964 production in which Reimer played a role) and European productions, reviews, and other articles. Of particular interest are photocopies of letters (1932-1935) between composer George Gershwin and DuBose Heyward, author of the original book on which the musical was based, regarding the development and production of the original production of "Porgy and Bess" and casting. Also, one letter from Ira Gershwin to Heyward after the death of his brother George in 1937.

Provenance:	The collection was donated to the Schomburg Center.
Organization note:	Collection is organized in one series.
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Index Terms	
Names:	
Subject:	

Container List

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | George Gershwin - DuBose Heyward Correspondence, 1932-37 (Photocopies) |
| | 2 | Correspondence, 1952-1955, 1973 n.d. |
| | 3 | Company Roster, 1954-1955 Touring Company |
| | 4 | U. S. Tour - Programs, 1952-1954, 1964 |

5	Itinerary - International Tour, 1952-1956
6-7	European Tour - Programs, 1952-1956
8	Reviews and Other Articles