



Primary Source Materials related to Blackface Minstrelsy in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

What is Blackface Minstrelsy?

A type of popular American entertainment, which spanned from 1830 to the mid-20th century. Blackface minstrelsy consisted of the theatrical presentation of ostensible elements of black life in song, dance, and speech, and was generally derogatory. At first performed by whites impersonating blacks, minstrelsy only later was participated in by blacks.

What original materials do you have related to Blackface Minstrelsy?

The Center for Popular Music has numerous holdings that relate to blackface minstrelsy from the 19th through mid-20th centuries. These items include posters, theatre playbills and programs, songsters and other song books, sheet music and song broadsides, photographs, trade catalogs, sound recordings, and manuscript collections containing minstrel-related items, such as scrapbooks. (See examples below.)

How do I search for these primary source materials?

Most of these primary source materials are cataloged and may be searched online through the Center's website. Sound recordings may be searched in the Center's Reading Room through the in-house database.

Online Searching:

To search for these materials **online**, visit the CPM website at <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/default.aspx>. You may search for specific titles, artists or songs in the Quick Search field. Other keywords or search terms to try are: Minstrel, Blackface, Minstrel show, Minstrel music, Minstrel songs and music, Blackface entertainers, African Americans Stereotypes, or Ethiopian. This catalog will search for minstrel materials in the following collection categories: [Manuscript Collections](#), [Rare Books and Scores](#); [Sheet Music](#); [Song Broadsides](#); [Posters, Playbills, and Programs](#); [Trade Catalogs](#); [Photographs](#); and [Periodicals: Secondary Collection](#). For an overview of each of the major collections, see the detailed menu to the left of the screen under "Search Our Collections."

Click on the Advanced Search link <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/advanced-search.aspx> to take you to a more detailed search screen. You may limit your search to a particular field or type of material.

To search our separate website for the digitized Kenneth S. Goldstein Collection of American **Song Broadsides**, go to: <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/Broadsides/index.html>.

Visit the **Songs of Sam Lucas** <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/lucas/lucas.html> to learn about this celebrated minstrel entertainer of the post-Civil War era.

At the Center (in-house searching only):

To search for **Sound Recordings**, please visit the Center and use our in-house database or email Lucinda Cockrell Lucinda.Cockrell@mtsu.edu or Martin Fisher Martin.Fisher@mtsu.edu.

Secondary Source Materials

To search for **Secondary Source Materials** available in the Center's Reading Room— go to MTSU's Walker

Library catalog (<http://library.mtsu.edu/>) and use either search terms listed above. This includes books about minstrelsy, as well as minstrel joke books, minstrel show handbooks, histories, and dissertations.

Minstrel Music Bibliography

Bean, Annemarie. *Inside the minstrel mask : readings in nineteenth-century blackface minstrelsy* / edited by Annemarie Bean, James V. Hatch, and Brooks McNamara ; foreword by Mel Watkins Hanover, NH : Wesleyan University Press, c1996 PN3195 .I58 1996 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1033780~S1> / also available as an e-book: <http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1658668~S1>)

Cockrell, Dale. *Demons of disorder : early blackface minstrels and their world* / Dale Cockrell
Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1997 ML1711 .C63 1997
(<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1034863~S1>)

Conway, Cecelia. *African banjo echoes in Appalachia : a study of folk traditions* / Cecelia Conway
Knoxville : University of Tennessee Press, c1995. ML3556 .C667 1995 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1372383~S1>)

Hans, Nathan. *Dan Emmett and the rise of early Negro minstrelsy* Nathan, Hans, ML 2870 .N37 1977 Norman:
University of Oklahoma Press, 1962, 1977 printing (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1063371~S1>)

Lott, Eric. *Love and theft : blackface minstrelsy and the American working class* / Eric Lott
New York : Oxford University Press, 1993. (available in Walker Library: <http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1354593~S1>)

Mahar, William J. *Behind the burnt cork mask : early blackface minstrelsy and Antebellum American popular culture* /
William J. Mahar. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, c1999 ML 2870 .M331 1999
(<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1127401~S1>)

Toll, Robert C. *Blacking up : the minstrel show in nineteenth century America* / Robert C. Toll. New York : Oxford
University Press, 1974 ML 2870 .T64 1974 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1084730~S1>)

Original Minstrel Books:

Rice, Edward Le Roy. *Monarchs of minstrelsy, from "Daddy" Rice to date*, by Edw. Le Roy Rice ... New York city, N.Y.,
Kenny publishing company [c1911] SPCL PN 1969 .M5 R42 1911 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1053633~S1>)

Dumont, Frank. *The Witmark amateur minstrel guide and burnt cork encyclopedia* / by Frank Dumont / New York : M.
Witmark & sons [1899] SPCL PN 1969.M5 D88 1899 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1135875~S1>)

Dick, William B. (William Brisbane), 1827-1901. *Dick's stump speeches and minstrel jokes : containing an immense
collection of original and selected negro acts and farces, eccentric sketches, stump speeches, funny conversations,
burlesque sermons and lectures, end men's jokes, Bones' gags and Tambo's witticisms; especially adapted for first class
minstrel entertainments* / by William B. Dick / New York : Fitzgerald Publishing Corporation, c1889. SPCL PN 1969.M5
D54 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1505877~S1>)

Kaser, Arthur LeRoy, 1890-1956. *Mellow moon minstrel first-part : a complete routine for the circle* / by Bob Royce [i.e.
Arthur LeRoy Kaser] / Chicago : T. S. Denison & Company, c1932. SPCL PN 1969.M5 K372 1932
(<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1505777~S1>)

Kaser, Arthur LeRoy, 1890-1956. *Minstrel spice; a collection of minstrel stunts, jokes and novelties* /
Syracuse, N.Y., Bugbee, [c1934] SPCL PN 1969.M5 K374 1934 (<http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b1600874~S1>)

Examples of Center for Popular Music Special Collection Minstrel items:

Sheet Music

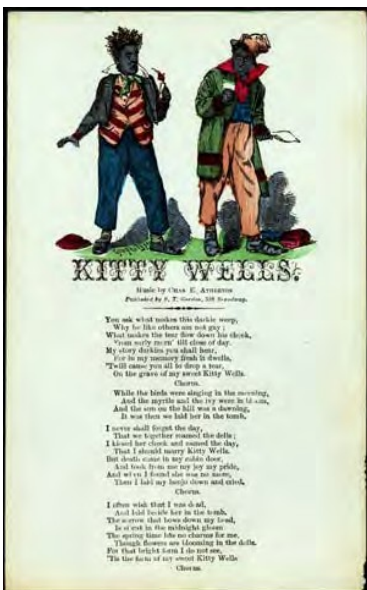


003331-CPMLG
 “Jim Crow’s Ramble!”
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/23491/>

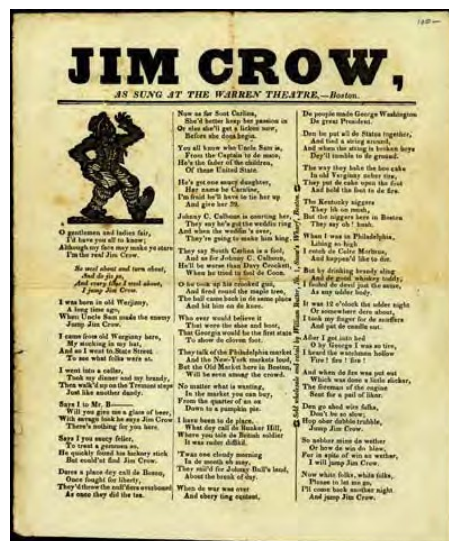


001234-BYULG
 “Ethiopian Quadrilles”
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/34241/>

Broadsides



001554-BROAD
 Kitty Wells,
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/15773/>

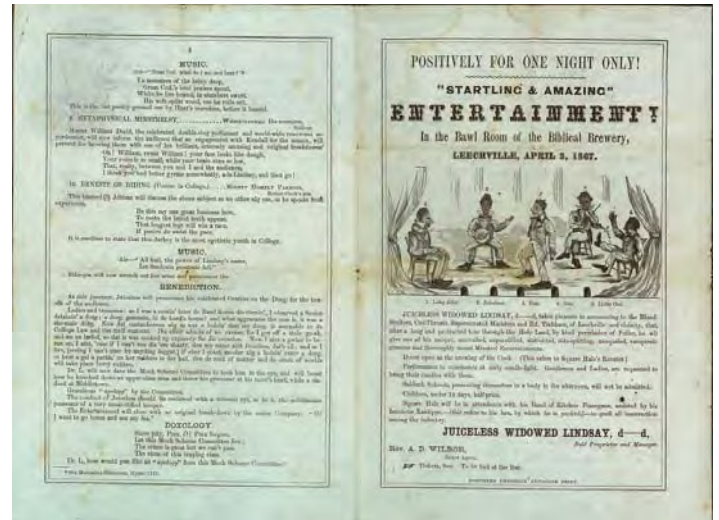


002510-BROAD
 “Jim Crow”
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/16732/>

Posters, Playbills, Programs



000054-MINSTREL
 “Christy’s Minstrels”
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/1812/>



000007-MINSTREL
 “Bawl Room of the Biblical Brewery”
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/1808/>

Photographs



GEN-CD-00001
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/771/>



GEN-CD-00025
 Center for Popular Music
<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/860/>

Trade Catalogs



CAT-00240

Crest Trading Co., 1906

Center for Popular Music

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/230/>



CAT-00505

Everything For Your Minstrel Show[1930]

T.S. Denison Company

Center for Popular Music

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/499/>

Manuscript Collections

97-036

Billy Carter Minstrel Scrapbook

Memorabilia scrapbook primarily assembled by Billy Carter, containing newspaper clippings; clippings of humorous sketches, jokes, and cartoons; contracts; prints; programs; and playbills, 1863-1904.

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/4776/>



Carter 97-036

from Billy Carter Minstrel Scrapbook.

Center for Popular Music

01-012

McCauley, Jamie

"Johnny Leighman's Superior Minstrels" Papers

.2 l.f. of materials documenting the origin and 1923 tour of the "Johnny Leighman's Superior Minstrels."

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/4964/>



MAN-PR-00001

from "Johnny Leighman's Superior Minstrels."

Center for Popular Music

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/collections/permalink/1035/>