

Sidelights



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Collaborations

Dear friends,

As a descriptor of the stories contained in our Library, the name "Historical Society of Pennsylvania" doesn't get it right! As an institution with an internationally renowned collection and global audience, HSP and the items in its vaults are not bound by any geographic boundary. However, our Library remains a place-centered organization, situated in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, and serving a local constituency of students, scholars, members, and overall history enthusiasts.

These twin demands—to be a port of call for our local audiences as well as for researchers across the country and around the world, simultaneously—present HSP with unique challenges and opportunities. Accomplishing these goals has required creativity and collaboration between non-profit organizations and private firms alike.

To make our collections more accessible to researchers in Pennsylvania and beyond, HSP has undertaken joint efforts with FamilySearch and Findmypast to digitize our card catalog, scan published family history volumes and other collections, as well to offer new HSP member benefits.

In March, we welcome genealogists from all over the globe at this year's Family History Days, a two-day conference for beginning as well as experienced genealogists. Family History Days and HSP's ongoing genealogy education is made possible through our continuing partnerships with the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

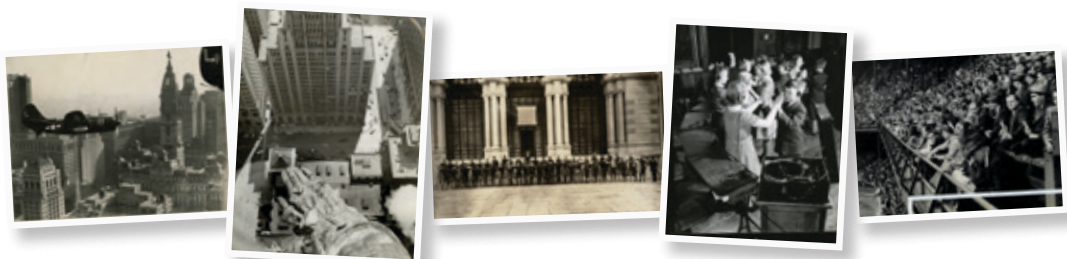
As part of our renewed commitment to K-12 education, HSP's collections have reached thousands of students across the Greater Philadelphia Area.

Through classroom field trips to our Library, HSP's Student Mentors program, our continuing support of National History Day (NHD), and programming for students and teachers, HSP has become a leading voice in history classrooms across the country. To put history into the hands of students, we continue to collaborate with NHD Philly, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Beneficial Bank, and more.

HSP's mission of inspiring others to create a better future through historical understanding continues unabated. In the coming year, staff will continue to process, conserve, and make accessible the manuscripts, books, and ephemera that tell the story of our city, our commonwealth, and our country.

Dr. Page Talbott

Dr. Page Talbott,
President & CEO



Images from the newly-processed Philadelphia Record [V07], a collection of photographs from a now-shuttered daily newspaper.



Read Our 2015 Annual Report

We are pleased to share with you the highlights of HSP's activities throughout 2015 with this year's Annual Report, including acknowledgments of our generous supporters.

Loud in the Library

Listen close: Libraries are louder than you've heard. Sitting silent in the stacks and vaults are the booming soundscapes of the past: scores of sheet music, recordings, concert posters, songbooks, and more.

Get noisy in the library this spring as HSP plugs into Philadelphia's roaring history with a chorus of public programs.



Photographs of the Philadelphia Stage Door Canteen, an entertainment center for members of the armed forces during World War II. From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania collection of World War II papers [1479].



Undated panorama of members of the United Singers of Philadelphia at the Grand Song Festival, Steel Pier Atlantic City. From the United Singers of Philadelphia records [3524].

All programs are \$10 for HSP members, \$15 for nonmembers.

Tune-in for the whole series: Register for any three programs and get the fourth free. Visit hsp.org/Music to register.

Philadelphia: City of Music **February 17 | 6:00 p.m.**

From the marches and minuets of the city's colonial days, to WFIL's *American Bandstand*, Hall & Oates, and the Roots, Philadelphia has been—and remains—a humming hub of music. Join music historian Jack McCarthy for a look and listen at 330+ years of music in the City of Brotherly Love. Featured are the stories of America's first song composer, the first African American to have his music published, and many of the city's groundbreaking artists in classical music, jazz, gospel, rock n' roll, rhythm & blues, and soul.

Sights & Sounds of our Multiethnic Past **March 2 | 6:00 p.m.**

Music has been used both as a vehicle for reform and repression during pursuits of American ethnic and racial justice. Using historical sheet music, broadsides from local theaters, and musical recordings & performances, HSP explores the various ways Philadelphia popular culture depicted American ethnic groups throughout the past two centuries. Collection materials from the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies—many not seen for decades—will be on view.

The Symphony of a Thousand **March 8 | 6:30 p.m.**

Almost 100 years to the day, the Philadelphia Orchestra performed the U.S. premier of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8. Music historian Jack McCarthy and the Orchestra's Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin explore the intimate connection between the "Symphony of a Thousand" and the emergence of the Orchestra onto the international stage.

"The (Musical) Spark in My Life" **March 31 | 6:30 p.m.**

Temple University professor and psychiatrist Dr. John Fryer—disguised as "Dr. Anonymous"—confronted the pseudo-science underpinning the medical profession's view of homosexuality in the 1970s. Fryer's activism was instrumental in having the American Psychiatric Association de-classify homosexuality as a mental illness. However, there was another man behind that mask: a devoted choir and organ master. Be the first to hear a newly-digitized recording found in the Fryer collection and explore the multidimensional life of this nearly-forgotten gay rights activist.

Don't forget to spin and twirl at "Swingin' at the Society" on February 25, featuring the band Bitters & Rye.

Family History Days

As family history and genealogy have emerged as global phenomena, millions of Americans are delving into the past to discover their families, their stories, and themselves.

For many, however, the first step is the most daunting: Where to begin? Researching in a library or online present unique challenges for beginner and experienced genealogists alike.

On March 18 & 19, HSP brings together genealogy and family history professionals from around the world for the mid-Atlantic's largest family history festival, Family History Days, featuring two days of presentations and workshops.

Hosted at HSP and the DoubleTree Hotel (on the same block as HSP), attendees will have the chance to learn about new techniques and tools, research in HSP's library and archive, meet fellow family historians and representatives from genealogy organizations, and more.

Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned researcher, find your story at HSP this spring during Family History Days.

• Decode DNA: Expand your research beyond paper records with new ways to incorporate DNA (Autosomal DNA, Y-DNA and Mt DNA) evidence.

- Trace Ethnic America: Discover new record sources and techniques for researching Scottish, Irish, German, and African American genealogy.
- Unravel family photos: Learn how to identify, preserve, organize, and share family photos.
- Discover local resources: Uncover ways to research your family in city and state archives.
- Master free online tools: Get the most out of FamilySearch and Findmypast, two of the largest genealogy databases online.
- Network with fellow family historians: Meet representatives from local, regional, and national genealogy organizations.
- Research in HSP's library, take behind-the-scenes tours, reserve one-on-one help with professional genealogists, and more.

For a complete schedule of events, speaker bios, and to register, visit hsp.org/FHD.



Family History Days 2016 is co-sponsored by FamilySearch, Findmypast, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.



HSP staff gathered on the Library's Grand Staircase.

Founder's Award

HSP seeks not only to enrich and maintain the historical record, but also to champion history's uses and enhance its value to the public. Beginning in 2000, HSP has recognized leaders in these causes with its annual Founder's Award for Exemplary Service to History. The 2016 Founder's Award dinner will be held on May 5, at The Union League of Philadelphia. HSP will honor Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Foner with the Founder's Award and civic entrepreneur Sam Katz with the Heritage Award. Funds raised at this annual event directly support HSP's mission of inspiring individuals and organizations to create a better future through historical understanding.

Visit hsp.org/Founders for more information.

PMHB

The *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (PMHB), HSP's quarterly scholarly magazine published since 1877, is one of the country's most prestigious state historical journals. Beginning with the January 2016 issue, Christina Larocco will serve as editor of PMHB. The January issue explores Benjamin Franklin's religious views, 18th- and 19th-century female death workers, the study of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Mason-Dixon Survey. PMHB is a benefit of membership and is also available to individual & institutional subscribers.

Visit hsp.org/Publications for more information.

Legacies

Pennsylvania Legacies, HSP's semi-annual illustrated history magazine, explores a variety of topics in Pennsylvania history for the curious reader. In the wake of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, legalizing same-sex marriage throughout the US—and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Philadelphia's Reminder Day protests for gay rights—HSP dedicates its spring 2016 issue of *Pennsylvania Legacies* to LGBT history in the Keystone State. This issue will explore the leading role LGBT Pennsylvanians played in the struggle for equal rights in the commonwealth's history. Beginning in 2016, Rachel Moloshok will serve as the Editor of *Legacies*. *Legacies* is a benefit of membership and is also available to individual & institutional subscribers.

Visit hsp.org/Publications for more information.

Calendar

2016



Undated photograph of children residing at the Philadelphia Home for Infants. From the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania Records [3026].

February

Memories & Melodies

February 16 - March 11

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / Surveying more than three centuries of Philadelphia's music history, *Memories & Melodies* amplifies the sounds of the city's past through the records of its famed composers, little known musicians, and vaunted venues.

Philadelphia: City of Music

February 17 | 6:00 P.M.

See page 3 for more information or visit hsp.org/Music to register. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

Singin' at the Society

February 25 | 6:30 P.M.

DANCE / Dance the night away as the sounds of Jazz Age America fill HSP's halls with tunes from the Philadelphia-based band Bitters & Rye. Prior to cutting loose on the dance floor, frisk your whiskers with a presentation by music historian Jack McCarthy as he explores Philadelphia's prominence in jazz history with stories and images of the city's groundbreaking jazz artists.

March

Sights & Sounds of our Multi Ethnic Past

March 2 | 6:00 P.M.

See page 3 for more information or visit hsp.org/Music to register. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

The Symphony of a Thousand

March 8 | 6:30 P.M.

See page 3 for more information or visit hsp.org/Music to register. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

Discoveries & Encounters

March 15 - April 19

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / Over the past year, HSP's Digital Services staff created several new databases for genealogists and family historians, making previously inaccessible information available online for researchers. The display will include collection materials featured in the new databases.

Personal Genealogy Consultations

Third Wednesday of each month | 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00 P.M.

Each month, professional genealogists from the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) are available to help take your family history research to the next level. Whether looking for a lost ancestor, filling out the limbs on a family tree, unsure of where to start or look next, these one-on-one consultations offer guidance and knowledge for genealogists at all stages of their research.

January

Fashion: "The Fastest Moving, Most Fragile, and Fickle Fleeting Business"

January 14 - March 11

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / Threading together centuries of trends and tastes, *Fashion: "The Fastest Moving, Most Fragile, and Fickle Fleeting Business"* explores the many ways fashion is marketed and promoted, from French fashion plates to American window displays. Free and open to the public.

Most events are free for HSP members. Please visit hsp.org/Calendar for complete event information



Left: Portrait (lithograph from a daguerreotype) of Francis "Frank" Johnson (1792-1844), an African American musician and composer; Center: Tuxedo-clad members of the Howard Lanin band; Right: Undated engraving of the Academy of Music's interior.



Left: Nurse Mary Elizabeth Costello adjusting a lamp for a skin treatment on two-year old Rose Mary Wissinger at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia c. 1945; Right: Al Stevens of the Mutual Broadcasting System with his portable street broadcasting equipment at the 1936 Democratic National Convention held in Philadelphia.

Family History Days

March 18 & 19 | 9:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENT / One of the largest genealogy events in the mid-Atlantic, this two-day conference helps beginner and experienced genealogists alike discover and celebrate their family histories. See page 2 for more information or visit hsp.org/FHD to register.

The Awful Harvest of Gettysburg and the Remarkable Year at Turner's Lane

March 23 | 6:00 P.M.

ONE BOOK ONE PHILADELPHIA / At Turner's Lane in Philadelphia, physicians S. Weir Mitchell, William W. Keen, and George R. Morehouse assembled one of the most unusual and important temporary hospital wards during the last year of the Civil War. Dr. Robert Hicks, Director of the Mütter Museum, will recount the achievements of Turner's Lane and these three young forefathers of American neurology.

"The (Musical) Spark in My Life"

March 31 | 6:30 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENT / John Fryer—disguised as Dr. Anonymous—urged doctors not to treat gays and lesbians as "sick." However, there was another man behind that mask: a devoted choir and organ master. Be the first to hear a newly digitized recording found in Fryer's collection as HSP explores what church music meant to the nearly forgotten gay rights activist. See page 7 for more information or visit hsp.org/Music to register. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

April

Foundations of Genealogy: Getting Started & Doing it Right the First Time

April 13 – June 15

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP / Led by Sydney Cruice Dixon, the 8-week course is designed for family historians and genealogists seeking to become more effective and efficient researchers. During each course session, registrants will learn the skills and explore the resources necessary to build a solid foundation in genealogy research. Ms. Cruice Dixon will explore how to conduct proper research, discuss the advantages/disadvantages of online genealogy resources, examine which historical records can reveal the most about researchers' family histories, and more.

RSVP for all events online at hsp.org/Calendar or call 215-732-6200 ext. 227 for more information

Bloodletting, Gender, and the Evolution of Medicine in the U.S.

April 14 | 4:30 P.M.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / In collaboration with the Drexel University College of Medicine Archives, HSP explores medical practices throughout American history with a focus on female physicians' struggles for professional acceptance. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

Illuminating History

April 19 – May 20

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / As part of the 2016 Founder's Award, materials from HSP's collection will highlight various struggles of Philadelphians for civil rights throughout the city's history.

Capital Dames: A Conversation with Cokie Roberts

April 27 | 6:30 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENT / Join New York Times bestselling author Cokie Roberts and HSP President & CEO Page Talbot to explore the stories of the wives, sisters, and female friends of the men leading America into, and through, the Civil War, as featured in Roberts' new book, *Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1868*.

May

217 Boxes of Dr. Anonymous

Running May 5 - 8 | The Painted Bride Arts Center

THEATER / 1972: Dr. John Fryer puts on an oversize tuxedo and rubber joke shop mask to become Dr. Henry Anonymous and confront the American Psychiatric Association with these words: "I am a homosexual, I am a psychiatrist." Dr. Anonymous propelled psychiatry to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness—but who was Dr. Fryer? This new play combs Fryer's 217-box archive, unearthing three figures from his life; asking each to draw a portrait of the man they shared. Developed during several years of research in HSP's archive as part the An Artist Embedded project. See page 7 for more information or visit hsp.org/AinGordon.

Founder's Award

May 5 | The Union League of Philadelphia

GALA / The 2016 Founder's Award dinner will honor Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Foner with the Founder's Award and civic entrepreneur Sam Katz with the Heritage Award. Visit hsp.org/Founders for more information.

August

Researching Family in Pennsylvania

August 1 – 5

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP / As part of the continuing series of genealogical programs sponsored by HSP in collaboration with the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter, Association of Professional Genealogists, this week-long workshop is designed for those researching Pennsylvania ancestors. Noted genealogists and archivists from Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will explore their individual areas of expertise including colonial and provincial records, land records, probate and court records, vital records, militia and military records, and the collections of HSP and the Pennsylvania State Archives. Visit hsp.org/Calendar for more information.

HISTORY IN THEIR HANDS



Students from across Philadelphia receive help with their National History Day projects.

As cuts to humanities education have struck schools across the country, HSP's commitment to education remains firm. Students—elementary, high school, and college—are welcome to research free of charge.

This fall, more than 600 students visited HSP's Library to hold in their hands the history of their families, communities, and commonwealth. Schools from across the Greater Philadelphia area—including the Central Bucks, Philadelphia, and Lower Merion school districts—take their students beyond the textbook and encourage tangible connections to the past. HSP's Education Manager Alicia Parks is currently booking spring field trips and outreach programs. For more information, contact Ms. Parks at aparks@hsp.org.

HSP continues its Student Mentors program this spring, helping students in grades 6-12 with research papers and NHD projects. Our mentors assist students with history and civics homework, finding and interpreting sources for National History Day projects, and provide a friendly partner for the sometimes-intimidating experience of researching a collection of over 21 million items. The Student Mentors program is free for students and appointments are not necessary.

This past summer, HSP hosted *Cultures of Independence: Perspectives on Independence Hall and the Meaning of Freedom*, a two week-long immersive workshop bringing together over 70 educators from across the country to explore the history of Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

Lesson plans created by the workshop's attendees are now available online, offering insight to the many ways in which public buildings, monuments, and civic spaces tell the story of local communities.

The Student Mentor program is supported by Enterprise Holdings Foundation.



Cultures of Independence was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Bloodletting and Homeopathy: The Untold Stories of Medical Practices in U.S. History

Join HSP and the Drexel University College of Medicine Archives on April 14 to explore medical practices throughout American history with a focus on female physicians' struggles for professional acceptance. Act 48 credit is available for educators.

For more resources for students, educators, and information about programs and workshops, visit hsp.org/Education.



After a hard day's research in HSP's Library, students take a break on the Grand Staircase.

Art in the Archive

This spring, discover a nearly forgotten pioneer of gay rights: psychiatrist Dr. John Fryer, i.e. "Dr. Anonymous." As part of the final phase of the multi-year An Artist Embedded project, playwright Ain Gordon explores Fryer's life and struggle through "The (Musical) Spark of My Life" and a new play to premier at the Painted Bride Arts Center on May 5.

Disguised by a disfigured Richard Nixon mask and an over-sized suit, Fryer risked his career and livelihood to speak out against the prevailing medical consensus at the 1973 annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. At this time, homosexuality was classified as a mental disorder, with prescribed "cures" including electro-shock and lobotomy.

"95, 98, 99 [percent agreed]. Even the ones of us who were gay," Fryer observed.

Like many great speeches in American history, Fryer's address was brief—HSP holds the few handwritten pages—but powerful. Homosexuality was de-classified as an illness the following year.

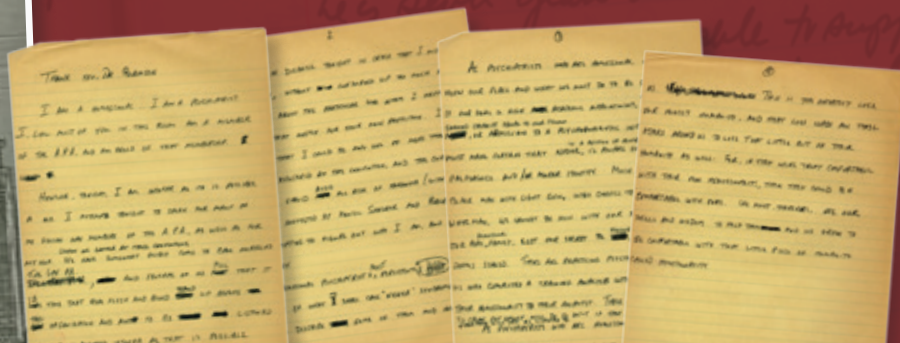
For the past 18 months as HSP's Embedded Artist, playwright Gordon has been sifting—box by box, folder by folder—through Fryer's papers as he develops a new piece of dramatic art inspired by his research. Donated to HSP by Fryer's sister, the Fryer papers include hundreds of boxes filled with letters, diaries, ephemera, and other materials rarely explored until now.

Fryer does not cut an obvious revolutionary figure. What made this professorial psychiatrist from the Midwest decide to take a stand when no others would? Does Fryer's early life offer any clues? How can we tell the story of a man from two hundred boxes of seemingly random papers, from what Gordon terms an "unintended self portrait"?

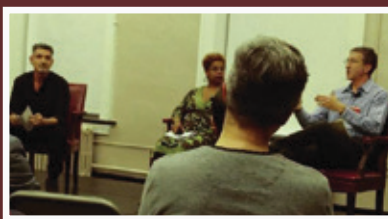
"If we reached the precipice moment and were asked to stand up, would we each have the guts?" Gordon asks



Left: John Fryer, i.e. Dr. Anonymous, waits to address the 1972 annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association; Right: Draft of Fryer's address concerning homosexuality and the psychiatric profession. From the John Fryer papers [3465].



Join HSP and Gordon for the final public program of the An Artist Embedded project on March 31, "The (Musical) Spark of My Life", with a look at Fryer's dedication as a choral director. A performance by the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus will follow the presentation. More information about Gordon's upcoming play will be released this spring.



To learn more about Ain Gordon and the Artist Embedded project, visit hsp.org/AinGordon, or follow the project's blog at wordpress.org/ArtistEmbedded.



Major support for An Artist Embedded has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, with additional support from HSP and the Painted Bride Arts Center.

Sketches of the November 18, 2015, Artist Embedded program, "Unpacking a Psychiatrist: The 217 Boxes of Dr. Henry Anonymous," by Philadelphia-based artist Diane Roka.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

A look at recent events and happenings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania



Catholic Philadelphia

On December 3, 2015, HSP welcomed Catholic churches and parishes from across Philadelphia to celebrate the city's Catholic history, culture, and traditions. Made possible through the generous support of the Connelly Foundation, the program featured musical performances, presentations, and an opportunity for attendees to come together with representatives from other Catholic churches.



Visionaries

HSP, PlanPhilly, and WHYY explored the future of the past as part of the broadcast debut of *Visionaries*, the documentary highlighting rarely told stories of nonprofit organizations around the world. The series aired on PBS this past fall. Representatives from *Visionaries* PlanPhilly, LaSalle University, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, and HSP discussed the future of special collection libraries during the screening party held at WHYY's studio.



Document Displays

Public displays of historical documents are a valuable tool in HSP's outreach to new communities. From a selection of Civil War letters and diaries to mark the end of the conflict's 150th anniversary, to the nearly forgotten LGBT rights pioneer Dr. John Fryer, HSP's document displays are an opportunity to create awareness about lesser-known stories and collections in the Library.

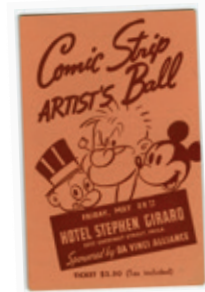
Adopt-a-Collection:

HSP's Adopt-a-Collection program provides the opportunity to support the conservation and arrangement of library materials in need of care. Books, manuscripts, photographs, and other materials are available for adoption. Choose from the collections listed below or visit hsp.org/AAC for more adoption opportunities.



DaVinci Art Alliance records

Founded in 1931 as an association of Italian American artists, the Alliance sponsored artists' exhibitions, workshops, art history lectures, and performances. This collection includes correspondence, membership records, photographs, a history of the organization, and other items. You can adopt this collection with a \$1,000 donation.



Alliance Française de Philadelphie records

Chartered in 1908, the Alliance strives to teach the French language and promote French culture. This collection documents the Alliance's social, cultural, and charitable functions, as well as its promotion of Franco-American friendship, throughout the 20th century. Among the materials are bulletins, programs, journals, photographs, and scrapbooks. You can adopt this collection with a \$700 donation.

Mural Arts' "My North Philly" project interviews

The Mural Arts program, "My North Philly," highlighted diverse groups of people from North Philadelphia neighborhoods through murals, a published volume, and a collection of oral histories. This collection consists of audiocassette tapes, digital files, transcripts, field notes, and more. You can adopt this collection with a \$250 donation.



Frank C. Di Prima papers

The collection of Frank Di Prima, a Sicilian-born musician, contains sheet music, compositions by Di Prima, materials on music theory, and photographs. Arriving in the United States when he was seven years old, Di Prima worked as a musician in the Works Progress Administration and played with the likes of Ray Miller, Paul Whiteman, and Al Jolson. You can adopt this collection with a \$200 donation.

To learn more about HSP's Adopt-a-Collection program, or to browse previously adopted collections, visit hsp.org/AAC