Guide to the Stepin Fetchit Postcard
MSS.3378

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
April 20, 2011
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Stepin Fetchit Postcard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Circa 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.05 Linear feet (1 postcard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The Stepin Fetchit Postcard depicts a scene from the movie <em>The County Chairman</em>. The postcard features an autograph by Fetchit.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation note

Stepin Fetchit Postcard, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

Stepin Fetchit was the most well-known character created by African American comedian and film star Lincoln Theodore Monroe Andrew Perry. Perry was born between 1892 and 1902 in Florida. A literate and intelligent man, Perry began playing the Vaudeville Circuit and became popular with his "Laziest Man in the World" character, a character that would later become known as Stephin Fetchit and fuel heated debate about the negative, stereotypical portrayal of African Americans in popular culture. Perry appeared in fifty-four films between 1925 and 1976.

Perry became the first African American actor to become a millionaire, all the while being denounced by Civil Rights leaders. Despite the anger and protest his movie roles garnered during his career, the Hollywood chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded him a Special Image Award in 1976 for helping to open doors for African Americans in the movie industry. In 1978, Perry was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame.

Perry died on November 19, 1985.

Scope and Contents note

The Stepin Fetchit Postcard depicts a scene from the movie *The County Chairman* wherein Fetchit interacts with Will Rogers in an outdoor setting. The postcard features a reproduction of Fetchit's signature as well as an actual autograph by Fetchit.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama April 2011

Restrictions

None

Provenance
Gift of Wade Hall 2008

Processing Information note
Processed by Erin Schmidt 2011
Collection Inventory

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<th>Stepin Fetchit Postcard</th>
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<th>Folder</th>
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<td></td>
<td>SC0069</td>
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