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## **Guide to the Arnold Vernon Baranco Papers**

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## Guide to the Arnold Vernon Baranco Papers

### Collection number: MS 15

African American Museum and Library at Oakland  
Oakland, California

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Arnold Vernon Baranco papers

**Dates:** 1925-1987

**Creator:** Baranco, Arnold Vernon, 1915-1987

**Collection Size:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Repository:** African American Museum and Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Abstract:** The Arnold Vernon Baranco papers include newspaper clippings, correspondence, yearbooks, WPA musical programs and photographs related to the life and musical activities of Arnold Vernon Baranco. The collection is organized into three series: biographical, teaching activities, musical activities, and photographs. The biographical series includes certificates, clippings, awards, membership cards, and his high school yearbook. The teaching activities series includes a small number of letter, and the musical programs document WPA performances given by Baranco. The photographs in the collection are related to Baranco's family, friends, and musical activities.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

### Access Restrictions

Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

### Publication Rights

Permission to publish from the Arnold Vernon Baranco Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum and Library at Oakland.

### Preferred Citation

Arnold Vernon Baranco papers, MS 15, African American Museum and Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.

### Biography / Administrative History

Arnold Vernon Baranco was born in Louisiana in 1915 and came to Oakland at the age of nine. He was the first African American probation officer in Alameda County and was active as a singer and choral director. Baranco graduated from the Oakland Technical High School in 1932 and was a member of the A Capella Choir and also earned a varsity letter on the football team. In 1936, he graduated from the Sacramento Junior College, where he was a tenor with their A Capella Choir. He was also elected to Phi Iota Lambda, the Junior College Philosophy Honor Society as well as Phi Theta Kappa, a scholastic fraternity recognizing academic merit. Between 1944-1945, he served as a sergeant in the 370th Infantry Regiment, APO # 92, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. During that time, he sang as a member of the USO Glee Club. After WW II, in 1948, Baranco received a degree in social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley.

Baranco was actively involved with music throughout his life either as a singer or as a choir director. He was an early member of the Oakland Colored Chorus, which later expanded to sixty singers under the directorship of Elmer Keeton, who acquired its funding from the Works Progress Administration Federal Arts Project. When Elmer Keeton died in 1947, Baranco

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became one of three co-directors of the choir, renamed the Keeton Memorial Choir. In addition to singing and directing, Baranco also taught two evening classes in singing from 1951-1952 for the Oakland Public Schools.

In 1957, Baranco retired as probation officer. He remained active in music until his death in 1987.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The Arnold Vernon Baranco papers include newspaper clippings, correspondence, yearbooks, WPA musical programs and photographs related to the life and musical activities of Arnold Vernon Baranco. The collection is organized into three series: biographical, teaching activities, musical activities, and photographs. The biographical series includes certificates, clippings, awards, membership cards, and his high school yearbook. The teaching activities series includes a small number of letters, and the musical programs document WPA performances given by Baranco. The photographs in the collection are related to Baranco's family, friends, and musical activities.

### **Arrangement**

Series I. Biographical Series II. Teaching activities Series III. Musical activities Series IV. Photographs

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Baranco, Arnold Vernon, 1915-1987.

African Americans--Music--1900-1940.

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### **Biographical**

**Physical Description:** 8 folders

#### **Series Scope and Content Summary**

The series includes Arnold Baranco's obituary from The Oakland Tribune. The files also include report cards, clippings, and awards relating to his school activities from Longfellow Elementary School through Sacramento Junior College, 1927-1936. In addition, there are some clippings on family members: Professor H. R. Baranco, B. V. Baranco, Sr., and Dr. Raymond M. Baranco.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged by format and thereafter by date.

Box 1:1

#### **Newspaper clippings 1932-1987**

Box 1:2

#### **Correspondence 1935-1940**

#### **Education**

Box 1:3

#### **Elementary and Junior High certificates and programs 1927-1929**

Box 1:4

#### **High school certificates, programs, and report cards 1931-1932**

Box 1:5

#### **Oakland Technical High School yearbook 1932**

Box 1:6

#### **Sacramento Junior College programs and certificates 1932-1936**

Box 1:7

#### **Musical programs 1934-1936**

Box 1:8

#### **Assorted cards and awards 1932-1935**

### **Teaching activities**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

#### **Series Scope and Content Summary**

The folders relate to the two years between 1951-1952 when he taught choral singing and sight-singing at night for the Oakland Public Schools. Includes his teaching contracts, promotional flyers for the classes, their rosters, and a school notice of a tuberculosis test.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged by format and thereafter by date.

Box 1:9

#### **Correspondence 1951-1952**

#### **Assorted flyers and resolutions 1951-1952**

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Box 1:16

**Infant in front of cake with candle inscribed, To Jenks from Arnold age 1 year [030] undated**

Box 1:16

**Portrait of unidentified woman [031] undated**