

Lawrence Donato Papers

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Denver Public Library 2003

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library by Lawrence Donato in February of 2002.

Ownership: Literary and copyrights have been assigned to the Denver Public Library.

Call Number: MS-ARL40

Size: 1 box (0.5 linear feet);
1 oversize photograph
2 museum boxes

Processed by: Brent Wagner

Date: November 2003

Biographical Note

Born in the San Francisco area

Served in the Merchant Marines and traveled extensively

1947 Relocated to Denver

ca. 1950 Drafted by Army; served meritoriously in the Korean War

Became second black in Colorado to be licensed to sell new and used cars

Worked at Colvin Pontiac at 9th and Broadway

Employed by Caldwell-Kirk Mortuary

Member of Zion Baptist Church and Shriner (Syrian Temple #49)

1987 Marshall for Denver's MLK marches and parades

Scope and Content Note

The Donato Papers contain awards, photographs, and publications that relate mostly to the Syrian Temple No. 49 of Denver.

Container list

Box 1 F1	Certificates	1974-2001, n.d.
Box 1 F2	Publications	1982 and 1989
Box 1 F3	Photographs	n.d.
Oversize	Photograph – Army Unit	1951
Museum pieces	Two boxes of Shriner uniforms and paraphernalia	

1 Prince Hall Mason baseball cap
Prince Hall Masons hat carrying case

Ovfolio 1

Army photograph (signatures on back), 63rd Infantry Division Fort Ord, Calif. (fragile – still in frame), Feb. 7, 1951

OVFF1

Shriners, Masons certificates, 1972-1989

OVBBox1

Ca. 1980s

1 white polyester shirt with "Donato" stitched on the front and "Imperial Transportation Deputy" on the back (stained)

1 white polyester shirt with "Donato" stitched on the front and "Barbarian's Syrian Temple No. 49, Denver, Colo." With sword/moon/star symbol stitched on back (stained)

1 black polyester shirt with "Donato" stitched on the front and with "Syrian 49 Denver, Colo. Motorcycle Patrol" stitched in red on the back (stained)

1 black polyester pants with orange stripe down the side of each pant leg and red piping

1 orange polyester shirt with "Donato" stitched on the front and with "Syrian 49 Denver, Colo. Motorcycle Patrol" stitched in red on the back

1 pair of white cotton gloves (stains)

Larry Donato Syrian Temple #49 badge

8 shriner baseball caps (stains)