

Collection #
SC 3634

**SYD POLLOCK, NEGRO AMERICAN LEAGUE
LETTER, 19 AUGUST 1949**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 19 August 1949

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sidney S. Pollock (1901-1968) was born in Tarrytown, New York, to Hungarian immigrant parents. He worked mainly as a promoter, particularly to African American baseball teams. He spent most of his life in Tarrytown but later moved to Florida in the 1950s. In 1926 he joined operations of the Havana Red Sox. Other Negro League teams he owned and promoted included the Ethiopian Clowns and Cincinnati Clowns. In 1944 he purchased the Indianapolis Clowns which he owned until 1955 when he sold part ownership to Ed Hamman. Pollock's major signing came in 1952 when he inked Hank Aaron to a contract with the Clowns. He promoted the Clowns as the Harlem Globetrotters of Baseball for their comic antics along with superior talent. He is also remembered for exploiting black players and presenting them in a buffoonery atmosphere. Pollock sold his remaining interest in the team to Hamman in 1965.

Joe Lewis is probably Joseph Alfred Lewis (1885-1975) who was born in New York City but later move Portsmouth, Virginia and is listed as having a variety of occupations including salesman and engineer.

Sources: James A. Riley, *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. Accessed 19 September 2020

Ancestry—Library Edition. Accessed 19 September 2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Pollock writes from his office in Tarrytown to Joe Lewis in Portsmouth, Virginia on 19 August 1949 regarding a complaint he had received regarding his team's ticket count. The type of tickets sold by the Portsmouth team were of inferior quality which allowed for reselling. This was a recurring problem throughout the Negro League, and he recommended using the Globe Ticket Company for his promotions.

The letterhead features a photograph of the Indianapolis Clowns and lists Pollock as the exclusive handler of the Negro American League.

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