

# THE RECORDINGS OF MATTIE HITE

## An Annotated Tentative Personelo - Discography

Dr. David Evans, Document DOCD-5513 booklet: "Mattie Hite was based in New York City and was active there by at least 1913. In August of the following year she was noted in the *Indianapolis Freeman* singing popular song hits at Barron Wilkins' Astoria Café at 2275 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In the fall of 1915 she travelled to Chicago with singer Cora Green to appear at the famous Panama Café with Bricktop, Alberta Hunter, Florence Mills, and pianist Ollie Powers. Ms. Hite repeated this journey the following fall, also appearing at Chicago's Elite Cabaret. In the spring of 1919 she played organ on a Columbia recording by Bert Williams of 'Elder Eatmore's Sermon On Generosity', but another take was issued from a different session. In August of that year she was singing at the New World Cabaret DeLuxe in Atlantic City with Frankie Jaxon and His Jazz Entertainers, a group that also included blues singer Mary Stafford. They sang 'The Dance Called "Bobo"' and double entendre songs. Two years later, after an unsuccessful trial recording for Victor Records, she was again in Atlantic City, this time at the Paradise Gardens. She also married Amos Holland in that year. The diminutive Frankie Jaxon remembered Mattie Hite as long and tall and a specialist in risqué songs, though the latter characteristic may simply have reflected the nature of her act for Atlantic City vacationers seeking titillation. Alberta Hunter also remembered her as a tall, dark brownskinned woman with a heavy voice. ... Mattie Hite passed into obscurity, to become for blues historians little more than a name in lists of "other" vaudeville singers."

### MATTIE HITE

001 <b>MATTIE HITE</b>	New York,	Feb. 17, 1921
Mattie Hite – voc;		
Julian Motley – pno		
Jungle Blues	Vic unissued (test)	not on LP/CD

As no test pressing of this item seems to have been found, nothing can be said about this recording.

#### Notes:

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Julian Motley -p.
- BGR\*2,\*3,\*4: Julian Motley (pno).

002 <b>MATTIE HITE</b>	New York,	late Nov. 1923
Mattie Hite – voc;		
Coleman Hawkins – ten; Fletcher Henderson – pno		
70413 Graveyard Dream Blues	PA 032014,	Document DOCD-5513
70414 Mason-Dixon Blues	PA 032014,	Document DOCD-5513

Tenor sax playing is compatible to what is expected by Hawkins at this time, as is the piano performance in Henderson's range. W.C. Allen, Hendersonia, p80: "*Although the accompanists are not named on the label, the tenor sax sounds like Hawkins, and the singer calls out at one point, "Play it, Mr. Henderson" settling the name of the pianist.*"

#### Notes:

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Coleman Hawkins -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p.
- BGR\*2,\*3,\*4: Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno).

003 <b>MATTIE HITE</b>	New York,	c. Jan. 1924
Mattie Hite – voc;		
(Fletcher Henderson) – pno		
An Awful Moanin' Blues	Bell P263,	Document DOCD-5513
If You Don't I Know Who Will	Bell P263,	Document DOCD-5513

To me piano playing is very competent and could well be delivered by Fletcher Henderson just as at the following session.

#### Notes:

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: unknown -p.
- BGR\*2,\*3,\*4: unknown (pno).

004 <b>MATTIE HITE</b>	New York,	Mar. 06, 1924
Mattie Hite – voc;		
Fletcher Henderson – pno		
Black Man (Be On Your Way)	Bell P273,	Document DOCD-5513
Do Right Blues	Bell P273,	Document DOCD-5513

Depending of W.C. Allen's note below Fletcher Henderson has been identified as pianist here. And right so. But then Henderson should also be regarded as the pianist at the session before.

Notes:

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Fletcher Henderson -p.

- BGR\*2,\*3,\*4: Fletcher Henderson (pno).

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p100: "These two titles were contracted by Ed Kirkeby, to be recorded at the Independent Recording Laboratories, Inc., at 55 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street; the date and accompaniment are from his notebooks. The following Bell issue, recently discovered, seems to correspond with this session."

005 **MATTIE HITE**

New York,

Jan. 27, 1930

Mattie Hite – voc;

**Cliff Jackson** – pno

149914-3

St. Joe's Infirmary (Those Gambler's Blues)

Col 14503,

Document DOCD-5513

149915-3

Texas Twist

Col 14503,

Document DOCD-5513

Very beautiful and excellent Cliff Jackson on piano, documented by the Columbia files.

Notes:

- Mahony, *Columbia 13/14000-D Series: Cliff Jackson*, p.

- Rust\*3,\*4,\*6: Cliff Jackson -p.

- BGR\*2,\*3,\*4: Cliff Jackson (pno).