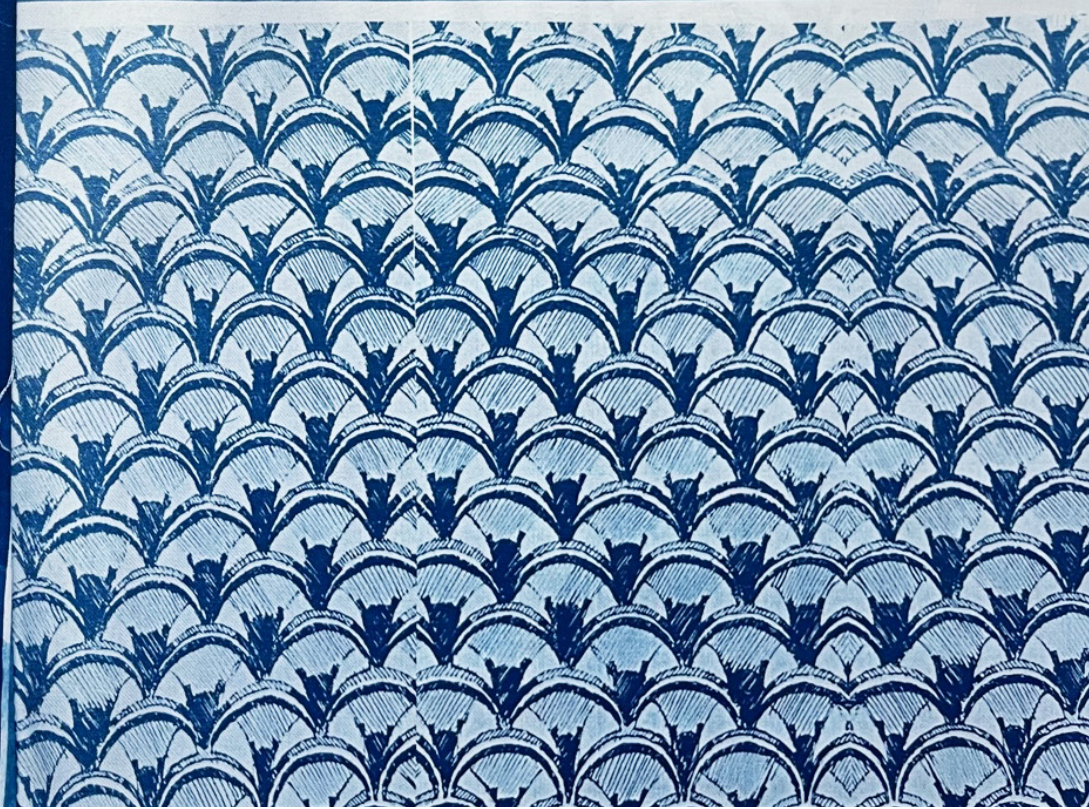




in-between joy



in-between joy



The Apollo, 1950.

for my mother...



E. G. G.

Hello,

It's been a few weeks since I've seen you. We have written a lot of thank you cards recently and I want to write you one now...

Thank you for sharing your memories of your years in Harlem before Jen and I were born. I know how hard it has been reflecting on the past



E. Cole

Thank you for walking us
down those hot streets
every summer.

Joe reminded us in her eulogy
that one of her favorite
earlier memories was dad being
greeted by name as we passed.

We met so many generations
of students still in the
neighborhood.

One of my earliest memories
is all the art you made sure
we experienced - the different
galleries + museums we
would wander into.



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PHOTO BY
ERNEST COLE

PHOTO BY
ERNEST COLE

ERNEST COLE

I must show you Ernest Cole's
book, House of Bondage. It
contains images of life in
South Africa - life that endured
through unimaginable cruelty.

The photos also show glimpses
of resilient joy shining
through. People created &
cultivated their own happiness.



E. Cole



E. Cole



E. Cole



E. Cole

They made joy in the spaces
in-between.

Cole, like you, began living in NYC, a place far from home. I wonder how far his rooming house was from yours.

Like you found home with the fellow Filipinos near the uptown hospitals, he found home photographing people on the streets of Harlem.

His photos here show that same stratified society.





“On Sundays after church, I was part of a group of kids who ran over to the Savoy...

I loved to “cut up,” dancing the Charleston on the sidewalk for tips and “eyeballing” the people as they passed by...”

- Norma Miller



I liked to sit on the fire escape and watch the silhouettes of the dancers through the curtains of the Savoy. We could hardly wait for the music of the big bands to start. We could listen to the greatest orchestras in the world from our living room. And every time I got a chance, I'd dance. I loved to dance. I felt born to be a dancer. I'd make up dance routines and call out to my mother, "Look at me! Look at me!" I'd shimmy and turn a fast two-step, irritating the dancers I saw. Dancing was in my blood.

TWIST MOUTH'S NEW SHIRT

On Sundays after church, I was part of a group of kids who ran over to the Savoy just as the music was going to start. There was a four o'clock matinee, and the music just seemed to swing out onto the street. I loved to "cut up," dancing the Charleston on the sidewalk for tips and "eyeballing" the people as they passed by. Sometimes we had Charleston contests on the street, and people threw money at me. I'd make some pennies, a nickel, a dime, sometimes twenty-five cents. That was a lot of money.

Every week when Twist Mouth George arrived, everyone crowded around him. Twist Mouth was the best. He had added a new step to our way of dancing just about the time Charles Lindbergh left New York on the first solo flight

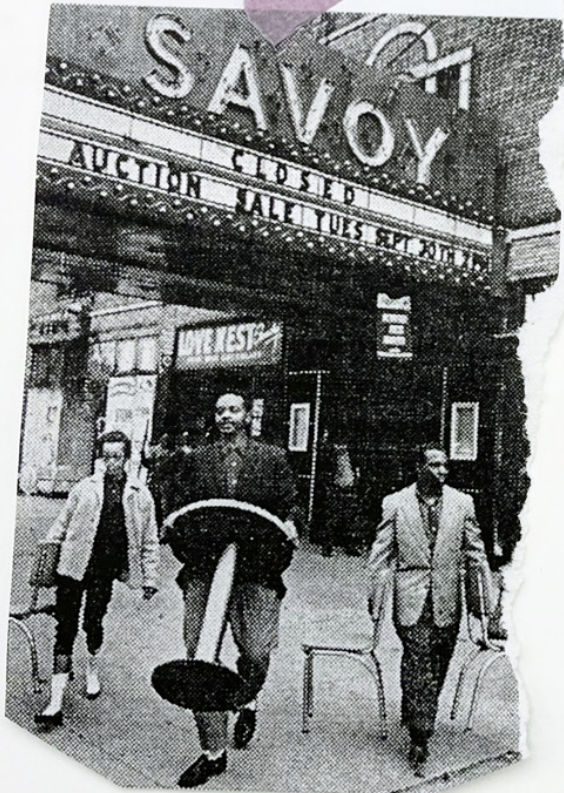


A couple pose outside the Savoy with marquee advertising "12 Hours Dancing". Opposite: Savoy marquee advertises "Worlds Finest Bands".



those same moments of joy
on the streets shine like
beacons.





*Savoy marquee displaying
"Closed" during the liquidation
auction following its closure before
its quick demolition. Opposite: Ella
Fitzgerald at the Savoy*





POPULAR DANCES FROM THE

Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

CAKEWALK TO THE WATUSI

History of American social dancing



CAKEWALK - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

BACK STEP - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

BUNNY - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

CHARLESTON - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE FISH TAIL - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE FROG - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE BIG APPLE - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE HICKORY - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE PETER PAN - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE FRANNY - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE WATUSI - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE RYE - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE SCOTCH - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE IMPERIAL - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE SEAGRASS - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE SCHENCK - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

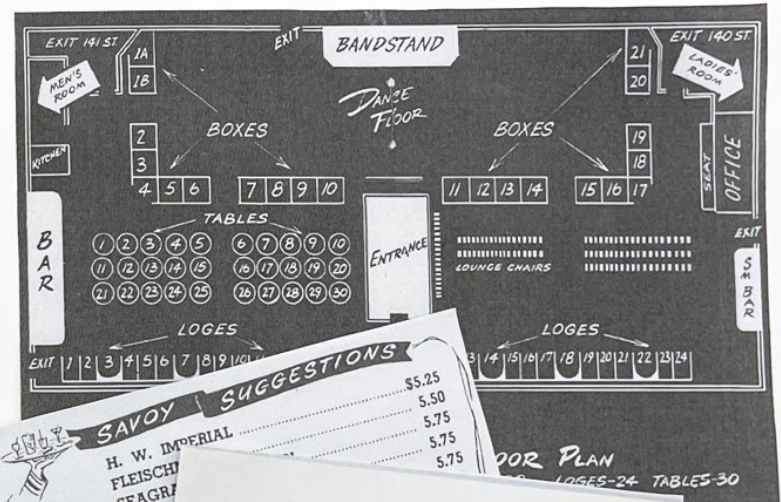
THE HUNT - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE FOUND - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE SEPIA - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

THE CAPER - Famous dance from traces fascinating history of American social dancing

Illustration demonstrating dances popularized at the Savoy. Opposite: Savoy Reservation Guide including floor plan, gentle reminders, menu, and autograph card.



SAVOY SUGGESTIONS

- H. W. IMPERIAL \$5.25
- FLEISCH \$5.50
- SEAGRASS \$5.75
- SCHENCK \$5.75
- HUNT \$5.75
- FOUND \$5.75
- SEPIA \$5.75
- CAPER \$5.75

Rye

Scotch

SHERRER ART

- "In good judgment coat and hat."
- Packages (large) trace after 9:00
- Members or guests: soda, ginger ale or
- We will lend you
- No private service special permission.

WORLD'S FINEST BALLROOM

S

Reservation Guide

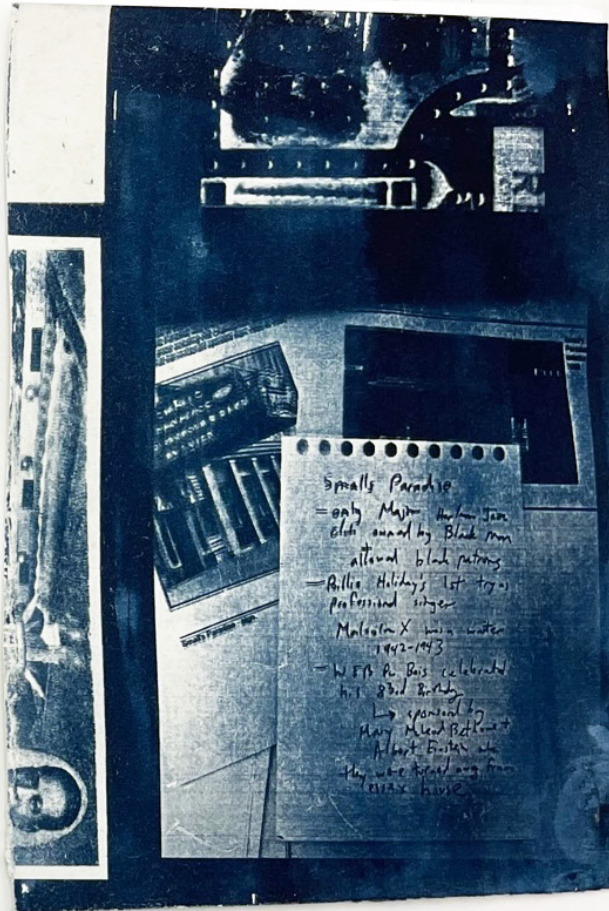
SAVOY BALLROOM

141st STREET, LENOX AVENUE, N. Y. C.

I've begun making a quilt
trying to capture and honor
some of that joy over
the years.

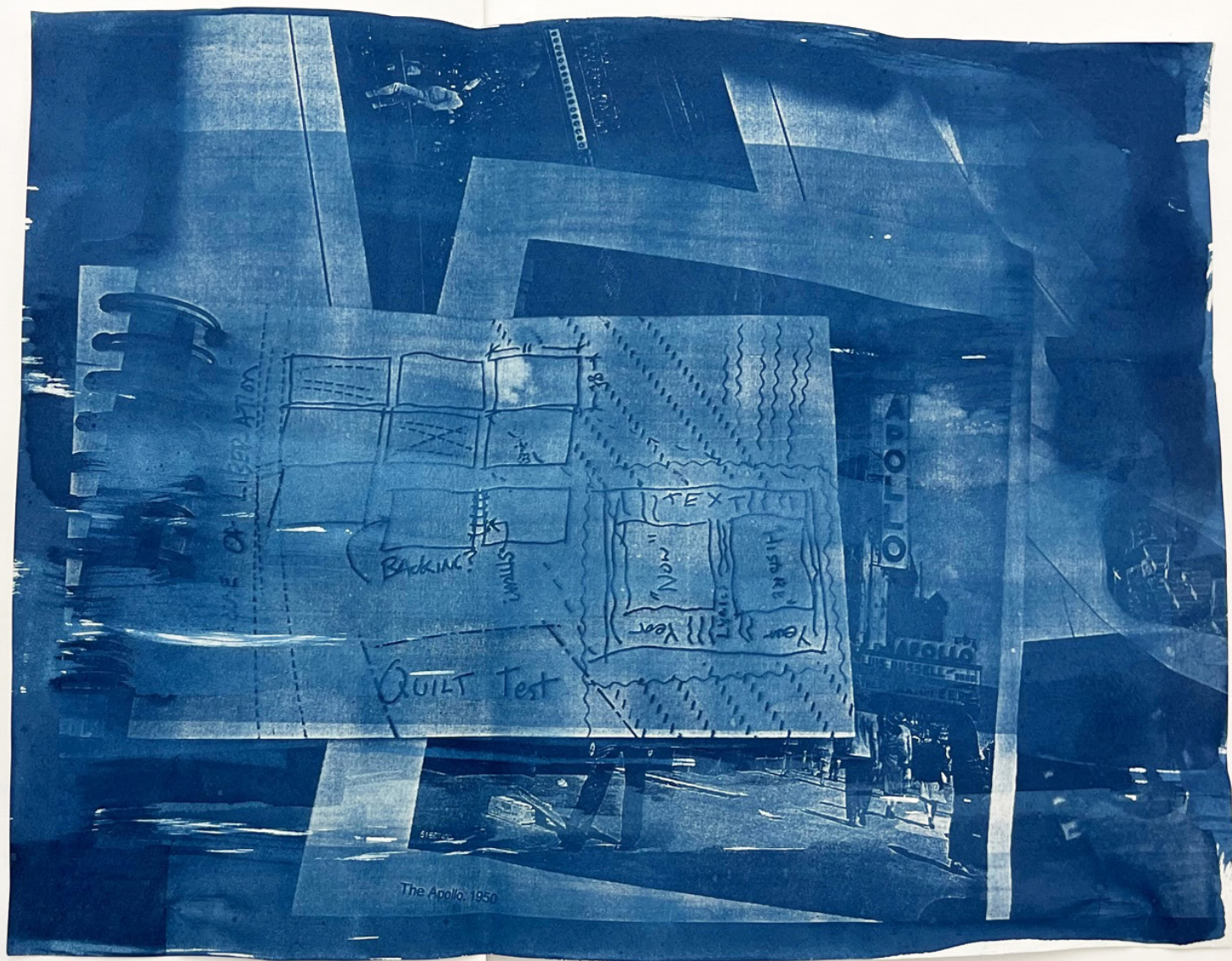


E. Cole



Spray's Paradise

- only Major Harlem Ten
club owned by Black man
allowed black patrons
- Billie Holiday's 1st try as
professional singer
- Malcolm X was a writer
1942-1943
- W.F.B. Dubois celebrated
his 80th Birthday
was sponsored by
Mary McLeod Bethune +
Albert Einstein who
they were friends and from
same time



WALLS OF LIBERTY ACTION

QUILT Test

BACKING?

WALLS

TEXT

Now

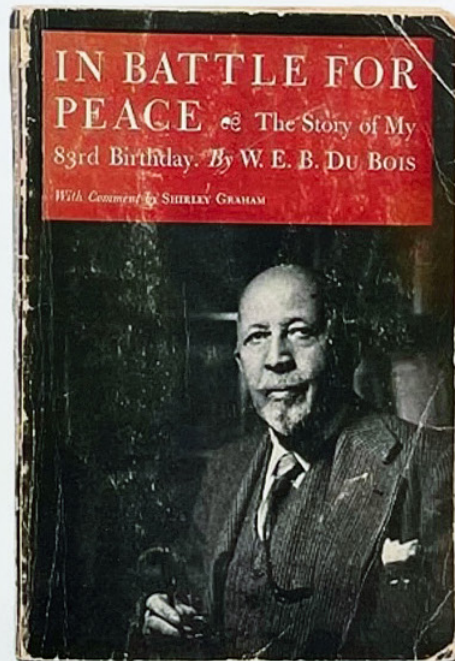
15th R

Year

Year

The Apollo, 1950

The sidewalk "stage" area outside Smalls. Opposite: Image of book cover by W.E.B. DuBois about his 83rd birthday celebration at Smalls.



For Shirley
W. E. B. Du Bois
Sept. 4, 1952

I rode the A/B/C train up
to visit those same sidewalks
(and just like you told me,
I can't remember which
train exactly.)

The old train cars are
being changed out this year
finally. Progress?

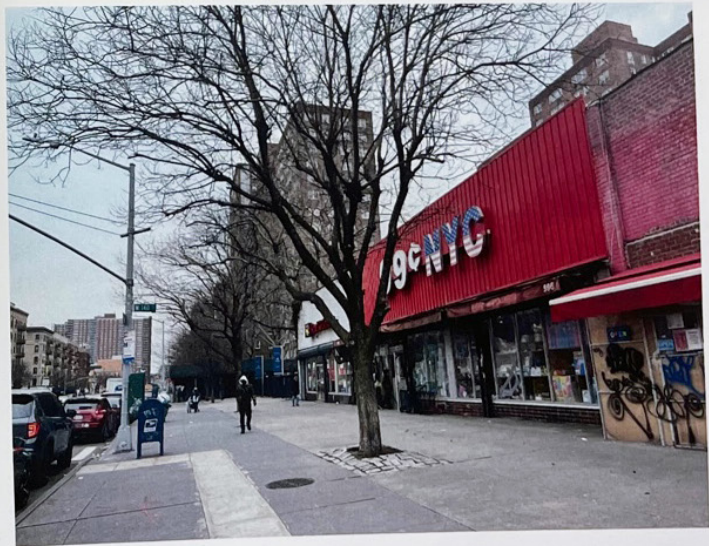
Hard to believe these are the
same cars that you, dad,
& Cole rode many times.

*Opposite: Smalls location currently
sits empty while info online states
"temporarily closed".*





*Savoy Ballroom filled to capacity.
Opposite: Sidewalk previously
covered by Savoy Marquee.*



I wonder if you ever ran into him taking his photos on the streets. They captured the life surrounded by the buildings that come and go.

Jan should come visit with Xavier and we could ride the old cars one last time together. Maybe, by chance it might be that exact car you + dad met in all those years ago.



E. Cole

We could even use that
quilt for a picnic when
the weather is warmer.
We can all try and carve
out our own little place
of joy in the in-between.

Photos by E. Cole are labeled as such
Additional Photo Bibliography:

Pg 14: Cyanotype of "A Night Club Map of Harlem". Campbell, E. Simms, Cartographer, and Publisher Dell Publishing Company. A night-club map of Harlem. [New York, N.Y.: Dell Publishing Company, Inc., ©, 1932] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016585261/>.

Pg 15: Dancers - Engelbrecht, Barbara. "Swinging at the Savoy." Dance Research Journal 15, no. 2

Pg 16: Girl - French, Martin Stompin'at the Savoy, the story of Norma Miller, pg 8

Pg 17: Savoy Postcard - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

Pg 18: Savoy "Music with Kicks" - Van Vechten, Carl. The Savoy Ballroom in 1940. Photograph. Harlem, New York City, n.d. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University

Pg 19: Savoy "Thursday Ladies Night" - popsotsnyc.com/jazz_clubs/

Pg 21: Savoy "Closed" - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

Pg 22: Ella Fitzgerald - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

Pg 23: Popular Dances - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

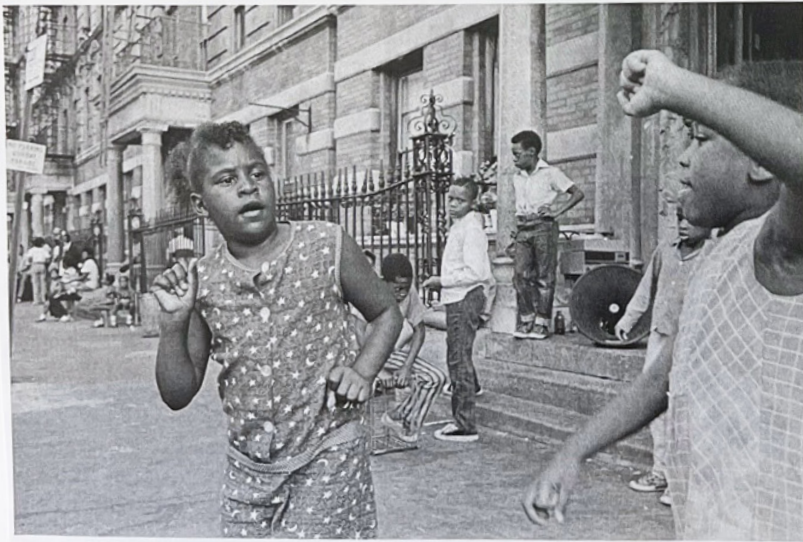
Pg 24: Savoy Ballroom Reservation Guide - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

Pg 29: Big Wilts Smalls - popsotsnyc.com/jazz_clubs/

Pg 30: Du Bois, W.E.B., In Battle For Peace - The Story of My 83rd Birthday.

Pg 33: Savoy ballroom dancing - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/

Pg 38: Savoy Dancers - welcometothsavoy.com/gallery/



E. Cole

