

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Blondi Robinson

*Collection of Photographs of African-American Minstrel and Burlesque Comedian
Blondi Robinson*

1895-1910



A collection of 77 late 19th and early 20th Century photographs owned by African-American comedian Blondi Robinson. Sizes vary but are mostly cabinet size or larger display photographs mounted on card. Condition varies, mostly very good, a few have chips at the corners, foxing, or soiling. The majority of the images are of Robinson, or Robinson with associated acts, some are of other performers, with a small amount of images of Robinson out of character with his family members. Several of the images of the other performers are Signed or Inscribed to Robinson. One small tintype is interesting, a portrait of an African-American baby in a perambulator, with a studio backdrop of the sea shore. Robinson was a touring singer, comedian, contortionist, and acrobat who apparently bridged the gap between minstrel shows and vaudeville.

Most of the images are of Robinson and other performers in comic poses or performances, in both black face and white face, in contorted positions or silly situations, and performing with both black and white performers. The mostly mounted images contain photographer's marks from several cities including Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. Although many contemporary and uniformly complimentary reviews or accounts of Robinson's performances can be easily located (mostly in the first decade of the 20th Century), we can find little else about him and suspect further research would be rewarding. In any event a remarkably broad selection of vaudeville images for an African-American comedian. [BTC#393375]





Williams & Robinson
? Comedians ?



BILLY-WARD
COMEDIAN.
— — —
© 1907
Little Falls, N.Y.



Rembrandt
46-E. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO





BUSHNELL
S.F. CAL.
6

Bushnell
Photo

SAN FRANCISCO
SACRAMENTO
SAN JOSE
OAKLAND



BLONDIE BILLIE
7. ROBINSON & McCARVER
SATIRICAL EXPONENTS OF ECCENTRIC
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