

JOHNSON, HERMAN E.

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b. 18 August 1909; Scotlandville, LA  
d. 2 February 1975; Zachary, LA

Deeply influenced by Blind Lemon Jefferson's 78s, country blues guitarist Herman Johnson was discovered by Harry Oster, who recorded him in Louisiana in 1961. Johnson retired from music in 1970 due to bad health.

LUIGI MONGE

### Bibliography

Oster, Harry. *Living Country Blues*. New York: Minerva Press, 1975.

———. *Smoky Babe/Herman E. Johnson: Louisiana Country Blues* (1996, Arhoolie CD 440).

### Discography: AMG; LSFP

See also Jefferson, Blind Lemon

## JOHNSON, JAMES PRICE

b. 1 February 1894; New Brunswick, NJ  
d. 17 November 1955; New York City, NY

One of the most important early jazz pianists, Johnson was a sensitive accompanist to numerous female vaudeville blues singers, including Bessie Smith. He also recorded blues both solo and in groups, on disk and piano roll.

PETER MUIR

### Bibliography

Larkin; New Grove Jazz

Brown, Scott E. *James P. Johnson: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press and the Institute of Jazz Studies, 1986.

### Discography: DGR; Lord

#### *As Unaccompanied Soloist*

"Mama's Blues" (ca. 1917, Rythmodik E17933; Singa/Supertone 5228; piano rolls).

"Bleeding Hearted Blues" (1923, Vic 19123).

"Weeping Blues/Worried and Lonesome Blues" (1923, Col A-3950).

"Snowy Morning Blues" (1927, Col 14204-D).

"Backwater Blues" (1939, Voc 4903).

"Snowy Morning Blues" (1942, Asch 350-3).

*Blue Moods 1/Blue Moods 2/ Blue Moods, Sex* (1958, Folkways FG 3540).

#### *As Leader*

"Chicago Blues" (1928, Col 14334-D).

"Fare Thee Honey Blues" (1929, Col 14417-D).

#### *As Sideman*

Bessie Smith. "Preachin' the Blues/Back-Water Blues" (1927, Col 14195-D).

"Lock and Key" (1927, Col 14232-D).

"Sweet Mistreater" (1927, Col 14260-D).

"Blues Spirit Blues/Worn Out Papa Blues" (1929, Col 14527).

"He Hot Me Goin'/It Makes My Love Come Down" (1929, Col 14464-D).

"Wasted Life Blues/Dirty No-Gooder's Blues" (1929, Col 14476-D).

"You Don't Understand/Don't Cry Baby" (1929, Col 14487-D).

"On Revival Day/Moan Mourners" (1930, Col 14538-D).

## JOHNSON, JAMES "STEADY ROLL"

b. ca. 1888; New Orleans, LA (?)

d. ca. early 1960s; East St. Louis, IL

Birth and death data possibilities from Harris. Brother of Lonnie Johnson, played piano, celeste, violin, guitar, and banjo. On record, he made "No Good Blues" b/w "Newport Blues" for OKeh in 1926, was a member of Henry Johnson's Boys and backed several other St. Louis blues singers in the 1920s. With his brother, he played on the riverboats in Charlie Creath's Jazz-O-Maniacs.

BOB HALL

### Bibliography

Harris

### Discography: DGR

## JOHNSON, JAMES "STUMP"

b. 17 January 1902; Clarksville, TN

d. 5 December 1969; St. Louis, MO

James "Stump" Johnson was a St. Louis piano player who had a hit with the ditty "The Duck's Yas-Yas-Yas." The twenty-one songs James Johnson recorded from 1928 to 1932 provide a fascinating insight into the barrelhouse and brothel piano music of St. Louis during the Depression. The tunes are catchy, the piano playing is simple, but effective, and the lyrics are raw, but hilarious. His only postwar recordings were made in 1964.

GUIDO VAN RIJN

### Bibliography

Harris; Larkin

### Discography: DGR; LSFP