

Manuscript Collections from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Guide to the Scholarly Resources Microfilm Edition

Series 1: AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

Universal Negro Improvement Association: Records of
the Central Division, New York, 1918-1959

Negro Labor Committee Record Group, 1925-1969

National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses Records, 1908-1951

Blacks in the Railroad Industry, 1946-1954

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General Preface

This inventory is one of several prepared as part of the archival preservation program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a division of The New York Public Library.

The Schomburg archival preservation program involves the organization and preservation of primary source material held by the Center and of significance to the study of the black experience. It also prepares detailed inventories to these records, thereby making the information contained therein accessible to scholars.

The staff and supplies for this program were made available through a combination of funds and services provided by the Research Libraries, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the state of New York.

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Introduction

The Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities' League is an international self-help organization founded in Jamaica, British West Indies, by Marcus Garvey in 1914. Its objectives are to establish a Universal Confraternity among the race; to promote the spirit of pride and love; to reclaim the fallen; to administer to and assist the needy; to assist in civilizing the backward tribes of Africa; to assist in the development of Independent Negro Nations and Communities; to establish Commissionaries or Agencies in the principal countries and cities of the world for the representation and protection of all Negroes irrespective of nationality; to promote a conscientious Spiritual worship among the native tribes of Africa; to establish Universities, Colleges, Academies and Schools for the racial education and culture of the people; to conduct a worldwide Commercial and Industrial Intercourse for the good of the People; to work for better conditions in all Negro communities.

In 1916, Marcus Garvey moved to New York and began organizing divisions of the Association in various parts of the United States. By 1920 he was able to claim four million followers, and by 1923 some six million. Besides the divisions, which were the basic units of the organization, Garvey established auxiliaries to carry out special aspects of his general program. These included the Universal African Legion, a paramilitary group, the Universal Black Cross Nurses, the Universal African Motor Corps, the Black Eagle Flying Corps, and the Black Star Steamship Line.

The annual conventions of the U.N.I.A. ("International Conventions of the Negro Peoples of the World") attracted many thousands of people who participated in the month-long series of programs, planning sessions, parades, and discussion groups. Resolutions were discussed and passed stating the official positions of the "400,000,000 Negroes of the world" on the pressing matters of the day. Often these conventions are more remembered by observers for the pomp and ceremony that accompanied them than for the tremendous amount of discussion and analysis of the condition of the black man which took place during the annual thirty-one days of meetings.

The Central Division, whose records constitute this record group, came into being in 1936 and was a development arising out of the fractionalization of the U.N.I.A. movement following Garvey's imprisonment in 1926 and his subsequent deportation. In 1926 the leadership of New York Division #340 was evicted from the U.N.I.A. Liberty Hall building in New York by the incipient Garvey Club. The group, headed by Capt. A. L. King, formed the Pioneer Negroes of the World. Later, in August 1929, a temporary reconciliation occurred when Garvey reincorporated the U.N.I.A. in Jamaica under the name Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities' League of the World.

Also, in August, Captain King attended the Sixth International Convention of Negro Peoples of the World in Kingston as one of the American delegates. He served as president of the reinstated New York Division until another split occurred in 1936. This time he left the division and established an independent unit—the Central Division—which appealed to Garvey for the recognition that it was subsequently granted.

Scope and Content

The material included in this record group constitutes the bulk of the office files of the Central Division of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, an international self-help organization founded and headed by Marcus Garvey. The records, discovered in an abandoned building on Lenox Avenue in New York City by members of a local antinarcotics organization, The Community Thing, were divided into two bodies. The portion represented herein was acquired by the Schomburg Center in late spring of 1970 and contains approximately 10,500 items. The balance was retained by The Community Thing and is held in storage at the Metropolitan Applied Research Center in New York.

The record group is composed of the office files of the Central Division of the U.N.I.A. and includes the division's administrative records, correspondence, and other related materials that were retained for various reasons. It also contains certain documents that appear to have been inherited from the U.N.I.A.'s Parent Body, originally located in New York City but subsequently moved to Kingston, Jamaica, and later to London, England. In addition to the Parent Body's material, the group contains records relating to organizations that were affiliated with the U.N.I.A. (for example, Garvey Clubs, U.N.I.A. City Council (New York), and Pan-African Community League), or were actually suborganizations within the divisions (for instance, Black Cross Nurses, Juvenile Cadet Corps, and Central Choral Singers), as well as some records of the New York Division from which Captain King split to form the Central Division.

The entire record group is divided into the following nine series:

Series A: Early Records (Inherited from the Parent Body and Other Sources) consists of miscellaneous documents and reports, generally arranged in chronological order. Two groups of items in this series deserve special attention. First, is the Daily Receipts and Disbursement Reports, which were submitted to the Parent Body by a number of significant divisions in 1922. Second, is the set of membership loan books that documents the system whereby members loaned money to the U.N.I.A. and received annual accumulations of interest from periodic installments paid by the Association. The series also includes a set of 3"x5" file cards that lists nearly all of the active divisions of the U.N.I.A. in 1926 and 1927, and gives the number of each chapter or division, along with the names and addresses of the president and secretary reported by each one. Due to limited space on microfilm, the cards have not been included but instead a typed list of the divisions is represented. The original cards are stored with the rest of the record group at the Schomburg Center and are accessible upon request.

Series B: New York Division consists primarily of scattered administrative and financial reports of the division during the time Captain King was active with it and before his departure and establishment of the Central Division in 1936.

Series C: Central Division, Administrative Records, includes records such as financial reports, attendance and dues reports, membership lists, minutes of meetings, bills and receipts, and copies of two in-house organs, the *Centralist Bulletin* and the *Harlem Sentinel*, which were edited by King. The material is arranged alphabetically by titles of the reports.

Series D: Central Division, Correspondence, contains the body of the division's correspondence, including communications between Captain King and international U.N.I.A. officials, such as Marcus Garvey, as well as leaders of other divisions and chapters across the country. The correspondence illustrates the scope of the U.N.I.A.'s interests and activities during the late 1930s and 1940s and includes the personal feelings and observations of numerous

people, both famous and unknown, who filled the ranks of the organization during the two decades following Garvey's departure from this country.

Series E: Central Division, Subject and Organization Files, consists of similar material, but most of the correspondence is simply that received from other organizations, often with no apparent response. The subject files, which are interfiled with the organizations, again illustrate the interests of the U.N.I.A. Included are files on consumer affairs, immigration and naturalization, politics, and welfare cases.

Series F: Central Division, Programs and Activities Files, contains chronologically arranged material primarily relating to the local programs of the division: leaflets describing rallies and mass meetings, lecture series, printed programs of anniversary celebrations, and calls for support of specific projects. The series also includes some material relating to the various committees, such as the one that organized the Special Memorial Service observing the death of Marcus Garvey in 1940, or the American-London Delegation that visited with the founder of the U.N.I.A. in 1936.

Series G: Scrapbook (Clippings on the Italo-Ethiopian Crisis, 1934-35) appears to be a personal project of Captain King, consisting of thousands of mounted clippings, mostly from New York daily newspapers, that follow the day-by-day developments as Italian forces moved in, overcame local resistance, and temporarily colonized Ethiopia as a part of Italian East Africa.

Series H: U.N.I.A. Affiliate Organization Files includes various records relating to other organizations under the umbrella of the U.N.I.A. such as the U.N.I.A. City Council (New York), which appears to have been a loose federation of the New York City and Brooklyn Divisions; the Pan-African Community League #808; the Garvey Club Inc.; and the Brooklyn Divisions, which cooperated with the Central Division, the Newark Division, and the City Council on a number of projects.

Series I: Miscellaneous contains everything that did not fit into the preceding eight series, including boxes of greeting cards received by the Central Division, photographs, texts of songs, engraved printing plates, as well as duplicate copies of pamphlets, leaflets, and other material that appears elsewhere in the record group. *This last series was not microfilmed.*

Reel Contents

Series A: Early Records (Inherited from the Parent Body and Other Sources)

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
1	1	a1 U.N.I.A. Certificate of Membership
		a2 Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities' League "Constitucion y Libros de Leyes," 1918
		a3 U.N.I.A. Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World, Drafted and Adopted at the Convention held in New York, 1920. Marcus Garvey, chairman
		a4 Parent Body, Receipt Book, 1921
		a5 Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities' League, Constitution and Book of Laws, 1918 (as amended 1920, 1921, and 1922)
		a6 Parent Body, Trial Balance Book of U.S. Divisions, 1922
		a7 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #2 (Brooklyn, New York), April–November 1922
		a8 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #20 (Norfolk, Virginia), July–September 1922
		a9 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #79 (Buffalo, New York), June 1922
		a10 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #123 (Youngstown, Ohio), September 1922
		a11 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #125 (Detroit, Michigan), March–September 1922
		a12 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #125 (Detroit, Michigan), October 1922
		a13 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #142 (Columbus, Ohio), May–September 1922
		a14 Parent Body, Daily Receipts and Disbursements, Division #142 (Columbus, Ohio), October 1922–October 1923
1	2	a15 Marcus Garvey, "An Appeal to the Soul of White America: The Solution to the Problem of Competition between Two Opposite Races . . . by Marcus Garvey . . . reprint from magazine, 1923."
		a16 Divisions of the U.N.I.A., 1925–27
		a17 Divisional Listings (domestic)
		a18 Divisional Listings (international)
		a19 <i>Negro World</i> , Report for President's Office from Executive Office, Parent Body, African Communities' League, August 20–December 31, 1924
		a20 Treasurer's Report of African Communities' League for President's Office, January and December 1924

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
1	2	<p>a21 "Three Articles on the Negro Problem": "Should the Color Line Go" by Robert Watson Winston, "The Negro's Greatest Enemy" by Marcus Garvey, and "The Negro Exodus from the South" by Eric D. Waldron (Press of U.N.I.A., 1924)</p> <p>a22 Black Cross Navigation and Trading Company, Salesman's Report-Loan, 1924 and 1925</p> <p>a23 Convention Program, New York Local, U.N.I.A., August 15-21, 1926 (Commonwealth Casino, New York)</p> <p>a24 <i>U.N.I.A. vs. U.N.I.A.</i> (Court of Common Pleas, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), March 1926</p> <p>a25 Parent Body, Statement of Executive Salaries Ending May 15, 1926</p> <p>a26 Parent Body, Office of the Secretary-General, Receipt Book, October 27-November 11, 1926 and sample pages</p> <p>a27 Parent Body, Correspondence re Liberty Hall, 1927</p> <p>a28 U.N.I.A. and African Communities' League of the World, August 1929, Constitution and Book of Laws, August 1929</p> <p>a29 <i>U.N.I.A. Inc., vs. U.N.I.A. of August 1929 of the World</i>, Parent Body and DeMena (Supreme Court, state of New York)</p>
1	3	<p>a30 Parent Body, Membership and Expense Ledger, 1926-36 (nearly blank)</p> <p>a31 Parent Body, Forms, Change of Officers</p> <p>a32 Parent Body, Forms, Universal African Legion, Monthly Report</p> <p>a33 <i>Negro World</i>, Correspondence, 1932</p> <p>a34 <i>Negro World</i>, Correspondence, 1933</p> <p>a35 <i>Negro World</i>, Correspondence, 1935-36</p> <p>a36 <i>Negro World</i>, Galley Sheets</p> <p>a37 <i>Negro World</i>, S. A. Haynes, "Through Black Spectacles . . ."</p>
1	4	Membership Loan Books, 1922-23 (Loans to the Association by members to be paid on regular basis "for use in the furtherance of the Industrial, Commercial, and Africultural purposes of the Association in its Construction Plans in the interest of the race.")

Arrangement by Division According to Serial Numbers Assigned

101-200	New York, New York
701-800	Wilmington, Delaware, #83
801-900	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
901-1000	Baltimore, Maryland
1101-1200	Cleveland, Ohio, #59
1201-1300	Youngstown, Ohio
1301-1400	Detroit, Michigan
1401-1500	Buffalo, New York
1501-1600	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
1601-1700	Cincinnati, Ohio
1701-1800	Columbus, Ohio

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
1	4	1901-2000 Chicago, Illinois
		2001-2100 Washington, DC, #183
		2101-2200 Cincinnati, Ohio
		2501-2600 New York, New York
		2601-2700 Gary, Indiana, #185
		2701-2800 Harntramck
		2801-2900 Norfolk, Virginia, #20
		3101-3200 Detroit, Michigan
		3201-3300 Detroit, Michigan
		3301-3400 Cincinnati, Ohio
		3401-3500 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The loan books have not been microfilmed, but the originals are available upon request at the Schomburg Center.

Series B: New York Division

2	5	b1	Ledger (officers, membership, dues, and attendance), 1934-35
		b2	Financial Reports, 1933-35
		b3	Form Letters, 1935
		b4	Forms, Miscellaneous
		b5	"Lucky 9 Club," Minutes, January 3, 1934-October 11, 1935
		b6	Membership Lists, 1935
		b7	Campaign Book for New Membership, n.d.
		b8	Minutes, January 1935-April 1936
		b9	Minutes, Board of Directors, 1935
		b10	<i>New York Division vs. James N. Eastmond</i> , 1934

Series C: Central Division, Administrative Records

c1	Aesops of Bylaws (Article III)
c2	Attendance Reports, 1938
c3	Attendance Reports, 1939-45 (scattered reports and written excuses)
c4	<i>Centralist Bulletin</i> , 1941-44 (Vol. 1, nos. 1 and 3; Vol. 2, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9)
c5	Financial Reports, July 1938
c6	Financial Reports, 1938-39
c7	Financial Reports, 1940
c8	Bills and Receipts, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, 1937-46 (before 1937 <i>see</i> New York Edison Company)
c9	Bills and Receipts, Estwick Brothers Inc., 1937-42 (Rent Receipts)
c10	Bills and Receipts, Hinds Printery, 1942-49

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
2	5	c11 Bills and Receipts, New York Edison Company, 1935–36 (after 1936 <i>see</i> Consolidated Edison Company)
		c12 Bills and Receipts, New York Telephone, 1935–59
		c13 Bills and Receipts, Pyramid Press, 1935–41
		c14 Bills and Receipts, 1935
		c15 Bills and Receipts, 1936
		c16 Bills and Receipts, 1937
		c17 Bills and Receipts, 1938
		c18 Bills and Receipts, 1939
		c19 Bills and Receipts, 1940–45
	6	c20 Bills and Receipts, 1946–49
		c21 Bills and Receipts, 1950–58
		c22 Dues, n.d.
		c23 <i>Harlem Sentinel</i> , Capt. A. L. King, editor (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2, May and July 1938)
		c24 Letterhead Stationery, n.d.
		c25 Membership Lists, n.d.
		c26 Minutes of Meetings, January 19–December 22, 1938
		c27 Minutes of Meetings, January 3–March 20, 1940
		c28 Minutes of Meetings, 1942
		c29 Minutes of Meetings, (unofficial), 1938–40
		c30 Officers' Schedules, 1945–46
		c31 Special Notes, 1937
		c32 Black Cross Nurses, Minutes of Meetings, 1939–40
		c33 Black Cross Nurses, Uniforms
		c34 Central Choral Singers, Financial Records, 1941–42
		c35 Central Chorus, Financial Report on Dance, 1942
		c36 Central Unemployed Unit, Minutes of Meeting, October 26, 1937
		c37 Central Unemployed Unit, Lists of Cards Issued, 1940 (incomplete)
		c38 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (A)
		c39 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (Bai-Bra)
		c40 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (Bre-By)
		c41 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (C-Je)
		c42 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (Joh-K)
		c43 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (L-P)
3	7	c44 Central Unemployed Unit, Registrations, 1938–41 (R-W)
		c45 Central Youth Circle, Roll Book, n.d.
		c46 Central Youth League, Receipt and Guest Books, 1940
		c47 Centralist Fund, Financial Reports, February 1939–November 1940
		c48 Centralist System, Membership and Contributions Register, 1945
		c49 Centralist System, Membership Cards (signed), 1940–50
		c50 Executive (Office of the), Memorandums, 1936–38
		c51 Juvenile Cadet Corps, Application and Registration Blanks, 1941
		c52 Juvenile Department, Attendance and Membership Book, September 25, 1939 and 1942

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3	7	c53 Juvenile Department, Miscellaneous, 1932-43
		c54 Nurses Division #100A, Reports, July and August 1937
		c55 Propaganda, (Bureau of), Manuscript of Booklet, n.d.
		c56 Social Service Exchange, 1937
		c57 Universal Sporting Club, Financial Records, n.d.

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		d3 Andrews, William T., 1934-41
		d4 B, 1935-42
		d5 Bilbo, Senator Theodore G. (D-Miss.), 1939
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		d10 C, 1935-44
		d11 Cardoze, Carmen L., 1942-45
		d12 Collins, Edwin H. (bishop, Coptic Orthodox Church), 1937-42
		d13 Collins, Ethel M. (secretary-general, Parent Body, U.N.I.A.), 1938-42
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		d28 Goldston, Morris J. (attorney), 1935-37
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		d30 Grissom, N. H. (commissioner of Wisconsin, U.N.I.A.), 1938-42
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		d35 I, 1935-45
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3	9	d38 Jarvis, Alice M., 1936–44
		d39 Jones, Benjamin W. (Philadelphia Division), 1936–43
		d40 K, 1936–45
		d41 King, A. L.
		d42 King, A. L. (notice of impeachment from New York Division presidency, 1936, and letters of resignation from Central Division and City Council, U.N.I.A., 1939)
		d43 King, A. L. "Negro Panic" (article for <i>The Federation</i>)
		d44 King, A. L., Postcards Received (miscellaneous)
		d45 L, 1936–45
		d46 Lewis, Raymond (president, New York Vanguard Division), 1937–49
		d47 Lewis, Lieutenant (testimony at trial, February 27, 1936, Captain Jarvis, plaintiff)
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		d52 Mudgal, Hucheshwar G., 1935
		d53 Mudgal, Hucheshwar G. (editor of <i>Negro World</i>), "Marcus Garvey: Is He the True Redeemer of the Negro?" (pamphlet), 1932
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		d61 Parris, Euston, 1937–44 (includes Report on Proceedings of the Negro Emancipation Celebration Committee, n.d.)
		d62 Parris, Euston, Gilbert and Florence (insurance policies)
		d63 Pitt, B. J. Spences (chairman, Rehabilitation Committee), 1936–45
		d64 Powell, Rev. Adam C., Jr., 1937 (<i>see also</i> Abyssinian Baptist Church)
		d65 Powell, C. B. (editor of the <i>Amsterdam News</i>), 1938–39
		d66 R, 1936–39
		d67 Ramsey, Walter (president, New York Division), 1936–37
		d68 Reddick, L. D. "World Aspects of the Negro Struggle," 1943
		d69 Ritchie Family, 1937–41
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		d73 Spence, Clara, 1938–40
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		d75 Stewart, James R. (president-general, Parent Body), 1940
		d76 Stuart, Clinton, 1936–39

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		d80 Thomas, Mrs. Catherine, 1937
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		d84 Valentine, Lewis J. (New York police commissioner), 1937-39
		d85 Virginia Division (Norfolk), 1943
		d86 Volman, E. Ralph (Garvey Club), 1936-37
		d87 W, 1935-45
		d88 Welcome, E. Eric, 1937
		d89 White, Charles H., 1939
		d90 Williams, V. J. (commissioner of New York State, U.N.I.A., 1929), 1940-41
		d91 Winfield, Allen, Sr. (secretary, Wilmington, Delaware Division), 1936
		d92 Y, 1944
		d93 Yearwood, J. B. (secretary, Protemp., African International Intelligence Brotherhood), 1935
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		e2 Adirondack Chair Company, 1935-36
		e3 Advisory Committee on Negro Problems, 1937
		e4 <i>The African: Journal of African Affairs</i> , 1943
		e5 <i>The African</i> (organ of the Universal Ethiopian Student Association), n.d.
		e6 African Academy of Arts and Research, 1944-45
		e7 <i>The African Nationalist</i> , Monrovia, Liberia, no. 2, November 1938
		e8 African Nationalist Pioneering Movement, 1942
		e9 African Patriotic League, n.d.
		e10 African Universal Church, 1950
		e11 Afro-American Union, 1939
		e12 All Harlem Conference, 1936
		e13 American Aid to Ethiopia, n.d.
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		e15 American Civil Rights Association, 1935-42
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Introduction

The formation of the Negro Labor Committee on July 20, 1935, was a major breakthrough in the black man's struggle to involve himself in the labor movement and to bring organized labor to the realization that its aspirations could only be achieved by giving equal consideration to all workers regardless of race, creed, or color. In 1925, Frank R. Crosswaith and a number of other labor leaders had organized the Trade Union Committee for Organizing Negro Workers, with the goal of encouraging blacks to unionize. Later, in 1934, a number of the same leaders, with the active support of the Socialist party, founded the Harlem Labor Committee with somewhat the same objective.

The First Negro Labor Conference was called together under the auspices of the Harlem Labor Committee and was composed of elected delegates, both blacks and whites, from 110 progressive labor unions. The purpose of the conference was to consider the economic plight of black workers and to develop a program of action calculated to aid them in securing better-paid jobs other than the more-or-less menial jobs (dishwasher, porter, cook), to which tradition had long confined black people following the overthrow of slavery. A second objective of the conference was to remove the serious threat that the unorganized black worker represented to the organized labor movement.

The conference elected a committee of twenty-five members who proceeded to establish the Negro Labor Committee and to map out a program of action; the committee was headed by Frank R. Crosswaith. Other officers were Vice Chairmen A. Philip Randolph (Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters), Thomas G. Young (Building Service Employees' Union), Julius Hochman (ILGWU), Abraham Miller (Amalgamated Clothing Workers), and Morris Feinstone (United Hebrew Trades); treasurer, Philip Kapp (Joint Board, Dressmakers' Union); financial secretary, Winifred Gittens (ILGWU); and organizer, Noah A. Walter, Jr. (Laundry Workers' Union).

One of the Committee's first projects was the establishment of the Harlem Labor Center—Labor's Home in Harlem—at 312 West 125th Street. The Center was dedicated on December 15, 1935, and its opening was accompanied by an intensive campaign of education and organization. The founders of the Negro Labor Committee did not claim credit for anything original in their action, for

... we recall with pride that other minority groups in the world of work when faced with problems similar to the problems the Negro workers now face, adopted identical methods of meeting and solving their problems. ... The Negro worker has been referred to as the "Scab of America." ... While the facts do not wholly justify this appellation, nevertheless, it is true that in every major industrial struggle in the U.S. within the last two decades, the Negro worker has played a vital, if not always, complimentary role.

Unfortunately, organized labor in too many instances, both by sins of omission and commission, has driven the Negro worker into the open and welcome arms of the employers with the result that the Negro has developed an unfriendly attitude toward the labor movement and a corresponding affection for the employers of labor.

... in spite of some fine resolutions and official pronouncements on the subject there are still unions that either openly bar Negro workers from membership through clauses in their Constitution, bylaws or rituals, and that covertly discriminate against the Negro worker by practices more eloquent and effective than pronouncements, resolutions, or Constitutions can ever be.

In dealing with the double dilemma of the black worker, the Negro Labor Committee sought to organize unorganized black workers and to break down the barriers within the existing labor

movement. It sought the affiliation of additional unions and locals with or without black membership in order to provide for the broadest possible participation in its work and to ensure the maintenance of the Harlem Labor Center as the home of legitimate labor movement among black and white workers in Harlem. The Committee also lent its support to unions engaged in organization and strike activities among black workers, and it established the Negro Labor News Service, which disseminated information on events about or relating to black labor throughout the country.

During the 1930s and 1940s the Negro Labor Committee played a key role in expanding the ranks of organized black labor and in overcoming barriers within the labor movement itself. It sponsored conferences, trained organizers, and carried out highly publicized campaigns against discriminatory practices, both in labor and management. Furthermore, the Committee successfully led the fight against Communist efforts to use black labor problems as vehicles toward its own ends.

At its height the Committee represented over 250,000 black and white workers and was widely acknowledged and respected as the voice of black labor. Time and events have marched on, but we must not forget the contributions that this organization and its leaders have made to the status of the black worker in American labor today.

Frank R. Crosswaith, founder and longtime chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, was born in Fredericksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, on July 16, 1892. While still in his teens, he moved to New York City. His aspiration was to become a lawyer; however, his involvement in the labor and socialist movements in Harlem cost him his job. Instead, with the aid of a scholarship, he enrolled at the Rand School of Social Sciences. After graduation his work in both movements increased. He became a lecturer for the school, a socialist organizer and lecturer for the League for Industrial Democracy, and a national organizer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Contending that the problems of black people were kindred to those of all working people, and that the aspiration of labor could only be achieved by giving equal consideration to all workers regardless of race, creed, or color, Crosswaith soon gained widespread recognition as an outstanding speaker and proponent of the cause of all oppressed people. His stance as an uncompromising foe of communism earned him the proud distinction of being its number one target. He argued quite effectively that communism was merely using the grievances of black people for cheap political propaganda. Furthermore, the Ku Klux Klan openly threatened Crosswaith for charging it with the infamous race riot among the sharecroppers in Elaine, Arkansas. He was likewise attacked by antilabor employers for his opposition to their attempts to use black workers as pawns to thwart the efforts of organized labor.

Nevertheless, even those who disagreed with Crosswaith's bitter, although eloquent, criticisms of the blemishes of American democracy respected him for his ideals and unswerving devotion to his people and working peoples everywhere. He brought to the surface the ugly sores of racial prejudice, political opportunism, and economic barbarism, all of which hampered the achievement of constructive progress of Negro civil rights.

Frank Crosswaith also was an effective labor organizer, who cofounded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and helped to organize unions for elevator operators and constructors, mechanics, barbers, laundry workers, motion picture operators, grocery clerks, dining car employees, drug clerks, and many other labor groups. He also wrote a regular column, "Looking around and Beyond," which discussed problems relating to black labor and appeared in several black newspapers from 1939 to 1943. Furthermore, he served as the first labor member of the New York City Housing Authority, a post to which he was appointed by Mayor Fiorello

Henry LaGuardia. At a testimonial dinner in honor of his seventieth birthday, Crosswaith was cited as “the pioneer veteran, champion of labor and loyal public servant who has devoted his life to the economic and social welfare of all workers. Male and female workers of America—Negro, white and all races—have drawn strength and inspiration from the fervor and passion of Frank R. Crosswaith’s lifelong devotion to the cause of labor.”

Chronology

July 16, 1892	Born in Fredericksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands
1915	Married Alma E. Besard of Charleston, South Carolina
1925	Cofounded the Trade Union Committee for Organizing Negro Workers
August 25, 1925	Cofounder and general organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
1934	Candidate for Congress, 21st Congressional District, New York
1935	Established the Negro Labor News Service
July 20, 1935	Cofounder and chairman of the Negro Labor Committee
1936	Coauthored, with Alfred Baker Lewis, “True Freedom for Negro and White Labor”
1937	Cofounded the Negro Labor Assembly
1938	Candidate for Congress, 21st Congressional District, New York
1939	Candidate for City Council, New York
1939–43	Authored column “Looking around and Beyond”
1941	Appointed to Selective Service Board #76 Member of A. Philip Randolph’s March on Washington Committee Broadcast one-half hour regular radio program on WEVD
1942	Appointed to the New York City Housing Authority by Mayor Fiorello Henry LaGuardia
1945	Cofounded the Liberal Party
1946	Reappointed to New York City Housing Authority (served until 1956)
1951	Testimonial dinner given in Crosswaith’s honor (proceeds turned over to Frank R. Crosswaith Labor Education Fund)
1952	Cofounded the Negro Labor Committee, U.S.A.
March 1, 1952	Chairman, Conference on Problems of the Negro Worker and the Community
May 18, 1957	Chairman, Conference on Labor’s Responsibility towards Integration in the New York City Public Schools
July 16, 1957	Testimonial dinner honoring sixty-fifth birthday
October 25, 1958	Coorganized Youth March on Washington for Integrated Schools
December 8, 1962	Seventieth birthday reception
1963	Helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
June 18, 1965	Died

Scope and Content

The Negro Labor Committee Record Group consists of the complete noncurrent office files of the Committee and the personal papers of Frank R. Crosswaith, founder and longtime chairman of the Committee. These documents, containing approximately 18,500 items, were transferred to the Schomburg Center for processing and preservation by the Committee in 1971. The records are divided into two major series, each with a number of subseries, as outlined below.

Series I: Office Files of the Negro Labor Committee

This series is subdivided into three subseries reflecting the general practice of the Committee's office staff under the supervision of its secretary, Winifred Gittens. The first subseries is primarily historical and administrative and includes records of the organizations that preceded the Negro Labor Committee—the Trade Union Committee for Organizing Negro Workers (1925) and the Harlem Labor Committee (1934)—as well as items summarizing the Committee's general interests and activities from its founding in 1935 to 1969, the record group cutoff date. This first subseries also contains the general correspondence (Communications Received and Answered) of the Committee (arranged chronologically), and also administrative records such as minutes of meetings, committee reports, financial records, form letters, and letterhead stationary.

The second subseries contains the general subject and activities files of the Committee. Arranged alphabetically, it includes material on conferences and conventions in which the Committee participated, documents relating to activities and special projects of the Committee (for example, Harlem Labor Center, Scholarship Benefit Fund, Negro Labor Committee-U.S.A., anniversary journals, and the proposed 1943 march on Washington, in addition to the monthly minutes of the Negro Labor Assembly, of which the Negro Labor Committee was an integral part. Furthermore, this subseries contains the regular press releases of the Negro Labor News Service from 1935 to 1951.

Finally, the third subseries consists of the files of the individual unions and locals that were affiliated with the Negro Labor Committee and that joined it in many of its projects, programs, and activities. The files present a cross-section of the progressive labor movement in New York City during the 1930s and 1940s.

Series II: Personal Files of Frank R. Crosswaith

In this section, the first subseries (d) contains Crosswaith's personal correspondence (primarily "Letters of Appreciation"), biographical data, and materials relating to political campaigns and testimonial dinners. These documents are followed by subseries (e), which consists of Crosswaith's writings and speeches. Included in this section are the typescripts of his column "Looking around and Beyond," which appeared regularly in various black newspapers from 1939 to 1943, as well as other articles and editorials printed in various publications. This subseries also contains Crosswaith's copies of "Letters to the Editor" (1940–1960), in which he set forth his views and the official positions of the Negro Labor Committee on many of the

major questions of the day. The last section of this subseries includes speeches and correspondence relating to his numerous speaking engagements.

Subseries (f) is an organizational subject file that consists of materials regarding the many organizations in which Crosswaith held membership, served on committees, or simply maintained an interest. These files demonstrate the wide span of his activities and interests. Subseries (g) is similar to subseries (f) in that it again shows a broad field of interest. However, the emphasis here is on people and personalities, friends and labor leaders with whom Crosswaith worked and whose respect he had gained over the years.

Crosswaith's years on the New York City Housing Authority (1942–1956) are represented in a separate section of his papers devoted exclusively to the NYCHA. Subseries (h) includes his correspondence, along with reports, project descriptions, and copies of official publications: *New York City Housing Authority News*, *Housing Outlook*, and *NYCHA Bulletin*.

The final two subseries—Scrapbook Material (i) and Oversized and Nontextual Material (j)—were established to accommodate records that remained outside of the office staff's organizational scheme. The scrapbook materials generally contain clippings, photographs, copies of programs and publications, and other documents that were apparently set aside for future reference. These records have been arranged into general subject categories and placed alphabetically within the record group. The oversized and nontextual materials include certificates, medals and awards, engraved printing plates, and large photographs.

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1	3	a32 Minutes, 1968
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National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses Records, 1908–1951

Introduction, **42**

Scope and Content, **44**

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Introduction

The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) was organized in 1908 by a group of fifty-two graduate nurses. Martha Franklin in Connecticut, a graduate of the school of nursing of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia, spearheaded the development of the organization. Franklin had spent much of her time and personal monies on collecting data to determine existing conditions among black nurses. Upon completing her survey, she called a meeting at St. Marks Methodist Church in New York City. At the first meeting, sponsored by the Lincoln School of Nurses Alumnae Association, Miss Franklin was elected president of the NACGN. The goals of the new organization were to achieve higher professional standards, to break down discriminatory practices facing black nurses, and to develop leadership.

The first convention of black nurses was held in Boston in 1909. Twenty-six women attended at the invitation of Mary Mahoney, the first black professionally trained nurse in the country. In 1918 temporary headquarters were established in New York City through the courtesy of the 137th Street Young Women's Christian Association. When headquarters at the YWCA were closed, Belle Davis, executive secretary of the National Health Circle for Colored People, provided space at her organization's office.

In 1934 a conference was held in New York City to determine a future course of action for the NACGN. Present among the officers and executive board of the NACGN were representatives of the American Nurses' Association, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, the National League of Nursing Education, the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners, the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the National Health Circle for Colored People, and the National Medical Association. The conference stressed the fact that black nurses needed jobs without the pressures of racial bias. Among other things, the conference participants decided to establish permanent headquarters in office space loaned to them by the National Health Circle for Colored People. With a grant from the Rosenwald Fund, the executive board employed a nurse executive, and an executive secretary was hired to implement a day-to-day program. In addition, a Citizens' Advisory Committee was organized, regional sections were established, and a program was outlined. The program was carried forward with community assistance and financial support from NACGN's membership. Two years later a substantial increase in membership and volume of work made it necessary for the NACGN to establish an office of its own and to hire additional staff.

Throughout the war years the NACGN worked tirelessly to interpret the needs of black nurses and led a vigorous campaign to end discrimination in the field. The first quota of fifty-six black nurses for the U.S. Army was announced in 1942; by the end of the war the army had commissioned over five hundred. During the same period the federal government was taking other steps to increase the numbers of, and the opportunities for, black nurses. An important breakthrough was the passage of the Bolton Act (1943), which provided for the training of nurses for the armed forces, government and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries through grants to institutions providing such training. The act stated that there would be no discrimination in the administration of benefits and thus brought about an increase in the number of black nursing students in the country.

As early as 1942 the National League of Nursing Education had set a precedent by changing its bylaws. These changes made it possible for any eligible applicant to be admitted into the national organization if barred from membership in her state league. This amendment stimu-

lated several state leagues to admit black nurses. By 1948 only nine states and the District of Columbia still barred black nurses. In 1949, at the NACGN convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the NACGN unanimously accepted the suggestion of the American Nurses Association that NACGN functions be taken over by the Association, and that its program be expanded for the complete integration of black nurses. Under the leadership of President Mabel Staupers, author of *No Time for Prejudice*, a history of the organization, NACGN membership voted itself out of existence in 1951.

Scope and Content

The records of the NACGN document the organization and development of the Association, and its eventual dissolution. The materials have been divided into the following eight sections: 1) Minutes, 2) Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, 3) Correspondence, 4) Memoranda, 5) Speeches and Testimony, 6) Studies and Reports, 7) Publications of the NACGN, and 8) Printed Material.

There are two volumes of **Minutes** (1908–1937) consisting of minutes of the Association's first meetings, followed by the section on **Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation**. The fourth and fifth sections contain **Memoranda** and **Correspondence**, respectively, for the years from 1937 to 1951, with the latter documenting efforts to integrate black nurses into the armed forces during World War II; letters from the Citizens' Advisory Committee also are included. **Speeches and Testimony** includes a 1937 transcript of the public hearing on the condition of the urban black population held by New York State, during which Mabel Staupers, president of the NACGN, testified, and a copy of a speech by attorney William Hastie at an NACGN testimonial dinner in 1951. The section **Studies and Reports** contains a report to the board of directors of the American Nurses Association from the NACGN, as well as a report on a series of programs sponsored by the New York Local Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and the Citizens' Advisory Committee in 1942. **Publications of the NACGN** include scattered issues of the newsletter, *National News Bulletin*, and programs from the regional conferences. **Printed Material** (1942–1951), the largest section, consists primarily of scrapbooks of clippings about the NACGN, black women in the nursing profession, and the struggles of the nurses against racial discrimination.

Reel Contents

Reel No.	Box No.	Volume/Contents
1	1	MINUTES
		1 1908–1917
		2 1917–1937

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
1	2	1 BYLAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
		CORRESPONDENCE
		2 General Correspondence, 1937–1951
		3 Nurses in the Armed Forces, 1940–1945
		4 MEMORANDA, 1937–1951
		5 SPEECHES AND TESTIMONY, 1937, 1951
		STUDIES AND REPORTS
		6 Study of the National Professional Nursing Organization with Regard to Structure, 1945–1950
		7 Reports of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, 1919–ca. 1950
		8 Reports of the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Local Graduate Nurses Association
		9 Reports of the American Nurses Association and the Negro Nurse, 1942–1951
1	3	PUBLICATIONS OF THE NACGN
		10 Press Releases, 1942–1951
		11 <i>Newsletter</i> , 1943–1947
1	3	1 <i>National News Bulletin</i> , 1932–1950
2	3	2 Programs: Annual and biennial conventions, 1916, 1936–1949
		3 Programs: Northeastern Regional Conference, 1940–1948
		4 Programs: Southeastern Regional Conference, 1940–1948
		5 Programs: Southern Regional Conference, 1938–1946
		6 Programs: West Central Regional Conference, 1942, 1946
		7 Programs: 1944, 1951
		PRINTED MATERIAL
		8 Articles about the National Association for Colored Graduate Nurses

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents	
2	3	9	Articles about the American Nurses Association and the Negro Nurse
Reel No.	Box No.	Volume/Contents	
2	4	1	Clippings (1936), 29th annual meeting of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses
		2	Clippings (1937–1939), plans for Regional Conference of National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses; discrimination in medicine
		3	Clippings (1938), general articles on health and medical field
		4	Clippings (1939–1940), growth of the National Negro Nurses Association
	5	5	Clippings (1941), National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses Convention, Los Angeles
		7*	Clippings (1947), National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses Convention, Atlanta, Georgia
		8	Clippings (1942–1951), black nurses in civil and military services; discrimination against black doctors by the American Medical Association
Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents	
2	6		Clippings (Miscellaneous)
		1	1944–1945
		2	1945
		3	1946
		4	1950–1951
		5	undated material

*Volume 6 is missing and has not been filmed.

Blacks in the Railroad Industry, 1946–1954

Introduction, **48**

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Introduction

The employment of black workers by the railroad industry dates back to the years preceding the Civil War. Originally hired as a source of cheap labor and as a means of keeping the wages of all railroad employees depressed, blacks were nonetheless employed in a variety of occupations, from engineers to unskilled laborers. Despite this traditional employment of blacks by the railroad companies, beginning in the late nineteenth century, a deliberate campaign to eliminate them from the railroad industry was waged by the labor organizations, with assistance from the companies. This campaign was initiated with the formation of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, two of the major white craft brotherhoods.

As the different railroad occupations became unionized, the unions joined the brotherhoods in their discriminatory practices. With jurisdiction over the majority of railroad employees, including station employees, shop workers, track laborers, and dining car employees, the unions, such as the brotherhoods, excluded blacks from membership or relegated them to segregated locals and auxiliaries controlled by white locals. Within these locals and auxiliaries, blacks were often denied the right of representation at conventions, had no voice in determining working conditions, were forbidden to process the members' grievances, and in some occupations were refused promotion in shops where white helpers were employed. For their part, railroad companies offered little or no resistance to union discriminatory activities as long as such activities did not interfere with the economics of the railroad. When these activities did interfere, the companies responded with threats of increasing the number of black employees, particularly as strike breakers.

In 1910 the craft brotherhoods succeeded in breaking this stalemate with the railroad companies. Through strikes and threats of strikes they won labor agreements that resulted in drastic reductions in the kinds of jobs that blacks could hold and the numbers of skilled black workers. These agreements, coupled with the job opportunities opened up by World War I, caused a significant exodus of blacks from the industry. It was not until the federal government assumed control of the railroads for national security reasons and instituted equal pay for equal work rules that the exodus was halted. While motivated more by a concern for the developing labor shortages in one of the nation's vital industries during wartime, the government order, nevertheless, had a positive impact on the position of black railroad workers. After the war, however, labor organizations renewed their efforts to eliminate blacks from the industry.

Working with the U.S. Railroad Administration, the brotherhoods succeeded in establishing work rules that resulted in both the displacement and exclusion of many black workers. This situation was compounded by a series of agreements negotiated by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and several railroad companies in 1937 and 1941. The 1941 agreement, also known as the Southeastern Carriers Conference Agreement, or the 50-50 percentage agreement, was the most notorious. It in essence allowed the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the railroads to displace black locomotive firemen whenever a new train run was established, which could be done with uncontrolled frequency, as well as arbitrarily keep the numbers of black firemen down to 50 percent of all firing positions. In spite of its obvious discriminatory intent, the agreement was signed by representatives of the National Mediation Board, the federal agency with conciliation authority in the industry. This agreement was described by Herbert R. Northrup, author of several books on racial poli-

cies in the railroad industry, as the epitome of racial discrimination. Perhaps more than any other action taken by the unions and the railroads, this agreement served to galvanize black employees into taking legal steps to safeguard their future in the industry.

Over the years, black railroad workers had made several efforts to protect their jobs against the unions' attempts to force them out of the industry. Although reluctant at first to form labor organizations, they instead sought to ameliorate their situation by appealing to railroad executives and stockholders. The latter, however, did not respond in any way that significantly changed the position of black workers, who eventually recognized that forming their own unions would be the most effective means of protecting their jobs. By the early twentieth century, they began organizing themselves into all-black unions.

One of the first of these unions was the Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, formed in 1912. Between 1917 and 1939 other unions also were established, among them the International Association of Railway Employees, the Colored Trainmen of America, and the Southern Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen. However, numerous problems confronted these unions. Perhaps the most pervasive was the lack of necessary political and economic power to force the railroad companies to negotiate with them in good faith. Consequently, the all-black unions were unable to win significant wage increases or to protect their members' jobs effectively.

The creation of the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) in 1941 was looked upon by blacks in the industry and others concerned with the racial policies of the railroads and the labor organizations as an opportunity to strike down the discriminatory labor agreements and employment policies. The hearings, which were not held until 1943 due to industry opposition, charged twenty-two railroads and four unions with discrimination. The railroads, while admitting the charges, defended their employment policies on the grounds that many of the questionable labor agreements had been negotiated with the assistance and approval of the government agencies, and that the practices were in keeping with the customs and practices of the areas in which the railroads operated. The unions, on the other hand, did not bother to attend the hearings, although seven sent written replies to the FEPC.

Following the hearings, twenty railroads and seven unions were ordered to cease their discriminatory practices. Additionally, those unions and railroads that were signatories to the 1941 Southeastern Carriers Conference Agreement were ordered to set aside the agreement. In response, the participants to the agreement refused to comply, denying the legal jurisdiction of the FEPC. The matter was then referred to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who appointed a committee to mediate the dispute. That committee failed to achieve results, thus negating the legal and psychological impact of the FEPC hearings. Unwilling to act because of the exigencies of war and the powerful economic and political forces supporting the railroad companies, President Roosevelt did not order the industry to comply with FEPC orders. Similarly, the 1941 U.S. House Special Subcommittee on Education and Labor hearings on fair employment practices legislation had few concrete results. The hearings, chaired by Adam Clayton Powell, investigated the industry's Jim Crow practices. As with the earlier FEPC hearings, the unions refused to admit any wrongdoing in their policies toward black railroad workers.

During this same period, blacks also sought recourse from the industry's and unions' discriminatory employment practices through the courts. They were aided in their legal struggles by attorneys Charles H. Houston and Joseph C. Waddy of the Washington, DC, firm of Houston, Houston, Hastie and Waddy and by Archibald Bromsen of New York. These lawyers played a prominent role, not only in terms of legally challenging the railroad companies and unions in several lawsuits but also in organizing black railroad men to protect their jobs. Through their

initiatives the officials of five unions (Colored Trainmen of America, Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, International Association of Railway Employees, Dining Car Railroad Foodworkers Union, and Southern Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Firemen) united to form the Negro Railway Labor Executives Committee (NRLEC) in 1948. The objectives of the committee were to collect, formulate, and disseminate information concerning black railroad employees and to determine effective actions to be taken. The NRLEC did not initiate any court actions; however, it supported the lawsuits that were filed by union members; published a newspaper, the *Negro Railway Labor News*; presented testimony in court and at government hearings; and, in general, took an activist role.

Among the numerous legal actions that black railroad employees brought against the unions and railroad companies beginning in 1939, two in particular were noted as having turned the tide in favor of blacks: *Steele v. Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company* and *Tunstall v. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen*. Both cases attacked the 1941 Southeastern Carriers Conference Agreement and established the right of fair representation and relief against discriminatory contracts. The decisions were ignored for several years by the Brotherhood and the railroad companies; nonetheless, they had an impact upon future public policy affecting the railroad industry.

While the majority of the lawsuits was directed at southern railroad companies, northern and western railroads were also guilty of discriminatory practices. Public pressure to eliminate discrimination, however, played a more crucial role in these regions and resulted in the passage by state legislatures of fair employment practice legislation and the establishment of state FEPCs.

The New York State Commission against Discrimination (SCAD) was one of the first (1945) and one of the strongest fair employment practices committees established. Headed by Elmer A. Carter, the commission succeeded in ending the restricted membership of the brotherhoods and the unions during the late 1940s. And, in the early 1950s, SCAD was able to get three of the largest eastern railroads (New York Central Railroad System, Pennsylvania Railroad, New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad) and four labor organizations (Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Order of Railway Conductors of America, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers) to pledge their cooperation with the commission in its efforts to end discriminatory hiring practices on the railroads. Similar actions were taken by other state commissions.

While the impact of the legal victories won by the black employees, together with the activities of the state FEPCs, resulted in some progress toward changing the racial policies of the companies and the unions, overall the employment picture for blacks in the railroad industry did not significantly improve up through the 1950s, the period documented by this collection. Changes in hiring practices, promotions, and assignments to skilled categories were not effected as late as the 1960s, with the result that the majority of black workers remained in predominately service-oriented and labor occupations.

Scope and Content

The Blacks in the Railroad Industry Collection (1946–1954) is a compilation of a variety of materials documenting the struggle of black railroad employees against ouster from the industry by the collusive actions of the companies and the unions. While provenance seems to be uncertain, holograph notes on many of the documents appear to have been written by Robert Wood, editor of the *Railroad Workers' Link*, a newspaper published by the Railroad Committee of the Communist party. In addition, the few original items in the collection are addressed specifically to him or to the *Link*.

The papers have been divided into six sections: 1) Correspondence, 2) Unions and Union-related Organizations, 3) Writings, 4) Legal Documents, 5) Memoranda, and 6) Printed Material. The collection does not form a cohesive unit; rather, it is an artificial collection of materials seemingly gathered for research and information purposes. Therefore, it has been organized by subject or type of document; within that sequence the papers are arranged chronologically.

The **Correspondence** file is composed of a miscellaneous group of letters to and from various individuals. The majority of the letters are mimeographed and were intended for wide dissemination. One of these is a letter from Archibald Bromsen stating the Federation of Southern Colored Locomotive Firemen Unions' position on the proposal by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to modify the 1941 Southeastern Carriers Conference Agreement. The letter is accompanied by a copy of the agreement. Also in this file is a typed copy of a speech by Charles H. Houston that was sent to Wood with a cover letter from Henry Lee Moon's secretary. The speech, entitled "The Legal Struggle for Protection of Minority Workers' Rights on American Railroads," was presented at the 1949 annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Included in the **Unions and Union-related Organizations** section are documents from the Negro Railway Labor Executives Committee, the Railroad Employees Association against Discrimination, and the United Transport Service Employees. There are also several membership rosters from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a few black lodges affiliated with the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, an unidentified union or unions of black dining car employees, and a list of both black and white union members under the jurisdiction of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The materials from the Negro Railway Labor Executives Committee consist of a 1948 press release and minutes from meetings in March and April 1948 and February 1949. The 1948 minutes and press release relate to the formation of the NRLEC and the publication of the *Negro Railway Labor News*, the Committee's official organ. The documents show the active role played by Charles H. Houston, Joseph C. Waddy, and Archibald Bromsen in establishing the NRLEC.

The Railroad Employees Association against Discrimination was a New York-based organization, formed in the early 1950s. The documents include two mimeographed letters and a press release concerned with the Long Island Railroad's employment policy for blacks. Additionally, there is a REAAD *News Bulletin* and other documents that provide information about the REAAD's program.

The last documents in the second section consist of United Transport Service Employees-CIO materials, including two newsletters for October 1949 reporting on the activities of the

various locals within the union, and a leaflet recruiting members among Pennsylvania Railroad employees.

The **Writings** section consists of an untitled thirty-six page typed draft of an article, with editorial corrections and additions in what might be Robert Wood's handwriting. The draft may have been written by Wood. However, clear authorship is uncertain, as his name as the author has been crossed out. The subject of the typescript is the role played by the all-white railroad unions in excluding blacks from the industry by forcing the railroads through strike threats and contract clauses either to fire or not hire blacks.

Legal Documents contain a carbon copy of papers filed by Charles H. Houston, Joseph C. Waddy, and Oliver W. Hill in the case of *Willie J. Rolex et al. v. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company et al.* The document, a motion for an "injunction pendente lite," was directed at enjoining the ACLR and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen from enforcing the Southeastern Carriers Conference Agreement of 1941. Attached to the motion are several affidavits and the points and authorities in support of the motion.

The **Memoranda** were prepared for the 1949 U.S. House of Representatives Special Subcommittee on Education and Labor hearings, chaired by Adam C. Powell, on fair employment practices legislation. The memoranda deal with a variety of issues dating back to 1917, including wages of black workers, attempts by white unions and the railroad companies to drive blacks out of the industry, and racial employment policies during World Wars I and II. There are also two chronologies of the discriminatory acts practiced by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen against black workers. These documents were incorporated into the official government record of the hearings, which was published in *Hearings before a Special Subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1949).

The last section—**Printed Material**—is composed of a pamphlet, newspapers, fact sheets, press releases, and clippings. The pamphlet, *Let Freedom Ride the Rails*, was published in 1954 by the National Negro Labor Council. It briefly covers the 1943 Fair Employment Practices Committee hearings on the railroad industry; the employment status of black workers; the role of the railroads, unions, and federal government in denying employment opportunities to blacks, as well as the efforts of blacks in seeking redress of their grievances through the courts; and the National Negro Labor Council's program of action.

The newspapers include three complete issues of the *Negro Railway Labor News* (1948–1950) and one complete issue each of the *Railroad Workers' Link* (July 1950) and the *Black Worker* (April 1949). Because the latter two were single issues only, they have been filed with the Press Releases and Newspaper Clippings (1948–1953). This section also contains clippings from those and other black newspapers, in addition to several clippings from the "Railroad Workers' Page" of the *Daily Worker* (1949–1950).

The Fact Sheets in this section contain information dealing with the status of black workers in the railroad industry; the press releases include a speech given by Charles H. Houston at the 1949 National Urban League annual conference, entitled "Foul Employment Practice on the Railroads."

Reel Contents

Reel No.	Box No.	Folder/Contents
1	1	1 CORRESPONDENCE, 1949–1950, undated material
		UNIONS AND UNION-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS
		2 Negro Railway Labor Executives Committee, 1948–1949
		3 Railway Employees Association against Discrimination, 1953–1954, undated material
		4 United Transport Service Employees-CIO, 1949, undated material
		5 Membership Rosters, 1949, undated material
		WRITINGS
		6 Untitled Typescript
		7 LEGAL DOCUMENTS
		MEMORANDA
		8 Hearings on U.S. House of Representatives Special Subcommittee on Education and Labor, 1949
		PRINTED MATERIAL
		9 National Negro Labor Council, 1954
		10 <i>Negro Railway Labor News</i> , 1948–1950
		11 Fact Sheets, 1946–1947, 1953, undated material
		12 Press Releases and Newspaper Clippings, 1948–1953, undated material

