



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Aimé Césaire memorial collection

1982-2013 [bulk 2008-2009]

Sc MG 947

Processed by Lauren Stark, September 2021.

Summary

Creator: Ce_saire, Aime_

Title: Aimé Césaire memorial collection

Date: 1982-2013 [bulk 2008-2009]

Size: 0.33 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of François Rosaz, 2008.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Aimé Césaire (1913-2008) was a Black Martinican poet, politician, and social critic. As a student at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, he was a key figure in the literary and political movement known as Négritude, along with Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal and Léon-Gontran Damas of French Guyana. While students, the three men also created the literary review *L'étudiant noir* (The Black Student). Returning to Martinique in 1939, Césaire taught at Lycée Schoelcher where he tutored a young Frantz Fanon. Césaire was elected Mayor of Fort-de-France and Deputy to the French National Assembly in 1945; in 1958, he founded the Parti Progressiste Martiniquais (PPM). He continued his literary and critical work, founding the journals *Tropiques* and *Présence Africaine* (now a major publishing house). His literary output includes the book-length poem *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*; a historical essay on Toussaint Louverture, "Discours sur le colonialisme", which was published in *Présence Africaine* in 1950; and the plays *Une tempête* (a response to the racist depictions in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*) and *Une saison au Congo*, about the death of Patrice Lumumba. Césaire served as President of the Regional Council of Martinique from 1983 to 1988. He retired from politics in 2001. He died in April 2008, and proclaimed as a national hero in Martinique in 2011. This collection, donated by Martinican social geographer François Rosaz, contains commemorative materials about Aimé Césaire, mostly from 2008-2009. Materials consist of memorial programs and eulogies, including one given by Serge Letchimy, a member of the National Assembly of France; conference and theater programs, including a 2007 conference highlighting Césaire's relationship with the French Communist Party and his break from it in 1956; articles on Césaire (including a copy of a special issue of *Small Axe* from October 2008, and three commemorative issues of *Le Progressiste*, the PPM's weekly magazine); four issues of the newspaper *France-Antilles* from the days immediately following Césaire's death; bibliographies;

commemorative postcards and stamps; and posters.

Preferred citation: [Item], Aimé Césaire memorial collection, Sc MG 947, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: French The majority of the material is in French.

Processing note: Processed by Lauren Stark, September 2021.

Creator History

Aimé Césaire (1913-2008) was a Black Martinican poet, politician, and social critic. As a student at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, he was a key figure in the literary and political movement known as Négritude, along with Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal and Léon-Gontran Damas of French Guyana. While students, the three men also created the literary review *L'Étudiant noir* (*The Black Student*). Returning to Martinique in 1939, Césaire taught at Lycée Schoelcher where he tutored a young Frantz Fanon. Césaire was elected Mayor of Fort-de-France and Deputy to the French National Assembly in 1945; in 1958, he founded the Parti Progressiste Martiniquais (PPM). He continued his literary and critical work, founding the journals *Tropiques* and *Présence Africaine* (now a major publishing house). His literary output includes the book-length poem *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*; a historical essay on Toussaint Louverture, "Discours sur le colonialisme", which was published in *Présence Africaine* in 1950; and the plays *Une tempête* (a response to the racist depictions in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*) and *Une saison au Congo*, about the death of Patrice Lumumba. Césaire served as President of the Regional Council of Martinique from 1983 to 1988. He retired from politics in 2001. He died in April 2008, and proclaimed as a national hero in Martinique in 2011.

Scope and Content Note

This collection, donated by Martinican social geographer François Rosaz, contains commemorative materials about Aimé Césaire, mostly from 2008-2009. Materials consist of memorial programs and eulogies, including one given by Serge Letchimy, a member of the National Assembly of France; conference and theater programs, including a 2007 conference highlighting Césaire's relationship with the French Communist Party and his break from it in 1956; articles on Césaire (including a copy of a special issue of *Small Axe* from October 2008, and three commemorative issues of *Le Progressiste*, the PPM's weekly magazine); four issues of the newspaper *France-Antilles* from the days immediately following Césaire's death; bibliographies; commemorative postcards and stamps; and posters.

Key Terms

Subjects

Authors, Black
Martinican poetry (French)
Négritude (Literary movement)
Poets, Black
Politicians

Geographic Names

France -- Politics and government
Martinique

Names

Ce_saire, Aime_
Parti progressiste martiniquais

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Memorial programs and eulogy 2008
- b. 1 f. 2 Programs (conference and theater) 2007-2013
- b. 1 f. 3 Articles on Césaire 2008-2009
Includes copies of *Le Progressiste*, *Small Axe*, and *Le Magazine*.
- b. 1 f. 4 Commemorative postcards and stamps 2008-2009
- b. 1 f. 5 "Calendrier lagunaire" 1982
Includes a photocopy of this poem by Césaire, which was published in *Moi, laminaire* in 1982.
- b. 1 f. 6 Bibliographies
Also includes photocopied excerpts and table of contents from books about Césaire.
- b. 2 f. 1 *France-Antilles* 2008-2009
- b. 2 f. 2 Posters of Césaire