



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

Guide to the

Claudia Jones Memorial collection

1935-1998

Sc MG 692

Summary

Creator: Manchanda, Claudia

Title: Claudia Jones Memorial collection

Date: 1935-1998

Size: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of Claudia Manchanda and Diane Langford, 2001.

Abstract: Claudia Jones (1915-1964) was a political activist, communist, journalist, and community leader. The Claudia Jones Memorial collection consists primarily of printed matter apparently owned by Jones.

Preferred citation: [Item], Claudia Jones Memorial collection, Sc MG 692, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by R. Jeter, December 2001.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs and negatives

Creator History

Claudia Jones (1915-1964), political activist, communist, journalist, and community leader, was born in Trinidad and immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, with her parents and siblings. During the 1930s and 1940s, she became a strong advocate for human, civil, and women's rights and rose in the Communist Party-USA to a position of leadership. She was appointed editor of Negro Affairs for the *Daily Worker* in 1948, and that same year, she was arrested for violation of the Smith Act. Between 1948 and 1955, Jones was arrested and imprisoned twice and finally deported to England in December 1955, after serving a sentence of a year and a day at the Aldersen Federal Women's Prison.

From 1955 to 1964, Jones worked with London's African-Caribbean community doing political and cultural organizing. She founded and edited *The West Indian Gazette* and the *Afro-Asian Caribbean News*, and in 1959, helped organize a series of cultural events that grew to become the Notting Hill Carnival. Jones died on December 24, 1964, after a long illness.

Claudia Manchanda is the daughter of Abhimanyu Manchanda, Jones's friend and companion.

Scope and Content Note

Claudia Jones Memorial collection consists primarily of printed matter apparently owned by Jones. There is a relatively small volume of material relating to Jones's personal and political activities. Bon-voyage postcards, letters, and telegrams sent to her on her departure from the United States following deportation are the only documents that deal with her life in the United States. The collection also contains poems Jones wrote while in prison and during her voyage to England. There are several notebooks chronicling her experiences during trips she took to China and Japan. A folder on Paul Robeson includes a booklet *Paul Robeson Goes to Washington*, and a transcript of his appearance before the Smith Act Congressional Hearing Committee. Also contained in the Robeson folder are promotional materials for his appearances in London from 1956-1962; correspondence between the Robesons' and Jones; a transcript of a speech by Jones delivered at a reception for the Robesons held in London; and Robeson speech notes. A folder labeled "Bailey, Frank /Manchanda, Abhimanyu /Jones, Claudia controversy" contains letters, notes, and other information concerning charges that were filed against Jones and Manchanda by Frank Bailey, a member of the Communist Party, who was also involved in working with the Afro-Caribbean community in London. The printed matter consists of booklets and monographs on a variety of subjects, including race and gender. Authors include James Allen, Herbert Aptheker, Ben Davis, George W. Crockett, Elizabeth Flynn Gurley, James Ford, Harry Haywood, and Claudia Jones.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American communists
African Americans -- Civil rights
Authors, Black
Communist parties -- United States
Political prisoners -- United States
Women -- Political activity
Women political activists -- Great Britain
Women political activists -- United States
Women, Black

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Poems

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1953
United States -- Politics and government -- 1953-1961

Names

Davis, Benjamin J. (Benjamin Jefferson), 1903-1964
Garvey, Amy Jacques
Jones, Claudia, 1915-1964
Manchanda, Claudia
Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976
Communist Party of the United States of America

Container List

Personal

- b. 1 f. 1 Divorce decree, Mexico 1947
- b. 1 f. 2-3 Bon voyage letters, telegrams, cards, and notes
- b. 1 f. 4 Insurance
- b. 1 f. 5 Poems
- b. 1 f. 6 British passport
Includes correspondence.
- b. 1 f. 7 Notes
- b. 1 f. 8 Biographical letter
- b. 1 f. 9 Letters
- b. 1 f. 10 Travel Credit Limited
- b. 1 f. 11 Landlord tenant issues, London

Correspondence 1956-1964

- b. 1 f. 12 Foster, Bill 1956
- b. 1 f. 13 Davis, Ben 1956-1962
- b. 1 f. 14 Robinson, Heloise 1956-1962
- b. 1 f. 15 *Freedomways and John H. Clarke* 1964
- b. 1 f. 16 1955 December-1956 January
- b. 1 f. 17 U.K. miscellaneous 1956-1963
- b. 1 f. 18 Manchandra, Abhimanyu
- b. 1 f. 19 Postcards
- b. 1 f. 20 Robeson, Paul 1958-1964
Includes the pamphlets, *Paul Robeson Goes to Washington*, *The Negro People and the Soviet Union*, and *Lift Every Voice for Paul Robeson*.
- b. 1 f. 21 U.S. Communist Party
- b. 1 f. 22 Newspaper clippings 1956-1982
- b. 1 f. 23 Activity flyers

Organizations in Great Britain 1956-1959

- b. 1 f. 24 Stars Campaign for Inter-Racial Friendships 1959
- b. 1 f. 25 Caribbean organizations 1956-1959
- b. 1 f. 26 West Indians in Britain Standing Conference
- b. 1 f. 27 Inter Racial Friendship, Co-ordination Council
- b. 1 f. 28 Committee for Inter-Racial Unity, West London
- b. 1 f. 29 Afro-Asian Caribbean organizations
- b. 1 f. 30 Britain-China Friendship Association

Communist Party Great Britain 1956-1965

- b. 2 f. 1 West Indian Committee
- b. 2 f. 2 Bailey, Manchanda, Jones issues 1958-1965
- b. 2 f. 3 Correspondence to Jones
- b. 2 f. 4 Speech by Jones, 25th Congress of C.P.G.B 1957

Communist Party Great Britain (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 5 Committee for Democratic Rights, USA
- b. 2 f. 6 Colonial Advisory Committee
- b. 2 f. 7 24th National Congress political report 1956
- b. 2 f. 8 *Daily Worker* 1958-1962
- b. 2 f. 9 Colored People Publishing House bank information
- b. 2 f. 10 Educational Publishing in Africa seminar 1965 February 4
- Asia travels
- b. 2 f. 11 Notes
- b. 2 f. 12 China
- b. 2 f. 13 10th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Tokyo
- b. 2 f. 14 Reports on China and Japan trips
- Memorial service
- b. 2 f. 15 Program
- b. 2 f. 16 Speeches by various speakers
- Legal
- b. 2 f. 18 Claudia Jones Memorial Committee
- b. 2 f. 19 Headstone
- b. 2 f. 20 Documentary film research material
- b. 2 f. 21 Photograph copies
- Printed matter
- Generally arranged alphabetically by author or title.
- b. 3 f. 1 *13 Communists Speak to the Court* 1953 March
- b. 3 f. 2 *Allen, James. Negro Liberation*
- b. 3 f. 3 *Aptheker, Herbert. The Negro in the American Revolution*
- b. 3 f. 4 *Black, Hugo L. A Fateful Moment in Our History*
- b. 3 f. 5 *Boyer, Richard Owen. "Elizabeth Gurley Flynn: An Epic of American Labor", Masses and Mainstream* 1952 May
- b. 3 f. 6 *Bradley, Hugh. Next Steps in the Struggle for Negro Freedom* 1953 November
- b. 3 f. 7 *Can Americans Tolerate Prison for Ideas?*
- b. 3 f. 8 *Colonial Freedom News, The Movement of Colonial Freedom* 1959 July
- b. 3 f. 9 *Courage Is Contagious: The Bill of Rights vs. The Un-American Activities Committee* 1953
- b. 3 f. 10 *Crockett, George W. Freedom Is Everybody's Job: The Crime of the Government Against the Negro People*
- Davis, Benjamin J
- b. 3 f. 11 *In Defense of Negro Rights*
- b. 3 f. 12 *Political Affairs*
- b. 3 f. 13 *Declaration of Principles and By-Laws of the Young Communist League of the U.S.A.* 1937 May
- b. 3 f. 14 Ehrenburg, Ilya. "Peace Is Everybody's Business" 1950 July
- b. 3 f. 15 Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn. "Speaks to the Court: Opening Statement to the Court and Jury in the Case of the Sixteen Smith Act Victims in the Trial at Foley Square, New York" 1952 July

Printed matter (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 16 *Falconer, Alun. I Saw New China*
- b. 3 f. 17 *Ford, James W. The Communists and the Struggle for Negro Liberation*
- b. 3 f. 18 *Forging the Weapon: A Handbook for Members of the Communist Party* 1955
September
- b. 3 f. 19 "French Intellectuals Appeal to President" 1957 December 18
- b. 3 f. 20 *Green, Abner. The Walter-McCarran Law: Police-State Terror against Foreign-Born Americans* 1953
Haywood, Harry
- b. 3 f. 21 *Negro Liberation*
- b. 3 f. 22 "The Road to Negro Liberation" 1934 June
- b. 3 f. 23 *Howard, Milton. McCarthyism and the Big Lie* 1953 November
- b. 3 f. 24 *Hutchins, Grace. Children under Capitalism* 1933
Jones, Claudia
- b. 3 f. 25 *Lift Every Voice for Victory* 1942 June
- b. 3 f. 26 *An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman* 1949 June
- b. 3 f. 27 *Macmillan Books for Schools in the Caribbean*
Masses and Mainstream
- b. 3 f. 28 "Negro History Week 1953: For Peace and Freedom"
- b. 3 f. 29 "A Marxist View of Psychoanalysis" 1949 September
- b. 3 f. 30 "Negro History Week" 1952 February
Mitchells, Louise
- b. 3 f. 31 *America's Housing Crisis*
- b. 3 f. 32 *How to Fight High Prices*
- b. 3 f. 33 *No Color Bar against Commonwealth Immigrants*
- b. 3 f. 34 *North, Joseph. Verdict against Freedom, Your Stake in the Trial* 1949
November
- b. 3 f. 35 *Our Badge of Infamy: A Petition to the United Nations on the Treatment of the Mexican Immigrant* 1959 April
- b. 3 f. 36 "Pettis Perry Speaks to the Court" 1953 July
- b. 3 f. 37-38 *Political Affairs* 1956
- b. 3 f. 39 Small, Sasha. "Heroines"
- b. 3 f. 40 "Terror in Kenya: The Facts behind the Present Crisis" 1953 April
- b. 3 f. 41 Text of broadcast of the People's National Congress over Station B.G.B.S
- b. 3 f. 42 *The American Way* 1954 March
- b. 3 f. 43 *Jackson, T. A. The British Empire*
- b. 3 f. 44 *The Communist Position on the Negro Question missing?* 1947
- b. 3 f. 45 *Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn. The McCarran Act: Fact and Fancy*
- b. 3 f. 46 The United Colored Citizens Association
- b. 3 f. 47 The Walter McCarran Law, extracts from testimony before President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization
- b. 3 f. 48 *The West Indies: The Federal Principle*
- b. 3 f. 49 *Vernon, Hilda. Vietnam-United States Dirty War*
- b. 3 f. 50 *Voices for Freedom #2* 1951 October

Printed matter (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 51 "We Accuse: Bill Epton Speaks to the Court"
- b. 3 f. 52 Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn. "Women Have a Date with Destiny"
- b. 3 f. 53 *Woodis, Jack. The Mask Is Off: An Examination of the Activities of Trade Union Advisors in the British Colonies*
- b. 3 f. 54 Zetkin, Claire. "Lenin on the Woman Question"