



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

Guide to the

**Etienne and Ghislaine Charlier collection**

1927-1994 [bulk 1942-1979]

Sc MG 820

## Summary

**Creator:** Charlier, Etienne D.

**Title:** Etienne and Ghislaine Charlier collection

**Date:** 1927-1994 [bulk 1942-1979]

**Size:** .4 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift, Ghislaine Rey, 2009

**Abstract:** Étienne Charlier was a Haitian Marxist historian whose "Aperçu sur la formation historique de la nation haïtienne" and numerous articles published in the daily "La Nation" interpreted Haiti's history and contemporary realities through a Marxist framework. His wife, Ghislaine Rey Charlier, is a writer whose work includes "Memoires d'une affranchie" (Memories of a Freedwoman) and "Anthologie du roman haïtien de 1859 à 1946" (Anthology of the Haitian Novel, 1859-1946). The Étienne and Ghislaine Charlier Collection comprises letters, political treatises and printed matter that are useful for a study of the Haitian left in Haiti and abroad. There is very little in the way of the biographical or personal, especially for Étienne, and the majority of the collection's letters are incoming to Rey Charlier. Despite this, the collection still offers a sense of the Charliers' political thinking and development, particularly through four documents written by Étienne Charlier. These are his classic, "Aperçu sur la formation historique de la nation haïtienne," the 1947 one year anniversary report of the Parti Socialiste Populaire, "Fascisme et Nazisme ou Socialisme Scientifique," and a copy of the "Comité Central du Parti Communiste Haïtien's Analyse Schematique, 1932-1934," co-written with Jacques Roumain.

**Physical Location:** Sc MG 820

**Preferred citation:** Etienne and Ghislaine Charlier collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

Étienne Charlier was a Haitian Marxist historian whose "Aperçu sur la formation historique de la nation haïtienne" and numerous articles published in the daily "La Nation" interpreted Haiti's history and contemporary realities through a Marxist framework. His wife, Ghislaine Rey Charlier, is a writer whose work includes "Memoires d'une affranchie" (Memories of a Freedwoman) and "Anthologie du roman

haïtien de 1859 à 1946" (Anthology of the Haitian Novel, 1859-1946).

## Scope and Content Note

The Étienne and Ghislaine Charlier Collection comprises letters, political treatises and printed matter that are useful for a study of the Haitian left in Haiti and abroad. There is very little in the way of the biographical or personal, especially for Étienne, and the majority of the collection's letters are incoming to Rey Charlier. Despite this, the collection still offers a sense of the Charlriers' political thinking and development, particularly through four documents written by Étienne Charlier. These are his classic, "Aperçu sur la formation historique de la nation haïtienne," the 1947 one year anniversary report of the Parti Socialiste Populaire, "Fascisme et Nazisme ou Socialisme Scientifique," and a copy of the "Comité Central du Parti Communiste Haïtien's Analyse Schematique, 1932-1934," co-written with Jacques Roumain.

Rey Charlier's letters offer a glimpse into both her creative and political activities. The correspondents read like a who's who of the crème of Haiti's political opposition and include the doyen of Haitian noirisme, Jean Price-Mars. These letters, although personal to a great degree, do offer some socio-political critique. Materials such as the statement of the Support Committee for the Haitian People reveal Rey Charlier's continuing activism in exile. The committee was set up to give concrete form to the solidarity between various organizations working in the Haitian diaspora.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Black author  
Communism -- Haiti -- History -- 20th century  
Haitians -- Canada  
Radicalism -- Haiti -- History -- 20th century  
Social classes -- Haiti -- History  
Socialism -- Haiti -- History -- 20th century

### Geographic Names

Haiti -- History -- 1934-1986  
Haiti -- Politics and government -- 1971-1986  
Haiti -- Race relations

### Names

Charlier, Etienne D.  
Hudicourt, Max, 1905-1947  
Hudicourt, Max, 1905-1947  
Price-Mars, Jean, 1876-1969  
Rey, Ghislaine, 1918-  
Rey, Ghislaine, 1918-  
Roumain, Jacques, 1907-1944