



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

Guide to the

Documentation de la Gauche Haitienne

1938-1999 [bulk 1973-1983]

Sc MG 894

Summary

Title: Documentation de la Gauche Haitienne

Date: 1938-1999 [bulk 1973-1983]

Size: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of the estate of Andre Elizee, 2010.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Composed of political statements, writings, and printed matter (such as flyers, newsletters, and clippings), the Documents of the Haitian Left collection chronicles Haiti's socio-political and economic conditions, United States involvement in Haiti, and the circum-Caribbean and the effects of this influence on the region. Forming the bulk of the collection, and written in English, French, and Kreyol, the papers and political statements are mostly unpublished and span the late 1970s-early 1990s. In general, the papers analyze Haiti's socio-political and economic history and development from a leftist perspective, as well as cover significant grassroots moments and issues such as the United States' handling of Haitian refugees.

Preferred citation: [Item], Documentation de la Gauche Haitienne, Sc MG 894, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Multiple languages English, French, and Kreyol (Haitian Creole).

Processing note: Accessioned by Edwina Ashie-Nikoi, October 2014.

Related Materials:

Also found in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

Duvalierist Gouvernement collection (or Haitian Government collection), Sc MG 733;

Force Armée d'Haïti documents (or Haiti Military collection), Sc MG 735;

Haiti Miscellaneous collection, Sc MG 119;

Haitian Government documents, Sc MG 770;

Haitian Refugee collection, Sc MG 315;

Haitian revolution research materials Sc MG 140;

Kurt Fisher Haitian collection and additions, Sc Micro R-2228 and Sc MG 683;

Max Bissainthe research collection, Sc MG 858

Creator History

The Documentation de la Gauche Haitienne (Documents of the Haitian Left) collection was created by activist Andre Elizee during his tenure as an archivist in the Schomburg Center's Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division. The collection was conceived as a base archive on the history of the Haitian left and to that end, Elizee, whose nom-de-guerre was Daniel Simidor, solicited materials from fellow activists and the Haitian community at large.

Andre Elizee was born in St. Louis du Nord in 1955, where he attended Notre Dame High School. After graduation, he taught Greek, Haitian literature, and history in Haitian secondary schools. He spent two years at the Universite Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, where he studied medicine, history, and political economy. After moving to the United States in the late 1970s, Elizee enrolled in York College's Black Studies program. In 1982, he joined New York Public Library as a library technical assistant at the Mid-Manhattan branch; a year later, he transferred to the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division at the Schomburg Center, where he worked for 26 years. Elizee's specialties were Haitian history, politics, and culture, and African American civil rights and labor history, among others. Aside from processing collections, he co-curated two major exhibitions, "The French Revolution in the Americas" and "Dechoukaj! Contemporary and Political Developments in Haiti, 1986-1988", and organized a film and lecture series at the Schomburg Center and Hunter College on Haitian politics and culture. Elizee passed away in 2010.

Fullwood, Steven G. "Andre Elizee: Archivist and Intellectual." Facebook.com. Accessed January 29, 2021, https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10160768920563378&id=636793377

Scope and Content Note

Composed of political statements, writings, and printed matter (such as flyers, newsletters, and clippings), the Documents of the Haitian Left collection chronicles Haiti's socio-political and economic conditions, United States involvement in Haiti, and the circum-Caribbean and the effects of this influence on the region. Forming the bulk of the collection, and written in English, French, and Kreyol, the papers and political statements are mostly unpublished and span the late 1970s-early 1990s. In general, the papers analyze Haiti's socio-political and economic history and development from a leftist perspective, as well as cover significant grassroots moments and issues such as the United States' handling of Haitian refugees.

There are flyers and newsletters from Haitian organizations such as the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, Comite Unite-Lutte Unite, Group Kiltriell Ayisin Progresis, Komite Pou You Alternatif Progresis, and Organization Revolisyone Perat-Batravil. Generally these materials call members to protests and

reflect on events in the Caribbean and in the United States; many meetings were held to show solidarity with Haitian refugees and Caribbean and Latin American nations' political struggles. Of note are a number of flyers for events hosted by Haitian student clubs at Columbia University and on various City University of New York campuses, including Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, City College of New York, Hunter College, Medgar Evers College, and Staten Island College.

In addition, there is a small folder of published poetry in French and Kreyol by poets such as Paul Laraque, a Haitian exile, and Roger Dorsinville, and manuscripts of a short story and play written by Louis Andre Gaudin.

Key Terms

Subjects

Haiti -- History
Haitian literature
Political activists -- Haiti
Refugees -- Haiti
United States--Foreign relations--Haiti

Names

Elizee, Andre

Container List

Writing and political statements 1946-1999

- b. 1 f. 1 1972-1980
- b. 1 f. 2-3 1973-1989
- b. 1 f. 4 1980-1990
- b. 1 f. 5 1981-1991
- b. 2 f. 1 1946-1983
- b. 2 f. 2-3 1978-1999
- b. 2 f. 4 1980-1988
- b. 3 f. 1 Literary documents
- b. 3 f. 2 Flyers and programs
- b. 3 f. 3 Student associations
- b. 3 f. 4 Bulletin Quotidien D'Information 1991 November
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Clippings 1970-1988