



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

Guide to the

Louis E. Burnham newspaper collection

1938-1960

Sc MG 292

Summary

Creator: Burnham, Louis E.

Title: Louis E. Burnham newspaper collection

Date: 1938-1960

Size: 0.54 linear feet (2 reels, 2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Dorothy Challenor Burnham, 1988.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The Louis Burnham collection reflects Burnham's socialist interests and consists of a complete run of *Freedom*, a monthly newspaper published by Paul Robeson from 1950-1955 and edited by Burnham; newsclippings of articles Burnham wrote for the *National Guardian* (1958-1960); copies of various souvenir journals and other printed matter of the Southern Negro Youth Congress; and a copy of Burnham's *Behind the Lynching of Emmet Louis Till*.

Conditions Governing Use: Researchers are required to use either the microfilmed versions of *Freedom* or the photocopied versions in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division.

Preferred citation: [Item], Louis E. Burnham newspaper collection, Sc MG 292, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Louis E. Burnham was the Editor of *Freedom*, the newspaper Paul Robeson founded; Associate Editor of the *National Guardian* in the 1950s; and a well-known lecturer on African American affairs.

Born in 1915 and educated in Harlem, New York, Burnham attended City College of the City University of New York. As a college student, he became interested in the Civil Rights Movement and joined the American Student Movement and the Young Communist League. He later travelled around the country

and organized the first chapters of the American Student Union on Black college campuses and was the Youth Secretary of the National Negro Congress. He served as Executive Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress and was editor of its newspaper and its right to vote campaigns. Burnham also helped organize the sharecroppers movement and was active in many campaigns to end segregation in the south. Burnham died in 1960.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American civil rights workers
African American journalists
African American newspapers -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans--Newspapers
Authors, Black

Names

Burnham, Louis E.
Freedom (New York, N.Y. : 1951)
National Guardian (New York, N.Y.)
Southern Negro Youth Congress

Container List

Freedom issues 1950-1955

- r. 1 1951-1952
- r. 1A 1953-1955
- b. 1 Photocopied issues not on microfilm 1950-1955
Includes the following issues: November 1950; January and April 1951; January and December 1952; March and April 1954; and January 1955.
- b. 2 *National Guardian clippings* 1960
- b. 2 Southern Negro Youth Congress printed matter 1938-1948
Includes souvenir journals and programs from the youth conferences; copies of the newsletter, *Young South*; and membership information.
- b. 2 *Burnham, Louis. Behind the Lynching of Emmett Louis Till* 1955 December